

# Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency's examples of operationalizing HUM DEV nexus

## Summary

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) has worked actively during the last years to strengthen synergies between humanitarian and development support, including peacebuilding, in order to enhance resilience of crises-affected and vulnerable people, communities and societies. Humanitarian support and development cooperation need to be coherent and mutually reinforcing, while respecting and safeguarding humanitarian principles. In 17 contexts, Sida has simultaneously large ongoing development cooperation and humanitarian support with different mandates and roles presenting substantive opportunities for synergies and complementarity. In these contexts, Sida works to meet people's immediate humanitarian needs, but over time also to reduce risk, vulnerability, and dependence on humanitarian assistance.

Sida has identified a 3 pillar-approach to systematize the work on risk, resilience and strengthened synergies between humanitarian and development assistance (Nexus HUM/DEV):

## 1. Overview

### Pillar 1: Common analysis, planning and programming based on risk, vulnerability and resilience

- In all 16<sup>1</sup> contexts where Sweden, through Sida, has both development cooperation and humanitarian support, Sida has included analysis on opportunities and challenges on the humanitarian-development nexus in the yearly Humanitarian Crises Analyses.<sup>2</sup>
- Humanitarian staff are increasingly involved in the preparation, operationalisation and mid-term review of the multi-year development programme cycle.
- Sweden's development strategies are increasingly geared towards strengthening resilience of vulnerable people and communities addressing root causes of crises, and seeking synergies with humanitarian assistance, e.g. the regional Syria-crisis strategy<sup>3</sup>, the strategies for Iraq<sup>4</sup> and Sudan<sup>5</sup>. To further strengthen the integration of resilience and humanitarian-development nexus throughout the development portfolios, resilience strategies have been developed<sup>6</sup> which have resulted in a more multi-sectoral approach focusing on risk, vulnerability and resilience<sup>7</sup>.
- Sida has strengthened its risk-informed development planning and programming through piloting, with the OECD/DAC, the method of resilience systems analysis (RSA) in six contexts

---

<sup>1</sup>Afghanistan, Somalia, Palestine, Syria Crisis, DRC, Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, Iraq, Mali, Myanmar, Bangladesh, South Sudan, Sudan, Ukraina, Zimbabwe

<sup>2</sup> Humanitarian Crises Analysis for 2018 are available on [www.sida.se](http://www.sida.se)

<sup>3</sup> Sweden's Regional Strategy for the Syria Crisis 2016-2020

<sup>4</sup> Sweden's strategy for development cooperation with Iraq in 2017-2021

<sup>5</sup> Strategy for Sweden's development cooperation with Sudan 2018-2022

<sup>6</sup> Among others, they include establishing resilience criteria for contribution selection and modalities for flexible re-programming, continuous conflict and risk analyses, and closer linkages between programs at national and local levels and between results areas for a more holistic approach.

<sup>7</sup> This is the case in for example the Mali programme where development assistance complements and builds on emergency response programming and the DRC which has taken a multi-sectoral and integrated approach to targeting chronic needs and root causes of vulnerability

at various points of the programme cycle. The RSA<sup>8</sup> has identified synergies and the need to include the most vulnerable groups in development assistance.

- The Swedish government adopted in 2017 a new strategy, Sustainable Peace, which includes addressing root causes of humanitarian crises. The strategy will contribute to increased collaboration between actors in the humanitarian system and long-term development cooperation with a focus on joined-up analysis, planning and goal formulation.

### Pillar 2: Flexible, innovative and effective funding for the most vulnerable people

According to context specific opportunities, Sida strives to ensure that strategy implementation increasingly contributes to strengthening resilience, creating durable solutions and avoiding dependency of humanitarian assistance, e.g:

- In the allocation process for 2018, Sida opened a specific window for multi-year humanitarian support aiming at avoiding humanitarian dependency allocating approx 330 MSEK for 2018-2020; a majority aims to reach displaced populations.
- Sida supports durable solutions for displaced populations, e.g. in Somalia, Uganda and DRC.
- Sida is focusing on strengthening resilience and reducing humanitarian needs in the Horn of Africa through an additional allocation of 800 MSEK (2018-2021) with focus on addressing root causes of crises.
- In drought-affected food insecurity contexts, Sida supports social protection for vulnerable people and communities designed to lift people out of chronic poverty using cash transfers and access to social services.
- 2018-2020 Sida is supporting MSB with humanitarian and development funding meet people's immediate humanitarian needs, but to also over time to reduce risk, vulnerability, and dependence on humanitarian assistance.
- Sida is supporting UNHAS in Sudan with humanitarian as well as development funding to ensure effective passenger and light cargo transport in extremely vulnerable hard-to-reach areas.

### Pillar 3: Promote increased dialogue and coordination on risk, resilience and synergies between humanitarian and development

- Issues related to risk, resilience and humanitarian-development nexus, are priorities in Sweden's dialogue with governments, the UN, donors and partners. Common planning and prioritization between humanitarian and development assistance should be promoted and issues around risks, vulnerabilities and resilience included in the national and UN Plans.
- Sweden supports the New Way of Working as well as implementation of the pilots of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF).

## **2. Lessons learned**

In contexts with large humanitarian needs as well as ongoing development cooperation, where Sida has increased focus on resilience and humanitarian development nexus, as well as strengthened field capacity it is clear that complementarity between humanitarian and development assistance is increased and silo work avoided - benefiting the most vulnerable.

---

<sup>8</sup> Resilience Systems Analysis Learning and Recommendations report, Sida/OECD/DAC <http://www.oecd.org/dac/conflict-fragility-resilience/risk-resilience.htm>

Sweden's work is guided by an increased focus on: (i) resilience and risk by investing in risk-informed analyses and programming; (ii) tackling the underlying drivers of risks, crises and vulnerability as well as prevention, early action and durable solutions to recurrent and protracted crises; (iii) ensuring that development reaches the poorest and most vulnerable in line with "*leave no one behind*" and "*address the needs of those furthest behind first*"; (iv) a strengthened complementarity between humanitarian and development programming ("humanitarian/development nexus") aiming at avoiding humanitarian dependency.

This approach is based on lessons learned and we believe that this approach constitutes best practice.