



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

 **FORUM**SYD

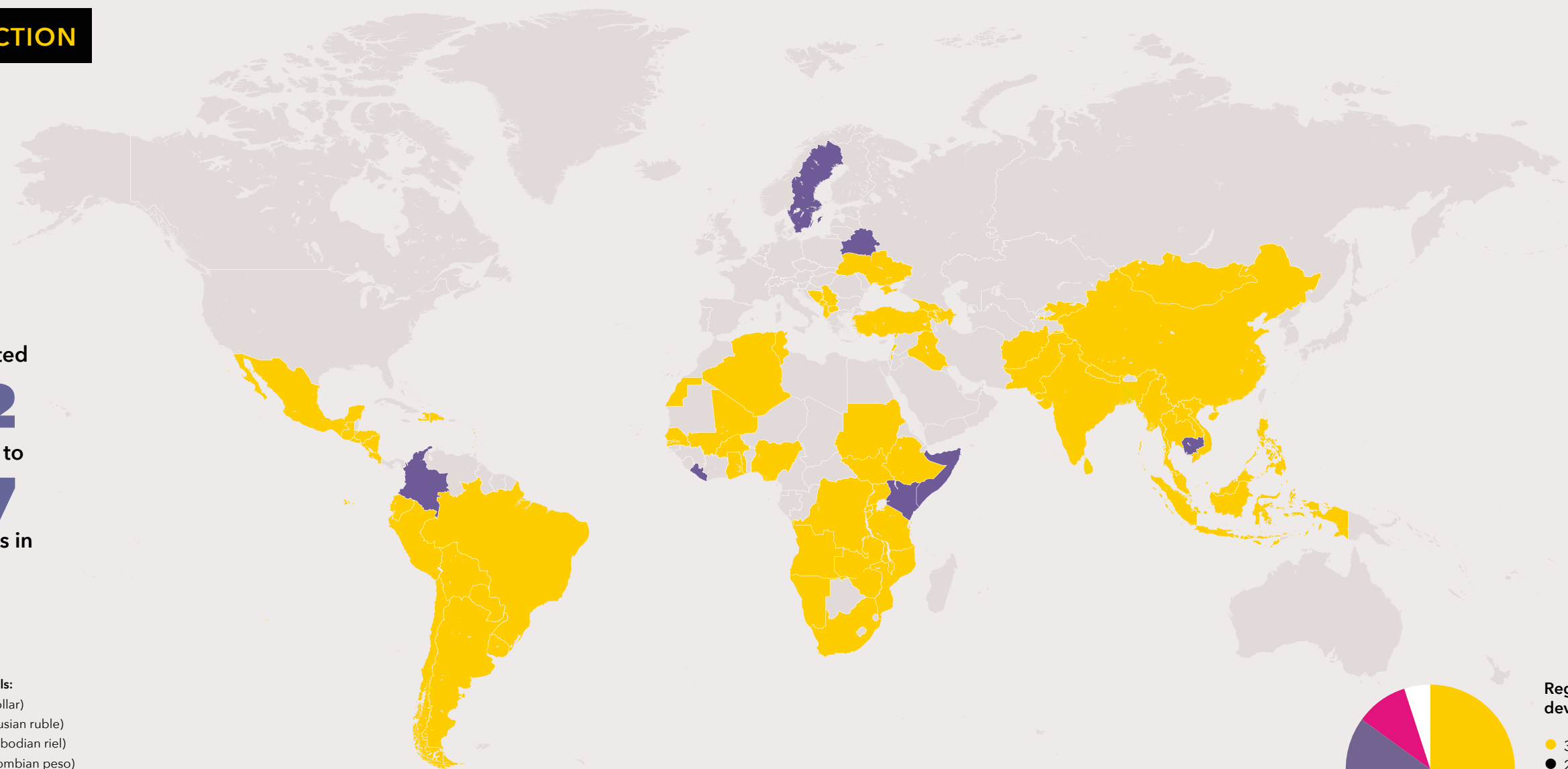
INTRODUCTION

We distributed

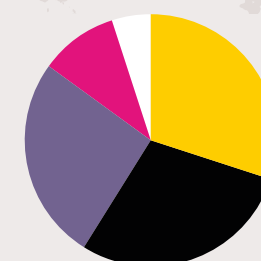
312
million SEK to
197
organisations in
65
countries

312 million SEK equals:

USD 33 million (US dollar)
BYN 72 million (Belarusian ruble)
KHR 131 million (Cambodian riel)
COP 105 million (Colombian peso)
KES 3,3 billion (Kenyan shilling)
LRD 5,3 billion (Liberian dollar)
SOS 19 billion (Somali shilling)



- Locations of Forum Syd's offices (Belarus office is located in Lithuania)
- Reach of Forum Syd's development cooperation



Regional distribution of development funds:

- 30% East, West & South Africa
- 29% South & Central America
- 26% South & East Asia
- 10% Central Asia & Europe
- 5% North Africa & Middle East

LOOKING BACK AT 2018

2018 was a year of turmoil and contradictions. Liberal democracy was challenged in many parts of the world while authoritarian forces gained ground.

In the run-up to Swedish elections, development cooperation became a stick in the race for power, specifically regarding the support given to Palestine. Elections were followed by drawn out uncertainty and governmental absence.

As the #MeToo movement continued to win ground, it also exposed predatory men in our field, men supposedly defending human rights while buying sex and harassing women. The US midterm election

was a historic win for women and politics of tolerance, while the top office continued to defend misogyny and racism. Sweden continued to sell arms to Saudi Arabia while mediating peace talks between fighting parties in Yemen.

In this time of contradictions and political polarisation, civil society – people, social movements and NGOs – are defending civic space and the right to influence and affect what concerns our lives.

As for Forum Syd, we extended our civil society reach by establishing an office in Liberia. Our efforts to safeguard the peace of Colombia intensified. The defence of political and civic rights in Cambodia prompted caution and a lower profile. Despite a hostile environment we can confidently say that civil society

in Belarus is strengthened. While the struggle for civic democratic space in Kenya used creative means of art and media.

We also experienced a leadership change as we bade goodbye to now former Secretary General Lisa Sjöblom. Recruited to take over the task in our organisation is Anna Stenvinkel. Together we hope we make 2019 the year when civil society secured democracy, equality and equity.

