



The Expert Group for Aid Studies

Invitation for proposals: Evaluation of Swedish aid to human rights strengthening in partner countries

The Expert Group for Aid Studies (EBA) is a government committee under the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, mandated to evaluate and analyze issues related to Sweden's official development assistance. EBA consists of an expert group of ten members and a secretariat placed in Stockholm. EBA works with 'dual independence'. This means that EBA independently defines what issues to explore and which studies to commission while conclusions and potential recommendations are the responsibility of the author(s).

EBA hereby invites proposals for an evaluation of Swedish support to human rights strengthening in partner countries. The purpose is to assess the relevance and effectiveness of Swedish aid to the strengthening of national capacity to protect and promote human rights.

Background

Supporting democracy and human rights has been an important component of Swedish aid since the 1990s. The goals of promoting freedom and combating oppression remain priorities in the Government's current reform agenda for Swedish aid (Government Offices of Sweden, 2023). The Swedish Government has, moreover, recently announced that support to human rights defenders – organizations and individuals promoting human rights at different levels – shall increase (Government Offices of Sweden, 2024a:7).

There is currently a global trend of growing autocratization and repression (Nord et al., 2025) coupled with several donors' withdrawal from multilateral fora and a substantial decrease in total official development assistance (OECD, 2025). This underscores the importance of aid effectiveness, and that limited development assistance contributes to improved living conditions and enjoyment of human rights in partner countries. A substantial share of Swedish support to human rights promotion goes to formal institutions working to strengthen institutional capacity for human rights protection and promotion in countries. Yet, knowledge of the functionality and effectiveness of these central modalities of human rights strengthening remains limited.

Hence, this evaluation seeks to contribute with knowledge about the results of support to the human rights system and key institutions at different levels. This includes the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN OHCHR) and other UN institutions, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and regional human rights institutions and courts. EBA hopes that the evaluation will contribute with insights into whether central objectives are achieved, why/why not, and the relevance of supported programs and interventions in relation to evidence of what works and pressing human rights issues. This can contribute to an understanding of how future support can be strategically allocated and designed to have maximum impact in a context of increased repression and reduced global support.

Swedish support to human rights strengthening

Swedish support for the strengthening of human rights is governed by and distributed via several thematic, regional and bilateral development cooperation strategies. The main thematic strategy, the Government's "Strategy for Sweden's global development cooperation activities in the areas of human rights and freedoms, democracy and the rule of law 2024–2028" aims to:

...strengthen and protect global norms and processes, independent institutions and systems, organisations, actors, and networks that work for human rights and freedoms, democracy and the rule of law, and people who are subjected to discrimination and oppression. (Government Offices of Sweden, 2024a:2)

The two objectives that specifically address human rights are:

- Enhanced global, regional, and national systems and institutions that safeguard and promote human rights and freedoms for everyone.
- Increased respect for, and protection and realization of, human rights and freedoms, with a focus on people subjected to violence, discrimination, persecution and oppression, not least defenders of human rights and democracy, women and girls, children and young people, people belonging to religious minorities, people with disabilities and LGBTIQ people. (Government Offices of Sweden, 2024a:2-3)

Similar objectives were included in the previous strategy for the thematic area, which covered the period 2018-2023 (Government Offices of Sweden, 2018). As regards thematic strategies addressing human rights, there is also a specific strategy for global gender equality – "Strategy for Sweden's development cooperation for gender equality, freedom and empowerment of women and girls 2025-2028" (Government Offices of Sweden, 2025).

A majority of Sweden's bilateral and regional aid strategies also contain goals related to the promotion of human rights and freedoms, the rule of law, and increased gender equality and respect for women's and girls' rights. The strategies at different levels are intended to complement each other. Interventions under the thematic, global strategy can include local interventions in contexts where the need for extra protection for human rights is great and activities are not feasible under bilateral or regional strategies (Government Offices of Sweden, 2024a). Until recently, Sida also worked to promote human rights through the mainstreaming of a human rights-based approach (HRBA) in all thematic areas and sectors of its development cooperation.¹

A focus on support to specialized, official institutions and mechanisms for human rights

Box 1: OHCHR and the UN human rights system

The UN human rights system is central to the global promotion of human rights and freedoms and the official human rights bodies and mechanisms are the primary institutions mandated to uphold and enforce the UN's nine core human rights conventions.² Central functions of this system include:

¹ HRBA mainstreaming was not included in the Government's new instruction for Sida, valid from 15 May 2025.

² <https://www.ohchr.org/en/core-international-human-rights-instruments-and-their-monitoring-bodies>

- **The UN Human Rights Council (HRC)**, which reviews the human rights situation in all countries of the world within the framework of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).
- **The OHCHR (or the UN Human Rights Office)**, the leading UN entity in the field of human rights, with a unique mandate to promote and protect all human rights for all people. The Office is headed by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and is based in Geneva but also has 18 stand-alone country offices, 13 regional offices and 43 Human Rights Advisers in UN Country Teams.³ Its mandate is to support the UN human rights mechanisms, for example by providing administrative support to the treaty bodies of the nine core human rights conventions. It provides support and advice to states and in other ways working to promote respect for human rights.
- **Special rapporteurs, working groups, international commissions of inquiry and fact-finding missions** that monitor specific countries and thematic human rights issues.

Compliance with human rights at the country level is examined within the framework of the UN's UPR and by the various treaty bodies. Since the early 2000s, the Swedish government has also published reports on the human rights situation in individual countries.⁴

A major share of Swedish aid within the category of human rights flows via Sida (a small share is allocated as core support through the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA)).⁵ This sector category covers three broader categories of work:

- Measures to support specialized official human rights institutions and mechanisms at universal, regional, national and local levels in their statutory roles to promote and protect civil and political, economic, social and cultural rights as defined in international conventions and covenants; translation of international human rights commitments into national legislation; reporting and follow-up; human rights dialogue.
- Human rights defenders and human rights NGOs; human rights advocacy, activism, mobilisation; awareness raising and public human rights education.
- Human rights programming targeting specific groups, e.g. children, persons with disabilities, migrants, ethnic, religious, linguistic and sexual minorities, indigenous people and those suffering from caste discrimination, victims of trafficking, victims of torture.

The evaluation should focus on the first category, i.e. support to official human rights institutions and mechanisms operating at global, regional and national levels. This includes central UN funds or programs and multi-donor partnerships aiming to *strengthen national reforms and capacity to protect and promote human rights*.

Efforts to strengthen such capacity includes, for example:

³ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/about-us/where-we-work>

⁴ <https://www.regeringen.se/regeringens-politik/demokrati-och-manskliga-rattigheter/rapporter-om-manskliga-rattigheter-i-varlden/>

⁵ Explore aid - 2024 | Openaid

- Legal advice, technical assistance and capacity building to support and strengthen national institutions' compliance with human rights norms and standards and linkages with human rights mechanisms.
- Monitoring, analyzing and reporting on human rights developments to inform corrective action and decision-making by key stakeholders.
- Human rights awareness-raising to promote changes in legislation, behavior and institutions in line with human rights standards and provide legal support.
- Facilitation and promotion of dialogue between stakeholders, including civil society and vulnerable groups, to foster participation and engagement in human rights protection and advocacy.
- Technical cooperation and capacity-building to support the establishment or strengthening national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and their interaction with UN country teams.

Sweden conducts, primarily through funds channeled via Sida, human rights-related work and activities in cooperation with UN institutions and other regional and national human rights institutions for the achievement of objectives linked to bilateral, regional and thematic strategies for Swedish aid. A significant part of Swedish support for the strengthening of human rights systems is channeled through the different UN institutions. In 2023, 32% (447 MSEK) of the total Swedish human rights aid of SEK 1.49 billion went to UN institutions, the largest recipient being the Human Rights Office (207 MSEK).

Over the past 10 years, the Human Rights Office/OHCHR has received Swedish support equivalent to SEK 1.7 billion and thus constitutes one of the central modalities in Swedish aid for strengthening human rights. Support to the Office is channeled partly to the headquarters in Geneva, partly to the regional offices and several country offices, for example in Mozambique, Liberia, Colombia, Yemen, Cambodia and Guatemala ([Openaid.se](https://openaid.se)). As of 2024, Sweden financed 13 human rights interventions implemented by an OHCHR institution (contributions totaling MSEK 235.3). A list of these is provided in Appendix 2.

In addition to the interventions implemented by OHCHR at different levels, Sweden also supports UN country teams in countries that do not have an office, through the Human Rights Adviser mechanism. Other recipients of Swedish support include regional human rights institutions, such as the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (African Commission), the Council of Europe/European Court of Human Rights, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), and national human rights institutions. Sweden also supports efforts to strengthen human rights compliance at the regional or country level through multi-partner UN funds and other programmes, such as the UN Human Rights Mainstreaming Fund (see overview of current channels/implementing partners in Appendix 2).

Intended users: Who is this evaluation for?

The primary target audiences for the evaluation are decision-makers and people working with support to human rights protection and promotion within the Swedish MFA and Sida. The evaluation will also analyze portfolios, interventions and results at country and regional levels, so other important target groups are therefore heads of development cooperation and program officers at Swedish embassies in partner countries concerned, as well as those working with regional cooperation. Other donors and aid agencies, including multilateral organizations, bilateral donors and organizations working with human rights support, are also important target audiences for the evaluation.

Evaluation Aim, Components and Questions

The objective of the evaluation is to assess the relevance and effectiveness (goal-achievement) of Swedish aid aiming to contribute to strengthening compliance with human rights norms and treaties in partner countries. The evaluation should focus on support to official human rights institutions and mechanisms operating at global, regional and national levels as well as relevant UN funds or programs and multi-donor partnerships for which a spelled-out goal is to strengthen national reforms and capacity to protect and promote human rights. The evaluation should include Swedish support allocated during the period 2015-2025. The evaluation should contribute to learning for future development cooperation aimed to strengthen human rights compliance.

The evaluation shall include:

1. **A literature review**, based on previous research and evaluations, focusing on the question: What is the state of knowledge about:
 - the role and effectiveness of the different human rights institutions and mechanisms (e.g. OHCHR regional and country offices, NHRIs and regional human rights organs and courts) and of specific forms of support/interventions (e.g. legal advice, institutional strengthening, human rights monitoring and reporting, stakeholder dialogue etc.) in strengthening state compliance with human rights?
 - the factors or circumstances affecting the role or effectiveness of specific human rights institutions, mechanisms and forms of support/interventions?
2. **A portfolio mapping** covering the period 2015-2025, consisting of an in-depth overview and analysis of Sweden's steering, strategic objectives, supported institutions/partners, intervention types, countries/regions, expected outcomes and explicit or underlying theory/ies of change pertaining to the strengthening of state capacity to protect and promote human rights. The portfolio should be analyzed in relation to the findings from component 1 and address the question of the relevance of the Swedish portfolio in relation to the state of knowledge of the functioning of different support modalities.
3. **Country case studies** of the support for the strengthening of state capacity to protect and promote human rights in 2-3 countries: Following an analysis of the overall portfolio, a number of countries should be selected for in-depth studies of portfolios and interventions at country level. The case studies should answer the questions:
 - Are the interventions relevant in relation to pertinent human rights issues in the countries (identified and reported by the treaty bodies, UPR, special rapporteurs and fact-finding missions)?
 - Has the support to formal human rights institutions at regional and national level achieved its objectives in terms of strengthening the capacity of partner countries to protect and promote human rights (effectiveness)? Why/why not?

Evaluation design

In this evaluation, the merit of development cooperation efforts should primarily be assessed based on two established OECD DAC evaluation criteria:⁶

⁶ <https://www.oecd.org/en/topics/sub-issues/development-co-operation-evaluation-and-effectiveness/evaluation-criteria.html>

- *Relevance* (is the intervention doing the right things?) in relation to current knowledge and identified needs in partner countries, and
- *Effectiveness* (is the intervention achieving its objectives?), i.e. the extent to which the goals related to increased institutional capacity to protect and promote human rights are fulfilled.

In the case studies, the issue of causality or the *process* through which results have been achieved (or not) should be analyzed. This entails analyses of how or why interventions contributed (or did not contribute) to specific outcomes in relation to other external factors and explanations.

The main objective of the evaluation is to provide grounded and rigorous responses to the evaluation questions. Scientific methods suitable for this purpose must be used to ensure valid and reliable results and conclusions, and a high degree of transparency should be applied. Tenderers are encouraged to let their expertise in human rights compliance and strengthening, development cooperation and advanced research methodology guide the choice of approach in answering the evaluation question, including analytical framework, specific methodological approaches, and delimitations. A central reference is EBA's "Policy and guidelines for quality assurance of studies" (EBA, 2020). In analyzing the portfolio and specific interventions, the evaluation should consider the integration of gender equality.

