



Sida

The Case of the International Vaccination Institute (IVI)

NORMATIVE DIALOGUE ON ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

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Normative dialogue addresses Swedish values and priorities and is part of Sida's global advocacy work to get better development results to reduce poverty and promote a human rights based approach, gender equality, conflict prevention and the integration of the environment and climate change perspective. This brief is an example of normative dialogue on environment and climate change between Sida and IVI.

BACKGROUND

International Vaccination Institute (IVI) aims at accelerating research and development for vaccines to protect the most vulnerable people. It collaborates with over 160 partners worldwide from its headquarters in South Korea.

Since 2004 a biosafety and quality management system for laboratory waste and chemicals has been in place at IVI, while the concern for environmental and climate change issues across the organisation and in its projects and programmes has been less prioritized.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DIALOGUE

Sida has supported IVI since 2002 through unearmarked funding and provision of tools and guidance for influencing operations and values. In 2018 the Swedish requirement of integrating the environment and climate perspective and a Sida-IVI dialogue prior to a new agreement phase acted as a catalyst and motivation for IVI to address environment and climate change.

The normative dialogue on environment and climate change has been structured around tailored-made questions for research cooperation in the appraisal phase and in the continuous interchange. The dialogue is a constant feature applying various means, including informal communication, personal visits to the headquarters and by Swedish participation in IVI's

governance meetings. Through its seat in the Board of Trustees Sweden advocates for the environment among other priorities.

With Sida as a continuous discussion and coaching partner, accompanied with dialogue support from Sida's Helpdesk for Environment and Climate Change¹ and involvement of the environmental company Goodpoint, IVI advanced a series of actions for environmental sustainability. The results are especially evident in the last three years.

Sida supported an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in 2018 that acted as an overall context-specific dialogue across IVI, mapping of environment impacts and identification of goals. Through the mutual learning the entry points for environmental integration became more tangible for all. It laid the ground for the establishment of IVI's Environment Committee (ECO Committee) responsible for the implementation of IVI's Environmental Management System.

A central activity for bringing staff on board was a gathering of staff on 5 June 2020 – the World Environment Day – where IVI's statement on environment sustainability was jointly announced IVI's statement on environmental sustainability².

Sida's organisation of Sida Science Days, May 2019, was an occasion for IVI to share progress in environmental mainstreaming with other organisations in the same domain.

MAIN RESULTS

The Sida-IVA dialogue created an enabling environment that contributed to a series of achievements bringing the environmental and climate change priority forward.

An Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Committee was established with the mentioned ECO Committee as a sub-group. The ESG Committee includes members from IVI's facility operation, procurement and lab safety as well as top management which helped creating a spirit of ownership.

¹ <https://www.sidaenvironmenthelpdesk.se>

² <https://www.ivi.int/ivis-statement-on-environmental-sustainability/>

IVI's standalone environmental policy is in progress and will be completed in 2021 and the Environmental Management System has been introduced with yearly and five year goals.

In the interaction with partnering organizations, IVI has now an approach that promotes environmental considerations. Such example is an environmental assessment procedure for potential work sites for clinical trials.

Concrete results from the operations include:

1) Installation of solar cells on containers for cold chain transportation; and 2) Pilot testing for renewable energy based supply management system for vaccination to expand the cold chain in settings with limited power.

A catalysing effect of the Sida Science days on other organisations is evident by the researchers from the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research in Bangladesh, who took influence of IVI's progress and are interested in engaging in such efforts.

Among donors to research for health, Sida has proposed that health organisations putting efforts into their gender and environmental work should be acknowledged to a greater extent. It has led to a discussion on how environmental requirements could be applied by all donors in a harmonized way.

KEY TAKE AWAYS, IDENTIFIED JOINTLY BY SIDA AND IVI

- The consistency of dialogue over time is the overall recipe for impact.
- The agreement condition for an environmental impact assessment in the previous phase laid the ground for dialogue and IVI's uptake and ambition ahead. Sweden's influence on other donors to include similar requirements will have greater effect on the organisations in question, in comparison to a Swedish voice only.
- A broad inclusion of staff functions and levels is critical for reaching an organisational change. Further, internal as well as external communication that simply and clearly pinpoint results, even the smallest, stimulates progress. It may be a simple graph showing energy savings from one month to another.



Dr. Andrea Haselbeck, Senior Research Scientist, Epidemiology, Public Health, Impact Unit at IVI.
Photo Credit: IVI

Finally, it can be debated if the pharmaceutical sector across global health organisations has been keeping pace with other sectors concerning environmental considerations. The vast amount of waste from COVID-19 vaccine campaigns is an additional challenge. Therefore IVI's environmental advances and ambition for the future is not only important for the institute, its partners and beneficiaries but as a catalyst and inspiration for similar actors worldwide.

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