Anna Stenvinkel,
Secretary General

Kent Härstedt,
Chairperson



PHOTO: MAURITS OTTERLOO

THIS IS FORUM SYD

All of Forum Syd’s work aims to strengthen civil society, in Sweden and around the world. A diverse and strong civil society is the foundation of democracy and a prerequisite when building a world where everyone can affect change.

Forum Syd is a politically and religiously unaffiliated development cooperation organisation with around 140 member organisations from Swedish civil society. Together we work with human and civil rights, and facilitate popular participation around the globe. Forum Syd was founded in 1995 and is the largest civil society platform in Sweden.

We have offices in Stockholm, Sweden and in six other countries through which we provide direct support to local organisations on the ground. We mediate grants from Sida (the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency) to Swedish civil society organisations cooperating with local partners in 65 countries. Forum Syd also advocates for a just and sustainable development.

Our work centres on enabling people to organise to claim their rights and take control of their lives; for it is only then that democracy can grow, resources can be distributed more fairly, and poverty can be reduced.

Forum Syd’s four roles to strengthen civil society

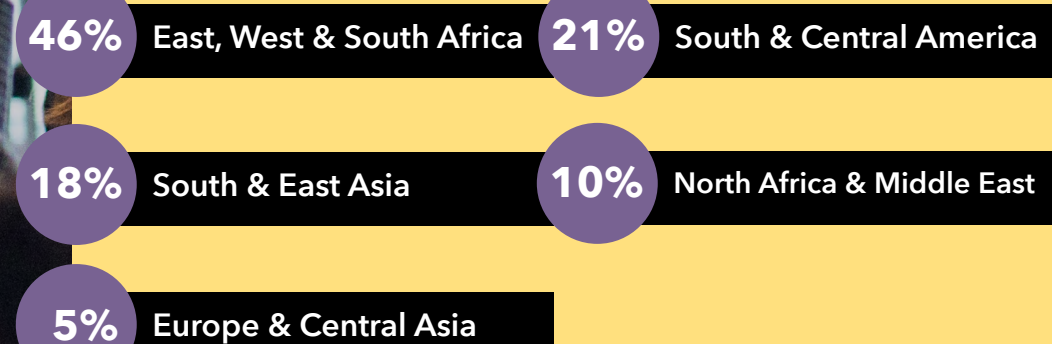
- **Advocator.** We advocate for change that contributes to a just and sustainable world.
- **Capacity Developer.** We strengthen development actors in Sweden and abroad.
- **Development Actor.** We contribute to development in partnership with civil society organisations in partner countries.
- **Grant Administrator.** We distribute and quality assure grants to Swedish organisations working with international development co-operation and with Swedish information campaigns on global issues.



Sweden's biggest platform organisation for civil society

Forum Syd is a membership based organisation and a platform for civil society in Sweden. Our members are Swedish organisations and together we work towards justice and a sustainable world where everyone has the power to affect change. Our collective efforts defend and safeguard democracy and human rights in a world where civil rights are under attack. Forum Syd facilitates forums for sharing experience and developing capacity: we can act as a megaphone and represent members in relevant national and international forums.

Percentage of member organisations active per world region:



“As a member of Forum Syd, we are connected to a bigger movement which gives increased impact and support in advocacy efforts and improves competence. It provides access to a broad network for collaboration on common issues and the opportunity to exchange experiences with other organisations.

Monica Nordenwald, Afrikagrupperna

Swedish civil society has a long history of cross-border linkages with global civil society. Forum Syd acknowledges the diversity and multifaceted experiences of these civil society relationships, and channels funding accordingly to further this development cooperation. In 2018, 260 MSEK was distributed to 225 projects amongst 127 Swedish organisations. Of those 225 projects, 88 per cent was dedicated to development cooperation, 9 per cent to communication and 3 per cent to trainee projects.



PHOTO: KLOOPKG

Forwarding feminism in Kyrgyzstan

The increase of civic engagement among youth is the shared objective of the partnership between the Swedish organisation Central Asia Solidarity Groups and Kyrgyzstan based organisation Novi Ritm. Through non-traditional methods of learning and action, such as comics, stencils, debate clubs, non-hierarchical and informal trainings, Novi Ritm broaches controversial and sensitive issues of feminism, gender roles and multiculturalism. Within the scope of the partnership several milestones have been achieved; the forming of 5 social/action groups, a platform for Feminist talks, a cultural festival to promote ethnic diversity, collaborations between an Uzbek and a Kyrgyz school to break gender and ethnic norms, a Women's Day march and a manifestation to protest the murder of a young woman whom was killed in a police station.

Women of Ethiopia claiming power for equality

Women in the Cheretti district in Ethiopia have managed to achieve extraordinary improvements for women and girls' lives. Their line of action has been threefold; 1) strengthen women's confidence and position 2) improve economic conditions and 3) maintain and sustain organising. Supported by Islamic Relief the women have expanded their mobilisation and realised strategic relationships with local authorities and religious leaders, relationships characterised by respect and influence. Some of the recorded results are reduced domestic violence, eradication of female genital mutilation in the urban areas of Cheretti and women's right to inheritance. Income generation for women and men through cooperatives has assisted in creating trust and, by extension, acceptance of women's rights and community influence.

PHOTO: AAYAN HUSSEIN



“Knowing that my daughter might not get her fair share of her inheritance, has led me to make it clear to my children on who owns what while I am still alive.”
Sadio Godeye Dubad



PHOTO: ALAMIN MUTUNGA

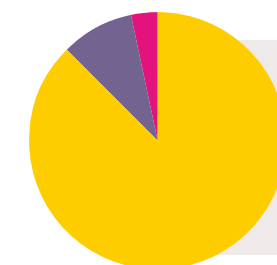
“I am so happy now that I can ride a bicycle. When my children are sick, I am now able to rush them to the clinic with the bike without having to worry about how my husband will take it.”
Kyomugasho Scovia

A fight for mobile freedom

Patriarchy comes in many shapes and sizes, and in the village of Bishozi in Uganda, women have been denied rights many take for granted such as; riding bicycles, whistling or eating chicken. The seemingly incredulous limitations of women's life are, in any patriarchal setting, measures of control.