Examples of evaluation designs that may be considered are case-based, systems-based and theory-based methods, such as contribution analysis (Mayne, 2012), process-tracing (Beach & Pedersen, 2013) or a combination of statistical and qualitative methods. The choice of study design and specific methods should be carefully motivated.

The evaluation should primarily focus on country-level results (based on the case studies). It must also relate to the work done at global, regional and country levels (mapping of overall development assistance) and how systems and institutions at these different levels interact. Global and regional support also ultimately aims to make a difference to, and is typically channeled toward, human rights systems and compliance at the country level.

The portfolio overview should be used to inform the selection of cases for the country case studies. It should clarify which countries have been the focus of interventions during the study period, i.e. the degree of prioritization of human rights strengthening in Sweden's development cooperation in the countries. The selection should also consider the status of human rights and democracy in the countries. This is likely to affect results in terms of the introduction of reforms and the strengthening of capacity for human rights. This would potentially allow for comparison of, and learning about, working methods and results in different contexts. The criteria for selecting the cases most suitable for the purpose of the study should be further developed and justified by the evaluator(s) in the tender text.

As regards data for the analysis of the relevance of interventions and activities at country level, a compilation and analysis of the human rights situation in each country is central. It is considered that such an analysis can be carried out through document studies that include recommendations and reports from the UN human rights mechanisms (UPR, treaty bodies and special procedures), missions of inquiry or fact-finding missions, and other relevant reports on and indicators for the human rights situation in the countries.

The activities of supported programs/interventions should then be analyzed to draw conclusions about relevance in relation to – i.e. the extent to which operations respond to – identified human rights issues, gaps or violations. The collection of data on the results of interventions (achievement of objectives/effectiveness) should consist of a combination of a compilation of existing monitoring data (intervention monitoring data and documentation, reports and/or

evaluations from the respective partner organization) and primary data collection. Collection of primary data for the evaluation may include, for instance, field studies in the case study countries and interviews with implementing organizations, government representatives in recipient countries, civil society organizations and other experts and stakeholders, as well as analyses of human rights reforms, institutional, legal and policy developments and changes during the study period.

For the evaluation to contribute to learning for key audiences, we emphasize the importance of understanding contextual factors. It should also be clear how evaluation results relate to previous research and evaluations, and if interventions have been designed in the right way. EBA welcomes proposals that engage intended users during the process.

In addition to documentation produced by implementing organizations, relevant empirical material for the study includes written sources from the MFA, Sida, and other Swedish actors, such as country, regional, and thematic strategies, evaluations, mid-term reviews, and final reports, as well as previous research etc. While there is no requirement for the main applicant to understand Swedish, the evaluation team should include someone with the ability to analyze documents written in Swedish.

If needed, the evaluator(s) may after the award decision be given the opportunity to, in dialogue with EBA and the study's reference group, slightly refine or adjust the formulation of the evaluation questions.

General structure and deliverables

EBA works under what is termed "double independence". This means that EBA defines which questions and areas are to be studied, independently of the MFA. At the same time, analysis, conclusions, and potential recommendations in each study are the responsibility of the author(s).

For all studies, EBA sets up a reference group consisting of experts in the field. Members are assigned by EBA in dialogue with the evaluators. The overall purpose of the reference group is to strengthen the quality of the report. The group will be chaired by one of EBA's members.

The team shall deliver:

- A report (in English) presenting the results from the evaluation to be published in EBA report series.
- The length of the report should not exceed 30 000 words (approx. 70 A4-pages), excluding annexes.
- The report shall include a summary in English and Swedish.
- The evaluator(s) shall present the final report at a public seminar or other dissemination event (details to be specified in consultation with EBA at a later stage).

Procurement procedure, budget, and timetable

The procedure will be a restricted procedure in two stages.⁷ At both stages, tenderers are expected to disclose potential conflicts of interest pertaining to members in the evaluation team, as this may be a ground for exclusion of a proposal. We expect tenderers to argue for why a certain condition will not constitute a conflict of interest.

⁷ The Public Procurement Act (2016:1145), chapter 6, section 3.

First stage: Application to submit tenders

All suppliers have the right to apply to submit tenders (expression of interest). EBA will invite five (5) suppliers to submit tenders.

