



The Expert Group for Aid Studies

## Invitation for proposals: A study of the implementation of Sweden's feminist foreign policy in partner countries

The Expert Group for Aid Studies (EBA) is a government committee mandated to evaluate and analyse the direction, governance, and implementation of Sweden's official development assistance (ODA). EBA engages researchers and other experts to carry out studies of relevance for policymakers and practitioners.

**EBA hereby invites proposals for a study of the implementation of Sweden's feminist foreign policy in countries where Sweden conducts development cooperation.**

### Background and motivation for the study

In 2014, Sweden became the first country in the world to declare a feminist foreign policy, which shall permeate the three policy areas encompassed by Swedish foreign policy – foreign and security policy, development cooperation, and trade and promotion policy. Swedish development cooperation is characterised by a long-standing engagement in and prioritisation of gender equality. It is now a central component in the implementation of the feminist foreign policy, in particular at the bilateral level, where gender equality interventions as well as political dialogue, advocacy, and normative influence in relation to state and non-state actors are central components.

Seven years of implementation of the feminist foreign policy call for deepened knowledge concerning the policy's effects on working methods and results within the gender equality area in Sweden's partner countries. To what extent and how have the ambitions formulated in the feminist foreign policy been translated into increased or improved promotion of gender equality in Sweden's partner countries? To what degree and how has the feminist foreign policy stimulated joint action and coordination between the three foreign policy areas at the bilateral level to influence partner countries in line with the policy's objectives?

## The objectives and implementation of the feminist foreign policy

The feminist foreign policy is implemented by all parts of the Swedish Foreign Service and draws on national gender equality goals as well as several international agreements, such as the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace, and security, the Beijing Platform for Action, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The feminist foreign policy relates to several policy areas and shall contribute to six objectives, including all women's and girls':

1. Full enjoyment of human rights
2. Freedom from physical, psychological, and sexual violence
3. Participation in preventing and resolving conflicts, and post-conflict peacebuilding
4. Political participation and influence in all areas of society
5. Economic rights and empowerment
6. Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)

While the Swedish feminist foreign policy is based on a long-standing commitment to and engagement in gender equality, it is described as representing a "raised ambition" and an agenda for change and results when it comes to the "three Rs" – rights, representation and resources.<sup>1</sup>

The feminist foreign policy involves normative as well as operational work and the policy is driven bilaterally, regionally, multilaterally and in the EU. It is implemented through a broad range of tools, arenas and channels by the entire Foreign Service in collaboration and dialogue with other ministries and central government agencies.<sup>2</sup> The Ministry for Foreign Affairs' (MFA) handbook for the feminist foreign policy highlights the challenges and political antagonism that characterise global gender equality work.

The gender equality work of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) has since the adoption of the feminist foreign policy been strengthened by means of tools like gender mainstreaming, a "gender tool box", and a new strategy for global gender equality and women's and girls' rights.<sup>3</sup> The strategy, allocated funds totalling SEK 1 billion for the period 2018-2022, focuses on strengthening the global and regional normative work for gender equality and supporting women's rights organisations and defenders. As part of the mainstreaming work, Sida has adopted a new action plan for gender equality for the period 2021-2023, which identifies four areas where further progress is needed: increased knowledge and

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<sup>1</sup> Regeringens skrivelse 2019/20:17 Sveriges feministiska utrikespolitik.

<sup>2</sup> Utrikesförvaltningens handlingsplan för feministisk utrikespolitik 2019–2022 med inriktning och åtgärder för år 2020, [MergedFile \(regeringen.se\)](#) and [handbok\\_sveriges-feministiska-utrikespolitik.pdf \(swedenabroad.se\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Strategi-for-Sveriges-utvecklingssamarbete-for-global-jamstalldhet-och-kvinnors-och-flickors-rattigheter-2018-2022.pdf \(openaid.se\)](#)

capacity to act for gender equality; strengthened efforts to counteract increasing resistance to gender equality; increased focus on gender equality in humanitarian crises; and increased focus on gender equality within sustainable economic development and financing.