In a region where women disproportionately perform the majority of domestic chores, including walking for miles in search of water and fire-

wood, utility tools like bicycles can be become great aids to women. The partnership between Ugandan and Swedish organisation Bishozi have supported women rights in the village and as of the last two years women have successfully won ground to increase their freedom. They are now free to whistle tunes, feast on chicken and use wheels for mobility.



Grant distribution SEK 260 million:

- Development
- Information project
- Trainee

Civil society demands justice for Rohingyas



“The Swedish Burma Committee has played a leading role among Swedish civil society organisations in calling for accountability for grave human rights violations in Burma. The advocacy efforts have ensured that there is domestic pressure on the Swedish government to act internationally on this matter. We noted a policy change from the Swedish government throughout the year in line with our recommendations, e.g. openly calling for a referral of the situation in Burma to the ICC.”
Kristina Jelmin, Executive Director, Swedish Burma Committee

700,000 have fled Burma

Forum Syd has direct partnerships with 70 civil society organisations in Belarus, Cambodia, Colombia, Kenya and Somalia. In 2018, 52 MSEK was dedicated to strengthening 70 local actors in their context specific pursuit of claiming space to secure civil society’s influence on democracy.



PHOTO: AUGUSTINE KARANI

Community radio expanding civic space in marginalised communities

How do you sustain access to information and civic engagement in marginalised areas with high illiteracy levels? This is a question many state and development actors grapple with, primarily as constructive engagement with decision makers necessitates an active and well-informed citizenry.

Forum Syd’s Wajibu Wetu Programme in Kenya aims to strengthen democracy and assists in shaping the evolving civic space. Wajir Community Radio, whose slogan is The Voice of the Voiceless, is a partner to the programme. Just as the name promises, they provide radio shows relevant for the community of Wajir.

Halima Kahiye is Wajir’s programme manager and she explains how the mobile lifestyle of the nomadic

families proves a challenge to traditional schooling as well as conventional awareness interventions. The efficiency of Wajir community radio’s impact showed itself during the run-up to the last Kenyan elections. Radio shows discussed women’s leadership and provided free airtime to female candidates to engage with the electorate. The radio thus became a platform for women to enter the otherwise expensive political campaign environment. This resulted in the highest number of female election candidates to date.

Community radio is a pivotally important instrument because it is accessible, facilitates democratisation and human rights awareness and is a powerful means of countering extremism, mediating violent conflict and building a culture of peace and tolerance.

Halima Kahiye, Wajir Community Radio

PHOTO: AUGUSTINE KARANI

Communities taking the driving seat to ensure completion of projects

At first, community members of Mtwapa Village in Kenya were thrilled to see the foundations of the first local pharmacy being laid and their access to health-care within reach. It had been promised to them by their local elected representative in 2005, but when ten years later the project was still not finished, the initial joy was replaced by disappointment.

Kenyans are not unfamiliar with political promises turning to dust. Many projects stall at different stages of their implementation resulting in wastage and loss of public funds. The inefficiency is often attributed to corruption, lack of state level prioritisation and inadequate follow-up and supervision from the local community.

When the Mtwapa Dispensary stalled, it was an all too familiar story, with the local community once again at a disadvantage. Forum Syd’s partner Kilifi Citizen of the Wajibu Wetu programme, supported the community to take the driving seat, to follow-up and oversee the completion of the pharmacy.

Employing a Social Accountability Model, community members came together to form the Shimo la Tewa Citizen Ward Accountability Forum, to ensure accountability for follow-up and oversight of the project. Through public participation, lobbying and engagement with decision makers, the Forum managed to get the County Government of Kilifi to allocate KES 8 million for the completion of the dispensary. Additionally, by working closely with the contractor, the pharmacy was successfully completed barely six months after the community first got involved and started mobilising.



PHOTO: AUGUSTINE KARANI

-If money is allocated for projects like this during the fiscal budget, and there is no community follow-up, the money either ends up being re-allocated to other priorities or lost to corruption due to collusion between the local leaders and the contractor, says Kashero Wachinyaka, the project coordinator for Kilifi Citizen Forum.

The pharmacy is now complete and is only awaiting healthcare officials to be employed, it has also received an additional KES 5 million for equipment. In the meantime, the community has successfully lobbied for monthly provisional healthcare outreach.

Communities should be at the core of any development. They are best placed to offer solutions as well as oversee and ensure that projects best fit community needs

Magdalena Tuva, Shimo La Tewa Citizen Ward Accountability Forum

Forum Syd opens up office in Liberia

The question of land rights is a complex and conflict sensitive issue in Liberia. An estimated 90 per cent of all civil court cases relate to land, and nearly two thirds of violent conflicts have their roots in land rights issues.

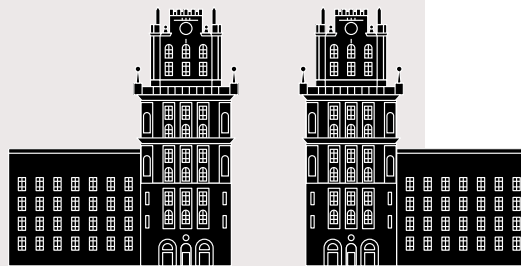
At the same time, Liberia hosts a progressive Land Rights Act, one that recognises customary

land rights, which constitutes roughly 70 per cent of the land. The Act grants people and communities the same, equal right to ancestral land as private ownership over the same land.

After years of research, consultations and deliberation, Forum Syd opened an office in Gbanga, Liberia, with the focal point of the office being the implementation of the Land Rights Act. Through partnerships with a dozen local civil society organisations, communities’ land access and rights will be the priority.



Measuring Forum Syd's relevance in Belarus



"We are not in the right moment to talk about sustainability, we are in the moment of survival"

Civil society in Belarus manoeuvres a hostile environment. Any non-governmental developmental initiative must take various precautions. One of the biggest challenges for civil society's very existence is the process of organisational registration. NGOs promoting

human, political and civil rights especially struggle to gain approval from authorities. The donor environment for CSO's is also not forthcoming, resulting in short-sighted and donor driven development.