Applications to submit tenders shall be registered at the tender portal Kommers Annons eLite www.kommersannons.se/elite, no later than 1 September 2025. The application shall contain:

1. CV of the principal investigator
2. A list of the principal investigator's most relevant publications (at most 5 studies from the last 10 years are to be listed) (academic or grey)
3. Preliminary team (if more than one author. Described using at most 300 words.)
4. Three full sample studies conducted by members of the proposed team. At least one shall have been authored by the principal investigator. Note that the studies should be sent in as files, not as links in a document.
5. A short account for how, according to the authors, respective study has contributed to new, reliable knowledge of relevance for this evaluation (at most 300 words, i.e. 100 words per study).

Applicants are kindly asked not to submit any unsolicited material.

Selection of applicants to invite to submit tenders will be based on the submitted material assessed against sub-criteria 1-5 of criterion 2 (see Appendix 1). Since the proposed team is preliminary, main weight will be put on the principal investigator's experience and competence.

Suppliers must submit a self-declaration in the form of a European Single Procurement Document (ESPD) by filling in the tender form at www.kommersannons.se/elite.

Please make sure enough time is allocated for completing the ESPD form when submitting the expression of interest. Note that you might need to consult colleagues in your team before completing the ESPD.

Second stage: Submission of tenders

Selected suppliers are invited to submit a full proposal. The proposal shall be written in English and no longer than 12 pages. The proposal shall include a detailed presentation of evaluation design, methods used and delimitations. Choices made shall be clearly justified. It is up to the tenderers themselves to choose the design and method of the evaluation.

The proposal shall also include a presentation of the members of the research team, a detailed schedule, clear allocation of time and tasks between the members of the group, and a budget (stated in SEK, including price per hour for each team member).

As appendices to the proposal shall be included: (i) CVs; (ii) at most three sample studies (reports or articles) carried out by members of the proposed team. At least one shall have been authored by the principal investigator. These studies may be the same as or different from the ones in the first stage.

The maximum cost for this evaluation is SEK 1 800 000 excl. VAT. The budget shall be denominated in SEK. The budget shall enable four meetings with the evaluation's reference group (to be appointed by EBA) and participation at the launching event. The reference group will meet either physically in Stockholm or online.

The proposal shall be registered at the tender portal Kommers Annons eLite www.kommersannons.se/elite, no later than 15 October 2025. Tenderers are advised to monitor the tender portal regularly, as it is not possible to guarantee the receipt of e-mails.

Proposals shall be valid until 31 January 2026.

Selection of proposals in the second stage

An assessment group comprising members of EBA will assess proposals received based on the relationship between price and quality. The following criteria will be used when assessing proposals received:

- Quality of proposal, in terms of design, methods and plan for implementation (weight: 50 per cent).
- Experiences and qualifications of team members in the areas of interest (weight: 40 per cent).
- Cost (weight: 10 per cent).

See Appendix 1 for the factors that will be considered under each of these three criteria. The assessment of each proposal will be based on the material submitted by the tenderer by the end of the bidding period.

Questions to EBA during the process

During the procurement process, EBA is not permitted to discuss documentation, tenders, evaluation or any such questions with tenderers in a way that benefits one or more tenderers. All questions shall be sent to the Questions and Answers function on the procurement portal Kommers Annons eLite, www.kommersannons.se/elite. Questions and answers to questions are published anonymously and simultaneously to everyone registered for the procurement.

Any questions related to the first stage may be posed until 25 August 2025.

Any questions related to the second stage may be posed until 8 October 2025.

Preliminary timetable

Last day to apply to submit tenders (first stage)	1 September 2025
Invitation to (5) suppliers to submit tenders	15 September 2025
Last day to submit full tender (second stage)	15 October 2025
Decision by EBA	12 November 2025
Contract signed	24 November 2025
First reference group meeting (inception phase)	January 2026
Final report delivered	October 2026
Decision by EBA	November 2026
Launch event	January 2027

Confidentiality

After the communication of EBA's selection, all submitted proposals will become official documents, meaning that the Swedish principle of public access to official records applies. Sentences, sections, or paragraphs in a document may be masked in the public version if "good reasons" (thorough motivations in terms of causing economic damage to the company) can be provided and deemed valid. The tenderers are fully responsible for making their claims of confidentiality.

References

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Government Offices of Sweden (2025). Strategi för jämställdhet, kvinnors och flickors frihet och egenmakt 2025–2028, <https://www.regeringen.se/contentassets/d5a38d9cb5534b769f171edad97265d6/strategi-for-jamstalldhet-kvinnors-och-flickors-frihet-och-egenmakt-2025-2028.pdf>

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Nord, M., Altman, D., Angiolillo, F., Fernandes, T., Good God, A. and Lindberg, S.I. (2025). *Democracy Report 2025: 25 Years of Autocratization – Democracy Trumped?* University of Gothenburg: V-Dem Institute.

