

Building Issues Equal Rights to Good Advice

**Studies on Construction and
Urban Planning in Developing Countries**

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**Department for Infrastructure
and Economic Cooperation**

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Sida Evaluation 05/28

**Department for Infrastructure
and Economic Cooperation**

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Executive Summary

The Building Issues publication initiative started in the middle of the 1980's. Sida realised that technical problems were common in construction projects supported by Swedish development aid. Sida made contact with Lund University and the department of Housing Development and Management (HDM), which deals with the design, production and use of housing from the immediate neighbourhood to the city level, in different parts of the world. On the commission of Sida, HDM has been responsible for a series of problem-oriented studies done by HDM or researchers connected to HDM. The purpose has been to highlight current problems within Sida's fields of operation in the developing countries. The results of the studies were distributed in publications, called "Building Issues".

The prime objective of this evaluation is to determine the effectiveness and the relevance of the Building Issues publications in countries where Swedish development cooperation programmes are operating. It was carried out by engaging professionals from Asia, Africa and Latin America who, except from their home country, also visited three other countries in the area to collect information gathered from pre-distributed questionnaires sent to key stakeholders.

The Building Issues publications have been in line with the objectives set by Sida. HDM has been very conscious of then operative and focus changes in the international development activities. However, the Building Issues Programme has been lacking a dissemination or distribution strategy that has limited the impact of the publication of reaching a wider spectrum of the target group. The evaluation team provides several recommendations on how to transform the Building Issues Programme into an instrument meeting with the new challenges of housing in the developing world.

Karl Heli

2005-11-17

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Housing Development & Management (HDM) is a department at Lund University. HDM deals with the design, production and the use of housing, also considering the relationship between a dwelling and its surroundings, from the immediate neighbourhood to the city level, in different parts of the world. The HDM programs aim to increase our knowledge of how to improve the processes leading to good living conditions and sustainable development, particularly for groups with little economic resources. The department also conducts advanced international training for planners, architects, engineers and other professionals working with housing and construction. HDM carries out research and studies in the following main areas;

- Housing policy and strategies for housing provision
- Design with consideration for climate, energy efficiency and comfort
- Environmental construction
- Architecture and quality from a user's perspective
- Methods for self-help and cost effective construction
- Renovation and management of large-scale housing areas
- Evaluation of the design and construction process

On the commission of Sida, HDM has been responsible for a series of problem-oriented studies. The studies have been conducted by HDM or by researchers engaged by HDM. The purpose has been to highlight current problems within Sida's field of operations in the developing countries. The results of the studies carried out were published in a series of reports, and it is hoped that these experiences will serve as guidelines and recommendations within each respective subject field. Building Issues is a terminology used by HDM for papers produced in accordance with the description above.¹

The aim was to publish two to four papers yearly. Each should deal with one specific problem. Building Issues are meant to:

- Offer specific and applicable recommendations
- Be easy to understand
- Be scientifically correct
- Be accessible to potential users
- Support the Swedish development cooperation

The expert panel, that reviews each paper, guarantees the quality and relevance of the papers. Building Issues publications are distributed to members of the Building Issues Network. The Building Issues Network consists of organisations in the field of construction and urban development such as government authorities, NGOs, consultants, students, training and research institutes. These organisations, mainly situated in developing countries, can receive Building Issues papers free of charge. The Building Issues Network currently has over 1900 members in more than 130 countries.

¹ Lund University, Housing Development and Management, Building Issues, Cover page 2.

Since 1989 HDM have produced 31 Building Issues studies. These have been distributed in hard copies free of charge to all members of the Network, and they have been made available for non-members for a token amount of 30 SEK (approx. US \$ 4). HDM has been solely responsible for the practical work involved in the production and distribution, and has developed a comprehensive database of all network members. The most recent papers are also available through the Internet. (www.hdm.lth.se)

1.2 Overall Purpose of the Evaluation

The Evaluation will primarily be guided by Sida's interest in assessing the effectiveness and relevance of the Building Issues Program.

The Evaluation elaborates a proposal for an improved and updated way of developing and spreading information dealing with issues relevant for urban and shelter development, in particular of interest for the countries where Swedish development cooperation programs are operating directly or indirectly.

1.3 Evaluation Criterion

The Building Issues program is evaluated in terms of Sida's general development co-operation goals as well as more specific goals for urban development.

The Building Issues program is evaluated in terms of the impact achieved in Sida's partner countries.

The study shall elaborate a proposal for an improved and updated way of developing and spreading information dealing with issues relevant for urban and shelter development, in particular of interest for the countries where Swedish development cooperation programmes are operating directly or indirectly

1.4 Key Questions

- Which activities have been developed by HDM to specifically cater for the Building Issues programme?
- How has the database been designed and used, and who is the owner of that database?
- What input to the Building Issues programme has been provided by the International Training Courses (ITP) organised by Sida?
- Has HDM been able to meet the set target regarding the number of Building Issues as well as the delivery times. Are there any specific reasons for cost overruns, if any?
- Is there a relevance to continue developing Building Issues also for future development cooperation?
- Is there a possibility to propose for an improved and updated way of developing and spreading information dealing with urban and shelter development?

1.5 Report Structure

A team of consultants, of which three shall come from the three regions (Africa, Asia and Latin America) shall carry out the services. The study shall include an analyses and evaluation of the Building Issues and in depth interviews with the concerned experts at HDM in Lund. The staff members of the Urban Development section at Sida as well as Programme Officers at selected embassies in partner countries.

The data base of the Building Issues network shall be used to access individuals to get their views on the programme. A special questionnaire shall be developed to assist in this matter.

The report shall be structured in the way proposed in Sida's Evaluation Manual.

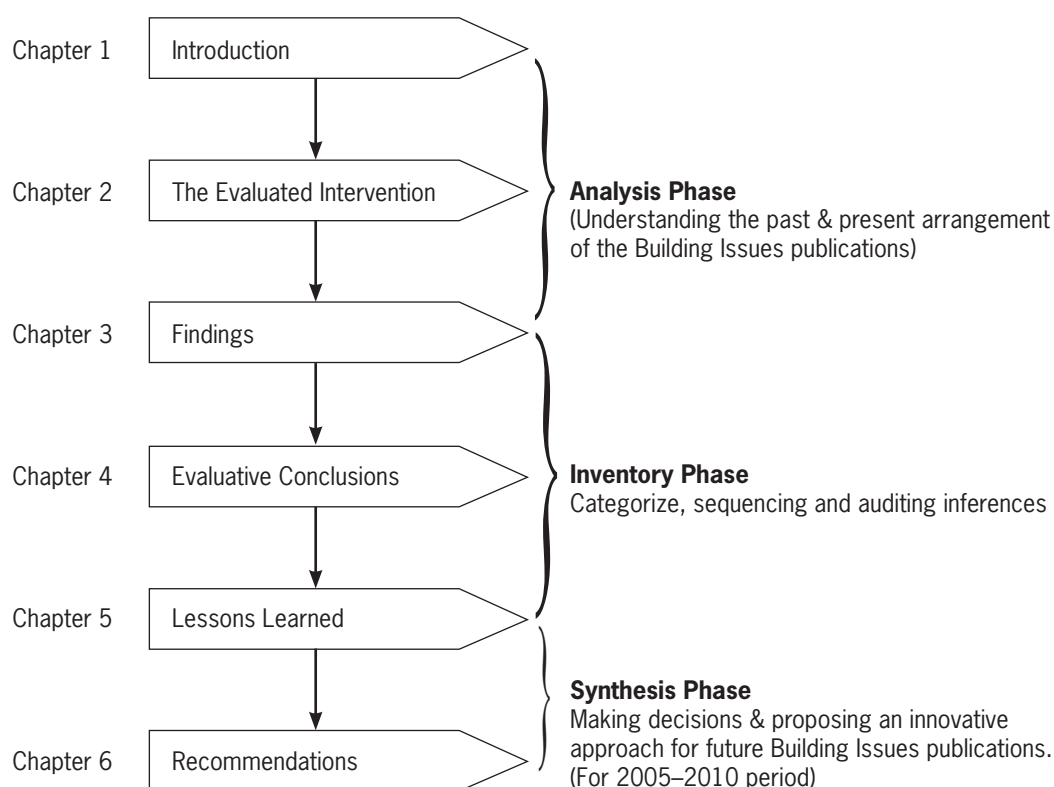


Fig.: Shows graphic picture of the report structure; created by Brhanu Mussa (Ethiopia)

Activities carried out by the evaluation team

Sweden

- In depth interview with the concerned experts at the Lund University as well as the concerned staff members of the Urban Development Section of Sida; Stockholm.
- A workshop was implemented with the participation of the regional consultants.
- A visit to Bo-Verket was implemented in relation to Building Issues publications.
- A special questionnaire has been worked out together with the regional consultants.

Regional activities

- In depth interview with the concerned Program Officers at selected embassies in partner countries.
- A survey was carried out in each one of the regions, in the residential country of the regional consultant and in two other countries where Sida has cooperation programs.
- The regional surveys were conducted with focus on professionals working in NGOs, the private sector, municipalities, central government institutions and universities. The survey also included professionals responsible of coordination, implementation, promotion, supervision of design projects/ programs or policies for housing, human settlements and urban development.
- The Building Issues Network database was used to access individuals to get their view on the program.
- In the different regions the updating of the phones, e-mails and addresses of the HDM network list was made.
- After the network was updated, an e-mail was sent to all the professionals on the list, to inform them about the evaluation of the Building Issues publications and asking for their cooperation.

- The information was collected with the use of personal interviews and the questionnaire.
- The regional consultants made a summary of the findings and submitted them to the evaluation team leaders.
- The Evaluation team leaders compiled the information collected in Sweden and the other regions and prepared a draft document to be discussed with the regional consultants.
- The final document was submitted to Sida.

2 The Evaluated Intervention

2.1 Main Characteristics

HDM took the responsibility to coordinate and conduct studies on construction and urban planning in developing countries. In this way Sida both strengthened its resource base in construction issues and avoided studies where there already was sufficient information. The task included problem-oriented, applied research. Based on the experience gained by HDM, which will also identify suitable areas for future studies, the main tasks have been:

- to conduct problem-oriented studies
- to publish and distribute the findings
- to accumulate knowledge and experience
- net-working

Conduct problem-oriented studies

Well-specified, problem-oriented studies will produce concrete and relatively quick results as an input to Sida's supported projects and other development activities. The goal is to limit each study to a maximum of six months. A study could be a desk study, based on a review of the literature and a summary of available information, or a field study, which includes one to three weeks in the field.

HDM whose studies are used as a base to produce Building Issues publications. This material will also function as internal documents, and be available at HDM for anyone, whether in the Building Issues network or not, who is particularly interested.

Publishing and distribution of the findings

An edited version of some studies have been published by HDM in English and a few in Spanish as a Building Issue. The publications have been condensed, oriented towards practical recommendations, and has included:

- A description and analysis of the problem
- Suggestions for realistic solutions and recommendations

Building Issues have been designed to be specific and easily understood. Distribution is mainly through HDM using the established network.

Accumulating knowledge and experience

Information and expertise has been built up steadily, partly through the studies conducted by researchers and consultants, and partly, through the expert panel that monitors all activities. The documentation and reference material acquired are available at HDM for anyone interested. Since different people conduct the tasks during a relatively short period, it has been particularly important for HDM and the expert panel to maintain continuity. The experience gained was used to identify new research areas and to adapt the overall Building Issues program focus to new current developments in the area of urban development.

Networking

A network of organisations has been established to encourage the exchange of information with relevant countries. The purpose of the network has been to link the activities of the Building Issues publications to developing countries so that the studies are relevant and the information is spread effectively.

