

Pluralism



POLICY FOR SUPPORT TO CIVIL SOCIETY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITHIN SWEDISH DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION



REGERINGSKANSLIET

Government Offices
of Sweden

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Farmer in Dhaka in her rice field. She was granted a loan from the Grameen Bank, a grassroots movement for micro-loans. In Bangladesh, these micro-loans have provided many poor people with new opportunities for making a living.

Photo: Rifiquir Rahman/Reuters

Summary

Civil society actors have a key role in reducing poverty and a particular importance and special potential to contribute to democratic development and increased respect for human rights in developing countries. For this reason, a substantial part of Swedish development cooperation is implemented in cooperation with civil society organisations. Sweden also gives indirect support to civil society by contributing to the creation of an enabling environment for civil society to work in.

This policy aims to establish a coherent approach to civil society in developing countries within the framework of development cooperation and procedures for the implementation of the policy. The objective is: *a vibrant and pluralistic civil society in developing countries that, using a rights-based approach, contributes effectively to reducing poverty in all its dimensions.*

In developing countries, Sweden will promote representative, legitimate and independent civil society actors who contribute to poverty reduction, based on their role as *collective voices* and *organisers of services*.

In its cooperation, Sweden will give particular attention to the potential of civil society to create opportunities for *organisation* and *channels* through which individuals and groups – particularly people living in poverty who are discriminated against or marginalised – can make their voices heard and influence the development of society. They can therefore act as *proposers of ideas*, *watchdogs* of those in power and a *counterweight to and force for democratisation* vis-à-vis the state.

Sweden will contribute to the *capacity development* of civil society organisations in developing countries, based on their *own priorities*. The organisations' internal democracy, independence and actual performance are therefore to be the focus. Moreover, Sweden will support the *activities* of civil society organisations on the basis of their skills and potential to contribute in their various roles to achieving the objectives of Swedish geographical and non-geographical *cooperation strategies*. Here the activities and performance of the organisation are central. Finally, Sweden will support the development of an enabling environment, i.e. the institutional, legal, political and administrative conditions that enable the existence, activities and effectiveness of civil society.

1. Introduction

Civil society organisations are recognised today as key actors in development cooperation. For this reason, a substantial part of Swedish development cooperation is implemented in collaboration/jointly with civil society organisations at global, national, regional and local level. Sweden also provides support to and cooperates with civil society organisations via the European Commission and multilateral organisations, not least the various bodies of the UN.

Civil society organisations are characterised by the fact that they are self-governed, based on voluntary participation and, to various degrees, independent of the state, local authorities and the market; they conduct their activities without profit-making interests, often based on common values. Examples of national and international civil society actors include religious groups, trade unions, networks, research institutes, think tanks, social movements, cultural groups, neighbourhood organisations, grassroots and other member organisations, such as peasants' and cooperative movements, and business associations and other interest organisations.

The media, political parties, cooperative associations and research institutions, as well as other associations and networks, may – depending on the context, their role and function – belong to civil society as well as to the state and/or the market. In such cases, the independence of these organisations vis-à-vis the state, and the extent to which their operations are run for profit interests, may determine whether or not an organisation can be regarded as part of civil society.

There is no clear-cut definition of civil society. The term has been the subject of extensive research and debate over the last few decades. The definition of civil society used in this policy is *'an arena, distinct from the state, the market and the individual household, created by individuals, groups and organisations acting together to promote common interests'*.

Civil society actors organise and mobilise themselves in different ways depending on the context in which they work, with regard to factors such as geography, history, cultural tradition and political situation. Civil society organisations interact continuously and in complex forms with the state, local authorities and the market. This interaction involves cooperation, but also competition for social, economic, political and cultural power.

Although civil society actors primarily organise themselves at local or national level, individuals and organisations are increasingly also seeking cooperation at regional and global level. Cooperation between different levels creates the conditions for the exchange of knowledge, experience and information across political, social, cultural and economic borders.

The donor community, including Sweden, also supports civil society indirectly by contributing to the creation of an enabling environment, that is the institutional, legal, political and administrative conditions that enable the existence, activities and effectiveness of civil society

Literacy and education provide the foundation for creating involved citizens. A young girl in Jericho on the West Bank reads Mamma Moo in Arabic.

Photo: Claes Herlander/Phoenix



2. The aim of the policy

The aim of the policy is to establish a coherent approach for the part of Swedish development cooperation that is pursued via direct or indirect support to, and cooperation with, civil society in developing countries.

