



The Expert Group for Aid Studies

Invitation for proposals: Evaluation of Sweden's Implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda

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 an evaluation of Sweden's implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The overarching question is whether the Swedish commitment to the Agenda has been transformed into coherent government policies in relevant policy areas, with a specific focus on development cooperation.

Motivation for the evaluation

In July 2015, the Third International Conference on Financing for Development was held in Addis Ababa in Ethiopia. The outcome of the conference was the Addis Ababa Action Agenda ("the Addis Agenda"), which provides a common international framework for the financing of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Addis Agenda covers seven policy areas, with concrete policy actions that draw upon multiple sources of finance in order to enable the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Addis Agenda is intended as a crucial and integrated tool for the attainment of the objectives formulated in Agenda 2030, and Sweden is strongly committed to both agendas. An evaluation of the Swedish implementation of the Addis Agenda will therefore provide much needed insight into the Swedish efforts so far. This has potential value not only to the Swedish Government but also to other countries in their efforts to implement the Addis Agenda

Background

This section provides a short introduction to the Addis Agenda and how Sweden has implemented the agenda. Please note that this section presents but a brief background to the topic.

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda

The Addis Agenda was adopted at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and subsequently endorsed by the UN General Assembly in its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015.

The Addis Agenda establishes a foundation to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by providing a financing framework. It includes a set of policy actions that draw upon public and private sources of finance as well as development cooperation, trade, debt and systemic issues.

The policy areas covered by the Addis Agenda are:¹

1. Domestic public resources

The agenda seeks to strengthen the mobilization and effective use of domestic resources. The Addis Agenda notes that domestic resources are first and foremost generated by economic growth, supported by an enabling environment at all levels. Sound social, environmental and economic policies, including countercyclical fiscal policies, adequate fiscal space, good governance at all levels, and democratic and transparent institutions responsive to the needs of the people are necessary to achieve the goals.

2. Domestic and international private business and finance

Private business activity, investment and innovation are major drivers of productivity, inclusive economic growth and job creation. Private international capital flows, particularly foreign direct investment, along with a stable international financial system, are vital complements to national development efforts.

3. International development cooperation

International public finance plays an important role in complementing the efforts of countries to mobilize public resources domestically, especially in the poorest and most vulnerable countries with limited domestic resources. The Addis Agenda puts significant demands on public budgets and capacities, which requires scaled-up and more effective international support, including both concessional and non-concessional financing.

4. International trade as an engine for development

International trade is considered an engine for inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction, and contributes to the promotion of sustainable development. The Addis Agenda promotes a universal, rules-based, open, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization (WTO), as well as meaningful trade liberalization.

5. Debt and debt sustainability

The Addis Agenda underlines the need to assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt

¹ Adopted from the Addis Ababa Action Agenda 2015.

financing, debt relief, debt restructuring and sound debt management, as appropriate.

6. Addressing systemic issues

Regulatory gaps and misaligned incentives continue to pose risks to financial stability, including risks of spillover effects of financial crises to developing countries, which suggests a need to pursue further reforms of the international financial and monetary system. The Addis Agenda calls for continued strengthening of international coordination and policy coherence to enhance global financial and macroeconomic stability.

7. Science, technology, innovation and capacity building

The Agenda promotes the development and use of information and communications technology infrastructure, as well as capacity-building.

Followup

The Addis Agenda mandates the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development to annually report on the progress of the agenda. The Task Force publishes the “Financing for Sustainable Development Report”, the latest of which was the 2022 publication.² The report is the main input to the recurring ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up (“Financing for Development Forum”).

Sweden’s implementation of the Addis Agenda

After the international agreements in 2015 (Agenda 2030, the Addis Agenda and the Paris Agreement) the Swedish Government presented a “new start” to the Swedish Policy for Global Development (PGD). The PGD was originally adopted in 2003, aiming for policy coherence in Swedish government decisions. The ambition was to ensure that all policy decisions contributed to a fair and sustainable global development.³ In the “new start”, the Swedish ambitions were aligned with Agenda 2030.⁴ An increased ambition was also formulated, whereby “*Sweden shall be a leader in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda both nationally and internationally, and that PGD shall continue to be a key tool in the implementation*”. The Parliament welcomed the Government communication.⁵

In the 2016 “*Policy framework for Swedish development cooperation and humanitarian assistance*” the Government describes both its own mandate, and the importance of a coherent implementation of Agenda 2030 throughout different policy areas, with a special focus on financing the agenda.

“The Government is charged with implementing the agenda nationally and contributing towards its implementation internationally. The 2030 Agenda

² United Nations, Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development, Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2022. (New York: United Nations, 2022), available from: <https://developmentfinance.un.org/fsdr2022>.

³ For the PGD see Prop. 2002/03:122, bet. 2003/04:UU3, rskr. 2003/04:122.

