

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



FORUMCIV.

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ForumCiv Annual report 2021

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Cover: Performance at ForumCiv's Democracy Week in Kenya. Photo: ForumCiv



We sat down with Chairperson Magnus Lindell and Secretary General Anna Stenvinkel, to chat about the passed year.

First, it is hard to talk about anything other than the current situation in Ukraine these days, but we will try to look back on 2021 and what happened then.

- ForumCiv is a member-based platform, which means that a strong and active community of members is the key to everything we do - therefore we were very happy to welcome 35 new member organizations! Unfortunately, the covid-19 pandemic continued to disrupt our planned in-person member activities, but we have adapted to these challenges. Our digital members' platform was launched to communicate, interact and participate in debates, and it has proven to be very useful, says Anna.

In addition to Sweden, ForumCiv operates in five different countries, Anna continues.

- A lot of exciting work has been done in our newest office in Liberia. An impressive achievement from our programme on land rights was that we managed to get a land rights declaration written by rural women all the way to the President's desk. In Cambodia, the Green Ownership programme has just concluded and was a great success overall. Our Regional Office Eastern and Southern Africa, based in Kenya, excel in arranging different kinds of festivals advocating for civic space and democracy.

Magnus adds that these achievements are remarkable given the increased global clampdown on civic space.

- The pandemic had governments all over the world imposing laws that put severe limitations on civil society. In 2021, this trend only got worse. What is really worrying now is the serious risk that what started off as temporary restrictions could quietly transition into permanent law. Civil society has an important role in relentlessly highlighting this issue. We cannot accept a shrinking democratic space!

Anna agrees and adds that these challenges affect our members', partners' and ForumCiv's development efforts alike.

- Kenya is now entering an election year, and political violence is sadly expected to increase. Similarly, we have already seen horrible murders of social leaders in the run-up towards the Colombian

2021 year in review

elections. In Belarus, the severe limitations placed on civil society makes it very difficult to carry out any sort of programmes.

Finally, what are your highlights of 2021 and what are the priorities for the future?

- The first thing that springs to mind is the fact that we have adapted so well to the pandemic. Arranging digital meetings and events across borders comes almost effortlessly to us now, which has helped our entire organization become more connected. On a related note, our webinars and podcasts have gotten great reach - and rightfully so, they really are fun and interesting to listen to, answers Anna.

Magnus adds:

- Going forward, our main priority will be to be even more active together with our members - without them, ForumCiv is nothing!



Magnus Lindell, Chairperson
Anna Stenvinkel, Secretary General

PHOTO: KARIN KRISTENSSON/FORUMCIV

This is ForumCiv

175 Member organizations

ForumCiv's members are Swedish civil society organizations. Our collective efforts defend and strengthens democracy and human rights in a world where civil rights are under attack. Together we form Sweden's largest platform for civil society. As a platform, ForumCiv facilitates forums for sharing experience and building on strengths. ForumCiv advocates for and safeguards civil society interests and acts as a megaphone to represent our members in relevant national and international forums.

ForumCiv was founded in 1995 and is a politically and religiously unaffiliated development cooperation organization with 175 member organizations from Swedish civil society.

All of ForumCiv'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 for reaching our vision: a world where everyone has the power to effect change.

ForumCiv has its head office in Sweden, regional offices in Belarus, Colombia and Kenya and country offices in Cambodia and Liberia.

We provide direct support to civil society organizations, we mediate grants to Swedish civil society organizations cooperating with local partners in 70 countries and we advocate for just and sustainable development wherever we are.

What we do



Provide development grants to Swedish organizations



Provide development grants to direct partnerships in 5 countries



Advocate for change



Provide learning and sharing

35

New **member organizations**.
Big member processes: Creation of a buffer
to share financial risk and input to ForumCiv's
Strategy 2023-2027.

12

Seminars co-organized with
member organizations during
the year.

2 200

Users on our E-learning Platform
Changers Hub. 300 new course enrollers
and a satisfaction rate of 80 %.

21

Episodes of our two **podcasts**
Forum for Change and Gender
Kaleidoscope.



a platform by and for civil society.



Members

Launch of digital members' platform

With a 175 members strong platform, people and organizations are eager to share and learn from one another. There has been a growing need for a digital space for our members to communicate with each other. The platform allows organizations to market events, form groups for deeper discussions on different topics, ask advice on challenges, and discuss changes within ForumCiv.



How does Swedish media report on aid?

Development aid is a reoccurring topic in Swedish media. As a part of the development sector, the sense is often that media report primarily negative about it. That is however not the case, as a report on behalf of ForumCiv and five other organizations show.

67% Neutral
24% Negative
9% Positive

Critical news on development aid do however have greater spinoffs in public debate than neutral or positive news. The development aid budget is often politically weighed against other spending in Sweden.

Member requirement for funding applications

We believe it is important that the grants we provide are channelled through organizations that share our values. By becoming a member, these values are endorsed.

Being a sub-granting organization means ForumCiv share the risk if something goes wrong and we are willing to do that for our members.

Tobias Linghag, deputy chairperson of the ForumCiv board nominated by the member organization Framtidsjorden.



Main areas of development intervention identified by members

Through a survey answered by 89 partners, whereby 76 were members, six areas were identified as key for intervention.

- Women's empowerment
- Peace building
- Social and economic justice
- Indigenous and minority rights
- Environment and climate
- Sexual and reproductive health and rights

bistånds kvarten



Election preparations

Development aid is becoming an unusually hot topic in the run up to the Swedish elections 2022. In preparation, ForumCiv decided to launch the interview series Biståndskvarten. The first season aired in 2021 and put the spotlight on political parties' views on development aid.

The aim of Biståndskvarten is to allow us and our members to revisit statements made by the politicians and possibly hold them accountable as election campaigns develop.

PHOTO: LINNÉA FRÄNDÅ/FORUMCIV

Advocacy

Sweden's implementation of the 2030 Agenda

This year it was time for Sweden to report to the UN High-level Political Forum on the country's implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In parallel, ForumCiv and 37 organizations, coordinated by CONCORD Sweden, wrote a spotlight report. Its focus was how Swedish policy affects global poverty reduction, human rights and sustainable

development. The report reviews actions taken by the government and gives recommendations to strengthen implementation - asking for a new national action plan for the 2030 Agenda as well as improved reporting on how Sweden intends to manage conflicts of interests between different policy areas.



PHOTO: SEBASTIAN DELGADO C/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

Protesters light candles during a peaceful demonstration in Bogotá, Colombia 2021.

The struggle for civic space

Threats to democracy, civic freedoms and human rights are escalating in many countries. In 2021, 358 human rights defenders were killed in 35 countries. Colombia was by far the deadliest country with 138 murdered defenders according to Front Line Defenders. ForumCiv produced a digital material on civic space with statistics, voices from our partners and recommendations to the Swedish government.

In order to give an insight into the violent and threatening situation for civil society and local community leaders in Colombia, ForumCiv and other civil society organizations in the Colombia Group organised a virtual trip to the country for Swedish decision makers. Meetings were also held with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Sida on the situation in Colombia.



Strengthening civil society's voice in Eastern Europe policies

2021 has been an important year for civil society to influence Swedish and EU policies and strategies targeting the Eastern Partnership (EaP) region (Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan).

As the EU is facing increased security risks and the EaP region is growing in geopolitical relevance for the EU, civil society plays a vital role in steering the development toward human rights and democratic governance.

In 2021, two efforts have been of particular importance. Firstly, the EaP network, consisting of 36 Swedish civil society organizations, and their partners in the region provided input on areas in need of strengthening within the new roadmap for the EU's cooperation plan for the EaP region.

Secondly, the EaP network organised a consultation to provide civil society input in the new Swedish development reform strategy on the Eastern Partnership region 2021-2027.

These efforts aimed to secure that human rights and strong collaboration with civil society are at the core of Swedish and EU relations with the EaP region.

Democracy aid needs to be strengthened, Sweden is good at democracy aid and more is needed in the world. We need to focus on both protecting individual democracy defenders and on building democracy culture from below.

Joar Forssell from the Liberal party during our debate with politicians in September.



Debate between five Swedish political parties on Sweden's development aid towards democracy.

PHOTO: ANNA BLÜCHER/FORUMCIV

Sub-granting

Swedish civil society has a long history of cross-border linkages with global civil society. ForumCiv acknowledges the diversity and multifaceted experiences of these relationships and channels funding to further this development cooperation.

All funded projects have a rights-based approach and contributes to ForumCiv's overall goal where everyone has the power to effect change.

The examples here are a few of the many projects implemented during 2021 that achieved change.

Resistance under military dictatorship

2021 will be remembered as a dark year in Burma's modern history. The Burmese military staged a coup in February and brought the country back to dictatorship.

The military takeover was met with widespread protests. Mass demonstrations, nationwide general strikes and armed resistance have marked the past year.

Since the coup, the country has spiralled into a deep crisis. The economy is collapsing, poverty deepens, and the military is using more brutal violence to instil fear in the population, crush the resistance, and cling on to power.

Human rights defenders, journalists, activists, and the political opposition are especially targeted by the military. Protesters are attacked and jailed, the internet is shut down, media outlets are banned and civic space is restricted by threats, violence, and repressive legislation. Despite this, resistance against Commander in Chief Min Aung Hlaing and the other coup instigators remains strong.