Appendix 1 – Assessment criteria

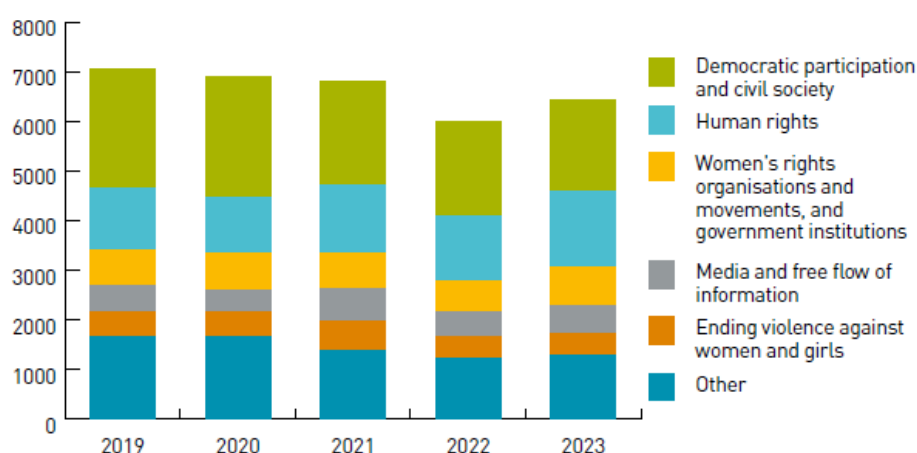
Criteria	1. Quality of proposal in terms of design, methods and plan for implementation. (Weight: 50 per cent)	2. Experiences and qualifications of team members in the areas of interest. (Weight: 40 per cent)	3. Cost. (Weight: 10 per cent)
Scale	<p>Criteria 1 and 2 are graded on a scale of 0–5 where: 5=Extraordinary or exceeds all expectation; 4=Very good; 3=Good; 2=Fair, reasonable, in line with what can be expected; 1=Sub-standard; 0=Not applicable/not possible to assess. Sub-criteria are assessed in falling importance according to number but are not graded numerically.</p> <p>Each criterion is finally weighted (0.50*Criterion 1+ 0,40*Criterion 2 + 0,10*Criterion 3) to obtain a total grade in the interval [0, 5].</p>		Continuous grade [0,5] as a share of the lowest bid offer, where the lowest bid is graded 5.
Specifications (numbered in order of importance)	<p>1. Does the evaluation design, i.e. suggested methodological approach and plan for implementation, make it possible to fulfil the evaluation's purpose?*</p> <p>2. Have the approach and method(s) been described in a specific, detailed and transparent manner?</p> <p>3. Have important or pertinent limitations with the suggested design and method been described and discussed clearly?</p> <p>4. Will the evaluation design enable conclusions that can be expected to form the basis of use, learning and reflection among the evaluation's target groups?</p> <p>5. Does the proposal have a thorough and realistic workplan and timeline?</p> <p>* An overall assessment that the evaluation is feasible to implement and that it can be implemented without any ethical breaches occurring is presupposed. While such an appraisal is required, it is not included as a separate sub-criterion.</p>	<p>The team participants' expertise in:*</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evaluation and/or research in areas related to the topic, i.e. human rights promotion, the international human rights regime and formal institutions, development cooperation, aid effectiveness. 2. Relevant advanced evaluation or research methodology. 3. Quality of the studies attached to the proposal. 4. Conducting research or evaluation work in relevant geographical contexts. 5. Academic merits of the team members. 6. The team members' engagement in the evaluation as specified in the proposal's work and time plan and as shares of proposed budget. <p>* Sufficient language skills in relation to the needs of the assignment are required to be shown and are therefore not specified as a separate sub-criterion.</p>	Total price in SEK (VAT excl.)

Appendix 2. Distribution of Swedish Aid to Human Rights

In 2023, 26% of Sida's aid, corresponding to SEK 6.4 billion, went to the area of democracy and human rights (Sida, 2023). Of total aid, support to this area (Democracy and human rights, including gender equality and governance) accounted for 20.4% (Government Offices of Sweden, 2024b:17). 28% of this went to global programs (via the UN or international non-governmental organizations (INGOs)), 31% to Africa, 10% to Asia, 16% to Europe and 7% to South and Central America (Sida, 2023).

