



Sida's support to the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

UNHCR is one of the world's largest humanitarian organisations which works in 130 countries and have 10,966 employees of whom 87% are based in the field. The primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees, in accordance with the Refugee Convention. In 2016, Sida allocated SEK 297.5 million to the UNHCR. Sida's support is complementary to the core support provided by the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (SEK 815.7 million), making the total contribution more than SEK 1.1 billion in 2016. Sweden is thereby the sixth largest donor to UNHCR.



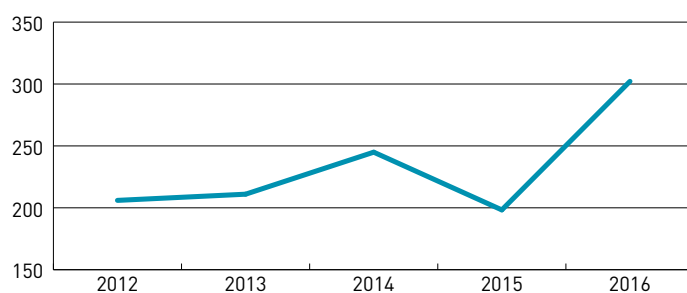
THE PARTNERSHIP WITH UNHCR

UNHCR is a key strategic partner to Sida's Humanitarian Assistance. The core of humanitarian assistance is to save lives, alleviate suffering and help people to maintain their human dignity in disaster situations, and differs from the long-term development cooperation where the primary purpose is poverty reduction. UNHCR leads and coordinates international protection of refugees, in line with the central components of Sweden's strategy for Humanitarian Assistance. In 2016, Sweden was the largest donor of un-earmarked contributions, making Sweden particularly important to UNHCR since the flexible funding allows UNHCR to deliver uninterrupted and immediate assistance where it is most needed. In 2016, Sida in particular supported two thematic components, Seeds for Solution and Sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) with SEK 5 million each.

FINANCIAL OUTCOME

Sida's contributions to UNHCR includes various country and regional operations. In 2016, Sida's support to UNHCR amounted to SEK 297.5 million, of which all was humanitarian assistance in response to emergency appeals in regional or country specific refugee and/or internal displacement situations. Sida's support to UNHCR is complementary to the annual un-earmarked core support decided upon by the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA),

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



which amounted to SEK 815.7 million in 2016. Thus, the total Swedish contribution to UNHCR added up to SEK 1.1 billion. Additionally, Sweden was the third largest donor per capita and the largest donor providing unearmarked funding and accounted for 17% of all unearmarked funding.

GEOGRAPHICAL AND THEMATIC DISTRIBUTION

All Sida's support to UNHCR's operations is based on assessments of humanitarian needs. The allocation of support varies from year to year depending on several variables aiming to distinguish where the most acute humanitarian needs are located. UNHCR's assistance consists of programmed activities based on four pillars,

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

ORGANISATION MANDATE AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

UNHCR's main purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees and to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another state, and to return home voluntarily. UNHCR is mandated to lead and coordinate international action for the worldwide protection of refugees and the resolution of refugee problems and is an important actor and leader in the international humanitarian system and leads the Global Protection Cluster, as well as the Cluster for Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), and the Cluster for Emergency shelter in emergency situations. UNHCR further works in partnership with governments, regional organisations, as well as international and non-governmental organisations. To emphasize areas of critical concern, UNHCR has formed global strategic priorities (GSPs) where efforts are made to strengthen protection, improve the quality of life and seek solutions for refugees. The GSPs include for instance shelter, water, global acute malnutrition, sexual and gender based violence and self-resilience.

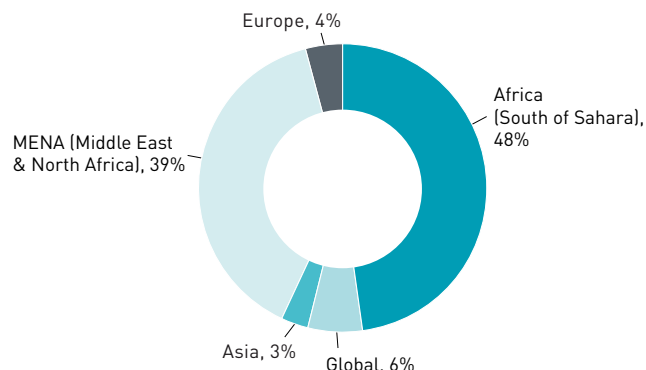
which accounted for different percentages of the global support in 2016: Refugee Programme (77%), Stateless Programme (1%), Reintegration Projects (4%) and IDP Projects (19%). Over the years, the geographical regions Africa and Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA) have received most of the support. Breaking down the support to UNHCR's programmed activities in 2016 per region shows that Africa accounted for 30% of the budget, Americas 2%, Asia 9.5%, Europe 11%, Global Programmes 8.5%, MENA 33% and Headquarters 5.6%. The contributions to Africa included support to UNHCR's operations in e.g. South Sudan, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Somalia, Nigeria, Mali, Chad, Burundi and Central African Republic. Contributions to MENA included support to operations in Syrian Arab Republic, Libya, Iraq, Yemen and Algeria. The contribution to Europe included support to Ukraine.

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS

In 2016, six UNHCR emergency declarations were in place, covering more than 20 countries affected by large-scale internal displacement or refugee influxes. The contributions targeted the most affected people among UNHCR's persons of concern (refugees, internally displaced, and stateless persons) by providing protection and assistance. Specific focus targeted vulnerable population groups and people at risk such as; single female households, children and the elderly. Results for 2016 includes:

- 60 countries were supported with and 2,5 million people received cash assistance.
- 7.4 million refugees benefitted from health services.
- 80% of 70 situations reported increased community involvement in prevention and protection of SGBV survivors.

FIGURE 2: SIDA'S SUPPORT TO UNHCR BY REGION



10 operations benefitted from 55 months of technical support to help mitigate the risk of SGBV and improve access to and the quality of vital services for survivors.

- 60,800 people who were stateless or whose nationality was undetermined acquired a nationality or had their nationality confirmed.

STORY OF CHANGE AT INDIVIDUAL LEVEL

Maya fled Syria in 2012. Flanked by her husband and four children, two boys and two girls, she knew starting over in neighboring Lebanon would be difficult but she thought her children would at least be safe. Sweden's flexible financial support allows UNHCR to address the needs of women like Maya as well as girls, boys and men who are survivors of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) and abuse through strengthening identification mechanisms and supporting the institutionalization of effective prevention and response programming.



"After I arrived in Lebanon, my husband started changing. He became very violent against the children..."

My daughter needed stitches on her head, from the metal on a belt, I took her to hospital where she received about 5 stitches, my son was being hit with a metal cable rod."

Maya, 35 years

Photo: UNHCR/Nadine Alfa