In 2018 Forum Syd conducted an external evaluation to scrutinise our relevance and efficiency in our aim to strengthen civic organising and resilience. According to our partners we seem to be doing something right.

"I have worked with five donors and by far Forum Syd is the most open minded and understanding of all, they are able to understand the situation in Belarus and adapt to it".



PHOTO: MARC NOZELL/FICKR

Building civic bridges

Belarusian activists attending one of Forum Syd's trainings decided to form their own grassroots organisation "Her Rights", and a formal partnership emerged. Together we organised a study trip to Stockholm where Her Rights met Swedish organisation Maktsalongen. The two NGOs are now exchanging experiences and methodologies to improve gender equality.

Protection of women's rights

Her Rights is concerned with the high violation of women's rights in Belarus, especially in relation to domestic abuse. Within their three years of existence they have worked to counter power balances through research, awareness raising and legal support including a free of charge legal help line. Together with Maktsalongen Her Rights have implemented a highly popular women's mentorship programme.

"We speak about things nobody else speaks. We do things nobody else does. Without us, parts of the truth would disappear. We are needed for women's confidence in tomorrow."

Aleksandra Dikan, Her Rights



PHOTO: HER RIGHTS



PHOTO: DUBERTY MERCADO

Restrictions on civic space is a regional and global reality

In Latin America, the effects of shrinking civic space is a hard-lived experience. Killings and homicides of environmental, indigenous and human rights defenders is rife throughout Central America and in countries like Brazil, Colombia and Guatemala. Civil demonstrations are shut down and the political space for LGBTI and women's rights is decreasing. Parallel to this is the roll out of humanitarian crises.

Within the programme for Territories, Peacebuilding and Sustainable Development, Forum Syd has supported the national network ANZORC, which brings together 60 peasant organisations in Colombia. The peasant organisations are particularly affected by the backlashes of the peace agreement and face challenges in defending their land and rights. During 2018, no less than 24 of their leaders have been killed.

Despite the repression, loss of loved ones and the gaps in local leadership the killings have created, the organisations are determined to stand tall.

"We have held strikes, blocked the river with boats and gathered participation of different religious groups. It has never been done before and many thought it would be impossible to achieve. It makes me very proud of the work we're doing."

Jani Silva is 53 years old and born in the city of Leticia, the capital city of the Colombian amazon. Already as a teenager she started engaging in the life and wellbeing of rural Colombia. As the legal representative of the Integral Sustainable Development Association of the Amazonian Pearl (ADISPA) she represents 800 families. Through her organisation, she has supported initiatives of reforestation which criticise the socio-environmental effects of local oil operations.

But defending rural livelihoods and environment against oil companies with little regard for human rights or environment comes at a price. Her advocacy actions have forced her to temporarily leave her rural home. A move that hasn't stopped the anonymous threats.

"I'm a rebel at heart. I firmly believe that if people became aware of the critical experience of other people, we would change and work towards the well-being of all."

Jani Silva, ADISPA



PHOTO: ANZORC

Doing development differently in Somalia

Stateless for decades and with a complex mix of governing systems inherited from former colonisers alongside clan-based systems makes the terrain hard to navigate for an outsider. Somalia, indeed, represents one of the most complex and challenging countries in which to provide development support. Complexities that prompt different approaches to development mean Somalia also represents an inspiring case that challenges the notion of how and who implements interventions.

The civil war caused mass emigration and today Somalis can be found in practically all corners of the world. Forum Syd administers several programmes in Somalia, a majority of which are through the Somali diaspora. Sweden is home to 95,000 Somali diaspora, people born in Somalia or of Somali descent. An indication of the diaspora's civil society engagement is the high number of registered Somali-Swedish diaspora associations which amount to more than 800.

Individuals and organisations of the diaspora have long been devoted to the rebuilding of the country. Estimates of worldwide remittances to Somalia range from USD 1.4 to 2.3 billion, representing up to half of the country's overall GDP, with the amount sent from Sweden estimated to be USD 60 million per year. The diaspora's contextual understanding and commitment to development is supported by Forum Syd and its three offices across Somalia.



95 000 diaspora in Sweden forming **800** organisations



60 million USD sent from Swedish diaspora annually

Picture to the right: Osman Ibrahim is employed at agricultural company Ansar Farm Production, which is supported by Swedish-Somali Business Programme. Photo: Agnes Nygren



Direct support - Conflict mitigation

Forum Syd's support to civil society in Somalia focuses on strengthening capacity in order to protect democracy and peace. On the contested land between the two breakaway states - Somaliland and Puntland - lives around half a million people. It is a site of conflict for both local governments and communities.

Forum Syd works with two organisations - Amal and NWSDO - from the two respective states, to mitigate the conflict between people. Through mobilisation and organisation they are trying to promote peace. Women play a particularly important role as they often manage to settle questions of dispute in relation to water and grazing land before they emerge at a community level.

“When tensions arise, it is men who will gather around a table and organise a conflict. Yet, under the radar, it is women who, every day, mitigate the conflict.”
Fadumo Osman, Programme officer at Amal

Diaspora programme - Gender equality

The diaspora programme supports development initiatives formed between Swedish-Somali diaspora organisations and local organisations in Somalia. Swedish organisation Save Somaliland Children and Somali organisation Asal Youth development asso-

“We have managed to stop the practice of the worst form of female genital mutilation (FGM) in my village and we won't stop until the practice is stopped!”
Koos Farah Aynanshe, gender activist



PHOTO: AGNES NYGREN

Swedish Somali Business Programme

Swedish Somali Business Programme (SSBP) works to support Somali diaspora in their entrepreneurship, which can contribute to job creation and a private sector guided by ethical concerns for human rights, the climate and the environment. In 2018, support was given to 41 companies, helping to create 123 jobs.

Somalia is import dependent on food-crops, and as a semi-arid country which is struck by year-long droughts, its food security is incredibly fragile. Mohamed Qalib owns 40-hectares of fertile land in Somaliland, which had never previously been cultivated. Through SSBP, his company - Ansar Farm Production - was enabled to start cultivating the land, creating seven permanent positions and another twelve part-time positions to assist with harvesting.

“We manage to harvest once a month and we constantly expand the cultivation area.”
Abdirisak Sh. Muhumed, Ansar Farm

As a platform organisation that aims to strengthen civil society in everything we do; advocacy becomes one tool out of many employed to enhance civil society's influence to ensure democratic rights. We defend civic space where it is shrinking and actively engage where space is evolving. We influence decision makers to ensure that political frameworks contribute to a just and sustainable global development.

It's our pension - sustainability before profit!

The Swedish national pension funds have investments in unethical areas, such as fossil fuel companies, businesses with links to production of nuclear weapons and companies operating on occupied territories. Forum Syd has criticised the pension funds for having investments in mining companies that have caused violations of human rights, forced displacements and environmental destruction. Forum Syd and the

network Fair pensions have been demanding a new regulation that would secure sustainable pension investments. Meetings were held with decision makers, questionnaires sent out to the political parties ahead of the Swedish elections, opinion pieces and letters were written to the finance committee. In November 2018, a new regulation was finally adopted by the Parliament, requiring that the pension funds carry out responsible investments.

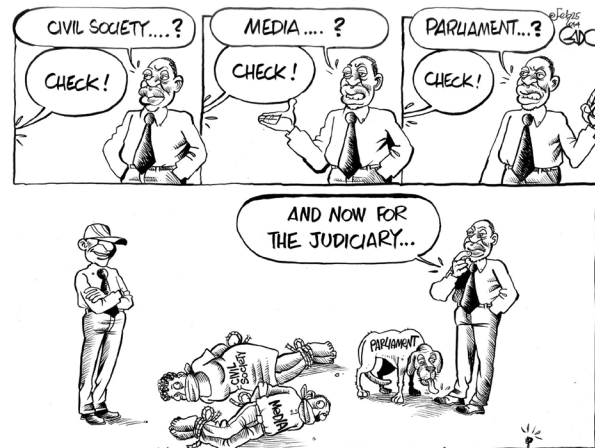


Illustration by Gado of Bun Media, a Forum Syd partner within the Wajibu Wetu programme, depicting shrinking space in Kenya.

Wajibu Wetu Programme uniquely supports the new frontier of media, arts, cultural and gender-focused civil society organisations using innovative approaches to strengthen democratic culture, accountability and gender equality.

Publications

Do we still exist? This report dives into the experiences and art of surviving shrinking civic space. It builds on interviews done with civil society organisations from 15 countries, investigating how they are affected by a shrinking democratic space and their tactics to cope and resist. The report aims to provide an overview of how current trends regarding available and shrinking space are perceived and managed by organisations in countries and regions where Forum Syd is present.

Defending their rights, risking their lives is a report that examines the linkages between extractive industries and shrinking civic space. It discusses measures used to silence environmental and human rights defenders and the responsibility and role of states as well as companies. The report illustrates risks and challenges faced by human rights defenders, contains examples of how businesses can play a positive role and gives recommendations to state and non-state actors on how to increase their positive impact. Find the report at forumsyd.org.



Eastern Partnership governments pushed to make societies more inclusive

The Eastern Partnership (EaP) Civil Society Forum constitutes a platform created to forward the voice of civil society in the EaP region to their governments and the EU. The forum consists of around 170 civil society organisations active in the region. During the Annual Assembly in 2018, a breakthrough was made in defence of sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR), gender equality and LGBTI rights. Forum Syd was part of driving a process that developed guidelines on how to realize gender mainstreaming and anti-discrimination within the civil society sector in the EaP region. Moreover, governments in the Eastern Partnership region were given

recommendations to ratify the Istanbul Convention, which includes work against sexual and domestic violence, increasing knowledge of gender equality and SRHR in the school system and acknowledging the rights of LGBTI people within the society. In short, civil society pushed governments to make anti-discrimination part of the democratic processes in the EaP societies.

“For the sake of a democratic development, now and in the future, the voice of the civil society needs to be included and respected”
Anna Westerholm, Ambassador for the Eastern Partnership, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Sweden



Towards responsible mining in Colombia

In Colombia, the extraction of natural resources comes with high risks of environmental conflicts and human rights violations. For the last few years, Forum Syd has conducted advocacy work towards the Swedish state-owned energy company Vattenfall on its purchase of Colombian coal. As a result, Vattenfall in 2017 conducted an impact assessment trip to Colombia to meet with communities in the mining areas. A second field visit was conducted in 2018. Vattenfall had meetings with communities near

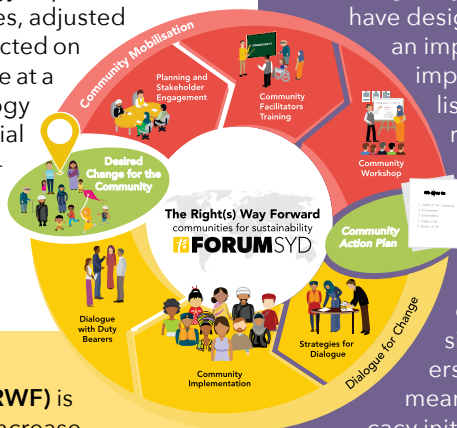
the largest coal mine Cerrejón in La Guajira, which Forum Syd was part of arranging. Progress was measured against the findings of the first study. Vattenfall has managed to get other European energy utilities to work towards a sustainable coal supply chain. The joint advocacy work is a best practice for "Bettercoal", a platform of 16 companies.

For Forum Syd, it has been a year of liaising and ensuring community influence. The network of concerned actors in Colombia has been broadened to include other Swedish civil society organisations, and continuous updates and flow of information has been shared between communities and mining companies. The work will continue with the aim to create responsible mining, that can coexist with environmental stewardship and respect for human rights.

Forum Syd's approach to capacity development

The clampdown on civic space suppresses people of their power to affect their lives. Adjusting to a changing world means sharpening innovative strategies and tactics to challenge power in order to strengthen the influence of civil society. Forum Syd calls these innovative set of tactics capacity development. At the heart of any process that aims to strengthen civil society is local ownership and learning - the ability to listen, to share experiences and to shape action that is grounded in affected people's decision making. Forum Syd is continuously creating spaces for debate and experience exchange related to changing contexts and challenges, regarding international development cooperation and its implementation. Forum Syd's global method and capacity development strategy seeks to strengthen the organisation's role as a knowledge platform and use the methodology Right(s) Way Forward to advance its rights-based approach.

