

SWEDEN CASE STUDY: SWEDISH CSOs AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF SWEDEN IN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

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1. AN OVERVIEW OF THE CSO ENVIRONMENT IN SWEDEN

1.1 NUMBERS AND TYPES OF CSOs

Swedish development cooperation has its roots in the work and contacts of missionary groups and various types of popular movements. Churches and, more recently, other faith-based organizations, trade unions, political organizations and solidarity and special interest groups have continued to play an important role in shaping and implementing Swedish development cooperation.

Traditionally, Swedish civil society organizations (CSOs) have been democratically structured membership organizations. In recent years a few non-membership-based organizations, several of them belonging to international networks, have become significant actors within the field of development cooperation.

It is estimated that there are about 1000 Swedish CSOs engaged in international development cooperation.¹ In terms of funding, the more important are generally those that have direct agreements with [Sida](#) (the Swedish International Development Organisation).

Sida currently has ‘framework’ agreements (see below) with 15 organizations,² five of which are sub-granting



organizations that pass along grants for implementation by its own member organizations or affiliated organizations.³ In total, the framework organizations cooperate with more than 300 Swedish CSOs.⁴

In addition to the framework organizations and their member and affiliated organizations there are few larger Swedish CSOs that receive substantial Sida funding. Notable exceptions are, for instance, the Swedish Afghanistan Committee, Swedish Red Cross, Läkareutangränser (MSF-Sweden), Civil Rights Defenders, Kvinna till Kvinna and Swedwatch.

The vast majority of Swedish CSOs work on long-term development cooperation. Common thematic focus areas include children, women and people with disabilities, sexual and reproductive health, environmental issues and climate change, agriculture and education.⁵ The number of CSOs that provide humanitarian assistance has been reduced in recent years due to new requirements for funding introduced by Sida. Sida funding requires a certification, such as the Humanitarian Accountability Partnership Standards. The only organizations that currently provide humanitarian assistance on a large scale are Swedish Red Cross, Läkareutangränser and the Church of Sweden. A number of organizations will most probably gain funding when they have gained certification for their systems.

It should be noted that in 2011 Sida adopted new criteria for framework agreements and that these criteria will be implemented during 2012. It appears likely that the number of framework organizations for civil society support will increase somewhat.

Funding: Overall, non-governmental funds make up only a few percent of total Swedish development

assistance.⁶ For the CSO sector, non-governmental funds for most of the larger Swedish CSOs make up a quite limited part of their total funds. While there are a few significant exceptions (in particular among faith-based organizations), most organizations only collect the 10 percent they are required to raise in order to gain funding from Sida's civil society unit. Many organizations, however, also receive a different source of Sida funding that relates to regional and national strategies. For this support, the organizations receive 100 percent of the project costs. In practice, there are thus many CSOs that receive well over 90 percent of their total funds from Sida.

The ability to raise significant funds is limited to quite a small number of larger and well-known organizations, including Save the Children, Swedish Red Cross, Unicef-Sweden, Plan-Sweden, MSF-Sweden and the World Wide Fund for Nature.⁷

Traditionally, CSOs have raised most of their non-governmental funds directly from the general public. In recent years, however, some development CSOs have received substantial amounts of money through a particular lottery called Postkodlotteriet.⁸ Some also receive large amounts through fundraising campaigns related to broadcasted shows and similar events with a particular development-related theme. A small share of what is raised comes directly from private enterprises, but many CSOs expect that this share of their total revenue will increase in the future. In comparison with many other countries, the extremely rich in Sweden have not been particularly interested in philanthropy. In recent years, however, a few of the richest people in the country have either started their own foundations that provide funding for development interventions, or have donated large amounts directly to a few CSOs.

Tax relief for donations was introduced in 2012, but only to a very limited extent. Tax relief of 25 percent can now be received for gifts up to SEK6000 (approximately US\$880). The maximum that a person can thus receive in a year amounts to SEK1500 (roughly US\$220).