The Building Issues publications have been mostly produced and distributed in printed format. The format has been developed with a reader centred approach. Every Building Issues publication covers only one subject in a limited number of pages. It has the necessary illustrations with a high pedagogical level. As a result the publication is easy to read. The printing is not expensive and easy to save or file away. The low weight makes the distribution by mail cheap.

All the issues have kept the same structure and editing profile during the 12 years of existence of the publication.

Structure of the publication

- 1 Introduction
 - Problem
 - Method
 - Organisation of the report
- 2 General Considerations
 - a)
 - b)
 - c)
- 3 Recommendations
 - a)
 - b)
 - c)
- 4 Case study
 - Recommended Literature

The evaluation of the intervention was conducted in countries from three regions (Africa, Asia & Latin America) where Sida is most active in its developmental cooperation support.

Investigation of the dissemination of the Building Issues publications and their impact on the professional audience and others, their relevance on the urban development scheme has been assessed.

2.1.1 Location

The evaluation team has selected three regions to collect the necessary information for this evaluation; Africa, Asia and Latin America. A local consultant has been appointed for every region and three countries have been identified per region. The countries in each region are selected based on the

assumption that they can fairly prevail a uniform & wider geographical coverage across the areas in the regions that Sida has been efficiently operational.

The following countries were chosen accordingly:

<i>Africa</i>	Ethiopia	<i>Asia</i>	Sri Lanka	<i>Latin America</i>	Bolivia
	Mozambique		Bangladesh		Costa Rica
	Tanzania		Vietnam		El Salvador

2.1.2 History

In the middle of the 1980's, Sida realised that experts in the field could not easily solve many technical problems arising in construction projects supported by Swedish development aid. The reasons could be inadequate basic knowledge on the issues, or that the information existed but was not accessible. This applied both to projects implemented by Swedes (consultants, construction companies) and by the cooperating countries. Some of the problems came up repeatedly in different projects and different countries. These had often to do with technical issues such as building materials and construction techniques but also climate, functions, finances, management, housing and urban development.

These questions could not normally be investigated within the time and budget frames of the individual project. The problems might have required more input (such as reviews of literature, laboratory tests, field studies) than it was normally allowed for in a development project. It was also important to document and publish the findings, so the problem did not have to be solved repeatedly.

A long-term program of applied research could have been of great value to raise the quality and cost efficiency of construction supported by development aid, if it was carried out and documented in a simple and clear manner, and if it was problem oriented; that is if research addressed issues arising from actual construction projects. It was also important to focus on relevant issues, so that the necessary field or desk studies were completed in a short period of time and focused mostly on identifying practical and sustainable solutions.

Based on that Sida started the initial cooperation with HDM (previously called LCHS).

At the end of the 1960s, Lund University began offering courses in architecture and construction in developing countries. The focus moved to research, development and consultancies, and in 1979 The National Building Research Council initiated the establishment of Lund Centre for Habitat Studies (LCHS).

In 1988 LCHS was affiliated to the Department of Architecture and Development Studies at the School of Architecture, which gave LCHS a firm base within the normal program at Lund University. The LCHS management group was made up of the heads of the Departments of Building Functions Analysis, Building Science and Architecture, representing The School of Architecture, and LCHS's principal researchers.

LCHS's had the task to initiate, coordinate, support and implement research on housing, construction, design, physical planning and household energy in developing countries. BFR regularly renewed the basic grant for the period 1st of December, 1979 through 30th of June, 1993. Grants for research related to developing countries at the Schools of Civil Engineering and Architecture were increased during the period of implementation.

Three research areas were developed at LCHS as a direct result of the BFR grant.

- Household energy began as studies of improved kitchens and stoves and was expanded “to the household energy system including technology (stoves), design of kitchens and buildings, and end-use patterns”. An agreement was signed with the Stockholm Environment Institute in February

1990 for long-term cooperation and financing. The reference group for the program was made up of representatives from SAREC, Sida/Infrastructure Division, SEI and LCHS.

- Building climatology studies the effect of building design on indoor climate in desert regions, including the use of computer simulations. These findings, together with studies of traditional construction, were applied in
 - contemporary architecture. An aim was to collect the base data to develop building standards related to energy. The project was a co-operation with institutions working for housing improvement and building research in Algeria and Tunisia.
 - Low-income housing and building technology deals with economical, locally appropriate construction, it includes studies of general housing strategies, as well as narrow technical issues. Work was done in direct cooperation with organisations in the country, as well as Swedish institutions.
- The results of the applied research can often be used directly and published in the Building Issues.

The two main tasks of HDM to promote research in developing countries by the individual disciplines in the Schools of Architecture and Civil Engineering and to do its own research can be specified as follows:

- Promote research by other departments.
- Identify the need for applied research by companies, government agencies, etc.

Since 1989 HDM has produced 31 Building Issues publications studies. These have been distributed in hard copies free of charge to all members of the Network, and they have been made available for non-members for a minimum amount.

HDM has been solely responsible for the practical work involved in the production and distribution and has developed a comprehensive database of all network members. Although HDM has not been able to dedicate sufficient time to the database, resulting in that the information is not up to date. Many of the members has change physical and electronic address and even workplace and are difficult to locate.

The most recent papers are also available through the Internet. (www.hdm.lth.se)

2.1.3 Organisation

HDM proposes different studies of fieldwork, which are potential subject for publication. An expert panel first approves those proposals. This expert panel has representatives from Sida and HDM.

The expert panel reviews each paper to guarantee the relevance and quality. The studies results are edited to fit with Building Issue requirements and printed as a Building Issue publication. Building Issues publications are distributed to members of the Building Issues Network. The Building Issues Network consists of organisations in the field of construction and urban development such as government authorities, NGOs, consultants, students and training and research



Fig: (from HDM presentation)

institutes. These organisations, mainly situated in developing countries, can receive Building Issues publications free of charge. The Building Issues Network currently has over 1900 members in more than 130 countries.

2.1.4 Stakeholders

Based on the agreement reached by the evaluation team, some organisational structure has been suggested as to how logically proceed with the evaluation procedure concerning target domains for the evaluation intervention.

Accordingly to effectuate fair distribution and representation on the sampling of the evaluation contact targets, the following groups of stakeholders have been selected on the merit of their natural participation in the parts they have played that best describes the organisational interactive participation and involvement.

This evaluation has divided the stakeholders in two groups, one in Sweden and the other group in the regions where Sida has development cooperation

Swedish stakeholders:

Sida

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) realized that experts in the field could not easily solve many technical problems arising in construction projects supported by Swedish development aid. The reasons could be inadequate basic knowledge on the issues, or that the information existed but was not accessible. This applied both to projects implemented by Swedes (consultants, construction companies) and by the professionals in the cooperating countries. Some of the problems came up continuously in different projects and different cooperation programs. These often have to do with technical issues such as building materials and construction techniques but also climate, function, finances, transport, environment, management, housing and urban development in general.

These problems cannot normally be investigated within the time and budget frames of individual project. The problems might require more professional capacity than the available capacity at every situation and new inputs than is normally allowed for a development project. It is also important to document and publish the findings, so the same problem does not need to be resolved with every new project.

Having a long-term program of applied research has been of great value to raise the quality and cost efficiency of construction supported by development aid, if it is carried out and documented in a simple and clear fashion, with a problem oriented approach: that is. If the research addressed issues raised from actual construction projects. It is also important to identify relevant problems, so that the selected individual studies are completed in a short time and focus on identifying practical solutions.

Role: Sida's role has initiated the programme. Sida has been represented in the expert panel of the Building Issues publications. Sida's role has also been to guide the development of the initiative and to see that it is relevant to Sida's objectives.

Responsibility: First to approve the initiative proposal and to finance its activities. To periodically evaluate the results achieved by Building Issues publications.

Outputs and benefits: Sida has been benefited in the way that the results obtained by the implementation of Building Issues initiative have supported Sida's own policies concerning local capacity building in the partner countries. One of the outcomes of the Building Issues is to facilitate the service delivery capacity of local institutions and professionals. That will benefit the poor communities, which is in line with Sida's major objective.

HDM

HDM is a department at Lund University. HDM deals with the design, production and the use of housing, considering the relationship between a dwelling and its surroundings, from the immediate neighbourhood to the city level in different parts of the world. The HDM programs aim to increase our knowledge of how to improve the processes leading to good living conditions and to sustainable development, particularly for groups with little economic resources. The department also conducts advanced international training for planners, architects, engineers and other professionals working with housing and construction. HDM carries out research and studies in the following main areas;

- Housing policy and strategies for housing provision
- Design with consideration for climate, energy efficiency and comfort
- Environmental construction
- Architecture and quality from a user's perspective
- Methods for self-help and cost effective construction
- Renovation and management of large-scale housing areas
- Evaluation of the design and construction process

In addition to international academic contacts, HDM has an extensive network of contacts with institutions and companies within the construction sector in Sweden. HDM has an administration with experience of international research projects, as well as a library with material on planning and construction in developing countries. HDM cooperates with institutions in the following countries:

Algeria	Germany	South Africa	Bolivia
Kenya	Tanzania	Botswana	Latvia
Thailand	Costa Rica	Lesotho	Tunisia
Cuba	Nicaragua	Vietnam	El Salvador
Peru	Zambia		

Role: Implementing agency

Responsibility: HDM has the responsibility of implementing the Building Issues initiative, selecting the issues, printing and distributing.

Outputs and benefits: HDM performs research and educational activities on the area of building, and Urban Development in general. The Building Issues publications have been integrated to the HDM activities and in that way achieving a mutual benefit.

HDM is producing the Building Issues publications and reporting to Sida through the implementation of their own evaluations.

HDM places a high priority on the dissemination of information from its own research projects and those of others. This goes a long way to increase the intellectual capital in developing countries and increasing the ability of local professionals who may not be able to undertake their own research.

Other Swedish institutions

There are a number of other Swedish institutions, which have experience and knowledge in areas of interest for the initiative. There are institutions working nationally and internationally with Urban Development Issues.

Role: To possibly contribute to the Building Issues publications.

Responsibility: Accepting that HDM has the overall responsibility on the Building Issues publications, (in any case the institutions working internationally), supported by Sida or other donor to make use of the Building Issues publications in their initiatives.

Outputs and benefits: Even if there are no inputs at the moment, Building Issues publications could enhance those institutions own international capacity building activities.

Regional stakeholders:

Government departments

Role: The Government Departments are one of the target groups for the Building Issues publications.

Responsibility: To support the distribution and implementation of knowledge distributed through the Building Issues publications. To facilitate the implementation of relevant recommendations and to facilitate its applicability to local Urban Development policies and building norms.

Outputs and benefits: Capacity building and improved delivery capacity.

Municipalities

Role: Municipal officials and politicians are an important part of the Building Issues publications target group. *The municipalities are the interacting partners to HDM.*

Responsibility: To distribute and implement recommendations in the Building Issues publications. To facilitate the use of Building Issues publications in internal capacity building activities.

Outputs and benefits: Enhanced internal professional capacity. Learning from concrete examples in other areas. The use of best practices methodology in the Building Issues publications. Capacitating of communities.

Educational institutions

Role: Regional Educational Institutions are a secondary target group. HDM has direct cooperation with some educational institutions which directly or indirectly participate in the implementation of the Building Issues initiative.

Responsibilities: To cooperate with HDM and to make use of Building Issues in their own educational activities. To make Building Issues publications available in their library facilities.

Outputs and benefits: The free access to relevant educational material. The participation in an international relevant network. Access to a publication channel of own experiences.

