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Sida Decentralised Evaluation

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Evaluation of the Sida Child and Youth Initiative 2011-2015

Final Report

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**Final Report
October 2016**

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The views and interpretations expressed in this report are the authors' and do not necessarily reflect those of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sida.

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

AREU	Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit
ASRHR	Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
CIVSAM	Sida's Unit for Support to Civil Society
CoS	Church of Sweden
CRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRG	Child Rights Governance
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CYI	The Swedish Government's Child and Youth Initiative
ESD	Education for Sustainable Development
EfC	Education for Change
GAP	Global Action Programme
HRBA	Human Rights-Based Approach to Development
KFUM	Kristliga Föreningen av Unga Människor
LtG	Local to Global
MDG(s)	Millennium Development Goal(s)
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MRMV	My Right, My Voice
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
QEP	Quality Education Programme
REAct	Rights Evidence Action
RFSU	Riksförbundet för sexuell upplysning
SEK	Swedish krona
SCA	Swedish Committee for Afghanistan
SCS	Save the Children Sweden
SCI	Save the Children International
SDG(s)	Sustainable Development Goal(s)
SMC	Swedish Mission Council
SRHR	Sexual and reproductive health rights
STD(s)	Sexually Transmitted Disease(s)
ToC	Theory of Change
UN	United Nations
UNA	UN Association
UNHCR	United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees
WWF	World Wildlife Foundation
YAC	Youth Active Citizens Group

Preface

This is an evaluation of the “Sida Child and Youth Initiative”, initiated in 2011 and finalised in 2015. The evaluation was commissioned by Sida and carried out by NIRAS. The report was finalised in September 2016, after feedback from Sida on the draft report.

The independent evaluation team consisted of:

- Annika Nilsson, Team Leader
- Monika Lundin, Team Member

The Project Manager at NIRAS for this evaluation, Kristoffer Engstrand, has been responsible for compliance with NIRAS quality assurance system throughout the process and quality assurance was performed by Ian Christoplos.

The evaluation team would like to thank the respondents for working hard during the Swedish summer holidays to provide us with information and documentation.

Executive Summary

Background and aims

The Child and Youth Initiative (CYI) was adopted as a political steering tool, of unprecedented speed and scale, in December 2010. The Swedish Government's need to ensure that Swedish development aid contributed to the fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals coincided with a more general increase of the Appropriation for Support via Civil Society - of 350 million SEK annually. A large portion of this additional funding was allocated to the CYI. It was a considerable amount that made up around 20 percent of the total budget for Support via Civil Society during its life span. Between 2011 and 2015, a total of 758 MSEK was provided under the CYI to 13 selected grantees. Nine of them were Swedish framework organisations (including Swedish Committee for Afghanistan [SCA]) and four were international organisations.

This evaluation aims at providing lessons learnt to decision-makers at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and Sida (in particular the Unit for Support to Civil Society) as regards the effects and sustainability - beyond direct results for children and youth - on the policies and practices of grantees, their general programmes and their capacity to include children and adopt a child rights-based approach in the longer term.

The evaluation is based on a careful document review of the reporting by Sida and grantees and semi-structured interviews with key informants at MFA, Sida and grantees. Two grantees provided their answers to interview questions in writing. It was discovered that some of the grantees had sub-granted the funding to member organisations/wings. Four of these were added to the document review and interview list. In total 32 persons were interviewed. The actual implementation of programmes was often undertaken by local or international partners. It has not been possible to verify results at that level within the timeframe of this evaluation.

Findings

The evaluation found that the grantees managed to capitalise on the generous funding opportunity in different ways and to varying extents. The CYI made **major contributions** towards development of the child/youth rights focus of some grantees with limited previous experience in this area, most notably in relation to the programmes of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and Oxfam. The experiences gained under the CYI influenced policies and practices of the entire organisations and are now being drawn on in international networks. Although being a well-established child rights actor, Plan Sweden also falls into the category of grantees that successfully capitalised on the funding opportunity, having been in the midst of rapid expansion when the CYI was introduced. Plan Sweden is now considered as a global expert on sexual and reproductive health and rights for children and youth. All three organisations had a strategic vision for the additional funding – beyond using it to increase

coverage or provide additional services. The CYI contribution was sizeable and in the case of NRC and Oxfam the support was also granted for relatively long periods of time. Moreover, NRC and Oxfam were allowed to use funding for method development and internal capacity development and had explicit outcome objectives for these aspects. They were also given longer time for the inception phase, which helped them to strategise and plan better.

The CYI made **partial contributions** towards certain aspects of rights-based programming within many grantee organisations. Impressive steps have been taken towards enhanced participation and a more explicit inclusion of children and youth in programming by Swedish Association for Sexuality Education (RFSU), Vi Agroforestry, World Wildlife Foundation (WWF), NRC and Oxfam. SCA has initiated several internal processes to develop the capacity of staff to adopt a more rights-based approach. For some grantees the increases in funding for service delivery and infrastructure led to unexpected results in terms of their increased credibility to undertake advocacy and capacity development on children's rights (Save the Children and the Church of Sweden). Partnership approaches and the capacity of local partners to work with children and youth have strengthened among grantees, such as Oxfam, NRC, IBIS and Erikshjälpen.

Two sub-grantees, that are members of a framework organisation, namely the Swedish Young people's Christian Association (KFUM) and the United Nations Association (UNA Sweden), as well as the HIV/Aids Alliance come across as cases where the CYI has made a **limited contribution**. The KFUM programme was discontinued after 3 years (only the first year was formally funded by the CYI). UNA Sweden received a very large amount of extra funding for a project of very limited size to start with. There appears to have been limited opportunities to influence the UNA Sweden organisation beyond the project. It is now being continued with the same scale as prior to the CYI. The HIV/Aids Alliance programme in South Sudan was discontinued almost directly after CYI funding ended and the Alliance withdrew completely from South Sudan. The lessons learnt seem to have remained with the local partner, which is no longer part of the Alliance.

Conclusions

Despite some notable results achieved by grantees, it is concluded that the very substantial funding provided under CYI was not matched by results corresponding to that level of backing. Our findings suggest that earmarking and disbursing large amounts of funding during a short timeframe is not an effective way to achieve longer term rights-based and child/youth inclusive approaches, let alone the steady and reliable levels of investment needed to strengthen the organisations' own capacities. The evaluation team is convinced that with a more generous timeframe the CYI is likely to have been undertaken in a different format, with a more strategic focus and tools at hand to support the process.

When analysing the variable results of grantees the following patterns were identified:

- Grantees who managed to negotiate a longer timeframe for their planning and

implementation were more successful in achieving sustainable results.

- Grantees who had an internal momentum for method and capacity development, and were encouraged by Sida to use the funding to underpin these developments, were more successful in capitalising on the opportunities provided and sustain changes. Those who used the extra funding mainly to expand the coverage of a programme achieved more modest outcomes.
- Grantees who had specific objectives related to method innovation and internal capacity development were more successful in achieving such outcomes.

Management

Considering the short timeframes, the limited human resources at Sida Civsam and the design of the CYI, which to some extent was incompatible with the CSO Strategy, Sida Civsam made strong efforts to ensure efficient disbursement of the funds and minimise risk. The decision to invite a few well known grantees, rather than making an open call for proposals, was the only feasible option. The main lessons drawn from the management of the CYI are:

- The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were not formulated in a manner easily translated into a role for civil society organisations, as they heavily stress the capacity development of duty-bearers and access to health and educational services. Most grantees still managed to interpret Sida's intentions with the CYI pragmatically, while some fell back on more traditional direct service provision roles. The reporting on MDG contributions in annual reports of grantees is sometimes rather farfetched.
- The expectation on grantees to increase their child/youth rights focus and to enhance the child rights perspective in general programming, was not explicitly spelled out.
- The regulations that prevented Civsam from making longer term funding commitments and provide funding for internal capacity development to all grantees was counterproductive to achieving and sustaining (the implicit) capacity development goals of the CYI.
- The CYI was not accompanied by definitions or guidance in relation to children and youth, allowing for generous interpretations. The CYI appears to have been too blunt of a tool to promote age-appropriate responses on the child-youth spectrum.
- The CYI eligibility criteria welcomed programming in conflict/and post-conflict contexts, but their representation was not prominent. Considering the CYI framework, a more constructive inclusion of these countries was probably not possible. A focus on conflict/post conflict countries would require a different set-up and a closer cooperation, not only between the humanitarian and CSO units at Sida, but also between humanitarian and development units in the grantees' organisations (where such separate units exist.).

Recommendations

Based on the lessons learnt it is recommended that large short term financial injec-

tions (or reductions) in long term development cooperation should be avoided and earmarking of funds should be used with great caution. When providing funding to/through civil society organisations, expectations on their internal organisational capacity development outcomes and changes in their policies and practices should be clearly spelled out and funding should be provided to underpin these expectations.

Any future initiatives using earmarking of funding as a steering tool should:

1. Use the Swedish thematic and geographic strategies as main steering tools and use earmarking of funding to supplement or underline certain aspects of these strategies that need to be emphasised. It is also important to explicitly clarify how the initiative is expected to contribute to strategy fulfilment.
2. Allow sufficient time for planning and preparation of calls in close dialogue between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and Sida. One year for such preparations would appear to be a minimum.
3. Be clear about the timeframe of the initiative from the onset and plan for at least three years' implementation time. Five years should be appropriate.
4. Initiate a more open call for proposals to find the best possible grantees. Ensure that the funding modality also allows for smaller organisations, with limited absorption capacity, to apply and for grants to innovations that need to be tested before scaling up.
5. Design the criteria to promote grantees that have a vision for both internal and external changes to be achieved, with specific objectives for internal and external capacity development to ensure institutional and long term results. Allow funding for these aspects.
6. Design criteria that encourage grantees to develop their Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) - tailor made to their current level of understanding. Specify how the focus of the initiative is related to HRBA. Allow funding for these aspects.
7. Use the regular planning and reporting systems within MFA and Sida to ensure proper follow-up and support.
8. Invest in additional Sida capacity to play a more committed role during the initiative, following up more closely on dialogue issues and even playing a more facilitating/coordinating role towards organisations. Take interest in the results and lessons learnt by the grantees and facilitate learning and sharing possibilities, thematic and/or geographic.
9. Require inter-departmental coordination within Sida when funding is provided from more than one unit, especially in conflict and fragility contexts.
10. When contributing to global goals such as MDGs (and the subsequent global Sustainable Development Goals - SDGs), these need to be understood in the context of existing strategies and not handled as something extraordinary or overriding. Linkages could be highlighted in a strategy section, in each strategy, to increase understanding.

1 Introduction

1.1 BACKGROUND

In 2011, the Swedish Government increased the appropriation grant for Support via Civil Society by 350 million SEK, which was an increase of approximately 30 per cent. At the same time the government made it a condition that at least 200 MSEK of the total appropriation should be earmarked for initiatives related to children and youth and their right to health and education. Similar conditions were applied for the Strategy for Research (75 MSEK earmarked) and some areas under the Global Thematic Strategy (325 MSEK earmarked). It was not clearly spelled out, but it was interpreted that these conditions should be applied during the remainder of the respective strategy periods. The main aim of this so called Child and Youth Initiative (henceforth the CYI) was to enhance the Swedish Contribution to the fulfilment of four child-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): Poverty reduction (goal 1), Universal primary education (goal 2), Child Mortality (goal 4) and maternal health (goal 5). The four guiding principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) underpinned the CYI.

Sida's Unit for Support to Civil Society (Civsam) decided to use the new funding to increase the focus on children and youth, while other units (that were also required to use parts of their appropriation grant for children and youth) counted some of the already existing initiatives as part of their commitment towards children. There were a number of ongoing relevant youth and child rights initiatives in the existing programmes under the appropriation for Support via Civil Society, but these have been quite difficult to quantify due to lack of available specific statistics¹. In their efforts to effectively use the extra 350 MSEK, Civsam focussed to a large extent (but not only) on child and youth related programmes and projects.

Thus, the CYI consisted of a temporary earmarking of funding for children's rights to health and education, applying to both existing programmes and to expansions initiated as a result of the increased budget for Support via Civil Society.

The CSO strategy was valid for the period 2011-2014 (and later extended to June 2016). After initial uncertainty, it was interpreted by Civsam that the CYI should con-

¹ According to a recent Study of Sida's work with Child rights (June 2016), the funding for children and child rights under the CSO appropriation reached 450 MSEK in 2015. Another 150 MSEK were used for programmes that include children or youth as a component. The share going specifically to health and education was not possible to detect from the Study.

tinue during the entire CSO strategy period of 2011-2014.

Funds were provided to thirteen grantees. Nine Swedish CSOs (eight holding a framework agreement with Sida Civsam) were among these: Plan Sweden, Save the Children Sweden (SCS), the Church of Sweden (CoS), the World Wildlife Foundation (WWF), Swedish Association for Sexuality Education (RFSU), the Swedish Mission Council (SMC), We Effect, Forum Syd and the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA). The SCA became a Sida framework organisation (with the Afghanistan Unit) in 2013, and thus was not in the group of framework organisations when the CYI was launched. In addition, four international civil society organisations presented successful proposals, namely the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Oxfam/GB, the International HIV/Aids Alliance and IBIS.

1.2 AIMS OF THIS EVALUATION

This evaluation aims at providing lessons learnt to decision makers at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and Sida (in particular the Civil Society Unit) as regards the effects and sustainability - beyond direct results for children and youth - on the policies and practices of grantees, their general programmes and their capacity to include children and adopt a child rights based approach in the longer term. The evaluation also addresses more general questions about the effectiveness of temporary earmarking initiatives.

2 Method

2.1 METHODOLOGY

The evaluation team has used a Contribution Analysis methodology to answer the evaluation questions. Contribution Analysis is a step-by-step approach that offers an increased understanding of why the observed results have occurred (or not) and the roles played by the intervention and other internal and external factors. During the evaluation process it became clear that contribution was not as difficult to ascertain as the evaluation team had initially anticipated. The size of the funding injection was substantial in relation to previous organisational and programme budgets (in many cases even doubling budgets), and most grantees made separate assessments and reports for the CYI. Still, contribution was an issue in some organisations where parallel processes influenced the programming and the approaches towards children and youth. Thus, a Contribution Analysis was still considered a relevant methodology. It had the following six steps:

1: Set out the attribution problem to be addressed

The attribution problem is well reflected in the evaluation questions and the evaluation matrix in Annex 1.

2: Explore the “theory of change” and risks to it

The theory of change explored was the following:

If substantial funding is provided to carefully selected grantees and earmarked for child/youth rights to education and health during three years,

Then these grantees will sustain or increase their focus and funding levels for children/youth health and education also after the conditionality is removed and grantees (that are not already child rights focussed) will be inspired to change their general policies, practices and other programmes, making them more child rights and youth oriented.

This Theory of Change was developed for the purpose of the evaluation as these long term effects were only implicitly expected. The guiding documents of the CYI only refer to the expected changes in the conditions for children and youth (fulfilment of MDGs) as a result.

3: Gather the existing evidence on the theory of change

Data has been solicited from the Sida CSO database (for the Swedish framework organisations) and from statistics prepared by the grantees themselves (where possible). Text analyses were conducted to see how children and youth are mentioned in annual reports and other official communication of the grantees before and after the CYI.

Furthermore, the evaluation has based the evidence gathering on a document review/analysis and most importantly on key informant interviews with staff at MFA,

Sida and 11 of the 13 grantees (and 3 of the 4 sub-grantees). The main documents analysed were:

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs decisions and guidelines
- Sida's call for proposals and guidelines to applicants as well as assessment memos
- Available financial and narrative progress reports from the grantees, evaluations pertaining to the CYI, policies and tools that have been produced as a result of the CYI and other supporting documents of relevance
- Web-site and general annual reports of the grantees to determine if children/youth are more visible after than before the CYI.

Interviews have been carried out with the MFA (2 persons), Sida (5 persons), and with grantees and their sub-grantees (25 persons). In total 32 respondents were interviewed (Annex 3 for Informants). Written answers to interview questions were provided from 4 additional persons. The interviews have been semi-structured. They have focussed on possible changes in capacity, policy and practices of the grantees, on the level of sustainability of programmes initiated under the CYI and on the perceptions of the theory of change outlined above and the efficiency of such one-off initiatives. The interview guide is attached in Annex 2.

4: Assemble and assess the contribution story and challenges to it

With the above information, the team has assembled a contribution story (case study) for each grantee². These have similarities and differences - the evaluation team has analysed them and attempted to draw generalisable conclusions based on these stories. The experiences of grantees were however very different as the funding had been used for various purposes in different contexts. A half-day analysis workshop for the team and numerous discussions were dedicated to the purpose of understanding this.

5: Seek out additional evidence

The initial interviews and document analysis generally provided sufficient evidence to the contribution story, but a few follow up questions and requests for additional documentation were made.

6: Revise and strengthen the contribution story

The original contribution story was analysed and its preconditions were identified. Strengths and weaknesses of Sida and grantee approaches were analysed. The evaluation questions were answered and recommendations provided to Sida.

² These stories have been collated in a separate report, which can be requested from the Sida's Unit for CSO Support (Civsam) for those interested.

2.2 LIMITATIONS

At the MFA, the responsible decision makers and desk officers were no longer available for interviews. The team had to rely on information from persons who came into the picture later in the process. Also, the MFA has not monitored progress or been informed of it, as it has not been specifically reported on from Sida except for 2011 and 2012. The comments from the MFA have focussed on general aspects of the steering mechanisms of Swedish development assistance. Additionally, among the grantees, some staff had left and institutional memory was lacking.

In three cases (Forum Syd, SMC and We Effect), the Sida funding was channelled from the formal grantees (umbrella framework organisations) to a member organisation or implementing organisations. Seeking organisational results became a challenge in these cases. Forum Syd channelled funding to UNA Sweden (Svenska FN-förbundet). We Effect channelled the funding to its implementing wing Vi Agroforestry (Vi skogen), which is very closely affiliated with We Effect, sharing several support functions. In the case of SMC, funding was channelled to KFUM and Erikshjälpen. Both KFUM and Erikshjälpen channelled most funding to other international actors, who in turn worked with local CSOs (3 levels of intermediaries). Other framework organisations have also forwarded substantial proportions of CYI funding to one specific actor within their international networks (CoS to Lutheran World Federation) or sibling organisations (SC Sweden to SC India). The evaluation team has not been able to seek information from all these sub-grantees.

RFSU and HIV/Aids Alliance responded to interview questions in writing only. For KFUM data has been compiled based on input from SMC and written sources. The key informant providing the SCA perspective was very involved in the beginning of the CYI, but had retired from SCA before the CYI came to an end.

Despite these limitations, the evaluators are confident that the conclusions are well grounded in the evidence provided. The team has been able to access a wealth of information from documentation provided by the grantees and by Sida, along with informative interviews with 11 of 13 grantees and 3 of 4 sub-grantees.

3 Overview of the Child/Youth Initiative

3.1 GRANTEES AND FUNDING LEVELS

A total of 758 MSEK was disbursed from the Child and Youth Initiative between 2011 and 2015. Grantee organisations consisted of five Swedish framework organisations, four members of Swedish framework organisations and four international organisations. The Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA) does not fall under any of these categories as it operates largely as an Afghan, directly implementing civil society organisation. Since the Child and Youth Initiative was launched, SCA has been granted a framework status with the Afghanistan Unit of Sida, thus being exempt from the requirements of the Swedish CSO strategy. The SCA is referred to below as a 'special case'.

The table below provides an overview of CYI funding distribution, highlighting the following areas:

- Amounts granted per organisation
- Actual duration of CYI grant implementation period
- Increase vis-a-vis existing funding

Grantee	Total funding	Duration	Increase levels for the period
NRC	204 700 000	39 months	20% increase of global education budget of NRC
Plan Sweden	109 117 000	26 months	105% increase of Civsam contribution for the 26 months
Oxfam	94 400 000	51 months	Doubling of budget for children and youth in targeted countries
Save the Children, Sweden	92 766 000	16 months	55% increase of Sida contribution during the 16 months
SCA	73 887 000	36 months	23% increase of Sida contribution during the 36 months
Church of Sweden	69 487 000	27 months	45% increase of Sida contribution during the 27 months
WWF	39 875 000	26 months	40% increase of Sida contribution during the 26 months
HIV/Aids Alliance	20 000 000	36 months	51% increase of Sida contribution previously provided through the global unit, substantial increase of South Sudan budget

IBIS	18 500 000	36 months	11 % increase of the West Africa program during the 36 months
RFSU	10 057 000	17 months	33% increase of Sida contribution during the 17 months
Vi Agroforestry/ We Effect	8 677 000	25 months	30% increase of Sida contribution to Vi Agroforestry during the 25 months and 100% increase of project budget for Future Farmers
Erikshjälpen/SMC	8 318 000	17 months	70 % increase of Sida contribution during the 17 months via SMC
KFUM/SMC	6 840 000	12 months (additional 24 months were covered by SMC regular budget)	120% increase of Sida contributions to KFUM via SMC
UNA Sweden/Forum Syd	1 245 000	13 months	170% increase of Sida contribution to DRC programme 30% increase of organisational budget of UNA
Total	757 859 000		

For all framework organisations the calculations of increase have been made in comparison to existing Sida contributions from Civsam, also taking into consideration the duration of the grant. In the case of SCA, the estimation of increase was made in comparison with the existing grant from Sida's Afghanistan Unit. The increase has been less straight-forward to calculate for international grantees, where the evaluation team has opted for a more variable approach, which is accounted for in the table. In conclusion however, the amounts granted have in all cases been substantial, with large increases of project and/or organisational budgets.

One single organisation, NRC, received 27 percent of the total CYI funding available. Together, the four international organisations received 45 percent of the total CYI funding. Organisations having children and youth as their main focus (PLAN, SCS, Erikshjälpen and KFUM) received 29 percent of the total funding.

Timeframes given for implementation varied between 12 months and 51 months, with all international organisations being granted an implementation period of minimum 36 months. No Swedish framework organisation received more than 27 months for implementation, among which 5 were granted 17 months or less for implementation.

3.2 FOCUS OF PROJECTS SUPPORTED

The focus on MDGs was interpreted by Sida and grantees as including a variety of approaches. This flexibility was seen as very helpful by grantees that could plan freely around the grant to suit their existing programme strategies and development plans. The contribution stories³ provide details of how each organisation used the CYI funding. In general the following pattern emerged:

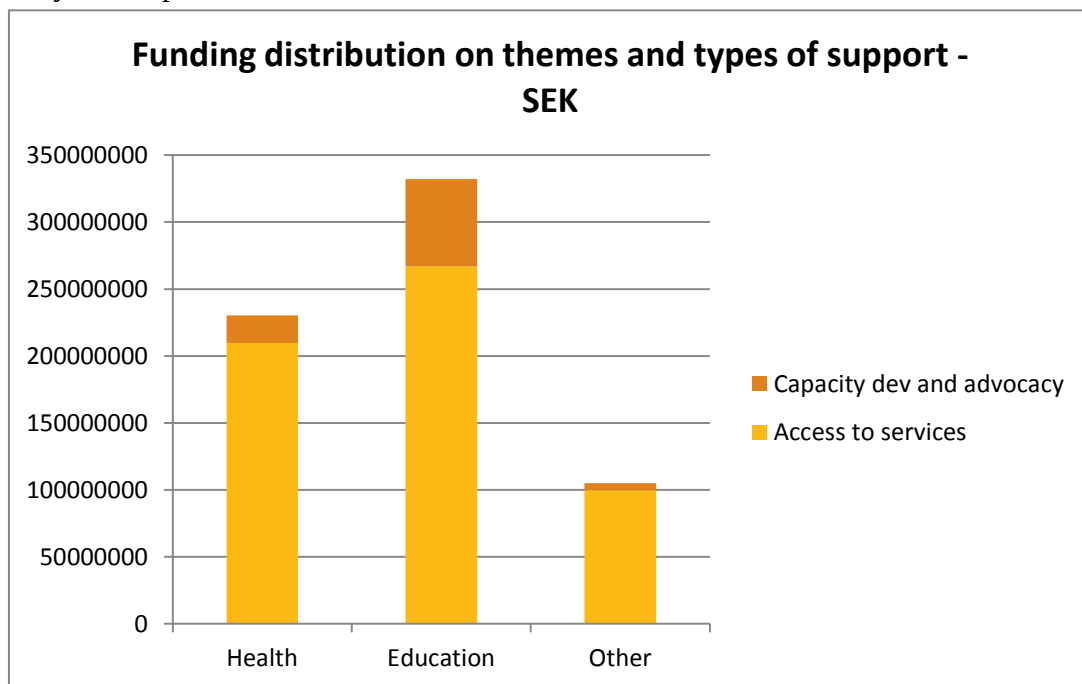
1. Education was the most common area of support, followed by health. The original focus on fulfilment of the MDGs became less apparent, when grantees were encouraged to move towards rights based approaches and CSO capacity development as required by the CSO strategy. Also, the short term character of the CYI made it difficult to achieve MDG results unless the funding was used for direct service provision and gap filling, which was not encouraged under the CSO Strategy. The MDG contribution was seen by most grantees as very long term – at times not mentioned in some grantee reports.
2. Most of the grantees, but especially those with short timeframes or limited internal administrative capacity, opted to use funding to expand coverage of existing programmes. A few grantees (especially CoS, SCA, Erikshjälpen and Save the Children) felt more obliged towards the MDG requirements and therefore opted to increase their support to service delivery and infrastructure. This was not only gap filling, but also helped grantees and their partners to gain credibility for their advocacy work and to develop an evidence base for their method development. A few grantees focused on quality improvement and innovation of programmes in terms of approaches and methods to work with children and youth (especially NRC and Oxfam). Most of the grantees did all these things, but there was a variation in their main focus.
3. Grantees that were not specifically child focussed, mostly focussed on youth 14-25 years old as they were seen as the group that could best be involved in participatory approaches. They were also seen as a “forgotten group” in humanitarian work (and potentially a risk group for radicalisation). Some grantees stressed that in deprived communities the youth age limit of 25 years is considered unfair and that there was sometimes a need to extend this age limit to 30 years. RFSU, on the other hand, increased their focus on the younger group of 8-13 years old (traditionally ignored in sexuality education efforts), as did Vi Agroforestry in their programmes. The HIV/Aids Alliance identified

³ Available from Civism as a separate report upon request

10-24 year olds as their target group.

4. All grantees had components of capacity development for partners and other stakeholders as part of their programme design, but to varying degrees. Those that were not Civsam framework organisations had less focus on these aspects compared to others. As it was a requirement that the CYI would fund only already established programmes, the history of the grantee and the supported programme influenced the focus to a great extent.
5. Internal organisational learning, capacity development and method innovation at the grantee's HQ level was explicitly mentioned as objectives only by NRC and Oxfam. This aspect does not seem to have been specifically encouraged by Sida.

An analysis of how the funding was used on various themes and types of support shows the following pattern⁴. Under the “other” category, the team has coded other thematic areas such as youth participation, poverty reduction, and organisational capacity development.



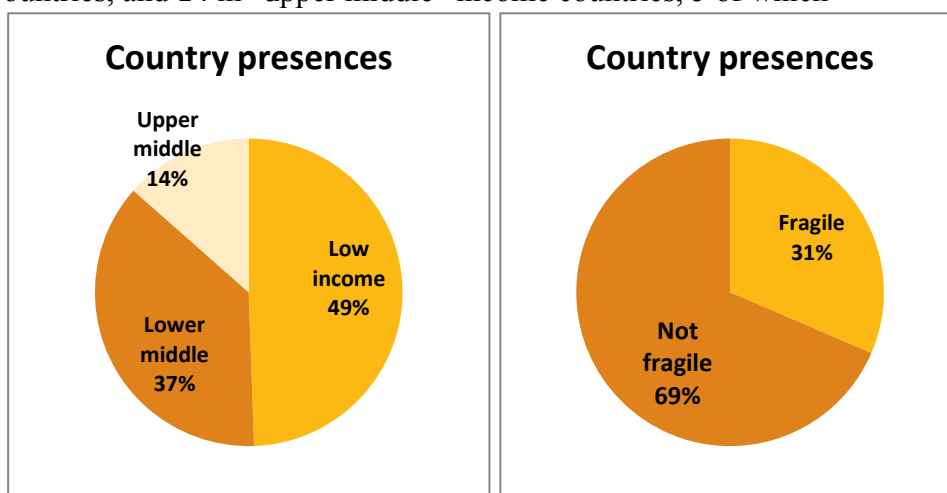
⁴ The figures are built on a classification and coding made by the evaluation team, based on the reports from the grantees. Some initiatives have many components and the team tried to apply percentages when relevant.

3.3 GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The CYI has influenced work of grantees in 46 countries, 11 in Asia, 24 in Africa, 6 in Latin America, 4 in the Middle East and North Africa, and one in a Eurasian country (Georgia). A few of these countries have been targeted by more than two grantees, such as Afghanistan (4), Bangladesh, Ethiopia (3), India (3), Indonesia (3), Kenya (5), Liberia (3), South Africa (3), Tanzania (5), Uganda (6) and Zambia (4).

In total the grantees had 89 'country presences' (in the 45 countries). Around half of these presences were in countries classified as "low income"⁵, 37 percent in "lower middle" income countries, and 14 in "upper middle" income countries, 5 of which

were included as part of regional or global programmes. There were 28 presences (in 14 countries) amounting to 31 percent of the country presences where located in fragile contexts⁶, mostly in the low income countries. The potential synergies between the humanitarian and developmental approaches to the MDGs were not explored by Sida although there were such initial intentions and ample experiences were generated by some of the CYI grantees.



⁵ For the current 2017 fiscal year, low-income economies are defined as those with a GNI per capita, calculated using the [World Bank Atlas method](#), of \$1,025 or less in 2015; lower middle-income economies are those with a GNI per capita between \$1,026 and \$4,035; upper middle-income economies are those with a GNI per capita between \$4,036 and \$12,475; high-income economies are those with a GNI per capita of \$12,476 or more.

⁶ The definition used is "fragile situations". a/ "Fragile Situations" have: either a) a harmonized average CPIA country rating of 3.2 or less, or b) the presence of a UN and/or regional peace-keeping or peace-building mission during the past three years. This list includes only IDA eligible countries and non-member or inactive territories/countries without CPIA data. IBRD countries with CPIA ratings below 3.2 do not qualify on this list due to non-disclosure of CPIA ratings; IBRD countries that are included here qualify only by the presence of a peacekeeping, political or peace-building mission - and their CPIA ratings are thus not disclosed.