The distribution of Swedish aid between the various sub-areas within the broader area of democracy and human rights has looked as follows during the period 2019-2023:

Figure 1. Disbursements per sector within democracy and human rights, 2019–2023 (MSEK)



Source: Sida, 2023

In 2023, the share of support for democracy and human rights that went specifically to the 'human rights' sector category was 24%, or just under SEK 1.5 billion (Openaid.se). The preliminary figure for 2024 is SEK 1.3 billion. The amount of aid to this sector has fluctuated over time but has grown overall – and nominally doubled over the past 20 years (Figure 2). Support for human rights has also grown as a share of the broader area of democracy, human rights and the rule of law in recent years, as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 2: Swedish aid to human rights, 2000–2023 (MSEK, nominal)

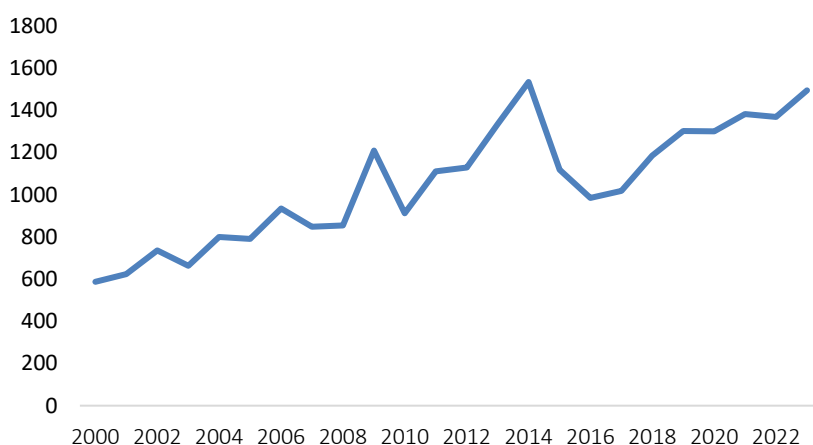


Table 1 shows the distribution of Swedish support across different channels or organizations in 2023.

Table 1. Disbursement of human rights ODA per channel/organization type in 2023

Channel/organization	Disbursement (MSEK)
Donor country-based NGO	364
International NGO	222
UN OHCHR	194
Developing country-based NGO	162
United Nations Children's Fund	107
University, college, research institute	77
United Nations Development Programme	56
NGO and Civil Society	47
Donor Government	40
UN-Multi Partner Trust Fund Office	39
Networks	36
UN WOMEN	31
Multilateral Organisations	29
Council of Europe	28
IBRD	20
Other multilateral institutions	18
International Union for the Conservation of Nature	14
Secretariat of the Pacific Community	14
WHO	8
Other	14
United Nations Population Fund	3
European Commission	1
OSCE	1
Total	1526

Source: OECD CRS

Table 1 shows the current (as of 2024) interventions that are supported by Sweden and implemented by OHCHR institutions or offices at global, regional and national levels.

Table 2. Support to OHCHR in 2024

Intervention title	Disbursement (MSEK)	Country/region
Verksamhetsstöd till OHCHR 2024	105	Developing countries, unspecified
OHCHR Mozambique PHASE 2	25	Mozambique
OHCHR Colombia 2022-2025	20	Colombia
OHCHR främjande av mänskliga rättigheter i Latinamerika 2023-2025	15.5	America (regional)

MR-kontoret, programstöd	15	Democratic Republic of the Congo
OHCHR Jemen 2022-2024	10	Yemen
OHCHR Sudan 2020-2026	10	Sudan
OHCHR Kambodja 2021-2024	8	Cambodia
OHCHR Strengthening cap. of reg. actors to protect human rights	8	Asia, Oceania (regional)
OHCHR 2020-2024 (2025)	7.5	Cameroon, Panama, Senegal, Thailand, South Africa
OHCHR Guatemala rättssäkerhet, mänskliga rättigheter och jämställdhet	7	Guatemala
HCHR/RCO Förstärkt system för skydd av mänskliga rättigheter i Bangladesh	3.5	Bangladesh
OHCHR Övergångsrättvisa	0.8	Liberia
Total	235.3	

Source: Openaid.se