



SVERIGES AMBASSAD

DECISION

**Embassy of Sweden
Bogotá**

Decision date	Decision No.
2006-05-08	A-16/06

Reporting Luz Estela Martelo	Reg. No
Approved by Lena Nordström, Ambassador	Signature
Present Elisabet Hellsten	Consulation with

Copy to Embassy (orig) Director General's Office	Chief Controller RELA, Nilenfors UTV, K. Metell-Cueva	Distr. (date/sign)
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Subject and decision

Management Response with Regard to Evaluations and Audits:

Sida Evaluation 05/24 FORTALECIMIENTO DE INICIATIVAS POPULARES DE LA SOCIEDAD CIVIL POR LA PAZ EN COLOMBIA 2002-2005

Name and No on the Evaluation/Audit:	05/24 Fortalecimiento de iniciativas populares de la sociedad civil por la paz en Colombia, 2002-2005. Apoyo de Asdi al programa de Consejería en Proyectos (PCS) Strengthening peace initiatives from the civil society in Colombia, 2002-2005. Sida's support to Project Counselling Services' (PCS) program
Country	Colombia
Sector	15050 Strengthening civil society

DECISION

to approve the enclosed action plan

to Embassy of Sweden in Bogotá and Sida/RELA be responsible for the follow-up of the action plan.

Action Plan

Recommendations	Action Plan	Responsible	Period
The recommendations of the evaluation are the following: Sida should continue supporting PCS due to the importance of protecting displaced persons and victims of the conflict, as well as to strengthen their organizations. A results oriented program should be designed. Expected results and effects within a future programme should be expressed in a concrete way, and should be widely discussed among PCS and its counterparts The new program should show Sida's support as part of PCS institutional programs. The next program should be for a three-year period. Flexibility should be allowed in the reallocation of resources due to changes of the context of the country. Sida should explore other synergies and promote meetings among its counterparts in Colombia, in order to promote a dialogue among state entities and programmes (Peace laboratories, Peace development programmes, etc.), NGOs and base organizations. PCS should organize activities and events to allow an analysis of the strategies	A new project proposal for a three-year period shall be submitted to RELA/Sida for support	Swedish Embassy in Bogotá / RELA A continuous dialogue among the Embassy in Bogotá and PCS should be held during the elaboration of the new proposal, to make sure that the recommendations of the evaluation team are included in the new program proposal	May 2006

Recommendations	Action Plan	Responsible	Period
of its partners and the way PCS is supporting and implementing them. There should be a better coordination and coherence in PCS' work in the region. PCS should be more transparent in informing its partners on the strategies, the different programs implemented by them, and on other partners supporting PCS. Delays on the disbursement of Sida's contribution should be solved through a more effective mechanism.			



Bogotá, D.C.

Luz Estela Martelo
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Delges:

Management response to the evaluation of Project Counseling Services (PCS) – "Strengthening regional peace initiatives within Colombian civil society via PCS during 2004-2005"

Background

Since July 2002, Sweden has supported PCS in Colombia through the projects: *Strengthening Civil Society's Peace Initiatives* (Decisions A-09/02 and A-16/02), and *Strengthening regional peace initiatives within Colombian civil society* (Decision RELA 68/04). The aim with the projects was to contribute in the consolidation of civil society's initiatives for peace and to build consensus for their peace agendas among the population, other civil society organizations and towards institutions with political decision making power.

The evaluation of Swedish support to PCS program during the period 2002-2005 was carried out on September 2005 by Nils Boesen a/s Process & Change Consultancy Firm. The main objective of the evaluation was to provide Sida and PCS with an analysis of the program financed by Sida as well as its results, in order to contribute to the dialogue between Sida/Embassy/PCS when considering possibilities of funding a continuation of the program. The evaluation was to be seen as a learning process both for Sida and PCS.

Main conclusions of the evaluation

1. The program has obtained good results in the protection of the rights of displaced persons and victims of the conflict. A broad impact is shown on this issue and a process of openness and dialogue has been created among organizations supported by the program and the governmental authorities at a local and regional level.
2. The results of the program are related with social demands; mutual support among base organizations; protection for leaders

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and communities; visibility of the effects of the conflict; possibility of the organizations to be heard in public spaces and have some incidence in public policies, especially at a local and regional level.

3. There are lower results in building peace agendas
4. Significance advances in strengthening the organizations. Gender issue is mainstreamed in the overall program.
5. The program is highly relevant and fits well within Swedish cooperation policy for Colombia.

General comments by Sida

Sida agrees with the outcomes of the evaluation. The evaluation team has taken into consideration the effectiveness, impact, relevance, sustainability and efficiency of the program as highlighted in the terms of reference. The main findings and recommendations made by the team are very important and should be taken into consideration in the new program to be supported by Sida.

A broad range of organizations was interviewed by the team, as for example: UNHCHR, OCHA, UNDP, Colombian NGOs, and PCS counterparts. Two visits to the field were made, providing the team with an overall approach of PCS' program and its results achieved.

Comments on the evaluation recommendations

1. **"Sida should continue supporting PCS"** – Sida/Embassy agrees with this recommendation, as the program with PCS is important to contribute to strengthen organizations representing displaced persons and vulnerable sectors.
2. **"A results oriented program should be designed... Expected results should be concrete and detailed, and discussed in a permanent dialogue among PCS and its counterparts"** – The new program should be based on a Logical Framework Approach with an active participation of PCS' counterparts.
3. **"A future program supported by Sida should be part of PCS' institutional programs, allowing Sida see its support in a broader context"** – Sida/Embassy agree with this recommendation and PCS should consider this issue in their new program proposal
4. **"The next program should be for a three-year period. Flexibility should be allowed in the reallocation of resources"**

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as a result of the changes in the context of the country" – A three-year program shall be proposed in the next program proposal. Flexibility in reallocation of resources should be allowed with the previous approval of Sida for major changes. Information on these changes should be shown in the financial reports.

5. **"Sida should explore other synergies and promote meetings among its counterparts in Colombia, in order to promote a dialogue among, for example, Peace Laboratories, Peace and Development Programs and NGOs" –** promoting dialogue and exchange of experiences among Sida counterparts in Colombia is one of the priorities of the Embassy in Bogotá.
6. **"PCS should organize events which allow the exchange of ideas and analysis on the strategic focus of its partners, and the way PCS is supporting and implementing them" –** This recommendation should be considered by PCS in order to promote a clear understanding of the different strategies of its partners and their visions on their cooperation with Colombia.
7. **"There should be a better coordination and coherence in PCS' work in the region. PCS should be more transparent in informing its partners on the strategies, the different programs and on the other partners which are supporting PCS" –** Sida/Embassy agrees with this recommendation which should be considered by PCS within their activities in Colombia.
8. **"Delays on the disbursement of Sida's contribution should be solved through a more effective mechanism" –** the disbursement plan in a new agreement with PCS should be coherent with the submittal of reports and disbursement periods from PCS to their counterparts. PCS should make a proposal to Sida on dates and periods before a new agreement is signed.