In 2018, a multidisciplinary group of specialists in Cambodia, Colombia, Kenya and Sweden together with partners implemented the RWF methodology in communities. The methodology captured lessons learned from previous experiences, adjusted and complemented tools and reflected on innovation and barriers experience at a local level. The revised methodology and the new pedagogical material will be available early 2019, as trainings are developed internally with Forum Syd staff, members and Swedish partner organisations.



The Right(s) Way Forward, (RWF) is a methodology that aims to increase communities' resilience and ability to lobby and mobilise for the change they wish to see. It departs from the notion that communities themselves have preexisting capacities and localised knowledge. The RWF process assists to determine and deliver on the communities' desired results through participatory methods, rights advocacy and engagement with decision makers. The method emphasises the need for equitable control and distribution of resources between men and women and tries to create constructive and inclusive dialogues.

Building a future in peace - RWF in Colombia

In 2018, the RWF was implemented in Colombia with the aim of increasing the participation of women in sustainable peace building within the Huila region - a region highly affected by the armed conflict. The initiative worked from the premise that the inclusion of women's perspectives is essential for sustainable and fair peace building, when considering the effects of the conflict on the population in general. It involved three organisations: Mujeres Tejedoras, an organisation of indigenous women, Asociación de Mujeres por un Nuevo Paraíso, an organisation of women farmers, and Asociación Gastronómica de Mujeres Desplazadas Pa'Degustar, an organisation of women that have become internally displaced or victims of sexual violence because of the war.

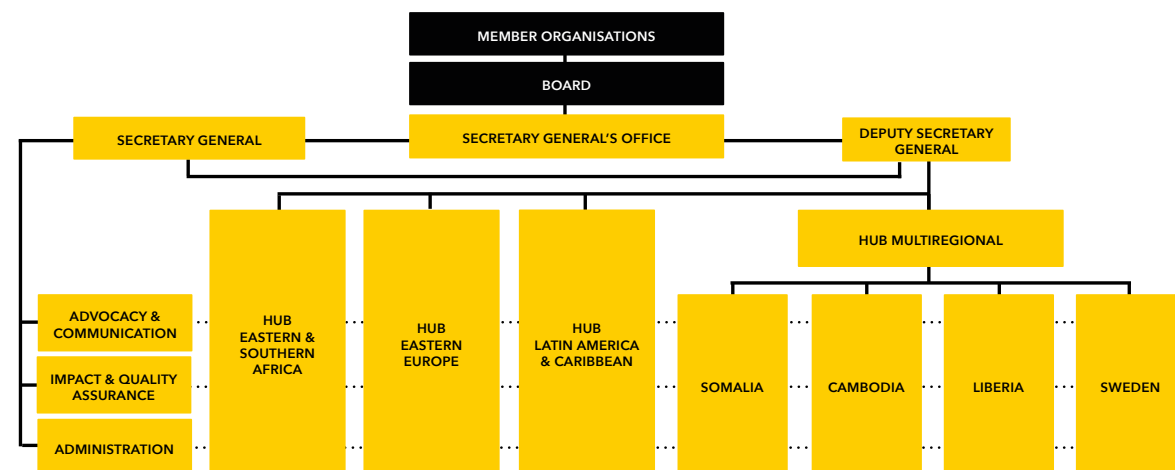
During the year women organisations have designed agendas that have had an impact on the peace agreement implementation. They have established effective dialogue with regional authorities and political stakeholders, thus positioning their proposals and influence in the peace building process. The cooperation has improved local organisations access to decision makers and political leaders; establishing the required means to implement their advocacy initiatives. In the case of the Asociación de Mujeres por un Nuevo Paraíso RWF enabled the submission of a proposal to the National Land Agency, requesting the purchase of an area of land to develop a collective livelihoods project

“We are now able to actually demand our right to own land, to have a place where we can work and have our own project” Yamile, a member of Asociación de Mujeres por un Nuevo Paraíso.



PHOTO: CARLOS ANDRÉS FERNÁNDEZ

Forum Syd is a religiously and politically unaffiliated not-for-profit development organisation that works for global justice and sustainable development. To achieve this, the equal value of all people and everyone's right to a decent standard of living must be respected and the world's resources used in a sustainable manner.



Direction and management. Forum Syd's highest decision-making body is the Annual Meeting, at which each member organisation has one vote. The Annual Meeting elects Forum Syd's board, election committee and auditors, all of whom are nominated by member organisations. Forum Syd bases its operations on the framework that the Annual Meeting decides upon in its overall plan for operations. Forum Syd's day-to-day operations are led by the Secretary General, who is directly accountable to the board.

During 2018 Forum Syd initiated the implementation of the new strategy which includes that Forum Syd shall strengthen its role as a platform for civil society and increase cooperation with members. The board further decided to establish a member committee to enhance the work with member organisations.

Organisation. The reorganisation "Going Glocal" that was launched 2017 has continued to shape the organisation and its development. Forum Syd consist of four units and four regional hubs. Offices are located in Belarus (located in Vilnius), Colombia, Cambodia, Kenya, Somalia (three offices) and Sweden. During the latter part of the year all was set for Forum Syd to also open up office in Gbanga, Liberia. All offices have during the year administered direct support to local organisations. Sub-granting to Swedish organisations is administered from the regional hubs; Vilnius, Nairobi, Bogotá and Stockholm.

Digital remake. Forum Syd has had a full digital

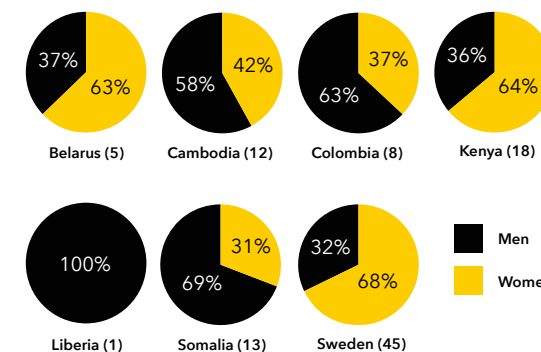
remake over the past year as both the website and tool for grant applications were launched. The website is now more user friendly and the Portal used by grant applying organisations, has increased organisations' transparency and overview of their Forum Syd funded projects.