The Foreign Service's work with the feminist foreign policy is steered by an action plan that spells out the framework and the central objectives, working methods, tools and actors for the policy's implementation for each term of office as well as annually.<sup>4</sup> When it comes to the bilateral work, which is viewed as central in the implementation of the feminist foreign policy, Swedish missions abroad are instructed to shape and plan the work with the policy based on local circumstances and priorities. The specific context should determine which actors are most important to interact with at the national level in order to reach the policy's objectives. The handbook for the feminist foreign policy highlights the need to base the work at the country level on the fourth R – the reality where it is carried out – in order to achieve maximum impact.<sup>5</sup> Generally, missions abroad are encouraged to interact with and influence actors like government representatives, political parties, women's rights actors, trade unions, businesses, universities, media, civil society organisations and religious communities with the purpose of strengthening women as political and economic actors. The work is supported by a coordination team headed by the Ambassador for Gender Equality and Coordinator of Feminist Foreign Policy and every department and mission abroad has one or several focal points for the feminist foreign policy.

The fact that the work related to the feminist foreign policy to a large extent is based on the reality where operations are carried out implies that there are varying approaches and experiences with regard to prioritisations, working methods, forms of interaction and cooperation between foreign policy areas and actors as well as results, which is brought up in a review by Concord from 2017:

*"In several cases Swedish embassies and EU delegations have played a very important role i authoritarian contexts [...]. Differences in how the Ministry for Foreign Affairs has acted in different countries are partly connected to the specific context but also to the will and initiative of individual officials."*<sup>6</sup>

This, in combination with Sida's articulated need to increase knowledge and capacity to promote gender equality and to counter the growing resistance to progress, underscores the need to stimulate learning between country contexts and Swedish missions abroad. Systematic analyses of the implementation of the feminist foreign policy in different contexts should contribute to such learning. A study of the implementation of the feminist foreign policy in partner countries would also enable insights and learning for other countries that have taken steps toward a feminist foreign policy and/or development cooperation (e.g. Canada, France, Luxemburg) and thereby strengthen the Swedish foreign policy's impact and potential for change.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.regeringen.se/491ecf/globalassets/regeringen/lena-micko-test/utrikesforvaltningens-handlingsplan-for-feministisk-utrikespolitik-2019-2022-med-inriktning-och-atgarder-for-ar-2021.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> [handbok\\_sveriges-feministiska-utrikespolitik.pdf \(swedenabroad.se\)](#)

<sup>6</sup> [hur-fem-ar-sv-utr-pol-2017.pdf \(concord.se\)](#)

## The monitoring and results of the feminist foreign policy

The implementation of the feminist foreign policy that relates to the strategy for global gender equality and women's and girls' rights is followed up in annual strategy reports.<sup>7</sup> The implementation and monitoring of the broader feminist foreign policy are based on the Foreign Service's action plan for feminist foreign policy (the first for the period 2015-2018 and the second for the period 2019-2022), which is part of the foreign service's operational planning process. The action plan and the work with the feminist foreign policy, including budget allocations, are integrated into the regular operational planning, governance and follow-up, and the ongoing dialogue between the MFA and the missions abroad, which implies that the feminist foreign policy is not regularly followed up as a whole.

In 2017, three years into the implementation of the feminist foreign policy, the Foreign Service conducted a review where units and missions abroad from different regions in teams were instructed to assess the most significant changes and results of the feminist foreign policy within their respective areas of responsibility.<sup>8</sup> The feminist foreign policy was further reported on in a Government Communication to the parliament in 2019.<sup>9</sup>

The 2017 review by the MFA points to various efforts and initiatives at multilateral, regional and bilateral levels within all six external objective areas and the Government Communication concludes that the feminist foreign policy has had a significant impact on Sweden's working methods and influence in partner countries. According to the Communication to the parliament, the feminist foreign policy has created a platform for collective action across policy areas, which has enabled a strengthened political dialogue as well as access to new arenas and actors. The Communication further exemplifies initiatives in different partner countries related to the policy's external objectives, such as SRHR and women's representation in business and politics.

