

► **Sweden**

Swedish Agency for Development Evaluation (SADEV)

Department for Evaluation, Swedish International Development Agency (UTV)

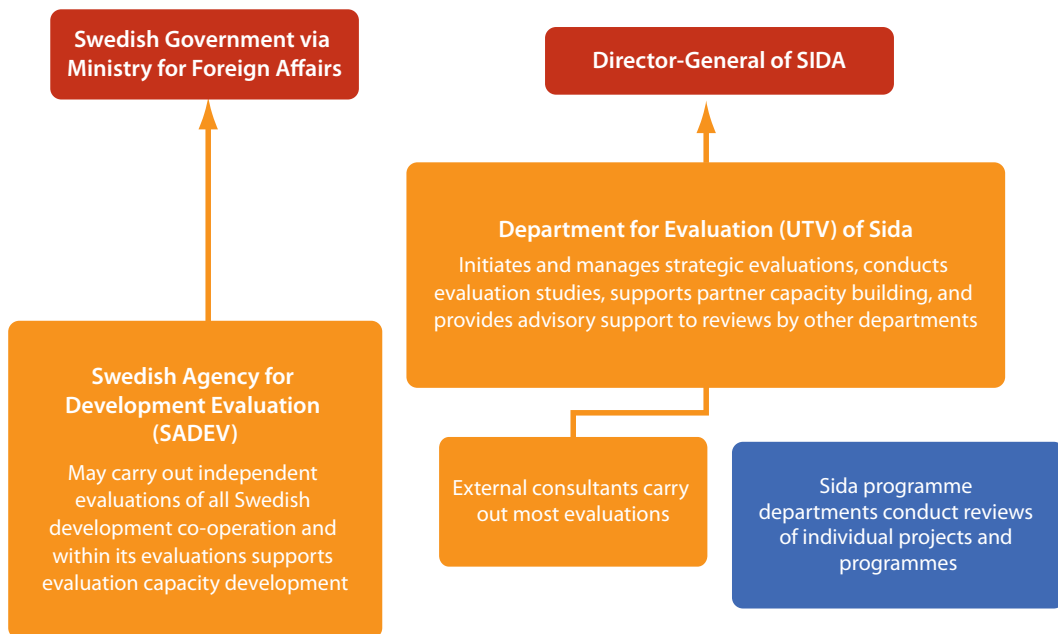
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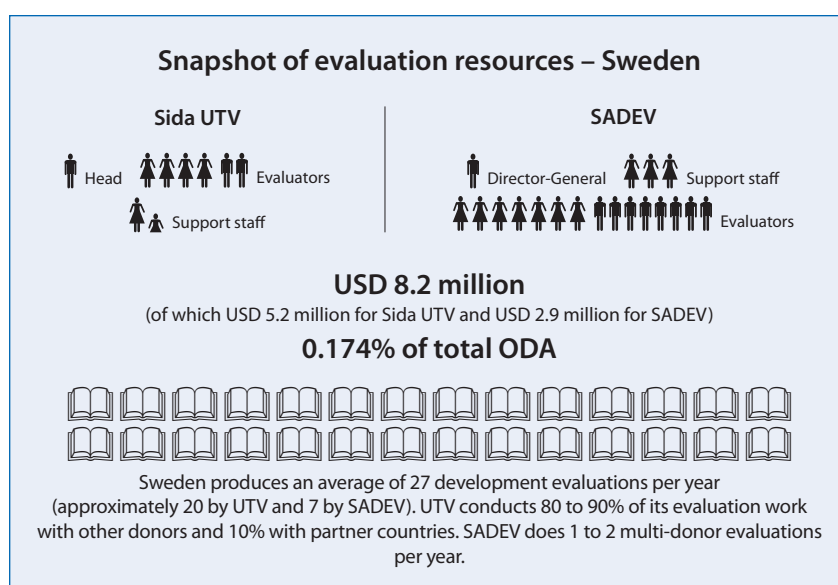
Evaluation of Swedish development co-operation is primarily undertaken by the Swedish Agency for Development Evaluation (SADEV) which has a mandate to evaluate all Swedish development co-operation, and by the Department for Evaluation (UTV) of the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) with a mandate to evaluate Sida financed activities.

SADEV, as an autonomous agency reporting to the Swedish Government, is tasked with providing independent evaluations of Swedish development assistance (including core support to multilateral organisations).

UTV is charged to evaluate Sida development activities, managing strategic evaluations, such as thematic evaluations, and evaluations of aid policy, aid modalities and large programmes. Other departments and teams within Sida are responsible for evaluating their own projects and programmes. These operational “reviews” are supported by UTV in an advisory capacity. UTV reports to the Director-General of Sida, who reports to the Swedish Government (in practice, via the Ministry for Foreign Affairs). Both SADEV and UTV work to strengthen partner countries’ capacity to carry out evaluations.

Summary of the evaluation set-up and reporting process in Sweden





Swedish Agency for Development Evaluation (SADEV)

SADEV is an autonomous agency, with decision-making powers and institutional independence. It may evaluate any aspect of Swedish development co-operation and SADEV staff conducts and participates in the evaluations. An evaluation handbook based on DAC Quality Standards for Development Evaluation is used to ensure quality. The handbook includes regulation of the use of external and internal referees, seminars, scrutiny of facts and transparent decision-making processes.

The evaluation programme of SADEV is determined by its Director-General, on the basis of broad dialogue and suggestions from staff and interested parties both nationally and internationally. SADEV work can focus on sector-wide, thematic, policy and impact evaluations, as well as on project activities. An increasing number of joint donor evaluations are conducted per year. SADEV does not currently conduct joint evaluations with partner countries.

The Director of Evaluation reports to the Director-General who reports to the Swedish Government. A system for management response and follow-up is in place to respond to SADEV evaluation findings. Management responses to evaluations are included in SADEV's annual report.

SADEV is required to distribute information on evaluation findings to Parliament, Government and other stakeholders in Sweden and internationally. This is done *inter alia* through reports, press releases, articles, and workshops with outside stakeholders and within the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Reports are available on SADEV's website.

Sida's Evaluation Department (UTV)

UTV sits within the management pillar of Sida and its Director participates in the Strategic Management Group. To ensure evaluation quality, a tracking grid based on DAC Quality Standards for Development Evaluation is used.

When setting its programme, UTV dialogues with all Sida teams on possible evaluation themes. The Strategic Management Group of Sida may also suggest topics. In addition,

UTV discusses ideas with international organisations and other agencies to find interesting subjects for joint evaluations. UTV compiles these ideas and decides which should be put in the annual plan. The plan is finally approved by the Director-General of Sida, along with the department's budget.

UTV conducts 80 to 90% of its evaluation work with other donors and 10% with partner countries. The department has a dedicated budget and clear policy to promote local involvement and local capacity building in evaluation. UTV and SADEV share evaluation plans and co-ordinate their work when overlap occurs. Both departments consistently share their plans with the DAC Secretariat and consult other donor plans when setting the evaluation agenda.

A new system for management response and follow-up system is up and running. It will respond to evaluations commissioned by UTV, reviews commissioned by Sida departments, and SADEV's evaluations. Some management responses are available on Sida's publication database online. Upon completion, all evaluations and reviews commissioned by Sida are posted on Sida's web site. Seminars are also arranged for all evaluations. These are open for all Sida staff and other development stakeholders who have an interest in the particular evaluation are also invited. On occasion press releases are distributed to Swedish media. Reports are also shared with Sida staff through newsletters, distributed to agency management and staff in field offices, and included in Sida annual reports.