NGO's and CBO's

There are many NGO's and CBO's in Sida's partner countries dealing with Urban Development issues. Those grass root organisations sometimes act as implementers of projects and other times as beneficiaries only. The public participation components on most of the initiatives requires an education process, therefore is Building Issues publications a very important tool for these organisations.

Role: Local NGO's and CBO's are an important area of the target group.

Their needs and interest areas are important to the Building Issues publications expert panel in the selection of issues to be taken by Building Issues publications.

Responsibilities: To make use of Building Issues publications in their internal capacity building activities and in the capacitating of communities. To Provide HDM with good practice examples and own experiences in areas of urban development.

Outputs and benefits: NGO's and CBO's are capacitated by using Building Issues publications and have the possibility to consult HDM about different pertinent issues on their activities.

Professionals

Swedish and regional professionals are participating in development projects as consultants or as government or municipal officials. They normally have the technical responsibility in project implementation. Professionals have also a need of sharing experiences and learning from good practices.

Role: Both as target group and partners to HDM and the Building Issues publications.

Responsibilities: To promote the use of Building Issues publications and to provide HDM with professional support when required.

Outputs and benefit: Capacity building. The participation in a international urban development network.

Individuals

Individuals or communities participate active or passive in local based development initiatives. Again the public participation component in most of the projects requires an information and local capacitating activities. Building Issues publications is an excellent tool to be used at that level.

Role: Individuals and communities are the ultimate target group.

Responsibilities: To participate in capacity building activities and to make use of Building Issues in their own community based activities.

Agencies, organisations, groups or individuals

who have a direct or indirect interest in the development intervention or its evaluation.

Building Issues publications Network Distribution 2004 (1928 Members)

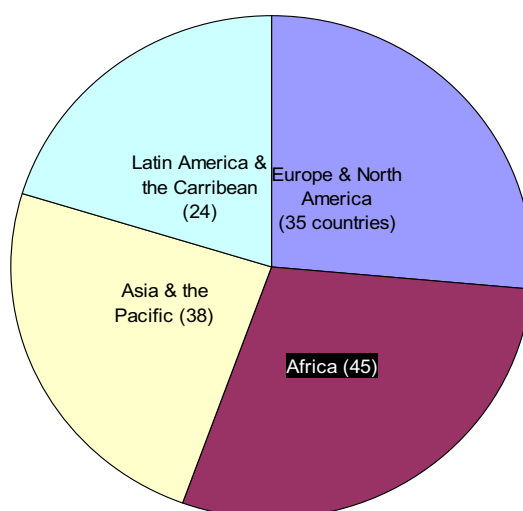


Fig.: Graphic from HDM shows the number of countries in the regions that are members of the Building Issues network.

2.2 Focal Problems

Some of the focal problems raised by and observed by each concerned major or minor stakeholder are the evaluated targets intervention on the assessment of the Building Issues program. Past and present arrangement is explained respectively. Here it will be wise to note that although the problems raised by the stakeholders have a direct bearing as potential hindrances to their progress, due attention is given by the evaluating team to the other sides of such and other inferred problems which indeed will have paramount consequential effect on the final evaluative conclusion.

Problems raised by and observed at Sida

Having conducted a short meeting with concerned people from the Urban Development section of Sida Stockholm the following ideas as challenges in the courses of focus diversion as per the globalization trend over the years were observed. As such, Sida has been transforming its specific developmental support like capacity building in the earlier periods of its initiatives to the broadest spectrum of development cooperation of today to developing countries

Lack of a statutory feed back mechanism to Sida to communicate with its targeted end users down to grass root level to justify the relevance and success of its Building Issues program, is one of the other problems observed.

Lack of coordination between different capacity building initiatives in different departments of Sida was another.

Claims of ownership of the Building Issues program network is also an area of interest. The contract signed between Sida and HDM makes clear references to the ownership of the material produced in the desk- and field studies but the ownership of the Network is not specified.

Problems observed at HDM

The non-existence of strategy for network users feed back.

The lack of information about the cost that goes to a single Building Issues publication and dissemination difficulties understanding the entire budget that is allocated for this purpose which hinders the possible comparison and justification on costs competition.

There have been observable delays on the delivery time of especially the recent publications compared to the aspired time schedule agreed on with Sida. Related to that arises the question of possible cost overruns of the initiative.

The web-site open to all interested users may not be affordable to most targeted end-users as many of them do not have access to Internet services which in some areas can be non-existent.

Problems raised and observed by the end users

The following problems raised and observed are results of physical in-depth interview and questionnaire based on surveys of the individual professionals view and representatives of target institutions;

- Most agendas addressed as issues in the content of the Building Issues publications so far are targeted to technical know how of selected portions of a grand social problem, focusing on skill capacity building in the area of the building industry; hence deviating from assumed mass potential end users, as may be envisaged by Sida's development cooperation objectives
- Most of the Building Issues network members are professionals and consequently they may use the Building Issues publications mostly in their private practises which limits the use in creating awareness on the wider potential target domain (if it was displayed in public libraries). This consequence induces less exposure of Building Issues publications to the potential users. The problem of limited use of such potential ready-made reference publication to solve problems of limited local technical skills and the potential in the improvement of technical knowledge on urban-rural development;
- Finally the contents of Building Issues publications tends to be more of academic character than of practical character and benefit more the professionals than other public domains. So this also needs slight modification to reach the wider potential target end users down to the grass root level as aspired by Sida; parallel to its purpose to be a potential database for academic research and course work resource for Lund and other universities around the world.

2.2.1 Objectives of the intervention

The prime objective of the evaluation is to determine the effectiveness and relevance of the Building Issues publications in the countries where Swedish development cooperation programs are operating.

After evaluating the entire database of the Building Issues publications developed over the years, and assessing its tangible impact on the envisaged user target domains through physical interview & questionnaire-based response, some logical implications suggestive of future prospect of the program can be derived. And this shall be referred to Sida's previously prevailing and presently aspiring developmental cooperation objectives in developing countries.

Consequently, as pointed out in earlier chapters, Sida has a self-initiated responsibility as the owner of the Building Issues program implemented by HDM.

The latter has also been participating in the provision of ITC (International Training Courses) organized by Sida; which has a potential of complementing the Building Issues publications imparted in some areas.

It is therefore Sida's natural obligation to follow up the relevance of the impact of the Building Issues publications as compared to its goals and financial outlay. In verifying this, the entire database compiled over the years have been evaluated in terms of the general objectives set.

2.2.2 Logic of cause and effect

The following basic objectives agreed on between Sida and HDM can be converted in this evaluation to measurable indicators.

Offer specific and applicable recommendations: The Building Issues publications has provided a large numbers of applicable recommendations, which are of use to all the regions. Hence the concepts presented in the Building Issues publications have to be adapted to specifically local situations. The applicability of the concepts applies to all the regions, but practical recommendations have to be adapted. Hereby the reason for the academic character of the Building Issues publications. The objective has partially been achieved.

Be easy to understand: The Building Issues publications are a short presentation of different technical issues, it gives the reader a basic understanding of different concepts and in many cases a short presentation of a concrete example. The objective has been achieved.

Be scientifically correct: This applies to technical concepts and in a way to practical examples. In relation to non-technical issues and in matters of social character we cannot expect a widely recognized level of correctness when at the same time there are a number of international theories. Again in relation to policies and concepts an adaptation to the prevailing local situation becomes very necessary. The objective has been generally achieved.

Be accessible to potential users: The potential users are many. The accessibility has been limited by the development of the users network. There are at the moment around 2000 registered users in the network database. During this evaluation we contacted many professionals and institutions, which have never heard of or been in contact with the Building Issues publications. There is not a specified target in number of users in the initiative. To reach a wider number of the target group requires a new strategy and financial support for its implementation.

An electronic publication should increase the number of users but the printed publication is still much required to reach users with no access to electronic mail. The objective has not been achieved.

Support the Swedish development cooperation: The Building Issues publications have been in line with the objectives of the Swedish Development Cooperation objectives. Sida promotes an integrated and

holistic approach for Urban-Rural development and the integration of social, environmental, economic, gender, HIV/AIDS and other relevant issues. Building Issues publications and HDM followed this development and proposed a new focus of Building Issues publications considering matters that are not only of building and technical character, but the adaptation has not been completely implemented.

The objective has been achieved in the early years but Building Issues publications are now in need of a revision.

General Performance Indicators

The impact achieved locally regarding different aspects of the Urban Development

Building Issues has been focused on technical aspects of the construction process. However in the latest numbers other than technical issues has been considered.

The local impact has been positive but reduced and limited mostly to some Sida financed activities. Other local building activities have had little use of the documents.

The subjects selected have been of high relevance to the developing countries building industry. The focus of interest concerning Urban Development has taken an integrated character and Building Issues publications has not fully been adapted to that demand driven development.

The impact achieved locally regarding the built environment such as planning, construction, transportation, infrastructure, environment etc.

The impact achieved in the built environment is difficult to measure. Related to that is the impact on the professional core. The impact on the professional practices has been solid but limited to a relatively small group. The professionals have in their practices had an impact in the built in environment. It is important to mention that Building Issues publications have been a practical tool to create awareness between politicians and non technical decision makers.

In what respect have the Building Issues publications become part of, or been incorporated into the national building codes or standards.

According to the information gathered we could not substantiate or conclude that Building Issues publications have had any direct influence on national building regulations, or departmental or municipal building regulations.

Future of the program, its relevance in terms of the present development goals, its organisation considering today's procurement policies and procedures and its impact on the Building Issues publications in Sida's partner countries.

The Building Issues publications have partly fulfilled the agreed objectives to create a strong and capable professional cluster in Sida's partner countries.

The Development Cooperation has changed focus and Urban Development is now considered a more integrated area of interest. The old Building Issues publications initiative does not really respond to this new development. Integrated urban development should not focus only on technical and environmental issues, but economical, social, financial and institutional development issues, which should be part of an integrated urban development vision.

A mission statement to serve as an input for possible further Sida intervention.

The need to capacitate professionals and decision makers is still a very important component which could facilitate the implementation of Sida's urban Development Initiatives and even support countries in their own endeavours related to urban development. The enormous concentration of poverty in urban areas will remain as obstacle to achieve sustainable development. The development of urban areas and its relation to rural development should be seen in a holistic approach.

Year	No	Planning	Construction/ Design	Environment	Transport	Sanitation	Energy	Finances	Social dev.	Health	Gender	HIV/AIDS
1989	1		dark gray	light gray								
	2		dark gray									
1990	1		dark gray	light gray								
	2		dark gray		dark gray			lavender				
	3		dark gray					lavender				
1991	1											
	2			light gray			pink	lavender				
1992	1		dark gray			plum						
	2											
1993	1		dark gray	light gray								
	2											
	3		dark gray	light gray				lavender				
1994	1				dark gray							
	2		dark gray					lavender				
	3		dark gray									
1995	1									lavender		
	2		dark gray	light gray								
	3		dark gray									
	4		dark gray						red			
1996	1					plum			red			
	2	dark gray										
	3	dark gray	dark gray									
	4		dark gray	light gray				lavender	red			
1997	1		dark gray					lavender				
	2		dark gray					lavender	red			
2000	1		dark gray	light gray								
	2			light gray			pink					
2001	1	dark gray					pink		red			
	2			light gray		plum						
2002	1							lavender				
	2	dark gray			dark gray			lavender				
		4	18	10	3	3	3	10	5	1		

Fig.: Table showing yearly publications and subjects overview 4.1.3

Sida initiatives on the creation of local capacity to deal with urban and rural development should be coordinated and the ITC program should be use as a complement to a new “Urban Issues” initiative.