## Previous studies and evaluations

Concord conducted a review of the feminist foreign policy in 2017.<sup>10</sup> The review highlights the work and achievements of the feminist foreign policy within the areas of economic empowerment, SRHR and countering the shrinking democratic space for women's and LGBTQ rights defenders as significant. However, it also points to the potential for improvement with regard to, for instance, the political dialogue and Swedish advocacy of women's rights in authoritarian contexts.

According to OECD's peer review from 2019, Sweden's feminist foreign policy:

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<sup>7</sup> See [Mall strategirapport år1 \(openaid.se\)](#)

<sup>8</sup> [Sveriges-feministiska-utrikespolitik-Exempel-pa-tre-ars-genomforande.pdf \(openaid.se\)](#)

<sup>9</sup> [Sveriges feministiska utrikespolitik \(regeringen.se\)](#)

<sup>10</sup> [hur-fem-ar-sv-utr-pol-2017.pdf \(concord.se\)](#)

*[...] has enabled Sweden to also ensure gender equality as an essential part of its diplomatic, security and trade efforts and to take a more systemic approach to the issue, confirming its position as a global leader [...]. Sweden should continue to pursue its Feminist Foreign Policy and its strong support for women's rights globally, and to bring others along.<sup>11</sup>*

The peer review highlights mobilisation and normative change as central for the strategic work with the feminist foreign policy. It also commends Sweden's efforts to act dynamically in relation to other donors by for example increasing aid spending on SRHR to counter the declines in other donors' spending. While underscoring the "success" of the feminist foreign policy, partly attributed to "its full integration in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs", the peer review also notes that the large number of prioritisations risks undermining a clear direction and focus – and thus also results – of the policy.<sup>12</sup>

An earlier Sida evaluation of policy dialogue to promote gender equality in partner countries concluded that policy dialogue is most effective when explicitly and strategically paired with programme support in the same sectors and when there are "clearly-defined objectives and values, consistent key messages complemented by relevant and co-ordinated programme support, and strong alliances and partners".<sup>13</sup>

Regarding the impact of the feminist foreign policy, some studies have pointed to Sweden's role as a "norm entrepreneur" and the fact that other countries, such as Canada, France and Luxemburg, have followed Sweden in adopting feminist foreign and/or development cooperation policies.<sup>14</sup> Several studies have explored the feminist aspects of the policy and how it has been carried out in relation to different gender equality policy areas.<sup>15</sup> When it comes to the relationship between the policy's gender equality objectives and its implementation and results, Thompson and Clement<sup>16</sup> emphasise the challenges associated with tracking the results in relation to stated objectives and activities. While efforts clearly have been made to report on activities and initiatives at different levels, a more overarching and collected tool for monitoring and reporting, which would enable analyses of the policy's overarching contribution, is lacking. Thus, an EBA study of the implementation and contribution of the feminist foreign policy in partner countries is likely to contribute with novel and valuable insights.

EBA has previously published a working paper about Swedish support to gender budgeting<sup>17</sup> and a report on Sida's implementation of its Plan for Gender Integration.<sup>18</sup> The report about gender mainstreaming, which is considered a central

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<sup>11</sup> [9f83244b-en.pdf \(oecd-ilibrary.org\)](#)

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>13</sup> [Publications - Sida](#)

<sup>14</sup> E.g. Aggestam and Bergman-Rosamond, 2016; Sundström and Elgström, 2019.

<sup>15</sup> Aggestam et al. 2019; Scheyer and Kumskova, 2019; Thomson, 2020; Thompson and Clement, 2019.

<sup>16</sup> 2019.

<sup>17</sup> [Vad är jämställdhetsbudgetering, vem gör det och har det effekt? \(eba.se\)](#)

<sup>18</sup> [Putting Priority into Practice: Sida's Implementation of its Plan for Gender Integration | EBA](#)

tool in the implementation of the feminist foreign policy, concludes that issues of gender and gender equality are almost always considered by Sida and that the proportion of support to gender equality projects has increased over time. However, it also found that Sida's gender integration work was uneven and dependent on the commitment and competence of individual staff members and that gender analyses were unevenly performed.