3. Starting points, overall objectives and roles

3.1 Starting points

In the Government's assessment, a strong, vibrant and pluralistic civil society in developing countries, conducting activities that balance out and supplement the state, local authorities, market actors and multilateral bodies, is a prerequisite for achieving the overall objective of Swedish development cooperation.

Freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and the right to organise on issues with direct impact on day-to-day life and society in general are often a prerequisite for people living in poverty to be able to influence their own lives and break out of poverty. Sweden asserts the right of individuals to organise and to claim their human rights. Civil society organisations can, in various ways, create awareness of the rights of individuals and mobilise people and strengthen their capacity to claim these rights.

Civil society actors that could be eligible for Swedish support are to share the objectives and perspectives contained in Sweden's policy for global development and the objectives for international development cooperation and/or reform cooperation in Eastern Europe. The application of the principles of participation, non-discrimination, openness and transparency, and accountability mean that Sweden will support independent civil society organisations in developing countries whose working methods mean that the people concerned living in poverty have, or are gradually acquiring, knowledge and awareness of their rights and the capacity to claim these rights both individually and collectively

3.2 Overall objectives

Sweden's support to civil society will contribute, within the framework of Sweden's policy for global development, to achieving the objective for international development cooperation of *creating conditions to enable poor people to improve their living conditions*. Cooperation is also to contribute to the objective of reform cooperation in Eastern Europe; *strengthened democracy, equitable and sustainable development, and closer ties with the EU and its fundamental values*.

The overall objective for support to – and cooperation with – civil society is:

A vibrant and pluralistic civil society in developing countries that contributes effectively, using a rights-based approach, to reducing poverty in all its dimensions.

3.3 The various roles of civil society

Sweden will promote representative, legitimate and independent civil society actors in developing countries that, based on their role as *collective voices* and *organisers of services*, contribute to reducing poverty.

Civil society is primarily created by people who wish to find solutions to specific problems in an organised form. Most organisations are set up to *organise a service* for one's own group or to benefit others. Services within development cooperation that are regularly carried out by civil society organisations include health initiatives and agricultural development. An *organiser of services* can therefore be defined as a group formed for a specific purpose to organise and/or carry out a service linked to a mandate from, or vested interest among, their constituency and/or people concerned that are living in poverty.

A *collective voice* is defined as a group that actively promotes its ideas in relation to the rest of society and/or internally, and thereby creates an opportunity for individuals to jointly promote their own interests. The ability to obtain or give others a '*voice*' is closely linked to the group's representativeness and legitimacy. This includes scrutinising and demanding

accountability of the state's commitments and actions, and instances where individuals jointly express and pursue their own position on an issue.

Many organisations act as both collective voices and organisers of services. When an organisation obtains or gives its members or target group a 'voice' and also organises services, the roles are, if anything, mutually reinforcing and therefore give increased legitimacy to both the civil society actor concerned and the policy issues it pursues.

Kighare, Same in north-eastern Tanzania. Local people assemble water mains for their own village. The project is being run together with the Tanzanian branch of the Caritas organisation.

Photo: Sean Sprague/Phoenix



4. Support to civil society in different sectors and situations

4.1 Support to civil society in different sectors

Civil society actors work in all sectors and in a variety of situations. Sweden will pay special attention to their potential in developing countries to:

- create opportunities for *organisation* and create *channels*, including *meeting places* for collaboration, through which individuals and groups who are poor and discriminated against can make their voices heard, raise demands for the realisation of their human rights and influence the development of society,
- act as *proposers of ideas* and *watchdogs* of those in power,
- in general terms, and particularly under authoritarian regimes, act as a *counterweight* to and *force for democratisation* vis-à-vis the state,
- offer *liberal adult education* to strengthen the capacity of individuals and groups who are poor and discriminated against to change their lives,
- organise and carry out *services* of benefit to the community.

Poverty reduction efforts as a starting point

Sweden's starting point is to support civil society organisations that contribute effectively to poverty reduction and that work to safeguard the interests of poor women, men, children and young people.

Experience shows that civil society organisations can contribute to sustainable results at different levels and in a variety of areas. In certain situations and in a number of areas in different sectors, support to civil society can be the method that produces the best impact in terms of development. Civil society actors have a particular importance and potential to contribute to increased participation in policy design and implementation, and to democratisation. Civil society organisations also play a key role in other sectors, such as health, education and rural development. Support should

be designed so as to avoid creating parallel systems, which would in turn undermine the state's responsibility for respecting the rights of the individual and for creating the conditions in which these can be enjoyed.