Global capacity development. A global strategy for capacity development was developed through a participatory process. For example the strategy includes method material for Right(s) Way Forward to be used globally. The platform for online courses, "e-learning", in addition to Forum Syd's community of practice has also been further developed and will be launched in 2019.

Internal improvement processes. To ensure streamlining, increase efficiency and control for the entire operation at Forum Syd, a large internal process for improvement was initiated early 2018. The process amongst other aspects included; internal revision and evaluations of internal control systems of all hubs, country offices and units; routines for archiving; updates on manuals relating to staff within the organisation; delegation order, internal controls and finances.

Finances 2018. During 2018, Forum Syd's income before financial items amounted to SEK 360.5 million. This is an increase of SEK 30.1 million or 9.2 per cent on previous year. Total costs before financial items amounted to SEK 359.8 million. Administrative costs amounted to SEK 20.3 million or 5.7 per cent of

the total operational costs. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) is Forum Syd's main donor. Other donors in 2017 were: the Swedish Council for Higher Education, the EU, the MAC Foundation, ILO, Regeringskansliet and Folke Bernadotte Academy.



Staff. Of Forum Syd's 102 (116) employees, 45 (42) per cent are men and 55 (58) per cent are women. During 2018 the office in Stockholm had 50 (51) employees of which 31 (28) per cent were men and 69 (72) per cent were women. 16 persons were newly employed at the Stockholm office. In Sweden, Forum Syd has a collective bargaining agreement and staff related policies and guidelines concern the full organisation.

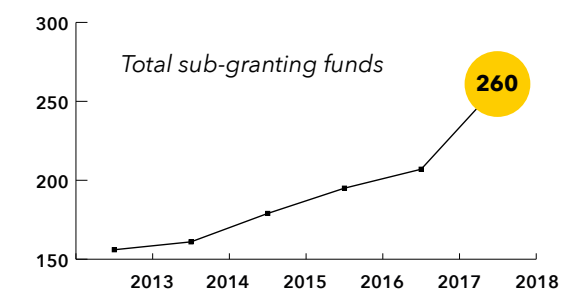
Sub-granting. During 2018, SEK 260 million (207 MSEK) was distributed to 225 (208) intern, development and information projects amongst 127 (136) Swedish organisations. Of those were 60 (59) organisations, or 47 per cent (43 %) members of Forum Syd. The sub-granting of funds was financed by Sida Civism, Sida Partnership Forum, Sida Europe and the Swedish Council for Higher Education (UHR).

Projects have been conducted in cooperation with local civil society organisation in 65 (76) countries. Projects supported by sub-granting contributed to achieving results on all three levels of Forum Syd's result model.

Development sub-granting. Development grants are sub-granted to Swedish organisations that implement development cooperation in partnership with civil society organisations in other countries. In 2018 SEK 228 million were sub-granted to 167 projects and programs in 65 countries.

Information and communication sub-granting. Infocom grants are sub-granted to Swedish organisations that conduct information and advocacy work in Sweden and should contribute to spreading knowledge and/or advocate for a just and sustainable world. All projects are contributing towards the developmental areas of Agenda 2030. In 2018 SEK 24 (23) million were sub-granted to 43 Swedish organisations which financed 49 (42) information and communication projects.

Trainee sub-granting. Grants for internships are sub-granted to Swedish organisations that wish to place young people abroad for internships. The interns are expected to receive an increased interest and understanding for development cooperation and other cultures. In 2018 SEK 8 million were sub-granted to 9 intern projects in 16 countries.



Overview	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Framework Sida (mSEK)	277,2	243,4	222,8	196,1	186,7
Funding from other Sida department (mSEK)	67,6	72,1	80,9	55,8	47,9
Other funding (mSEK)	13,5	12,1	17,4	18,2	9,1
Member fees (mSEK)	0,5	0,6	0,6	0,6	0,4
Number of members	137	143	149	161	158
Number of employees, Sweden	46	48	52	51	52
Number of employees, country offices	56	62	54	39	45
Number of country offices	6	5	5	5	5
Number of donors	13	12	11	11	12



We confront things such as the widespread corruption. We are less comfortable these days. We challenge racism and the divide of tribes in the Kenyan society. Art is in the forefront to create a future we can all live with.

Mufasa, Kenyan spoken word artist

Forum Syd's Wajibu Wetu programme tries to find actors outside of the traditional development cooperation sector and supports actors such as Creative Spill. Activism, using art to raise social issues within society is fast emerging as a powerful transformative tool for social change. While organisations are threatened to be silenced by authorities, the space for bloggers and artists remains a lot freer.



