

SWEDISH DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO CAMBODIA – A LEARNING EVALUATION

Since the 1990s, democracy and human rights have been an important objective in Swedish development cooperation. The study **Supporting state-building for democratisation? A study of 20 years of Swedish democracy aid to Cambodia** evaluates Sweden's democracy assistance to Cambodia during the period 1997–2017.

The study looks into what influence Swedish development cooperation with Cambodia has had on democratic developments in the country and what can be learned from two decades of cooperation. The authors Henny Andersen, Karl-Anders Larsson and Joakim Öjendal find that Swedish support has promoted democratic development in Cambodia, particularly at local level.

Development assistance has strengthened Cambodia's civil society and education system.

Structures for local self-government and education, as well as civil society capacity development, have been crucial in generating impact. A long-term approach in development assistance is another crucial factor, as is mutual respect in the partnership.

THE REPORT INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1 Continue development assistance to Cambodia to promote democratic development in the country. Support should be based on risk analysis, be flexible and be ready to deal with political and economic changes in the country.
- 2 Support to civil society needs to supplement support to the state.
- 3 Democracy support should focus on strengthening interaction between state actors and between state and civil society. Support should be based on research into political and economic processes at all levels of society.
- 4 Support should take account of cultural and political conditions. Institutional support alone is not enough to promote democracy and human rights.

 The full report may be found at www.eba.se

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