In Sweden there are different institutions with relevant experience and acquired knowledge in the area of Urban Development and a new initiative should take into consideration the possibilities of making use of those experiences. There are also institutions in the developing countries with relevant experiences in the area of urban Development. Those experiences should also be used to benefit a regional and international capacity building initiative.

2.2.3 Financial Indicators:

The production cost of Building Issues publications has not radically increased during the years of publication: HDM has provided information related to 13 year of activity from 1989 to 2003.

The production cost of every publications have been divided into three areas.

Activity	Number	Costs
Printing and administration costs.	13	4 599 000
Desk studies costs	25	4 212 000
Field studies costs	10	2 426 000
Total costs		11 237 000

- HDM has printed 88.930 publications with an average cost of SEK 126,35 per publication.
- In the year 1989 HDM produced two issues and one of them required an extra print for distribution.
- In the year 1991 the two issues required an extra print and another 6590 copies were distributed
- In the year 1991, the year of the UN-Habitat Istanbul conference HDM printed four issues and a total of 17 855 copies were distributed.
- Five issues have been translated into Spanish for specific distribution in Latin America.
- Three years were revised in the financial statement with only administration and printing costs. The years 2000, 2001 and 2003 do not reflect costs for field or desk studies but 6 issues of Building Issues were distributed.
- In the year 2004 no number was publicised.

2.2.4 Activities carried out

The basic objective of the Building Issues publications initiative was to produce two or three publications per year. From the start in 1989 HDM have produced 31 Building Issues publications e.g. average of 2.2/year.

The distribution has been done in hard copies free of charge to all members of the Building Issues Network. The Building Issues publications has also been distributed to non-members of the network for an amount of 30 SEK (approx. US \$ 5).

HDM has been solely responsible for the practical work involved in the production and distribution and has developed a comprehensive database of all network members. Although HDM has not been able to dedicate sufficient time to the database, resulting in that the information it is not up to date. Many of the members have changed physical and electronic address and even workplaces.

The most recent papers are also available through the Internet.

HDM has also in parallel conducted a number of studies and investigations related to the subjects considered in the Building Issues publications.

The Building Issues publications have an important role during the Habitat II conference in Istanbul. Some special issues were produced to support the presentation of Sida's urban development international position.

The HDM has produced 25 desk studies and 15 field studies, directly related to Building Issues publications.

2.2.5 Key outputs

The list below shows all Building Issues publications since the inception of the program until to day. The database developed over the years has been studied; also its design and usage as well as clarification of the matter of ownership.

Year	No	Titel
2002	1	Tendering of New Small and Medium-sized Institutional Buildings
	2	Urban Traffic and Transport
2001	1	Gender Perspectives in Housing and Planning
	2	A Practical Approach to Water Supply and Sanitation in Asian Cities
2000	1	Climatic Design of Buildings using Passive Techniques
	2	Construction and Environment. Improving energy efficiency
1997	1	Maintenance of Institutional Buildings. A Management Perspective
	2	'Woodless' Construction
1996	1	Services for the Urban Poor. A People-centered Approach
	2	Regularization of Spontaneous Settlements
	3	Density in Urban Development
	4	Organized Small-scale Self-help Housing
1995	1	Health Hazards of Building Materials
	2	Furniture in Warm and Humid Climates
	3	Mortars for Masonry and Rendering: Choice and Application
	4	Design for Easy Access to Buildings by Physically Disabled Persons
1994	1	(En español) Methods for Assessing Traffic Safety in Developing Countries
	2	Economical Use of Cement in Concrete
	3	Wood wool Slabs – Manufacture, Properties and Use
1993	1	Design for Climatization; Houses in Warm-Humid Areas
	2	Cement-bonded Straw Slabs; A Feasibility Study
	3	Faults and Failures of Prefabricated Housing
1992	1	Non-Sewered Sanitation for Housing and Institutional Buildings
	2	Concrete Roofing Tiles
1991	1	Institutional Kitchens for Training Centers
	2	Energy Efficient Stoves for Institutional Kitchens
1990	1	Termites and Construction
	2	(En español) Small Scale Production of Roofing Tiles
	3	Low-Cost Paving
1989	1	Moisture and Mould in Dwellings in a Tropical Coastal Climate
	2	Water tightness of Heavy Flat Roofs in Semi-Arid Climates

Fig.: Table showing yearly publications and titles.

- Check of Numbers of Building Issues publications as well as the delivery times according to agreed target;
- Reasons for cost overruns or delays;
- The possible input provided by the ITC² of which some have been implemented by HDM³ during the same period of time.
- Relevance in respect to Sida's goals prevailing at the time of issue as well as in view of the present Sida's development goals.

² *International Training Courses organised by Sida*

³ *Housing Development & Management at Lund University, Sweden*

- Relevance of Sida's wish to maintain the practical approach to Building Issues compared with the requirements of the developing countries.
- Matters concerning the future preservation of the Building Issues Network.
- Review of four randomly selected Building Issues publications representing four different fields. One paper to be written or translated to the Spanish language.

2.3 Summary of Any Earlier Evaluations

The aim and impact of the Building Issues was last evaluated in 1992.

The Building Issues have been regarded by earlier evaluators to be filling a gap in the provision of guidelines for buildings in developing countries. "The research is rooted in practice rather than academic theory"⁴

Geoffrey Payne, Development Planning Unit at the University College London, last evaluated the aim and impact of the Building Issues programme in 1992. This evaluation included the entire Lund Centre for Habitat Studies (LCHS) and was ordered by the Swedish Council for Building Research, who financed several studies at LCHS.

The following are extracts from the evaluation concerning Building Issues;

A major component of this (LCHS's) research programme is the publication and distribution of the Building Issues papers, under the direction of Johnny Åstrand. The first volume was published in 1989, and two or three have been published each year since.

The publications are intended to address problems arising in building projects supported by Swedish aid agencies or local governments in developing countries, which cannot easily be resolved in the field. LCHS cites four objectives of the publications, namely:

- *To study common, well specified problems in construction in developing countries and provide simple, general recommendations,*
- *to publish the results as specific, easily understood, and useful recommendations and distribute these to the users, i.e. planners and builders in developing countries,*
- *to establish an institutional base for further studies and to develop collaborative research with institutions and researchers in developing countries,*
- *to undertake 3 desk studies and 1 field study each year, and to provide a form of applied building research which is appropriate and useful to Sida*

The Building Issues publications represent the largest single element of externally funded work undertaken by LCHS. The reports are short (generally less than twenty pages), but well presented and clearly illustrated. They address topics of undoubted relevance to professionals working in developing countries. The scope and content of the reports make them a useful resource for practicing professionals in developing countries, as well as staff working on aid projects. This is enhanced by the widespread use of drawings and photographs to complement the text. For readers who may not be fluent in English, this is clearly an advantage.

The practical value of the publications could possibly be increased if each report listed sources of additional information at the end and provided short notes on the references cited in the text.

LCHS has succeeded in ensuring the widespread dissemination of its research findings through publications such as Building Issues and project specific reports.

⁴ Payne Geoffrey, (1992), Evaluation Report on the Lund Centre for Habitat Studies, p 9

Formal internal monitoring and evaluation procedures exist for the Building Issues publications, but not for the other projects in this research programme.

At present (1992), it appears that LCHS does not have a regular, formal system for evaluating its research programmers. This should be remedied immediately, partly to provide valuable internal feedback, but also to provide evidence to funding sources that it is sensitive to the changing needs of its clients groups.

Formal internal monitoring and evaluation procedures exist for the Building Issues publications, but not for the other projects in this research programme.

It would also appear that research teams within developing countries would benefit from closer links to each other and the role of LCHS in facilitating this should be examined.

The evaluator is rather positive about the Building Issues Programme, but his remarks regarding the need of evaluating the research programmes and the development of closer links with research teams in developing countries seem to have passed without suitable action being taken.

3 Findings

This evaluation presents the findings from the three regional consultants.

3.1 Findings: region Africa

By Brhanu Mussa (Ethiopia)

The building Issues program has been conducted in Africa based on the physical in-depth interview and questionnaire based output. In order to forecast the up to date sustainability of the Building Issues publication distribution profile, the target domain selection for contact is not necessarily bound to the address listed in the directory provided by HDM at Lund. Hence this in turn will give us the opportunity to assess and find clue on how wide and random the Building Issues publications is distributed among the anticipated user domain.

3.1.1 Empirical Data and Inferences

From the evaluation intervention of interviewed people in each country in the region, the proportions of the people who are using or have had acquaintance to the building issue program are very less. From this one can conclude that either the dissemination network is not efficient or there must be lack of interest on the anticipated user domain side; but the latter has been proved not to be the case as there are many people so interested to receive the future publication with all improved suggestions as given in the entire questionnaire filled.

Country	Ethiopia	Mozambique	Tanzania
No. of evaluated people who knows about the Building Issues	3	4	8
No. of evaluated people with no idea about the Building Issues	12	7	8

Fig: Table shows the proportion of people who have an idea about the Building Issues Program (Building Issues) from the total sample number interviewed.

From the interviewed people suggestions and the outputs of the questionnaire about the subject matter to be included in the future content of the Building Issues is explained here under.

- Financial sources for housing section.
- Practical teaching opportunities to improve expertise capacity,(may be to be taken care, like by the ITC, etc.)
- Establishing statutory (permanent) expo-site in the target countries as model for inspirational motivation of the potential users, here Libraries shall also be established to reserve publications for random access, at times of request by people who are supposed to be reached at the grass root level.
- Offering of short span training for interested groups in the target domain country by the physical visit of experts as per the convenience of the organizer of the program, Sida.
- Developmental issues of grand scale in diversified areas that could potentially be incorporated to the national developmental policies

3.2 Findings: region Asia

By Keerthi Ranasinghe (Sri Lanka)

For Asia, the countries that were selected in the research study were Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Bangladesh. It is noted that these countries had the largest number of recipients of the publication in Asia. As far as housing and urbanization issues are concerned, there three countries are considered as having ideal conditions to adopt the knowledge discussed in the publication. However, due to accessibility problems Vietnam had to be kept out of the survey.

In Sri Lanka and Bangladesh 28 professionals were interviewed. Most of these professionals has had either an Engineering or Architecture qualification and were working at grass-roots levels on development activities of their respective countries. Owing to the cultural differences of the two countries, the consultant feels that the results of the two countries have to be analyzed separately. This is amply justified by the fact that only 3 of the 17 professionals interviewed in Bangladesh were women, where 2 of them were foreigners, while this ratio for Sri Lanka was a healthy 6 out of 11.

In Sri Lanka, out of the 11 interviews conducted 4 were with academics, 3 were with representatives of Government Agencies, 2 were with Municipality representatives and 2 others who were practicing freelance working closely with various NGO's. Ironically, 10 had engineering backgrounds while just a solitary participant had an architectural background.

In Bangladesh, these figures were drastically different. Out of the 17 interviews conducted, 2 were with officers from the Swedish Embassy in Dhaka, 6 with representatives of government organisations, 2 freelance practitioners, 3 NGO representatives and 4 academics. Out of these 17 people 8 had architectural backgrounds while 4 others had engineering backgrounds. Others were administrators and people with other backgrounds. It is striking to note that in Bangladesh Architects hold key government positions while in Sri Lanka it is the Engineers who have better positions.

