

Annual Report of Sida Evaluation Activities 2004



SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION AGENCY

Department for Evaluation and Internal Audit

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1 Introduction

The Department for Evaluation and Internal Audit (UTV) reports annually to Sida's Board of Directors on the progress of its own evaluation activities and the evaluations undertaken by other Sida departments and the Swedish embassies in the field of development co-operation. Sida's internal audit function that is part of UTV produces a separate annual report.

The present report is mainly a follow-up of progress made in relation to Sida Evaluation Plan for the year 2004. It contains information about evaluation projects, support to Sida departments, documentation and information, external networking/support and internal development projects. Details about these various evaluation activities are presented in appendices.

2 UTV evaluation activities

In 2004 UTV finalized its multi-year evaluation theme related to support to private sector development and gender mainstreaming. New thematic areas were explored and several new evaluation projects have been defined and started that will be carried over to the 2005 evaluation plan.

In April a new Sida Evaluation Manual was published and widely disseminated both within Sida and internationally. Another important feature of work in 2004 was the increased involvement by UTV staff in joint international networking and evaluation work. UTV continued supporting and being involved in joint international evaluation projects and in various networks for evaluation of development co-operation. Sweden through UTV assumed the chairmanship in the DAC Network on Development Evaluation as well as the chair for the joint evaluation program initiated by the EU Heads of Evaluation Services (EUHES).

Due to cut-backs in administrative funds one post as evaluation officer was vacant at the end of the year.

2.1 Evaluation

The evaluation plan for 2004 comprised 23 evaluation projects. Among these evaluations there are six so called joint evaluations that are carried out in co-operation with other organisations. A complete list of the evaluations is attached as *Appendix A*.

Two evaluations and one study in evaluation were finalised in 2004. In addition four working papers have been published with interim results in connection with ongoing evaluation projects. For a short presentation of their contents and major conclusions refer to *Appendix B*.

Both evaluations completed during 2004 were discussed at workshops and seminars at various stages of the evaluation process. Interested parties, both within and outside Sida, have been given an opportunity to discuss and comment on the design, the findings and the conclusions and recommendations of UTV evaluations. In 2004 UTV hosted 4 major seminars and workshops in connection with its evaluations. In addition UTV arranged a seminar in April on "Partnership in Evaluation" in connection with the launching of the new Sida Evaluation Manual. See also *Appendix D* for a list of the workshops and seminars.

2.2 Support to Sida departments

Each evaluation officer at the Department is responsible for providing support to two or more Sida departments and is hence being requested from time to time to give his or her best advice in matters related to evaluations carried out by the other departments and embassies. During the 2004 MULTI, RELA, SAREC, DESO, SEKA, INFO, INEC, and NATUR were some of the departments asking for UTV support.

UTV also provides support to Sida and its departments through membership in a number of Sida-wide groups and networks. UTV is represented in the POM Forum, an advisory network formed by the Department of Policy and Methods (POM), Sida's Internal World Bank Network, the Assessment Group for Country Strategies, and Sida's Learning Strategy Project among others. UTV is also an ex officio member of Sida's Project Committee. The Project Committee is a quality assurance mechanism that examines project assessments of Sida contributions exceeding SEK 50 million. It gives advice to the Director General prior to decisions on such contributions. In 2004, about 40 project assessments were reviewed by the Project Committee.

Sida's Evaluation Manual, "Looking Back, Moving Forward", was published in 2004. Intended as an aid for Sida's co-operations partners and external consultants as well as for Sida staff, the manual was disseminated in about 4 000 copies during the year. It was also made available on Sida's home page on the Internet. In connection with the launching of the manual in April, 2004, UTV organised a seminar on the issue of partnership in evaluation. In the months following this event, the manual was presented by UTV staff to most of Sida's departments and to several embassies. It was also presented to some external audiences. Responding to a widely felt need for a manual that in non-technical language explains some of the basic concepts of evaluation and at the same time provide concrete how-to-do-it guidance for the management of evaluations, Sida's evaluation manual has also been found useful by the development co-operation administrations of other donor countries. Some donor organisations are now discussing the possibility of producing a similar manual for the bilateral donor community as a whole.