1.2 MODALITIES OF CSO INVOLVEMENT IN DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

The work of the major Swedish CSOs involved in development cooperation is characterized by:

- cooperation with and channelling of funds directly to partner CSOs in developing countries (and thus a very low degree of direct implementation);
- frequent cooperation with partner CSOs that belong to the same international network or are otherwise considered sister organizations;
- a relatively high degree of core support in line with the priorities and strategies of the partner organizations;
- a focus on strengthening the capacity of the partner organizations. It is, therefore, common that a share of the total funds set aside for a partner organization is earmarked for capacity-building;
- development education, information and advocacy campaigns in Sweden regarding development cooperation (but a reduction in these type of activities is expected as government funding for them is diminishing);
- cooperation with other Swedish CSOs through membership of the framework organizations as well as in a number of other organizations and informal thematic networks (see Section 1.3); and
- increasing creation of and participation in consortia (not least to be able to apply for European Union (EU) funding).

1.3 CSO COLLABORATION IN SWEDEN

As a result of their framework agreements with Sida, several Swedish umbrella organizations have a central role in Swedish development cooperation through CSOs. [Forum Syd](#), with 163 members, is the largest of these organizations and one of the most important collaborative mechanisms for Swedish CSOs. The organization is a platform within Swedish civil society that brings Swedish organizations together in their common efforts for sustainable global development. It addresses development issues through advocacy and its own programme operations. Advocacy includes policy dialogue and engagement with the government. Forum Syd is a membership organization, and member representatives form its Board.

In 2010, Forum Syd received SEK205 million through the framework agreement (and also about SEK60 million from other Sida divisions for its own projects). One of its major roles is to coordinate a sub-grants programme of Sida funds that are available for its smaller members or affiliated organizations (larger Forum Syd members may have their own framework agreements with Sida). Members' funding requests must meet Forum Syd's funding criteria.⁹ While Forum Syd plays a key role under this arrangement, it formally only makes funding recommendations to Sida: officially, the final decisions still rest with Sida.¹⁰

Swedish Mission Council (SMC), which is a forum for Churches and Christian organizations, has 36 member organizations which together work "to provide opportunities for people and societies to change." SMC "organizes courses and seminars both in Sweden and in countries in the South and East" and annually "distributes around SEK100 million of Sida funds to the development work carried out by

member organizations in collaboration with their partner organizations in around 40 countries." SMC furthermore wants to "spread knowledge on issues that can contribute to the eradication of poverty".¹¹

Olof Palme International Center has 27 member organizations and "works in the spirit of Olof Palme for democracy, human rights, and peace." It divides its work into three different areas: (i) development cooperation through which they "seek to empower people to change their societies and thereby their own lives"; (ii) party-oriented support through which the Center and the Social Democrats "support sister parties throughout the world"; and (iii) "sharing of knowledge in order to facilitate discussion of international questions and stimulate debate."¹²

MyRight is "an umbrella organisation within the disability movement which works at the request of 30 member organisations." The goal of their joint work "is to strengthen the local partner organisations' possibilities for running effective advocacy work for the rights of their members. MyRight's role is to provide administrative support for its member organisations and to help with quality assurance of their projects."¹³

In addition to these types of umbrella organizations with framework agreements there is also a number of other organizations that bring together large numbers of CSOs. Among these are:

CONCORD Sweden works to "promote cooperation, information-sharing and joint advocacy initiatives between Swedish CSOs and those in other EU countries on development policy and development cooperation issues vis-à-vis the EU institutions. It also aims to act as a platform on other issues that have been jointly agreed by its member organisations...

CONCORD Sweden is open to membership for any Swedish CSO (non-profit association or foundation) and for umbrella organisations of CSOs that support the aim of CONCORD Sweden.”¹⁴ CONCORD currently has 45 member organizations.