It is also disheartening to note the lack of embassy participation in both countries in promoting the Building Issues publication. The consultant had a hard time in explaining to the embassy staff what this Building Issues publication was, leave alone getting any help from them on accomplishing the task of identifying and tracing the recipients of the publication. In the case of Bangladesh, access to the embassy premises was not granted to the consultant even upon several approaches. While conducting the interviews, the consultant felt that the general idea of the recipients of the publication was that embassies do very little or nil in disseminating the knowledge presented in the Building Issues publication. It was also brought to notice that the embassies do neither keep a list of participants of various development corporation works nor do they follow up with various government institutions to get things implemented.

It was also worthwhile to note that people who were knowledgeable about the Building Issues publication have had some contact with HDM at LUND and the consultant couldn't find a single recipient of the publication to contradict this conclusion. This applies to both the countries under consideration. Two professionals who gave their valuable time to complete the study showed an interest in getting some of the publications that were showed to them. On request, they tried to contact the Building Issues network at LUND and could not receive any answer at all. Simply, it was a matter of non-commitment from the Building Issue network.

All the professionals who gave their comments for the study were unified in accepting that ideas expressed in the Building Issues publication were relevant and useful academically, while having little or no implement ability in the Asian context. Like in most other developing regions of the world, in Asia too the decision making is a top-down process with little or no attention being paid to the feedback coming from the grass-roots level. One hundred percent of the professionals interviewed in both the countries identified themselves as belonging to the lower rungs of the decision-making hierarchy with no powers of implementation.

3.2.1 Empirical Data and Inferences

Data Collected

Method of receiving Building Issues

Sri Lanka

Five out of the eleven participants had collected past publications while returning from various recent programs at LUND. Remaining six participants had no idea what Building Issues was all about until the consultant explained. It was clearly visible that all of whom had some contact with Building Issues felt that the publication was discontinued after some time. In short, In Sri Lanka the consultant failed to meet a solitary person who has had continuity in receiving the publication. At the moment none of these receive any correspondence from either LUND or the Building Issues network while some acknowledged that they keep contact with some of the fellow participants of LUND programs on an informal basis.

Bangladesh

Five out of the seventeen interviewed reviewed the publication on request. Another five had collected the publication upon returning from LUND. Three didn't know the existence of the publication and the consultant couldn't show or explain the publication closely as the interviews were conducted over the telephone. Incidentally, two of the professionals had received the publication from other means.

Country	Sri Lanka	Bangladesh
No. of evaluated people who knows about the Building Issues	5	14
No. of evaluated people with no idea about the Building Issues	6	3

Fig: Table shows the proportion of people who have an idea about the Building Issues Program (Building Issues) from the total sample number interviewed.

3.3 Findings: region Latin America

By Elisabeth Murcia (El Salvador)

3.3.1 Empirical Data and Inferences

The following are the most important findings of the region:

Among all the institutions that provided information about the Building Issues, It has been founded these categories: 46% were architects, 23% civil engineers, and the other 23% were other professionals as sociologist, managers, and others.

About the participation of women, 29% of the people that were interviewed were women and 71% were men. Though, analyzing each one of the countries, there is a strong difference between El Salvador and the others countries. In El Salvador 44% of the professionals were women, while in Costa Rica there were 7.69% and 18% in Bolivia. In some way, this situation shows the percentage of women that are participating at the internationals and regional courses.

Among the people that know about the Building Issues, it was found that the most effective way to receive it is by mail (47%). Other important group has been aware of the bulletin by indirect ways as document centres (17%) or by the people that receive the Building Issues directly. It is important to notice that about 32% of the people that were interviewed, did not know about the publication.

About the relevance of the publication, 100% of the people that know it consider it useful. 64% of them said that is very much useful, while the other 36% think that is little useful.

It is important to point out, that 50% of the professional that were interviewed, find that the subjects covered in Building Issues are practical, while only the 15% of them think that the subjects are too theoretical.

In relation to the impact of Building Issues in the institution and area of specialization, 23% of the people think that the influence is very big, 34% think that there was a small impact, and 14% said that there were none impact at all. 30% did not know if there was an impact or not.

For the question: Have the Building Issues influenced your local building policies or regulations? 85% of the people interviewed in the region answered that the Building Issues does not has any incidence at the local or national level.

About the question if some of the subjects developed in the bulletin have being incorporated in the building regulations of the country, 98% of the people said that they do not know or they were not aware about the issue.

However, in Cochabamba, Bolivia, where one of the Building Issues addressed the city's traffic problems and made a proposal to solve it, the employees of the municipality believes, that the study was useful to open the discussion in side of the municipality.

Regarding to the layout of the bulletin and if the presentation were clear and easy to understand, 100% of the people that knew the publication, agree that the layout was OK, as well clear and easy to understand.

With reference to the Building Issues Network, only 32% of the people were aware of it, while 68% did not know anything about the network. All the people that knew about the network shared the opinion that is not exactly a network. It is more like the publication distribution list.

About the question if the people were a member of the network, only 17% of them have the feeling that they were part of the network. As regards of the issues if they had regular contact with the network, 9% answers they did it on informal base, with their friends.

Regarding to question if they have contact with any other member of the network, 11% answer they communicated once in a while with the colleagues that participate at the courses of Lund or Cochabamba.

For the last question related to the network, 98% answer that they never have share information through the network.

Concerning to the future of the "Building Issues" is really surprising how the Building Issues is appreciating in the region. 98% of the people that were interviewed want to receive or continues to receive.

However, the person who said that was not interested in receiving it, pointed that the publication would cover a more broad scope of housing and development; he will be interested to receive it.

People preference about the type of the publication, is a hard copy. Is only 23% who want to receive it electronically, and there is a 30% that want it, both ways. But it is important to be aware that people that want the printed version also pointed that they are an old fashion generation that are not used to read at the computer, and maybe the younger professionals will feel comfortable with an electronic version.

In relation to the areas that Latin American people would like to see in the future, they prioritized as the following:

Planning	1
Environment	2
Policies	3
Management	4
Design	5
Technology	6

When people were asked to propose three topics to be included in future Building Issues, they suggested a very spread areas of interest, and because is very difficult to summarize, they are listed in appendix C.

Concerning to the use of graphics, color, language level, layout, depth o discussion and number of pages, all the people agreed that in general terms, they were fine. However, they pointed out that there can be improvements in color, graphics and layout.

Country	El Salvador	Costa Rica	Bolivia
No. of evaluated people who knows about the Building Issues	5	8	5
No. of evaluated people with no idea about the Building Issues	17	7	3

Fig: Table shows the proportion of people who have an idea about the Building Issues Program from the total sample number interviewed.

4 Evaluative Conclusions

This evaluation presents the findings from the three regional consultants, followed by a summary of findings done by the Swedish consultants.

4.1 Evaluative Conclusions: region Africa

By Brhanu Mussa (Ethiopia)

As viewed before in the findings, we see the empirical data collection and inferences of a proper accomplishment research, the article compiling and publishing, in areas of the Building Issues, as the first stage in the objective realization process.

There are naturally two more stages of reach-through to the aspired target of impact, to bring developmental significance in the Sida's set objectives. As such these later sequential stages are of great importance in the dissemination of the Building Issues product down to the grass root level and its expected output to bring a positive impact in the present arrangement, and progressive consequential effect in its future prospect. In this regard, when we evaluated the three stages in the entire scenario of the Building Issues publications production, dissemination and implementation in relation to the aspired impact, we have the following observations.

4.1.1 Present Arrangement

In the production of the entire publication subject matter selection, the content needs improvement together with the publications title adjustment. This is because the earlier stages of the product are characterized by coverage bound to clipped portions of technical matters as component parts of a grand aspect in the strive to highlight and address problems of Building Issues publications in a developing country and there by proposing solutions. This actually was approved for it was in line with the initial envisages of Sida's goals, but later now a bit less up to the scope of the vision (initiative) of Sida aspiring broadest developmental scheme arrangement. Thus implying the translation of the scope and the depth of the content to be transformed to a more comprehensive subject content and may be attributed to a comprehensive title and thus as a whole to be complementary to other similar initiatives from Sida.

Concerning to the distribution network, mechanisms should be devised so as to have access to any previous publication by all potential users. So it should take appropriate information technology as a means of dissemination, considering the developmental stage of the targeted country.

On the utilization impact, periodical feed back assessments should be conducted to avoid risks of having publications which are not longer compatible with the overall agreed or revised objectives of the initiative. In order also to have consistent follow up on the ultimate consequence of the Building Issues publications (now may be with a different title), Sense of strong ownership of the program shall be clearly authorized, which otherwise will be suggestive of a new full-fledged departmental institution setup to entirely and solely take care of the whole activity taking place as its primary task.

This can include activities ranging from the promotion and encouragement of article and Research work contributors of other interested institutions in Sweden and interested institutions and professionals around the world. The latter will assist to make decision on how to proceed with the future of the Building Issues.

4.2 Evaluative Conclusions: region Asia

By Keerthi Ranasinghe (Sri Lanka)

4.2.1 Relevance of Building Issues

Sri Lanka

Three of the academics, three governments' employees and one of the freelance practitioners said that the publication was very much relevant. All of them had had higher education apart from basic degrees and had, in the understanding of the consultant, developed a keenness for research and when taken in this light it shows that the publication is more academically friendly than being practically oriented.

Three said that publication had a little usefulness while an Engineer holding a key government position straightaway commented the usefulness as none. She based her answer in sociological background data that she had collected on the readiness of rural communities to accept new methodologies in building construction and housing. Most Sri Lankans she said would rather painfully wait for a traditional type of housing than go for low-cost or cost-effective type of housing which they somehow believe as having inferior quality.

Bangladesh

Fourteen out of the seventeen said that the publication was very much useful while the three remaining commented as having a little usefulness.

While conducting the survey, accessibility to junior officers were almost zero due to several reasons. When confronted with this type of a survey, especially by a foreigner they tend to shy off may be due to language barriers. At the same time, most of senior officers were over-anxious to express their views over the juniors.

On the other hand questions like "Usefulness of the publication" failed to receive a true picture of the present situation regarding the publication. Most of the Bangladeshi professionals found it harsh to comment in the negative fearing that might hurt the consultant's feelings and answered in the affirmative. However, their gesticulations etc showed otherwise. As such, the consultant believes this 14 to 17 ratio is much higher than what it should actually be.

4.2.2 Method of Receiving Building Issues

Sri Lanka

Five out of the eleven participants had collected past publications while returning from various recent programs at LUND. Remaining six participants had no idea what Building Issues was all about until the consultant explained. It was clearly visible that all of who had some contact with Building Issues felt that the publication was discontinued after some time. In short, In Sri Lanka the consultant failed to meet a solitary person who has had continuity in receiving the publication. At the moment none of these receive any correspondence from either LUND or the Building Issues network while some acknowledged that they keep contact with some of the fellow participants of LUND programs on an informal basis.

Bangladesh

Five out of the seven interviewed reviewed the publication on request. Another five had collected the publication upon returning from LUND. Three didn't know the existence of the publication and the consultant couldn't show or explain the publication closely as the interviews were conducted over the telephone. Incidentally, two of the professionals had received the publication from other means.

4.2.3 On Practicality of the Topics Discussed

Sri Lanka

Four commented them as practical while another five commented that the topics have medium practicality. Two found them too theoretical. One Sri Lankan academic feared that giving candid answers would stop him from receiving future issues of the publication. He considers Sweden as a generous supplier of know-how free of charge.

Bangladesh

Eleven out of seventeen found them to be practical while five of them found it medium and one giving no answer. Once again the Bangladeshi professionals showed a keenness to please the interviewer rather than to express the truth. They believed that giving true answers would result in termination of the publication of the publication thereby depriving them of access to a good source of research.

4.2.4 On the Impact of Building Issues on their Respective Fields

Sri Lanka

Seven commented as 'None' while the four academics said 'a small'. Being research oriented, academics found the topics much to their liking some of them incorporating some of the ideas in their own fields of research. However the majority answered in the negative.

