

Seminar Report

Lifelong Learning

Capacity Development at Local and Regional Level
Experiences from Latin America Brought Forward

Held at Sida HQ, Stockholm, 29 January 2010



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PROLOGUE

The aim of this report is to document the most interesting contributions from the seminar *Life-long learning: Capacity Development at Local and Regional Level – Experiences from Latin America brought forward* held at Sida in Stockholm on 29 January 2010.

The seminar was organized by Sida and Lund University as one of the exit activities of the regional capacity development programme PROMESHA. The funding from Sida to Lund University for conducting the PROMESHA programme will end during 2010 and it is appropriate to present outcomes and impacts of the programme and provide opportunity for the Latin Americans involved to give testimony on how their professional lives have developed as a result of training activities. The two main aims with the seminar were:

- To discuss how local capacity development through regional educational and training activities can contribute to life-long learning.
- To discuss how the experiences from regional capacity development in Latin America can be used in other regions.

The PROMESHA partners from Latin America, representing universities, NGOs and the private sector, were the key persons in the seminar, all of them with experience in conducting policy seminars and training activities jointly with Housing Development & Management (HDM), Lund University. The presentations and discussions of the seminar were facilitated by Daniel Isaksson from Global Reporting that also was given the responsibility to document the seminar. Göran Tannerfeldt and Henrik Nolmark contributed in the preparation of the seminar and Per Fröberg from Sida was instrumental in the overall coordination of the seminar.

The seminar gave opportunity to share results, experiences and perspectives from capacity development, international training programmes and research cooperation, as well as personal testimonies of the participants and views of independent evaluators and researchers. In the “seminar reporting” section of this report we can read about these

testimonies and views of the partners of the PROMESHA programme, Sida staff members and others involved in capacity development.

There seems to be consensus among the seminar participants that PROMESHA can be referred to as a “best practice” in regional capacity development. This is not only because PROMESHA, during its 15 years of existence, has directly offered capacity development for more than 5,000 decision makers and professionals but also due to the impact on grass root levels and in the strengthening of partner institutions. It may be useful in view of future capacity development programmes to reflect on how this experience has become possible by responding to the following questions.

- How did the regional capacity development programme PROMESHA start?
- How did the programme develop over time, during 15 years of existence?
- What will happen after the support from Sida has ended?

How did the regional capacity development programme PROMESHA start?

Was PROMESHA a response to a formal demand from the region, in line with Sweden’s regional strategy for cooperation with Latin America? Not exactly, the initiative in 1994 came from Lund University.

Having conducted international training programmes, financed by BITS¹, for some years it was evident to us that participants from Latin America were underrepresented in the international training programmes. The local partners of our field and research experience in Central America and Bolivia, however, indicated there indeed was need for capacity development in urban development and housing improvement but many professionals were not able to follow training programmes in English. Therefore when Sida was in the process of expanding the urban and local development programmes in Latin America and the Swedish Government planned to support a housing programme in

Bolivia, Lund University saw an opportunity to present a proposal for a national capacity development programme for Bolivia. The proposal was not rejected by Sida in spite of the “unusual” procedure but a more elaborated proposal was asked for.

A preparatory journey to Bolivia was made and a more comprehensive proposal was elaborated by Lund University and the partner university in Bolivia. This revised proposal was modified to a regional capacity development programme *Improving Low-income housing in Latin America through Institutional Cooperation* that included four countries: Bolivia, Peru, El Salvador and Nicaragua. A provisional steering committee was established with representatives from Sida, the World Bank, Lund University and University of San Simon in Bolivia. Immediately after Sida’s approval the programme was launched in the four focus countries and already in 1995 the first regional course on *Housing Improvements for Low-income Households* was carried out in partnership of University of San Simon in Bolivia and Lund University.

It is obvious that the decision makers of Sida, even after having assessed the proposal with the help of local and international consultants, took a “development” risk in approving the initial phase of the PROMESHA programme and funding it with 3 000 000 SEK.

How did the programme develop over time, during 15 years of existence?

The PROMESHA programme developed step by step in five phases. The first phase lasted 18 months and included four focus countries and four partners in Latin America. The duration of the fifth and last phase was five years; it included eight countries and ten partner organizations in Latin America. Housing Development & Management, Lund University has been the overall responsible for conducting the programme in collaboration with our partners in Latin America.

It is obvious that conducting training activities for more than 5,000 professionals, with ten different partners in eight countries during a fifteen-year period will include some challenges; a few examples are presented here.

Institutional continuity

Even though Sida and the Faculty of Engineering at Lund University have undergone two major reorganizations since 1994 the challenge of institutional continuity has been bigger for some of the PROMESHA partner institutions in Latin America. The NGOs have had fewer difficulties than the universities, especially the public universities. Strategic positions, such as heads of university departments are allocated after internal political elections and this makes it very difficult to achieve continuity in administration and knowledge. This needs to be considered not only in the formal signing of agreements but also in practice when conducting seminars and courses.

Relevant focus and content of training

How is it possible to maintain a relevant and up to date focus of the content of training activities in a region during fifteen years?

The *Needs Assessment Seminars* organized initially in every country have served as an important tool for identifying the country specific need for capacity development. These seminars have been followed by *National Policy Seminars* aiming at facilitating a dialogue between grassroots organizations and national decision makers, always with an emphasis on poverty alleviation. The *National Workshops*, with duration of 1-2 weeks, have targeted immediate needs for capacity development in sometimes critical situations (e.g. reconstruction after natural disasters) and have covered different topics in different countries. Three regional courses and one international course have been developed within the PROMESHA programme. For nine years the course on *Housing Improvement for Low-Income Households* offered by HDM and IIA/UMSS in Cochabamba, Bolivia was the flagship activity of the programme.

In 2002 HDM in partnership with FUPROVI developed a new type of practice oriented international course on *Organized Self-help Housing – Planning and Management*. When the course was initiated FUPROVI had already 15 years of practical experience of planning and management of small scale self-help housing projects in Costa Rica.

