

Reporting changes and results

Working with democracy, human rights and peace involves working for a development that takes time. Changes in behaviour, structures and power relations are long-term processes that are also linked to societal development in general. At the same time, you naturally have a responsibility to report the results of your operation as accurately as possible to the members of your organisation and to the target group.

In addition, the Swedish people, who are financing the development work, want to know that their money is going to well-run operations, and the Palme Center and Sida must therefore be able to demonstrate how the funds are being used. Reporting is also important for yourselves, as it helps you to determine what works well and what works less well, and to improve the operation on an ongoing basis.

As mentioned previously, it is important to track developments throughout the entire operation, and to assess how the work is progressing. One good idea is to introduce a final activity in each financial year that centres on collecting and discussing the operation's successes and setbacks in consultation with representatives of the target group and your Swedish partner organisation (if relevant).

One of the more common follow-up questions has to do with what the target group did with its new knowledge, and whether the operation has resulted in any positive change for the target group.

It is useful to discuss questions about the results, such as:

- What has the target group learned through the operation?
- How is the target group using its newly found competences?
- Can any changes be seen in the behaviour and relations among the target group as a result of the project/operation?
- Did this result in any change/improvement for the target group?
- What changes have taken place within the partner organisation as a result of the operation?
- What proof/evidence is there that these changes took place as a result of the operation?
- What were the key processes that led to the changes that have taken place?
- Is it likely that these changes will last? Why?
- Are there any unforeseen changes (positive or negative) that the operation can learn from?

Describe the changes that have taken place as a result of your operation, including “live” examples (case descriptions). Did the people who make up the target group become more active? Did they become members of the organisation, participate in demonstrations, demand their rights by writing protest letters, start pushing for changes in society? At this stage, it is also time to look at the indicators (expected changes in behaviour) you initially established for the operation, i.e. the “measurements” that were to be used to measure changes.

Plan time for a more open discussion about improvements.

Here, you can ask questions such as:

- What do we need to change?
- What do we need to do more of?
- What is the status of the indicators we originally established for the operation?
- Do we need to change the indicators? Add some? Remove some?