

Swedish central government authorities in development cooperation

In terms of number and financial volume Swedish public authorities play a major role in Swedish Development Cooperation and Reform Cooperation with Eastern Europe. By assessing compliance and organizational aspects the evaluation aims at strengthened capacity of both Sida and the authorities to achieve development impact in cooperating countries.

More than 60 Swedish central government authorities are involved in development or reform cooperation

Most of the interventions are in Eastern Europe

Swedish authorities are used by Sida as implementing agencies in Swedish Development Cooperation and Reform Cooperation in Eastern Europe. The authorities are most commonly involved in capacity development in the partner countries' public sector. Most of the interventions in which Swedish central government authorities are involved are in Eastern Europe.

One of the prerequisites for Sida to directly engage a specific authority is that it have "unique skills". Furthermore, it is expected to follow generally accepted forms of cooperation, enhance reporting, as well as comply with other demands and expectations placed on it.

Among the expectations the organization of work as well as the compliance with rules, regulations and agreements has been deemed particularly important. Therefore, the evaluation centers on these aspects of the involvement of Swedish authorities in Sida-financed interventions.

The evaluation includes four authorities as cases: The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, The Swedish Police, Statistics Sweden and the Swedish National Financial Management Authority. Interventions in Vietnam, South Africa, Serbia and Montenegro served as examples to illustrate how the authorities adapted to widely differing traditions and management systems.

IN RELATION TO THE AUTHORITIES SADEV FOUND THAT:

- Most of the reviewed authorities have developed both an organizational and policy basis to promote and facilitate participation in international development cooperation
- Work has, in most cases, evolved through long-term involvement in development cooperation

- The international departments have found it difficult to pull resources from the authority's core business
- When external demands and top management participation in international development cooperation were lacking, the participation has fallen significantly
- In some cases requirements and expectations by the Swedish government have been formally expressed

IN RELATION TO SIDA SADEV FOUND THAT:

- Little support has in recent years been developed by Sida for the Swedish authorities
- Staff find it difficult to relate to a number of applicable policies, governing documents, laws and regulations, which may be perceived as conflicting
- There are uncertainties about the application of Swedish procurement regulations, and the establishment of "unique expertise". Thus clarifications by top management would be needed

RECOMMENDATIONS

The evaluation provides 12 recommendations to Sida on how to strengthen its efforts to involve Swedish authorities.

The Government Offices/Government is recommended, on the basis of a review, to clarify the expectations put on Swedish authorities to participate in international development cooperation.

For the authorities, 11 general success factors are presented.

SOURCES AND FURTHER INFORMATION

This SADEV Evaluation Brief is based on the report *Svenska myndigheter som genomförare av Sidafinansierade insatser*, SADEV Report 2010:3. The report and other SADEV publications are available at www.sadev.se