This experience became the backbone of the course together with HDMs knowledge from other regions and experience of education at university level. The course targeted not only professionals from Latin America but also from Africa and Asia. This new type of practice oriented courses have later been followed by regional courses on *Disaster Risk Management* conducted in El Salvador with FUSAI and *Technical Assistance and Microfinance for Housing Improvements* conducted in Nicaragua with PRODEL.

The diverse types of training activities offered by the PROMESHA programme has allowed maintaining a relevant and up to date focus and content.

Development policy and trends

There are many important development goals at different levels to be achieved in Sida funded programmes. The goals can easily be understood and justified, but when implementing regional capacity development activities, conflicts can appear between the goals. Inclusive participation in training activities is as important as financial sustainability of capacity development. How do you react if professionals from one country cannot afford the costs of participation in a regional course while professionals from other countries can? If you have a strong focus on institutional development, and institutional belonging is an important selection criterion when selecting participants to a training activities, what happens when professionals are shifting from one institution to another, from public to private.

In these situations the direct and transparent dialogue with Sida and the partner institutions in Latin America has been the most effective way of finding satisfactory procedures, allowing some flexibility in order to prioritize poverty alleviation.

What will happen after the support from Sida has ended?

It is likely that the higher competence and capacity of the thousands of professionals that have participated in PROMESHA educational activities will continue to have a positive development impact in the future. But what will

happen with the institutional partners of PROMESHA, will they continue efforts in capacity development for local development, housing improvement and poverty alleviation? A response to this question was given when all the institutional partners, including HDM, met in Guatemala in November 2009 for a regional closing seminar of the PROMESHA programme. The partners expressed in consensus that:

- Strong relations have been developed between the partner institutions and their staff for fifteen years.
- By continuing to collaborate one can achieve more than individually as national institutions.
- PROMESHA is known “brand” in the region representing high quality courses at international level.

Partners decided to explore how PROMESHA could continue for mutual benefit of the partner institutions and a working group was given the task to prepare a proposal for the next meeting in Sweden in January 2010. This proposal was discussed in Sweden and resulted in the “Statement of intent for continuation of the network PROMESHA” (see appendix).

The first activities of the “new” PROMESHA network were two seminars conducted at the World Urban Forum 5, in Rio de Janeiro 2010. PRODEL has taken the initiative to explore legal possibilities of making PROMESHA into a permanent regional entity. More training activities are planned for 2010. Even though the intensity of training activities has reduced it seems like the journey will continue in some form due the high level of personal and institutional commitment of the partners.

Johnny Åstrand, Director
Housing Development and Management, Lund University

(Endnotes)

1. BITS, (Beredningen för internationellt tekniskt-ekonomiskt samarbete), public agency for development cooperation that merged with the new Sida in 1995.

SEMINAR REPORTING

Lifelong Learning Capacity Development at Local and Regional Level

Experiences from Latin America Brought Forward

Conclusions of the Seminar

Göran Tannerfeldt, Senior Urban Advisor, Structura KB

In the final conclusions Göran Tannerfeldt, former director of the Urban Department at Sida, gave an exposé of the beginning of PROMESHA and summarized the results:

- It is a very successful programme, with low costs. We have calculated the costs to around 10,000 SEK per participant. When comparing it with Sida's International Training Programmes, which cost an estimated 160,000 SEK per participant, it is very cost-efficient, and shows that with small funds and endurance over a long time can make considerable impact.

His colleague Per Fröberg, senior programme manager, Local Governance and Urban Development, Regional Team Latin America & Country Team Zimbabwe agreed, adding that Sida's perspective on development predominantly has been to work with one programme for only three years and then move over to another field.

- The achievements we have heard of today are the results of over 15 years of work. At the time we started, we didn't have the perspectives we have today on capacity development and training.

He continued describing the changing concepts within development cooperation and how all actors have to adapt to these and how these changes affect work.

- Even if urban development is not on the agenda now it will come back soon, said Per Fröberg, adding that never in the history of mankind has the urbanization process gone as fast as it is doing in Africa now.

- Changes in priorities is a reality we live in. Climate change is the problem of today, and the one that we all have to solve. But maybe we should learn to deal with more than one problem at a time, not to forget, for example, that poverty is the major problem not least in urban areas.

Women in poor communities, according to Per Fröberg, are often the best advisers in economical matters and on how to improve houses. The lifelong learning process starts with women who know how to value the needs of plan-

ning for the future. And, also women often use a long-term perspective when planning on how to use their financial resources.

- When asked how they will use their income, they say, "I got an idea, I will use this income from this week, to buy two extra eggs to my children, sandals for one child, and save some for a backpack for my other child". These families will continue to learn for life on how to use their resources and pass it on to their children.

Göran Tannerfeldt recommended more focus from Sida on professional training. Sida has over the years spent a lot of money on primary and secondary education but we have hardly invested anything in the type of training that PROMESHA is doing. The focus on primary training was natural in the beginning of development cooperation, when there were very high rates of illiteracy and few professionals. Now the situation is different. Basic education is still important, but we need a broader approach.

- There has been strong interaction between different training programmes conducted by HDM, Lund University, interaction that was not planned from the beginning, but happened spontaneously. The long-term perspective is one of the main reasons for the success, linkages between capacity development and programme, concluded Per Fröberg.

Pelle Persson, the policy coordinator of urban development at Sida, was not entirely pessimistic in regards of the status of urban development programmes at Sida.

- Urban issues will come into the separate country strategies. Urban is confined as an area, not a sector such as democracy, environment, and climate change. But all these sectors are connected to an urban theme, said Pelle Persson.

- The success of the PROMESHA programme is due to the fact that it was a Latin American programme, not Swedish. We haven't exported Swedish experiences, rather facilitated Latin American experiences being spread throughout the region, said Per Fröberg.



Project visit in Juigalpa, Nicaragua. Photo, PRODEL

Local ownership, flexibility and long-term commitment together with a mix of organizations representing civil society, professionals, government and communities are the components of a successful regional capacity building programmes in urban development.

– We have learnt by doing and also from what has been done in other countries, by other organizations, and by looking at which elements we could use and how we could build capacity mobilizing local resources with Swedish support, said Marlon Olivas, representing PRODEL, from Nicaragua.

