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EXPLORING DONORSHIP

Internal factors

in Swedish aid to Uganda

Background and purpose

- EBA commissioned a study of Swedish bilateral cooperation with Uganda
- Twofold purpose:
 - Develop a model for evaluating donor performance
 - Apply that model to Swedish development cooperation with Uganda

What the study does?

- Argue why internal factors are important
- Identify internal factors and formulate a set of hypotheses
- Introduce relevant theoretical perspectives
- Explore relevance of the hypotheses
- Draw preliminary conclusions

Basic premise!

- IT MATTERS TO AID EFFECTIVENESS HOW AIS IS PROVIDED!
- External factors crucial, but aid effectiveness rests also on the nature of recipient – donor relationships
- Why internal factors?
 - Such factors can be influenced and changes by the donor
 - Empirical studies still in their infancy

Opening up the black box

- Donor – recipient interaction consists of three processes:
 - (a) Policy and programme development
 - (b) Aid management and implementation
 - (c) Learning and feedbackloops
- What happens in those processes are crucial and used to explore the hypotheses.

Examples of hypotheses (15)

- Formulation of the country strategy primarily driven by Swedish aid policy
- Strategy mainly served to legitimise
 - not reorient practice
- Development towards more off budget project aid

Hypotheses

- Embassy staff spends more time managing funds than in strategic discussions
- Weak feedback from beneficiaries and evaluations
- RBM has crowded out intangible results

Findings and challenges

- Strategy preparation and ownership
- Realism of the strategy
- Coherence of the country programme
- Reporting of real results
- Paris Declaration principles

Findings and challenges

- The potential of civil society
- Managing funds versus nurturing relationships
- Discretionary power and experimentation
- Logframes and complexity

Lessons from the model building

- Internal factors important and necessary - but not sufficient to understand effectiveness
- Internal factors are relational
- Internal factors are not unique
- The study fills a gap
- Similar studies should be broadened