⁴ The new ambitions were formulated in Politiken för global utveckling i genomförandet av Agenda 2030, Regeringens skrivelse 2015/16:182.

⁵ Betänkande 2016/17:UU5.

must be applied across all policy areas, which means that resources must be allocated from the policy areas concerned. Development cooperation is one policy area among many and cannot finance the implementation of the entire agenda... It is essential that all policy areas work together to attain the common goals. The commitments entered into at the conferences in 2015 express the breadth of our shared challenges and the solutions required. These commitments must be met at local level, as well as at national, regional and global level.”⁶

Implementation of the Addis Agenda in Swedish development cooperation

The Swedish Government has set the overall direction of Swedish development cooperation in the Policy framework for Swedish development cooperation and humanitarian assistance, referenced above. As noted, the importance of the Addis Agenda is clear. This importance has been continuously reiterated in Government budget bills, results strategies for Swedish development cooperation as well as, for example, in the instructions to Sida.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs is currently developing a set of position papers with relevance for various sub-areas within the agenda, including domestic resource mobilization, remittances, research funding and climate funding.

Report on Sweden’s implementation of the Addis Agenda

The Swedish Government has presented several reports on the Swedish implementation of the Addis Agenda. The first, published in 2017, was the report *“Towards Achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Report on the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development, Compilation of operational examples”*, from the MFA. As highlighted in the title, the report provides examples of initiatives, rather than a full analysis of the Swedish implementation. A similar report was published in 2018, but with fewer examples.⁷

The Government has also continuously reported on the Swedish implementation of Agenda 2030 to the Swedish Parliament. In reports from 2018 and 2020, the Addis Agenda was mentioned but no detailed analysis was presented.⁸ The 2021 report included a separate section for the Addis Agenda. The Government concluded that it was working “actively with all policy areas covered by the Addis Agenda”, but there was no analysis of progress in implementation. Instead there is once again a list of examples of activities.⁹

⁶ Policy framework for Swedish development cooperation and humanitarian assistance, Government Communication 2016/17:60, p. 5-6.

⁷ Utrikesdepartementet, Implementing the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – a selection of innovative examples, 2018.

⁸ Policy for global development in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, Government Communication 2017/18:146 and Sveriges genomförande av Agenda 2030, Regeringens proposition 2019/20:188.

⁹ 2021 Sveriges genomförande av Agenda 2030 för hållbar utveckling, Regeringskansliet, sid. 124. The Government also highlights a number of prioritised areas in the Swedish implementation.

Purpose and evaluation questions

The purpose of the evaluation is to investigate if and how the Addis Agenda has been implemented by Sweden. The evaluation focuses on how the Swedish commitment has been transformed into policy in general, and how sector-specific policy has been implemented in Sweden's development cooperation.

The evaluation is intended to provide knowledge of how Sweden has implemented the international commitment, which can contribute to the Government's continued work with the Addis Agenda, as well as other international commitments.

The evaluation should also assess the extent to which Swedish implementation, approximately halfway to the 2030 deadline, can be assumed to sufficiently contribute to the ambitions in the Addis Agenda.

To meet the purpose of the evaluation, two evaluation questions have been formulated.

1) To what extent has the Swedish Government implemented the Addis Agenda in relevant policy areas?

The question focuses on the extent to which the Swedish commitment to the Addis Agenda has been transformed into coherent government policies, in relevant policy areas.

The evaluation shall cover how all the Addis Agenda's seven different areas and accompanying objectives have been reformulated into policy by the Swedish government.

This evaluation question should address two perspectives of the Swedish implementation of the Addis Agenda:

- Firstly, if the Addis Agenda's various areas have been translated into policy within each relevant Swedish policy area, and an assessment of the extent of these policy changes.
- Secondly, the evaluation should assess the extent to which the implementation (the policy output) can be considered coherent between the various policy areas.

There are likely to be competing policy objectives and interests that affect the possibilities for a coherent Swedish policy. It is important that the evaluation sheds light on these, and assesses the extent to which different policy areas have translated the ambitions in the Addis Agenda into policy.

2) How has the Addis Agenda been implemented in Swedish development cooperation policy?

The objective is to proceed from the overarching assessment of policy implementation in question 1 to describe in detail how the Swedish MFA has translated the Addis Agenda into policy within this specific policy area.

In answering the question, the focus should be on understanding how Swedish development cooperation is intended to contribute to the implementation of the Addis Agenda, and how coherence with other policy areas has been ensured. The Government is articulating its policy mainly through strategies, so these will be a key data point for the

evaluation. The evaluation should also assess the extent to which the enacted policy has been followed up and evaluated by the Government.

The answer to the question should include an assessment of the extent to which the Addis Agenda's ambitions have been incorporated into Swedish development cooperation.

