

Together for a just world

THE CHURCH OF SWEDEN'S INTERNATIONAL WORK



Glimpses from our activities in 2012

Support for adaptation to climate change in Bangladesh

Bangladesh is hit hard by cyclones and floods as part of more extreme weather patterns resulting from climate change. Through the Church of Sweden's partner organisation RDRS, people have received support to elevate their building sites, reinforce their wells and latrines, start growing more tolerant varieties of rice, and organise themselves in disaster management committees. In 2012, 2,400 families received support from RDRS to help them adapt to a changing climate.



PHOTO: RDRS

RDRS works to strengthen people in impoverished rural areas in northern Bangladesh.

Working against female genital mutilation (FGM) in Tanzania

"We are battling silence and working to make girls' voices heard," says Mary Shuma from the Christian Council of Tanzania.

In the Serengeti and Rorya districts of Tanzania, FGM is done on around 70 per cent of girls aged 7 to 10 years, even though it is illegal. The Church of Sweden supports the Christian Council's work to reduce the incidence of FGM and other forms of gender-based violence. The Council holds courses for girls and boys, teachers and parents on the effects of FGM. They also train the local leaders to take responsibility for reporting suspected cases of FGM and violence against women in their districts.



PHOTO: LENNART ANDRÉASSON/IKON

Girls and boys demonstrate against female genital mutilation. Some placards say "Parents, why do you humiliate us? Send us to school instead."

Hospital for isolated inhabitants in Palestine

The Church of Sweden supports Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem, which plays an important role in the Palestinian community – not just as a hospital, but also in advocating the rights of Palestinian patients to access East Jerusalem. The hospital has thus acquired a value as an important institution in the work to ease the restrictions on movement that are paralysing the Palestinian population.



Nurse Rumooz Aich from the Augusta Victoria Hospital lectures on the importance of self-examination for breast lumps.

PHOTO: JESPER KLEMEDSSON/IKON

Christian Study Centres reduce conflicts in Pakistan

"I am the biggest change. I have never seen that the Koran talks about peace. It's only now, with the help of a Christian Study Centre, that I've been able to view the texts in a new way." So says an Imam who participated in the Christian Study Centre's course in Pakistan. The Church of Sweden supports the Centre,

which aims to equip religious leaders to become a positive force in reducing tensions and conflicts between different community groups. In Pakistan, the Christian minority is a vulnerable group and the Centre's theological education helps to build the self-esteem of the predominantly female students.

Boosting self-reliance in Colombia

"Now we are no longer afraid to speak and that has helped us a lot." So say a group of women in Arauca after participating in a project where psycho-social issues were highlighted. The project, supported by the Church of Sweden through the Lutheran World Federation in Colombia, aims at strengthening vulnerable groups in conflict zones, and according to the people themselves, the initiative has boosted their self-esteem, self-confidence and reduced fear.



The Church of Sweden supports the Lutheran World Federation in Colombia and their work to assist people in demanding their rights, changing their situations and creating a dignified life for themselves.

PHOTO: MAGNUS ARONSON/IKON

Our identity

Vision

Our vision is to live the Kingdom of God, a creation made whole and a unified humanity living in justice, freedom and peace.

Mission

As an active part of the worldwide church, God calls us to being life by sending us to share the good news, defend human dignity, care for creation and in love live out our faith in Jesus Christ both in word and deed.

Core values

We are borne by three core values in our international mission:

1. Faith, hope and love

We are grounded in our faith in the triune God; Creator, Liberator and Sustainer of life, who calls us to be reconciled. In the sure knowledge that our engagement in the world makes a meaningful difference, we live as a community of hope, engaging to ensure the future of the world and all who live in it.

2. Human dignity and human rights

We are grounded in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, who is defender and Saviour of the silenced and the oppressed. This is why we are opposed to all forms of oppression or inequality. Every human being is sacred and human dignity cannot be removed.