2.3 Documentation

UTV publishes all Sida evaluations in a series of publications and makes sure that they are readily available in hard copies and conveniently available for interested partners to download from Sida's home page.

Apart from this publishing and distribution activity, UTV maintains a data base on Sida evaluations and a minor reference library of Sida evaluations and international literature on evaluation in general.

The number of publications in the past three years is detailed in the table below.

Table 1. Number of publications 2002–2004

	Sida Evaluations	Sida Studies in Evaluation	Sida Evaluation Newsletter	Working Papers
2004	38**	2	2	4
2003	41	5	2	0
2002	38*	1	2	2

* 40 published, of which 2 were translations

** 38 published; of which 1 was a translation (SE 03/29) and two were UTV thematic evaluation

2.4 External tasks

During 2004 UTV actively participated in the OECD/DAC Network on Development Evaluation (previously known as the OECD/DAC Working Party on Aid Evaluation), the EU Heads of Evaluation Services (EUHES), and the so-called NordicPlus initiative for co-ordination and joint planning of evaluations (Denmark, Finland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom). During the year the Director of UTV was elected Chairperson of the DAC Evaluation Network. With this position followed numerous obligations. Along with Sida's Humanitarian Division, UTV is also a participant of ALNAP, the Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action. In 2004 ALNAP held two major conferences.

In 2004 UTV was involved in a number of joint evaluations with other donors. The following required major investments of time and effort:

- *The Joint Evaluation of the Triple C.* Initiated by the EU Heads of Evaluation Services (EUHES), this is an evaluation of the implementation of the Maastricht Treaty principles of co-ordination, complementarity, and coherence in EU development co-operation activities. During the past year UTV chaired the task force for the evaluation and also provided other kinds of support for the study. Furthermore, within the framework of the larger evaluation, UTV has agreed to make a field-based study of how the Maastricht principles work in support for local development. The drafting of the TOR for this study was completed during the year.
- *Joint Evaluation of General Budget Support.* Initiated by DFID, the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom, this is a major assessment of general budget support involving almost thirty countries and agencies. UTV is a member of the Evaluation Management Group as well as of a more inclusive Steering Group. During the past year the UTV representative has participated in several meetings with these groups and assisted in negotiations on contract issues with the consultancy team.
- *The Independent Evaluation of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).* On behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UTV has participated in the Steering Committee of an independent evaluation of IFAD that was commissioned by IFAD's Board in 2002. The evaluation seeks to measure the impact of IFAD on rural poverty and attempts to assess IFAD's organizational effectiveness. It will be completed in early 2005.
- *Joint Evaluation of Support for Internally Displaced Persons.* Sida has actively participated in a joint evaluation of support for internally displaced persons with six other donor organizations. While Danida provided overall leadership for the evaluation, UTV assumed the main responsibility for managing the evaluation synthesis report. The synthesis work was finalized in 2004 and will be jointly published in early 2005.

Among occasional activities the following should be mentioned. In March UTV staff presented experiences from evaluating gender mainstreaming at a conference hosted by the Italian Evaluation Association. In April UTV staff made a presentation of the Joint Evaluation of General Budget Support at the Washington Roundtable on Budget Support and Other Program Aid organized by USAID.

In September UTV chaired a session at the EGDI-WIDER/UNU Conference on Unlocking Human Potential: Linking for Formal and Informal Sectors in Helsinki. In October, UTV staff lectured at the Master's Programme in Development Studies, at Uppsala University. UTV was represented on a discussion panel on the organization of evaluation units in public sector agencies at the First Annual

Meeting of the Swedish Evaluation Society. In November, UTV presented a concept paper on the feasibility of evaluating the development effectiveness of total ODA at country level to the DAC Network on Development Evaluation in Paris, and in the same month UTV presented Sida experiences with country evaluations at a UNDP seminar in New York. In December, finally, UTV staff presented a paper on program theory evaluation and support for democracy at the conference of the African Evaluation Association in Cape Town, South Africa.