One starting point is that civil society organisations in partner countries often constitute a necessary driving force in efforts to meet environmental and climate challenges in a way that benefits people living in poverty, and in the development of innovative solutions, for example in the mobilisation of resources or adaptation to climate change. Civil society should be given the opportunity to participate in this way, and be strengthened to develop technical competence and genuine power to exert an influence.

A free press is very important for people to make their way in society. A man in Kathmandu, Nepal reads the election results from the April 2008 elections.

Photo: Phoenix/Lorenz Christensen



Civil society participation in political processes is crucial

In countries where Swedish development cooperation includes budget or programme support, Sweden will work in its dialogue with partner countries to ensure that civil society actors have the opportunity for participation, transparency and accountability with those in power at different political levels, and in overall national and local political processes and efforts to reduce poverty, such as the elaboration and monitoring of national poverty reduction strategies. One starting point is that civil society actors have particular qualities to influence national poverty reduction plans to be more equality-oriented in terms of gender and other aspects, and to highlight the role of women in development.

Sweden's support to civil society is to contribute to increased trust and growth

By meeting in groups, organisations and networks, people in civil society can strengthen confidence within a group and trust between different groups. Support to civil society actors aiming to develop a democratic culture should therefore include promoting interfaces between different social, cultural, religious, political or ethnic groups, particularly in fragmented societies.

Sweden can also support civil society's contribution to creating the conditions for economic growth, for example by increasing trust and confidence in a society, including labour market and business sector interest organisations. Trust is a prerequisite for investments and functioning transactions, which benefits economic development and the development of the private sector, and stimulates entrepreneurship and business activities.

Important factors for economic growth include safeguarding the rule of law and equality before the law, a functioning market economy and trade policy regulations (including protecting ownership rights and contractual freedom), a relatively even distribution of productive resources, as well as free media and the freedom of expression. Civil society actors that contribute to strengthening these factors are to be given particular attention.

Priority to be given to capacity development in civil society

The conditions for individuals and groups in developing countries to organise and mobilise themselves and to have an impact vary widely. Sweden is to give particular attention to groups who are discriminated against on grounds of ethnic origin, religion or other belief, disability, age, gender, sexual orientation, or transgender identity or expression. Young people's capacity to organise and potential to contribute to processes of change are to be highlighted.

Irrespective of the geographical or thematic area in which activities are conducted and regardless of the situation, capacity development is to form an integrated part of Swedish support to civil society actors in developing countries. The starting point for this should be local forms of organisation and participation.

Based on their values (for example with regard to gender equality) and their long-term cooperation relationships, Swedish civil society organisations often have particular potential to promote capacity development and mutual learning with their partners in developing countries. Swedish civil society organisations will contribute to *capacity development* in civil society organisations in developing countries based on these organisations' *own priorities*. In this context, the organisation and its internal democracy, independence and actual performance should be the focus.

4.2 Support to civil society in different situations

The conditions, added value as cooperation partners and impact of civil society organisations vary depending on context.

Civil society is an essential part of democracy and has the potential to strengthen it. Support to and collaboration with civil society actors contribute directly or indirectly to democratisation – regardless of the sector in which a civil society organisation is active. At the same time, the conditions are better for civil society actors in a democracy with an enabling environment. Sweden is therefore to work, particularly in its state-to-state cooperation and in dialogue with partner countries, to strengthen the institutional, legal, political and administrative frameworks that make it possible

for civil society to exist, exercise independence, conduct activities and have an impact.

Many of the countries in which Sweden pursues bilateral development cooperation with support to civil society organisations are ‘fragile democracies’, and others can be described as authoritarian states or states characterised by instability. Irrespective of the situation, civil society actors have great potential to act as a school of democracy – not least through democratic decision-making structures within their own organisations – and to counteract discriminatory attitudes and values in society. Civil society actors have a unique ability to create alternative models and channels for the opinions and interests of individuals and groups, and to act as agents of change.

The Government’s analysis and position with regard to cooperation with civil society actors in different situations and phases of democratic development are set out below:

In authoritarian states

In an *authoritarian state* Sweden will give priority to support for civil society that focuses on democratisation. In some countries, civil society organisations can draw attention to issues that are avoided by the regime, such as abuses of human rights and impunity from prosecution and punishment. In some countries, civil society can also act as a counterweight and force for democratisation by being a source of political alternatives and new political leadership.

