



# Sida's support to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

OCHA is mandated by the UN General Assembly to manage the coordination of the international humanitarian system. Sida supports OCHA field offices and the OCHA managed country-based pooled funds (CBPFs). In 2016, Sida disbursed SEK 833 million directly to OCHA, out of which 400 million was passed through UNDP agreements to the CBPFs. Core funding through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) was SEK 195 million. All Sida contributions are based on an assessment of humanitarian needs in protracted and emergency crisis settings.



## THE PARTNERSHIP WITH OCHA

OCHA is a central partner to Sida in humanitarian assistance, which is focused on saving lives, alleviating suffering and helping people to maintain their human dignity in disaster situations. Sida's support to OCHA is centred on ensuring efficient coordination of humanitarian response by its field offices and on humanitarian financing through the OCHA-managed Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs). The CBPFs are multi-donor humanitarian financing instruments at country level, allocating funding based on identified humanitarian needs and in line with the Humanitarian Response Plans.

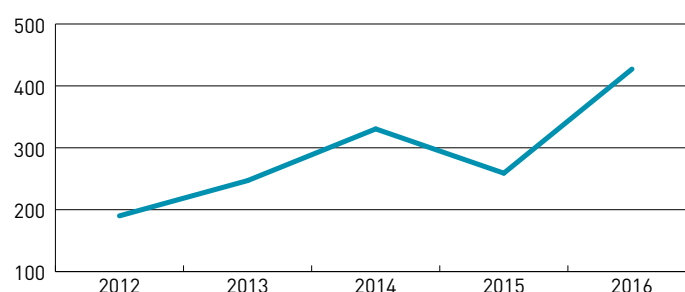
## FINANCIAL OUTCOME

In 2016, Sida's support to OCHA amounted to a total of SEK 833 million, mainly consisting of the support to OCHA country and regional offices and the Country-Based Pooled Funds. Out of this amount, SEK 400 million was passed through UNDP contracts to the OCHA-managed CBPFs. Sida's contribution complements the Swedish MFA's core contribution to OCHA (SEK 195 million in 2016) and its support to OCHA's Central Emergency Response Fund (SEK 720 million in 2016), bringing the total combined Swedish support to OCHA and its pooled funds to SEK 1.7 billion.

## GEOGRAPHICAL AND THEMATIC DISTRIBUTION

Given OCHA's humanitarian mandate, the list of major

FIGURE 1: SIDA'S ANNUAL DISBURSEMENT TO OCHA, MSEK



recipient countries in 2016 corresponds to those that were hardest hit by complex emergencies or natural disasters. Most recipients (both to CBPFs and field offices) in 2016 were countries in the Middle East and Northern African (MENA) 45%, African (33%) and in the Asian (15%) region.

In addition, Sida financed two Swedish Junior Professional Officers (JPOs) working for OCHA at HQ in Geneva and in DRC, which are reflected in the global contribution as 4%. As part of the priority Sida places on protection and gender in humanitarian response, Sida also gave specific support to the OCHA-managed GenCap and ProCap projects, as part of its support to OCHA. It also included support to the rapid response system UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC).

## 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

### OCHA MANDATE AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

OCHA was created in 1991 as part of the UN Secretariat. It was a response to growing demands for humanitarian coordination and the need to improve the overall effectiveness of the UN humanitarian operations in the field.

OCHA's core mandate is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors to alleviate human suffering in disasters and emergencies, advocate for the rights of people in need, promote preparedness and prevention, and facilitate sustainable solutions. OCHA has a well-calibrated field presence.

OCHA is mandated by the UN General Assembly to manage the coordination of the international humanitarian system. This means that OCHA – through its 29 country offices, 6 regional offices and 2 headquarters – is responsible for bringing together humanitarian actors to ensure a rapid and coherent humanitarian response. With presence in 49 countries in 2016, OCHA is ensuring that coordination mechanisms are adapted to the context and support the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance.

### GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS

Throughout 2016, protracted armed conflicts, combined with chronic and sudden natural disasters, caused staggering levels of humanitarian suffering and contributed to the forced displacement of 60 million people from their homes. Protracted conflicts in Iraq, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen continued to affect staggering numbers of people, placing extraordinary strain on the humanitarian system. Achievements in 2016 include, among others:

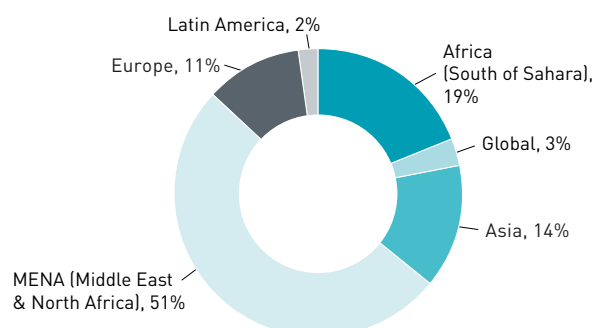
- Before Hurricane Matthew hit Haiti, OCHA pre-deployed an UNDAC team to reinforce national and local systems. OCHA also deployed a Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator (DHC) and strengthened emergency response capacity to help the 1.4 million people in need of assistance.
- Managing the Yemen Humanitarian Fund, OCHA allocated more than USD 100 million to UN agencies, national and international NGOs and Red Cross/Red Crescent organizations to implement life-saving projects.
- OCHA organized the first ever World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in Istanbul on May 23–24, in partnership with the Government of Turkey. The Summit brought together 9000 participants from around the world to reaffirm their commitment to prevent and reduce human suffering, and to demonstrate their support for the Agenda for Humanity.

### PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS FUNDED BY SIDA

#### Country Based Pooled Funds

- In Afghanistan, the humanitarian fund contributed to emergency health and trauma care to the needs of civilians affected by armed conflict, including IDPs, refugees and returnees, through cluster – prioritized actions and

FIGURE 2: SIDA'S SUPPORT TO OCHA BY REGION



geographic locations as well as to meet the immediate humanitarian needs of families newly displaced by the conflict, including IDPs, refugees and returnees, through targeted assistance to address critical basic needs and vulnerable groups.

- The Myanmar Humanitarian Funds supported the immediate response to shelter needs in camps in Rakhine State. The allocation focused on the maintenance and repair of shelter facilities before the start of the rainy season in June 2016. Ensuring the basic dignity of IDPs and reducing potential public health risks facing the camp population. This allocation of USD 1 million facilitated a rapid response which alleviated the immediate suffering of 20,000 displaced persons in Rakhine.

### STORY FROM THE HUMANITARIAN FUND IN SOUTH SUDAN

The South Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SSHF), help girls like 15 years old Nyayuot Khor Keah, to continue their education during crises. The girls can now attend upper primary school and enjoy learning from qualified teachers, alongside dedicated classmates. The project is a lifeline for girls who are otherwise at risk of child marriage, which has increased due to the economic crisis. The project has also established two new learning spaces, renovated two classrooms and distributed teaching materials to pupils.



"My classmates and I will sit exams in 2017 with this support and inspiration, we shall make it"

**Nyayuot, 15 years old**

Photo: Mercy Corps

For more information about the portfolio and Sida's overall relations with OCHA, please contact Sida's focal point for OCHA Minna Strömberg +46 (0)8 698 50 00 or [minna.stromberg@sida.se](mailto:minna.stromberg@sida.se)