– The poverty in Latin America will remain and probably even grow. With PROMESHA professional contacts and networks have been created, and we are sharing institutional experiences. We will continue to work together because we need to continue sharing experiences, said Karla Benitez from the El Salvadorian Cement and Concrete Institute (ISCYC).

Lifelong learning, a concept that evolved in the PROMESHA programme, emphasizes the importance of continuous learning, both for professionals, civil society, community leaders and government officials. But the methods and experiences drawn from the lifelong learning concept can be used in a wide range of capacity building programmes in development cooperation.

At the closing seminar, the members of the programme as well as other capacity building sectors within and outside Sida, discussed experiences and results drawn from various capacity building programmes comparing them with the successful regional capacity development programme PROMESHA.



Morning Session

Welcome

Hans Magnusson, Sida, Regional Cooperation, Latin America

– We are here today to listen to the work that has benefitted hundreds of thousand of low income households in Latin America and other areas of the world. Some of the impacts were expected, yet others were not expected, said Hans Magnusson, director of Conflict and Post-Conflict Country Programmes at Sida, in the welcoming address.

Capacity building in urban development programmes in Latin America has been carried out through support within the frameworks of Sida's International Training Programmes (ITPs), scientific support through SAREC, Sida's department for Research Cooperation, and through institutional support to five programmes in five different countries.

– As an example, from being a small organisation, initially providing housing for refugees from the civil war, FUSAI has grown today to a national programme with 24 offices in El Salvador and is basically a bank for the poor in El Salvador, said Hans Magnusson.

Introduction to the PROMESHA Programme

Key components and regional training strategy

Laura Liuke, HDM, Department of Housing Development & Management, Lund University

Architect Laura Liuke, at the Housing Development & Management Department (HDM) at Lund University, the Swedish partner in the PROMESHA programme, presented the overall objectives and results of the programme:

– Initially PROMESHA evolved from a Sida supported International Training Programme organized by HDM. The idea to form a regional capacity building programme in Latin America originated from the fact that very few

Latin Americans speak English, which is a requirement to participate in the International Training Programmes, said Laura Liuke.

The regional capacity building programme PROMESHA, supported by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sida, from 1995 up to 2009, aimed at strengthening the capacity of NGOs, professionals, local governments, communities and decision makers. More than 15,000 people from Bolivia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Peru have participated at workshops, policy seminars, regional courses and conducted research within the programme.

Between 2002 and 2007 six international courses were held in Costa Rica with 25 participants each year from Asia and Africa. The theme was organized self-help housing, planning and management. The idea was to use the Costa Rican experiences and see how these could be adapted to other realities. The regional courses sought to create a better understanding and increase capacity on critical themes as well as finding the necessary actions needed to produce and improve the social context and housing. Nine regional courses were organized in Bolivia during the first ten years of the programme. The last three years, PRODEL in Nicaragua has implemented a regional course that combines microfinance and technical assistance, and FUSAI in El Salvador has developed a regional course on disaster risk management.

– Seminars on housing policies were held to stimulate constructive national dialogues and to respond to the needs of influencing policy makers, said Laura Liuke.

National workshops were practical courses, organized to meet specific local needs on capacity building. Research, study and evaluations were made on key themes in order to systematize the knowledge. Publications were produced to disseminate the results achieved, as well as to use in capacity building itself.

The objective of the institutional development component was to consolidate the capacity of each partner as well as to improve the quality and the capacity in general and to improve the research and the political dialogue between different actors in housing policies.

“Good housing is not the act of wishful thinking but comes through professional knowledge. Urban matter is a very serious issue and needs serious and professional attention.”

Sonia Jiménez, Bolivia



– We succeeded in creating a system, which we could modify over time. The result is that we have been able to build a lot of capacity on a variety of themes, but we have also learnt more about the value of lifelong professional learning, said Laura Liuke.

She also pointed out that the organizations HDM collaborated with in Latin America now organize courses by themselves, thus resulting in the development of capacity developers.

Social Housing Improvement and Capacity Development

Results of the programme and challenges for the future – Presentation of concrete results

Sonia Jiménez, IIA/UMSS, Instituto de Investigación de Arquitectura/Universidad Mayor de San Simón, Bolivia

The PROMESHA programme in Bolivia started with the aim of supporting housing improvements for low-income families. The vision was to create better understanding on improvement and on living conditions for the urban poor.

– The high deficit in health, education and housing is the reason why PROMESHA started, said Sonia Jiménez, who works at the Instituto de Investigaciones de Arquitectura at the University of San Simon in Cochabamba, Bolivia.

The first courses were intended for those with a university degree but later also included those without formal education. An estimated 63 percent of the people in Bolivia have built their own houses, often the quality of the constructions are low, the space where they are built is often not suited for constructions and the communities often lack basic social services.

– The planning of housing is poor creating chaotic occupation of space and speculation, continued Sonia Jiménez, who has been involved in the PROMESHA programme since the beginning in 1995.

During 15 years the PROMESHA programme has had various positive results in which Sonia Jiménez highlighted the following:

– In Cochabamba regional courses were held between 1995 and 2004, with people from various Latin American countries participating in seminars on housing policies, with NGOs, people from local, regional and national level.

– We have trained community leaders, academics, university students, and teachers from the faculty of architecture. All together thousands of people have been trained, said Sonia Jiménez.

– The national activities included seminars for the constitutional assembly to write a new constitution. The University of San Simon also organized seminars on housing policies on national, regional and local levels, including seminars for all the nine departments of Bolivia. Apart from these PROMESHA in Bolivia also organized practical and theoretical courses.

– What impact have we had? Among many things we have participated in an institutional agreement on the national programme for housing and planning. We have also played an important role in implementing Article 19 in the constitution of Bolivia, which states the right to a decent housing to all Bolivians. And we have been part of improving the efficiency among public and private actors in the housing sector, concluded Sonia Jiménez.

One participant at a regional course held in Bolivia stressed the importance of improving professional know-how:

– Good housing is not the act of wishful thinking but comes through professional knowledge. Urban matter is a very serious issue and needs serious and professional attention.

Another participant wanted to know if the constitutional right to decent living could lead to errors such as those committed in South Africa, where housing for the poor were located in areas where few wanted to live.

– Of course errors have been committed on local, regional and national levels, said Sonia Jiménez, adding that some of those errors help us improve our capacity activities.



"I agree we cannot think in improved houses only, but we need to see improved communities through the mobilization of neighbourhoods, and we need to look at what kind of activities support economic development of an area. We need to include private business such as construction companies, and those who create employment and thus contribute."

Marlon Olivas, Nicaragua

Reina de Cabrera, FUSAI, Fundación Salvadoreña de Apoyo Integral, El Salvador

In El Salvador FUSAI has been an essential partner to PROMESHA. Created as an NGO in 1992 to assist the re-integration people displaced by the civil war, FUSAI has grown into an agency financing both rural and urban groups for new housing, housing improvements and income-generating activities.

– The main focuses of FUSAI's work over the 15 years with PROMESHA have been social housing in low income areas and capacity building in risk management, said Reina Cabrera.

Their work in low income areas has resulted in a series of political recommendations, which have helped in the formation of a national policy on housing, something that did not exist previously.

– Although we lack resources for a sustainable programme for housing in the country we have at least a national policy. There is also a programme for housing loans to poor families, although the costs make them inaccessible for poor people and we still lack subsidies to make up for the high costs, said Reina Cabrera.

Because of El Salvador's geography, the country is highly prone to recurrent natural catastrophes, such as earthquakes, volcanoes, storms and hurricanes. With global warming these risks would increase. In meeting and improving managing the risks of natural catastrophes FUSAI designed and executed various courses in risk management and tools to meet catastrophes. They also organised a diploma course within PROMESHA regional programme in social management.

– Our idea was to focus on prevention and mitigation of risks, said Reina Cabrera.

She also recommended that people are given tools for risk management, and that risk management becomes a crosscutting issue incorporated in all local, regional and national plans.

– We need to evaluate risks before we build. To accomplish this we need to improve our capacity and find alternative funds.

The future challenges, according to Reina Cabrera, is that of finding resources but also to incorporate risk management into the design and production of new housing projects, as well as strengthening the capacity building.

David Isaksson, the moderator of the seminar, asked if FUSAI has learnt any lessons from disaster management to share with Haiti.

– Yes, Haiti can learn from our experiences, especially on how to manage resources that come in to the country after the disaster. A lot of resources come in but because of the bureaucracy and a general fear of misappropriation of funds, resources do not reach those affected. We must become better in approving and channelling funds for reconstruction, said Reina Cabrera.

Maritza Canek, FDLG, Fideicomiso para el Desarrollo Local en Guatemala, Guatemala

In Guatemala the trust fund FDLG, has existed since 2000 and is funded by Sida. The director of FDLG, Maritza Canek, presented the trust fund in Stockholm:

– The aim of the trust fund is to improve the quality of life of poor people and to participate in the development of a more democratic society.

FDLG, like PRODEL in Nicaragua and FUSAI in El Salvador, channels resources to specialized microfinance intermediary institutions, cooperatives and banks. FDLG channels funds to institutions, such as foundations, rural development organizations, credit institutions as well as to one bank. These intermediaries in turn give credit to marginalized people. The loans can either be used to build houses or for income-generating activities. The second aim of the FDLG is to give technical assistance to strengthen the intermediary institutions they work with.

– Without technical assistance families who take loans run a high risk of indebting themselves, which could result in constructors taking over the properties.

Extreme poverty in Guatemala is worst in the rural areas and affects mostly women and indigenous groups, which is why most of FDLG's projects are aimed towards these groups.

“We cannot copy and paste experiences from one context to another. We have respect for those we work with, trust them and see development as a process, not as a chain of activities.”

Maritza Canek, Guatemala



FDLG works through 14 organizations that are active in 107 locations. They are active in each of the communities including those that speak local languages.

- We need the intermediaries who work with people in the field. In Guatemala there is a historical distrust of the government, and initially, many refused to work with us, since we are a governmental fund.

- We cannot copy and paste experiences from one context to another. We have respect for those we work with, trust them and see development as a process, not as a chain of activities, said Maritza Canek.

Marlon Olivas, PRODEL, Fundación para la Promoción del Desarrollo Local, Nicaragua

Marlon Olivas, director of the foundation PRODEL presented some of their achievements reached within the cooperation of PROMESHA:

- Our organization began as a national organization, supported by Sweden. Along the years we have innovated the way we work in order to reach our goals, but always with the aim of working with and for poor families.

The three main objectives for PRODEL are improving the environment, houses and income of households in poor communities. The organization started as a government programme in 1993, and became a non-profit private institution in 2003. It functions as a second-tier organization, providing lines of credit to seven micro-finance institutions for housing improvements and income-generating activities. It also provides technical assistance.

- We have learnt by doing and also from what has been done in other countries, by other organizations, and by looking at which elements we could use and how we could build capacity mobilizing local resources with Swedish support.

Among their main achievements, Marlon Olivas mentions to work and coordinate together with a variety of actors representing public and private sectors as well as civil society organizations.

PROMESHA has given PRODEL the possibility to share experiences with 17 partner organizations in Latin America. The interchange has given professionals both abilities to excel in their own fields, and a possibility to share experiences with other Latin American professionals.

In summarizing the PRODEL projects, Marlon Olivas mentioned 700 improved neighbourhoods, 28,000 improved houses, 78,000 micro-businesses financed and the 55,000 families that have received assistance. The cost for the programme has been financed with local inputs of almost the same size as the funds received from Sweden (17.2 million USD). Apart from these PRODEL has received 12 million USD from other finance institutions or funds.

- Because of our credit record we were asked to give financing assistance to one of the largest housing organizations in Nicaragua, Habitat for Humanity. They suffered from a growing credit deficit, which they could improve with our assistance. Secondary impacts have been improved security and calmness through street lighting and other programmes.

- The challenges are so large and we need private initiatives. There are mutual benefits and I believe there should be a permanent cooperation between the private and public sectors, said Marlon Olivas.

Helena Reuterswärd, programme officer at Sida's department for policy issues commented on the importance of cooperation between sectors such as education, health, electricity, water and sanitation and housing.

- I agree we cannot think in improved houses only, but we need to see improved communities through the mobilization of neighbourhoods, and we need to look at what kind of activities support economic development of an area. We need to include private business such as construction companies, and those who create employment and thus contribute, said Marlon Olivas.



Ivette Arroyo and Mario Martín

"Each academic in our PROMESHA programme has had a multiplying factor with extending networks, something we didn't foresee when this started."

Ivette Arroyo, Ecuador

Capacity Development and Lifelong Learning

Impact of the programme at individual and institutional level and for the end users – How to develop professional capacity in a longterm perspective?

Panel discussion of PROMESHA partners:

Mario Martín, CEDAC Centro de Diseño, Arquitectura y Construcción, Honduras

Ivette Arroyo, IPUR-UCSG Instituto de Planificación Urbana y Regional – Universidad Católica de Santiago de Guayaquil, Ecuador

Carmen González, FUPROVI Fundación Promotora de Vivienda, Costa Rica

Sandra Drummond, MejorHa Asociación para el Mejoramiento Habitacional de Guatemala, Guatemala

Following the presentations above a panel comprised of Mario Martín from CEDAC, rector at a private university in Honduras, Ivette Arroyo, director of a research institute IPUR in Ecuador, Carmen González, research manager at the foundation FUPROVI in Costa Rica and Sandra Drummond director of the NGO MejorHa, in Guatemala, discussed sustainable capacity building. Mario Martín, from CEDAC, talked about the growing importance private universities have in Latin America. Previously, planning and improved living conditions were academic areas that only state universities dealt with. Today this is changing across the region.

Since 1997 CEDAC has been involved with the government in local development programmes as well as been part in the forming of a national land law and regulation.

– In Honduras 45 percent of the students study at private universities, which is why we have to be involved in social housing, said Mario Martín. He also mentioned the reduced revenue that the state of Honduras has suffered which also has affected the state universities.

– The private universities will have to educate the managers, leaders and civil servants, he concluded.

In Ecuador in the past, the universities have not been involved in meeting the basic needs of the citizens. But thanks to PROMESHA programme the academics are becoming more involved.

– Each academic in our PROMESHA programme has had a multiplying factor with extending networks, something we didn't foresee when this started, said Ivette Arroyo.

IPUR's research topics are related to precarious settlements, environmental friendly materials, housing construction as well as evaluations and technical assistance in housing. IPUR also work with reviewing housing policies and land issues.

– The challenge for us in the future is to educate young professionals with a sense of social responsibility who can continue to work for social improvements, said Ivette Arroyo.

The foundation FUPROVI in Costa Rica, created in 1987, is one the first social housing organizations Sida cooperated with in Latin America. FUPROVI contributes with its own funds and works through the formal banking system in Costa Rica. The organization also lends directly to families.

– We have been able to contribute with our view of a neighbourhood community concept. We were the first with this focus and we have been able to show results, systematize a process and also to initiate research in this.

– To achieve the rights to decent living conditions and create sustainable and agreeable cities we need a new dimension where both poor and rich people's needs are met, continued Carmen González.

The main challenges facing Costa Rica, according to Carmen González, is the understanding and adaption to the new reality of the market driven reality.

– We need to focus on the young, the new generation that will work for the poor when we are not going to be here any more. The difficulties our countries are facing are the constant need for development at the same time as we face growing inequalities within our countries. It is a shame how large parts of the people in Costa Rica live under bad living conditions, concluded Carmen González.

"With the capacity building programme we have been able to promote a space for dialogue between different actors, something that is very scarce in Guatemala."

Sandra Drummond, Guatemala



Carmen González and Sandra Drummond

Sandra Drummond from the NGO MejorHa, attended a course in Sweden regarding architecture and development in 1997. After the course she returned to Guatemala with a new vision.

- With the capacity building programme we have been able to promote a space for dialogue between different actors, something that is very scarce in Guatemala. People from civil society and decision makers can now sit together and discuss issues of social housing.

Those involved in urban issues and housing are often from the elite in Guatemala.

- Often the planning departments do not listen to us. When they plan a green belt around a municipality it usually affects the poor areas, said Sandra Drummond.

A very low percentage of the population in Guatemala have any academic degree. For those without academic degree it may be good with short and practical education, the PROMESHA programme organized courses, workshops and seminars for community leaders, said Sandra Drummond.

- The more activities we have the easier it becomes to keep practical lifelong learning sustainable, said Sandra Drummond.

For Mario Martín at CEDAC, the most imminent risk is the one of losing the knowledge that has been created within the PROMESHA:

- Knowledge in our country is still very scarce and there is a risk that it disappears. Our challenge is to maintain the knowledge and the experience created. And to that we need to continue our work, he concluded:

- Capacity building is the best idea, but it does not always spread and multiply. Often, people lose the interest to improve the neighbourhood and the community once the house is built, said Carmen González.

Per Fröberg, programme officer at Sida, asked Carmen González how FUPROVI prepares a community when they are phasing out a programme.

- We try to strengthen the community, create schools for groups and leaders so that they are prepared when the neighbourhood is constructed. We also have a follow-up system, answered Carmen González.

Several persons brought up the difficulties in facing constant political changes and the lack of institutional continuity within local and national decision makers.

- The political discontinuity is our greatest threat. Basically in our countries we have to face a complete new development model every time we change government, said Mario Martín.

- There is lack of interest in poverty among politicians. There is also a constant lack of resources for the poor. The political area of urban issues is disappearing, added one participant.

Marlon Olivas explained the political situation in Nicaragua, with constant political change in governments, where two separate fields have been created, the social and the political. The social field has been able to continue the development work even when the political establishment is changed:

- Instead of having to create a new programme every time a new mayor is elected, we have been internalizing the ideas within the communities. In this way we have been able to continue to do our work when a new mayor is elected, said Marlon Olivas.

PROMESHA in the Future

Concrete ideas and plans for future collaboration within the PROMESHA network

Mario Rodríguez, Rodríguez y Asociados, Costa Rica
Karla Benitez, ISCYC Instituto Salvadoreño del Cemento y el Concreto, El Salvador

Mario Rodríguez, CEO of the company Rodríguez y Asociados in Costa Rica, former project director and cofounder of FUPROVI, presented the future of PROMESHA together with the architect and technical expert Karla Benitez from the El Salvadorian Cement and Concrete Institute (ISCYC).