Partner organizations of the Swedish Burma Committee have been forced to close offices, with staff either going underground or fleeing to safer areas - in some cases abroad.

In Sweden, the Swedish Burma Committee has increased its efforts to put the situation of Burma on the political agenda and make decision makers act to put pressure on the military.

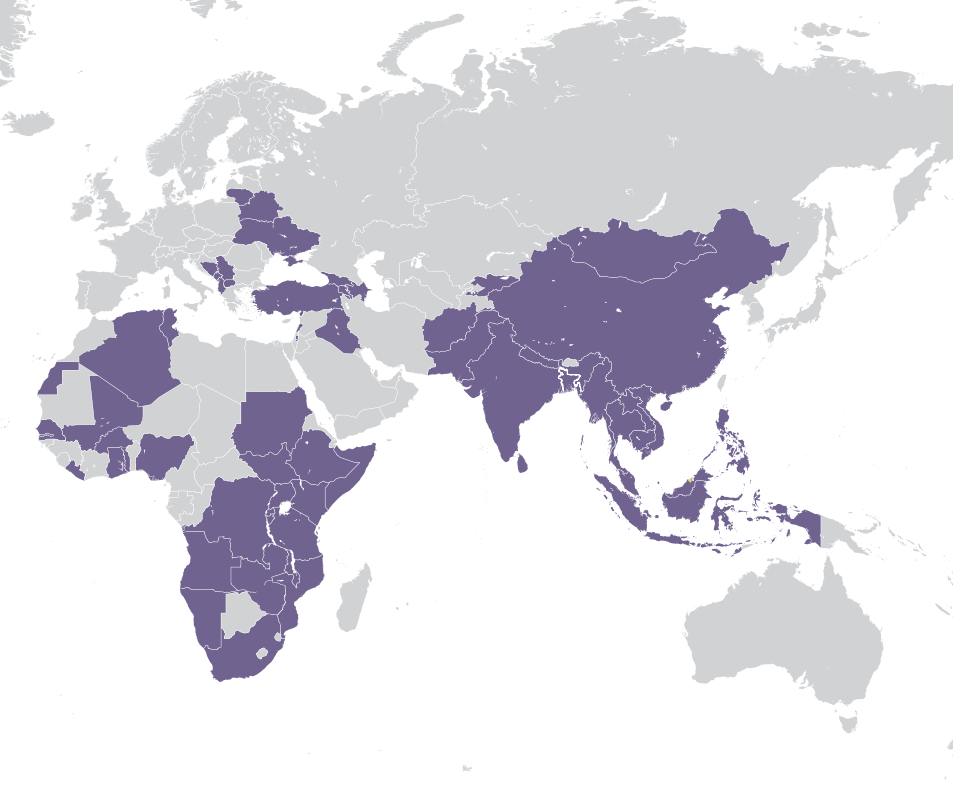
Two main demands have been brought forward: stop foreign actors from engaging with the military and enforce sanctions against the military. These demands have to some extent been met, and during the year the EU implemented targeted sanctions against the military and its economic interests, while Sweden redirected development aid so that it would not reach the military or the institutions and authorities it now controls.

Consequences of the coup

- 1,6 million jobs lost.
- 50% of population living in poverty.
- 30% drop in the economy.
- 440,000 people displaced.
- Millions engaged in resistance refusing to pay state bills and taxes.

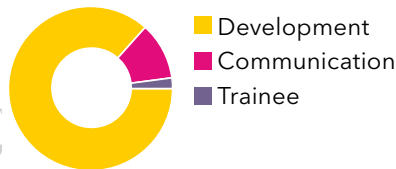


PHOTO: SVENSKA BURMAKOMMITTÉN



239
million SEK to
175
projects in
67
countries

Grant distribution per type



To make informed choices, youth have a right to know

“What you do for me but without me, is against me” - that is the organizational slogan of Family for Cohesion and Solidarity Abaryango.

The slogan echoes in the project that saw nearly 15,000 children and youth improving their knowledge on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in the city of Mbarara, Uganda. The project was a shared initiative between the Swedish organization Democracy for Children’s Future together with Uganda based organization Family for Cohesion and Solidarity Abaryango and targeted Burundi refugees.

The organizations saw a need for youth friendly SRHR services which prompted training to clinic staff and a separate visitation room for youth. To break through cultural barriers standing in the way for youth, both knowing and thus achieving their rights, they got 150 community leaders on-board. These social leaders committed to enable dialogue between parents and children.

What used to be taboo topics are now openly discussed. ”

Peer to peer ambassadors on SRHR (from left) Tritia Dushime, Landry Nibasumba, Prosper Mpawenayo, Dennis Niyonkuru and Nadia Roxanne Arakaza.

Claudien Tuyisabe, Secretary General at Democracy for Children’s Future



PHOTO: DEMOCRACY FOR CHILDREN’S FUTURE



The struggle for climate, indigenous people and dignity

Born and raised in the Amazon rainforest in Brazil, Txai Suruí has a long track record of defending the forest, organizing youth and speaking truth to power – so much that she lives under constant death threats.

Her voice became internationally known after being the only indigenous person invited to speak at COP26 in Glasgow. Txai describes the relationship to Jordens Vänner with warmth and on equal standing. Through their partnership it was possible to start the 2,000 strong youth network of *Indigenous Youth of Rondonia*, buy equipment to help monitor their territory and employ a communications officer that spreads news about indigenous rights and challenges to an international audience.

To protect and defend the territory is a daily and dangerous task. Illegal trespassing is documented and reported to the police – who rarely lifts a finger to assist. That often means that they must physically try to chase the intruders off themselves – with their lives at stake. Brazil is one of the most dangerous countries for environmental activists with several annual murders, many of whom are indigenous leaders.

– The idea of territory is different to indigenous people. To us there are no borders. When they divided our area, our trees were excluded and now they are gone. Without our plants we cannot perform our rituals and our medicines and animals disappear. We don't just live in the forest; we are part of the forest. Our souls belong to the forest, says Txai.

It's not just about the climate. We have to fight racism and capitalism while defending equality and indigenous rights.

At COP26 and the following trip to Sweden the message was clear. It is indigenous people that are defending the Amazon against states, corporations and opportunistic individuals seeking ways to exploit natural resources. The world and the climate depend on saving the Amazon rainforest and indigenous people should be included in the negotiations.

For as long as indigenous people are not included, Txai wish to see an alternative climate agreement, formulated by groups that are the most affected by climate change. "The Global North cannot continue to make decisions about us without us."

Palestine under attack created massive support in Sweden

2021 was a trying year for Palestine with the continuing pandemic and increased repression against civil society.

The situation drastically worsened in May, as the Israel army attacked Gaza while violence by the army and settlers towards Palestinian citizens in East Jerusalem escalated. Palestinian families in both the West Bank and East Jerusalem faced imminent threat of forceful evictions. The Palestine Solidarity Association of Sweden (PGS) quickly redirected its advocacy and communication efforts and managed to turn people's sense of despair and frustration into action.

PGS used social media channels to spread its messages far and wide and its outreach was unprecedented during the most intense period. A petition to the Swedish Minister of Foreign Affairs, demanding that Sweden must act against the ethnic cleansing in East Jerusalem, was signed by 25,000 people. Associations, trade unions, local businesses and individuals took initiative to support an emergency fundraising campaign launched by PGS. Lotteries, sales, cultural events and auctions were organized and in just two months, the campaign raised 1,8 million SEK to support mainly children affected by the bombings. Several of those who became involved are now active members within PGS' local chapters across the country.

During the attacks on Gaza, PGS could, thanks to its partners in the PCO program, make sure that Palestinian voices were heard in Swedish media, particularly those of young people. One of the interviewees was Tareq Abuhailima from Youth Vision Society Gaza, whose account of how civilians were affected by the war was disseminated through TT News Agency and reached national coverage.

Everyday life during the period of heavy Israeli attacks in Gaza last May.

PHOTO: ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN PHOTO COLLECTIVE ACTIVESTILLS



We celebrated, took each other's hands and thanked God we were still alive.

Tareq Abuhailima after leaving his house for the first time in days after the bombings of Gaza.

Development cooperation

Having a rights-based approach implies local ownership of development interventions. Local partnerships are therefore key and in 2021 ForumCiv had partnerships with 111 civil society organizations in Belarus, Cambodia, Colombia, Kenya and Liberia.

The work of ForumCiv's partners stretches between a broad range of social justice issues and methodologies. Support is dedicated to strengthening actors in their context specific pursuit of claiming space to secure civil society's influence on democracy.