3. The integrity of the Creation

Humanity has a unique position and responsibility to ensure that life is not harmed. This is why we work towards sustainable development, where people take responsibility for the impact of their lifestyle on climate change and the environment. The struggles for peace, justice and a sustainable environment are interlinked.

PHOTO: MAGNUS ARONSON/KON



Josefa (far right) and Cristina (with pen in hand) at a women's meeting about how they can convey their demands to the government for improvements in their village Chico Pereira in north-eastern Brazil.

Tobias Croner speaks with a patient along with two physiotherapy students at the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre in Tanzania. Tobias is a local representative for the Church of Sweden with the task of teaching and mentoring student physiotherapists from throughout East Africa.

PHOTO: MARTINA CRONER

In partnership

Collaborating and cooperating with other churches and organisations is at the core of the Church of Sweden's international mission. As a church, we are part of the worldwide community of churches. By working with local organisations and churches, we are better able to contribute to long-term sustainable development in the contexts in which our partner organisations operate. The Church of Sweden has around twenty employees on long-term foreign assignments in the world who provide support for partner organisations in their activities and function as intermediaries between partner organisations and the Church of Sweden.

The Church of Sweden cooperates with churches, church-related organisations and other faith-based organisations as well as secular organisations.

- The Church of Sweden is a member of the World Council of Churches and the Lutheran World Federation, and has been ever since their inception.
- Together with other churches and church-related organisations, the Church of Sweden is part of the global ACT Alliance. ACT, which stands for Action by Churches Together, is a network for disaster relief, development and advocacy.
- The Church of Sweden is also a member of the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA) and APRODEV.

Church cooperation

The Church of Sweden is part of the worldwide community of churches, which is the very foundation of the Church of Sweden's international involvement. We work together for theological reflection, Christian unity and interfaith understanding, and a mutual sharing of faith and life.

We do this through, for example:

... support for theological education and reflection

... general grants to partner churches to strengthen them in their capacity to function as churches in their communities

... a mutual youth exchange with partner churches in Brazil, Costa Rica, the Philippines and Tanzania

... conversations about human sexuality together with partner churches

... support to regional and national ecumenical councils to strengthen the collective voice of the churches and, together with the churches, to work for peace, reconciliation and advocacy

... relationships with other churches at the diocese and parish levels. For parishes or dioceses in the Church of Sweden, having a twin relation in another part of the world is a source of mutual exchange and learning.

PHOTO: EVA ALMQVIST / KON



In a safe environment free of condemnation, each week the Lutheran Church in Costa Rica celebrates the "inclusive mass" which attracts many LGBT people. The Church works consciously with HIV and AIDS in its parish work.

Development cooperation

The Church of Sweden aims to reduce poverty by strengthening people's economic, social and cultural rights. Our work is based on a rights-based approach and supports people's struggles for the right to food, sustainable livelihood, security, education and health.

The Church of Sweden aims to strengthen local civil society and, together with our partner organisations, contribute to the development of just, peaceful and democratic societies in which human rights are respected and defended. People should have the opportunity to defend and assert their rights and their dignity themselves.

We do this through, for example:

... rural development projects providing people with more opportunities to support themselves in a sustainable way

... sustainable use of natural resources and training in sustainable agriculture, forestry and water use.

... support for conflict prevention, reconciliation and peace-building

... support for democratic development and the protection of human rights

... HIV prevention measures and reducing the stigmatisation of people living with HIV and AIDS.



Farmer Petros Abyio in his apple orchard in Boshe-Ilgira, Ethiopia.

PHOTO: MAGNUS ARONSON/IKON

How we work

Humanitarian relief efforts

The Church of Sweden is part of the ACT Alliance, a global alliance of churches and church-related organisations for disaster relief, development and advocacy. Thanks to the ACT Alliance, which through its members is present in 140 countries, the Church of Sweden can rapidly provide humanitarian aid in times of crisis.

