Gender equality is central in order to reach sustainable peace, as a growing body of research and empirical evidence is showing. Gender equality, peace and security are key priorities for the Swedish Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance under the umbrella of the Agenda 2030 and through the Global Sustainable Development Goals no. 5 on gender equality and no.16 on peace, justice and strong institutions. Sweden’s Feminist Foreign Policy and the newly adopted National Action Plan guides this work and the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security.

This portfolio overview provides a snapshot of some of Sida’s efforts in the area of Gender, Peace and Security for the year 2015.

MAIN AREAS OF SUPPORT

Sida’s support to Gender, Peace and Security focuses on:

- Strengthen women’s participation, representation and leadership in peacebuilding
- Preventing conflict and violence, including all forms of gender-based violence
- Strengthen protection of women and girls through improved justice and accountability and gender-responsive services

With a gender- and conflict analysis as a point of departure, Sida uses a three-pronged strategy to accelerate the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda:

1. Targeted support to organizations working with enhancing gender equality and women’s rights
2. Integration of a gender perspective in all operations
3. Highlighting women as actors for peace in dialogues with partner countries and stakeholders.

FINANCING FOR GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY

Sida’s increasing support to gender equality and women’s rights in conflict-affected countries is a response to an increasingly violent world in which women and girls are systematically abused. In 2015 approximately 5.7 billion SEK (approximately 617 million USD) were allocated to conflict and post-conflict countries, of which 13% targeted gender equality as a principal objective.

Sida’s support to gender, peace and security was just below the UN minimum goal: within the sector Conflict, Peace and Security (sector code 152) 12% of the development cooperation in 2015 targeted gender equality as a principal objective. The aim is for this figure to increase on annual basis. See Figure 1 below.

FIGURE 1. GENDER EQUALITY AS PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE WITHIN THE SECTOR CONFLICT, PEACE AND SECURITY (%).

As of 2015, Sida uses a different and more accurate way of measuring results. Consequently, a comparison between years is not completely reliable or accurate.

Sida is furthermore actively encouraging its humanitarian partners to include a gender perspective and build capacity to address gender-based violence in emergency programming by funding capacity building activities and specific interventions. Most of Sida’s support to gender equality in conflict-affected countries targets social sectors.


2 The contribution directly aims at advancing gender equality

3 A minimum of 15% of resources going to peace and security should have gender equality as a primary objective.

such as democracy and Human Rights, health and education. Significant gaps remain in sectors such as market development and agriculture. Sida has responded to this gap by prioritising capacity building on “Women’s Economic Empowerment for lasting peace” (WEE)

**SUPPORT TO ORGANISATIONS WORKING ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN’S RIGHTS IN CONFLICT-AFFECTED COUNTRIES**

Sida plays an important role in providing long-term and flexible funding to gender equality and women’s rights organisations. Sida’s support to women’s rights and gender equality organisations and institutions in conflict affected areas has tripled over the past 5 years and amounted to 340 MSEK in 2015 (approximately 37 million USD), see figure 2 below.

![Figure 2: Support to Women's Rights and Gender Equality Organizations in Conflict-Affected Countries, Million SEK](image)

The increase from 2014 to 2015 is a result of more accurate way of measuring, rather than an actual increase. The amount, however, does not include support to civil society organisations that forward fund to women’s rights organisations at national and local levels.

Sida’s partners include among others UN Women; UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict (UN Action) and the Team of Experts on Sexual Violence in Conflict (ToE); Kvinna till Kvinna; Women’s League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF); and the European Feminist Initiative and Women for Afghan Women, as well as a range of humanitarian organizations and women’s rights organisations working at national and local levels. Sida is increasingly supporting organisations working with men and boys for gender equality and peace such as Men Engage, Promundo and Sonke Gender Justice.

**Building Capacity on Women as Actors for Peace Through the International Training Program (ITP) on UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security**

During the period 2011-2015, 9 global (including Colombia, DRC, Georgia, Liberia, and South Sudan), 4 regional in MENA as well as 2 national (Myanmar and Colombia) International Training Programs (ITPs) on UNSCR 1325 were carried out.

Each program consisted of an 18-24 months long education and engaged in total 370 participants (men and women) representing government institutions, civil society, media and academia from the respective countries. The strength of the course was the strategic space for dialogue between government and civil society and sharing of experience from other countries.

The ITP on UNSCR 1325 has led to several interesting results including:

- Increased collaboration between government and civil society to ensure gender equality is mainstreamed throughout the peace agreement, as for example in Colombia.
- Working group on UNSCR 1325 initiated by former ITP participants at the Ministry of Human Rights in Yemen.
- Iraqi Imam and former ITP participant publishing a book on UNSCR 1325 and Islam.
- Adoption of new law securing women and girls rights to education and freedom in the Western Equatorial State in South Sudan initiated by a former ITP participant.

**FURTHER READINGS:**

Sida’s methods and tools: [Gender tool box](#)

Sida Brief: [Women, Peace and Security](#)

[Sweden’s National Action Plan for the implementation of the UN Security Council’s Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security 2016–2020](#)

Sida’s work on [Conflict Resolution, Peace and Security](#)