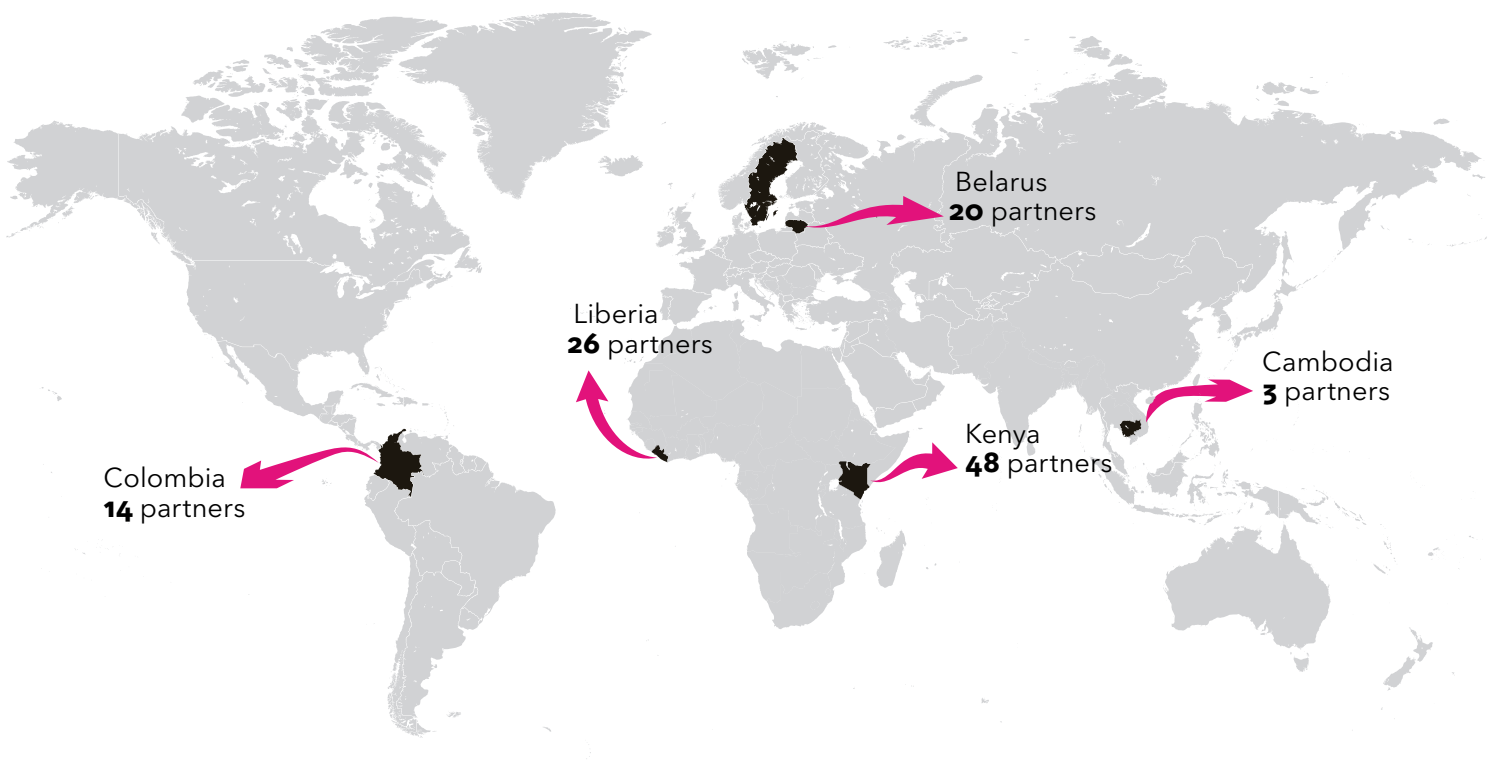
Banks refuse money transfers

Since the start of "The war on terror", laws, regulations and sanctions have increasingly made it difficult for development aid transfers to reach their intended recipients. ForumCiv, and many of our members, face grave challenges when using the most established banks in Sweden to transfer funds to our partners around the world. This prompted ForumCiv to seek bank services abroad, in our case the United Kingdom.

62
million
SEK to

111
projects in

5
countries



Liberia

Women are organizing for equality and land

In 2021 ForumCiv ended our first three-year chapter in Liberia. Our focus has been gender equality and women's access to land. We have supported local organizations that monitor power, holds people in power accountable and build resilient organizations.

The work has so far enabled women from all corners of the country to meet, strategize and learn from each other's struggles. In a very short period of time, women's organizing has increased, which has built confidence and unity to challenge patriarchy. Here are but a few examples of achievements during the period. ForumCiv looks forward to continuing the journey with the women in their fight for justice in years to come.

After I got engaged with other rural women and learned about the Land Act I was able to stand my ground. Finally I could convince my brother that I too had a right to the land our father left us.

Fatu Tosue

Achievements

Youth Student clubs established to protect and report rights violations on three university campuses.

Youth successfully advocated for the completion of a maternal shelter to accommodate rural pregnant women, which provides a space closer to health facilities as the delivery date approaches.

Gender equality Strengthened organizing by gender equality activists, thus far resulting in three women being appointed as community leaders by their male community chiefs.

Oppression of elderly women monitored and reported. The information has been used to prosecute the perpetrators who accused an elderly woman of witchcraft.

Civil society watchdog Fraudulent behaviour exposed and given national attention after three partners in Bong discovered that local officials ignored procurement and budget laws when sub-contracting developing projects.

Land rights Large scale awareness raising on women's right to land ensured in the new Land Act, through rural caravan campaigns in three provinces and two national land conferences.

Rural Women's resolution on land presented to President of Liberia George Weah.

Mahre community mobilized to successfully halt forest logging and thus protecting their right to livelihood.

2021 Rural Women Land Rights Conference



PHOTO: FORUMCIV

Belarus

2021 – the year the regime hit back

If 2020 was the year the Belarusian people in unity demanded change through mass demonstrations and general strikes. 2021 was the year the regime fought back.

Not only towards people seen as political opposition, be they actual political candidates, journalists, activists or members of civil society. Also ordinary citizens who have perhaps participated in the protests or have expressed their opinion on social media were arbitrarily arrested and sentenced to long prison verdicts. Many fled the country and for those that stayed, keeping a low profile was necessary.

The West imposed various sanctions while Lukashenko sought support from Russia and invited migrants, wishing to enter the EU, to pile up by the border between Belarus and Poland.

A move that successfully shifted EU's political focus away from repression inside Belarus to protectionist concerns of keeping borders into EU closed. 2021 was a year where repression and geopolitical politics trumped people's rights and dignity.

Despite the perhaps inevitable backlash, civil society continued to organize for a free Belarus, albeit in different forms. International solidarity intensified as Belarusian political opposition and civil society widened the networks and scope of collaborations.

As for ForumCiv, solidarity was shown through demonstrations and appearances in media and through advocacy efforts that called for political action.

Manifestation in solidarity with the people of Belarus in Stockholm August 2021. Organized by Svenska PEN, Reportrar utan gränser, Sveriges Författarförbund, Sveriges Journalistförbund, Olof Palme International Center and Östgruppen.



If we only share an ounce of the courage the protesters in Belarus show us we can be part of the change.

Anna Stenvinkel, Secretary General of ForumCiv, during manifestation in Stockholm.

PHOTO: KARIN KRISTENSSON/FORUMCIV



As long as there are people who continue to get involved, the protests will not stop. Belarusian civil society is great at finding creative ways to work in a highly repressive environment.

Martin Uggle, chairperson Östgruppen, in an interview with the magazine Global Bar, July 2021.

Opinion pieces and interviews in Swedish media

During the year, our members Östgruppen and Silc have been an important voice in Swedish media talking about the situation in Belarus and Sweden's development aid to the country. In addition, ForumCiv wrote two opinion pieces together with International Media Support (IMS), in which we gave five demands to the Swedish government.

Governments and international donors should view civil society as the legitimate state representatives of Belarus.

Opposition leader **Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya** when visiting the EaP network in Stockholm.



PHOTO: LINNÉA FRÄNDÅ/FORUMCIV

Cambodia

Democratic practices and local ownership for close to 30 years

ForumCiv has supported Cambodia's civil society and journey to democracy for close to three decades. While the economic growth in this time has been impressive, the situation for human rights and civil society's space to influence democracy has not followed the same straight path.

Legal accountability and local ownership

Cambodia has one of the highest deforestation rates in the world. Together with illegal fishing, contaminations and the establishment of hydro-power dam building at the upper Mekong River, it is jeopardising the lives of many people that depend on these natural resources.

Achievements

Exposing illegal logging through social media monitoring by communities, which has resulted in the crackdown of three big cases of forest crimes. One case led to an arrest of three forestry administration officials in 2019.

More effective law enforcement against illegal fishing, flooded forest clearance and land encroachment after increased community participation in fishing management.

56 community organizations formally registered which means the communities obtain legal rights to govern relevant areas and protect fishery rights.



Family fishing in Bak Rotes community fishery, Battambang.

Minority rights

The five indigenous groups in Cambodia face discrimination and are particularly affected by land grabs and deforestation. Over the years the groups have built strong partnerships and increased land registrations, addressed land conflicts and cracked down on illegal activities.

Achievements

Formal recognition through the Indigenous People's Conservation and Development Strategic Plan and establishment of units within authorities that protect indigenous people's rights.

Radio is a good way to reach relevant ministries. The topic I discussed is the status of the community protected area where our forested land has been grabbed by an economic land concession company.

Kong Chheang, member of an ethnic minority in the Kampong Thom province when invited to a radio programme founded for the purpose to spread knowledge on indigenous minorities rights.