PHOTO: MAURITS OTTERLOO

OUR MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

A WORLD OF FRIENDS, SWEDEN · ADOPTIONSCENTRUM · AFAR FRIENDS IN SWEDEN · AFRIKAGRUPPERNA · AFRO-EUROPEISKA RIKSFÖRBUNDET · AFROSVENSKARNAS RIKSFÖRBUND · AFS INTERKULTURELL UTBILDNING · AID GALCAD · ALBANSKA FÖRENINGARS UNION I SVERIGE · AMAZONASFÖRENINGEN I HÄRRYDA · ARKITEKTER UTAN GRÄNSER · BARNFONDEN · INSAMLINGSSTIFTELSE · BISHOZI INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS · BISKOPS-ARNÖ HIGH SCHOOL · BLLF SWEDEN · FRONT MOT SLAVERI · CARITAS SVENSK-MESOPATINSKA FÖRENINGEN · CENTERPARTIETS INTERNATIONELLA STIFTELSE · CENTRALASIENGRUPPERNA · CHIKONDI CHIMODZI CHILDCARE CENTRE · CLOWNER UTAN GRÄNSER · DARYEEL ASSOCIATION · DIAKONIA · EMMAUS BJÖRKÅ · EMMAUS STOCKHOLM · EU DIASPORA COUNCIL · FAIR ACTION · FIAN-SWEDEN · FJÄRDE VÄRLDEN · FRIENDS OF THE EARTH SWEDEN · FRIENDS OF KABONDO · FUTURE EARTH · FÄRNEBO FOLK HIGH SCHOOL · FÖRENINGEN FÖR FOLKBILDNING OCH FRIHET · EDUARDO MADARIAGA · FÖRENINGEN FÖR REHABILITERING OCH UTVECKLING · FÖRENINGEN FÖR SUS-KVINNOPROJEKT I BANGLADESH · FÖRENINGAR FURUBODA · FÖRENINGEN PALMERAS VÄNNER · FÖRENINGEN SOFIA · GAMBIAGRUPPERNA · GLOBAL LEARNING · GREEN FORUM · HAND IN HAND SWEDEN · HIIRAAAN REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION · HMR · FÖRENING FÖR HÄLSA OCH MÄNSKLIGA RÄTTIGHETER · HUMANISTHJÄLPEN · IMMIGRANTERNAS RIKSFÖRBUND · INGENJÖRER UTAN GRÄNSER · INTACTS VÄNNER · INTERNATIONELLA KVINNOFÖRBUNDET · INTERNATIONELLA KVINNOFÖRBUNDET FÖR FRED OCH FRIHET · IOGT-NTO · IOGT-NTO RÖRELSENS INTERNATIONELLA INSTITUT · IRANSK-SVENSKA SOLIDARITETSFÖRENINGEN I MALMÖ · ISLAMIC RELIEF SVERIGE · JAKOBSBERGS FOLKHÖGSKOLA · JEREMIAH LUCAS OPIRA FOUNDATION (JLOF) · JIDCA · KARAGWE-FÖRENINGEN · KARIBU SWEDEN ASSOCIATION · KIDS ARK SWEDEN · KULTUR OCH IDROTTSFÖRENINGEN LIRIA · KVINNOR FÖR FRED · LIBERIA DUJARASSOCIATION · MASALIT ASSOCIATION IN SWEDEN · MÉDECINS DU MONDE SWEDEN · MY RIGHT · NORDISK HJÄLP · ORGANISATIONEN FAIR TRADE ÅTERFÖRSÄLJARNA · OSAK · PAN ASIA COOPERATION SOCIETY (PACS) · PEACEQUEST INTERNATIONAL · PEACEWORKS SWEDEN · FÖRMÄNSKLIGA RÄTTIGHETER · PHARMACISTS WITHOUT BORDERS · POSITIVA FRAMTIDSVISIONER · PRAKTISK SOLIDARITET · PSYKOLOGER UTAN GRÄNSER · QANDIL · RAIN FOREST SOCIETY · ROTARYS LÄKARBANK · SALVADORANSKA RIKSFÖRBUNDET, AMOAR · SAMERÅDET SVENSKA SEKTIONEN · SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE · SCOUTERNA · SELF-MANAGEMENT, ORG. FÖR NYKOOPERATION I U-LAND · SENSUS STUDY ASSOCIATION · SERBISKA RIKSFÖRBUNDET · SMART INTERNATIONAL · SOLIDARITY SWEDEN-LATIN AMERICA · SOMALI GABOYE FÖRENING · SOMALI INTELLEKTUELLBANADIR FÖRENING · SOMALIA INTERNATIONAL REHABILITATION CENTRE · SOMALILAND FÖRENING I MALMÖ · SOMALILAND NORDIC RELIEF · SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES SWEDEN · STUDIEFRÅMJEANDET, RIKSFÖRBUNDET · STUDIEFÖRBUNDET VUXENSKOLAN · SURYOYO HJÄLPFONDEN · SUSTAINABLE CULTURE AFRICA · SWEDEN LIBERIA COOPERATIVE · SWEDISH DEVELOPMENT FORUM (FUF) · SWEDISH DEVELOPMENT PARTNER (IM) · SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL LIBERAL CENTRE (SILC) · SWEDISH MOUNT ELGON ASSOCIATION · SWEDISH PENTECOSTAL CHURCHES (PMU) · SWEDISH SOCIAL WORKERS WITHOUT BORDERS · SWEDISH TIBETAN SOCIETY FOR SCHOOL AND CULTURE · SWEDOM · SVENSKA BAHAI-SAMFUNDET · SVENSKA PALESTINAKOMMITTÉN · SVENSK-LITAUISKA RIKSFÖRENINGEN · SVENSK-SOMALISKA VÄNFÖRENINGEN · SVENSK-TANZANISKA FÖRENINGEN · SYNSKADADES RIKSFÖRBUND · TALLAABO FÖRENINGEN I SKELLEFTÅ · THE HUNGER PROJECT · THE INTEREST ORGANIZATION FOR POPULAR MOVEMENT FOLK HIGH SCHOOLS (RIO) · THE LEFT INTERNATIONAL FORUM · THE NAMIBIA SOCIETY IN SWEDEN · THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SWEDISH YOUTH ORGANISATIONS (LSU) · THE PALESTINE SOLIDARITY ASSOCIATION OF SWEDEN (PGS) · THE SWALLOWS INDIA BANGLADESH · THE SWALLOWS LATIN AMERICA · THE SWEDISH ASSOCIATION FOR SEXUALITY EDUCATION (RFSU) · THE SWEDISH BURMA COMMITTEE · THE SWEDISH FEDERATION FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND QUEER RIGHTS (RFSL) · THE SWEDISH IRAQI SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE · THE SWEDISH PEACE AND ARBITRATION SOCIETY (SPAS) · THE SWEDISH SPORTS CONFEDERATION · THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION SWEDEN · THE WORLD'S CHILDREN'S PRIZE FOUNDATION · TOGETHER FOR PROGRESS · TOGO KOMMITTÉN FÖR DEMOKRATINS ÖVERLEVAND · TOSTAN SWEDEN · VÄNORTSFÖRENINGEN STRÄNGNÄS-SIMANJIRO-LOIBOR · VÄNSKAPSFÖRBUNDET SVERIGE-NICARAGUA · VÄNSKAPSFÖRENINGEN SVERIGE GUINEA-BISSAU · WISE ECONOMY · WAR CHILD · YARI-IRANSKA UNGDOMSHJÄLPFÖRENINGEN · ÄLDRE FÖR ÄLDRE



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