In the transition from an authoritarian regime to democracy, the combination of pressure from civil society and reform efforts within the current power elite can be strategically significant; this should have an impact on the design of support to civil society. However, this presupposes that support does not involve further strengthening civil society actors with strong links to the regime.

One conclusion from earlier successful democratisation processes is that peaceful citizens’ movements in civil society have been a major source of change, particularly in joint efforts with political groups. Support to civil society is to be made available to organisations and movements in civil society with explicit political objectives and ambitions for democracy, and should be more clearly linked to support to the development of representa-

tive political parties with political programmes. Priority should be given to pluralism in general, and pro-democracy civic movements directed at mobilisation and political reform in particular, along with defenders of human rights and other agents of change in civil society.

In authoritarian states, civil society organisations may also be the only functioning channel for the realisation of people's rights to health and education, for example. Priority is to be given to civil society's role as a collective voice.

In conflict, post-conflict and humanitarian situations

In *conflict and post-conflict situations*, civil society actors play a particularly important role. In its support, Sweden will give priority to organisations and networks that uphold standards and attitudes for peaceful coexistence, and that potentially or currently have scope to influence the situation in a peaceful direction. They can play a crucial and constructive role through early detection of signs of negative development trends, making it possible to initiate conflict prevention, crisis management, conflict resolution or peace-building initiatives, for example. The implementation of Resolution 1325 (on the full and equal participation of women in this process) is to permeate all support to civil society in such situations. Community organisations or women's networks that are active in the local area are to be given particular attention.

Civil society organisations can also influence attitudes and legislation surrounding arms and violence, not least youth organisations, which can help prevent violence. Cooperation with moderate religious associations or locally based civil society organisations with significant networks can sometimes be the only way to prevent or reduce tensions in conflicts that have arisen where people have been mobilised against each other on grounds of collective identities such as ethnic or religious background.

In serious armed conflicts, civil society organisations have particular potential to help bring about peace agreements with a clearer perspective that also includes those not directly involved in the conflict. This may be done by facilitating formal or informal peace talks or participating in the establishment of democratic institutions such as transitional parliaments or governments, for example.

In some conflict, post-conflict and *humanitarian situations*, particularly where the state is ineffective and corrupt, civil society organisations can be more effective than authorities or multilateral organisations in reaching the people affected. Support to locally based organisations can sometimes be the only way to take humanitarian initiatives to groups who are surrounded by the conflict and isolated, and thereby bring about communication, a beginning of dialogue and increased trust.

In situations where there is no legitimate government in place, civil society organisations also take on an important role in efforts to achieve broad national and local ownership. Dialogue with civil society actors can, in some cases, provide guidance for the actions of Sweden and other donors. Attention should be given to civil society organisations' ownership of development initiatives.

In democracies

In fragile, new democratic states and in situations where civil society is in decline, civil society actors have a particularly important role to play in contributing to continued democratisation. Of particular importance are civil society organisations that can *disseminate knowledge* of how the democratic process works, help create or uphold faith in democracy as a form of government and act as a *channel* for people's political involvement and participation, for example as independent watchdogs and in building awareness. This also applies to more consolidated democracies or where democracy may be in decline.

Civil society organisations with the will and capacity to work in constructive *dialogue* with the state can also serve as a counterweight to or independent co-actor with the state and contribute to the accountability of the policy pursued, to gaining support for it, and in some cases (in its role as an organiser of services) to implementing it. In cases where organisations participate in their various roles in implementing a national poverty reduction policy, Swedish support is to be designed so as to ensure that legitimate state and political institutions are not undermined.

Many countries fulfil the formal requirements for a democracy, but have a poorly developed democratic culture, limited or unequal citizen participation in public decision-making in reality and/or an ineffective and corrupt

state. In such situations, representative, legitimate and democratically constituted civil society organisations can revitalise democracy *from within* and *below*, acting as a counterweight and demonstrating alternatives. Cooperation with civil society organisations in such countries should be pursued in conjunction with actors confronting persistent undemocratic and corrupt power structures (e.g. police, military or paramilitary structures), or traditional power structures or systems and institutions that prevent positive development.