Increased indigenous control over territories

which are vital for indigenous communities' livelihood, as amendments to the 2002 land law are initiated.

Justice and reparation to 17 families affected by flooding that followed a dam construction as the Stung Treng provincial authority agreed to compensate 30 hectares of land.

Land encroachment exposed and punished as Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Justice was ordered to return encroached land to the community. The Deputy Secretary was removed from his position by the Royal decree.

Climate change and ecosystems

Roughly 75 per cent of Cambodia's population live in rural areas and are dependent on natural resources for their livelihood. Meanwhile the country is severely hit by climate change and have experienced more than 3,000 floods and thousands of droughts and hurricanes.

Achievements

Carbon pollution avoided as 716 thousand hectares managed and cared for by fishery and forestry communities is estimated to save 42 thousand tons of carbon stock.

Climate change intervention included in local government's planning after community advocacy efforts.

Fish conservation and protection efforts by 16 communities led to ten types of wild bird species notably increased.

Increased biodiversity and flooded forests grow better after some communities care taking of eight conservation areas covering 1,222 hectares.

We inform people and authorities about the importance of fish and flood forests, the challenges and what they can do to protect natural resources.



Hor Samath from Battambang fishery community

Silviculture activity by Prey Kbal Bey community fishery in Santuk, Kampong Thom.



Our support and achievements over the last 30 years in Cambodia

50% poverty decrease
271 communities engaged
1 million people impacted

Colombia

Social unrest and killings of civic leaders

2021 was a year marked by social unrest in Colombia. The covid-19 pandemic had already hit the country hard and protests against a proposed tax reform, corruption and a possible health and pension reform peaked end of April. The strike went on for several months, leaving a large number of deaths, arrests, disappearances and cases of police brutality, including sexual violence.

In rural areas, violence against civil society leaders remained at a deeply worrying level. Over the year, 172 social leaders were killed by armed groups determined to silence organized civil society. Especially targeted are indigenous populations, groups working towards implementing the peace agreement, former FARC guerrillas and women fighting to put an end to forced recruitment to the armed groups.

Simultaneously, the political and economic crisis in Venezuela prompted many to seek refuge in Colombia. Approximately 1.7 million left Venezuela for Colombia in 2021.

We are well on our way to lose the entire leadership of social movements and civil society organizations.

Laura Bonilla, ForumCiv Regional Manager for Latin America and the Caribbean.



PHOTO: AURA MONTALVO

Women that are part of the Aremos Paz project learn about the coffee growing process in Palestina, Huila.

Working towards peace and reconciliation

ForumCiv contributes to the implementation of the Peace Agreement by participating in and coordinating networks relevant for its international solidarity support. The bulk of our work, however, remains on the ground with rural groups highly affected by conflicts and violence before and after the Peace Agreement - indigenous groups, small-scale farming communities and former FARC guerrilla members. The programme rests on three main pillars:

Re-integration of ex-combatants

Efforts to reintegrate ex-combatants by shifting the base of livelihood into sustainable and peaceful productions. This part implies strengthening community organizing and organizations and facilitation of knowledge transfer, for example of how to shift farming production from coca to coffee.

Building trust and reconciliation

Provide spaces for dialogue to overcome local disputes and give instruments for reconciliation to build trust between groups previously divided between conflict lines.

Building solidarity alliances

Assisting in building alliances on local and regional level to support the implementation of peace-building and reintegration.

Re-thinking Civic Spaces

For the second year running, ForumCiv arranged the "Civil Society Re-thinking Civic Spaces Forum". This week of virtual events served as an opportunity for dialogue and exchange of ideas for civil society organizations in the Latin America and Caribbean region, discussing the promotion, defence and expansion of civic spaces and democracy.

During the week, conversations and workshops were held highlighting some initiatives on how civil society is working with conservation and restoration of the Amazon region and its communities; challenging binarism and gender stereotypes in Latin America and the Caribbean; and the role of international cooperation in migration and development processes in the region, to name a few.

From the winning piece in this year's Solidarity with Colombia contest, highlighting the number of murdered environmental defenders between 2018-2020 and asking how many more have to sacrifice their lives this year.



Solidarity with Colombia contest

The Forum rounded off by naming the winner of the Solidarity with Colombia contest. This year, we saw the participation of dozens of sound and video recordings with great originality and powerful messages highlighting the work of civil society in Colombia.

The winner was a collaborative piece by Fridays for Future Bogotá, Pacto por el Clima and Extinction Rebellion Bogotá, reflecting on how youth climate activism in Bogotá joined the global call to demand climate action.

PHOTO: BAHIA PROJECT

Kenya

In Kenya, ForumCiv implements two major programmes. The “Inclusive Growth through Decent Work” initiative was prompted by the need for structured engagement between right holders and duty bearers during and after the construction of an energy plant in the Great Rift Valley. ForumCiv, together with the International Labor Organization, is working for the inclusion of local communities. This is done through creating decent jobs using new skills and enterprises and increasing community

knowledge in lobbying for better access to public and social services.

The “Wajibu Wetu” programme aims to strengthen democracy through the work of community journalists, musicians, poets, and different kinds of street artists. Together, these individuals seek to raise gender awareness, uplift the voice of youth, promote active citizenship and strengthen accountability.

Inclusive Growth through Decent Work in the Great Rift Valley

Engaging local communities to increase ownership of the developments in their communities is what guides ForumCiv’s work. In the Great Rift Valley, this meant increasing community members’ understanding of how decision-making is done on a government level and how communities can manoeuvre to increase their influence to create the change they wish to see.

In 2021, this resulted in no less than:

545 people trained on rights, advocacy and the function of government for state services.

29 action plans formulated by the communities.

5 dialogue platforms between the communities and government where 15 proposals were discussed.

14 occasions where communities and government jointly decided upon community services.

This increase in knowledge, confidence, and advocacy by the communities resulted in the following achievements:

Access to health care services:

- Construction of a new health facility.
- 30% increased use of contraceptives.
- Fewer teenage pregnancies.
- Health seeking behaviour and vaccinations increased.
- 22 persons with disabilities receive subsidized medical attention.

Improved education:

- 0% school drop-outs of girls.
- 12 teenage mothers re-enrolled in school.
- 2 pupils with disabilities re-enrolled.
- 5 schools formed environmental clubs.

Gender equality:

- Cases of gender-based violence reduced.
- 40% of elected leaders are women.
- Men engaging in SRHR issues are pro-actively advocating for sanitary towels for girls.

Access to water:

- New water pipes providing clean water.
- Co-financing of water projects between energy company and state.



Wajibu Wetu

PHOTO: AUGUSTINE KARANI/ FORUMCIV



Radio with risks

Halima Kahiye comes from Wajir – a region with nomadic communities. People from their communities are sometimes separated for months as they travel great distances with their livestock. The mobile lifestyle challenges conventional schooling and limits access to information resulting in the region having one of the highest illiteracy rates. After her communications studies, Halima started Wajir Community Radio which over the years has become an effective instrument for promoting grassroots democracy.

Running a grassroots radio station has its own risks. As a woman leading a radio station in a patriarchal society Halima became a target, both by male colleagues and by the government. To her colleagues it has been a struggle to convince them that in the 21st century a women's place is not merely in the kitchen. General security threats, especially from extremists and state agents, have been intense. In 2014, there was a discovery of mass graves in Wajir, and Wajir Community Radio was amongst the first media station to visit the incident site and cover the news. "As soon as we aired the news, National Intelligence Officers visited the station and subjected us to intense interrogations and harassment", Halima says. The station has faced shut down several times, but was always supported by the public.

"As activists, we undergo lots of challenges but if we do not fight for these freedoms, who will? Radio is a powerful means of countering extremism, mediating violent conflicts and building a culture of peace and tolerance."

Combating police brutality with poetry

Extra-judicial killings are high in Kenya. Missing Voices, a consortium of organizations, reports that 219 people were killed by the police or disappeared in 2021. Javan the poet, an activist from Nairobi, Kenya has lost many friends at the hands of the police.

"I started using poetry to sensitize people about the injustices we were facing. How many youths will you kill before there is change?" Javan rhetorically asks. Under the banner "Arts For Social Justice", Javan has organized an artists' movement, bringing together 150 artists of different genres who advocate on issues affecting them.

One of Javan's popular and controversial spoken word pieces was dubbed 'Killer Breed' and was inspired as a response to the many social media pages in Kenya allegedly run by rogue policemen. There they post warnings about suspected youth criminals who mostly end up being killed and photos of their dead bodies shared over social media with utter impunity.

Speaking truth to power comes at a price. Javan has faced countless threats and intimidations. When he posted the lyrics of 'Killer Breed' on his Facebook page, he was met with harassment, bullying and threats from 'Hessys' (labelling of law enforcers who act outside the law to "uphold justice") and local vigilante groups. But Javan has not been discouraged as he feels his community has his back.

It gives me great joy to see youth, who would have otherwise been involved in a life of crime, use art to inspire change in the community.



PHOTO: AUGUSTINE KARANI/ FORUMCIV

Finance and administration

General information

(Figures in brackets refer to 2020)

Vision and purpose

ForumCiv is a religiously and politically unaffiliated member organization that works for just and sustainable global development.

ForumCiv's vision is: a just and sustainable world where all people have the power to effect change.