“... we live in an era when everything must go fast. But in finding ways of cooperation we must let it take time.”

“We have local and regional courses in microfinance, and we have formed a board of directors, which shows that we believe in maintaining the directions and the wealth created in PROMESHA.”

Mario Rodríguez, Costa Rica

– When we began working together with Sweden, although we had many different views on what we should do and how, there was always an ability to find solutions. With our Swedish partners we found respect and someone who actually viewed us as real partners. They saw our disadvantages as opportunities. There was always a mutual respect, clarity in missions and visions and the ability to transmit ideas that last, said Mario Rodríguez.

To work with those who are marginalized takes a lot of commitment and hard work. And it takes time to develop a project and it also takes time to share experiences between each other.

– But we live in an era when everything must go fast. But in finding ways of cooperation we must let it take time.

Finding alternative resources is very important for PROMESHA to continue:

– We have local and regional courses in microfinance, and we have formed a board of directors, which shows that we believe in maintaining the directions and the wealth created in PROMESHA.

Karla Benitez, with ISCYC in El Salvador, emphasized the Latin American needs when arguing for the continuation of the regional programme without funding from Sweden.

– The poverty in Latin America will remain and probably even grow. With PROMESHA professional contacts and networks have been created, and we are sharing institutional experiences. We will continue to work together because we need to continue sharing experiences, Karla Benitez said.

She suggested that the partners in PROMESHA continue to work under one structure with a rotating leadership, one that can serve when exchanging experiences with other regions that face similar problems.

– We do not want the competence and capacity of PROMESHA to be lost and therefore we have all signed a declaration of intent to continue the work in a new legal form.



After having received the Statement of Intent for Continuation of the Network PROMESHA, handed over by Mario Rodríguez, Karin Rohlin also receives a plaque, presented by Sonia Jiménez, commemorating the cooperation between Sida and PROMESHA.



Photos in clockwise direction:

*Improved infrastructure by PRODEL
in Juigalpa, Nicaragua (LL)*

*Disaster mitigation – Study visit
by FUSAI in El Salvador (LL)*

Self-help housing in Costa Rica (JÅ)

Vertical densification in Lima, Peru (JÅ)

Experimental house in Ecuador by IPUR (JÅ)

Housing in Honduras by FUNDEVI (LL)

(LL) - Photos by Laura Liuke

(JÅ) - Photos by Johnny Åstrand





Afternoon Session

Introduction

Karin Rohlin, Sida, head of Regional Cooperation, Latin America

In a broader discussion on lifelong learning the seminar discussed capacity building programmes through Sida's International Training Programmes (ITPs) and research cooperation within SAREC, Sida's Research Cooperation Department, which has supported research dealing with issues related to urban development and disaster prevention.

- The PROMESHA programme, with the training and capacity building of seven different counterparts in cooperation with Lund University, has trained key agents in the work of improved housing. The programme has supported the capacity building of more than 5,000 city planners, engineers, and many more grass root organizations and individuals, said Karin Rohlin, head of Latin America's regional cooperation programme at Sida.

Karin Rohlin also mentioned the establishment of a worldwide network and the development of the concept of lifelong training, which emanated in the programme. One of the main components is a strong sense of ownership and forward looking. For the following presentation and discussions she asked these questions:

- What is it that you find the most important characteristics for the future in habitat?

- What models for long term development can we build on?

- And for capacity building, what training models have evolved and what have driven the models forward?

Also, for Sida it is important to record how we deal with issues that are central for Sweden in development cooperation, such as gender awareness, indigenous rights and natural disaster prevention.

- Housing and urban development will continue, but what will happen when Swedish funding now ends, asked Karin Rohlin.

PROMESHA

Lessons learned, what could be brought forward to similar initiatives in Africa and Asia?

Gustavo Riofrío, DESCO, Centro de Estudios y Promoción del Desarrollo, Perú

Gustavo Riofrío began with expressing his gratitude for the PROMESHA programme.

- I have three comments that I want to share. First, to work with poor people, one needs a strong will, dedication and ethics. Generally the work is not well paid because the people we work for are not in the condition to pay for the services we provide. But, there is a grave error in believing that ethics and good will is enough. Lack of knowledge and professionalism will lead us wrong.

- The second point is the importance of gender equality. Starting from the needs of the poor is another rationale which needs to be spread, he said.

- Thirdly I want to point out the political aspects. We have political problems in our countries. Often we look for the good dictator to solve our problems. But I believe this is wrong. Yes, power is important, but there is much you can do that deals with policies but not politics. The design of new policies is one thing we have reached.

- There is a saying that urgent matters do not leave time for important issues. With Swedish cooperation in PROMESHA it was the important issues, not the urgent matters that we focused on, and those matters needed external help to put on political agenda, said Gustavo Riofrío.

He continued stating that the strength of the programme has been the ability to deal with policies without meddling into the internal affairs of another country.

In respect of what Latin America can give to other continents, specifically to Africa, Gustavo Riofrío gave some references. In the 1960s Latin American cities were exploding. In the big Latin American cities, 75 percent of the urban population live in consolidated shantytowns.

"There is a saying that urgent matters do not leave time for important issues. With Swedish cooperation in PROMESHA it was the important issues, not the urgent matters that we focused on, and those matters needed external help to put on political agenda."

Gustavo Riofrío, Peru



– City planners normally do not think about what the house will be in 30 years. The only ones interested in how it will look are the women of the house. For me they are the best listeners, he said.

New migrants in Tanzania build sheds, but the next generation will build rural houses, according to Gustavo Riofrío.

– Poor people from rural areas do not like to live in apartments, true, but the second generation do not have any problems to live on the second floor. New experiences can easily be spread with Swedish support, the respect and kindness can be used to our brothers and sisters and other cities around the world, he concluded.

International Training Programmes for Strategic Capacity Development and Lifelong Learning *Challenges for the future*

Johnny Åstrand, HDM, Department of Housing Development & Management, Lund University

Johnny Åstrand is the director of Housing Development & Management (HDM) at Lund University and the one who initiated the PROMESHA programme in 1995.