## Aim and research questions

The study will focus on building knowledge about the feminist foreign policy's implementation in specific country settings, from a comparative perspective. Gender equality is a long-standing priority within Sweden's development cooperation but there is a lack of systematic studies and evaluations of what the feminist foreign policy has changed, added, or contributed to gender equality work at the bilateral level. By closely examining how the ambitions formulated in the feminist foreign policy have been translated into increased or improved promotion of gender equality in Sweden's partner countries, this study should contribute to learning regarding gender equality work at country level.

The aim of the study is to systematically explore the gender equality work – normative as well as operational – that the feminist foreign policy has given rise to. The study should focus on the policy implementation period (2014 onwards). To attribute organizational and behavioural changes due to the policy, however, the study will need to compare these approaches with *the modus operandi* prior to 2014. The study shall seek to answer the following three overarching questions:

1. How has the feminist foreign policy been used to promote gender equality, e.g. through gender equality advocacy, policy dialogue and programming, in Sweden's partner countries? What new working methods, tools and/or initiatives have been implemented?
2. To what extent has the feminist foreign policy contributed to gender equality promotion in partner countries and what results can be observed, in terms of specific activities and outputs, within the policy's six objective areas?
3. What can be learnt in terms of the forms of joint action and coordination between Swedish actors and policy areas, and specific approaches that have been particularly effective in influencing gender equality promotion in partner countries? What has made a difference, for whom, in what circumstances and why?

### Comments, question 1

In answering question 1, it is central to explore what *new* working methods, tools, and forms of joint action and coordination between Swedish actors and policy areas that the feminist foreign policy has generated. How have different Swedish actors (such as Sida, the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA), Swedfund, Business Sweden, the

Swedish Institute etc.) worked with and contributed to the implementation of the feminist foreign policy? To what extent and how have Swedish actors and policy areas (including development cooperation, foreign and security policy, and trade and promotion policy) interacted and collaborated in the implementation? What are the experiences among implementing actors from joint action, coordination and implementation and what challenges, if any, have they faced?

### Comments, question 2

Addressing question 2 requires the study of what difference, if any, the feminist foreign policy has made for gender equality advocacy, policy dialogue and programming in Sweden's partner countries.

The study of results refers to the specific contribution to gender equality promotion (new initiatives, activities and outputs) that the feminist foreign policy has made in relation to the policy's six external objectives (full enjoyment of human rights, freedom from physical, psycho-logical and sexual violence, participation in preventing and resolving conflicts, and post-conflict peacebuilding, political participation and influence in all areas of society, economic rights and empowerment, and SRHR). The study of results should also document unexpected positive and negative results, including how actors in partner countries perceive Sweden's work related to the feminist foreign policy.

### Comments, question 3

In answering question 3, it is central to attempt to causally relate findings and conclusions concerning the working methods, tools and forms of interaction and cooperation that the feminist foreign policy has given rise to (question 1) to the observed results (question 2). It is important that the study contributes to practical learning and sheds light on how foreign policy most effectively can be employed to promote gender equality in country contexts characterised by divergent preconditions and degrees of resistance to gender equality and women's and girls' rights. How can Sweden, for example, effectively conduct advocacy and influencing work, and what specific working methods, tools and forms of interaction and collaboration are most useful in different contexts?

## Study design

EBA proposes that the study is conducted in two parts, where part 1 involves a broader mapping of the work related to the feminist foreign policy (focusing on question 1, dealing with working methods, tools, and forms of joint action and coordination between Swedish actors and policy areas) in around 10-15 of Sweden's partner countries, and part 2 entails more in-depth case studies of around 3 partner countries (selected among the 10-15 countries) that address all three questions.

It is proposed that part 1 focuses on countries that receive the most support from Sweden in terms of development cooperation. This part of the study is not expected to involve extensive data collection, but could be based on surveys, a limited number of interviews and/or existing documentation related to the work conducted at Swedish missions abroad.