ForumCiv's purpose is to: support marginalized people around the world who organize themselves to claim their rights. Advocate for change that contributes to a just and sustainable world.

Governance and management

ForumCiv is based in Stockholm. The Annual Meeting is ForumCiv's highest decision-making body in which every member organization has one vote. Annual Meeting participants elect the Board, nomination committee, and auditors based on nominations from member organizations.

ForumCiv's operations are based on the framework that the Annual Meeting decides in the overall Plan for Operations. ForumCiv's day-to-day operations are led by the Secretary General, who is directly responsible to the Board.

In 2021, the Board held 11 (10) minuted meetings and appointed a working committee which held 7 (9) minuted meetings. Representatives from the Board participated in the Annual Meeting and the Members' Meeting. During the year, the Board reviewed ForumCiv's internal governance and control systems, evaluated its own governance and control systems and the Secretary General's work and decided that ForumCiv should introduce a financial buffer within the Swedish Partnership Programme. This decision was preceded by discussions for much of the year and contact with members during the Members' Meeting and on ForumCiv's digital membership platform. The Board also focused on the development of ForumCiv's new strategy to be adopted at the 2022 Annual Meeting. In its work on the strategy, the Board has involved

member organizations by inviting them to dialogue meetings.

Board representatives receive compensation for travel, accommodation, and lost earnings on submission of documentation from employers on actual lost earnings in conjunction with ForumCiv assignments. Self-employed persons receive compensation for lost earnings up to a fixed SGI (sickness benefit qualifying income) limit. ForumCiv offers compensation for childcare during the day for participation in board meetings during parental leave on presentation of receipts for such services.

Member organizations

ForumCiv member organizations are Swedish organizations that strive to make a difference worldwide and who share our vision. A total of 111 (101) people attended the ForumCiv Annual meeting on 29 May 2021, of which 54 (51) were proxies. The Annual Meeting was informed that 5 (11) organizations had left ForumCiv since the previous Annual Meeting. Forty-one new organizations joined in 2021, and 11 had left by the end of the year. As of 31 December 2021, the total number of members was 175 (148).

The 2021 Annual Meeting was conducted digitally due to the pandemic. The Annual Meeting was popular and due to its digital format, as more people were able to participate than previously had been the case, which is positive even though there was no chance for members to mingle and chat with each other. The Annual Meeting decided on a revision of the articles of association and elected a new board. Magnus Lindell was elected as the new Chairman of the Board. The Annual Meeting adopted the 2022 Plan for Operations and granted the Board discharge from liability following the submission of the annual report.

The Members' Meeting was attended by 45 (44) people from 36 (35) member organizations. Other

participants included staff from ForumCiv's head office, board and interpreters. The Members' Meeting consisted of a number of group discussions on a variety of topics including the development of potential target areas for ForumCiv's strategy to be adopted at the 2022 Annual Meeting. The Board also provided an update on ongoing discussions regarding the proposal for a financial buffer within the Swedish Partnership Programme. Magnus Lindell, ForumCiv Chairman, also gave a brief interview.

Sustainability

Organization

In 2021, ForumCiv consisted of six units headquartered in Stockholm, three regional offices and two country offices. The regional offices are located in Belarus, (in Vilnius), Colombia, and Kenya, and the country offices are located in Cambodia and Liberia. In 2021, the major organisational change process Going Glocal was completed through Going Glocal 2.0, which included several sub-processes. This was evaluated at the end of the year and changes have now been integrated into daily activities.

All offices worked with direct support to local organizations in 2021. Sub-granting to Swedish organizations is managed by the Swedish Partnership Programme and the regional offices based in Vilnius, Nairobi, and Bogotá.

Changes to the management team

A small number of significant changes were made to the management team in 2021, with the change of

managers in our country offices. Panha Sok became the new head of the Cambodia office, working on a 50% basis, and Asa Chon became head of the Liberia country office. Both took office in the spring of 2021. In total, the management team consisted of 13 (13) people.

Staff

Of ForumCiv's 121 (135) employees, 39 (41) per cent are men and 61 (59) per cent are women. In 2021, the head office in Stockholm had 47 (47) employees, of which 23 (24) per cent were men and 77 (76) per cent women. During the year, 12 (4) people were hired at the head office. ForumCiv has collective agreements in Sweden and staff-related policies and guidelines that apply to all employees throughout the organization.

Funding

ForumCiv's activities are funded through grants from Sida, the EU, other Swedish authorities, private organizations and through sales and membership fees. Sida Civsam remains ForumCiv's primary donor. Five of the 12 donors were donors other than Sida. These were the Swedish Council for Higher Education (UHR), the EU, the MAC Foundation, and the International Labour Organization (ILO). ForumCiv received responses to 13 (12) applications, of which 3 (3) were approved, 5 (9) were rejected, and 5 (2) applications were still waiting for responses at the end of the year.

Internal processes

The pandemic continued to affect ForumCiv's work in 2021. Several of the activities that ForumCiv carried out took place digitally. In periods when it



was possible to meet physically, hybrid meeting variants were organized. For example, ForumCiv's 2021 Members' Meeting was a hybrid meeting with participants attending in person digitally, which was much appreciated by members.

ForumCiv's Annual Meeting elected a new board and a new chairman for the next two years. During the year, the Board, together with member organizations and head office, began work on new strategic goals that ForumCiv's Annual Meeting will adopt in 2022.

An internal evaluation was carried out by Going Global 2.0, which was an extension of the Going Global organizational change initiative. Most of this work has been completed and/or has now been completed in ordinary operations and the change process has thus been completed.

Members have requested greater opportunities for exchange between one another. During the spring, a digital membership platform was therefore launched. By the end of the year, almost half of member organizations had registered an account. On the member platform, information is shared by and with members. Information on membership issues and other development assistance-related challenges is discussed.

During the year, there was a continued strong focus on updating and quality-assured work on security and IT issues, and staff participated in several security trainings.

Following dialogue with ForumCiv's member organizations, the Board decided to establish a financial buffer to meet any future deviation issues within the Swedish Partnership Programme.

Significant events during the year

Our operations

ForumCiv's policy programme and Theory of Change governs the direction of operations, which consists of four areas: direct support, sub-granting, capacity development, and advocacy. Development co-operation is intended to strengthen civil society and is achieved partly through sub-granting to Swedish civil society organizations and partly by directly supporting local organizations in partner countries.

ForumCiv works in many parts of the world with a variety of partners. Since 2014, results of all projects supported by ForumCiv are reported in the Dira project database. ForumCiv's results model measures results at the following levels: rights bearers, civil society, duty bearers, and legal/political frameworks. The different levels are all important elements in ensuring increased democratic influence, human rights, and more just and sustainable societies.

The continued pandemic defined 2021, as challenges in the world continued with, among other things, continued reduced democratic space. The consequences of this have been clear at the national and international level and have also affected ForumCiv's activities in a number of ways. There were not only negative consequences, but it was a challenging year in several ways. Despite this, work continued for most offices and programmes.

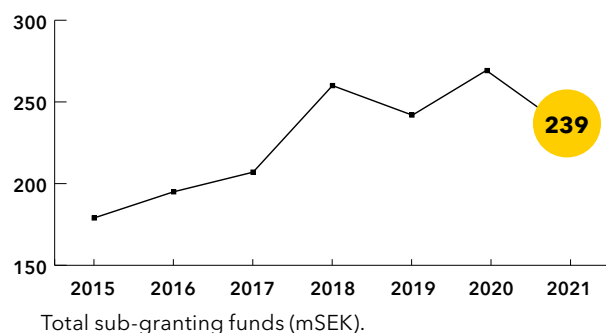
Sub-granting

In 2021, SEK 239 million (264) was paid out to 175 (197) development, trainee and information projects granted to 103 (123) Swedish organizations. Of these, 70 (63) of the organizations, or 68 per cent (51 per cent), were ForumCiv members.

Sub-granting was financed by grants from Sida Civsam, Sida Partnership Forum, Sida Europe, and Universitets- och högskolerådet (UHR). The projects were carried out in collaboration with local civil society organizations in 67 (70) countries, and the information projects were conducted in Sweden. All projects that are granted funding from ForumCiv must have a rights-based perspective and contribute to both the Swedish government's strategies for each grant and to ForumCiv's purposes.

Development grants

Development grants are sub-granted to Swedish organizations that engage in development cooperation with civil society organizations in



other countries. In 2021, SEK 207 million (233) was transferred to 113 (137) projects and programmes that financed development in 67 (70) countries.

Information and communication grants

Infocom grants are sub-granted to Swedish organizations that conduct information and advocacy work in Sweden and aim to disseminate knowledge and/or advocate for a just and sustainable world. All projects contribute to one or more of the goals within Agenda 2030. In 2021, SEK 27 million (27) was transferred to 47 (45) Swedish organizations that funded 53 (50) information and communication projects.

Trainee grants

Trainee grants are sub-granted to Swedish organizations that wish to place young people abroad for internships. Interns are expected to gain increased interest and understanding of development cooperation and other cultures. In 2021, SEK 5 million (5) was sub-granted to 9 (7) trainee projects in 6 (12) countries.

