Introduction

Sweden is strongly committed to contribute to more equitable sharing of the burden and responsibility for hosting and supporting the world’s refugees.

This paper is limited to describing Swedish Development Cooperation’s (Sida’s) contribution and approach to the CRRF, and is thereby focused on areas within Sida’s mandate, i.e. local solutions and contributing to enabling conditions for refugee repatriation. The objective of Swedish development cooperation is to create opportunities for people living in poverty in poor countries, to improve their living conditions. Sida’s CRRF engagement is consequently grounded in the Agenda 2030 and the Policy Framework for Swedish Development Cooperation and Humanitarian aid. The Swedish government and other government agencies have a responsibility to implement other parts of Swedish commitments to the CRRF. Their contributions are not described in this paper. Further, this paper is not comprehensive and only includes examples of Sida programming directly targeting refugees and their host communities. Additional support, for example interventions addressing root causes of forced displacement or sector- and budget support to refugee hosting countries, forms an important part of Sida’s Development Cooperation but are not outlined in this paper.

Sida approach to the humanitarian – development nexus

To strengthen the humanitarian-development nexus, Sida has analysed and developed methods for practical implementation of the nexus between Humanitarian aid and Development cooperation. Based on its experience Sida has designed a three pillar-approach to systematise its work. The approach includes:

1. Common analysis, planning and programming based on risk, vulnerability and resilience.
2. Flexible, innovative and effective funding for the most vulnerable people.
3. Promote increased dialogue and coordination on risk, resilience and synergies between Humanitarian Aid and Development Cooperation.

Sida has several examples of how the approach has been applied in different contexts, see annex 1.

Sida’s approach to CRRF

The NY Declaration and its annex 1 has highlighted the importance of inclusion of refugees and the need to strengthen synergies between Humanitarian Aid and Development Cooperation. Sida’s approach naturally facilitates inclusion of refugees and their host communities, as they often are part of the most vulnerable and poorest individuals and groups in society. At present several Sida bilateral and thematic Development Cooperation strategies already include refugees and their host communities in analysis and planning.

In line with its commitment to ‘Good Donorship’ and Sweden’s commitment to the Grand Bargain principles, partnership and aid effectiveness, Sida’s financial contributions to a large
extent include core-, sector- or programme based support to its cooperation partners. This makes it more difficult to pinpoint exactly how Sida funding contributes to specific initiatives or groups in the population. Sida’s approach aims to ensure building national and local structures and capacity to meet the needs of those most vulnerable or the poorest, including refugees and their host communities. For example, rather than supporting a specific ‘refugee project’ Sida Development Cooperation, in line with the GCR Plan of Action, opts to explore opportunities to include refugees in regional/local development plans, and support implementation of these plans. Such an approach demands time, effort and financial contributions, but if successful is sustainable and - clearly contributes solutions for refugees and their host countries. Unfortunately, such an approach is less visible (compared to funding earmarked for specific CRRF projects) in documentation of CRRF contributions. Further work is needed, where Sida seeks cooperation with UNHCR to develop common strategies to explained and give visibility to this kind of approach.

At present, Sida has a few good examples of where Sida’s approach, in line with the Global Compact on Responsibility Sharing for Refugees’ Plan of Action, has been developed and led to concreate programming to the benefit of refugees, their host communities and host countries. Below follows a short overview of these.

Uganda

1. **Health system for refugees and host communities – pregnant women and children under five in Uganda**
   Sida has provided a 35 million SEK (3.8 million USD) health contribution to UNICEF focusing on refugees and host communities in West Nile region. Sida’s support, ongoing since 2016, aims specifically at reducing maternal, new-born, and child morbidity and mortality, and to improve child growth and development through strengthening the health sector in West Nile, where the large influx of refugees has put a high pressure on health services and entire communities.

2. **Livelihoods support for refugees and host communities in refugee receiving areas in Uganda**
   Sida has provided a 79 million SEK (8.9 million USD) contribution to FAO 2018-2023. The funding will advance the economic empowerment of women as a means of addressing gender inequality and discrimination through promotion of access and ownership of key productive assets, access to finance, empowerment of women in decision making, increased capacity of women to improve productivity. Its geographical targets areas include refugee receiving areas in the West Nile (Arua, Nebbi and Adjumani), and the programme includes both refugees and host communities.

3. **Financial inclusion of refugees and host communities in Uganda (and Jordan1)**
   Sida is together with Grameen Credit Agricole Foundation (GCAF) and UNHCR setting up a partial credit guarantee intervention for a financial inclusion programme, which aims at improving access to credit for refugees and host communities in Uganda (and Jordan) for income generating activities and possibly consumption smoothing. The programme will follow a market-based approach which involves partnering with Grameen, which will be providing debt lending to three to four selected Financial Service Providers (FSPs). The FSPs will in their turn extend their credit products to refugees and host communities. As an initial step in the establishment of financial inclusion programme, Grameen and UNHCR, have launched a market assessment study – to be implemented during 2018 - with the objective of understanding the needs and market potential of credit for refugees and their host communities.

4. **Child sensitive social protection programme in Uganda**

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1 Non CRRF roll out country
Sida is also planning to support WFP’s and UNICEF’s child sensitive social protection programme, in among other areas, West Nile is. The program aims at building resilience of and empower families and communities, including refugee- and host communities, to provide adequate care for children’s wellbeing through regular and predictable cash-transfers to expectant women to support themselves and their children. The child-sensitive social protection mechanism being set-up aims at complementing ongoing multi-sectoral humanitarian interventions.