The findings based on part 1 can potentially be used to inform case selection for part 2 as it could point to important differences or similarities in the strategies and methods used in partner countries to implement the feminist foreign policy, which deserve further exploration and present opportunities for interesting comparative analyses and learning. Other factors to consider when selecting cases for the in-depth analyses could potentially be the degree of prioritisation of gender equality in Sweden's development cooperation in the countries, and the status of, or degree of resistance to, gender equality and women's and girls' rights in the countries. This would enable a comparison of, and learning about, working methods and results in divergent contexts. The criteria for case selection most suited to the purpose of the study should be further developed and motivated by the evaluator(s).

The issue of causality – how or why the feminist foreign policy and specific working methods have contributed to certain results and the influence of the feminist foreign policy in relation to other external factors and explanations – should be analysed carefully in the case studies. Scientific method(s) suited to this purpose must be employed to ensure valid and reliable findings and conclusions and a high degree of transparency should be applied. Examples of evaluation designs that can be considered are case-based, system-based, and theory-based approaches, such as contribution analysis (Mayne, 2012), process-tracing (Beach & Pedersen, 2013) or a combination of statistical and qualitative approaches. Choices regarding study design and specific methods should be carefully motivated.

It is important that the study contributes to learning for key audiences. This underlines the importance of attempting to understand how and why results have been achieved or not, and how contextual factors have affected results. To stimulate learning, EBA welcomes proposals that engage key audiences, especially the MFA and Sida, during the process.

The evaluator(s) should in their proposal (step 2, below) clearly demonstrate how they will relate the questions and study to a broader research field or literature on gender equality change, women's rights and/or bilateral advocacy work and political dialogue and influence.

If needed, the evaluator(s) are given the opportunity to refine or adjust the formulation of the three questions after the award decision and in dialogue with the study's reference group.

Potentially important empirical material for the study includes written sources from the MFA, Sida and other Swedish actors, evaluations, mid-term reviews, final reports, previous research etc. While there is no requirement for the main applicant to understand Swedish, the evaluation team should include someone with the ability to analyse documents written in Swedish.



## General structure and conditions

EBA works under what is termed “double independence”. This means that EBA defines which questions and areas are to be studied, independently of the MFA. At the same time, analysis, conclusions, and recommendations in each study are the responsibility of the author(s).

For all studies, EBA sets up a reference group consisting of experts in the field of study (members are designated by EBA in dialogue with the authors). The overall purpose of the reference group is to strengthen the quality of the report. The group will be chaired by one of the EBA members. For more information about EBA’s work with reference groups, see the guidelines at our website: [www.eba.se](http://www.eba.se)

The evaluator(s) shall deliver a report (in English) presenting the results from the study to be published in the EBA report series ([www.eba.se/en/published-reports/](http://www.eba.se/en/published-reports/)). The length of the report should not exceed 70 pages.

The evaluator(s) shall present preliminary results at a pre-launch meeting/workshop with the MFA, Sida and EBA, and present the final report at a public dissemination event, preliminary to be held in Stockholm (details to be specified in consultation with EBA at a later stage).

## Intended users

The primary target audience for this study include those who work with the implementation of the feminist foreign policy at the MFA, Swedish missions abroad and Sida. The study is also expected to be of interest to other actors who contribute to and collaborate in carrying out the feminist foreign policy, including other countries with similar policies, and actors working with advocacy and influencing work within other policy areas.

The primary target audiences (MFA and Sida) will be invited to participate in the study’s reference group in order to ensure the opportunity for process learning and successive feedback on results.

## Procurement procedure, budget, and timetable

Since the procurement is under the EU threshold value, applicable law is Chapter 19 of the Swedish Public Procurement Act (2016:1145). The procedure will be a two-stage selective procedure with possible negotiation.

### First stage: Application to submit tenders

All suppliers have the right to apply to submit tenders (expression of interest). EBA will invite three (3) suppliers to submit tenders.

Applications to submit tenders shall be registered at the tender portal Kommers Annons eLite [www.kommersannons.se/elite](http://www.kommersannons.se/elite), no later than 24 August 2021. The application shall contain:

1. CV of the team leader/principal investigator
2. A list of the team leader/principal investigator's most relevant publications (at most 10 studies from the last 10 years are to be listed)
3. Preliminary team (if more than one author. Described using at most 300 words.)
4. Three sample studies conducted by members of the proposed team. At least one shall have been authored by the team leader/principal investigator.
5. A short account for how, according to the authors, respective study has contributed to new, reliable, knowledge (at most 300 words, i.e. 100 words per study).