4 Findings

4.1 SIDA AND MFA PROCESSES

The CYI was initiated by the Minister for International Development Cooperation in 2011 (Gunilla Carlsson) to boost the Swedish contribution to the realisation of the MDGs, especially those related to survival, health and education for children and youth (MDGs 1, 2, 4 and 5). In the letter of appropriation issued in December 2010, it was stated that at least 200 MSEK of the CSO allocation should be earmarked for such programmes. It was combined with a substantial increase in allocation for Sida's support through Civil Society (350 MSEK which was a 30 percent increase). These objectives and corresponding funding were to be applied for, assessed and initiated before the end of 2011. In order to make it possible for the Civil Society Unit (Civsam) to channel the funding to organisations that were not Swedish framework organisations, the CSO strategy was amended in 2011.

The duration of the CYI was not clearly stated, but Sida's interpretation was that it would apply for the remaining CSO strategy period (at that point, until the end of 2014). The framework organisations, however, could only enter into additional agreements regarding the grant within the timeframe of their own framework agreements with Sida, with some exceptions from this rule⁷. This meant that some grantees had less than two years of implementation, while others had three or even four years of implementation - after extensions. In the case of SMC sub-grants to KFUM and Erikshjälpen, the implementation period was also stretched and more integrated with original programmes supported by SMC (with Sida-funding) thus compensating for the narrow implementation timeframe and the separate reporting requirements.

The government directives for the CYI were rather unspecific. Civsam was relatively free to interpret the focus and modalities within the prescribed areas of health and education for youth and children (incl. maternal health). The main guiding principles were:

1. Proposed projects should be based on the CSO strategy (i.e. focus on local capacity development, democratisation, human rights and poverty reduction and apply a human rights based approach)
2. Proposed projects should be based on the principles of the Convention of the

⁷ CoS, Vi Agroforestry, Erikshjälpen and WWF.

Rights of the Child (non-discrimination, best interest of the child, life and development and participation/influence)

Sida added that the right to education for girls and boys and to sexual and reproductive health and rights were specific priorities, as well as projects in conflict and post-conflict countries. The ability of applicants to absorb large amounts of funding (already in 2011) was heavily underlined. Sida would only consider applications for expansions, improvements or new components of already existing programmes with systems and structures in place to manage the additional grant. The invitation for applications was sent to Swedish and international CSOs that were considered to be sufficiently strong in terms of M&E systems (based on previous experience of collaboration with various units at Sida) and with perceived potential to work according to the guiding principles of the CYI.

There was no overall plan or strategy for how the CYI could enhance the CSO strategy fulfilment, how it could be linked to the ongoing efforts to promote HRBA or how there could be joint learning on mainstreaming of child/youth rights.

In order to manage the substantial increase of funding from one year to another, Civsam encouraged a selection of current Swedish framework organisations (9), as well as well-reputed international organisations (4), to submit proposals, fitting criteria for the CYI. The invitation was extended in May 2011 to organisations that were deemed to have sufficient absorption capacity and ability to work effectively with health and education for children and youth. Indications of the possible size of the grants were also provided by Sida to some organisations. The applications had to be submitted within a very short time frame in order for Sida to be able to assess them, take a decision, disburse the grants and get started before the end of 2011. Applicants strategised around this in the following way:

- Expanding coverage of existing projects to new geographical areas, more beneficiaries or additional components (sometimes expensive service provision)
- Submitting applications that had been prepared but not previously submitted due to expected limitations in the funding from Sida
- Reviving/extending projects that were planned to be phased out
- Resubmitting requests for funding for projects and components that had been refused by Sida in the previous assessment
- Submitting applications prepared by members/partners with bigger absorption and implementation capacity
- Taking the opportunity to invest in development of methods and approaches of ongoing programmes to make them more effective and more inclusive of the rights of youth and children (normally hard to get funding for)

All 13 applicants eventually received the funding applied for (or with very small reductions), except parts of the Forum Syd application which was not granted. Four organisations were requested to hand in additional information – Forum Syd resub-

mitted five times for the smallest amount of funding applied for (which was also reduced to almost 1/3 before approval).

Despite efforts to focus on organisations and projects that had already been assessed by Sida (or other donors) and therefore would not need extensive new assessments, timeframes were short and stressful to both Sida and applicants. There was a higher degree of risk taking and more flexibility than usual in funding decisions. The flexibility was highly appreciated by grantees, but time was perceived by many as too short to really take stock of the space to be innovative and target group inclusive. The scale of the fast, flexible funding was considered problematic by Sida staff who had struggled to discuss priorities and reduce funding to many of the same organisations a few months earlier. Some of the final funding decisions were taken by Sida rather late in 2011 and many projects could start only in 2012, even in relation to relatively swiftly submitted applications.

Five grantees, while familiar to other Sida units, were new to Civsam and the informal reference group with staff from other units (established to handle the CYI implementation across units) was used to support assessments and facilitate coordination. This group met initially three times, but was not used for follow up or learning.

The short timeframe and ambitious scope of the CYI is noted by Sida in all assessment memos relating to the CYI. For most organisations Sida identified a small number of dialogue issues that would be of particular interest to follow during the CYI. Most of these issues pertained to areas which could be a concern to fulfilment of CYI objectives and the CSO strategy. An analysis of the notes from the annual meetings with Swedish framework organisations shows that the CYI has not been a prominent part of the monitoring or dialogue. The international organisations had annual follow up meetings, which specifically covered the CYI progress and challenges. Almost all grantees would have liked opportunities to share their experiences and method development in the area of child/youth rights with Sida and with other grantees. The questions raised by Sida in comments to annual reports focus mainly on administrative matters rather than content. There have also been questions related to the local CSO partnerships (which have not been sufficiently developed and described by some grantees) and the linkages to the MDGs (which are not so visible in some progress reports). It is clear that there have been very limited attempts to find constructive ways of following up on the CYI in general, and the identified dialogue issues in particular.

Also from the side of MFA there has been a limited interest. Separate reports were provided by Sida in 2011 and 2012. After that, the CYI has been mentioned briefly as a section in the annual report on the CSO strategy. In the CSO strategy report to MFA in 2014, it was concluded that the projects supported under the Child and Youth Initiative “are mostly integrated into the ordinary programmes of the Swedish framework organisations that received the grants”.

The perception of interviewed Sida staff is that earmarking of funding for various themes is not fully compatible with the CSO strategy, and should be avoided. Under

the CSO Strategy funding is mainly provided to CSOs under wide framework agreements, which encourages grantees to prioritise where, how and with whom they work – while adhering to the overall principles and objectives of the Strategy. Whether child/youth rights ought to be considered a “theme” or rather a necessary component of all, truly rights-based approaches – is also debated. Staff also emphasise that all funding should be integrated into the regular planning and reporting systems to ensure proper attention, management and monitoring.

4.2 INCREASED FOCUS ON CHILDREN/YOUTH

Two grantees (Plan and Save the Children) and one sub-grantee (Erikshjälpen) already had children as their main focus before the CYI. Another sub-grantee, KFUM, had youth as their main focus. Thus, there was no change in focus for these organisations as a result of the CYI.

Other organisations present a mixed picture in terms of evidence of increased child and youth focus. Analyses of the project descriptions in the Sida CSO database (i.e. the share of funding going to projects that explicitly targets or includes children or youth) and the way children and youth are mentioned in annual reports and strategic documents, show that a substantial increase in focus on the rights of children and youth was demonstrated by NRC, Oxfam, WWF and Vi Agroforestry. Limited or no evidence of change in focus was found in Swedish Committee for Afghanistan, Church of Sweden, HIV/Aids Alliance, IBIS, RFSU and UNA Sweden. Some of these organisations already had a substantial focus on children and youth before the CYI.

In terms of funding levels the international organisations NRC and Oxfam have managed to replace the CYI funding with other sources and sustain the work initiated through the CYI. IBIS and HIV/Aids Alliance have not been able to sustain their funding levels in the same manner. IBIS claims that the lessons learnt are harvested by the organisation now, while the HIV/Aids Alliance has closed its programme in Sudan and have no institutional memory of the lessons learnt from it.

An analysis of funding levels of the framework organisation grantees can be categorised in three categories.

1. Funding levels in 2015 are higher than in 2010, and even surpassing the CYI peak-year for funding

For **Plan** the difference in levels of Sida funding in 2010 and 2015 was huge, during a very expansive phase and **WWF** shares a similar pattern. The funding levels for **SCA** show a steady increase over the years, when combining the grants from Civsam via Forum Syd, the CYI, and funding from Sida’s Afghanistan Unit. **RFSU** and **Erikshjälpen** also appear to have been in states of general budget expansion, which was supported by the CYI. For Erikshjälpen, SMC testifies to having matched the funding available for the short duration of the CYI to extend the project life cycle and keep the funding levels of Erikshjälpen also without the CYI funding.

2. ***Funding levels higher in 2015 than in 2010, but below the CYI peak-year***
SCS funding levels in 2015 are higher than in 2010, but cannot yet match the level reached during the CYI. In the case of **Church of Sweden**, the Sida funding level is indeed higher in 2015 than in 2010, but this has to be assessed in light of the fact that CoS also simultaneously received a temporary (but general) grant from Sida. The analysis of the CSO database indicates that the share of Sida funding for child and youth inclusive programmes has decreased rather than increased between 2010 and 2015.

3. ***Funding levels in 2015 very much the same as in 2010, or with an insignificant increase***

Vi Agroforestry constitutes a different case where the levels of funding in 2010 and 2015 are the same, but hadn't the CYI been introduced there would have been an obvious downscaling of the budget, starting from 2011. However, the renewed commitment stands a chance of being financially sustained. **KFUM** and **UNA Sweden** are examples of CYI funding being used for extensive setting/topping up of specific programmes, which could not be sustained after the CYI. For KFUM, SMC covered an additional two years of CYI funding with general Sida-funds, while UNA Sweden funds for DRC remained short-term. For UNA Sweden, the increased focus on children and youth derived from the CSO database comparison between 2010 and 2015 cannot be attributed to the CYI.

In conclusion, changes in focus were demonstrated by four out of the fourteen grantees. Four of the grantees already had children and/or youth as their main focus. Sustained funding levels for CYI initiated processes were reported by two out of four international organisations (NRC and Oxfam). Among the framework organisations, sustained funding levels for CYI initiated processes were demonstrated by five out of ten grantees namely Plan, WWF, Erikshjälpen, Vi Agroforestry and SCA. Framework organisations that could not demonstrate evidence of sustained funding levels for CYI initiated processes were Save the Children, Church of Sweden, KFUM, UNA Sweden and RFSU.

It should be noted that the CYI coincided with a more general increase of the CSO appropriation grant, providing Sida with opportunities to maintain grantee funding levels reached during the CYI. This was particularly important for Swedish framework organisations work after the CYI. Most of them were able to retain funding levels. However, not all of them continued to use the higher funding levels to sustain the CYI initiated processes for children and youth rights. The table in Annex 5 summarises 1) the main evidence of increased focus on children and youth per grantee and 2) presents Sida-funding levels 2010-2015 - for Swedish framework organisations, including SCA.

4.3 IMPROVED CAPACITY AND METHODS

The CYI has contributed to a range of expected and unexpected results in terms of capacity and method development among grantees. Many respondents talk about the

CYI as an “injection” and a possibility to undertake development work that was normally hard to find funding for. Also the conditions for funding (i.e. the CSO strategy and the human rights based approach) influenced grantees to emphasise these aspects of their work. However, only two grantees had included explicit, internal organisational capacity development and learning objectives in their results frameworks and allocated funding for that purpose. Some Swedish framework organisations report that they were not allowed to use the CYI funding for internal capacity development purposes (at HQ-level in Sweden)⁸, which limited their options. This was a general regulation for the framework organisations and there were no exceptions given, as confirmed by the assessment memos relating to CoS and WWF.

The main areas of capacity improvement within grantees reported relate to:

- Partnerships with local CSOs
- HRBA application, especially approaches related to children and youth as active participants
- Method development and increased global influence

4.3.1 Partnerships

All grantees that were not previously framework organisations (and many of those who were) reported that the CYI had encouraged them to **develop their partnership approaches** in order to fulfil the CSO strategy demands. This was a struggle for some, especially in conflict contexts. Sometimes only a small portion of the funding (5%) was channelled through local partners and some challenges were recorded in Liberia (IBIS), Zambia (KFUM) and South Sudan (HIV/Aids Alliance). Still, the CYI has contributed to obvious changes in partnership approaches and policies of grantees especially NRC, Oxfam, IBIS and the smaller grantees Vi Agroforestry, UNA Sweden and Erikshjälpen.

“The CYI helped to develop Oxfam civil society capacity building methods in the area of youth participation. Some partners are already changing practices, but it was a process where Oxfam had to challenge partners – it was a big journey. Oxfam encourages all country programmes to have at least one youth led partner.” (Oxfam)

“The experience generated and the work invested in surveying partnership has helped inform NRC's position regarding local partnership and enabled the finalisation of a global partnership policy. As a continuation, NRC is developing additional tools and modalities to enforce the new policy and support local partnership initiatives.” (NRC)

⁸ WWF was however told that the administration part of the grant could be used for such purposes.

4.3.2 HRBA application

The dialogue with Civsam and the funding criteria also encouraged grantees to apply a rights based approach. This was mostly interpreted as **child/youth participation and empowerment**. Child and youth participation appears to have been one of the major eye-openers stemming from the CYI.

“We moved from working for to working with children and youth – a more rights based approach. Children and youth are no longer called beneficiaries – but participants” (Oxfam)

“The CYI made it possible, and necessary to focus the thinking regarding young persons as rights-holders” (RFSU)

“We increased awareness and prioritisation of adolescents and youth in emergencies and humanitarian contexts, by enabling youth voices and youth stories to be told” (NRC).

“Children and youth are now explicitly included in the information gathering through humanitarian “calls” to inform support provided through humanitarian programming” (Church of Sweden)

Reporting from some organisations still has a more passive, recipient approach to the involvement of children and young people (for example SCA, UNA Sweden, IBIS). Others (for example Vi Agroforestry) have focused on setting up different forms of children’s clubs (mostly in schools and not always with clear objectives), while others have conveyed more explicit roles for those child/youth structures supported (WWF, Erikshjälpen). Some organisations have focused on educating “peer educators” to reach out to their constituencies (RFSU, HIV/Aids Alliance, KFUM). NRC has developed methods for youth to have their voices heard and to participate in design of programmes within humanitarian contexts, which have proven successful and are being adopted by UN and EU agencies. Oxfam has managed to influence its own organisational practices and is now including youth in planning and implementation of programmes and supports at least one youth led organisation in each country.

Income generating activities and employment for youth, was a specific area of interest within the CYI, aiming at **empowering and engaging youth in community development and resilience**. Such programmes were pursued by NRC, CoS, RFSU, Erikshjälpen and the WWF (through their Green Entrepreneurship component). NRC has managed to develop tailor make vocational trainings that suit youth in displacement with different needs and backgrounds (from literacy and numeracy to vocational training, community work and academic university level studies). The concerned youth were taking the lead in the planning and design of these programmes.

For many grantees the rights based approach was also about **gender equality**. Almost all programmes, describe how the CYI helped them promote the rights of girls and women. Save the Children, although including girls and women specifically in programming highlighted that the timeframe of the CYI “was not conducive for in-depth gender analysis of the programmes designed and carried out”.

In general **non-discrimination** has not been a prominent aspect of supported pro-

grammes. The elaboration of age, gender, ethnicity, disability, LGBTI and other potentially discriminating factors has been scarce. However, some hard-to reach and marginalised groups in society have also been a concern for several organisations. SCA has worked to ensure school enrolment for children from the nomadic Kuchi population. WWF in Cameroon have included a specific education strategy for the indigenous Baka people, and IBIS pursued the inclusion of cocoa farmer's children in education. KFUM targeted young people with no previous experience of accessing organised health services. The HIV/Aids Alliance in South Sudan reached out to female sex workers, school dropouts and young people with HIV/Aids. RFSU managed to include women in slum areas and street children providing them access to SRHR services. Erikshjälpen, the HIV/Aids Alliance and SCA included activities to reach children with disabilities in their programmes. Oxfam has included deaf youth in Mali in its activities and they have formed a strong advocacy organisation. Plan and CoS have incorporated programming towards female genital mutilation (FGM) and other harmful traditional practices, which has led to the inclusion of entire communities (children, parents and local communities) in work to prevent these practices and finding viable options. RFSU and Plan Sweden have developed sexuality education programmes for children and youth that include sexual orientation and gender identity issues.

Accountability measures have been an important component in many supported programmes. All organisations have worked intensively with awareness-raising among and capacity building of duty bearers and other stakeholders close to children and youth. The inclusion of parents, school and health staff and local communities (including informal leaders) has been strongly integrated in all programming. Faced with dysfunctional or entirely absent basic services pertaining to health and education, and while being precautionary about stepping into an unsustainable service providing role, all organisations have included important stakeholders in programming. Their capacity have been built to understand the role they play in upholding children's and youth rights and in being more prepared to meet the needs of children. Some grantees are working to demand accountability from duty bearers and develop their capacity, although not referring to it as a 'rights based approach' (e.g. WWF, Oxfam). However, these accountability approaches require arduous work and long-term commitment beyond the timeframe of CYI in order to yield sustainable results for children.

Save the Children and Erikshjälpen come across as the two organisations which have aligned most with the original focus on MDGs, thus acting as gap-filling service providers in relation to health and education rights. Save the Children has however included the Local to Global component enabling them to both work very constructively with the participation of children and mothers, as well linking these efforts to an local, national and global advocacy agenda. Thus, the CYI supported the process of making the Child Rights Governance theme more comprehensible and concrete, with the application of participatory advocacy methods to health issues:

“Historically the work carried out as Child Rights Governance (CRG) has been perceived as less comprehensible than Child Protection (the two big themes within

SCS). Since the projects supported under the CYI were successful in terms of demonstrating concrete governance results, the understanding for CRG has grown. To act and demonstrate results on local level is however not possible without strong local partner organisations. And they are usually the results of long-term partnerships.” (Save the Children)

4.3.3 Method development and innovation

A few of the grantees did not use the support just to do ‘more of the same’ (expanding coverage and topping up of existing programmes), but to invest in **method development** and **innovation**. This was especially the case for Save the Children, Plan Sweden, WWF, NRC and Oxfam. This resulted in some notable results in terms of development of effective interventions and **international influence** for example:

- The advocacy component included by Save the Children in the CYI, called Local to Global (described above) proved to be a very strong method of connecting target group participation in local health-related programming, with national and global decision making processes.
- Plan Sweden is now a leading international actor in the field of SRHR programmes for children and is supporting the development within Plan International.
- WWF has taken the global lead on Education for Sustainable Development and has (themselves and by promoting African WWF organisations and youth involved in their programmes) influenced WWF International to prioritise Transformational Project Youth Leadership. The aim is to create “innovative youth-led actions that drive policies and sustainable practices that enhance the integrity and ecological functionality of critical ecosystems and wildlife, address climate change and improve food security of targeted countries”.
- NRC has developed a platform of competence on youth empowerment and vocational training in humanitarian contexts has influenced the UN and humanitarian organisations globally to work more actively with youth empowerment. A number of international instruments are being developed and adopted to this end.
- Oxfam has managed to influence its global movement to listen more to youth, include them as active participants and to support youth organisations.

4.3.4 Summary of organisational outcomes

Below is a summary of the organisational outcomes for each of the grantees, demonstrating the range of achievements reported as a direct result of the CYI contribution:

Evidence of improved internal capacity and methods

NRC invested in innovation and development of its youth work, based on actual tests in 10 different humanitarian contexts. This led to:

- Increased awareness and prioritisation of adolescents and youth in NRC's work in emergencies and humanitarian contexts, by enabling youth voices and youth stories to be told.
- Establishment of new key positions to develop and monitor the youth focus across NRC.
- Improved NRC capacity to design and deliver relevant adolescents and youth programming in emergencies and humanitarian contexts (e.g. a new programme component with University of Gothenburg – distance learning combined with on-site education for youth).
- Enhanced NRC's role as a global leader on youth empowerment and inclusion in emergencies and humanitarian contexts, enabling them to influence international actors e.g. UNHCR, EU and to some extent governments (as in Jordan) to improve policy and practice.
- Increased engagement with local civil society in planning and implementation. The experience has helped inform NRC's position regarding local partnership and enabled the finalisation of a global partnership policy.

Plan Sweden invested in expansion to new countries and capacity development within the areas of HRBA and SRHR. This led to:

- Presence in four new programme countries.
- Creating a platform of competency on HRBA, enabling influencing Plan International towards a more rights based approach.
- Strengthening of Plan Sweden and Plan International as a leading agency on SRHR work for children and youth. There were only embryos of such programmes prior to the CYI. Plan Sweden is perceived as SRHR experts, has earned a global platform and the programmes are continuously growing.

Oxfam invested in innovation and development of its youth work, based on actual tests in 8 different contexts (My Right My Voice - MRMV). This led to:

- Oxfam moved from working for to working with children and youth. Children and youth are no longer called beneficiaries – but participants. Oxfam stepped up on the ladder of participation and evaluated itself on that ladder.
- Oxfam developed civil society capacity building methods in the area of youth participation. Some partners are already improving practices.
- The new Oxfam programme guidelines on multi country programmes were built on MRMV experiences. Now Oxfam always engage young people in co-creation of programmes.
- In Mali, the MRMV led to the establishment of an independent youth led organisation that influenced politics in the latest election. It is now receiving funding from other sources.
- Oxfam developed its communication methods, now using social media as a tool to connect directly with the youth. Oxfam carried out child protection trainings for staff. Oxfam developed methods for youth led workshops and for using film as a tool.
- The MRMV concept has been expanded to other countries and other thematic areas. 20 countries are now involved in supporting Youth Active Citizen Groups (YAC), youth research and there are youth advisors (young persons) who are helping Oxfam staff.

Save the Children Sweden temporarily brought back education and health programmes in their portfolio to respond to the CYI. They are no longer prioritised by SCS as a member of the Save the Children International. However, the CYI led to some other interesting results:

- The Local to Global method is now more integrated with SCs Child Rights Governance Pro-

gramme. It is now a generic method which is applied on several themes (not only health). The method remains in the SCS portfolio with sustained funding levels.

- The understanding of Child Rights Governance has grown within Save the Children, thanks to successes demonstrated by the CYI.
- The understanding of the importance of strong local partner organisations was increased due to the examples demonstrated. Local partner organisations were invited to the annual global campaign meeting in 2014, but their inclusion has been difficult to sustain.

Swedish Committee for Afghanistan has been guided by a rights-based approach since 2010. In the autumn of 2010 SCA had negotiated with Sida (The Afghanistan Unit) for a higher funding level in order to invest more in rights-based approaches. At the time, SCA was not granted that higher level of funding. The CYI was an opportunity to achieve the higher level of funding, and subsequently invest in rights-based approaches, including:

- SCA has taken notable steps in relation to improved gender equality and rights-based programming, often by starting within SCA itself. Several trainings on rights-based approaches, gender equality, masculinities and so forth, have been held for SCA staff.
- SCA has also introduced a Harassment Free Policy and complaints boxes at SCA offices and developed an RBA action Plan (2015-2017).
- SCA has initiated studies related to masculinities, gender base violence – on their own and in co-operation with others such as Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU).

Church of Sweden reports that there was already a “child rights momentum” within CoS, driven by the Swedish context. This momentum was strengthened by the CYI.

- In 2012, the Church meeting in Sweden decided to adopt the Child Consequence Analysis Handbook for operations in Sweden.
- There is an enduring commitment to keep developing child rights and rights-based approaches, although with less funding explicitly dedicated towards this end. The work carried out in Myanmar and Cambodia was considered so successful that these areas were given priority over others to ensure continuation.
- Positions of Policy advisors and field liaison officers on child rights were established, many of whom have concrete CYI experience to disseminate.
- Child rights were highlighted in theology and gender studies supported by the CoS, especially in educating new priests.
- In May 2014, the CoS held a so called Learning day to deeply analyse the implementation and lessons learnt from the CYI.

WWF based its project on the methodology Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) carried out in eight countries. The CYI has influenced the development of strategies and programmes of WWF globally and in Sweden:

- The WWF International has identified the Transformational Project Youth Leadership as one of its priorities - with the following goal: “By 2025, innovative youth-led actions drive policies and sustainable practices that enhance the integrity and ecological functionality of critical ecosystems and wildlife, address climate change and improve food security of targeted countries”.
- The concept of ESD has enabled WWF to adopt a largely similar approach to all eight countries. The methodology itself provides the basis for local adaptations and priorities to be pursued. The ESD is viewed as a successful methodology/approach, which can also be used for other programmes within WWF.
- WWF Sweden has developed a core group of ESD staff which is easy to contact, engage and communicate with to develop ESD practice.

The HIV/Aids Alliance focussed on rights of youth to access and receive youth friendly SRHR services (HIV, STDs and maternal health). The lessons learnt from working in a very difficult context with civil society and youth, influenced some of the policies:

- The current strategy HIV, Health and rights: Sustaining Community Action 2013-2020
- The Rights-Evidence-ACTION (REAct), a community-based system for monitoring and responding to human rights related barriers in accessing HIV and health services (2014)

IBIS based the projects on its strategy Education for Change (EfC) focusing on increased access to and quality education for children and youth. The Sida support led to:

- Development of a gender responsive pedagogy.
- Sharpening of the partnership approaches of IBIS.

RFSU first saw this as a possibility for topping up existing work. However, the CYI made it possible, and necessary, to focus more on young persons as active rights-holders. A case in point is CIES in Bolivia, where the dialogue on why and how the extra funding could be used led to a whole new approach which resulted in encompassing younger rights-holders than earlier, and fundamentally changed the way they looked at rights to health and education.

Vi Agroforest reports that the CYI has strengthened the engagement of children and youth to preserve, protect and benefit from the environment. Boys and girls, parents and teachers have learnt about human and child rights, HIV/Aids, gender equality and nutrition as well as sustainable management of resources. The CYI also had other results:

- It enhanced cooperation with other types of organisations, thus reaching more children and youth, as well as reaching them to discuss more rights-related topics, than what had been possible before with Vi Agroforestry's own expertise.
- A new component on child/youth participation has been added to the programme.
- Together with We Effect, Vi Agroforestry is currently developing 5-year strategic plans. For the first time, children and youth will be explicitly mentioned in these strategies.

Erikshjälpen, at the time for the launch of the CYI, had taken clear steps towards more rights-based programming. The CYI was an opportunity to develop this ambition. It became even clearer over time that it was difficult to distinguish the rights-based traits within what they were doing more explicitly. Programming across countries (rather than programmes in single countries) also needed further attention. The fact that the CYI was implemented by other international organisations in two countries led to Erikshjälpen reflecting over their added-value in and approach to partnerships

KFUM focused on a regional programme named Act2Live with activities in six countries related to youth health rights. The Act2Life ended after the 3-year period (only the first year funded via CYI). SMCs assessment is that KFUM did not manage to wholly play the role they had planned; instead the YCI (UK-based international organisation) had assumed the main role and continue to run the programmes.

The United Nations Association carried out its human rights education in a similar vein in DRC before the CYI, but primarily directed towards university students and civil society organisations. The CYI

enabled an expansion towards the inclusion of schools and younger children. The longer term sustainable effects were:

- UNA in DRC is often contacted by schools who want to learn about and use the material in their schools.
- Teachers who have used the material teach other teachers within a Forum of Educators.
- Programmes in two regions (out of four that were supported under the CYI) are still active (funded by UNA)

4.3.5 Sustainability

Sustainability can be measured in terms of *sustainable changes in the capacity and approaches of the grantees* and *sustainable changes in the conditions of children and youth* as a result of the CYI.

Sustainable changes in capacity and improved approaches for children and youth among the grantees (resulting from the CYI) can be ascertained in some of the grantees as shown above – but to varying degrees. Organisations that explicitly invested in method development, innovation and capacity development of staff and partners demonstrate more sustainable organisational changes than those that just increased budgets to expand coverage of existing, ongoing programmes. Grantees that were supported over a longer period of time generally demonstrate more sustainable internal and external results. Grantees that were too small to absorb the funding and used intermediaries generally did not manage to develop their own capacity.

Grantees that were able to sustain funding levels generally demonstrate higher levels of sustainability. As demonstrated in chapter 4.2, most framework organisations were able to retain the higher funding levels from Civsam. However, not all of them continued to use the higher funding levels to sustain the CYI supported programmes or for child and youth focussed programmes in general. The four international organisations had to look for alternative funding after CYI, which was successfully done by NRC and Oxfam, having good fund raising skills and other Sida channels.

Sustainable changes for children and youth generally depend on improvements in policies, practices and capacities of duty bearers and other important stakeholders who are responsible for protection and fulfilment of their rights. Such changes often take consistent efforts over a long time to achieve. The very nature of the CYI as a short term “injection”, makes it less likely that it has managed to contribute to such changes.

Many of the programmes had been ongoing before the CYI came into the picture, and the foundation for some of the results reported by grantees had probably been laid a long time ago and with other funding. Nevertheless, the CYI may have enhanced these processes, as substantial parts of the CYI funding were used for capacity development of stakeholders as mentioned above. The grantees reported on some of notable sustainable changes in the conditions of children and youth as follows:

- SCA reports that it has contributed to the government of Afghanistan adopting the UN resolution 1325 (on security and protection of women and children from all forms of violence, especially in conflict situations) and an Early Childhood

Development policy reached its final form in 2014.

- IBIS's work with a girls' model school in Ghana led to Members of Parliament replicating the project in two other regions.
- WWF supported the development of National Youth Strategies for sustainable development in their African programme countries, work which continued and resulted in the Pan African Youth Strategy.
- The HIV/Aids Alliance ensured the inclusion of young people as key group in the South Sudanese HIV Strategic Plan (2013-2017).
- The RFSU partner in Kenya signed a MoU with the Ministry of Education for developing a curriculum for the national teacher training institute (to include SRHR components).
- Plan and partner organisations (including UN agencies) contributed to the development and adoption of a Comprehensive Sexual Education (CSE) curriculum for primary and secondary level and non-formal education in Asia.
- Through Save the Children's Local to Global, one of the most noteworthy advocacy successes is the tripling of the Government of India's nutrition budget, targeting 200 highly burdened districts, and restructured means to deliver these resources.
- NRC reports that the government of Jordan developed its education policy on the NRC experiences and suggestions. Furthermore, NRC influenced UN and EU humanitarian organisations to adopt more youth inclusive policies and practices, especially on youth participation.
- Vi Agroforestry managed to convince staff and the school management in a Ugandan project school to ban corporal punishment. Similarly, the issue of corporal punishment has been a priority for UNA Sweden supported schools in DRC. School improvement plans have been pursued by Plan, Vi Agroforestry, and WWFs 'whole school' approach has evolved into a 'whole communities' approach where schools become hubs for community improvement.

5 Conclusions and lessons

5.1 KEY CONCLUSIONS

5.1.1 The CYI and its management by Sida

The Child and Youth Initiative was adopted as a political steering tool, of unprecedented speed and scale, in December 2010. The Swedish Government's need to ensure that the Swedish development aid contributed to the fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals, coincided with a more general increase of the Appropriation Grant for Support via Civil Society. Both these factors considered, it was clear that releasing a large amount of funds before the end of 2011 was imperative. The funding used for the CYI was considerable; it made up around 20 percent of the CSO appropriation grant during its life span.

Decisions were made not to include funding to already on-going child/youth programmes as part of the commitment, but to use an addition of 200 MSEK annually to expand the focus on children and youth. It solved two challenges at one stroke – the expansion of the CSO appropriation and the CYI earmarking. This increased the work load for Civsam, who were not given additional human resources to solve the tasks, but was responding to the political will to increase focus on children and youth.

The subsequent eligibility criteria for the CYI emphasised previous child rights/child/youth programmes, fast and considerable absorption capacity and readiness for instant scaling-up. Well-known organisations with documented capacity were identified for support in order to reduce work on assessments and reduce risks. It also involved trade-offs as it saved time for Civsam, but excluded many potentially excellent applicants, especially small and innovative organisations. Undoubtedly, with a more generous timeframe the CYI is likely to have been undertaken in a very different format.

Identification of dialogue issues was an attempt for Sida to overcome deficits/concerns identified during the brief application process, but unfortunately there was no systematic follow up of these dialogue issues. Grantees experienced that the initial engagement and interest in the CYI by MFA and by Sida was fading already in 2012.

The evaluation team concludes that Sida/Civsam initially made some important strategic decision and management arrangements with other units, but was limited by the nature of the MFA decision, the short timeframes and a lack of human resources.

5.1.2 MDGs, the CSO-strategy

The Child and Youth Initiative has been interpreted very differently by grantees, ranging from very flexible to very strictly focused on the specific MDGs identified as particularly interesting from a child- and youth perspective. The way in which MDGs are formulated indicates that they are first and foremost aimed at duty bearer respon-

sibilities to ensure that basic services (in this case health and education) are available for everyone, without discrimination. Undoubtedly, the CSO-Strategy emphasised several underpinning factors which could be strengthened and facilitated by civil society, not least as 'organisers of services' – but the fact remains that the MDGs require national level prioritisation, coordination and action. Preferably, these actions are strengthened by efforts promoted through bilateral and multi-lateral development cooperation, as well as an empowered civil society. The supported CYI programmes have definitely aimed at empowering civil society, sometimes to the degree of filling in for absent or weak basic services provided by the government. The reference to the MDGs encouraged this, while the CSO strategy also stressed the particular role of civil society as watch dogs and voice of rights holders – through rights based approaches.

Some of the organisations, such as those operating mainly in conflict and humanitarian contexts, are more inclined to engage in service delivery. NRC, SCA and the HIV/Alliance are the most evident examples, but many organisations have similar components. The CoS testifies that although they somewhat reluctantly “resorted to service delivery yet again” (by refurbishing schools, etc.) the combination of service delivery and rights-based approaches turned out to provide constructive, tangible examples of rights fulfilment. SCS had similar experiences.

It can be concluded that the specific MDGs highlighted in the beginning of the CYI process did not serve as beacons for programming over time. In general, programming was more broadly targeting child, youth and maternal health and education rights. Hence, the CYI was perceived as a very broad umbrella for action, which was considered positive by most organisations.

5.1.3 Children and/or Youth

The CYI was not accompanied by definitions or guidance in relation to children and youth, meaning that many organisations 1) never specified what youth meant in their programmes 2) applied a very flexible approach, which included men and women well above 24 years (the UN youth definition is 15-24). Youth inclusion can risk overcrowding younger children's participation, which is a particular risk in contexts where entire communities have lacked any previous opportunities to take part in development programmes. Development stages during childhood calls for more varied approaches and explicit considerations in programming, and the CYI appears to have been too blunt of a tool to promote age-appropriate responses on the child-youth spectrum.

5.1.4 Fragile situations

The CYI eligibility criteria welcomed programming in conflict/and post-conflict contexts. A reference group with members from various Sida units that were affected by the CYI was set up and used to support the CYI application process. Unfortunately, it was not used throughout the CYI life-span to enhance the follow up and support grantees working with support from several Sida units. The focus on conflict/post conflict countries would have benefitted from a closer cooperation, not only between the humanitarian and CSO units at Sida, but also between humanitarian and development units in grantee organisations (when such separate units exist.)

5.1.5 Sustained improvements in focus and approaches

Although the size and ambition of the CYI has been considerable, it would be difficult to come to the conclusion that CYI has amounted to a *measurable* impact on the fulfilment of MDGs as they are formulated. There are examples of some important improvements in policy and practice of duty bearers and other stakeholders, but the level of contribution of the CYI to these changes cannot be ascertained.

In a similar vein it is difficult to judge if the very considerable funding levels of CYI have been matched with corresponding levels of sustainable changes in the child/youth rights focus and approaches of grantees. The opinion of the evaluation team is that, despite some impressive improvements within some of the grantees, more could have been achieved with this extraordinary funding. Among grantees we find organisations that have taken small steps and those who have taken bigger leaps towards becoming more child/and youth inclusive and rights-based organisations. Although coherent patterns are difficult to identify there are numerous enabling factors that appear to have played a decisive part in the level of achievement related to the CYI. Below is an attempt to categorise major, partial and limited contributions emanating from the CYI.

The evaluation found that the grantees managed to capitalise on the generous funding opportunity in different ways and to varying extents. The CYI constituted a **major contribution** to some grantees with more limited previous child/youth- rights experience, most notably for the programmes of **NRC** and **Oxfam**. The experiences gained under the CYI influenced policies and practices of the entire organisations and is now being drawn on in international networks. Although being a well-established child rights actor, Plan Sweden also makes its way into this category of grantees, being in the midst of rapid expansion when the CYI was introduced. **Plan Sweden** is now considered as a global expert on sexual and reproductive health and rights for children and youth. All three organisations had a strategic vision for the additional funding – not only using in to increase coverage or provide additional services. Also, the CYI contribution was sizeable and in the case of NRC and Oxfam the support was also granted for relatively long periods of time. Moreover, NRC and Oxfam were allowed use funding for innovation, method development and internal capacity development and had explicit outcome objectives for these aspects. They were also given longer time for the inception phase in the start, which helped them to strategize and plan better.

The CYI also made **partial contributions** towards certain aspects of rights-based programming within many grantees. Impressive steps have been taken on the ladder of participation (more explicit inclusion of children and youth in programming) by **RFSU**, **Vi Agroforestry**, **WWF**, **NRC** and **Oxfam**. **SCA** has initiated several internal processes to develop the capacity of SCA staff to adopt a more rights based approach. For some grantees the increases in funding for service delivery and infrastructure led to unexpected results in terms of their increased credibility to undertake advocacy and capacity development on children's rights (**Save the Children** and the **Church of Sweden**). Partnership approaches and the capacity of local partners to work with children and youth have developed and strengthened among grantees, such as Oxfam, NRC, **IBIS** and **Erikshjälpen**. In general, the CYI was an injection to on-going pro-

grammes that existed before the grant period and was extensively used to extend coverage. Many of these programmes have continued in some form or fed into other processes after the grant period ended, sustained by other resources, including by the general increase of the CSO appropriation grant.

Two grantees with funding forwarded through another framework organisation, namely **KFUM** and **UNA Sweden**, as well as **HIV/Aids Alliance** come across as cases where the CYI has made a **limited contribution**. The KFUM programme was discontinued after 3 years (only the first year was formally funded by the CYI). UNA Sweden received an extraordinary amount of extra funding to a project that was very small to start with. There appears to have been limited opportunities to influence the UNA Sweden organisation beyond the project. It is now continued with the same scale as prior to the CYI. The HIV/Aids Alliance programme in South Sudan was discontinued almost directly after CYI funding ended and the Alliance withdrew completely from South Sudan. The lessons learnt from programming seem to have remained with the local partner who is no longer part of the Alliance and had limited bearing on the HIV/Alliance as a whole.

Concluding observation

Although the CYI was perceived as an important injection by all grantees, many of them had to struggle to make the best out of short timeframes for planning and implementation (five grantees had less than two years), challenges encountered in fragile countries (e.g. Liberia and South Sudan), smaller funding levels that generally did not prompt a proper investment in strategic planning or provide the grantee with a platform of influence, and competing agendas within the organisation (e.g. environmental organisations).

The evaluation team concludes that the CYI has produced some impressive results but believes that more could have been achieved with this huge amount of funding if given more time for planning and implementation and explicit long term objectives regarding the expected changes in organisational approaches and focus.

5.2 THEORY OF CHANGE

The evaluation team set out to explore the following theory of change:

***If** substantial funding is provided to carefully selected grantees and earmarked for child/youth rights to education and health during three years,*

***Then** these grantees will sustain or increase their focus and funding levels for children/youth health and education also after the conditionality is removed and grantees (that are not already child rights focussed) will be inspired to change their general policies, practices and other programmes, making them more child rights and youth oriented.*

The overall conclusion is that the theory of change was plausible, but only under certain conditions, namely:

- If the grantees used the funding to deliberately develop capacity, competencies and methods and not only to 'do more of the same' or increase coverage of existing programmes. The conditions/criteria set for the Sida support influenced grantees to

work more rights based and improve local partnerships/ownership were helpful in this regard.

- If the grantees were given sufficient time to plan and prepare and if funding was provided for three years or more, results were more sustainable. The inflexible timeframes for some of the grantees limited effectiveness.

The team concludes that:

- If “free and substantial” funding is provided to organisations with sufficient capacity to capitalise on the opportunity, they can achieve impressive results. The challenge is to identify these organisations.
- Earmarking of funding is a strong and fast steering tool. For sustainable results to be achieved, the funding needs to be linked to longer term strategic approaches (within the grantees as well as within Sida) and combined with dialogue and follow up to make use of joint learning.
- Sub-grantees that are not in direct contact with Sida are faced with a more difficult and bureaucratic process, which hampers their capacities to effectively respond to calls of this size.
- The need to make large rapid disbursements without too many risks, encourages the use of well-known and traditional channels at the expense of new modalities and institutional arrangements and smaller innovative organisations.

5.3 EVALUATION QUESTIONS

Criterion 1: Sustainability (development results)
EQ 1 a) Have the interventions funded under the CYI led to a sustained increased focus on and support to children's and young people's rights in the work of the concerned organisations?
If comparing the results achieved with the substantial budget of almost 750 million SEK of the CYI, it can be questioned if it was efficient use of the funding. Many of the grantees were already focussing on children's and young people's rights. The funding was mostly used to expand existing programmes that were inclusive of children or youth. However, the mere size of the funding improved the image of many grantees and gave them more influence in their networks and in relation to partners and other stakeholders. Also the CSO strategy requirements improved partnership practices and increased application of HRBA among some grantees. NRC, Oxfam and Plan managed to link the CYI with their strategic development processes and make impressive leaps in terms of child/youth rights and sustainable internal capacity. Capacity to address child and youth rights increased among all grantees and their partners and targeted stakeholders – but to very varying degrees. Partners with small grants, limited timeframe and focus on fragile contexts naturally achieved less sustainable changes.
EQ 1 b) Is it possible to discern a pattern of similarities within the groups that continue child rights work and those who don't? Are there for example patterns related to if the organisation was a Swedish framework organisation or an international civil society organisation, the size of the contribution or whether the organisation was allowed to keep increased funding even after the formal end of the CYI?
Organisations with limited prior focus on children and youth were able to make more visible changes in approaches than those already child focused. The demands on application of HRBA and the CSO strategy (working through local partnerships and promote CSO capacity

building) was an important inspiration for international organisations that were previously self-implementing. There was a certain correlation between size of support and success, but the team concludes that, even more importantly, these organisations had a predictable and longer timeframe for the implementation and a clear vision for how the support was going to fit in their own strategic development. Organisations that used funding to expand coverage, top-up budgets or keep old programmes alive for longer time, were less successful. Organisations that were allowed to keep the increased funding were better placed to continue the work initiated. Organisations that saw the benefits of the developments achieved, often managed to secure funding from other sources and continue. Environmental organisations seem to still struggle to see the applicability of HRBA within their agenda, where animal rights/nature conservation is in focus. Some of these organisations however, have acknowledged the need to invest in human beings so that they will be better equipped to make sustainable choices for themselves and their communities and reduce the ecological footprint.

EQ 1 c) Are there any lessons to be learned by decision-makers at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and at the Sida Civil Society Unit as to the sustainability of the impact of the CYI?

Dialogue between MFA and Sida and sufficient time to plan and strategize are of key importance. For sustainable results to be achieved, the funding needs to be linked to longer term strategic approaches (within the grantees as well as within Sida) and combined with dialogue and follow up to make use of joint learning. To be sustainable the funding must fit well with the strategic development ambitions of the grantees as well as the Swedish thematic and geographic strategies. Global MDGs and SDGs need to be understood in the context of each strategy and not be used as steering tools that supersede these.

Criterion 2: Effectiveness (including process results – efficiency issues)

EQ 2 a) Did Sida manage, within the timeframes provided, to find organisations with the right competence and capacity to implement the CYI?

Considering the parameters given by MFA and the tight timeframes, Sida was wise to make invitations to well-known organisations. Despite apparent risks, there were no major failures. If selection criteria had more clearly demanded that grantees had a strategic vision for how the funding was to be used to change or develop its work on child/youth rights (as Oxfam, Plan and NRC) rather than just expanding coverage or services, perhaps the effectiveness would have been better. Such applications were however not encouraged by Sida as it was seen as higher risk taking and also more difficult to link to fulfilment of the MDGs. The focus on absorption capacity also excluded smaller organisations. The flexibility and helpfulness of Sida was appreciated by grantees, but the timeframe was too short for some grantees to make sufficiently well prepared plans. Grantees need to be provided with clarity on timeframes to be able to plan effectively.

EQ 2b) Are there any lessons to be learned by decision-makers at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and at the Sida Civil Society Unit as to how the CYI was handled at Sida?

Large, short term disbursements and earmarking of funding should be avoided. If earmarking is used again in the future, it should be used only to emphasise aspects of a thematic or geographic strategy and it should be using ordinary planning and reporting procedures. Open dialogue between MFA and Sida is needed to ensure that political ambitions are translated into realistic and effective steering tools. Sida needs to work as one organisation towards grantees that receive funding from several Sida departments. Cooperation between Sida departments would enhance synergies and effectiveness of Sida's efforts and make administration easier among grantees.

6 Recommendations

The lessons learnt from the CYI suggests that large, short term investments in long term development assistance is not an effective way to enhance capacity and influence approaches of grantees. It is recommended that large, short term grants should be avoided in such contexts and that earmarking of funding should be used with caution. When providing funding to/through civil society organisations, expectations of internal organisational capacity development outcomes and changes in policies and practices should be clearly spelled out and funding should be provided to underpin these expectations.

We recommend that future initiatives using earmarking of funding as a steering tool should:

1. Use the Swedish thematic and geographic strategies as main steering tools and use earmarking of funding to supplement or underline certain aspects of these strategies that need to be emphasised. It is also important to explicitly clarify how the initiative is expected to contribute to strategy fulfilment.
2. Allow sufficient time for planning and preparation of calls in close dialogue between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and Sida. One year for such preparations would appear to be a minimum.
3. Be clear about the timeframe of the initiative from the onset and plan for at least three years implementation time. Five years would be appropriate.
4. Initiate a more open call for proposals to find the best possible grantees. Ensure that the funding modality also allows for smaller organisations, with limited absorption capacity, to apply and for grants to innovations that need to be tested before scaling up.
5. Design the criteria to promote grantees that have a vision for both the internal and external changes to be achieved, with specific objectives for internal and external capacity development to ensure institutional and long term results. Allow funding for these aspects.
6. Design criteria that encourage grantees to develop their HRBA (tailor made to their current level of understanding). Specify how the focus of the initiative is related to HRBA. Allow funding for these aspects.
7. Use the regular planning and reporting systems within MFA and Sida to ensure proper follow-up and support.
8. Invest in additional Sida capacity to play a more committed role during the initiative, following up more closely on dialogue issues and even playing a more facilitating/coordinating role towards organisations. Take interest in the results and lessons learnt by the grantees and facilitate learning and sharing possibilities, thematic and/or geographic.

9. Require inter-departmental coordination within Sida when funding is provided from more than one unit, especially in conflict and fragility contexts.
10. When contributing to global goals such as MDGs (and the subsequent global Sustainable Development Goals - SDGs), these need to be understood in the context of existing strategies and not handled as something extraordinary or overriding. Linkages could be highlighted in a strategy section, in each strategy, to increase understanding.

Annexes

6.1 TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Background

The Swedish Government decided in 2011 to further strengthen its support to children and youth focusing on the right to health, education and youth employment, through the specific Child and Youth Initiative 2011 (henceforth the Initiative). The main aim of the Initiative was to enhance the Swedish contribution to the fulfilment of four of the child-related Millennium Development Goals: Poverty reduction (goal 1), Universal primary education (goal 2), Child mortality (goal 4), and Maternal health (goal 5). Further guiding principles were the four main principles of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child, (non-discrimination; the right to life, survival and development; the right to express views and to be heard; and the best interest of the child). The Government allocated a total sum of 200 MSEK per year from the Civil Society appropriation 2011-2014 to the Initiative. Sida's Unit for Support to Civil Society (henceforth CIVSAM) opened a call for proposals for the established Swedish organisations that had framework agreements with Sida. To further strengthen the initiative, the Swedish Government instructed Sida to allow international civil society organisations (not usually included in the Civil Society appropriation) to submit proposals.

The call for proposals resulted in interventions channelled through 13 civil society organisations – eight Swedish framework organisations, one Swedish Civil Society Organisation, and four international civil society organisations. The Swedish framework organisations were: Plan Sweden, Save the Children Sweden, the Church of Sweden, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), RFSU, the Swedish Mission Council, We effect (formerly known as Cooperation without borders), and Forum Syd. The Civil Society Organisation was The Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA), which became a framework organisation at Sida 2013. The international civil society organisations were: The Norwegian Refugee Council, Oxfam/GB, the International HIV/AIDS Alliance and IBIS. Through the Initiative, the Government earmarked funds for child rights during 2011. After that, the funds allocated were merged with the general Civil Society appropriation. A number of the Swedish framework organisations were allowed to keep higher level of funding even after their initial agreements with regard to the initiative had expired, and CIVSAM also chose to extend a smaller number of the international civil society interventions through 2015.

2. Evaluation Purpose

Provide lessons learned for decision-makers at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and at the Civil Society Unit at Sida on the impact of this type of initiatives, and on how to handle them. The purpose of the evaluation is to:

- Determine if the Initiative has increased the focus on the rights of children and young people in the general programs of the organisations that received funding from the Initiative.
- Determine if the pressure for the applying organisations to rapidly put together applications and for Sida to quickly handle a large increase in the allocation had a negative impact on the outcomes of the Initiative.

3. Evaluation Questions

The evaluation shall conform to OECD/DAC's quality standards. Out of the five OECD/DAC evaluation criteria, the evaluation shall in particular assess sustainability and

effectiveness. *Sustainability* shall be assessed in relation to the impact that the Initiative has had on the overall work of the organisations concerned. *Effectiveness* shall be assessed primarily with regard to the possible consequences of the short timeframes for finding, assessing and agreeing on interventions. The following questions should be answered in the evaluation:

1. SUSTAINABILITY (development results):

- Have the interventions funded under the Initiative led to a sustained increased focus on and support to children's and young people's rights in the work of the concerned organisations?
- Is it possible to discern a pattern of similarities within the groups that continue child rights work and those who don't? Are there for example patterns related to if the organisation was a Swedish framework organisation or an international civil society organisation, the size of the contribution or whether the organisation was allowed to keep the increased funding even after the formal end of the Initiative?
- Are there any lessons to be learned by decision-makers at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and at the Sida Civil Society Unit as to the sustainability of the impact of the Initiative?

2. EFFECTIVENESS (process results): Did Sida manage, within the timeframes provided, to find organisations with the right competence and capacity to implement the initiative?

- Are there any lessons to be learned by decision-makers at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs regarding the effectiveness of the conditions for handling the Initiative and/or at the Sida Civil Society Unit as to how the Initiative was handled at Sida?

4. Delimitations

The evaluators are not expected to assess the impact of the Initiative on the rights of children and young persons in general, but to limit the evaluation to the Initiative's impact on the organisations' programs, the ability of Sida to find relevant partner organisations – and to provide lessons learned and recommendations based on that.

5. Approach and Method

1. The evaluation should mainly be a desk study, analysing for example the applications and assessments – completed with interviews with relevant stakeholders at Sida, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and at the organisations.
2. An inception report shall be delivered to Sida no later than 15 working days from the start of the contract.
3. The inception report shall elaborate on the proposed methodology; provide a detailed description of method evaluation questions, a detailed time plan etc.

4. Stakeholder Involvement

Interviews can be held with relevant desk officers at Sida and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and with representatives of the organisations. If and when needed, individuals should be given the opportunity to comment on text directly related to them. Only Sida should be given the opportunity to comment on the whole draft report.

5. Evaluation Quality

The evaluators shall use the Sida OECD/DAC Glossary of Key Terms in the Evaluation. The evaluators shall specify how quality assurance will be handled by them during the evaluation process.

6. Time Schedule, Reporting and Communication

Sida shall take no more than five working days to comment on the inception report.

A draft report shall be submitted to Sida latest 2016-08-15

The evaluators should allow at least two weeks for comments and discussions on the draft

report.

The final report shall be submitted to Sida latest 2016-09-15.

The evaluators shall upon approval of the final report, insert the report into the Sida template for decentralised evaluations and submit it to Sida's consultant responsible for Sida's graphic profile (currently Citrus), for publication and release in the Sida publication data base.

The evaluation report shall be written.

The final report shall be professionally proof read and submitted in a hard copy and e-mailed as a Pdf-file to Sida.

The final report shall be limited to 20-30 pages.

7. Resources

The ceiling amount for the assignment is SEK 500 000.

8. Evaluation Team Qualification

1. Relevant academic background in accordance with the Terms of Reference.
2. Evaluation competence (including methodology knowledge); the evaluators should have experience of a similar evaluations.
3. Good knowledge and familiarity with the structure and work with civil society organisations.
4. Sector specific competence: understanding of Sida's work with civil society in the area of children and youths rights in a Sida context.
5. Language skills: Swedish (mainly reading) and English (including writing). Some documents will be in Swedish.

It is important that the competencies of the individual team members are complimentary. The competence requirements should correspond to the chosen evaluation approach.

9. The evaluators must be independent of the evaluated activities and have no stake in the outcome of the evaluation.

10. Appendices

1. Strategi för stöd genom svenska organisationer i det civila samhället 2010-2014
2. Regeringsbeslut, 2011-06-22, Ändring av strategi för stöd genom svenska organisationer i det civila samhället 2010-2014, UF2011/37797/UD/UP
3. Sidas instruktion till svenska ramorganisationer för Regeringens särskilda barn- och ungdomssatsning inom anslagsposten stöd genom svenska organisationer i det civila samhället.
4. Sida's Instruction to International Non-Governmental Organisations, for Grants from the Appropriation Item Support via Swedish Civil Society Child and Youth Initiative 2011.

6.2 INTERVIEW GUIDE

Interview guide - implementing organisations

1. What did your organisation use the Sida funding for? a) topping up of existing initiatives (example), b) new efforts in humanitarian or conflict contexts (example), c) new efforts in long term development contexts (example), d) development of new methods, tools, policies
2. With what %-age did your organisational and programme budget increase thanks to the initiative?
3. Has the initiative had any long term effects in your organisation?
 - a. Has the initiative influenced general policies, practices, capacities or tools of your organisation? Give example.
 - b. Has the initiative influenced the focus or methods of other programmes supported by your organisation, beyond those funded by the initiative? Give example.
 - c. Has the initiative led to development of new methods and approaches that are now shared with other stakeholders? Give example.
 - d. Has the initiative resulted in new programmes or projects that continue with funding from the CSO appropriation or other sources? Give example.
 - e. Any other unexpected effects of the initiative?
4. Has the initiative influenced focus, capacity and approaches of your partners (local or international)? Give example.
5. Are there other factors that have also contributed to these effects (question 3 and 4)?
6. What do you think of the initiative and how it was managed?
 - a. Clarity of purpose and expectations, in Sida's initial invitation for proposals and other communication?
 - b. Sida management of call?
 - c. Support by Sida to grantees?
 - d. Other?
7. Areas of improvement for future of similar calls?

Interview guide – Sida and MFA

1. What do you think of the initiative and how it was initiated and managed?
 - a. Clarity of purpose and expectations (short and long term) from MFA?
 - b. Sida's response and management of the call?
 - c. Support and dialogue by Sida with grantees?
 - d. Other?
2. Areas of improvement for future of similar calls?
3. Major outcomes of the initiative according to your view?
4. Which organisations managed to sustain change that was initiated by the initiative? Example?
5. What were the factors of success in organisations that managed well? Give example.
6. What were the factors impeding the success in organisations that did not manage well? Give example.

6.3 LIST OF RESPONDENTS

Church of Sweden	Maria Möller
	Jenny Zetterqvist
	Ingrid Bergenholm-England
Forum Syd	-
➤ UNA Sweden	Gorka Fagilde
HIV/Aids Alliance	Catherine Simmons (written input)
IBIS	Stine Skött Thomsen
	Karen Andersen(written input)
NRC	Andrea Naletto
	Emma Bonar
	Eric Demers
Oxfam	Imogen Davies
	Olloriak Sawade
	Stephanie de Chassy
	Sitan Togo
Plan	Sara Österlund (interview +written input)
	Anna Samuelsson (interview + written input)
RFSU	Jonas Tillberg (written input)
Save the Children	Eva Geidenmark
	Veronika Granath
	Sara Lindblom
Swedish Committee for Afghanistan	Håkan Fredriksson
SMC	Joel Malmvall
➤ Erikshjälpen	Peter Toftgård
➤ KFU	-
We Effect	Anna Tibblin
➤ Vi Agroforestry	Arne Anderson
➤	Thaddeus Mbowe (written input)
WWF	Germund Sellgren
	Gunilla Elsässer
Sida	Charlotta Norrby
	Lena Ingelstam
	Begoña Birath-Barrientos
	Elisabeth Berg-Khan
	Joacim Carlson
MFA	Per-Ola Mattsson
	Tomas Wiklund

6.4 LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Documents from the Government of Sweden and Sida

1. Regeringens budgetproposition 2011, kapitel 7, Internationellt bistånd
2. Regeringsbeslut, Ändring av strategi för stöd genom svenska organisationer i det civila samhället 2010-2014, UF2011/37797/UD/UP
3. Bilaga till regeringsbeslut (UF2011/37797/UD/UP)
4. Sidas instruktion till svenska ramorganisationer för Regeringens särskilda barn- och ungdomssatsning inom anslagsposten stöd genom svenska organisationer i det civila samhället
5. Sida's instruction to International Non-Governmental Organisations for grants from the appropriation item support via Swedish civil society organisations, for the implementation of the Swedish Government's specific child- and youth initiative 2011
6. PM, Sidas arbete gällande Regeringens särskilda barn- och ungdomssatsning 2011, 2011-04-19
7. PM, Uppdatering – Sidas arbete med barn och ungdomars rätt till hälsa, utbildning och sysselsättning, 2012-02-10
8. (PM) Annex 1:Strategirapport för anslagsposten stöd genom svenska organisationer i det civila samhället september 2010-augusti 2011
9. Strategirapport för Strategi för stöd genom svenska organisationer i det civila samhället: september 2011-september 2012
10. Rapportering av strategigenomförande och resultat, Strategi för stöd genom svenska organisationer i det civila samhället, januari 2013 – december 2013
11. Strategirapport för Strategin för stöd genom svenska organisationer i det civila samhället 2014

Forum Syd (för Svenska FN-förbundet)

12. Application form Additional Funding, March 2011
13. Kompletteringar till ansökan (augusti 2011)
14. Bedömnings-PM (Sida, 2011-11-11)
15. Beslut om insats (Sida,2011-11-15)
16. Tilläggsavtal 2011-11-24
17. Resultat Regeringens särskilda barn- och ungdomssatsning 2011-2012
18. Ställningstagande till Forum Syds slutrapport för ramanslaget 2010-2012
19. Protokoll från årsgenomgångar (2012, 2013)

HIV/Aids Alliance

20. Application Child and Youth Initiative, August 2011(including annexes)
21. Bedömnings-PM (Sida, 2011-18-25)
22. Beslut om insats (Sida, 2011-10-05)
23. Agreement 2011-10-28
24. Final report Child and Youth Initiative project 2011-2015
25. Finansiell slutrapport
26. Protokoll från årsgenomgångar (2011, 2012, 2013)

IBIS

27. Application for the Swedish Government's Special Child and Youth Initiative 2011 (including annexes)
28. Bedömnings-PM (Sida 2011-19-13)
29. Beslut om insats (Sida 2011-11-23)
30. Agreement 2011-11-29
31. Amendement to agreement 2015-03-24
32. Information to SIDA: Programmatic consequences for IBIS' CYI programme due to the

- Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone and Liberia. (Correspondence, 3rd of September 2014)
33. Consolidated Program Completion Report IBIS' Child and Youth Initiative 2011-2015
 34. 3rd Financial Report (1st of January 2014- 31st of March 2015)
 35. Evaluation report: IBIS' Child and Youth Initiative Program West Africa

Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)

36. Project Proposal "Swedish Government's Special Child and Youth Initiative" October 2011- December 2013
37. Bedömnings-PM (Sida, 2011-11-07)
38. Beslut om insats (Sida, 2011-11-30)
39. Beslut om förlängning av avtal 2014-12-12
40. Final report, October 2011-December 2013
41. Final report, August 2012 – December 2014
42. Final report, January 2015 – March 2016
43. Ställningstagande till verksamhets och finansiell rapport (Sida 2015-10-29)
44. Protokoll från årsgenomgångar med Sida (2014, 2015, 2016)