Bangladesh

Nine out of the seventeen answered in the negative while seven said 'a small'. One of them expressed 'very big'. Being an academic he had incorporated one Building Issues publication in his field class.

4.2.5 On Influencing the Policies of the Country

Professionals from both Sri Lanka and Bangladesh said they have never heard of any such adaptation in to policies even on a regional basis.

4.2.6 On the Layout and Clarity of Presentation

Sri Lanka

Majority found the publication to be 'ok as it is' while practicing engineers found the content to be 'too long'. All eleven said the presentation to be clear.

Bangladesh

Fifteen of the seventeen interviewed found the publication 'ok as it is' and the presentation to be clear. One gave no response.

4.2.7 Building Issues Network

The consultant feels that the name 'Building Issues Network' is a misnomer, feedback received from the participants of the survey being very discouraging. None of the participants said that they know of any Building Issues Network. Rather, those who knew about the network, thought it to be a database of list of participants of LUND programs. Some of them had informal groups created among them mainly for keeping in touch. They have never utilized the so called network for any sharing of information. Conclusions derived from the survey on the Building Issues network is that it is somewhat a sleeping giant with lot of scope for improvement while at the present being heavily underutilized and poorly maintained. 'Adding contact details of individuals to a list and keeping it growing without giving the benefits to the participants' and 'enlightening the participants on the usefulness of being a member of a network and disclosing the whereabouts, strengths of individual members of the network and the potential of the network as a whole' are two different things. At the moment the former is implemented.

4.3 Evaluative Conclusions: region Latin America

By Elisabeth Murcia (El Salvador)

After analyzing and putting in order all the information of the field research, it is possible to give the following conclusions:

All the persons that were interviewed give to the distribution of the publication a pretty important role. They consider it as useful tool of consulting and reference.

There is a general tendency in the region, especially in Central America to conclude that the subjects that should be covered by the publication do not have to limit to “Building Issues”. People think that the publication should be looking for a comprehensive approach of the problems of urbanization and the human settlements at the South, and more related to Sida’s action in these countries.

- In Latin America, English is still a strong barrier for the diffusion and more intensely use of the publication. Even though, many of the subjects that are covered by the publication are of the interest of the professionals that were interviewed, much of them, find very difficult to share the information with colleagues or students, because there is a very small part of the population that are able to read and understand English, especially in El Salvador and Bolivia.
- In general, the perception of all the professionals that are receiving the publication is that they are not part of a network. They feel more, that they are part of a list of distribution of a technical bulletin, but they have pointed out, that the most important part of the network is missing: communication, participation and interaction with other members of the network.
- At the governmental institutions, the Building Issues are only known by the professionals that have participated at the Post-graduate courses of the University of Lund or Universidad Mayor de San Simón, at Cochabamba, Bolivia. However, at the level of the managers and those who are at the decision level, the publication is not quite known.
- The lack of regularity when the publication has been received, has contributed in some way, to lessen the impact in the countries where it is distributed. Specially, because of the absence of the publication in the last one and half year, the most part of the interviewed were thinking that the Building Issues were not more in circulation or that they were been removed from the distribution list.
- The most part of the persons has changed their postal or electronic address and that is the reason why they are not receiving the publication anymore. Though, nobody has information about how to update their personal information and renew their subscription.
- Among the professionals that read the publication, there is a truly interest to contact with the authors of the articles and exchange information, as well to discuss the issues, based in the local experience.
- In the Central American countries, El Salvador and Costa Rica, the interviewed pointed out the necessity to publish themes related with the protection of the environment on the construction process, as well as for the urban development process.
- Even though, the professionals have the feeling that the most part of the experiences covered by the Building Issues are related to problems of the other regions, they considered a very interesting to know about other experiences. Nevertheless, they would like to see an approach more related to the problems of Latin America.
- There are a lot of issues that people in the region would like to find at the publication. Issues related to housing policies for the low income people, including micro-finances, infrastructure, land use, environmental vulnerability, local development and new technologies for construction.

- Until now, the subjects covered by the Building Issues, have been more useful for the people of NGOs working at the field, plus teachers at the universities, which make use of the publication to resolve specific problems at the field and also for capacitating new professionals.
- More than a network of the Building Issues, what has been developing is the network of the partners of the programs of capacitation of the University of Lund, as well as, other smaller and informal networks of all the ex-participants of the international and regional courses at Lund and Cochabamba; which have a big potential for the systematization and exchange of experiences.
- There is a lot of interest from all the professionals that were interviewed, to collaborate with the Building Issues. They want to share cases of study and successful practices that have been developed by the institutions where they work.

4.4 Summary of Evaluative Conclusions

The Building Issues Publications have been a successful initiative and have been well implemented by HDM. HDM has committed itself far more than what was agreed on or was specified in the contract agreement with Sida. However the potentials of the initiative have not been exploited to its limit.

HDM has done what they were expected to do and has done it well. The question of the huge potential of the Building Issues publications initiative remains. The Building Issues publications possible impact on development cooperation activities, as well as the impact on building adequate urban development capacity in the regions and its potential impact on facilitating the implementation of poverty alleviation activities in the regions remains a challenge. The outputs of the Sida financed activity could easily be extended.

The Regional evaluative conclusions are very similar between the regions and they give an accurate view of the Building Issues publications impact on the regional consultant's respective area. The following conclusions are common to the three regions:

The Building Issues publications contents and impact:

The Building Issues publications have been in line with the objectives set by Sida for more than ten years ago. HDM has been very conscious of the operative and focus changes in the international development cooperation activities. The original Building Issues publications concept has limited HDM in the possibilities of adapting the publication to current trends in development cooperation; in any case HDM has broadened the Building Issues publications contents to include issues which are not of pure technical character.

The selection of issues has had little input from the target groups in the regions.

The issues taken up by Building Issues publications have been of great interest and of practical use for the users.

The Target Group

The target group reached by the Building Issues publications has been mostly young professionals. The Building Issues publications has not wide reach to decision makers or higher government officials involved in matters related to local urban development legislation.

The target group has a large possibility of extending to a wider number of relevant users and new stakeholders.

The lack of regularity in the publication has created confusion among the users and has a clear negative impact in keeping a permanent interest in the regions.

In Latin America, the English versions of the Building Issues publications have a minimal or no impact between the potential users. The Building Issues publications translated to Spanish, has reached a wider group of interested professionals

The Network database

The Building Issues Network or user's database has developed to be the most appropriate tool to reach the target group. The network has not been a well-defined component in the contract between Sida and HDM and the network component has not been budgeted separately. The input done by HDM to develop a network database has been done mostly by necessity and on a voluntary basis by HDM personal.

The network database is just a little more than a distribution list. This list has not been kept updated and needs a lot of extra work and to keep up with the mobility of the network members.

The Building Issues dissemination and distribution strategy

It is clear that Building Issues has been lacking a dissemination or distribution strategy. This has limited the impact of the publication and limited the possibility of reaching a wider spectrum of the target group.

Most of the network members, who practically are Building Issues publications final users, are former students of HDM. That limits the target group reached, to people who in some way are involved with Lund University international activities or to Lund University internationally cooperating partners. Other Swedish institutions involved in international urban development issues have not been used to extend the capacity of the network. In the same line of thinking, the possibility of using the ITP initiative of Sida has not been explored by HDM.

5 Lessons Learned

This chapter presents the findings from the three regional consultants.

5.1 Lessons Learned: region Africa

By Brhanu Mussa (Ethiopia)

From observation of the entire scenario one can learn that the prevailing arrangement of the Building Issues needs improvements in its realm of focus to keep the truck in line with Sida's recent vision of imparting developmental cooperation assistance to developing countries. Starting with the alteration of the title of the existing program as it was suggested earlier, the presentation and implementation of the envisaged revised program needs certain modified prospect.

To do this one possible way may be to have a full-fledged reference package on certain issues, be it in the built environment area or other social developmental issues, like Gender, entire poverty alleviations etc. In the built environment, suppose we take low cost housing scheme, there shall be a complete document in a single issue or publication (and not by parts as building components) that guarantees the implementation of low cost house, for people with little resources, with out compromising the quality standard.

In this respect, the knowledge document shall comprise all technical guidelines of a given house starting from the rooting down to the foundation construction and all the other details justifying appreciable cost reduction compare to the conventional design and construction trends. This approach is so essen-

tial because most difficult than understanding the component parts of a building (housing) as low cost roof details, low cost wall details etc, is how to integrate this separately studied clipped portions of a complete building (house) to readily apply for purpose. Hence if such tangible achievements can get sample implementation in small scale as pilot project at selected sites accessible to mass media (to be televised) to the general public, down to the grass root level, most poor people will rush to implement by themselves. This strategic approach is most significant in most developing countries, especially Africa, because people would like to see examples in front of their eyes.

This effort can be done parallel to the dissemination of the publications with the aspired content profile and improved title of comprehensive nature.

If such attempts require more finance than the allocated budget to the existing program, either reshuffling it or revising for more financial source may be an alternative.

This proposal can be justified from previous experiences of Sida (as Sida) itself. For example most people in the countryside in Ethiopia always appreciates the successful accomplishments of Sida in educational and health infrastructural constructions of many elementary schools and health centres to most parts of rural Ethiopia. And most educated people today have been indebted by this good cause. Hence Sida's developmental cooperation is most recognized by that than the Building Issues Program. It is there fore crucial to tune the strategy of such programs implementation to physically tangible and enduring examples as sources of inspiration together with publications demonstrating this to be issued at any time of request at the pilot project site.

This can be effective, not like the aforementioned infrastructural construction aid that might have required more finance like the ancient days, but very few statutory examples as model for adopted mass production on other sites based on self-help participation of the end users themselves.

An example of this sort has been experimented in Ethiopia today in areas of the building industry focusing on urban housing shortage alleviation. And this is done in collaboration with GTZ/LCH (German Government affiliated organisation providing technical support in the area of Low Cost Housing.) having studies from the experiences of some other countries like India together with the indigenous research work, low cost housing construction is underway.

Altogether this kind of contextually rational approach either to knowledge transfer or any sort of developmental aid implementation is most preferable referring to the existing socio-cultural and economic life pattern of most developing countries around the world.

5.2 Lessons Learned: region Asia

By Keerthi Ranasinghe (Sri Lanka)

On practicality of the topics discussed

Sri Lanka

Four commented them as practical while another five commented that the topics have medium practicality. Two found them too theoretical. One Sri Lankan academic feared that giving candid answers would stop him from receiving future issues of the publication. He considers Sweden as a generous supplier of know-how free of charge.

Bangladesh

Eleven out of seventeen found them to be practical while five of them found it medium and one giving no answer. Once again the Bangladeshi professionals showed a keenness to please the interviewer rather than to express the truth. They believed that giving true answers would result in termination of the publication of the publication thereby depriving them of access to a good source of research.

On the impact of Building Issues on their respective fields

Sri Lanka

Seven commented as 'None' while the four academics said 'a small'. Being research oriented, academics found the topics much to their liking some of them incorporating some of the ideas in their own fields of research. However, the majority answered in the negative.

Bangladesh

Nine out of the seventeen answered in the negative while seven said 'a small'. One of them expressed 'very big'. Being an academic, he had incorporated one Building Issues publications in his field class.

On influencing the policies of the country

Professionals from both Sri Lanka and Bangladesh said they have never heard of any such adaptation in to policies even on a regional basis.

On the layout and clarity of presentation

Sri Lanka

Majority found the publication to be 'ok as it is' while practicing engineers found the content to be 'too long'. All eleven said the presentation to be clear.

