

FBA in Sub-Saharan Africa



The Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) is commissioned by the Swedish government to work for peace, security and development in conflict-affected countries, as part of Sweden's development aid. One of the regions that FBA has the task of operating in is sub-Saharan Africa.

FBA's Mission

According to Sweden's strategy for development cooperation with sub-Saharan Africa 2016–2021, FBA is tasked with supporting regional actors in sub-Saharan Africa in their efforts to prevent and resolve armed conflicts, and implement the UN Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security.

Women, Peace and Security

The African Union (AU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) both aim to increase equal participation of women and men in their work, and to better recognize and meet the different security needs of women, men, boys and girls. FBA is supporting their work on gender mainstreaming, for example through capacity development, technical advice and the establishment of support structures to create awareness, knowledge and organizational change. FBA also supports efforts to enhance knowledge and skills in thematic areas such as conflict-related sexual violence and the legal framework on women, peace and security.

The Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center (KAIPTC) and FBA jointly organize a gender advisor course to further strengthen the capacity of gender experts in the region, and to increase their possibilities to network and create synergies.

Dialogue and Mediation

Both the AU and ECOWAS have dedicated mediation units. FBA supports both organizations with staff trainings, in-country workshops and technical advice to enhance their capability to peacefully resolve conflicts on the continent. The partnership with ECOWAS has electoral violence as a thematic focus, as this is a major threat to peace in many West African societies. This work has generated expanded networks in member states, and valuable lessons learned that ECOWAS is taking forward to improve its practices.

Staff from both ECOWAS and the AU are also part of an FBA training and mentoring programme, with the aim of encouraging a dialogue-centred approach to conflict prevention and management.

FBA in Brief

The Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) is the Swedish government agency for peace, security and development. FBA supports international peace operations and international development cooperation. The agency conducts training, research and method development in order to strengthen peacebuilding and state-building in conflict and post-conflict countries. We also recruit civilian personnel and expertise for peace operations and election observation missions led by the EU, UN and OSCE. The agency is named after Count Folke Bernadotte, the first UN mediator. FBA is under the authority of the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs.