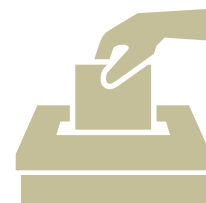




Democracy and human rights 2014

Democracy and human rights are essential for providing people living in poverty and under oppression with voice and choice to improve their own living conditions. Democracy and human rights is one of three thematic priorities of Swedish development cooperation and the rights perspective is applied across all sectors of Swedish development cooperation. Sida's support to the sector amounted to SEK 5.8 billion in 2014. This makes democracy and human rights Sida's largest sector, accounting for approximately 30 % of Sida's total disbursements.



MAIN AREAS OF SUPPORT

Democracy and human rights are objectives in their own right in Swedish development cooperation. Support to democracy and human rights plays a fundamental role in combatting oppression, building democracies and reducing poverty in all its dimensions. The work is guided by the principles that all human rights are universal, inter-dependent and indivisible. In Sweden's aid policy framework, priority is given to five focus areas:

- Greater opportunities to assert civil and political rights, exercise democratic influence and organise.
- More robust democratic processes and institutions and greater respect for the principles of the rule of law.
- A vibrant and pluralistic civil society and strengthened democratisation actors.
- Greater gender equality, rights and empowerment for women and girls.
- Greater access to free and independent media, both new and traditional.

In this overview, two prioritised areas are highlighted. Sida promotes freedom of expression globally through greater opportunities to assert civil and political rights, democratic influence and strengthened civil society and democratisation actors. Moreover, Swedish aid gives priority to

greater access to free and independent media – both new and traditional – and improved access to open and secure information and communications technologies (ICT).

Anti-corruption is another prioritised area. According to Sweden's aid policy framework, the fight against corruption must be intensified. Corruption disrupts the principles of the rule of law and is an obstacle to the fight against poverty and the development of a functioning state. People living in poverty suffer most from the negative effects of corruption.

The focus of Sida's work on democracy and human rights is reflected in the size of the support. Democratic participation and civil society is the largest subsector (SEK 2 billion or 36 % of disbursements to the democracy and human rights sector), and human rights the second largest (SEK 1.7 billion or 29 %). In terms of regional distribution, most development cooperation goes to countries in Sub-Saharan Africa (31 %) followed by Asia including the Middle East and North Africa (25 %). Support to global initiatives, for example through the United Nations system, makes up for 25 % of the total support within the sector (see Table 2). Afghanistan is the single largest recipient country with SEK 395 million directed mainly towards state-building efforts, followed by Mozambique (SEK 229 million) and Zimbabwe (SEK 187 million).



TABLE 1: DISTRIBUTION PER SUBSECTOR WITHIN DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS, MILLION SEK

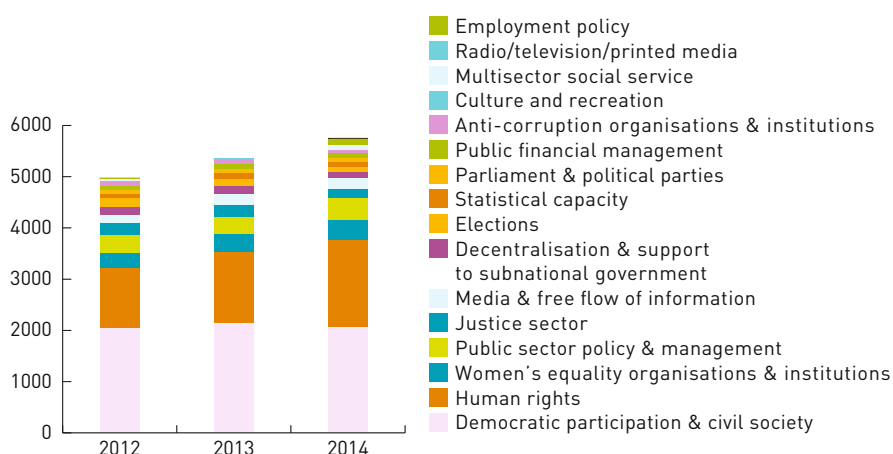
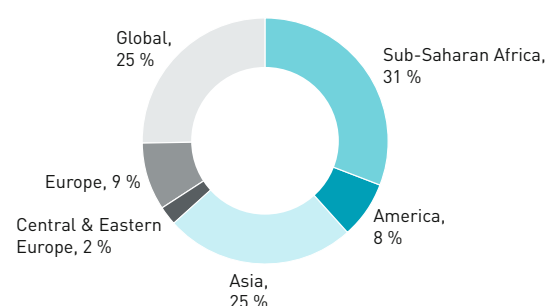


TABLE 2: GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION, %



RESULTS

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND ICT

Freedom of expression is one of the main priorities within the area of democracy and human rights. The situation on freedom of expression is clearly on an international decline, both offline and online. Sida is therefore supporting a number of initiatives for partner organisations working with international norms, to protect and strengthen cultural and artistic rights and freedoms and to promote media organisations and journalists with a focus on transparency, accountability and public debate.

ANTI-CORRUPTION

International research has determined that corruption is a central cause of human suffering around the world. Corruption can have devastating effects on development including weakening trust in communities and thereby undermining democracy and social equality.

The fight against corruption is closely linked to the promotion of human rights and democratic governance. Around half of all new result strategies adopted by the

Safety training and measures for journalists and human rights defenders are more needed today than ever. During 2014, a number of Sida's partners implemented rigorous physical or digital safety components in their programmes. Many of Sida's partners are inter-connected between several fields of work, where freedom of expression and ICT is a tool for promoting other fundamental rights and freedoms.

Swedish government during 2013 and 2014 expected development interventions to contribute to lowering corruption levels. An increased support to anti-corruption organisations from SEK 4.1 million in 2008 to SEK 63.3 million in 2014 reflects increased attention to the issue. However, direct support to anti-corruption organisations is only a small part of Sida's anticorruption efforts.

SWEDISH SUPPORT

Sida's democracy and human rights portfolio covers many sub-sectors, as reflected in tables 1 and 2. Support to civil society and democratisation actors is an integral part of Sida's work against oppression and for human rights and democratic governance. Examples of results from 2014 include:

- Strengthened work for democracy and human rights by integrating ICT programs in global, multilateral, regional and local strategy implementation.
- Positive development within the sub-sector freedom of expression and a more open media environment as 11 of the 15 country programs in Sub-Saharan Africa have included support for media actors.

- Better coordination of media development actors on safety for journalists and pilot efforts to establish national mechanisms for media safety.
- Increased awareness of media's role in promoting diversity, integration and voices of marginalised groups in countries in the Middle East and North Africa.
- Swedish multinational companies, members of the network Swedish Leadership for Sustainable Development coordinated by Sida, have raised the bar on anti-corruption and advocated the inclusion of anti-corruption in the new Sustainable Development Goals.

STORY OF CHANGE ACTION FOR TRANSPARENCY

Uganda

The Sida-funded public awareness campaign Action for Transparency was launched in Uganda in May 2014 to address the wide spread corruption posing a serious threat to constructive and equal development. Mobile app and web features allow citizens themselves to check how public schools and health centres manage public funds and if they have received the money they were allocated. The digital applications complement education and communication efforts that give poor people the

opportunity to improve their own living conditions. Monitoring has proven to be an accurate and appreciated tool by different groups in the society. During 2014, approximately 4 000 representatives from the media, civil society, communities and government received training in how the technical platform works, how government funds are allocated and how to track suspected corruption.