Bangladesh

Fifteen of the seventeen interviewed found the publications 'ok as it is' and the presentation to be clear. One gave no response.

5.2.1 Impact of the Building Issues

Building Issues Network

The consultant feels that the name 'Building Issues Network' is a misnomer, feedback received from the participants of the survey being very discouraging. None of the participants said that they know of any Building Issues Network. Rather, those who knew about the network, thought it to be a database of list of participants of LUND programs. Some of them had informal groups created among them mainly for keeping in touch. They have never utilized the so-called network for any sharing of information. Conclusions derived from the survey on the Building Issues network is that it is somewhat a sleeping giant with lot of scope for improvement while at the present being heavily underutilized and poorly maintained. 'Adding contact details of individuals to a list and keeping it growing without giving the benefits to the participants' and 'enlightening the participants on the usefulness of being a member of a network and disclosing the whereabouts, strengths of individual members of the network and the potential of the network as a whole' are two different things. At the moment the former is implemented.

Future of Building Issues

All professionals concluded that they would like to receive the publication continuously, mostly in the printed format. Only a handful, mostly the academics said they could receive the publication electronically. Even then they also preferred to have printed copies as well. A closer look at state of affairs in the region reveals that, while the computer literacy of the region is high, most of the institutions and people concerned lack proper facilities of technology to retrieve electronic information. Academics stand out among the rest in that academic institutions in the region are highly developed as are in par with the developed world.

Asked to prioritize the areas of discussion they would like to see in future issues the following summary was produced by the professionals interviewed. The table was derived using a weight factor of 6 for a 1st priority and 5 for a 2nd priority etc.

Sri Lanka

	1st Priority (Factor 6)	2nd Priority (Factor 5)	3rd Priority (Factor 4)	4th Priority (Factor 3)	5th Priority (Factor 2)	6th Priority (Factor 1)	Total
Planning	4		2				$4*6+2*4=32$
Environment	1	1	1	1			$1*6+1*1+1*4+1*3=18$
Technology	2	2					$2*6+2*5=22$
Management	3	1					$3*6+1*5=23$
Design	3			1	1		$3*6+1*1+1*2=23$
Policies	3	2				1	$3*6+2*1+1*1=29$

Bangladesh

	1st Priority (Factor 6)	2nd Priority (Factor 5)	3rd Priority (Factor 4)	4th Priority (Factor 3)	5th Priority (Factor 2)	6th Priority (Factor 1)	Total
Planning	3	2	4				$3*6+2*5+4*4=44$
Environment	1	4	2	1			$1*6+4*5+2*4+1*3=37$
Technology	3	4	1				$3*6+4*5+1*4=42$
Management	4		2			1	$4*6+2*4+1*1=33$
Design	3	3	1				$3*6+3*5+1*4=37$
Policies	7	1			2		$7*6+1*5+2*2=49$

The 1st priority was shifted between policies and planning for the two countries. The region as a whole accepts that policy planning should be the priority issue to be discussed in future issues of the publication. However, it is seen more as a paradox than a conclusive fact as all those who were interviewed readily accepting the fact that it is very hard to implement any of the policies discussed in the past publications. So the wisdom of producing more and more research out-put on policies that are not adopted anywhere is hard to be understood.

Asked to comment on the general presentation of the publication most of them commented positively while one or two outliers criticized the publication for appearance, color and depth of discussion etc. As for depth of discussion academics feel that it is of right depth while the practicing engineers and architects found it to be somewhat too lengthy.

5.3 Lessons Learned: region Latin America

By Elisabeth Murcia (El Salvador)

The solutions for housing for the low-income people and the urban development process that has been accumulated in the region by each one of the institutions that were visited are a remarkable assessment that can be used for the enrichment of the publication.

One of the greatest limitations for the dissemination of the bulletin that the people have show along all the research is about the language. People are asking for a publication in Spanish.

The network for the distributions of the publication and the Web site of the University of Lund do not cover all the expectation that people have for the exchange of information they want. It is necessary a more dynamic way of communication among all the members and the institutions (public, private and academics) that are working with housing for the low-income people. Taking in account this point of view it would enhance the strategic vision of the HDM and Sida about the housing problems of the South.

Even those professionals that have not known about the Building Issues agreed about the necessity to have this kind of publications. This type of publication allows to updating technical knowledge and the exchange of experiences about human settlements an urban development in the region.

In order to assure the dissemination of the publication in those institutions that have been participating in the courses of the HDM or any of its allies, it is important to make contact, not only with the participants, but also with the leaders and managers of the organisation, to be sure that the publication is able to reach other users in the institution.

Some specific proposals, as the one related with the regularization of the traffic in Cochabamba, Bolivia (Volume 6, 1994) needs more than a technical approach, in order to engage the political will of those who make the decisions for the implementation.

Because of the lack of opportunities and economical constrains, there are no so much possibilities for the professional, to published their own experiences in the field. So, there is a lot of experience of each one of the organisations that were visited, waiting for an opportunity to be printed and distributed.

Almost all the people marked that the publication has been received in a very irregular schedule. This type of publications has to be distributed in a very regular base; on the contrary, people loose their interest on the publication.

The Web site has not been used as a way to access to the Building Issues. Nobody knew that this was a way to obtain them.

A lot of people are interested to be able to reach systematically, up dating information, about all the activities that the HDM and their counterparts are carrying out in the region.

The Building Issues will have more impact and diffusion, if it shows problems more related to the Latin American reality.

The publication and the post-graduate courses are a holistic and interdependent unit that enhances one to the other, on the dissemination of the HDM vision.

ven though, there is a diversity of interests among all professional that were interviewed, the Building Issues is appreciated in Latin America. For teachers and students, is used as a source of consulting, and for those in the field, is used as a reference for building process.

5.3.1 Impact of the Building Issues

The impact of the Building Issues related to the regulations of construction and urban development on the countries where the study was carried out, is very limited for the following reasons:

- The publications where distributed to a very small number of professionals in the countries. In addition to this constraint, the language problem does not allow a broadened dissemination, which could have made possible a discussion process of the existing local regulations and local building technologies.
- In the case of Central America, especially at Costa Rica, the local building policies and regulations are defined since many years ago; sot there are not so many opportunities that this type of publication would generate changes on them.

- One of the key points is that the publication has not been based its focus in a general and comprehensive approach about housing and urbanisation. The environmental issues have been dealt with in a separate way. Consequently, these are reasons enough why it was not possible to generate an impact on the local policies and regulations.

6 Recommendations

Regarding regional recommendations see Annexes.

6.1 Recommendations Regarding the Contents

There is a lot of interest and successful experiences accumulated by the local actors and counterparts. Just systematizing these experiences could be an interminable source of topics for the publication. One should develop an informative Issue dealing with housing problems from the inception through policy matters, financial implications, planning, designing and construction guidelines until the implementation of the housing scheme for a certain community.

Recommendation

The subjects covered by the publication do not have to be limited to construction matters. They should cover a more integrated approach, related to human settlements, urban development, the vision of the Swedish cooperation and the “Millennium Objectives”.

It is important to evaluate the possibility of decentralising the process of identification, edition and publication of the Building Issues, and provide more participation and responsibilities to local counterparts and interested parties such as universities and other professional bodies.

Recommendation

Sida should consider finalizing the current contract and agreement with HDM and establish a new agreement based on a new contract aiming to involve more Swedish stakeholders considering recommendations for the future of BIP.

The following shows some of the subjects to consider:

- Related local governmental policies
- Municipal Development
- Housing Delivery finances
- Environmental vulnerability and risk management.
- Local Economic Development
- Micro finances issues
- Building issues as part of integrated urban planning
- Urban development and Poverty Alleviation
- Land Tenure and Low-cost Housing

- Public participation
- Local capacity building
- Human Settlements and HIV/AIDS
- Etc.

6.2 Target Group Participation

It is very important to include more topics related to the urban development process, including the participation of the Local government and local organisations in finding practical solutions focused on the low-income urban developments. One should look for innovative and friendly environmental solutions for urban development related policies as well as for the provision of basic infrastructure, housing finances and constructions systems.

The document should take into account the interest of all the professionals and organisations that are in the network and take advantage of all the experiences and the best local practices in the region.

Recommendation

The Publication should open a real participation possibility for the end users, by electronic mail or in the printed editions.

Recommendation

The publication should transform itself to a more democratic and participative instrument.

Recommendation

For the Latin American target group, in order to gain more presence in the region and to increase the impact and dissemination of the publication, it is imperative to translate all relevant publications into Spanish.

6.3 Best Practices

The fact that an academic institution produces the publication secures a very high theoretical level. The Building Issues publication team should recognize the importance of having concrete model examples (Best Practices) of practical teaching that would benefit, motivate and give the sense of inclusion to the target group.

Recommendation

To achieve a major impact on the target group the inclusion of regional “best practices” should be considered.

6.4 The Layout

The publisher has kept the same layout during the last decade. The present layout and graphics have been OK considering that the target group of the publication has been architects and civil engineers. However, if the publication includes a broadened list of topics, the target group will be broadened to

other kinds of professionals (social workers, attorneys, etc.), and it will be important to take into account their backgrounds, in order to design the layout of the publication in a more reader-friendly fashion.

Recommendation

The layout should be made more reader friendly suitable also for electronic type of publication.

6.5 The Distribution

The journal has been printed and distributed by mail. The actual distribution procedure and cost has been a large component of the budget.

The target group has acquired and increased access to electronic mail. The increased access to electronic mail does not yet include the majority of the target group. Even though there is a lot of improvements in the field of electronic communication, the printed version cannot be left aside.;

Recommendation

In the future, the distribution should include a limited printed edition and promote an adapted electronic edition.

6.6 Target Group Network

The inclusion of an electronic edition implies the need of having a wider network dissemination mechanism. The user network has not been included in the Building Issues Terms of References and was not budgeted for.

It is necessary to draft new Terms of References which include the establishment of a user's database and the creation of a website and a user's network.

It is important to give adequate information to the users about the Web site and how to upgrade their personal records.

The creation of a website opens the possibilities of linking it to other related sources of information as the International Training Program Courses carried out by Sida, and related documents and publications produced by other universities, Swedish Government authorities and private Swedish institutions.

The website should provide the possibility for regional stakeholders to publish locally produced documents.

Recommendation

The user's network should be established and budgeted for including a permanent follow-up and up-grading of all information of its members.

6.7 Recommendations: region Africa

The Building issues program is worth continuing with title change and as complementary media parallel to pilot project implementations as model examples for inspirational means to transfer aspired knowledge to the wider end user domain.

6.8 Recommendations: region Asia

In conclusion it can be said that there is a clear need for reviving the publication with a new outlook and newer topics of discussion. It has to shift from purely technical point of view to more generalized topics.

Continuity is the key in maintaining the standard of the publication while also helping to maintain the standing of the publication among the recipients.

Encouraging regional experts to produce articles for publication will keep the publication focused on the communities it is striving to serve.