2.5 Internal projects

Altogether six internal projects were included in the Evaluation Plan for 2004. The purpose is to enhance the effectiveness of UTV evaluations and internal audits.

One project was called “Mini-process on Facilitation” and was conducted in close co-operation with Liz Gould associates. The purpose of the project was to explore the meaning and implications of a participatory approach to evaluations and internal audits. During 2004 the process developed into a rather comprehensive learning programme in facilitation that will be concluded in June 2005.

The Communication plan contained some ten subprojects and most of them were initiated in 2004, and about half of them completed. The project concerning how UTV is being presented on Sida’s external website and the continuous dialogue with Sida’s information department will be continued in 2005.

The internal UTV project to analyse trends in development cooperation modalities and conditions and their possible consequences for UTV was completed. Results were summarised in the report “UTV in a changing environment – what reasons to plan and work differently?”, which was based on interviews with embassy staff in selected countries in Africa and Asia, with a number of donors and representatives for partner countries and on written sources from various agencies. Conclusions from the report are used for long-term planning of UTV’s mode of work and future tasks.

The report argues that increased partner country ownership, consensus regarding overriding objectives (the millennium development goals), improved coordination and harmonisation, sector-wide cooperation, PRSPs and the recent strong interest in results-based management seem to change conditions for evaluations in different and partly contradictory ways. Donors push for advanced monitoring and evaluation “systems” where the political and administrative requirements are not yet in place; ambitious sector reviews may make evaluations to be considered redundant; evaluation management becomes more complicated as coordination will require longer lead times and more extensive preparatory work.

Obvious positive trends are increasing number of joint evaluations, more participation by partner countries in evaluations, better possibilities to recruit qualified evaluators in partner countries and a growing understanding for greater emphasis on dissemination of evaluation results.

For UTV one conclusion is the need for a stronger field orientation. Also UTV’s role in Sida must be assessed.

Project organisation of UTV work

In 2003, UTV initiated a project in order to develop its internal routines related to evaluation and audit projects, including the development of internal teamwork among evaluators and auditors. The project was completed in 2004. On the basis of a questionnaire among staff and internal communications, guidelines for internal teamwork were agreed, established and added to UTV’s working rules.

Printing and distribution process

In 2003, Sida changed printing company and UTV decided to outsource larger parts of its work related to the process of lay-out, linguistic scrutiny, printing and distribution of its reports. UTV therefore initiated a project to develop and establish its own routines and those of contracted partners in relation to this process. The project was completed in 2004 and resulted in three guiding documents. Linked to this project, UTV's routines related to the broader completion phase of evaluation projects were documented in an experience collection as guidance to old and new staff.

Reporting and assessing development results.

There have been both internal and external (including the Evaluation Network at Sida) seminars under this heading during 2004. We have had discussions connected to Sida's Evaluation Manual and to academic papers, as well as discussions with invited experts. The project as it stands is completed, but discussions will continue in other forms at UTV.

3 Available resources and utilisation of funds

In 2004 UTV had 14 regular staff positions, a reduction of two compared to the previous year. UTV had a total of six positions as evaluation officers. One of the evaluation officers is also deputy director of UTV. In addition UTV had a librarian responsible for documentation and for the first six months of the year a project assistant working mostly with evaluation activities.

UTV is allocated administrative funds and funds on the account for bilateral development (see table 2 below). To cover administrative costs, including salaries, UTV as a whole was allocated a budget for 2004 of SEK 9 025 000 (This was a 3,9% decrease in comparison with the previous year and included funds being carried over from the previous year).