Applicants are kindly asked not to submit any unsolicited material.

Selection of applicants to invite to submit tenders will be based on the submitted material assessed against sub-criteria 1-3 of criterion 2 (see the table at the end of this document). Since the proposed team is preliminary, main weight will be put on the team leader/principal investigator's experience and competence.

Suppliers must submit a self-declaration in the form of a European Single Procurement Document (ESPD) by filling in the tender form at [www.kommersannons.se/elite](http://www.kommersannons.se/elite). Please make sure enough time is allocated for completing the ESPD form when submitting the expression of interest.

### **Second stage: Submission of tenders**

Selected suppliers are invited to submit a full proposal. The proposal shall be written in English and no longer than 12 pages. The proposal shall include a detailed presentation of study design, methods used and delimitations. Choices made shall be clearly justified. It is up to the tenderers themselves to choose the design and method of the evaluation and to suggest case study countries and case studies. The choice of case studies does not need to be determined when the tender is submitted but a clear description of the principles and starting points of the selection process must be provided. The proposal shall also include a presentation of the members of the evaluation team, a detailed schedule, allocation of time and tasks between the members of the group, and a budget (stated in SEK, including price per hour for each team member).

As appendices to the proposal shall be included: (i) CVs; (ii) at most three sample studies (reports or articles) carried out by members of the proposed team. At least one shall have been authored by the team leader/principal investigator. This appendix may be the same or different from the application to submit tenders; (iii) A brief account for how, according to the authors, respective study has contributed to new, reliable,

knowledge (at most 300 words, i.e. 100 words per study, may be the same or different from the application to submit tenders).

The maximum cost for this evaluation is SEK 1 300 000 excl. VAT. The budget shall be denominated in SEK. The budget shall enable three to four meetings with the study's reference group (to be appointed by EBA following dialogue with the authors), a workshop in Stockholm and participation at the launching event. The reference group will meet in Stockholm, but one or two meetings may be conducted by video link.

Tenderers shall give an account of all potential conflicts of interest pertaining to members in the evaluation team, as this may be a ground for excluding tenders.

The proposal shall be registered at the tender portal Kommers Annons eLite [www.kommersannons.se/elite](http://www.kommersannons.se/elite), no later than 3 October 2021. Tenderers are advised to monitor the tender portal regularly, as it is not possible to guarantee the receipt of e-mails.

Proposals shall be valid until 31 January 2022.

### Questions to EBA during the process

During the procurement process, EBA is not permitted to discuss documentation, tenders, evaluation or any such questions with tenderers in a way that benefits one or more tenderers. All questions shall be sent to the Questions and Answers function ("Frågor och svar") on the procurement portal Kommers Annons eLite, [www.kommersannons.se/elite](http://www.kommersannons.se/elite). Questions and answers to questions are published anonymously and simultaneously to everyone registered for the procurement.

Any questions related to the first stage may be posed until 17 August 2021. Questions will not be answered between 4 July and 11 July.

Any questions related to the second stage may be posed until 23 September 2021.

### Preliminary timetable

Last day to apply to submit tenders	24 August
Invitation to (3) suppliers to submit tenders	3 September
Last day to submit tender	3 October
Potential negotiation	4 October – 20 October
Decision by EBA	November
Standstill period (10 days)	November/December
Contract signed	December
Presentation of preliminary findings	June 2022
Final report delivered	October 2022
Launch event	January 2023

## Selection of proposals in the second stage

An assessment group comprising members of the Expert Group and the secretariat will assess proposals received based on the relationship between price and quality. The following criteria will be used when assessing proposals received:

- Quality of proposal, in terms of design, methods and plan for implementation (weight: 50 per cent).
- Experiences and qualifications of team members in the areas of 1a) Evaluation or research in areas related to the topic, e.g. gender equality policy, advocacy or mainstreaming, women's and girls' rights, human rights, bilateral political dialogue and influence, a team with experience from multiple disciplines is seen as an advantage; 1b) Development cooperation and foreign policy interaction with political dialogue and bilateral political influence; 2.) Quality of previous evaluations/studies conducted by team members (based on studies attached to the proposal); 3) Academic merits of the team members (weight: 40 per cent).
- Cost (weight: 10 per cent).