Direct support

In total, ForumCiv supported 111 (102) local organizations through 13 (12) programmes through its country offices and regional offices. The operational cost of ForumCiv's direct support programme through its country offices in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe amounted to SEK 62 million (75).

The Eastern European regional office manages programmes that support a wide range of civil society actors and initiatives in Belarus in the fields of democracy, human rights, the environment, and gender equality. Activities focus partly on advocacy work as well as strengthening Belarusian civil society through the exchange of experience with Swedish organizations. In 2021, a feasibility study was conducted in Armenia to identify options for strengthening civil society in the country. Work in Eastern Europe was significantly affected by the political situation and the humanitarian catastrophe in Eastern Europe, and thus ForumCiv increased its focus on risk management, adaptability and international influence.

The Latin America and Caribbean regional office continued to support grassroots organizations and social leaders to promote resilience and self-organization. This has increased confidence in the regional office in Colombia, where co-operation

with local actors is vulnerable. Two programmes were implemented in 2021 with funding from the European Peace Fund, the EU Delegation in Colombia and Sida. One programme focused on reconciliation and reintegration and was implemented in partnership with a Swedish organization and a Colombian organization. The second was implemented in partnership with five other Swedish organizations in Colombia and focused on rural development. 2021 was a violent year in Colombia, which in combination with the pandemic, affected the implementation of the programmes. ForumCiv intensified its search for funding as international aid being made available for the region decreases.

The East and South Africa regional office continued to implement its two programmes in Kenya in 2021 that use innovative and effective approaches. The Wajibu Wetu Programme supports local organizations that, through art, media and new forms of organization, defend equality, democracy and the human rights space. The Inclusive Growth Programme is implemented in a development partnership with the ILO. The office contributes with capacity building for rights holders to ensure dialogue with responsible parties, which has contributed to improved understanding where rights holders see the responsible party as "more of a partner". In addition, ForumCiv is working in partnership with a large constellation of partners from Sweden and Uganda in a project funded by Vinnova to expand the sanitation system and contribute to cholera-free communities. The implementation of these programmes in 2021 was affected by the drought and the pandemic. At the same time, uncertainty and recurring violent conflict in project areas have intensified. Collaborations with other like-minded organizations have had a positive impact on the implementation of strategic activities.

Cambodia country office. Human rights defenders, environmental activists and journalists are extremely vulnerable in Cambodia. ForumCiv had to downsize its country office and team but strengthened its internal control system and staff performance. A new manager started at the office in 2021 and the programme leader position was removed. During the year, work focused on successfully implementing two programmes and building relationships and networks. With new financial support for the Environmental resilience EU Cambodia programme, four partners have been engaged to implement projects. The covid-19 pandemic delayed certain

activities and reduced the number of field visits carried out by the ForumCiv team. However, the implementation of projects from all partners has been on the right track since they managed to continue working closely with local partners with small group meetings and virtual platforms.

Liberia country office. The recent increase in military takeovers in West Africa shows the vulnerability of democracy in the affected countries and the region as a whole. In Liberia, society has been kept relatively open and implementation has taken place to a large extent where we support a number of small local organizations. A conference on land rights was held and networking in Liberia is being strengthened within the framework of the Sustainable Ownership Programme, which is funded by the Swedish Embassy. In 2021, ForumCiv also implemented the Right(s) Way Forward method as part of a project aimed at securing women's land rights, which was led by ActionAid in Liberia and funded by the EU Delegation. The Sustainable Ownership Programme and ForumCiv have signed a new agreement with Sida for the implementation of a new four-year programme that runs from 2022 to 2025. All employment contracts, with the exception of the country manager, expired on their agreed dates. These positions were not extended as the recently approved programme required a new set of expertise and knowledge compared to the previous programme.

Communication and influence in Sweden is conducted primarily through the Globalportalen and Global Development Issues programmes, both of which are funded by Sida Partnership Forum. Globalportalen aims to increase knowledge about global justice issues and to encourage and channel community involvement to young people in Sweden. Globalportalen's main channels are its website and social media, as well as external activities, such as participation in career fairs and courses aimed at participating organizations, which were conducted during the year. The Global Development Issues programme conducts advocacy work towards decision makers. In 2021, its actions included drawing attention to reduced democratic space via its own landing-page on the ForumCiv website. The work of driving public opinion for EU legislation that regulates businesses' obligations towards human rights and the environment continued. ForumCiv was active in the debate on democracy aid and analysed the media's reporting of aid, which resulted in a report. Another report in which

ForumCiv participated was Spotlight, which dealt with Sweden's work in relation to Agenda 2030. In preparation for the 2022 Swedish election, discussion programme "Biståndskvarten" was also created, in which five politicians responsible for development assistance answered questions about the positioning of their development assistance policy. The programme has also raised ForumCiv's core issues at various events such as the Gothenburg Book Fair and the Swedish Forum for Human Rights' MR-dagarna event.

Goal fulfilment 2021

ForumCiv's five strategic goals came into effect on 1 January 2018, which are used as the baseline year for the goals. The summaries correspond to each objective and are based on a comprehensive set of indicators reported by the global management team and ForumCiv board.

Strength through diversity

By highlighting the diversity of our partner organizations' work, which is not limited by themes or geography, ForumCiv is recognized as a key platform for civil society among members and stakeholders. We are an influential voice in development work that stands up for civil society's role in promoting democracy and protecting human rights.

In 2020, the board decided that organizations wishing to apply for project grants must also be members of ForumCiv. In 2021, ForumCiv also began a survey of its membership base and of the type of collaborations that have the potential to develop.

Through a survey answered by 89 different partner organizations in Sweden, of which 76 were member organizations, ForumCiv learned that these partners' work focuses on women's empowerment (60 organizations), environmental and climate justice (36) and social and economic justice (38), followed by peace-building (24), the rights of indigenous peoples and minorities (19), and sexual and reproductive rights (19). Less common areas were workers' rights (6), migration (9), culture and the arts (10), land and food sovereignty (12) and the rights of people with disabilities (12).

Effective and trusted

Through a rights-based approach, which informs our change theory, we achieve far-reaching change. Our

donors and partners perceive us as being credible and reliable organization to work with.

The continuous dialogue ForumCiv has with its donors and partners shows that we improved our relationships during the year. For example, the number and frequency of complaints about the partners' relationship with their administrators decreased significantly. This is a result of the efforts made to structure ForumCiv's work with a focus on the needs and requirements of our members and partners. In addition, in its largest programme, in dialogue with member organizations, ForumCiv has shifted its focus from project- and programme-based support to strategic partnership support. This increases the decision-making power of ForumCiv's partners, and positions as a key contributor to civil society organizations' own plans and goals.

Continuous improvement

Our processes are well defined, efficient and fully implemented. Leadership is clear and our aims guide our decisions. Innovation and co-ordination between departments, with members and through strategic partnerships, improves outcomes and improves the potential of synergies.

ForumCiv has developed several policies and internal procedures and routines to improve information management, communication with partners, transparency in decision making, personal responsibility and safety. The work of harmonising ForumCiv's practice in all departments and offices continues.

Close to where change occurs

To be able to benefit from contextual understanding, competences, and opportunities, we seek to be close to where change occurs.

ForumCiv is a unique organization in Sweden that supports civil society around the world. For example, the Swedish Partnership Programme enables a diversity of partners that other aid organizations do not reach. We publish a large number of reports, stories of changes and examples of cases that show that ForumCiv's support is crucial for the work of our Swedish partner organizations and their local partner organizations, for small, medium and large grants. The challenge is to be able to systematically collect data and analysis about activities that drive change. Finding a good way to do this is the next step in ForumCiv's work. At the same time, we are developing our capacity for

analysis within our own programmes in all country and regional offices.

Financial sustainability

More diversified funding enables ForumCiv to improve its financial sustainability.

The number of donors and agreements remained stable, and ForumCiv has received positive indications from its major donor regarding funding for the next five years. The implementation of the new fundraising strategy has begun, and an internal working group has been established.

Future development

Internal development

Although several development areas for 2021 were affected by the pandemic, much was also achieved. Our work on strategic financing made substantial progress in 2021, with documents updated and, crucially, a fundraising function being established. We also applied for, and were granted, a 90 account.

During the year, membership work began with an increasingly active membership platform and greater co-operation. Contact with members has been good, although of course the pandemic severely limited the number of physical meetings that could be held. That the membership meeting could be held in hybrid form in November is something we are extremely happy about. ForumCiv's key role as a major civil society platform was more visible during the year than in previous years. We are now more often contacted by industry media to comment on particular issues. We have also taken an active role in advocacy work through external communication such as debate articles and reports, as well as in contact with politicians and other stakeholders.

Risk and risk management

ForumCiv identifies and reviews risk through our operational planning and follow-up systems at department level and for ForumCiv in general. Risks are reviewed in conjunction with reviews of the Plan for Operations three times a year.

The major risks identified for 2021 concerned the effects of shrinking civil space and the covid-19 pandemic on our partners and operations. These could affect ForumCiv's capacity to conduct its

work to support and transfer funds to international civil society. In 2021, we saw increasing social tension and conflict, shrinking civic space and democratic decline. The covid-19 pandemic and political instability in Sweden have also affected the organization's operations. However, these challenges increase the relevance of ForumCiv's work, while at the same time imposes limitations for the implementation of its operations. In terms of challenges related to the pandemic, operations have been adapted or postponed.