On the account for Bilateral development co-operation UTV was allocated SEK 14 000 000 (one million less than the previous year) plus an unspent balance of SEK 3 300 000 from 2003. During the year SEK 2 000 000 were reallocated to other purposes within Sida. These funds are mainly used for consultancy services, contributions to joint evaluation projects and for costs related to the printing and dissemination of reports.

UTV had an utilisation rate of 94% of available administrative funds in 2004. When it comes to utilisation of available funds on the development account UTV used 74% of its allocation, amounting to a total of SEK 11 295 000, almost 51% higher than the previous year.

Table 2. Budget and expenditure 2002–2004 (thousand SEK)

	Development account		Administrative account	
	Budget	Expenditure	Budget	Expenditure
2004	15 300	11 295 (74%)	8 962	9 025 (94%)
2003	15 000	7 472 (50%)	9 390	9 248 (98%)
2002	18 911	15 955 (84%)	8 701	8 058 (93%)

4 Evaluation activities by Sida departments

Sida's sector and regional departments and Swedish embassies with responsibility for development co-operation carry out a significant number of evaluations. UTV is responsible for follow-up of the evaluation plan of the departments and the embassies and for the printing and documentation of the evaluation reports. As in 2004, the departments' reporting to UTV has been satisfactory.

The following table presents the status of the evaluations which were reported in the Evaluation Plan for 2004.

Table 3. Departmental evaluations in plan 2002–2004 (number of evaluations)

Evaluation projects	2004	2003	2002
Planned	113	133	91 ¹
Completed	28	34	19
Active	37	36	22
Total	65	70	41
Will start later (in plan)	20	32	22
Cancelled (in plan)	28	31	28
Total	48	63	50

Only 58% of the evaluations included in the 2004 plan were completed or will continue in 2005, which may be compared with 53% and 45% in 2003 and 2002 respectively. In addition, 7 evaluations were completed which were not specified in the evaluation plan. This may be compared with 5 and 18 in 2003 and 2002 respectively. All evaluations that were reported to UTV as completed have been published in the series "*Sida Evaluations*".

Table 4. Departmental evaluations, both planned and unplanned, 2002–2004 (Number of evaluations)

Evaluation projects	2004	2003	2002
Total of completed and active projects	72	75	65
Completed	35	39	35
In plan	28	34	19
Not in plan	7	5	16
Active	37	36	30
In plan	37	36	22
Not in plan	0	0	8

¹ 92 are in the plan but one of these was completed and published in 2001

Table 5. Completed and published evaluations by department in 2004

Responsible department	Evaluations
Africa	3
Asia	3
Europe	6
Latin America	1
Co-operation with NGOs and Humanitarian Assistance	4
Democracy and Social development	9
Infrastructure and Economic Co-operation	5
Natural Resources and the Environment	1
Research Co-operation	3
Other ²	3
Total	38

Sida Evaluation Data Worksheet is submitted to UTV in connection with the publication of the departments' evaluation reports, and contains basic information about the evaluations. During 2004 the departments submitted worksheets for 35 completed evaluations (100%), compared with 97% in 2003 and 100% in 2002. The presentation below is based on this information.

The total cost in 2004 for the evaluations where UTV has received information (not all the worksheets contain this information) is estimated at 26 236 023 SEK. In 2004 the average cost for an evaluation was 749 601 SEK.

Table 6. Departmental costs related to evaluations during 2002–2004

	Total cost (for Sida)	Average cost
2004	26 494 023	779 236
2003	14 338 976	367 666
2002	17 552 000	501 000

The annual cost of the departments' evaluations is approximately 2,6% of Sida's total cost of project support for the period 2004, while the percentage was 0,6 and 1,3% the previous two years.

The data worksheets yield an approximate figure of the volume of Sida's development co-operation that has been evaluated by the departments in any one year. For 2004 the estimation is 1,03 billion SEK, which corresponds to 8,1% of the total allocation of development co-operation funds at the disposal of Sida. The corresponding figure for 2003 was 2,2 billion SEK, or 16%.