**Ethiopia**

5. Resilience programming for refugees and host communities
Sida is funding WFP with 79.5 MSEK for a resilience programming (livelihoods) in Somali region. Roughly half of the beneficiaries are refugee-host communities. The program was officially launched by Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs, as the first CRRF programme in Ethiopia, following the CRRF roadmap developed by the government of Ethiopia. WFP coordinate closely with UNHCR and the livelihood programming, implemented by Farm Africa and Mercy Corps, is located close to the Dolo Ado refugee camp. It focuses on logistics capacity strengthening, early warning, surveillance and feedback mechanisms, climate risk solutions, including index insurances and livelihoods promotion.

6. Education Can’t Wait – inclusion of refugees
Sida is funding Education Can’t Wait Fund with SEK 270 000 000 for 2018-2020. The aim of the fund is to prioritise safe, free and quality education by 2030 in crisis affected countries, while encouraging in-country government and non-governmental education actors to join forces to develop and implement contextualised, holistic and sustainable education programmes. The fund will include refugee children, along non-refugee children as beneficiaries.

7. Sida CRRF secondments to UNHCR:
- Senior advisor Credit Guarantee facility Kenya, started work 2016, moved to CRRF secretariat Geneva August 2018
- Senior CRRF advisor Tanzania, started work 2017, moved to Kenya May 2018
- Senior CRRF advisor Uganda, started work 2017

In addition, Sida humanitarian funding is provided to UNHCR Global appeal
In 2018 Sida had provided funding allocated to UNHCR refugee responses:
- South Sudan situation 28 M SEK
- Kenya 5 M SEK
- Somalia 5 M SEK
- Ethiopia 10 M SEK
- Burundi situation 10 M SEK

The funding is earmarked per situation or country only, and thereby could be used for CRRF related programming if prioritized by UNHCR.

**Outside the CRRF pilot countries there are also examples of Sida support for refugee solutions/self-reliance**

**DRC:**
Sida has during the last years supported Unicef’s PEAR+ programme in the DRC, targeting the recovery needs of IDP and refugee returnees. It provides them with access to basic
education and health services, as well to cash assistance, focusing on women’s economic empowerment.

Afghanistan:

World Bank Multi Donor Trust Fund inclusion of IDPs and returnees

In Afghanistan, Sida funds the World Bank multi-donor trust fund (ARTF), Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund. The last few years, the World Bank together with the Afghan government has adapted some of the projects financed via the ARTF to meet the situation of million returnees from Pakistan and Iran, and the growing number of conflict displaced IDPs. The work is done with a whole of community approach to reduce tensions and risks of conflicts between host communities and returnees/IDPs. For instance, the scope of a community-based development program was expanded, a cash-for-work program was set up to ensure livelihood opportunities for poor returnees/IDPs as well as host communities, and a new program to strengthen economic opportunities in urban areas with many returnees/IDPs is under development. Moreover, a budget priority of the ARTF concerns a cabinet decision that enables returnee/IDP ownership of informally occupied government-owned land.

Inclusion of returnees and IDPs in education and health services

In response to the continuous humanitarian challenge, Sida’s partner Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA) expanded its already existing activities in eastern Afghanistan. Additional Community Based Education classes has been established, with a focus on integrating returnee children into the Afghan educational system. Healthcare services has been expanded and its catchment area extended by implementation of mobile health teams/clinics. WASH activities have been amped up to provide safe drinking water and sanitary facilities for the growing population while at the same time reducing the risk for spread of diseases. To couple this expansion of already existing activities, SCA introduced psychosocial support and re-focused right awareness campaigns targeting returnees and IDPs.

Sida is at present exploring different possibilities for increased support to Education in Emergencies focussing on education for girls and boys who are displaced by conflict or natural disasters as well as those who are returning from the places they had fled to within or beyond Afghanistan’s borders, in particular Pakistan. For displaced children, the issue is usually ensuring quality education in the mainstream for children rather than separate emergency provision. Sida will therefore be financing a joint multi-year programme that will target the most vulnerable displaced populations in Afghanistan, with a particular focus on girls and IDP and returnee refugee communities in eighteen of the most vulnerable provinces during the first phase. The programme will target 500,000 children annually (325,000 girls; 175,000 boys) through community based education, accelerated learning classes and other innovative approaches.

Horn of Africa:

Special resilience effort to prevent recurrent humanitarian crises

Sida is allocating 800 MSEK (79 million USD) during 2018-2021 to strengthening resilience against climate change and natural disasters and reducing humanitarian needs in the Horn of Africa by addressing root causes of crises. A number of priorities have been developed for the funding, including: a) Help to address the underlying crisis and vulnerability causes, support sustainable solutions for those forcibly displaced, in order to reduce aid dependency. b) Reach the poorest, the most vulnerable affected by drought, refugees and internally displaced persons, and to support sustainable solutions for them. Areas of support include social protection, natural resources, livelihoods, food security, capacity to prevent and deal with
crises. The special effort covers both regional and bilateral support in Ethiopia, Somalia, Uganda and Kenya.

**Livelihood secondments**
Sida is also exploring opportunities for additional secondments of livelihood experts to UNHCR with aim of strengthening self-reliance within the refugee population.

*Paper drafted by Tove Myhrman tove.myhrman@sida.se with input from Jessica Eliasson, Anna Thomson, Mathias Krüger, Karin Kronlid, Stellan Arvidsson Hyving and Tomas Lundstrom.*