Oxfam

45. My Rights, My Voice: Engaging marginalised children and youth in their rights to health and education services (application 2011-09-07)
46. My Rights, My Voice: Engaging marginalised children and youth in their rights to health and education services (extension application for January – December 2015)
47. Bedömnings-PM (Sida, 2011-10-13)
48. Beslut om insats (Sida, 2011-11-30)
49. Agreement 2011-12-09
50. Amendment to agreement 2014-12-10
51. Annual progress reports (2012, 2013, 2014)
52. Evaluation of the "My Rights, My Voice" Programme
53. Ställningstagande till verksamhets och finansiell rapport (Sida 2015-04-08)
54. Ställningstagande till verksamhets och finansiell rapport (Sida 2015-08-31)
55. Protokoll från årsgenomgångar med Sida (2014, 2015)

Plan Sverige

56. Children's right to Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health and Quality Education (Plan Sweden's application to the Sida Child Rights Initiative, 2011-09-02)
57. Bedömnings-PM (Sida, 2011-11-01)
58. Beslut om insats (Sida, 2011-11-28)
59. Tilläggsavtal 2011-11-30
60. Final report, the Joint Child Rights Programme and the Special Child Rights Initiative, including annexes (2014- 05-15)
61. Ställningstagande till verksamhets och finansiell rapport (Sida 2014-07-16)
62. Protokoll från årsgenomgångar med Sida (2012, 2013, 2014, 2015)

Rädda Barnen

63. Reaching for the Millennium Goals (Application to Sida from Save the Children Sweden) including annexes
64. Bedömnings-PM (Sida, 2011-08-22)
65. Beslut om insats (Sida, 2011-10-25)
66. Tilläggsavtal 2011-11-16
67. Programme report on Reaching for the Millennium Goals – Sida's Special Child and Youth Programme
68. Finansiell slutrapport för programmet "Reaching for the Millennium Goals"
69. Evaluation of Local to Global project 2013-2015: Summary Report
70. Protokoll från årsgenomgångar med Sida (2012, 2013, 2014, 2015)

RFSU

71. Special Application, Supplementary Programme Proposal for the period of July 2011-December 2012 (inom ramen för Regeringens särskilda Barn- och ungdomssatsning inom anslagsposten stöd genom svenska organisationer i det civila samhället)
72. Bedömnings-PM (Sida, 2011-08-11)
73. Beslut om insats (Sida, 2011-08-12)
74. Tilläggsavtal 2011-08-17
75. Final report, RFSU Framework Programme 2011-2012
76. Protokoll från årsgenomgångar med Sida (2012, 2013, 2014, 2015)

Svenska Afghanistankommittén (SAK)

77. Project Application on Support to address inequalities on the right for health and education for children in Afghanistan
78. Bedömnings-PM (Sida, 2011-09-23)
79. Beslut om insats (Sida, 2011-11-25)
80. Avtal om bidrag mellan Sida och Svenska Afghanistankommittén under perioden 2011-2013 före Regeringens särskilda barn- och ungdomssatsning, Tilläggsavtal 2011-11-25
81. Sida Completion report: Support to address inequalities on the rights for health and education for children in Afghanistan 2011-2014 (2015- 05-18)
82. Avsluta insats, slutgiltig (Sida 2016-04-19)
83. Protokoll från årsgenomgångar med Sida (2014)

Svenska Missionsrådet – SMR (Erikshjälpen och KFUM)

84. Ansökan om tillägg för den särskilda barn- och ungdomssatsningen, 2011-06-22 (för Erikshjälpen)
85. Ansökan till Sida, syd- och östanslaget 2012, 2011-09-30 (SMRs ramansökan, inklusive barn- och ungdomssatsning för KFUM)
86. Bedömnings-PM 2011-08-12 (för Erikshjälpen)
87. Bedömnings-PM 2011-12-15 (SMRs ramansökan, inklusive barn- och ungdomssatsning för KFUM)
88. Beslut om insats (Sida 2011-08-16, för Erikshjälpen)
89. Beslut om insats (Sida 2012-02-06, SMRs ramansökan, inklusive barn- och ungdomssatsning för KFUM)
90. KFUMs ansökan till SMR
91. SMRs bedömning av KFUMs ansökan, 2011-10-03
92. Final report "Act2Live" 2012-2015, (2015-10-29)
93. SMRs bedömnings-pm av KFUMs barn- och ungdomssatsning 2016-04-01
94. Final Evaluation report – Act2Live Youth Health Initiative 2012-2015
95. Final report, MDGS and Child Rights Programme, 2011-2014 (Erikshjälpen 2012-12-20)
96. Protokoll från årsgenomgångar med Sida (2012, 2013, 2014, 2015)

Svenska Kyrkan

97. Reviderad ansökan om medel från Barn- och ungdomssatsning 2011-2013 – Svenska kyrkan, 2011-10-21 (inklusive bilagor)
98. Bedömnings-PM (Sida, 2011-09-12)
99. Beslut om insats (Sida, 2011-10-25)
100. Tilläggsavtal 2011-11-07
101. Svenska kyrkans årsrapport 2013, Bilaga 8, Barn- och ungdomssatsningen
102. Protokoll från årsgenomgångar med Sida (2013, 2014, 2015)
103. Powerpoint från Svenska kyrkans lärandedag, 19 maj 2014

We Effect (dåvarande Kooperation utan gränser, för Vi-skogen)

104. "Farmers of the Future, Phase II" – ansökan till Sida civsam för Regeringens särskilda barn- och ungdomssatsning 2011- 08-02
105. Bedömnings-PM (Sida, 2011-10-05)

- 106. Beslut om insats (Sida, 2011-11-08)
- 107. Tilläggsavtal 2011-11-15
- 108. Farmers of the Future, final report, May 2014
- 109. Protokoll från årsgenomgångar med Sida (2012, 2013, 2014, 2015)

WWF

- 110. Application by Världsnaturfonden WWF to Sida Civsam 2011-2012 on Children's and Youth's rights to education and health, 2011-05-31
- 111. Bedömnings-PM (Sida, 2011-09-29)
- 112. Beslut om insats (extra bidrag) (Sida, 2012-07-20)
- 113. Tilläggsavtal 2012-08-08
- 114. Final reports and ESD summary, March 2013
- 115. Protokoll från årsgenomgångar med Sida (2012, 2013, 2014)

6.5 EVIDENCE OF INCREASED FOCUS ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Evidence of increased focused on children and youth

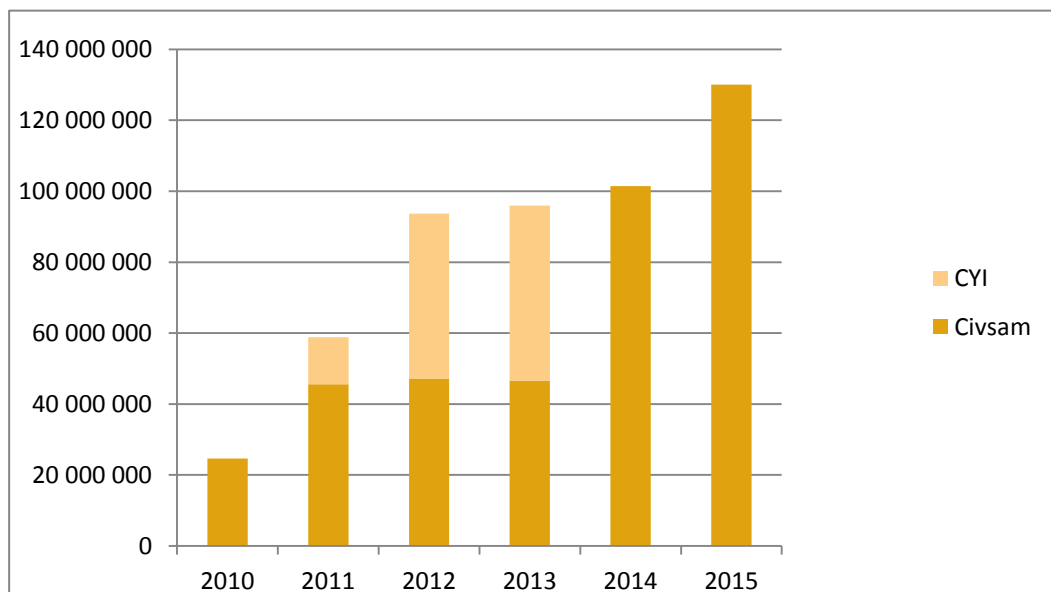
NRC

NRC has been able to keep the youth education component as an important part of its humanitarian work and international advocacy, with funding from other sources, including Sida HUM.

The vision for children and youth is more strongly expressed in annual reports and strategic documents from 2015 compared to 2010.

Plan Sweden

Plan belongs to the category of organisations with overall child/youth focus already before the CYI. Below is a graph demonstrating Sida funding levels before and after the CYI:

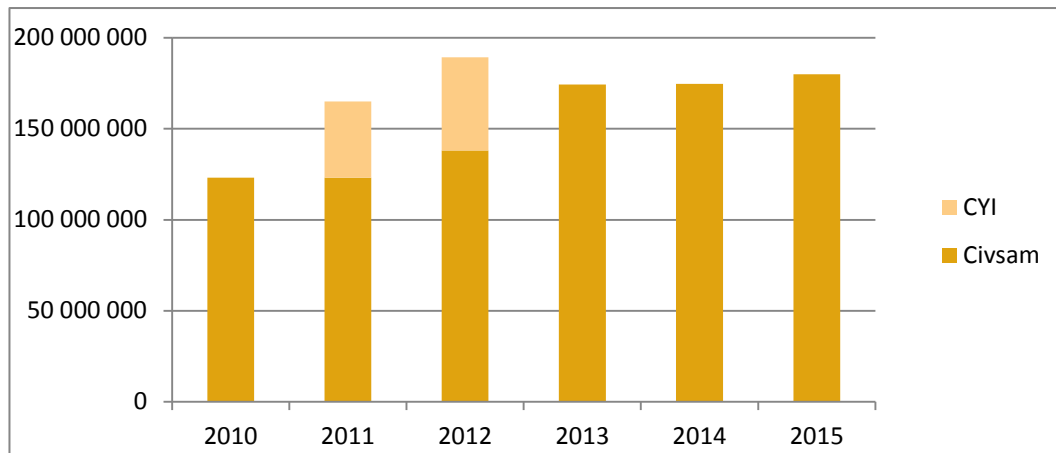


Oxfam

Oxfam has been able to continue its youth programmes with funding from other sources (including IKEA). There is a significant change in the Oxfam annual reports from 2010/11 and 2014/15. Youth are not mentioned at all in the report from 2010/11. Children are mainly mentioned as beneficiaries. In the 2014/15 report youth are mentioned 13 times and in a very rights-based language. Children are mentioned 33 times, under the headings protection and right to education and health. Youth and persons with disabilities are highlighted as key areas of Oxfam's programme in 2015.

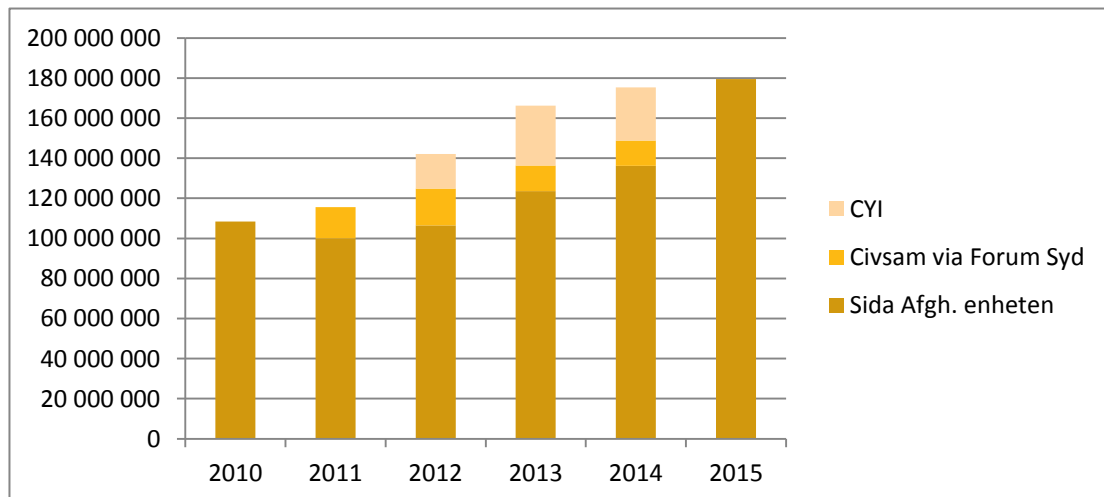
Save the Children Sweden

SCS belongs to the category of organisations with overall child/youth focus already before the CYI. Below is a graph demonstrating Sida funding levels before and after the CYI:



Swedish Committee for Afghanistan

According to an analysis of the CSO database, the share of Sida funding going to child and youth inclusive programmes has remained the same since 2010. Almost all education and health programmes of SCA were already targeting this group. Since 2010, SCA has gradually developed a more rights based approach.

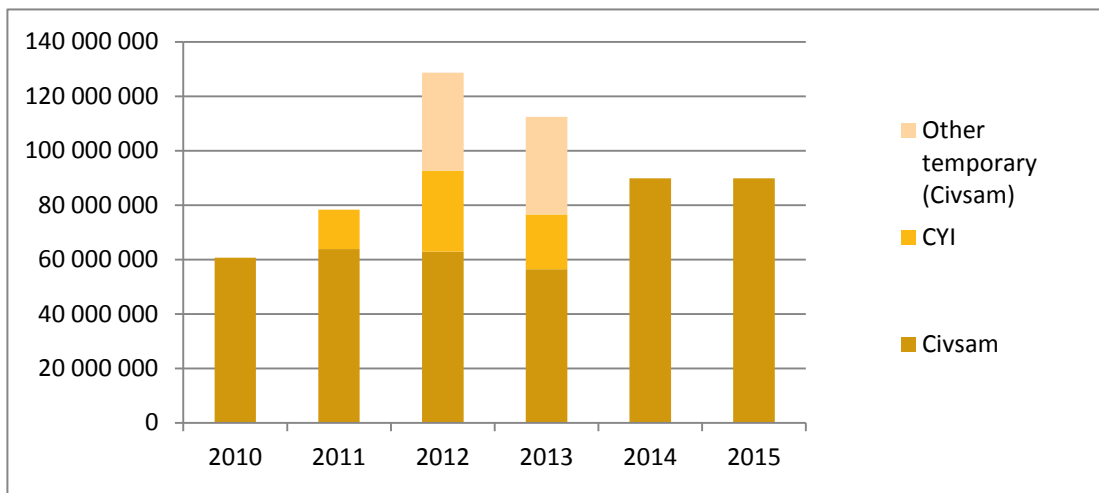


Funding from the CYI was mainly used for more service provision in education and health areas, but the CYI also provided opportunities to increase rights-based competence among SCA staff in Afghanistan and explored constructive avenues for rights implementation in the Afghan context.