Svensk Insamlingskontroll (Swedish Fundraising Control) is a non-profit association with responsibilities for monitoring fundraising among the public. Due to an agreement with the Swedish postal office, organizations that are monitored by the organization can receive a special postal giro account referred to as the 90-accounts, which enable direct financial transfers from donors through the postal system. These can be given to foundations, non-profit associations and religious communities that are thus approved and monitored by the Swedish Fundraising Control.¹⁵

The Swedish Fundraising Council (FRIL) has 144 members and works to ensure a conducive environment for voluntary work and fundraising, and Fairtrade Sweden strives to increase supply and demand for fair trade products.¹⁶

In addition to these and other formal organizations many CSOs participate in issue-based informal networks and working groups on issues such as gender, methodology development, HIV/AIDS and environmental protection.

1.4 CSO ACCOUNTABILITY AND QUALITY STANDARDS

The Swedish government uses a number of different instruments to enhance the accountability and quality standards of Swedish CSOs. Key instruments are the government’s civil society policy, and Sida’s ‘Instruction for Grants from the Appropriation Item Support via Swedish Civil Society Organizations’.

Other key instruments include the criteria developed by Sida for framework organizations and its auditing rules. Framework organizations must in turn pass on these criteria and auditing rules to member organizations seeking sub-grants. This has implications for smaller organizations that have fewer resources and less capacity to demonstrate that they meet the criteria. Overall, increasing demands from Sida regarding funding eligibility and a lack of flexibility means that smaller organizations are less likely to seek funding through framework organizations.

Sida also attempts, through a range of other channels and actions, to promote the aid effectiveness agenda among CSOs. To qualify for Swedish government funding for humanitarian assistance, organizations must “be a party to established international codes of conduct in the operational field concerned, or have successfully implemented undertakings of a similar kind”.¹⁷

Sida follows up its different funding contributions and strives to enhance quality through regular reporting and audits. It states the following regarding the framework agreements:

“Sida undertakes an in-depth analysis of both the report and the application before a new financial agreement is approved. Throughout the period of cooperation, the framework organisation submits annual financial reports in accordance with Sida’s requirements. During each four-year cycle (3+1 years), a follow-up of previous system audits and a programme evaluation are usually carried out on Sida’s initiative. Sida assesses the organisation’s qualifications as a framework organisation at least once during each alternate four-year cycle.

The framework organisations are responsible for the planning, follow-up, reporting and analysis of its activities in a manner that allows Sida to assess its quality and use the information. Sida gives high priority to the effective and quality use of its funding support to framework organisations. For this reason regular system-based audits of framework organisations are carried out to ensure that funds are used appropriately.”¹⁸

Voluntary CSO networks and organizations for accountability and quality standards also exist. Swedish CSOs recently laid down voluntary principles for enhancing development effectiveness during the national consultations relating to the 2010 Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness. The national consultation workshop resulted in agreement on the following three sets of recommendations and commitments as the basis for a collective effort to enhance the development effectiveness of Swedish CSOs:¹⁹

- a national interpretation and adaptation of the [Istanbul Principles](#);
- proposed additional principles for CSOs in their roles as donors; and
- recommendations on enabling conditions.²⁰

CSO staff are currently working on measures to implement these and other principles and standards, with some support from Sida.

In addition to the above, umbrella organizations such as FRIL and the Swedish Fundraising Control work, for instance, to promote ethical and professional fundraising.

2. AN OVERVIEW OF THE DIFFERENT OPERATIONAL STRUCTURES FOR CSOs

2.1 CSO GOVERNANCE

Traditionally, Swedish CSOs have been democratically structured membership organizations in which the members elect the organization's Board during an annual meeting. The Board is responsible for appointing the organization's Chief Executive Officer and deciding on issues concerning the organization's overall role and mandate.

Until 2005 Sida's civil society unit required organizations receiving support to have a democratic structure. Since 2006 Sida has also accepted foundations (which do not have individual members and an elected Board) as recipients of support.²¹

2.2 OVERVIEW OF STAFFING

The 15 framework organizations differ considerably in terms of number of staff members. The smallest has roughly 20 staff members, while some of the larger organizations have several hundred. The larger organizations tend to have a majority of their staff members locally employed in the recipient countries.

As for those organizations that are not framework organizations, the majority have very few or no full-time staff members and thus rely very much on the work of volunteers. A few, however, have dozens or even hundreds of employees. Among these organizations are those that receive substantial amounts of funding from Sida despite not being framework organizations (see above), and organizations that to a great extent implement activities themselves, including those that primarily provide humanitarian support.