– We have worked since 1991 with different kinds of capacity building programmes, with a total of more than 6,000 participants, including Sida's International Training Programmes (ITP), but also Master and PhD programmes with Sida/SAREC funding.

The first capacity building programme within development cooperation at HDM started in 1991. A course in housing and local development was not within the framework of BITS¹ but HDM could hold a course in international construction management. HDM developed later a course on architecture and development.

– It was to 100 percent a course in housing and local development. Participants from Sida supported programmes in these courses did not really fit into the rigid selection criterias, said Johnny Åstrand, thus giving an example of the need for innovative management and flexibility in programmes.

In giving examples of lifelong learning Johnny Åstrand went through the professional careers of Mario Rodríguez from Costa Rica and Ivette Arroyo from Ecuador, and how these individuals since 1992 have developed their professional careers with a focus on social housing through participation in HDM's International Training Programmes, PhD studies and PROMESHA.

Finally he listed the lessons learnt by HDM during the last two decades and identified possible challenges to be faced in introducing new regional capacity development programmes for Africa and Asia:

Lessons learnt by HDM:

- The cost of capacity development is significant and cannot be borne by course participants alone
- To aim for sector change is more efficient than only institutional strengthening
- Multi-stakeholder participation gives maximum impact
- Inclusive selection of participants is important
- Continuity and institutional memory is also very important

Challenges in developing new regional capacity development programmes:

- How to *design* programmes to facilitate life long learning?
- How to *procure* programmes to facilitate life long learning?
- How to *coordinate* programmes to facilitate life long learning?
- How to use institutional capacity efficiently?
- How to use alumni capacity efficiently?
- Development trends versus long-term perspectives.

(Endnotes)

1. BITS, (Beredningen för internationell tekniskt ekonomisk samarbete) public agency for development cooperation that merged with the new Sida in 1995.



"The strength of PROMESHA is that it is anchored in the local and regional context, which will continue to draw fruits when Sida withdraws."

Inger-Lise Syversen, Sweden

The Role of Research Cooperation

How can researchers, institutions and CBOs interact for a lifelong learning?

Thomas Kjellkvist, Sida, Research Cooperation

Thomas Kjellkvist, Sida's director of the Secretariat for Research Cooperation, presented Sida's new strategy for research cooperation, which is in place since November 2009. The overall goal of the strategy is to assist partner countries and regional actors to plan, produce and use research assets.

– Our experience is that we have done a lot of research training, which has been essential to our partners. Without the researcher there wouldn't be any teachers who could train new researchers. But now, we need to move upwards towards policy makers. We must work with policy makers to better understand the needs of communicating research results and strengthening collaborations.

The new strategy has been drafted from Sida's experiences from bilateral research cooperation from for example urban planning departments at Makerere University in Uganda. In Tanzania a total of 40 researchers have received training. He also brought up Sida's partners in Bolivia that now have reached sustainable levels at the research institutions.

Thomas Kjellkvist then took up the work of the international surveillance sites within the Indepth Surveillance Sites Network, where health researchers actually substitute the work of demographic institutions.

– The surveillance site in Leon, Nicaragua has been following for almost 25 years public health related issues on house hold levels, said Thomas Kjellkvist.

Another example of urban development research is the programme of Resilient Cities at AIT CSUCA. He also mentioned the EU framework cooperation within peri-urban water and sanitation as examples of research development cooperation within urban sector as well as the fact that Sida also supports Swedish researcher.

– These are various examples of collaboration and how researchers are involved in the design of various policies. They are also examples on how researchers have collaborated in small enterprises and with community based organizations. Some times these collaborations have just occurred. And we have looked on how to be more systemic within research matters, he said. Thomas Kjellkvist then took up the new model for universities and how this model can be applied in development cooperation.

Research in the traditional model was primarily geared towards publications for other scientists to improve research theories and methods. And education at universities was viewed as preparing students for an academic career. Those who did not make it to the academic career would then be available for society. The information and services universities provided are in this traditional model mainly unidirectional. Any influence from society outside the academia was merely accidental.

The traditional university model has been challenged by the political system and society at large. The criticism claimed that research must meet social needs, students should be prepared for the labour market and the information services must be replaced with communication.

The academia defended itself in claiming that it could meet social needs as long as its independence was not at risk. And yes, the students should be prepared for labour market but must first meet academic standards. Finally a communication emphasis should not endanger the academic freedom.

A necessary change to meet the conflicting views on universities was met by the triple helix university model, where on top of the traditional triangle model a new triangle was placed, allowing for commissioned and commercial education, research for society purposes and a science driven innovation that is linked closer to private and public sectors.

– This new model has put an emphasis on the needs for new policies for higher education, research and innovation also in research development cooperation. In developed countries science parks etcetera exist, but not so much in Sida's partner countries, he said.

"Africa is more regionally divided. What I like about social housing programmes and the PROMESHA is that it is a tool to strengthen communities. That is what I see of what PROMESHA can export to Africa. Housing can be a tool to build communities, which is what Africa needs."

Gabriel Marin Castro, Sweden



– So how can we assist in building up a system around the triple helix university model, in our cooperation country partners, asked Thomas Kjellkvist.

He also pointed out the importance of aligning with systems and to strengthen the research components.

– In countries we collaborate with, where there are few researchers, it is important that we use the most sophisticated research methods, and we have to be careful or the entire system can be destroyed, said Thomas Kjellkvist.

He also concluded that it is possible to get more funding for commissioned research but in doing this there is risk of diluting the research capacity at the universities.

– Bolivia is not rich country, we have helped the university in selling courses, but it is hard to find any buyers for some courses, such as local development. Commissioned education can work in some areas but not in others. For it to work one needs a commissioner and a buyer of the courses, if not, we would have to rely more on idealism or have a development partner to pay for it, commented Johnny Åstrand.

– I have worked long time in the field, and I'm not an academic. I meet doctors who come in and complicate my life, and when they come in I often have to fix the programme. So I have become allergic to doctors, said consultant Gabriel Marin.