Other risks were related to challenges of making full use of the systems ForumCiv uses internally, security issues in terms of IT and data, and in areas where human rights defenders and ordinary citizens are exposed to threats and violence. We also saw risks associated with not putting enough effort into fundraising, being unable to communicate our results adequately, and not being relevant to our members. We address these risks through proactive work and learning throughout ForumCiv to continuously work with funding issues across the organization and by ensuring robust internal processes.

Risks associated with corruption and inaccuracies in financial management are risks for sub-grant recipients, and internally for ForumCiv. By meeting the requirements placed on us and following up on recommendations and opinions of system audits and other audits, ForumCiv works continuously to ensure a high level of internal control and governance. It will also be important to continue discussing risk sharing with Sida regarding repayments related to deviations.

Results and financial position

In 2021, ForumCiv's revenues excluding financial items amounted to SEK 349 million (391), which is a decrease of SEK 42 million or 10.7 per cent compared with the previous year.

Funding from Sida amounted to SEK 321 million (367), constituting the most significant proportion of revenues at 90.9 per cent (93.9). Framework grants from Sida accounted for the largest proportion of revenues from Sida, amounting to SEK 278.0 million (300.3), a decrease of SEK 22 million or 7.3 per cent compared to the previous year. Other Sida grants

amounted to SEK 43.3 million (66.7), a decrease of SEK 23.4 million or 35 per cent. Other grants increased from SEK 19.6 million to SEK 25.4 million.

In 2021, SEK 239 million (264) were paid out to 175 (197) development, trainee, and information projects that were granted to 103 (123) Swedish organizations. In total, 70 (63) organizations representing 68 per cent (51) of ForumCiv members. Sub-granting was financed by grants from Sida Civsam, Sida Partnership Forum, Sida Europe, Sida Africa, and the UHR. Activities were conducted in 68 (71) countries.

Total costs before financial items amounted to SEK 352.9 million (390.6). Of which, SEK 335.3 million (369.4) was related to operational costs, of which, the largest proportion, 71.4 per cent (71.5), was granted to other non-governmental organizations in Sweden. The share of operational costs for ForumCiv's direct support programmes through country offices in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Europe amounted to SEK 62 million (75), 18.6 per cent (20.4). The remaining share, SEK 33.4 million (29.9), which is 10.0 per cent (8.1), relates to operational costs of the head office.

Administrative expenses amounted to SEK 17.6 million (21.2), equivalent to 5.0 per cent (5.4) of total operating costs.

Multi-year overview	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Framework Sida (mSEK)	278,0	300,3	267,2	277,2	243,4
Grants to other units (mSEK)	43,3	66,7	85,5	67,6	72,1
Other grants (mSEK)	25,4	19,6	17,2	13,5	12,1
Member fees (mSEK)	0,5	0,5	0,5	0,5	0,6
Number of members	175	148	134	137	143
Number of employees, Sweden	47	47	50	46	48
Number of employees, country offices	74	88	84	56	62
Number of country offices	5	6	6	6	5
Number of donors	12	12	12	13	12

Income statement

<i>Amount in SEK thousands</i>	<i>Note</i>	<i>2021-12-31</i>	<i>2020-12-31</i>
Membership fees	2	547	478
Gifts	2	10	11
Sida funding	3	321,288	367,055
Other funding	4	25,406	19,575
Net sales	5	509	473
Other income		813	3 043
Total operating income		348,573	390,636
Operating costs	6	-335,283	-369,360
Fundraising costs	6	-24	0
Administrative costs		-17,673	-21,237
Total operating costs	7, 8	-352,980	-390,597
Operating result		-4,383	39
Result from financial items			
Interest income and similar profit/loss items		1,435	254
Interest costs and similar profit/loss items		-600	-2
Total result from financial items		835	252
Result after financial items		-3,548	291
Result for the year		-3,548	291

Change in operational funds

Result for the year according to the income statement (see above)	-3,548	291
Determination of operational funds	-53	-35
Use of operational funds from previous years	4,264	847
Amount remaining for the year/change in equity carried forward	662	1,102

Balance sheet

Amount in SEK thousands	Note	2021-12-31	2020-12-31
ASSETS			
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets			
Software	9	0	0
Tangible assets			
Equipment	10	85	98
Financial assets			
Long-term receivables		212	201
Long-term securities holdings	11	14,230	15,115
Total fixed assets		14,527	15,414
Current assets			
Current receivables			
Accounts receivable		275	221
Tax receivable		94	130
Other receivables		1,033	2,305
Pre-paid expenses and accrued income	12	8,296	12,709
		9,698	15,365
Cash and cash equivalents		123,597	130,675
Total current assets		133,295	146,040
TOTAL ASSETS		147,823	161,454
EQUITY and LIABILITIES			
Equity			
Reserves		20,112	24,323
Surplus carried forward		7,631	6,969
Total equity		27,743	31,292
Current liabilities			
Accounts payable		1,740	2,091
Tax payable		-	-
Received unused grants for repayment	13	16,072	4,509
Received unused grants	14	93,845	117,393
Other liabilities		5,845	2,725
Accrued expenses and prepaid income	15	2,578	3,444
Total current liabilities		120,080	130,162
TOTAL EQUITY and LIABILITIES		147,823	161,454

Changes in equity

Amount in SEK thousands

	Reserves		Equity carried forward	Total equity
	Funds for own co-funding etc.	Administrative reserve		
Opening balance	3,566	20,757	6,968	31,291
Allocation to reserves	53	0	-53	
Utilisation	0	-4,264	4,264	
Result for the year			-3,548	-3,548
Closing balance	3,619	16,493	7,631	27,743

Cash flow statement

Amount in SEK thousands	2021	2020
<i>Operations</i>		
Result after net financial items	-3,548	291
Depreciation	76	94
Adjustment for other items not included in cash flow	-298	2 292
Tax paid	-36	-72
Cash flow from operations before changes in operating capital	-3,807	2,604
Increase/decrease in receivables	5,667	7,759
Increase/decrease in liabilities	-10,082	-11,675
Cash flow from operations after changes in operating capital	-8,222	-1,311
<i>Investment activities</i>		
Acquisition of intangible fixed assets	0	0
Acquisition of tangible fixed assets	-63	-91
Sales of tangible fixed assets	157	0
Acquisition of financial fixed assets	0	0
Sales of financial fixed assets	884	678
Cash flow from investment activities	978	587
Cash flow for the year	-7 244	-724
Opening cash and cash equivalents	130,675	133,525
Exchange rate differences	165	-2,126
Closing cash and cash equivalents	123,597	130,675

Additional information for the cash flow statement

<i>Paid interest</i>		
Interest received	1,435	254
Interest paid	600	2
<i>Adjustments för items not included in the cash flow statement etc.</i>		
Exchange rate differences	-165	2,126
Sales of fixed assets	0	0
Gain/loss vid retirement of fixed assets	0	0
<i>Total adjustments for items not included in the cash flow statement etc.</i>	<i>-165</i>	<i>2,126</i>

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include the following:

Cash		
Bank balances	123,597	130,675
Total	123,597	130,675

Notes

Amount in SEK thousands unless otherwise stated.

Note 1 Accounting and valuation principles

ForumCiv's accounting and valuation principles conform to the Swedish Annual Accounts Act, BFNAR 2012:1 (K3) and Giva Sweden's guidelines for annual reports. Assets and liabilities have been valued at acquisition cost unless otherwise stated.

Gifts

All gifts are unconditional and recognised as income at the time of receipt.

Net sales

Net sales relates to the sale of services, books, and publications.

Other income

Other income is income that is not primary for the organization.

Membership fees

ForumCiv Annual Meeting sets membership fees for the forthcoming year. Stated income from membership fees is equal to invoiced fees for the current year.

Funding from Sida and similar authorities

All funding from Sida and similar authorities are stated in accordance with K3 regarding funds from public bodies. This means that they are recognized as income only if it can be deemed, with a high degree of certainty, that the funds will not be reclaimed, i.e. that the organization has incurred costs related to the purpose. Conditional funds are taken up as liabilities until such time as the costs that the funds are to cover arise.

Operational expenses

Operational expenses are such expenses that relate to the organization's remit as defined in its statutes. Operational expenses also include expenses for advocacy work in those cases advocacy and information activities fall within the organization's actual remit, such as thematic campaigns that the organization runs, any joint costs distributed to operational costs, and administrative costs incurred as a direct consequence

of an activity or similar that falls within the scope of a project, for example an organization's overseas office administration expenses. Note that the management of activities within the framework of a project often includes costs for grant applications because such funding is often essential to project implementation. Consequently, costs for grant applications, which are typically modest, are included in operational expenses, as well as costs associated with follow-up and reporting on the project itself and, for example, donors.

Administrative expenses

Administrative expenses relate to costs for central administration in Sweden, (management and administration, finance, IT, HR, and planning), that are not defined as operational expenses, fundraising costs or costs for the member organization, (Annual Meeting and members' meetings). Administration constitutes a quality guarantee for the organization's operations and for donors.