Evaluation design

The proposal should include a theoretical and methodological framework. It is up to the authors to further develop the evaluation design, methods, and delimitations but the choices should be clearly justified.¹⁰

EBA proposes that the evaluation is conducted in two steps, according to the components described above. Steps are not necessarily expected to be sequential. The evaluation includes an assessment of the extent to which Swedish implementation, approximately halfway to 2030, is sufficient to attain the ambitions in the Addis Agenda. This could, for example, be done by the evaluators recreating the theory of change on which Swedish policy actions are based and to discuss whether its assumptions are sufficient to contribute to the Addis Agenda's overall objectives.

EBA expects the evaluation to build on already existing knowledge, both practical and academic. It is thus expected that the evaluation includes a proper literature review that covers previous (Swedish and international) studies and evaluations of relevance to this topic. The evaluator(s) should in their proposal clearly demonstrate how they will relate the questions and study to the existing body of knowledge..

To stimulate learning, EBA welcomes proposals that engage key audiences, especially the MFA and other ministries, during the process.

If needed, the evaluator(s) may refine or adjust the formulation of the two questions after the award decision, in dialogue with EBA and the study's reference group.

Potentially important empirical material for the study includes written sources from the Swedish Government, multiple ministries and other Swedish actors. While there is no requirement for the main applicant to be Swedish, the evaluation team must include someone with the ability to analyse documents written in Swedish.

Intended users

The primary target audiences for this evaluation include the Swedish Government and relevant ministries, the MFA in particular. In addition, the evaluation is expected to be of interest for Swedish government agencies and other actors involved in the implementation of the Addis Agenda. As the agenda is an international agreement, there is hopefully also an international audience interested in the results.

¹⁰ EBA has a policy of quality assurance that describes how EBA relates to the concept of quality in light of its remit. It also presents EBA's quality criteria, the process for quality assurance, and roles and responsibilities. EBA has published a number of reports and working papers on methods in evaluation, that might be of interest. All available at www.eba.se.

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

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

The evaluator(s) shall deliver a report (in English) presenting the results from the study to be published in the EBA report series (<https://eba.se/en/reports/>). The length of the report should not exceed 40 000 words (about 80 A4-pages).

The evaluator(s) shall present preliminary results at a pre-launch meeting/workshop with the MFA 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).

Procurement procedure, budget, and timetable

The maximum cost for this evaluation is SEK 1 400 000 excl. VAT. The budget shall be denominated in SEK. 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 simplified procedure with possible negotiation.

The project proposal must be written in English and shall be no longer than 15 pages. The proposal shall be based on the two evaluation questions. A detailed description of the approach of the evaluation, the method and design are to be presented in the proposal (see the section on Evaluation design above). It is up to those submitting proposals to choose the evaluation design and method. The work is to be carried out with high scientific rigour and the choice of method and design in the proposal must be clearly motivated. It is EBA's hope that a relatively high degree of freedom in drawing up the proposal is seen as attractive and will stimulate innovation and creativity. Included in the proposal should also be:

- a presentation of the members of the evaluation team. Note that at least one person in the evaluation team must speak and read Swedish.
- a detailed schedule and allocation of time and tasks between the members of the group
- a budget (denominated in SEK, including price per hour for each team member).

The following appendices (thus not counting towards the 15 page limit) must be included:

- (i) CV(s)
- (ii) at most three sample studies/evaluations (reports or articles) carried out by members of the proposed team. At least one shall have been authored by the team leader/principal investigator.
- (iii) A brief account for how, according to the authors, respective study has contributed to new, reliable, knowledge of relevance for this evaluation (at most 300 words, i.e. 100 words per study).

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, no later than 5 September 2022. 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 December 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 on the procurement portal Kommers Annons eLite, www.kommersannons.se/elite. Questions and answers to questions are published anonymously and simultaneously to everyone registered for the procurement.

Questions related to the procurement may be posed until 25 August 2022.

Preliminary timetable

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| Last day to submit tender | 5 September 2022 |
| Decision by EBA | October 2022 |
| Contract signed | October 2022 |
| Presentation of preliminary findings | May 2023 |
| Final report delivered | September 2023 |
| Launch event | December 2023 |

Proposal assessment

An assessment group comprising members of EBA 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 interest (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..

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. 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, an expert from the MFA, and a secretariat placed in Stockholm.

In 2022 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 (co-opted expert from the Swedish MFA).

Appendix 1 – Assessment criteria

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| 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 evaluation design, i.e. suggested methodological approach and plan for implementation, make it possible to fulfill 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 evaluation design enable conclusions that can be expected to form the basis of use, learning, and reflection among the evaluation'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>1) Evaluation or research in areas related to the topic, i.e; the Swedish policy process, relevant Swedish and international policy areas, the Addis Agenda.</p> <p>2) Advanced evaluation or research methodology;</p> <p>3) Development cooperation, especially related to Financing for Development and the Addis Agenda.</p> <p>4) Quality of previous evaluations/studies conducted by team members (based on studies attached to the proposal);</p> <p>5) Academic merits of the team members;</p> <p>6) 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.) |