Peace and Security

Preventing conflict, sustaining peace and promoting human security

Armed conflicts constitute main obstacles to sustainable development. They create enormous human suffering and make pathways out of poverty more difficult. By 2030, OECD estimates that over 60 % of the world's poor will be living in countries affected by conflict and fragility. Total disbursement to conflict prevention, peace and security was SEK 733 million in 2016. 58 % of all Sida support had peace and security as principal or significant objective.

MAIN AREAS OF SUPPORT

Violent conflicts lead to human suffering in terms of loss of lives, displacement and increased levels of poverty, and for affected societies the pathways out of poverty are made more difficult. Sweden's long-term commitment to human security, peacebuilding and conflict prevention is articulated in the Policy framework for Swedish development cooperation and humanitarian assistance. It identifies Peaceful and inclusive societies as one of eight prioritised thematic areas. The framework further establishes that all activities supported by Sida shall be permeated by a conflict perspective. For Sida and its implementing partners, this direction implies that opportunities to integrate conflict prevention, peace and human security shall be identified and that risks of conflict-insensitive practices shall be mitigated in all operations.

Thematic sub-areas identified by the Policy Framework include support to transparent, inclusive and responsive institutions; strengthened resilience against conflict-related crises and capacity for peaceful conflict management; inclusive dialogue and mediation processes; increased participation and influence of women and girls, as well as youth, in conflict prevention and peace and state-building processes; and protection of children in armed conflict. Mine action, fight against illegal trade with small arms and light weapons (SALW), security sector reform and transitional justice processes are also prioritised areas for Sweden.

Sida's development cooperation is increasingly directed towards countries in situation of conflict and fragility. Among the seven countries receiving most development cooperation from Sida in 2016 five are severely affected by conflict and fragility: Afghanistan, Somalia, Palestine, Syria and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

DEVELOPMENT IN THE WORLD

While the world became slightly more peaceful in 2016 compared to 2015, the overall global peace and security trends have been negative over the last ten-year period with a rising number of armed conflicts, together with intensified and diversified patterns of violence in on-going armed conflicts.

Some common challenges in conflict-affected areas, identified by Sida in analyses and strategy reports, include high levels of violence against civilians including sexual and gender-based violence, shrinking space for civil society to engage in peacebuilding activities, as well as limited opportunity to engage constructively with the state. Opportunities to contribute to conflict prevention and inclusive peacebuilding are limited. Nevertheless, Swedish support has contributed to strengthening the local peacebuilding capacity in directly targeted geographic areas and to the implementation of national level peace processes in some cooperation counties.

THE GLOBAL GOALS

The Global Goals for Sustainable Development include everyone - and we can all contribute. The goals are interdependent and therefore indivisible. Sida's main contribution is to implement development cooperation, thereby reducing poverty and saving lives. Together we can build a better future where no one is left behind.
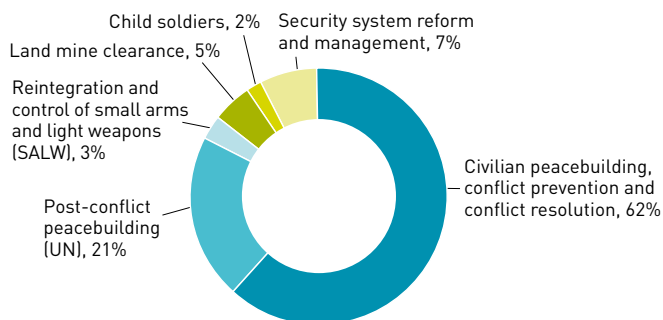
Results

SWEDISH SUPPORT

In 2016, Sida's targeted support to the sector Conflict, peace and security was 733 million SEK, which represents 3,9 % of Sida's total budget. Targeted support is divided between six main statistical sub-sectors as illustrated below.

SIDA'S DISBURSEMENTS PER STATISTICAL SUB-SECTOR IN 2016

Child soldiers, 2%
Security system reform and management, 7%
Land mine clearance, 5%
Reintegration and control of small arms and light weapons (SALW), 3%
Post-conflict peacebuilding (UN), 21%
Civilian peacebuilding, conflict prevention and conflict resolution, 62%
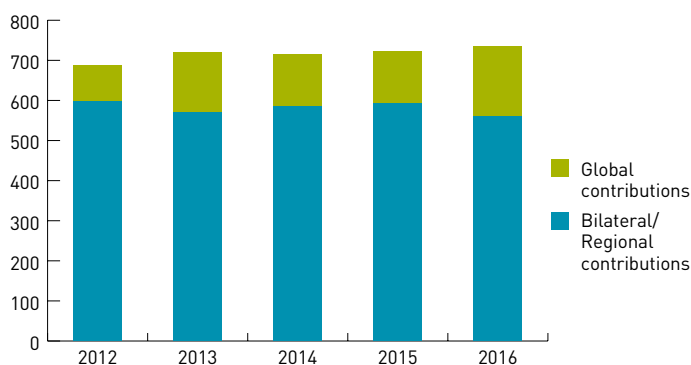
The thematic width of Sida's targeted support goes far beyond what is captured within the above mentioned sub-sectors and includes significant support to the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda; implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (SCR) 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security and UN SCR 1612 on Children in Armed Conflict, and support to capacities for peaceful conflict management and transformation such as dialogue and mediation initiatives.

Sida's support within the sector Conflict, peace and security is implemented through several strategies: the global thematic strategy on Sustaining peace, bilateral and regional development cooperation strategies. The five largest bilateral recipients of Sida's support within this sector in 2016 were Colombia, Somalia, Myanmar, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. As illustrated by the next table, both global and bilateral/regional disbursements have increased moderately over the last five-year period.

While 3,9 % of Sida's total support was channelled to the sector Conflict, Peace and Security, a total of 7 % of Sida's support had peace and security as principal objective and 51 % as significant objective. The latter figure included interventions within other sectors where peace and security constituted a secondary objective.

FINANCIAL DISTRIBUTION BETWEEN GLOBAL AND BILATERAL/ REGIONAL INITIATIVES

Global contributions
Bilateral/ Regional contributions

PROJECTS AND SUPPORT

To mention a few results emerging from Sida's support for conflict prevention, peace and security in 2016:

- Strengthened peaceful conflict resolution mechanisms at local level in Somalia.
- Increased participation and influence of women in the peace negotiations between the Colombian Government and Farc.
- 28 000 people (mainly children) received training on risks posed by antipersonnel mines, and mine clearance carried out in South Sudan and Iraq.
- Peace and Development Advisors deployed in approximately 40 countries through the UNDP/DPA Joint Programme, contributing to several national dialogue processes.

STORY OF CHANGE

In several contexts, Sida supports initiatives aimed at fighting impunity for conflict-related sexual violence and holding perpetrators of war crimes into account. In Guatemala, Sida has provided long-term support in several transitional justice processes, including the legal process against Sepur Zarco, who according to testimony of 15 women, committed sex slavery on a military base during the period 1982–1983. The trial, which was the first of its kind in Guatemala, led to a conviction in February 2016.