

Results of the Swedish strategy for development cooperation with Zambia, 2008-2011

Sweden's bilateral development cooperation is guided by country cooperation strategies that are agreed between the Swedish and the partner governments. The Swedish Government has commissioned SADEV to evaluate a series of country cooperation strategies in 2010-2012. Aiming at enhancing accountability and learning, this first evaluation assesses the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the interventions receiving Swedish assistance as outlined by the strategy for development cooperation with Zambia 2008-2011.

Aims at the efficient implementation of the country's development strategy

The achievement of the objectives have been mixed

Sweden's development cooperation with Zambia aims at supporting an effective implementation of the national development strategy to reduce poverty, strengthen democracy, stimulate broad economic growth, and attain the millennium development goals.

The evaluation covers the following main areas:

- Health and HIV/AIDS
- Agriculture
- Energy
- Democratic governance - support to the public sector
- Urban Development
- Development of Industry and the financial sector
- Poverty Reduction through Budget Support
- Support to Civil Society

The evaluation considered the **relevance** of the interventions to the cooperation strategy, the **effectiveness** of the support, and the **efficiency** of the methods and approaches in achieving the objectives of the cooperation strategy.

The evaluation responds to the following questions:

- To what extent were the objectives of the interventions achieved in practice?
- To what extent were the interventions consistent with the objectives of the strategy?
- How well integrated in the programs were the thematic priorities of democracy and human rights, environment and climate, and gender equality and the role of women in development?

The efficiency is also assessed by analysing the applied aid instruments, disbursements, alignment with regular Zambian systems, and the up-scaling/downscaling of the programme. The evaluation also looks into the integration of the general issues for dialogue, which are strengthening democratic institutions, respect for human rights and citizen's insight into public activities, and effective use of the state's collected resources.

The evaluation was based on existing documents and interviews with stakeholders in both Zambia and Sweden.

KEY FINDINGS

SADEV found that:

- The interventions were relevant to the goals of the strategy.
- The thematic priorities of Swedish development cooperation were relatively well integrated in the programmes.
- The goals of the interventions have been achieved only partially. Results are found mainly at output and outcome level.

It is noteworthy that the objectives were highly ambitious from the outset.

- The quality of reporting was variable, which could hamper Sida's assessments of the interventions.
- The total disbursement has been significantly lower than expected and the planned up-scaling of the support has not proceeded as planned, partly due to embezzlement of funds in the health sector.
- The phasing out of three areas of cooperation (Democratic governance – support to the public sector, Urban Development, and Development of Industry and the financial sector) is essentially on schedule.
- Sida uses the national systems for budgeting, accounting, auditing and procurement, to a great extent, whereas the use of national systems for financial reporting is below 50 %.
- Sida has been active in bringing up the general issues for dialogue with the Zambian Government and other cooperating partners.

SOURCES AND FURTHER INFORMATION

This SADEV Evaluation Brief is based on the report *Resultaten av den svenska samarbetsstrategin för Zambia 2008-2011* SADEV Report 2010:2. The report and other SADEV publications are available at www.sadev.se