A typical larger Swedish CSO would consist of a Secretary-General, programme officers, administrative staff (including controllers), information officers, fundraisers and often also one or several staff members responsible for methodology development. Depending on Sida's funding priorities, the organizations have also sometimes received funding earmarked for staff members with a thematic focus — for instance, on gender. These kinds of staff may work on specific projects for their duration, which can be several years.

2.3 NUMBERS OF STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS AND THE NATURE OF STAFFING ROLES

An approximate estimate is that CSOs in Sweden employ about 500 people that work on international development cooperation. The number of people that work for Swedish CSOs in host/recipient countries greatly exceeds this number.

Staff responsibilities are organized in a number of ways. While some organizations have maintained their administration in Sweden, others have decentralized a lot of their responsibilities in this area. Staff working with methodology and thematic areas can also be located in Sweden or in the field. With increased international cooperation there is, however, an increased tendency to decentralize functions, since coordination often needs to be done in the field. Staff working with humanitarian assistance tend to be located in the field or in regional offices for coordination. Staff working with evaluation and learning, at least those leading the work, tend to be placed in Sweden.

3. THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN CSOs AND THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT

3.1 OVERALL LEGAL/REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Freedom of association is laid down in the Swedish Constitution. There is no particular law regulating the non-profit sector, and there is no requirement to register associations with the authorities. As Ojala (2004) states:

“The right for every person to create and participate in any form of association, the freedom of association, is a constitutional right in accordance with Chapter 2, Article 1 of the Swedish Instrument of Government. Similarly, in accordance with Chapter 2, Article 2 of the Swedish Instrument of Government, a person also has the right not to belong to any association.”

A report on freedom of association in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) and EU countries provides further elaboration:

“In Sweden there are three different kinds of CSOs; non-profit organizations (NPOs), economic associations and foundations. No specific law governs the existence of non-profit organizations, although the Act on Economic Associations can usually be used as guidance. CSOs have high organisational autonomy in every sector, from membership regulation to statute etc. On average, every citizen is part of four associations; the weight of CSOs in the public debate and in the dialogue with authorities is considerable. Sweden has a strong framework for protecting workers’ rights for freedom of association rights. Sweden has an extremely high rate of union density.”²²

It is hard to determine what impact the relative absence of formal regulation has on the operations of Swedish CSOs in host countries. However, it is not uncommon that Swedish CSOs strive to promote the dominant model in Sweden — that of democratically structured membership organizations.

While there are no specific legal and regulatory frameworks for not-for-profit organizations, there are nevertheless some generally accepted regulations regarding how not-for-profits and CSOs should operate. For instance, Sida's 'Instructions for Grants from the Appropriation Item Support Via Swedish Civil Society Organizations' provides the following classifications of CSOs:

“Civil society organization (CSO): Self-governing organization characterized by voluntary efforts and which to some degree is independent of any state, municipality and market, as well as conducting its activities without a profit motive, often on the basis of common shared values.”

3.2 GOVERNMENT OF SWEDEN FUNDING MODALITIES FOR CSOs

Main modalities: The main modalities used for supporting CSOs can be divided into:

- Sida's framework agreements with 15 Swedish CSOs. These funding agreements stretch over four years (three years' approval with a fourth year on review) and require the Swedish CSO to raise 10 percent of the total project/programme costs from sources other than Sida;
- support through Sida's country and thematic teams, which can be through Swedish, international or local CSOs that operate in accordance with the priorities of the Swedish strategy in question;

- support from other Swedish government authorities, such as the Folke Bernadotte Academy and Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs, which provide smaller grants to CSOs;²³ and
- Sweden's support to CSOs via the European Commission and multilateral organizations.

Division of funds: Roughly 25 percent of all funding Sida provides to CSOs is channelled through the framework agreements, while 75 percent requires that CSOs' work supports Sweden's geographic or thematic policies. From an overall perspective, the support channelled through other Swedish authorities in terms of money is rather marginal.²⁴

Core versus project support: Sweden strives to provide programme-based funding and core support to the highest extent possible. Sweden's civil society policy states:

"Where possible, priority will be consistently given to programme-based funding and core budget support rather than project support. Support to organisations in civil society will contribute to local ownership and be based on the partner organisation's planning and monitoring system."²⁵

Framework agreements are based on the Swedish CSO's own priorities and strategies, while support through country and thematic teams has to meet the requirements of the Swedish strategy and can take the form of either core or project support. A 2008 study that drew on information from Bangladesh, Guatemala, Ethiopia, Tanzania and Zambia found that: "Sweden has about half of its Agreements as core support and provides core support in all five countries reported on."²⁶

Direct versus indirect support: The study referred to above found that direct support to the implementing CSO was provided by the embassies through 27 agreements, and indirect support (where an intermediary managed the funds and CSO relations) through 33 agreements. It was noted, however, that in terms of CSOs reached and volume of funding, indirect support was usually higher than the direct support.²⁷

Framework agreements: During 2009 Sida will disburse SEK1.3 billion to 15 framework organizations. These framework organizations include:

- umbrella organizations, which prepare and pass on funding applications from their member organizations, which sign agreements and cooperate with organizations in developing countries; and
- organizations that develop and run their own development cooperation programmes and projects and sign agreements directly with cooperation partners in developing countries.

Sida's 'Instruction for Grants from the Appropriation Item Support via Swedish Civil Society Organizations' provides the following information on preconditions for grants under a framework agreement:

"The fundamental preconditions for all grants within the appropriation item are that the development co-operation be delimited to developing countries in accordance with the OECD-DAC classification, that the development co-operation be carried out by civil society organisations, and that the parties to the co-operation work for societal development on a democratic basis as well as based upon the equality and rights of all individuals as expressed in the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights."²⁸

It bases this on the following rationale:

“Sida believes that building and strengthening a vibrant and democratic civil society is fundamental in both developing countries and in wider poverty reduction efforts. Framework organisations are responsible for ensuring Sida’s support for civil society development in partner countries as well as communication activities in Sweden.”²⁹

Support through geographic and thematic teams:

Funding support to CSOs through country and thematic teams can be divided into the following three categories:

- **support through an intermediary organization:** according to a study carried out in 2006, six of 21 Swedish embassies stated that they provided support in this manner;
- **direct support to CSOs:** 12 of the 21 embassies reported that they used this modality, but to varying degrees. While some embassies supported a substantial number of CSOs in this way, other embassies only gave one or two CSOs this kind of support; and
- **other forms of support:** six of the embassies reported that they had other ways of organizing their cooperation with CSOs. In most cases this meant that special embassy funds had been established from which CSOs can apply for funding.³⁰

Duration of agreements: While the framework agreements between Sida and the Swedish CSOs normally last for four years, country and thematic strategy agreements normally vary between one and three years. Agreements between Sida and host-

country (or regional) CSOs would normally also range between one and three years, as would agreements between Swedish CSOs and host-country CSOs. Sida is generally “encouraging Swedish CSOs to have longer (3–4 years), and more core or programme funded partnerships with civil society.”³¹

Development aid versus humanitarian assistance:

In terms of government guidance, there can be distinct differences between humanitarian assistance and long-term development aid. When Swedish CSOs obtain 100 percent funding for humanitarian assistance initiatives, their interventions are to be directly guided by Swedish government policy. Long-term development aid through the appropriation ‘Support through Swedish Civil Society Organizations’ (i.e. through the framework agreements) is not subject to this form of direct guidance. Other long-term development support not provided through this appropriation item (but, for instance, as part of a country or regional strategy) should be guided by the relevant strategy.³²

The government’s civil society policy states:

- “Support given within the framework of geographical cooperation strategies and certain non-geographical strategies will be implemented based on the priorities set by the Government in the strategy in question.
- The humanitarian imperative to alleviate suffering applies in humanitarian work. Since support to civil society within this non-geographical strategy is given without any requirement for own investment, Swedish government guidance should also be extensive in this context.