Sweden also wants to stimulate effective interaction between civil society organisations on the one hand, and the parliament and party system on the other. Support to civil society will help strengthen democratic actors for change, such as social movements and defenders of human rights, future leaders and new parties, and develop political parties with a popular base and political programmes. This particularly applies to countries with weak party systems or where public confidence in the parties has been lost.

Namacura, Mozambique. People queue up to vote in the first democratic elections in October 1994.

Photo: Gustaf Eneroth/Phoenix



5. Implementation

This policy applies to Sweden's bilateral and multilateral development assistance and provides guidance for Sweden's positions within the EU. The policy applies to all support to and cooperation with civil society in developing countries, including that governed by the relevant geographical and non-geographical cooperation strategies. In implementing these strategies, civil society organisations are usually among several actors within one or more sectors. The parts that are particularly important in order for the policy to be operationalised in Swedish international development cooperation strategies, programmes and dialogue are presented below.

5.1 Analysis and assessment

Actor analysis to be carried out

There are actors and organisations whose actions may hinder development and obstruct those living in poverty from improving their lives. An organisation may be representative of a large number of members but represent values that make it less legitimate, and vice versa. An overall analysis is therefore to be carried out within each geographical and thematic area of cooperation of the organisations and conditions in civil society, and how these can contribute to fulfilling the set objectives. One important starting point is that civil society organisations receiving Swedish central government development assistance funds should share the objectives and perspectives of Sweden's policy for global development and international development cooperation.

In many cases it can be easier to integrate an actor analysis into other analyses, such as social and political power analyses, conflict analyses or actor analyses within a given sector. Analyses do not necessarily have to be carried out by Sweden. Attention will be given to surveys and analyses that civil society organisations themselves carry out, and to analyses carried out by other donors or partner countries. Although Swedish objectives and roles in the context should influence the focus of the analysis, Sweden will focus in particular on the following aspects:

- how the existing political, institutional and legal framework affects the opportunities of civil society organisations' to act,
- the relationships between civil society, the state/local authorities and political actors,
- historical and cultural forms of organisation,
- the conditions and organisation of groups that are discriminated against.

Representativeness and legitimacy of civil society organisations crucial

Representativeness and legitimacy in every civil society organisation will be fundamental starting points for Swedish support. Organisations' internal democracy, cooperation partners and target groups are also to affect the Swedish assessment of the organisation. Cooperation with civil society actors is also to include analysis and risk assessment of organisations' legal and financial status and sustainability, including an assessment of the risk of corruption in their activities and what can be done to eliminate such risks. Pluralism with regard to the number, type and focus of civil society organisations contributes to development and is to be promoted.

Financial independence of civil society to be sought

Some organisations are by definition temporary and dependent on development assistance, while other organisations, such as broad membership-based organisations like village committees, interest groups, trade unions etc. can have a more economically independent basis. In light of each specific situation, Sweden will highlight how important it is that civil society organisations receiving Swedish support gradually become independently financially viable.

5.2 Effective forms of support

Increased development assistance effectiveness and result achievement

As part of the implementation of commitments for increased effectiveness in development cooperation, Sweden is seeking a greater degree of donor harmonisation of the *objectives for* and *forms of* support to civil society in a way that does not undermine the role of actors who are potentially given lower priority or lack resources.

In cases where Sweden is acting in an environment with few likeminded donors, or where there is a lack of consensus on coordination and aid effectiveness, Sweden will also work for increased consensus among donors on how support to civil society can become more effective.

Modalities of support are not to be designed so that they may weaken civil society organisations, or contribute to reducing the added value that qualified them for support in the first place, such as their ability to act as an independent collective voice. Such a risk exists where donors take ownership away from the organisations by controlling their activities, or divide civil society by providing large sums of money to weak structures. Social structures that are weak but exist nonetheless should be safeguarded, and grant systems and procurements are to be shaped to encourage cooperation, not competition or conflict. Alongside this ambition, Sweden is also to highlight civil society organisations' efforts at national and international level to increase effectiveness and result achievement in their activities. The importance of responsibility and openness with regard to people living in poverty in developing countries and of organisations following and developing self-initiated ethical codes will also be highlighted.

Priority to programme-based funding and core budget support

Where possible, priority will be consistently given to programme-based funding and core budget support rather than project support. Support to organisations in civil society will contribute to local ownership and be based on the partner organisation's planning and monitoring system.