Table 7. Regional distribution of evaluations 2002–2004

	Africa	Asia	Latin America	Europe	Global	Middle East
2004	29%(10)	20%(7)	9%(3)	22%(8)	9%(3)	11%(4)
2003	44%(17)	10%(4)	13%(5)	23%(9)	10%(4)	
2002	28%(10)	28%(10)	26%(9)	6%(2)	6%(2)	6%(2)

² Where two are UTV thematic evaluation and one was a translation to Portuguese of Sida Evaluation 03/29

A majority of evaluations dealt with bilateral co-operation, 49% in 2004. Next comes the non-governmental channel (34%).

Table 8. Channels for the development co-operation evaluated in 2002–2004

	Bilateral	Multilateral	Non-governmental	Incomplete
2004	49%(17)	17%(6)	34%(12)	0
2003	51%(20)	10%(4)	36%(14)	3%(1)
2002	38%(13)	15%(5)	44%(15)	3%(1)

In 2004 most evaluations dealt with the social sector. This has been the case for all three years.

Table 9. Sector for the development co-operation evaluated in 2002–2004³

	Social sector	Economic sector	Infrastructure sector	Public admin	Disaster relief	Incomplete
2004	49%(21)	11%(5)	11%(5)	18%(8)	11%(5)	0
2003	62%(24)	10%(4)	5%(2)	21%(8)	2%(1)	0
2002	52%(20)	13%(5)	11%(4)	11%(4)	8%(3)	5%(2)

³ When more than one sector was involved.

Appendix A

UTV Evaluations and Studies According to Annual Plan 2004

Number Started Status 2004 12 31 Name

Evaluations and studies

1	2003	Completed	Pre-study of partnership issues in monitoring and evaluation
2	2003	Continues	Evaluation of management response to evaluations
3	2004	Continues	Synthesis of experiences from country evaluations
4	2004	Continues	Joint evaluation of quality of DAC member evaluations
5	2003	Continues	Evaluation of Sida's HIV/AIDS strategy
6	2003	Completed	Evaluation of Sida support to culture and the media
7	2004	Continues	Evaluation of the implementation of Sida's policy for sustainable development
8	2003	Continues	Evaluation of the three C's in the context of European Union aid (carried out jointly under HES supervision)
9	2001	Completed	Evaluation of Sida's approach to private sector development (PSD) support for rural development
10	2001	Completed	Evaluation of Sida's approach to PSD support in Russia and Ukraine
11	2003	Completed	Synthesis of three evaluations of Sida support to PSD
12	2004	Completed	Preparatory work regarding Sida's growth strategies
13	2004	Continues	Supporting institutional Development: Pre-study of Sida's views, work and knowledge
14	2002	Completed	Preparatory study of support for institutional development in Laos: The roads and forestry sectors
15	2004	Discontinued	Sustainable urban development
16	2003	Continues	Joint evaluation of the International Fund for Agricultural Development(IFAD)
17	2002	Continues	Preparatory study of Sida's support to democracy and human rights
18	2004	Continues	Evaluation of Sida's programmatic approach to the health sector
19	2001	Completed	Evaluation of support to basic education (in co-operation with the Netherlands and other donors within the DAC framework)
20	2003	Continues	Evaluation of Sida's Integrated Area Programmes in Bosnia-Herzegovina

Other projects and activities

21	2003	Completed	Pre-study of Swedish budget support
22	2002	Continues	Evaluation of general budget support (joint donor evaluation initiated by Dfid within the DAC framework)
23	2003	Continues	Joint Nordic evaluation: Predictability, continuity and exit
24	2000	Completed	Production of evaluation manual for Sida
25	2004	Completed	Dissemination of evaluation manual for Sida
26	Ongoing	Continues	DAC Working Party on Aid Evaluation
27	Ongoing	Continues	EU Heads of Evaluation Services (EUHES)
28	2003	Completed	Internal Sida project on strategic learning (Lär-strategiprojektet)
29	2003	Completed	Result-based indicators
30	Ongoing	Continues	Sida's Project Committee (Projektkommittén)
31	Ongoing	Continues	Sida Evaluation Newsletter