The Church of Sweden operates from a community-based psychosocial approach, which means that our humanitarian relief efforts, in addition to meeting physical needs, also aim to meet the social and psychological needs that arise when disaster strikes. This

framework looks to people's own resilience and their own capacities to manage the situation and to recover. The goal is to restore hope, dignity, mental and social well-being and a sense of normality to people affected by a disaster.

Besides financial aid, the Church of Sweden provides capacity-building staff and thematic support, and in particular providing an integrated psychosocial support framework and specific psychosocial initiatives. For this purpose, the Church of Sweden maintains a staff roster of psychosocial specialists, which is at the disposal of the ACT Alliance.

PHOTO: PAUL JEFFREY/ACT



Haredo Nunow Noor has just arrived at the Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya. In July 2011, every day 1,000 new refugees from Somalia arrived at the camp. The Church of Sweden provided support to humanitarian relief efforts for those affected by the drought in Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia.



Advocacy

The Church of Sweden takes an active role in issues of sustainable development, peace, democracy and human rights based on the equal value and rights of all people. The Church of Sweden's international advocacy work targets those with economic and political power in Sweden, the EU and the UN, and aims to bring about long-term, sustainable change. We are members of:

- APRODEV, a network that lobbies EU institutions
- Swedwatch, which monitors how companies with links to Sweden impact people and the environment in low-income countries
- the Fairtrade product labelling organisation, which gives consumers a direct opportunity to support companies and trade helping to combat poverty
- CONCORD Sweden, which works with development policy.

Fundraising and volunteering

Ever since the 1800s when the Church of Sweden sent out its first missionaries, commitment at the local level has been the driving force in the Church of Sweden's international work. To actively raise interest in international issues, sewing circles and parish international groups hold bazaars, fundraising campaigns, workshops and other activities. A lot of emphasis is put into the two annual fundraising campaigns: the Christmas campaign and the Lent campaign. The Church of Sweden also has around 80,000 subscriber private donors.

Those with an interest in global matters in the Agera advocacy network and the Church of Sweden Youth, work to influence people and politicians in Sweden for a better world. They have contacts with the local media, lead workshops and blog and twitter to influence opinion.





Together with APRODEV and the ACT Alliance, volunteers from the Church of Sweden's Agera network and Church of Sweden Youth held a manifestation at the Durban Climate Change Conference in 2011. The objective was to jointly lobby for a just, ambitious and binding climate accord.

What we think

As the foundation for the Church of Sweden's lobbying and advocacy, we produce policy documents, position papers and reports describing our position on various issues.

For example, the Church of Sweden has produced:

- ... a position on gender justice and gender equality in the Church of Sweden's international work

- ... a position paper on social protection as a means of combating poverty and hunger in developing countries

- ... a position paper on climate change and development

... a synthesis of positions taken to promote peace through limiting trade in munitions.

You can download the Church of Sweden's policy documents and position papers from:

www.churchofsweden.org/internationalwork

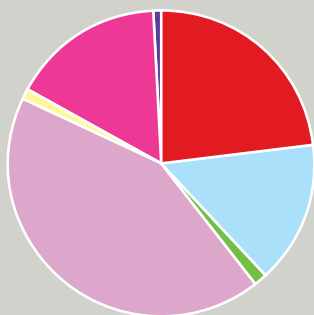


Revenue and expenditure

Our activities are largely financed by funds raised in Sweden. Donations from parishes, individuals, associations, foundations and companies fund a large part of our work. Grants from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and the EU are other important sources of funding.

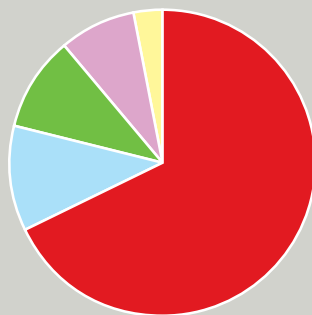
In 2012, the Church of Sweden supported around 300 projects through more than 100 partner organisations in 43 countries.

