

IN BRIEF...

Swedish Support to Eduardo Mondlane University in Mozambique

Sweden started to support development research in 1975. The support is administered by Sida's Department for Research Co-operation, SAREC, which is responsible for funding research. SAREC also acts as a resource for development co-operation programmes run by other departments of Sida in which there is a focus on research.

When SAREC began its support to the Eduardo Mondlane University (UEM) in Maputo in 1978, there was hardly any indigenous research capacity at the university. Of about 80 teaching staff at the time, 75 were expatriate and 5 were Mozambican; none of the latter had a research degree.

The main purpose of SAREC's support was to build up research capacity, which was later broadened to include institutional capacity. The approach adopted was that of a long-term co-operation between UEM and Swedish university departments for research training in agriculture, natural and engineering sciences, and African studies. The academic output of the research training awarded by Swedish universities consisted of doctoral degrees to Mozambican students.

During the twenty-five-year period of 1978–2003, SAREC and several other Sida departments have together provided UEM with an amount close to SEK250m. As a result of Sida's long-term support to UEM, a significant improvement in the university's

staff was achieved. Today UEM has 604 full-time academic staff members of which 547 (>90%) are Mozambicans. Considerable research capacity has been built up, with about 50 Mozambican teaching staff acquiring doctoral degrees, and research laboratories and libraries being equipped. A number of external evaluations of Sida's support to UEM have attested to it being a crucial factor in the development of national research capacity.

Despite the impressive level of development, there is still a long way to go before a stable research infrastructure is achieved. For example, the management capacity at faculty and university levels needs strengthening; the multi-university research programmes require development, as do the university research policy and strategy.

Goals and objectives of the future support:

During the next four-year period, Sida's support will continue to focus on research and capacity building based on national relevance and

regional needs as defined by UEM. Future co-operation will focus on improving the potential for integrated and interdisciplinary research and on building up a sustainable environment for research and research administration.

Research areas and partners

At present Sida supports (including open funds) nine faculties in research capacity building and research projects. The support is mainly concentrated on the faculties of science, engineering, arts and veterinary sciences, but also on the Informatics Centre and Historical Archive.

Swedish institutions are partners in the majority of the projects. They provide research supervision, academic monitoring, and research/teaching exchanges. The Swedish programme of co-operation includes more than twenty researchers at the Royal Institute of Technology, the National Veterinary Institute, Chalmers University of Technology, the Swedish Academy of Sciences, the Karolinska Institute, and the Universities of Lund, Uppsala, Stockholm and Gothenburg.

Halving poverty by 2015 is one of the greatest challenges of our time, requiring cooperation and sustainability. The partner countries are responsible for their own development. Sida provides resources and develops knowledge and expertise, making the world a richer place.



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