



Sida's support to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

Gender equality, women's empowerment and the advancement of women's rights is a thematic priority in Swedish development cooperation. UN Women is therefore an important and strategic partner to Sweden in promoting gender equality and women's rights. In 2016, Sida's contributions to UN Women amounted to SEK 251 million. Together with the SEK 110 million in core support allocated by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA), the total Swedish funding added up to SEK 361 million.



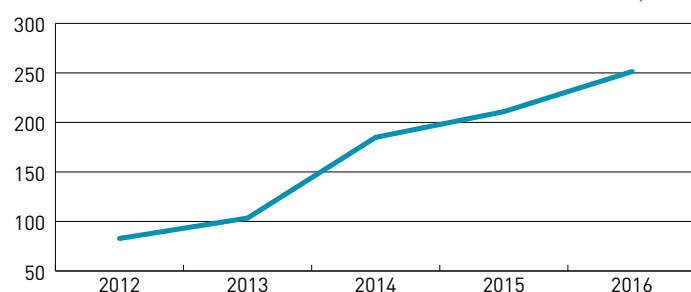
THE PARTNERSHIP WITH UN WOMEN

UN Women is a strategic partner to Sida and Sweden. The partnership with UN Women encompasses strengthening the implementation of UN Women's mandate based on the principle of universality. UN Women provides, through its normative support functions and operational activities, guidance and technical support to all Member States on gender equality, empowerment and rights of women. This work contributes to more effective coordination, coherence and gender mainstreaming across the UN system.

FINANCIAL OUTCOME

Sweden was the largest donor to UN Women in 2016 followed by Japan, United Kingdom and Switzerland. Resource flows remain a challenge to UN Women and there is a need for increased financial support if UN Women is to meet expectations and deliver on its Strategic Plan. In 2016, Sida made a total of nineteen instalments to UN Women equalling SEK 251 million. The amount disbursed to UN Women increased between 2014 and 2016 (see Figure 1). During the same period, the number of contributions increased from eleven to nineteen. This reflects Sweden's strong support to UN Women. Apart from the contributions above, Sida contributes with support to ONE UN and Joint Gender Programs. However, this support is not reflected in the statistics since UN Women is not the agreement partner.

FIGURE 1: SIDA'S ANNUAL DISBURSEMENT TO UN WOMEN, MSEK



GEOGRAPHICAL AND THEMATIC DISTRIBUTION

Sida's contribution to UN Women is spread globally and across regions. Africa was the largest recipient region in 2016, followed by Asia, South America and the Middle East (see Figure 2). Sida aims at supporting UN Women's Strategic Notes at country levels when possible. The thematic priority areas, identified by UN Women, are the following: women's leadership and participation; ending violence against women; women peace and security; and economic empowerment. Sida is financing Swedish Junior Professional Officers (JPOs) and is seconding personnel as part of the Swedish Multilateral Secondment Programme. In 2016, 3 JPOs were deployed to UN Women in Georgia, Kenya and Cambodia and 2 individuals were seconded to UN Women in Geneva and New York.

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.

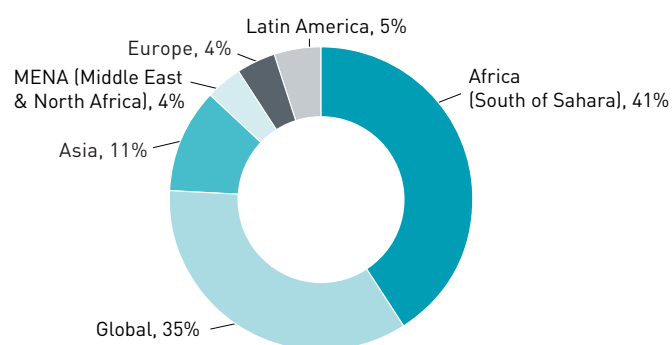


Results

UN WOMEN'S MANDATE AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The triple mandate endows UN Women with a unique capacity to: support the strengthening of global norms and standards; promote more effective coordination, coherence and gender mainstreaming across the UN system in support of commitments for gender equality and women's empowerment; and support Member States to translate global norms and standards into legislation, policies and development plans at the regional, national and local levels as part of its operational activities. UN Women's Strategic Plan outlines the strategic direction, objectives and approaches to support efforts to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. UN Women relies on four comparative organizational strengths to implement the Strategic Plan in the context of system-wide efforts: the ability to link global and national policy development for gender equality and women's empowerment; the largest pool of expertise in gender equality and women's empowerment in the UN; longstanding relationship with women's organizations; and comprehensive and integrated contribution across the three pillars of the UN: peace and security, human rights and sustainable development.

FIGURE 2: SIDA'S SUPPORT TO UN WOMEN BY REGION



GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS

UN Women contributed to the following selected global results in various fields during 2016: UN Women supported women to claim their right to equal treatment under the law, to gain elected office, to draw on the power of innovation and technology, and to become leaders through sports, among many other initiatives.

UN Women provided advisory services and technical support to 65 countries and 6 regional offices, as well as seed funding to 33 country and regional offices, contributed to strengthened national capacities to develop gender-responsive constitutional and legislative frameworks and inclusive political processes. In total, UN Women trained 4,000 aspiring and elected women leaders in 51 countries.

PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS RECEIVING FUNDING FROM SIDA

Sida supported UN Women to work on women, peace and security and the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). Swedish funds contributed to a global funding mechanism to simulate financing of women's empowerment in humanitarian and conflict settings. In addition, Sweden supported UN Women's work related to the UN Security Council's Informal Expert Group on Women, Peace and Security. Sida's support contributed to forging partnerships with civil society and women's rights activists and to inform and influence crucial policy discussions. The support resulted in strengthening the capacity of the UN system, and other key partners to respond with gender awareness and to achieve gender justice and women's rights in conflict, post-conflict, and crisis situations.

STORY OF CHANGE AT THE INDIVIDUAL LEVEL

Sida has collaborated closely with UN Women to implement its Strategic Country Note in Moldova. The support from Sida enabled UN Women to work closely with NGOs applying innovative approaches to eliminate gender based violence. One of the organizations receiving support is the maternity centre Ariadna in Drochia, in northern Moldova. Ariadna works with women who escaped domestic violence to encourage survivors of violence to speak up and share their stories. Rodica Carpenco, is one of them. She was subject to violence in her marriages. Ariadna helped her to stop the circle of violence. She now works as a positive champion to help other women. Rodica is convinced that the power of speaking up helps women to end violent relationships. Today she lives with her four children, has left her violent relationship, found a job and helps others to start a new life.



Photo: UN Women/Ariadna

"Speaking up about my personal experience and how I finally stopped the violence, helps other women. They can relate and it encourages them to share their stories and gives them hope."

Rodica Carpenco

For more information about the portfolio and Sida's overall relations with UN Women, please contact Sida's focal point for UN Women Pia Öste +46 (0)8 698 50 00 or pia.oste@sida.se