Revenues 2012



■ Gifts and bequests from individuals	93
■ Parish collections and fundraising activities	60,1
■ Budget allocations from dioceses and parishes	5,7
■ Grants from organisations such as SIDA and the EU	170,4
■ Gifts via the co-operation "Världens barn" (Children of the World)	3,5
■ Allocations from Church membership fees	64,7
■ Other revenues (incl. financial management)	3
Total MSEK	400,4

Expenditure 2012



■ Church cooperation and development cooperation*	68 %
■ Humanitarian relief efforts	11 %
■ Information and advocacy	10 %
■ Fundraising	8 %
■ Administration	3 %
Total	100 %

*In 2012, grants from SIDA to the Church of Sweden were at a much higher level than in the past due to SIDA's particular focus on development cooperation and special efforts for children and young people.

About the Church of Sweden's international work

- Church of Sweden Mission was formed in 1874 by the Church of Sweden's official mission body.
- Church of Sweden Aid started as a local branch of the Lutheran World Federation in 1947.
- In 2008, these two activities merged and became part of the Church of Sweden. Today, we are an integrated part of the Church of Sweden and are co-branding with the ACT Alliance.



Världens fest (World festival) in Växjö in 2010. Världens fest is the Church of Sweden's recurrent gathering for those involved and interested in the international work.

PHOTO: EWA ALMQVIST / IKON

The Church of Sweden – an open, national church.



Mass at Uppsala Cathedral in November 2012, part of Archbishop Anders Wejryd's big gathering on the topic of children and young people.

PHOTO: JOSEFIN CASTERVYD / IKON

- The Church of Sweden is an evangelical Lutheran church. We are an open, national church, with around 6.5 million members.
- The Church of Sweden has a three-pronged structure: parish, diocese and national level. Each level is governed by democratically elected boards. At the national level, the General Synod is the decision-making body.
- At the beginning of 2013, the Church of Sweden had 1,426 parishes. Each parish belongs to one of the Church's thirteen dioceses. Each diocese has a bishop, and at the national level, the Archbishop is the foremost representative of the Church of Sweden.
- The Central Church Office in Uppsala comprises the Church of Sweden's national level. The Central Church Office is responsible for issues in common matters of education, ecumenical relations, information and international work.

How we make decisions

Our international work is coordinated and managed at the Church of Sweden's national level, whose office is located in Uppsala. Work with international issues in the Church of Sweden is an integral part of our activities at national level, where decisions are made by the democratically elected General Synod and the Central Board. The Committee for International Mission and Diaconia, which is appointed by the General Synod, has a particular responsibility for our international work, however.

The Committee for International Mission and Diaconia makes all formal decisions concerning

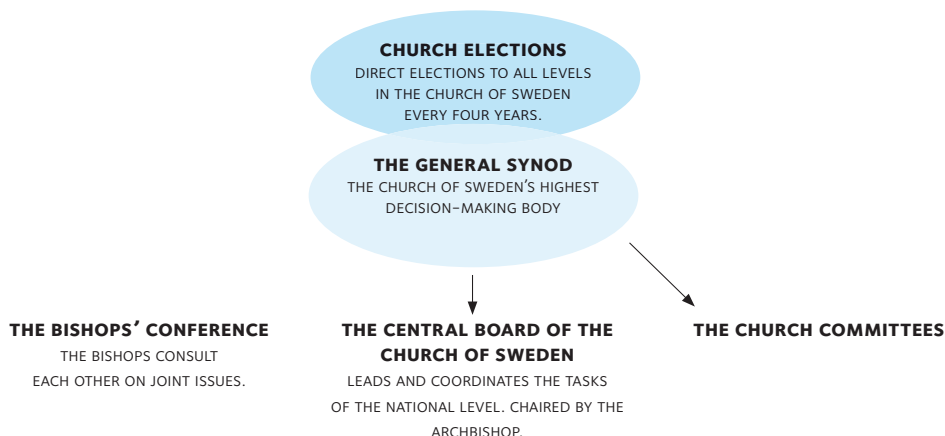
strategic plans, provides the Central Board with draft budgets for adoption, and approves the guidelines and positions developed within the international work.

