

Project number	39907137
Title	House of Learning (HoL) Project Phase 2 & 3
Countries	Sudan
Summary	<p>Swedish Free Mission (SFM) has been involved in different social development projects in southern Sudan since the middle of the 1970. Since 1983 SFM has had its own registration. In Khartoum the SFM has been operating since 1997. The first program was the Education Support Program, starting 1997. House of Learning is the cornerstone of SFM in the north.</p> <p>The general FDE-concept (Folk Development Education) is linked to the Swedish "Folkbildning"-tradition. FDE approach is characterized by a high degree of participation from students/learners in planning of the content, scope, direction, focus etc of courses. The essence of the approach is people – not the approach or certain methods. FDE approach is viewed as a way to raise the educational level of Sudanese society, and thereby reducing the gap of educational differences. In particular HoL is using "Study Circles" as an educational system to meet this need.</p> <p>House of Learning is one of the Swedish Free Mission (SFM) projects. SIDA/PMU InterLife approved the House of Learning project during 1998. A Pilot Project Implementation Agreement (PPIA) between the Swedish Free Mission (SFM) and the Ministry of Education represented by the National Council for Literacy and Adult Education (NCLAE) was signed in October 1999 and revised in 2007. Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) also approved the House of Learning activities. The House of Learning project has been running in ten years' time and it exist to establish a national study association for building the capacity of the Sudanese people. The aim is to enable them to handle their own development and to promote peace, equality and democracy. The main activities of House of Learning are to run courses, using the Folk Development Education approach and to create satellites in order to train others to carry out the values and the method of Folk Development Education.</p> <p>One purpose of this evaluation is to point out the capacity, and relevance (usability and adaptability) of HoL and the satellites, the administrative structure and management, the training system and the FDE approach. Another purpose is to list the cultural, social and educational effects of phase 2 and 3 for the "grassroots".</p> <p>The findings of the evaluation is expected to give guidance to possible future change of management and structure, training system and how to achieve better networking and sustainability.</p> <p>In general, the evaluation has been appreciative, participatory and learning centered in its approach. It involved stakeholder who represent the communities, project staff local authorities and project partners. Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) approach has been used as primary tool for data collection and analysis.</p> <p>The finding obtained, analysis and recommendations were structured around three aspects which were subdivided into specific topics as follows:</p>
Recommendations	<p>Organization and management:</p> <p>The Structure and Internal controls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SFM to consider the implementation of the organization structure presented in Figure (1) taking into consideration the staff grading system and salary scale • The country management team to start the process of developing comprehensive strategic plan for SFM – Sudan including the house of learning project, and SFM- Sudan management policies and procedures on the above mentioned aspects. • The strategic plan must be developed in participation of all staff and partners and it must include very clear and realistic exit strategy for each project implemented by the organization <p>HoL Human Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A realistic work plan to be developed at the beginning of each fiscal year, this exercise must be participatory and considering: the even distribution of the

workload throughout the year, staff capacities and number.

- All HoL staff to attend an advance training of trainers course
- SFM to develop and implement a performance management system that includes the following phases in sequence:
 - a. Developing Phase
 - b. Coaching/supporting phase
 - c. Performance assessment phase
- To create a position of FDE advisor with the current job responsibilities of the FDE coordinator and this position to be filled by expatriate. Group the coordination tasks for the FDE coordinator position

HoL Documentation and filling system

- HoL to develop and maintain comprehensive filling system with clear policies and procedures and ensure that all staff is fully aware and adhere to it

The satellites

- For HoL to develop and maintain policy and procedures, that includes clear selection criteria for the selection of well-built CBO to establish satellites and clearly differentiate between eligible CBOs for the establishment of satellites and training courses clients.

Network

- For HoL to upgrade its contact with the relevant institution to a proper partnership
- HoL to establish network with the selected CBOs and other governmental and non-governmental institutions working in the same field and as per the guidelines in page 15
- HoL and hence the network to clearly differentiate between the potential satellites and the potential clients and accordingly develop a comprehensive strategic plan as an learning association, and develop a business plan as a network that can provide capacity building programs on commercial bases.

Folk development education (FDE)

Understanding and usability of the FDE concept

- HoL to develop and maintain publicity strategy, plans, techniques and materials for the FDE approach
- Document the success stories to be used in the publicity processes for the FDE approach

The training system

Training Need Assessment

- HoL to consider conducting a comprehensive training needs assessment when target groups are identified; the assessment must be made on sector bases (Women, Men, Youth, community leaders, government officials, people with special circumstances)
- HoL to prepare a "participant training assessment form/application to be" filled by the potential participant and to be analyzed by HoL as a process to select the final participant for specific training course. This recommendation is not valid for the Learning circles at grassroots level

Training Venues

- HoL to consider the below mentioned criteria when designing/selecting a training venue:
 - Accessibility for all participants
 - Disabled friendly
 - Appropriate size training hall
 - Sufficient space for group work
 - Alternative source of power supply
 - Well-equipped in terms of chairs, tables, lighting, and ventilation
 - All basic requirements (toilets, place for food serving... etc)
 - Quietness and privacy

The progress of this project towards achieving its objectives is attributed to the following factors:

- FDE approach is unique, and appreciated by all stakeholders indicating its suitability and adaptability to the Sudan context, which is similar to the context in which this approach had been introduced in Sweden many years ago.
- Project that tries to approach development from different entry points, eventually becoming complex, difficult to manage and difficult to assess its impact. This project was designed to address specific developmental entry point (capacity building)
- This project built on the experiences accumulated from the well documented previous projects phases being implemented since 1999.
- This project adopted participatory approaches in its implementation.
- HoL staff is very much experienced and truly dedicated to the approach and believe in its great value/benefits for the Sudanese society