- Development assistance given via Sida's appropriation support through Swedish civil society organisations and governed by an own strategy goes to activities carried out independently by a number of Swedish civil society organisations in accordance with their own thematic and geographical priorities. The development assistance given via this appropriation requires an own investment of funds collected in Sweden, and therefore supplements the organisations' own resources."

The government's humanitarian assistance policy states:

"Sweden will contribute funding to a mix of organisations based on their comparative advantages, especially UN bodies, the International Red Cross/ Red Crescent movement and civil society organisations. To promote coordination and strategic direction, Sweden is also prepared to contribute financially to pooled funds at country level. Such contributions will only be provided to organisations whose work is compatible with this policy and that otherwise conform to internationally accepted norms and standards in the humanitarian field."³³

Grants versus procurement: Sweden can provide financial support to CSOs either through contributions or through procurement for the implementation of an assignment. The civil society policy states, however, "The procurement process often includes risks, in particular with regard to civil society organisations' ability to maintain or develop their independent position. Support is therefore preferably to be given via well-designed and flexible contribution systems. International agreements for increased aid effectiveness using harmonisation, adaptation to local systems and local ownership are to guide this process. However, procurement is to be preferred where commercial interests are involved."³⁴

Other CSO funding: Swedish CSOs occasionally compete for other funding opportunities, including with UN agencies or private companies. While it was expected that CSOs might increasingly have to compete with bodies such as these for funding opportunities, this does not appear to have been as significant as expected. In another funding area, Sida stopped nearly all funding for CSO volunteers about five years ago.

Review of funding modalities: Sida has recently initiated a process of developing “recommendations and guidelines concerning systems and mechanisms of cooperation between Sida and CSOs regarding the support channeled from other appropriations than the appropriation item Support via Swedish Civil Society Organizations.”

A review is currently being undertaken with a specific focus on choice of support modalities. The Terms of Reference for the review state it will:

“...provide a comprehensive overview of Sida support provided to and through civil society organizations, an assessment of the chosen support modalities’ fitness for purpose, an identification of trends that affect and/or stem from such support, an analysis of what the support modalities resulted in vis-à-vis the roles of civil society in different contexts, and a recommendation what lessons learned should be applied for continued improvement of Sida’s support to and through civil society.”³⁵

3.3 GOVERNMENT DECISION-MAKING ON CSO FUNDING

Roughly three quarters of all government support is provided to Swedish, international, regional or local CSOs in a manner that requires that their work support Sweden's geographic or thematic policies.³⁶ See above, 'Development aid versus humanitarian assistance', for further information on when government-funded CSO programmes are required to be consistent with the government's geographic and sector priorities.

3.4 CSO ADVICE TO THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT

Relationships between government officials and CSO representatives have traditionally been close. Sida has often recruited staff members from CSOs. The close interaction that takes place between Sida and the CSOs around projects and contributions also provides CSOs with opportunities to influence the implementation of aid policy.

With regard to the establishment of government policies and strategies, it is standard procedure to invite CSOs for consultation. Sida undertakes policy dialogue with framework organizations through quarterly meetings and an annual meeting. There is also frequent dialogue through a range of other forums, but the frequency and quality of these dialogues depends on the relationship between the CSOs and the respective politician or Sida or Ministry of Foreign Affairs official. This type of dialogue usually relates to particular focus issues for the government, such as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) rights, women's rights, HIV, methodology development and results-based management.

Some CSOs are also very active in the public debate regarding aid policy and undertake occasional studies scrutinizing government policies and implementation. CSOs have traditionally exercised clear influence over government policies. There is, however, a widespread sentiment among CSOs that the government is currently less interested in their views and that there are fewer opportunities for consultation.

4. OVERVIEW OF SWEDISH CSOs' OPERATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

4.1 RELATIONSHIPS WITH DEVELOPING-COUNTRY CSOs

While it is common for many, and probably most, of the Swedish framework organizations and other larger CSOs to have offices in the countries where they operate, it is nowadays rare that Swedish organizations are directly involved in implementing activities. As mentioned above, the role of the Swedish CSO would normally be to provide financial and capacity-building support to the host-country CSOs. Framework and other organizations that do have offices are usually involved in follow-up and capacity development. Where expatriate members of staff are involved, they are more likely to be located in regional offices, with local staff employed in country offices.