Within the framework of regional and country-specific cooperation strat-

egies, Sweden, together with likeminded donors, should aim for increased effectiveness in cooperation with civil society organisations, for example by producing common guidelines for support within a given sector or region.

Transparent and coordinated contribution systems to be applied

Swedish financial support to civil society will be transparent and conform to the applicable regulations and legislation in Sweden. Financial support can be given either through *contributions* or through *procurement* for the implementation of an assignment. The procurement process often includes risks, in particular with regard to civil society organisations' ability to maintain or develop their independent position. Support is therefore preferably to be given via well-designed and flexible contribution systems. International agreements for increased aid effectiveness using harmonisation, adaptation to local systems and local ownership are to guide this process. However, procurement is to be preferred where commercial interests are involved. .

In some specific situations, greater but considered risks can be justified, for example in difficult situations in authoritarian states and conflict situations.

Cooperative in Mali, supported by a consortium from Sweden, Norway, the Netherlands and Switzerland.

Photo: Tomas Brundin



6. Division of roles and responsibilities

The overall objectives and direction of this policy will apply by influencing and supplementing the objectives defined for Swedish strategies, guidelines or initiatives that involve direct or indirect support to civil society organisations. At the same time, due account will be taken of the specific conditions of every activity. The division of roles and responsibilities also varies according to the management of support to civil society under different strategies:

- Support given within the framework of geographical cooperation strategies and certain non-geographical strategies will be implemented based on the priorities set by the Government in the strategy in question.
- The humanitarian imperative to alleviate suffering applies in humanitarian work. Since support to civil society within this non-geographical strategy is given without any requirement for own investment, Swedish government guidance should also be extensive in this context.
- Development assistance given via Sida's appropriation Support through Swedish civil society organisations and governed by an own strategy goes to activities carried out independently by a number of Swedish civil society organisations in accordance with their own thematic and geographical priorities. The development assistance given via this appropriation requires an own investment of funds collected in Sweden, and therefore supplements the organisations' own resources.

To achieve long-term effects, civil society actors' ownership of activities should be extensive in all three forms of support.

All multilateral organisations cooperate with civil society in different ways. In this context, Sweden's influence on civil society is more indirect compared with bilateral development cooperation. Where appropriate, the policy will be a support instrument in drafting Swedish positions regarding policy development, activity planning and monitoring of multilateral organisations. Complementarity should be sought with the European Commission's thematic and geographical programmes.

The Government considers that coordinated efforts between Swedish civil society organisations and Swedish government agencies working in development assistance (particularly Sida) should be sought when dealing with multilateral organisations.



Two Nobel Prize winners at grassroots level.

Above: The 'Jobra to Oslo' exhibition at the Grameen Bank main office in Dhaka. 2006 Prize Winner Mohammad Yunus built up the Grameen Bank for micro-credits to help reduce poverty in Bangladesh.

Photo: Andrew Biraj/Reuters

Below: Wangari Mathai was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004 for his work with the Green Belt Movement which primarily works with planting trees.

Photo: Radu Sighet/Reuters



7. Monitoring and evaluation

Sweden's support to civil society will be evaluated in the following ways:

(a) Sida carries out result analyses of civil society cooperation in connection with the monitoring and renewal of relevant strategies.

(b) Evaluations of different windows of Swedish support to civil society are to be carried out, both for support to civil society organisations in partner countries and support given via Swedish organisations. Sida is responsible for overall coordination.

(c) A mid-term review of the implementation of the policy will be conducted in 2012. The review will establish whether the direction of the policy and the Government's positions are still appropriate and whether the policy has had an impact on Sweden's international development cooperation. The review will also identify whether the intentions contained in points 3 (starting points, objectives and roles) and 5 (implementation) above have been adhered to and identify any necessary amendments and additions to the policy. The Government also intends to carefully follow developments in the area based on other thematic assessments carried out by the development assistance administration, Swedish framework organisations and other donors.

The results of support to civil society will be reported to the Riksdag as part of the annual communication on performance. This in turn is based on Sida's annual performance annex to its annual report, and on reports from other organisations concerned. The policy will apply until further notice, but no longer than the end of 2014, when a position will be actively taken on whether to renew the policy.



Schoolchildren in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Photo: Tina Gue/Phoenix



The policy for support to civil society is based on the objective of international development cooperation, to help create opportunities that will enable poor people to improve their conditions of life, and the Government's policy for global development, with the overall goal to contribute to equitable and sustainable development.



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