See the table at the end of this document for the factors that will be considered under each of these three criteria. The assessment of each proposal will be based on the material submitted by the tenderer by the end of the bidding period.

## Confidentiality

After the communication of EBA's selection, all submitted proposals will become official documents, meaning that the Swedish principle of public access to official records applies. Sentences, sections, or paragraphs in a document may be masked in the public version if "good reasons" (thorough motivations in terms of causing economic damage to the company) can be provided and deemed valid. The tenderers are fully responsible for making their claims of confidentiality.

## About the Expert Group for Aid Studies (EBA)

The Expert Group for Aid Studies (EBA) is a government committee mandated to evaluate and analyse the direction, governance, and implementation of Sweden's official development assistance with a specific focus on results and efficiency. The aim is to contribute to an efficient implementation of well-designed aid. EBA focuses primarily on overarching issues within Swedish development assistance, not on individual projects. EBA consists of an expert group of ten members, and a secretariat placed in Stockholm.

In 2021 the Expert Group consists of: Helena Lindholm (chair), Johan Schaar (vice chair), Kim Forss, Torgny Holmgren, Sara Johansson De Silva, Staffan I. Lindberg, Magnus Lindell, Joakim Molander, Julia Schalk, Janet Vähämäki and Anders Trojenborg (adjunct expert from the Swedish MFA).

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## Appendix 1 – Assessment criteria

Criteria	1. Quality of proposal in terms of design, methods and plan for implementation. (Weight: 50 per cent)	2. Experiences and qualifications of team members in the areas of interest. (Weight: 40 per cent)	3. Cost. (Weight: 10 per cent)
Scale	<p>Criterion 1 and 2 are graded on a scale of 0–5 where: 5=Extraordinary or exceeds all expectation; 4=Very good; 3=Good; 2=Fair, reasonable, in line with what can be expected; 1=Sub-standard; 0=Not applicable/not possible to assess. Sub-criteria are assessed in falling importance according to number but are not graded numerically.</p> <p>Each criterion is finally weighted (0,50*Criterion 1+ 0,40*Criterion 2 + 0,10*Criterion 3) to obtain a total grade in the interval [0, 5].</p>		Continuous grade [0,5] as a share of the lowest bid offer, where the lowest bid is graded 5.
Specifications (numbered in order of importance)	<p>1. Does the study design, i.e. suggested methodological approach and plan for implementation, make it possible to fulfil the study's purpose?*</p> <p>2. Have the approach and method(s) been described in a specific and transparent manner?</p> <p>3. Have important or pertinent limitations with the method been described and discussed clearly?</p> <p>4. Will the study design enable conclusions that can be expected to form the basis of use, learning and reflection among the study's target groups?</p> <p>5. Does the proposal have a thorough and realistic workplan and timeline?</p> <p>* An overall assessment that the evaluation is feasible to implement and that it can be implemented without any ethical breaches occurring is presupposed. While such an appraisal is required, it is not included as a separate sub-criterion.</p>	<p>The team participants' experience of:*</p> <p>1a. Evaluation or research in areas related to the topic, e.g. gender equality policy, advocacy or mainstreaming, women's and girls' rights, human rights, bilateral political dialogue and influence.</p> <p>1b. Development cooperation and foreign policy interaction with political dialogue and bilateral political influence.</p> <p>2. Quality of the studies attached to the proposal.</p> <p>3. Academic merits of the team members.</p> <p>4. The team members' engagement in the evaluation as specified in the proposal's work- and time plan and as shares of proposed budget.</p> <p>* Sufficient language skills in relation to the needs of the assignment are required to be shown and are therefore not specified as a separate sub-criterion.</p>	Total price in SEK (VAT excl.)