The support provided is normally in the form of funding for a local CSO's existing project or programme, either as core support or project support. It is also common, however, that the financial support is combined with capacity-building initiatives organized by the Swedish CSO.

Sida's 'Instruction for Grants from the Appropriation Item Support via Swedish Civil Society Organizations' states:

"The cornerstone of development work that receives grants from the appropriation item is that there are local co-operation partners in developing countries that are contractual partners with a Swedish CSO, or an international CSO with which a Swedish organisation has a contractual relationship. All interventions that receive grants from Sida must be based upon the needs and priorities defined by local co-operation partners."³⁷

4.2 RELATIONSHIPS WITH HOST-COUNTRY GOVERNMENTS

Swedish CSO offices in developing countries usually register with the host government. When required, they will also enter into formal Memoranda of Understanding with the government. In general, however, they usually have little direct contact with the government, as they are rarely involved in programme implementation.

The extent to which Swedish CSOs work on advocacy and policy in developing countries with national CSOs varies. Swedish CSOs most commonly take a background role, providing financial support and capacity development support to host-country organizations and coalitions. In exceptional situations, such as when a national CSO is under some kind of threat, the Swedish CSO would typically take a more active advocacy stance.

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- 1 Onsander, 2007: 26.
- 2 Forum Syd, LO-TCO Secretariat of International Trade Union Development Co-operation, Olof Palme International Center, PMU InterLife, MyRight, Swedish Mission Council, Africa Groups of Sweden, Diakonia, Swedish Cooperative Centre, Swedish Society for Nature Conservation, Save the Children, Church of Sweden, Plan Sweden, RFSU and WWF. See [Sida](#), 2011.
- 3 The sub-granting organizations are Forum Syd, LO-TCO Secretariat of International Trade Union Development Co-operation, MyRight (an umbrella organization within the disability movement), Swedish Mission Council and Olof Palme International Center.
- 4 For a more detailed description of the role and nature of framework organizations, see Sida, 2010: 9.
- 5 Sida, 2012a: 43.
- 6 Hudson Institute, 2010.
- 7 Modéer and Alffram, 2010.
- 8 <http://www.postkodlotteriet.se/Hem.htm>
- 9 Forum Syd, 2013.
- 10 In terms of its own funding, Forum Syd itself does not raise the 10 percent match required to gain funding through Sida's civil society unit. Funding for its limited number of direct interventions are 100 percent funded by Sida through money connected to the geographic strategies.
- 11 Swedish Mission Council, 2013.
- 12 Olaf Palme International Center, 2013.
- 13 [MyRight](#), 2013.
- 14 CONCORD Sweden, 2013.
- 15 Svensk Insamlingskontroll, 2013.
- 16 www.fairtrade.se
- 17 Regeringskansliet, 2011: 29.
- 18 [Sida](#), 2013.
- 19 See also Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness, 2010.
- 20 Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness, 2010: 14.
- 21 See, for instance, Sida, 2006.
- 22 European Parliament, 2007: 18.

- 23 See also OECD, 2011.
- 24 Giffen and Judge, 2010: Annex 2.
- 25 Government Offices of Sweden, 2009: 22f.
- 26 Norad, 2008: 26.
- 27 Norad, 2008: 30.
- 28 Sida, 2010.
- 29 Further information on Sida's framework agreements can be found on the Sida webpage at www.sida.se.
- 30 See Gunnarsson, 2006: 9ff.
- 31 Giffen and Judge, 2010: Annex 1b.
- 32 Government Offices of Sweden, 2009: 24.
- 33 Regeringskansliet, 2011.
- 34 Government Offices of Sweden, 2009: 23f.
- 35 Sida, 2012b.
- 36 Giffen and Judge, 2010: Annex 2.
- 37 Sida, 2010.