6.9 Recommendations: region Latin America

- The subjects covered by the publication do not have to be limited a construction matters. It should cover a more broad aspect, related to human settlements, urban development, the vision of the Sweden cooperation and the “Millennium Objectives”.
- The publication should transform to a more democratic and participative instrument. It has to take in account the interest of all the professionals and organizations that are in the network and take advantage of all the experience and the best local practices in the region.
- For Latin America is very important to include topics related to the urban development process and the grass roots participation in the solution of the low income housing problems. They are looking for innovative and friendly environmental solutions for housing policies as well as for constructions systems.
- Other area that should be included in the future publications is about environmental vulnerability and risk management. These are the topics that are on discussion at the regional agenda.
- Even though, there is a lot of improvements on the electronic communication field, and it could be the most economical and speedy way to disseminate the publication; the printed version can not be left aside, because there still is a very huge part of the target group, that do not have access to the Web site.
- It is important to evaluate the possibility to decentralize the process of identification, edition and publication of the journal, and give more participation and responsibilities to the local counterparts of the HDM.
- In order to gain more space in the region and increase the impact and dissemination of the publication, it is important to make the publication in Spanish.
- There is a lot of interesting and successful experiences accumulated by the local actors and counterparts. Just systematizing these experiences could be an interminable source of topics for the publication.
- Keeping track of the schedule of the publication, as well as the up grading of all the personal information of all the members of the network it is important to maintain the interest of the public and increase the impact of the publication.
- It is important to give more information to the users about the Web site and how to up grade their personal records.
- If the authors of the articles agree, it should be interesting to include their postal and electronic address in the publication, to facilitate the consults of the public.

- At the present time, the target group of the publication has been architects and civil engineers, to whom the present layout and graphics have been OK. However, if the publication include a more broaden list of topics, for sure will be other kind of professional (social workers, attorneys, etc.) reading the publication, and it will be important to take in account their backgrounds to design the layout of the publication in a more friendly fashion.

7 Alternative to Building Issues

7.1 General

In the past, Sida supported strategic development initiatives through the implementation of specifically designed projects. Those projects needed specialized technical support in the area of “Building Issues”. Because of that the publication focused on building materials and building technologies. Sida’s traditional holistic approach has now had an effect on the outlining of development initiatives and a more broadened technical support is required. The complexity of the developing cooperation process in developing countries, demands a more comprehensive and participatory approach to the problems. Governments and organisations in the developing countries do want to share their experience with each other, as well as to discuss and learn from global experiences.

HDM is aware of the need of introducing some changes to the Building Issues publication and they do have a strategy proposal that considers most of the comments from this evaluation.

A key element for the future will be to change the Building Issues into a more inclusive and participative tool that will allow Sida to open more space for the interaction of all the members of the existing network. With the aim to have a direct impact in poverty alleviation, the publications have to leave the idea that the Building Issues only are written by “specialists”, and be transformed into something more dynamic for the exchange of the experiences for those who make the innovations in the field.

Building Issues needs to be actualized. Sida should produce new terms of references for the initiative in consultation with HDM and a new tender should be called.

The innovations for the publication should at least take the following into account:

- Broaden the context from Building Issues to Urban Development Issues. On the content of subject matter issues of more integrated and sustainable developmental aspect on the broadest spectrum of a developmental scheme
- Generate modules of two or three publications centred on the same issue.
- Link to the topics that are covered to the ITP related courses.
- Include regional partners as the universities of Cochabamba, San José, Cape Town and other institutions and regional NGOs.
- Develop an electronic publication, with out loosing the hard copy version, for organizations that have Document Centres, and for people working in the field, without access to computers.
- To develop a competent and permanent serviced Web Site.
- To open a direct dialogue with the target group, aiming to address the current problems on housing and urbanization in the different regions.

- To use the publication network and ITP courses in a more complementary way, that would enhance Sida's cooperation initiatives and objectives in relations to shelter for the poor and urban development issues.
- The use of Spanish in the publication that are distributed in Latin America.

7.1.1 Proposed New Structure

The following organization represents the summary of recommendations from the evaluation:

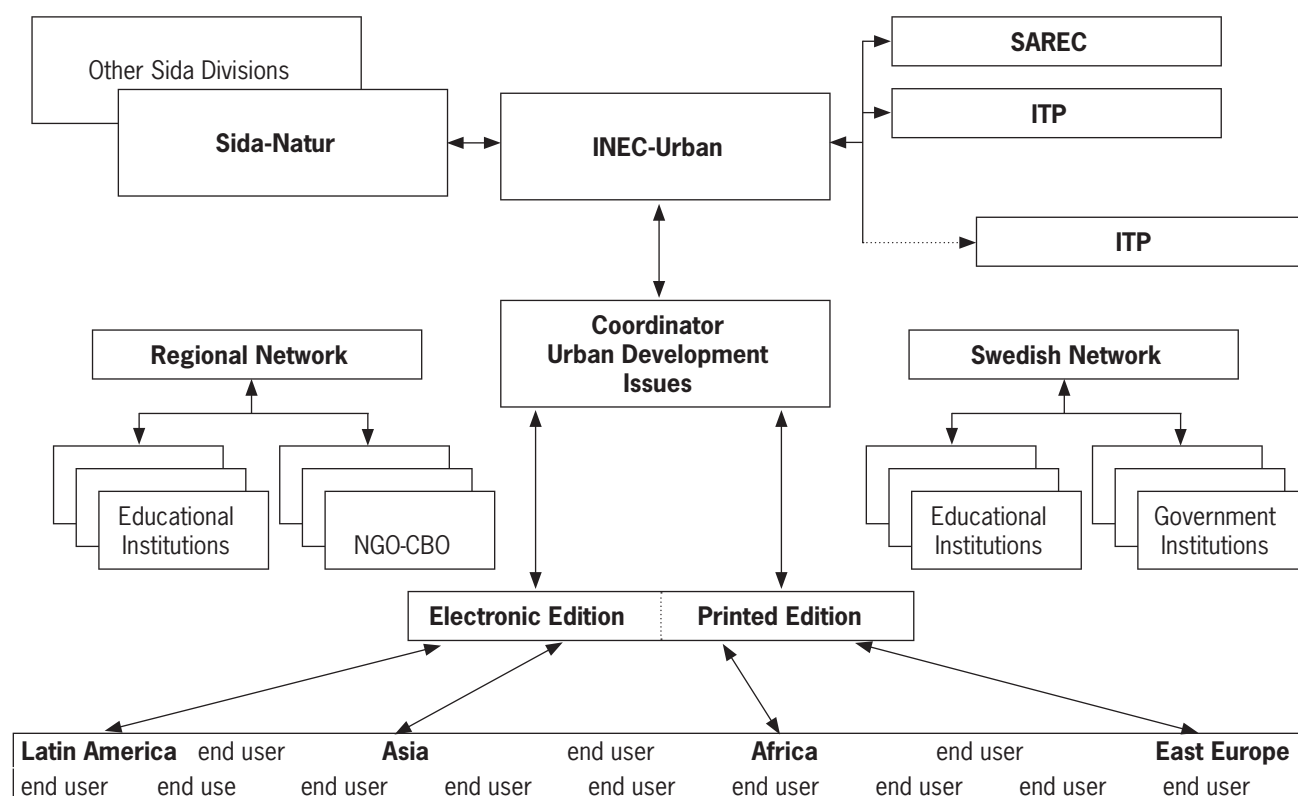


Fig.: Shows proposed future organisation for Building Issues publications

INEC-Urban

This Sida section should maintain its role as the first client to the initiative but INEC/Urban should involve and coordinate with other Sida's departments/institutions involved in urban development such as: SAREC, ITP, MFS, Natur etc.

Coordinator of Urban Development Issues

(Sida should decide the name of this new initiative).

A convincing, knowledgeable and impartial entity will be the implementing agency of the new initiative. Its role will be to follow Sida's directives and to establish and coordinate the inputs coming from the Swedish and Regional networks. This services provider will also produce and distribute the new publication in its two formats, soft and hard copies, and it will develop and upkeep the proposed website.

Regional Network

A regional network should be developed including regional educational institutions, NGO's, CBO's and central, regional and local government institutions that are interested to participate in the Network.

It is proposed that the focal regions should be Africa, Latin America, Asia, East Europe and possibly the Middle East. The Network should have a global character but also regional individuality.

Swedish Network

The Swedish network will be composed of educational institutions dealing with urban development issues and government institutions involved in related international activities.

Electronic Edition (Soft copies)

The publication will be accessible in its own interactive website. The development of a user database will be a requirement.

Printed Edition (Hard copies)

The proposed limited printed edition will be distributed using the data base built up by HDM during the BIP period.

7.2 Alternative to Building Issues: Africa

The following suggested improvements as reinforcement to the slight alteration of the present arrangement of the Building Issues are worth considering. On the content of subject matter issues of more general developmental aspect shall be included which addresses Sida's new vision with the publications title change that is more comprehensive on the broadest spectrum of a developmental scheme, may be titled as "Enviromedia for Development" (focusing on Socio-economical as well as techno-developmental issues). Concerning its dissemination, mass oriented approach is preferable, like televising physically implemented developmental projects and on the spot delivering technical as well as historical backing report of the project as graphical and verbal teaching information brochure for other potential users to learn from.

This helps to reach a wider end user domain down to the grass root level. Alternative network system shall be devised which is technologically compatible to the developing countries advancement level. Potentially to have wider coverage means like radio, televisions are preferable although their time coverage program may be minimum due to financial limitation on the rent, but their impact is so high.

Publications shall include address leaflets for the convenience of new members to join the program.

Information dissemination media of other versions, like video tape, to reach the wider domain can also be used.

Finally, if possible establishing an independent full-fledged departmental institution to solely take care of the entire program and activities involved; and subjected to consistent supervision by any selected higher academic institute, like HDM at Lund, on the conviction of Sida will make the program stand by its own foot.

Altogether Sida's objective of prompting such grand and good cause of supporting developing countries in their strive for progress through the initiation of such developmental knowledge transfer shall always continue as it always imparts constructive backing to nations future destiny.

7.3 Alternative to Building Issues: Asia

7.4 Alternative to Building Issues: Latin america

The study has determined that the Building Issues is well evaluated for those who know it. All the people that knew about the publication considered it from adequate to very good, and think that these types of publications are very important for the exchange of experience among those working with the problems of shelters and urbanization in the South.

In the past, technicians implementing projects that were supported by Sida were facing problems more related to “Building Issues”. Now, the complexity of the on going process at the region demands for a more comprehensive and participatory approach to the problems. The organisations in the region want to share their experience with each other, as well to discuss and learn from others experiences.

A key element for the future will be to change the Building Issues a more inclusive and participative tool that will allows to open more space for the interaction of all the members of the network. The publication has to break down the idea that only the “specialists” write the articles and transform in something more dynamic for the exchange the experiences for those who make the innovations on the field.

The innovations for the publication, at least should take in account the following:

- The use of Spanish in the publication that are distributed in the Latin America.
- To move to an electronic publication, with out loosing the hard copy version for organisations that have Document Centres, and for people working in the field, with out access to computers.
- So much dispersion it would not be a good idea either. A way to avoid this situation is to generate modules of two or three publications, centred in the same issue, and related to the topics that are covered at the international and regional courses in Lund, Cochabamba and San José, transforming the publication in a very useful tool for training.
- Public is asking for a very participative network, not only to discus the subjects that are covered by the publication, but also to open a permanent dialogue to address the problems of housing and urbanization in the region.
- Using publication, network and post-graduate courses in a more complementary way, would enhance the dissemination of Sida’s cooperation vision and HDM objectives for building capacity at the local level in relations to shelter for the poor and urban development issues.

8 Appendices (only available in the printed version)

...to be found in part 2 of Evaluation of “Building Issues”

Appendix A *Terms of Reference for the Evaluation* of “Building Issues”; an institutional cooperation between HDM at Lund University, Sweden and Sida

Appendix B *Samarbetsavtal Sida – LCHS*

How the evaluation was carried out:

Appendix C Activities carried out in Sweden

Appendix D Presentation of HDM at Lund University;

Appendix E Questionnaire used

Regional reports:

Appendix F Report region Africa

Appendix G Report region Asia

Appendix H Report region Latin America

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