Internal UTV projects

32	2003	Continues	Mini-process on facilitation
33	2003	Completed	Communication plan
34	2003	Completed	UTV in a changing environment
35	2003	Completed	Project organisation of UTV work
36	2003	Completed	Printing and distribution process
37	2004	Discontinued	Reporting and assessing development results

Appendix B

Presentations of Evaluations Concluded in 2004

Private Sector Development Support in Action: Sida's Approach, Working Methods and Portfolio in Russia and Ukraine

Sida Evaluation 04/02

This evaluation identifies and assesses Sida's approach to private sector development (PSD) support in Russia and Ukraine, by examining Sida's working methods and the relevance of its PSD project portfolios in 1996 and 2002.

It finds that Sida's approach to PSD support at the time of the evaluation was predominantly organic, reflecting a gradual and opportunity driven process, based on learning-by-doing – as opposed to a more rationalistic conscious planning perspective, based on systematic analysis and clear priorities.

The main conclusion is that whereas the organic approach appears to have been well functioning, in terms of supporting feasible projects at a local level, the overall portfolio relevance seems to have suffered. The evaluation argues that it is urgent for Sida to reconsider its current approach to PSD support in Russia and Ukraine.

This is the third evaluation in a series of studies of Sida's approach to PSD support. It complements the other ones, by identifying the strengths and weaknesses of an alternative way of working. By suggesting a trade-off between feasibility and relevance, it also draws our attention to the distinction between project level efficiency and efficiency at overall societal level.

Evaluation of Sida's Work with Culture and Media

Sida Evaluation 04/38

During 2004 COWI A/S conducted an evaluation commissioned by UTV focused on the relevance of support to culture and media as a means for poverty reduction in general, and the relevance and effectiveness of Sida's support to culture and media in particular. The aim of the evaluation was to establish the actual *role* support to culture *and* media play in the poverty reduction effort and the role they should play.

The evaluation states that the human, socio-political and material resources that culture and the media enhance promote collective and individual empowerment that can lead to structural changes that advance the reduction of poverty. Such efforts, then, are indeed relevant as a means to poverty reduction.

As far as Sida's support to culture and media concerns it is considered both relevant and effective. The evaluators claim that the Sida policy on culture and media presents a thoughtful and progressive view of culture and development that, internationally, is still "cutting-edge".

Sida's culture support portfolio as a whole is highly relevant to the Policy's overall goal of "creating opportunities for cultural diversity, creative activities and sustainable development based on human rights". However, it is argued that the relevance of Sida's support to culture can be enhanced if project designs contain a greater focus on the aim of poverty reduction. It would also need to address such additional issues as how culture support can contribute to promoting peace, encourage cultural industries and strengthen intellectual property rights.

The evaluators furthermore claim that considerable effort will need to be devoted to formulating a new media policy. According to them the current policy lacks clear goals and a full appreciation of the media's role in poverty reduction. In addition to analysing how the media can contribute to poverty reduction and empowerment, a new policy would need to be founded on an understanding of the media's role as an instrument for accountability.

The effectiveness of the interventions supported by Sida in culture and media varies. On the whole the projects were considered to be of solid quality and appear to be having the desired effects.

Evaluation of Integrated Area Programmes in Bosnia-Herzegovina

UTV Working Paper 2004:1

In 2003 UTV started up a participatory evaluation process of the Integrated Area Programmes (IAPs) in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The evaluation consists of a number of studies, reports, workshops and seminars. During 2004 UTV published a working paper (2004:1) from an evaluation workshop with major evaluation stakeholders. The participants of the workshop regarded governance of Bosnia Herzegovina (BiH) as *the* major obstacle for achieving long-term sustainable local development by means of the IAPs. The major problem in this regard is the unclear and unsustainable political structure that was established by the Dayton Peace Agreement.