Staff

Seventy employees work at the International Department of the Central Church Office by order of the General Synod and the Central Board. The Church of Sweden's International Manager leads the activities of this department. In addition, 30 employees in other departments work with international issues on communications, human resources issues and accounting and finance.

THE NATIONAL LEVEL

Responsible for issues involving the whole Church, and represents the Church nationally and internationally.



How we work with accountability and quality



Working with questions related to accountability and quality management is fundamental to the Church of Sweden. The Church of Sweden defines working with responsibility and accountability as a mutual desire to hold ourselves and our partner organisations accountable to the people who participate in the projects we support. We aim to ensure quality in all that we do. This is why we take care to live by our policies, guidelines and joint partner organisation agreements.

Part of this work is maintaining a close dialogue with, and transparency in relation to, our partner organisations so that we can learn from each other. Our partner organisations participate in our decision-making processes in various ways through meetings, correspondence as well as through more systematic

partner surveys and partner dialogues. Another core aspect of our work with accountability and quality management is that the people involved in the projects that the Church of Sweden supports must be involved in the work and the decisions that affect them.

Codes of conduct

The Church of Sweden's humanitarian relief work is conducted in accordance with the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief.

All staff who work with the Church of Sweden's humanitarian relief efforts have also signed the ACT Staff Code of Conduct for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, Fraud and Corruption and Abuse of Power and the Church of Sweden's own Code of Conduct.

The Church of Sweden is also bound by the ACT Code of Good Practice, an organisational level commitment which means that the Church of Sweden strives for continuous improvement and movement toward best practice.

Read more at: www.actalliance.org/resources/policies-and-guidelines/codes-of-conduct

"It's a unique opportunity to be involved in this process. It feels like we have come a good way further in our cooperation during these days," says Mark Leverī from the Tanganyika Christian Refugee Service (TCRS) at the partner consultation in Moshi, Tanzania in November 2012.

PHOTO: MARTINA GRÖNER



Handling of complaints

The Church of Sweden's international work has committed to continuous improvement of the quality of its activities and its accountability to stakeholders: our partners, target groups, donors, volunteers and the public.

The Church of Sweden's stakeholders are entitled to give feedback and complain to the Church of Sweden if we do not fulfil our commitments. In this way, we can improve monitoring of how well our international work function and determine what action we need to take; this helps us improve the results of our work while reducing the risk of inefficiency, abuse or unlawful appropriation of the resources we are charged with managing.

What you can complain about

- The implementation of projects carried out by the Church of Sweden alone or together with partner organisations, that do not fulfil their commitments.
- Perceived shortcomings in the Church of Sweden's handling of undertakings in partner organisation agreements, project agreements, cooperation agreements or any other agreements.
- A perceived lack of respect for the donor and the donor's wishes when managing donations.
- Suspicions of, or testimony to, breaches of the codes of conduct by the Church of Sweden staff or partner organisation staff, including sexual harassment, fraud, conflicts of interest or other unethical behaviour.

How to make a complaint

- E-mail:
complaints.internationalwork@churchofsweden.org
- By post:
Complaints Response Mechanism,
Att: Focal point Nicklas Fahlgren,
The Central Church Office,
SE – 751 70 Uppsala, Sweden
- Telephone: + 46 70 398 62 86

Read more at www.churchofsweden.org/complaints



PHOTO: STAFFAN SCHELIN/IKON

Mailbox for complaints to the Church of Sweden's partner organisation the Lutheran World Federation in Haiti.



The Church of Sweden is part of a global community of churches. It is the very foundation of our international work. Together with our partner organisations, we aim to reduce poverty by strengthening people's economic, social and cultural rights. By influencing those with economic and political power, we aim to work for global justice. The Church of Sweden is very active internationally. This is a brief presentation of the Church of Sweden's international work.

READ MORE: www.churchofsweden.org
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