

## Sida's preparation of and follow-up on support to justice in reconciliation processes

Swedish development cooperation is paying increasing attention to conflict resolution, peace building and democracy; an important element in development is also a functioning public administration. SADEV is planning a series of evaluations of Swedish support to the legal sector, the first of which is presented below and deals with Sida's support to justice in reconciliation processes, manifested mainly in terms of support to international tribunals, truth and/or reconciliation commissions, and national courts in countries in a conflict or a post-conflict situation.

*The evaluation questions are:*

*Do Sida's preparations for support to justice in reconciliation processes follow international and Swedish standards?*

*What conclusions and recommendations are given in the follow-up of the Swedish support to justice in reconciliation processes?*

This evaluation concerns Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency's (Sida) support to justice in reconciliation processes. The overall purpose of the evaluation is to contribute to an increased knowledge of how the agency's support relates to international and Swedish standards. This will be accomplished through an assessment of the agency's preparation of and follow-up on its support to justice in reconciliation processes.

Sida's support to justice in reconciliation processes is mainly administered through truth and reconciliation commissions. A total of eleven interventions addressing support for truth and reconciliation commissions, national courts and tribunals in the years 1995-2009 have been identified by SADEV.

Sida has no specific policies or guidelines on how to prepare and work with interventions in justice and reconciliation processes other than general governing guidelines and policies. Therefore, a part of the evaluation consisted of creating an "ideal image", or standard, from a compilation of Swedish general documents and important international actors' guidelines, handbooks and the like. Ten features were found to characterize successful implementation of interventions in justice in reconciliation processes:

- Development (related to long-term development, including democracy and the human rights area)
- Peace and conflict analysis
- Risk assessment
- National and local initiatives

- Stakeholders (including a cross-sector perspective)
- Coordination with other reconciliation processes
- Coordination with other actors
- Time and Timing
- Compensation
- Follow-up

These features were applied in the analysis of Sida's internal preparation, conclusions and recommendations.

## RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

*Do Sida's preparations for support to justice in reconciliation processes follow international and Swedish standards?*

In most cases, Sida's preparation of support to interventions concerning justice in reconciliation processes does not include a systematic assessment of the features found to be essential for successful implementation. For instance, information is often missing on coordination with other reconciliation processes and actors, as well as formal peace and conflict analyses. Generally, the formulations are descriptive rather than analytical which means, for example, that no assessments are made of how the stakeholders may be affected by the reconciliation process.

*What conclusions and recommendations are given in the follow-up of the Swedish support to justice in reconciliation processes?*

The conclusions drawn in Sida's internal follow-up (that is, final reports, final comments and evaluations) reveal that support to reconciliation processes are an important component in promoting peace, but that the work is complicated by bureaucratic obstacles and lack of skills. Follow-up documentation on Sida's support to justice in reconciliation processes is not always available, making it impossible to verify in all cases if follow-up has in fact been made. Moreover, references to earlier follow-up are missing in the preparation documents.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Sida should adopt the ten features found by this evaluation to be essential for effective implementation of interventions concerning justice in reconciliation processes.

Follow-up reports are an important source of information about benefits and risks associated with support to reconciliation processes. To learn from these, adequate monitoring and documentation must be carried out.

## SOURCES AND FURTHER INFORMATION

This SADEV evaluation brief is based on the report *Sidas insatsberedning och uppföljning av stöd till rättsskipning i samband med försoningsprocesser*. SADEV Report 2010:1.

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