Church of Sweden

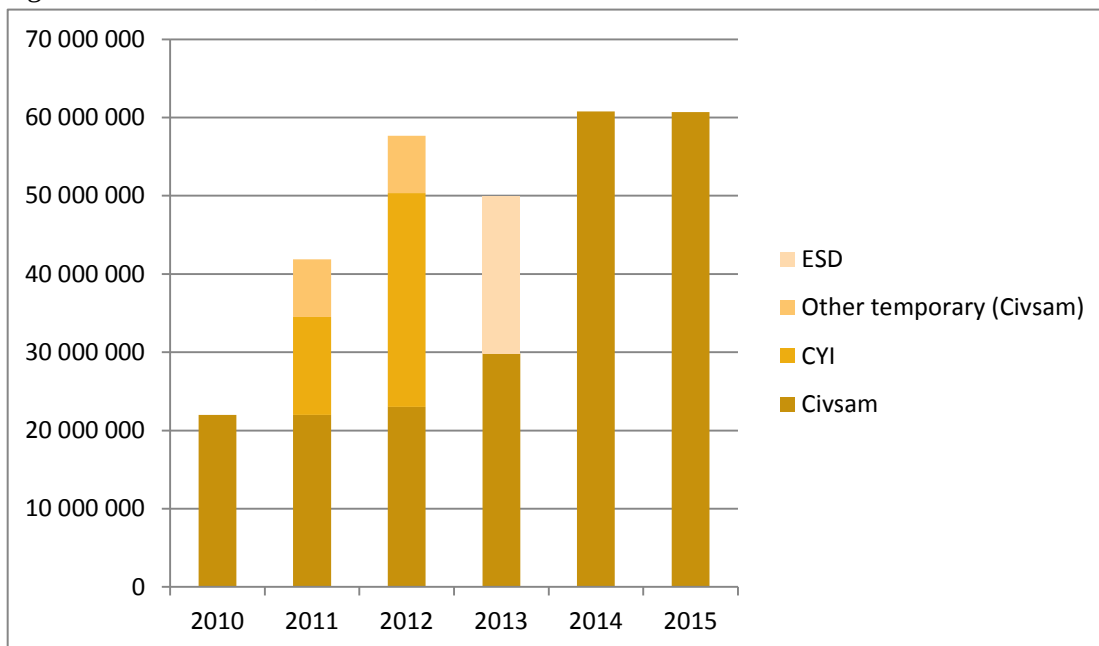
According to an analysis of the CSO database, the share of Sida funding going to child and youth inclusive programmes decreased from 18% in 2010 to 15 % in 2015.

The setting up of policy advisors and field liaison officers on child rights was prompted by the CYI, but also strongly benefited from an overall “child rights momentum” within the CoS sphere of action. The most prominent child rights-based programmes have been prioritised, although funding levels reached during the CYI have not been maintained. Notably, CoS also received temporary, general funds from the CSO appropriation, due to the overall appropriation grant increase in 2011.



WWF

According to an analysis of the CSO database, the share of Sida funding going to child and youth inclusive programmes increased from 3% in 2010 to 41 % in 2015. The increased funding level is sustained at 56,4 MSEK.



WWF Sweden is considered a forefront-actor in for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). The components of the new Global Action Programme (GAP) for WWF is giving par-

particular attention to issues which were part of the ESD, so WWF Sweden is now well-positioned to continue their work to include children and youth in the fight for a sustainable environment. The contribution of the CYI to these developments is not ascertained, but the CYI funded ESD programmes only. WWF also received temporary, general funds from the CSO appropriation, due to the overall appropriation grant increase in 2011. Notably, WWF included ESD explicitly (by including separate budget post) in the 2013 bridge-year application to Sida. The following framework application (2014-2016) integrated ESD (to an extent not possible to assess).

HIV/Aids Alliance

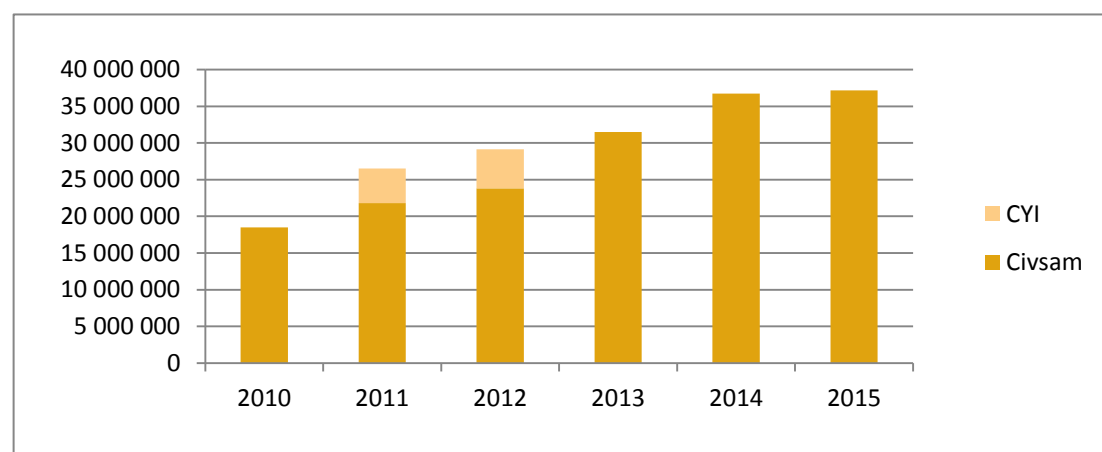
Children and adolescents were already one of the priority areas of the Alliance. The evaluation team therefore did not find any evidence on changes in the focus of the HIV/Aids Alliance towards a more child and youth friendly approach. Programming was affected by increased conflict in the programme country (South Sudan). Shortly after the CYI ended, so did HIV/Aids Alliance partnerships and programming in South Sudan.

IBIS

The Education for Change (EfC) programme in West Africa was already focusing on increased access to and quality education for children and youth. The programme was enhanced by the Sida funding, but it did not lead to any significant change in focus of IBIS as an organisation. Implementation was affected by the Ebola outbreak in the region, and an internal fraud case in Liberia. IBIS states that the organisation is now able to harvest the fruits of intensive investments in the partnership approach in particular, as a postponed result of the CYI.

RFSU

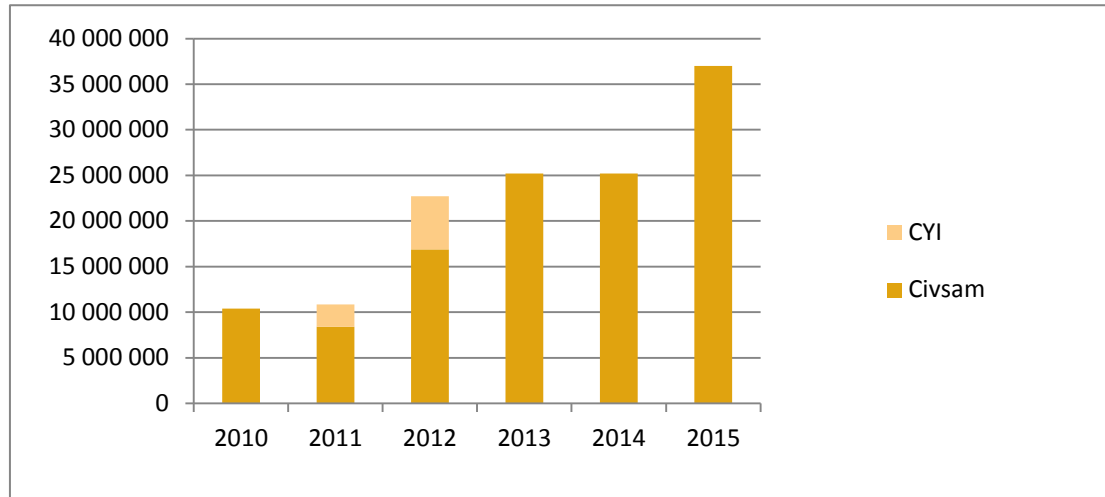
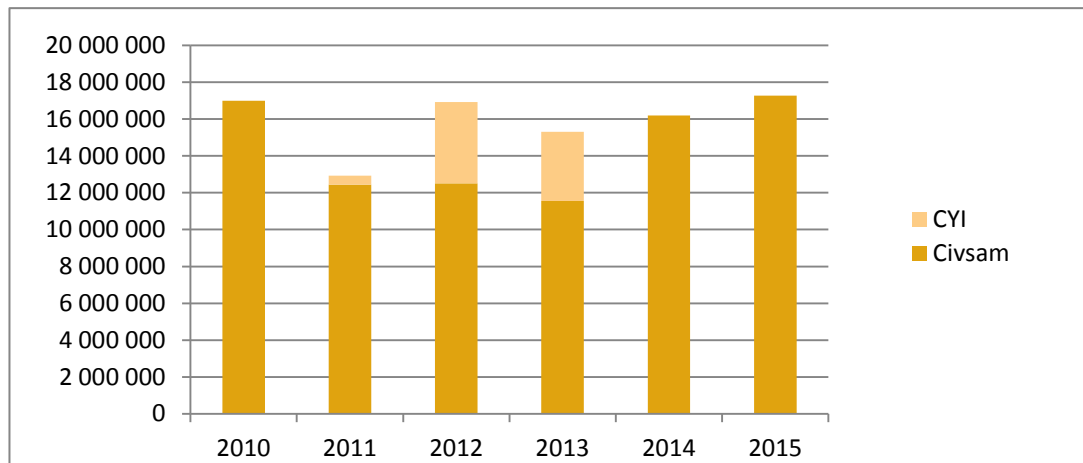
According to an analysis of the CSO database, the share of Sida funding going to child and youth inclusive programmes decreased from 53% in 2010 to 24 % in 2015. Although RFSU has supported some regional sex education programmes for children in Africa and Asia, there are no visible changes in RFSU policy documents or annual reports related to



children and youth during the period. Youth were and still are a prominent focus area. The CYI enabled RFSU in some programme countries to focus attention on a younger group of children (8-13 years) which was a result of the CYI.

Erikshjälpen/SMC

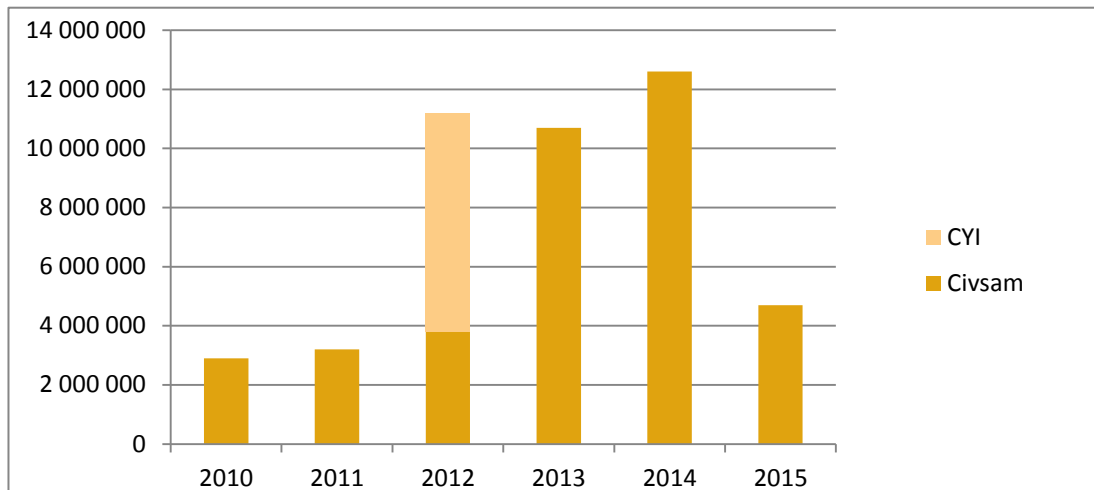
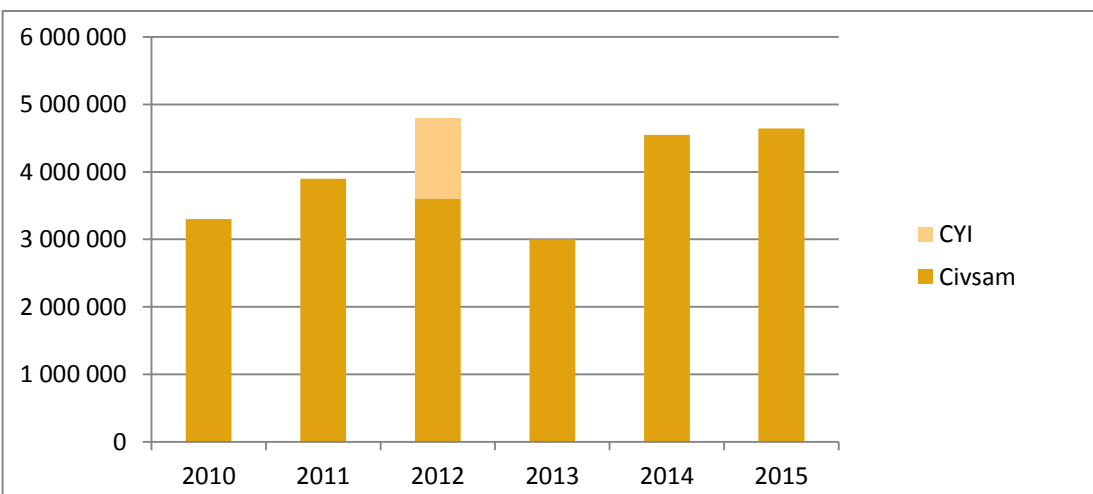
Erikshjälpen belongs to the category of organisations with overall child/youth focus already before the CYI. Below is a graph demonstrating Sida funding levels before and after the CYI:

**Vi Agroforestry (via We Effect)**

The Vi Agroforestry strategy 2013-2016 mentions children and youth as one of 8 priorities. In the 2015 annual report, children and youth are mentioned as active participants, unlike the annual report from 2011. The higher funding levels are sustained. We Effect and Vi Agroforestry are currently developing new 5-year strategic plans. Children and youth are explicitly and strongly mentioned in these strategies. It is not possible to determine how large share of the funding for Vi Agroforestry that is invested to include and reach children and youth. According to an analysis of the CSO database, We Effect as a whole uses only 4% of its funding from Sida for programmes in a way that explicitly includes or targets children and youth. This share was the same in 2010.

KFUM

KFUM belongs to the category of organisations with overall child/youth focus already before the CYI. Below is a graph demonstrating Sida funding levels before and after the CYI:

**UNA Sweden**

According to an analysis of the CSO database, the share of Sida funding going to child and youth inclusive programmes increased from 21% in 2010 to 43 % in 2015. UNA Sweden's main focus areas are education and awareness-raising on human rights. The contribution of the CYI to these developments is not ascertained. When looking at the DRC programme (which was targeted by the CYI), it is noted that the funding levels have not been maintained and the programmes is again being implemented in two regions, rather than four as during the CYI.



Evaluation of the Sida Child and Youth Initiative

2011-2015

The Child and Youth Initiative (CYI) was a political steering tool, of unprecedented speed and scale, adopted in December 2010. Between 2011 and 2015, a total of 758 MSEK was provided to 13 selected civil society organisations. The evaluation assesses the effects and sustainability of CYI on the longer term policies and practices of grantees. The evaluation found that such results varied a lot between grantees. Success factors were a) longer timeframes for planning and implementation b) explicit objectives for internal capacity development c) ability to make strategic use of the funding rather than gap filling and extensions of existing work. The evaluation concludes that, despite a few notable achievements, large, short term, financial injections in long term development cooperation are generally not effective.