As far the programmes concern it was suggested that it is both possible and desirable for Sida and its implementers to co-ordinate their efforts better with each other and improve their dialogue with politicians and beneficiaries. Furthermore, it was argued that a precondition for sustainable rural development is that people take more responsibility for their own development. To create ownership locally is thus an important aspect of Sida's exit strategies in the areas where they have been involved. Based on these findings, the evaluation team suggested that Sida should make an effort to explore alternative strategies for developing local ownership. Such strategic considerations should also, ideally, be co-ordinated with Sida projects within the area of democracy and human rights in BiH.

During 2004 UTV furthermore commissioned a survey with 3000 households and an anthropological field study. Some results from these were disseminated at a seminar in Sarajevo in October, and will be published in reports during 2005.

Development of Swedish General Budget Support 1990–2003

UTV Working Paper 2004:3

This working paper is an overview of the development of Swedish general budget support (GBS) from 1990 to 2003. It includes a thorough work on data gathering and data interpretation GBS as well as other programme aid disbursed over the period. For the period 1998–2003 a more detailed mapping of GBS is done, including the scope of GBS to different countries and the continuity in payments. Changes in goals, criteria and justification of GBS is also identified and analysed.

Even though the main purpose of the study was to gather data, some interesting conclusions are made. Swedish programme aid decreased during the first half of the 90s but the trend has turned and is now approaching the earlier levels. There seems to be a tendency of increasing Swedish GBS both in terms of volume and in relation to other forms of programme aid. Moreover, the number of countries that receive GBS is increasing. In 1998 Sweden disbursed GBS to four countries; in 2003 the number was ten. Even if GBS currently does not account for a large portion of Sweden's total bilateral development cooperation (5.3% in 2003), it accounts for a large portion in its cooperation with specific countries. Between 1990 and 1998 the most common justification for GBS disbursement was "support for economic reforms", but after 2000 it was "support for poverty reduction", especially in the form of a PRSP. The goal was previously linked to the growth objective in Swedish aid policy, but in recent times they have been linked more to the sub-goal of economic and political independence.

The study will be an important source of data for future analysis of GBS. The data was earlier hard to access but is now presented systematically. A concrete example of use is as an input in the on-going Joint Evaluation of GBS that will be finalised in the end of 2005. The report is also useful in light of the new GBS guidelines since the facts from this report will be connected to the old guidelines and hence useful for baseline purposes.

Budget Support – a discussion of early evidences

UTV Working Paper 2004:4

This literature review is part of the preparation of a comprehensive Joint Evaluation of General Budget Support (GBS). The purpose was to review and summarise existing literature on GBS (ongoing and completed studies and evaluations), and apply this new information to the GBS evaluation framework. It should provide donors with early evidence and lessons on the effectiveness of GBS as an aid instrument, making clear where sufficient existing evidence supports or contradicts the framework and where the picture is less clear. Another objective was to produce a useful input for the evaluation team in the inception phase of the GBS evaluation, indicating the issues where more evidence is necessary and the issues appropriate for the evaluation.

It was hard from the existing literature to find firm evidences of any effects from GBS since this type of aid modality is relatively new. However, some indications were found. For example:

- The data does not suggest that the introduction of GBS has reduced the variations in programme aid; rather volatility has increased more recently as GBS has increased in importance. The literature warns that harmonisation of donor approaches towards GBS might further increase the volatility of GBS flows. However, where volatility is predictable, it can be managed through the budget.
- Some evidence suggests that GBS has emphasised service delivery in the social sectors at the expense of economic opportunities for the poor and short-term growth. Even though evidence suggests that programme aid has a positive impact on many of the macroeconomic key variables, it has been difficult to show a strong relationship with growth, and the specific contribution of GBS is still disputed.
- Some indicators were found suggesting that the systemic (learning-by-doing) and TA types of effect on the financial management system probably interact and are likely to be of greater value together than separately (early reform programmes without GBS, and therefore without systemic effects, were not successful). Many donor policies require an effective financial management system as a prerequisite for GBS, but in practice they consider the development of the financial management system as an intended outcome of GBS. Many partner countries had already initiated financial

management reforms by the early 1990s but the literature review suggests that the pace and depth of reforms increased after the evolution of GBS. However, it is sometimes argued that the problem is not so much a lack of a system as a lack of use of that system.

