

IN BRIEF...

Swedish Education Sector Support to Mozambique

The Swedish support to the education sector in Mozambique started directly after independence in 1975. The number of pupils entering the schools at that time increased substantially and many persons with low levels of education were recruited as teachers. Great efforts were made to provide these teachers with in-service training and to develop a new curriculum and new textbooks, in order to achieve liberation from the colonial heritage and to provide as many people as possible with basic education.

The Swedish support was a contribution to these efforts and over the years it has mainly focused on production and distribution of textbooks, vocational training and adult education.

Between 1981 and 1992, the war in Mozambique affected the schools to a great extent. A vast undertaking to rehabilitate what had been destroyed during the war has been in progress since the peace agreement of 1992. Today the number of schools is more or less the same as in 1981, when the war gained ground in Mozambique.

Objectives of the support

The present agreement on support to the education sector covers the period 2000–2002, with a budgetary framework of SEK150m (approx. US\$15m). The support focuses on the objectives and ESSP (Education Sector Strategic Plan) of Mozambique's education policy.

These include mainly the following:

- To expand access and equality
- To improve educational quality
- To sustain expansion and institutional development

Half of the support is channelled through a basket funding of a sector programme together with other donors with the aim of supporting the implementation of the strategic plan. A quarter of the support is used to supply textbooks to primary school pupils. The final quarter supports the improvement of management and administration in the education sector, including a gradual decentralisation of responsibility to the lower levels of the sector. This earmarked support is planned to be replaced as soon as possible by support to the education sector as a whole, that is, through the basket funding of the sector programme.

Disbursement 2000–2002

During an earlier agreement period from 1991–1996, about SEK295m (approx. US\$40m) was disbursed for education. In addition, SEK28m (approx. US\$3.5m) was disbursed in 1994–1997 in support of the Eduardo Mondlane University (UEM). During the present agreement (not including the support to UEM), some SEK130m of the total SEK150m (approx. US\$15m) have been disbursed up until December 2002. The disbursements can be broken down as follows:

	SEK (m)
Textbooks – grade 1–7	40.0
Improved management and administration	37.1
Common pool fund	30.0
Adult literacy	7.5
IICB/IIM – Technical education	5.2
IAP – Distance teacher education	5.0
Studies, evaluations and audits	3.4
INDE – Research capacity for primary education	1.8
TOTAL	130

Results achieved

The Swedish support has contributed to a large extent to the present situation in which in principle all Mozambican primary school students have textbooks in all subjects. A working system for the procurement of text-

books at the local level has been established. This is a big step forward compared to the situation a few years ago and compared to the situation in many other developing countries.

The support to various projects for capacity building has had the effect that strategic persons have obtained relevant training at university level in fields such as pedagogy, education research, adult education and the teaching of mathematics.

Industrial institutes have been rehabilitated and somewhat extended where buildings and equipment are concerned and have been supplied with new manuals, a modernised administration and teachers with in-service training.

Management and administrative capacities have been strengthened by various projects for improving systems and by the training of personnel in, for example, the area of educational statistics.

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SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY
SE-105 25 Stockholm Sweden
Phone: +46 (0)8 698 50 00
Fax: +46 (0)8 698 56 15
info@sida.se, www.sida.se