Reporting of funding

Grants that are given to NGOs in Sweden and abroad are recognised as costs when they are disbursed. Grants financed by the EU are booked as receivables when disbursed and recognised as costs when organizations report. Received grants are recognized as income at the time of payment. Unused grants during the year are transferred to the next year as prepaid income. Agreements on grants that run over several years are not included as liabilities in the balance sheet. Corresponding agreements on grants from financiers that have not yet been received are also not reported as receivables.

Remuneration to employees

Regular payments to employees in the form of salaries, employer contributions and similar are reported as costs as and when the employees perform a service. Since all pension commitments are classified as defined contributions, they are entered as costs in the year the pension is earned. The organization pays no commission-based remuneration.

Receivables

Receivables are reported in the amount that is expected to be paid after individual assessment.

Foreign currencies

Receivables, liabilities and cash and cash equivalents in foreign currencies are valued at the exchange rate on the balance sheet date.

Fixed assets

Tangible and intangible fixed assets are valued at acquisition cost and are depreciated systematically over their estimated lifetime if their useful life is greater than three years and their acquisition value exceeds SEK 20,000. Software refers to licenses for computer programmes.

The following depreciation periods are applied:

Software	5 years
Equipment	3 years
Office equipment	3 years
Computer equipment	3 years
Vehicles	3 years

Financial assets

Shares, bonds and fixed-income funds are stated as financial fixed and current assets. These assets are valued at acquisition cost less any write-downs. Valuations are made for the entire securities portfolio, (known as a portfolio valuation).

Cash flow statement

The cash flow statement is prepared in accordance with the indirect method, which means that it is based on the operating result. The reported cash flow includes only transactions that involve incoming or outgoing payments. Only cash, bank balances and current investments are classified as cash and cash equivalents.

Note 2 Membership fees and gifts

Membership fees SEK	Number of members	TSEK	Number of members	TSEK
	2021		2020	
0	0	0	3	0
250	3	1	1	0
500	40	20	28	14
750	1	1	0	0
1,000	24	24	20	20
1,500	42	63	36	54
2,000	12	24	13	26
2,500	2	5	0	0
3,000	8	24	10	30
4,000	0	0	0	0
7,500	2	55	0	0
5,000	11	15	13	65
8,000	15	120	10	80
12,000	10	120	7	84
15,000	5	75	7	105
Total	175	547	148	478

In 2021, a total of 175 members paid a membership fee.

Gifts were received from the following sources:	2021	2020
General public	10	11
Total	10	11

Note 3 Sida grants

	2021	2020
CIVSAM framework grant	243,160	266,605
Partnership Forum framework grant	34,840	33,774
Other Sida grants	43,288	66,676
Total	321,288	367,055

Allocation of Sida grants

	2021	2020
Belarus	7,479	9,293
Cambodia	1,066	11,201
Kenya	18,335	25,350
Liberia	15,711	13,338
Somalia	0	6,765
Sweden	696	729
Total	43,287	66,676

Note 4 Other grants

	2021	2020
Swedish authorities	5,726	5,386
EU grant	12,875	9,206

Grants from other organizations	6,805	4,983
Total	25,406	19,575

Note 5 Net sales

	2021	2020
Sales of services	501	469
Sales of books/publications	8	4
Total	509	473

Note 6 Operational expenses

	2021	2020
Communication	1,488	1,671
Advocacy	1,547	1,474
Competence and method development	2,403	3,487
Globalportalen	1,508	1,402
Africa Programme	36,887	45,414
Asia Programme	3,011	11,004
Latin America Programme	15,422	11,199
Europa Programme	7,170	7,642
Grants to Swedish organizations	239,426	264,140
Grant administration	16,338	16,523
IT, finance, HR, office costs	10,083	5,403
Total	335,283	369,360

Note 7 Employees, salaries and employer contributions

<i>Salaries and other remuneration</i>	2021	2020
Board and Secretary General	1,083	1 117
<i>Other employees</i>		
Sweden	20,977	21,438
Colombia	1,919	2,238
Cambodia	1,404	2,778
Kenya	6,860	6,938
Lithuania	1,600	2,014
Somalia	0	2,775
Liberia	2,982	3,217
Total	36,825	42,515
<i>Employer contributions</i>	11,495	11,254
(of which pension costs)	2,914	2,717
Of pension costs:		
Secretary General	152	188
Remuneration less than half the base amount	171	135

The Secretary General's salary was not revised in 2021 and remained at the same level as the previous year. In 2021, the monthly salary amounted to SEK 67,500. Local regulations on benefits linked to employment are applied. Pension provisions are made in accordance with current collective agreements.

Average number of employees	2021		2020	
	Number	Of which men	Number	Of which men
Sweden	47	23%	47	24%
Colombia	12	39%	12	38%
Cambodia	10	36%	14	50%
Kenya	28	50%	29	45%
Lithuania	6	17%	7	22%
Somalia	0	0%	9	69%
Liberia	18	72%	17	69%
Total	121	39%	135	41%

Board members and senior executives	2021		2020	
Executives	Number	Of which men	Number	Of which men
Board members	10	40%	9	22%
Secretary General	1	0%	1	0%
Other management	13	31%	13	38%

Note 8 Leasing

The organization primarily leases office space and office equipment. Expensed leasing fees amount to 5,528 (6,084). Of the leasing fees for 2021, 5,184 are costs for rent. The most significant lease agreement concerns the head office in Stockholm with a cost of 3,367. The contract for the office expires on May 31, 2022.

	2021	2020
Within 1 year	4,368	4,193
1-5 years	7,821	2,857
Longer than 5 years	0	0
Total	12,189	7,050

Note 9 Software

	2021	2020
Accumulated acquisition value		
Opening value	2,288	2,288
Disposals and retirements	0	0
New acquisitions	0	0
<i>Total</i>	<i>2,288</i>	<i>2,288</i>
Accumulated depreciation according to plan		
Opening value	-2 288	-2 288
Disposals and retirements	0	0
Depreciation for the year according to plan	0	0
<i>Total</i>	<i>-2 288</i>	<i>-2 288</i>
Carrying amount at the end of the year	0	0

Note 10 Equipment

	2021	2020
Accumulated acquisition value		
Opening value	4,079	3,988

New acquisitions	63	91
Disposals and retirements	-378	0
<i>Total</i>	<i>3,764</i>	<i>4,079</i>
Opening value	-2,585	-2,550
Grants for the year	0	-35
Disposals and retirements	356	0
<i>Total</i>	<i>-2,229</i>	<i>-2,585</i>
<i>Net acquisition value</i>	<i>1,535</i>	<i>1,494</i>
Accumulated depreciation as planned		
Opening value	-1,396	-1,337
Disposals and retirements	0	0
Depreciation for year as planned	-53	-59
<i>Total</i>	<i>-1,449</i>	<i>-1,396</i>
Carrying amount at the end of the year	85	98

Note 11 Securities holdings

	2021	2020
Long-term		
Opening	15,115	15,793
Acquisitions	0	0
Sales	-884	-678
Closing book value	14,230	15,115

Specification of securities:

	<i>Reported value</i>	<i>Market value</i>
Equity funds		
Institutionella Aktiefonden stabil	0	0
Nordea Emerging Stars Equity fond	360	696
Nordea European value fund	472	590
	832	1,286
Bonds		
Institutionella Bforetagsobligationsfonden	4,313	5,134
Nordea Bostadsobligationsfond	2,422	2,533
Nordea Swedish Stars	2,537	2,534
	9,272	10,201
Fixed income funds		
Nordea Institutionell Kortsränta	1,574	1,602
Handelsbanken Institutionell Kortsränta	2,552	2,614
	4,126	4,216
Total securities 2021-12-31	14,230	15,703

Institutionella Aktiefonden Stabil was sold in 2021.

Note 12 Prepaid expenses and accrued income

	2021	2020
Insurance	256	308
Rent	1,029	1,107
Grants, other organizations	6,548	10,721
Other items	463	573
Total	8,296	12,709

Note 13 Received unused grants for repayment

	2021	2020
Unused grants from Sida	7,696	1,104
Unused grants from other donors	0	0
Interest	29	28
Exchange rate gains	393	1
Repayments of funds transferred	7,954	3,376
Total	16,072	4,509

Unused grants related to surpluses from completed projects

Note 14 Received unused grants

	2021	2020
Prepaid funding, Sida	50,032	68,481
Prepaid funding, other donors	43,813	48,912
Total	93,845	117,393

Note 15 Accrued expenses and deferred income

	2021	2020
Salary and holiday pay	1,062	1,360
Accrued employer contributions	291	369
Other items	1,226	1,715
Total	2,578	3,444

Note 16 Pledged assets and guarantee commitments

	2021	2020
Pledged assets	1,599	1,599
Guarantee commitments	-	-

ForumCiv has signed a bank guarantee regarding rent for premises in Stockholm.

Note 17 Significant events after the end of the financial year

The lifting of covid-19 restrictions in Sweden has affected our operations positively, for example being able to resume physical member contacts, visits and travel.

Escalating violence in Colombia, where several of our partners are under renewed threat, affects our work in Colombia and our advocacy work in Sweden.

The security situation in Ukraine means that our staff in Eastern Europe need to be prepared for heightened tensions in the region.

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

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