- It is important to note that there is no theoretical foundation for the link between harmonisation and alignment through increased ownership and reduced transaction costs to a strengthened Government. The available evidence reinforces harmonisation may actually reduce ownership, ownership may drive harmonisation rather than the other way around, harmonisation and alignment may increase transaction costs at least in the short term, etc.
- GBS also emphasises policy dialogue as an alternative to conditionality but, although there is evidence that policy dialogue is being used increasingly as a GBS input, it has been in addition to, not at the expense of, conditionality.

Joint Evaluation of External Support to Basic Education in Developing Countries.

“Local Solutions to Global Challenges: Towards Effective Partnership in Basic Education”

Basic education for all has been a stated goal for the world’s governments since Jomtien 1990, and it is one of the Millennium Development Goals. The joint evaluation of basic education, financed by Sida and 12 other multilateral and bilateral donors, was an attempt to find out what has happened since Jomtien; i.e. what have been the global strategies, practices and results of basic education in developing countries? Of particular interest for Sida generally are the discussions about challenges that arise within Sector wide approaches (SWAp). These discussions can become an important contribution to the policy development within this field both internationally, and at Sida.

The evaluators point out that one must find ways to support and implement basic education programmes that are more reflective of national and local needs and capacities. An important challenge for donors as well as partner countries is thus to ensure meaningful participation by a more diverse group of stakeholders in the development of national programmes, including SWAp arrangements. Another challenge is to find means within a SWAp to support innovations and to provide targeted support to marginalised groups. In this regard the evaluation team found evidence that project forms of support can be more effectively co-ordinated with programme approaches with the effect of strengthening the positive aspects of both modalities. The evaluators also conclude that SWAps not necessarily have been accompanied by a reduction in the administrative burden for host governments. Thus, if it is to deliver on the promise of a reduced administrative burden, the move to programme support must be accompanied by a strong commitment among external agencies to simplify and harmonise their administrative and procedural requirements.

Appendix C

Documents Published in Sida Series in 2004

Sida Evaluations 2004

- 04/01 Sida's Support to Regional Development Plans in Lithuania, Part II**
Dag Hjalmarsson, Carl Fredriksson
Department for Europe
- 04/02 Private Sector Development Support in Action: Sida's Approach, Working Methods and Portfolio in Russia and Ukraine**
Carl Fredriksson, Dag Hjalmarsson, Paul Dixelius
Department for Evaluation and Internal Audit
- 04/03 Programa de Reforço da Capacidade Institucional (RCI) no Ministério da Educação em Moçambique 1998–2002**
Karin Schulz, Grayson Clarke, Maria Catela, André Calengo
Department for Democracy and Social Development
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Appendix D

Major Seminars and Workshops in 2004

Organised by UTV

"Partnership in Evaluation". Seminar in connection with the launching of Sida Evaluation Manual, Stockholm	April
Stakeholder seminar, IAP evaluation, Sarajevo	April
IAP evaluation seminar, Swedish embassy, Sarajevo	April
Nordic+ meeting in Stockholm	June
Stakeholder seminar, Culture and media evaluation, Stockholm	September
Mid term evaluation seminar, IAP evaluation, Sarajevo	October
Workshops at Swedish embassies, Institutional development, Maputo and Nairobi.	November



SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY
UTVECKLINGSSAMARBETE
105 25 Stockholm, Sweden
Tel: 08-698 50 00. Fax: 08-20 88 64
Hemsida: <http://www.sida.se>

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