The Way Ahead – Panel Discussion

How can the experience from PROMESHA, ITP and Research Cooperation be used in different settings?

Inge-Lise Syversen, Chalmers – University of Technology

Mario Rodríguez, Rodríguez y Asociados, Costa Rica

Henrik Nolmark, Node

Hasse Ericsson, NCG Consultants

Gabriel Marin Castro, SIPU International

Erik Johansson, HDM, Lund University

A panel composed of Inger-Lise Syversen, professor and architect at Chalmers University of Technology, Hasse Ericsson of NCG Consultants, Henrik Nolmark from Node, Mario Rodríguez, director of Rodríguez y Asociados, Costa Rica, Erik Johansson, researcher at HDM, Lund University and Gabriel Marin, consultant in urban development at SIPU International, discussed how experiences from PROMESHA, ITP and research cooperation can be used in different settings.

Inger-Lise Syversen, who has been working with African universities since 1982, believes the PROMESHA model is sustainable. The strength of the programme is the dedication and involvement of people and NGOs locally.

– The strength of PROMESHA is that it is anchored in the local and regional context, which will continue to draw fruits when Sida withdraws, Inger-Lise Syversen said.

Gabriel Marin who has worked as consultant both in Africa and Latin America, brought up the importance of the political situation:

– Africa is more regionally divided. What I like about social housing programmes and the PROMESHA is that it is a tool to strengthen communities. That is what I see of what PROMESHA can export to Africa. Housing can be a tool to build communities, which is what Africa needs, he said.

Gabriel Marin also emphasised the need to strengthen capacity of middle level professionals in Africa, and to do this one also needs to improve the middle level capacity building.

Mario Rodríguez who has worked as consultant both in Africa and Latin America elaborated on what the difficulties are in bringing capacity from Central America to South Africa.

– In the beginning we thought it would work well. People in South Africa were well organized and needed technical capacity, something we thought we could provide. They told us they wanted to share documents, and then we translated our documents into English.

But, according to Mario Rodríguez, some of the most important findings are not written in the documents. Behind every document lay hours of work and a long learning process.



"There are great possibilities in adopting new models for training programmes. But we need a longterm focus integrated into a lot of the activities we do. It is also important to be present in an area, not only in performing a number of activities. "

Hasse Ericsson, Sweden

–We said that we do things in one way because we have gone through a learning process.

The important thing is to create a process where one constantly is learning from prior problems on how to deal with housing.

– In the beginning we were divided into sectors, builders, social workers, architects, communities, civil servants etc. In the process we learnt that housing is about working together. Solving future problems is now the main idea today. It is not the way we are doing things it is how we learn to sequence things, said Mario Rodríguez.

Henrik Nolmark, representing Node and with 20 years experience of working both for funding organisations and as a consultant, explained that many of the misunderstandings between researchers and practitioners lay in what one expects from a researcher and the practitioners.

– It is wrong to believe that researchers have the answers and solutions to our problems. Researchers don't come up with answers but raise questions. If you want simplifications and answers, you should go to consultants.

He suggested that all work on urban planning situations together, skip the roles we have, and just let people meet and talk together.

– Then you would start a learning process. Bringing people with different experiences and types of professions and groups together will allow us to tear down the walls between us, he said.

– We both have our range of instruments, funding mechanisms. Often we stumble on nice interesting proposals when people say "yes it's a nice idea but it doesn't fit within our structure". I suggest donors allow more flexibility and room for deviation from the programmes, said Henrik Nolmark.

Hasse Ericsson, NCG Consultants, has evaluated International Training Programmes for Sida. His general recommendation supported Henrik Nolmark's conclusion, that we need more flexibility, and we need the ability to go back in loops, several loops in order to return to what were the original goals.

He has a long experience from working in Africa with capacity development. Another recommendation he gave was that programmes should be long-term in order to be successful.

– There are great possibilities in adopting new models for training programmes. But we need a long term focus integrated into a lot of the activities we do. It is also important to be present in an area, not only in performing a number of activities.

He also mentioned that there are a lot of challenges in doing International Training Programmes, which is an individual type of training, especially in making the individuals into change agents within and outside their organization, as the objective is today:

–We are successful in some cases but not always. Some time there is a lack of support from the employers.

Hasse Ericsson also expressed a need to develop more integrated programmes in International Training Programmes with a clear approach to cross sector programmes, such as climate change.

– If you ask individuals what they think of International Training Programmes, they will answer "yes it is good", because there are elements that are beneficial for them as individuals. But to evaluate all the results, such as those caused by networks created in the training courses, we need longer perspective, concluded Hasse Ericsson.

It took 15-20 years for PROMESHA to become what it is, and we are often asked, in our work, to reach what they did in only two years. We have to be realistic. Many go to Africa with the idea that in two years they will change everything. Yes International Training Programmes have an impact but it is only one in many that have impact in development, said Gabriel Marin.

Erik Johansson, HDM, Lund University, expert in urban comfort and urban climate, brought up the fact that Africa is much less urbanized than Latin America, and that the region will go through a rapid urbanization, with higher use of energy.

– The building sector is a big consumer of energy (40 percent of energy use). The construction of energy efficient buildings will therefore be very important.

He continued mentioning the facts that cities are hotter than the countryside, and with warmer climate due to climate change, they will become even hotter which will

have health consequences. Other consequences related to climate change and cities located on the shores in Africa are problems related to rising sea levels.

Inger-Lise Syversen agreed on the importance climate change work can have when working in a regional context.

- It is normally difficult to work regionally in Africa, where national borders are holy lines very difficult to break up. But if we find themes to work around it is possible to break up the borders, and work with regional programmes around cultural lines.

As an example she mentioned programmes they have worked on in the Lake Victoria Region:

- We have found themes that people can work together with across borders. Cultural heritage, which is my area, has allowed us to work across borders, without any problems.

When moving over to discuss what lessons to learn from regarding disaster management in Latin America, Gabriel Marin brought up the experiences Chile has in working with national disasters.

- We know there are no short-term solutions. There are some areas today where people have lived temporarily 20 years after a disaster. People will have to be involved in long time solutions, he said.

In relation to reconstruction after a disaster Mario Rodríguez brought up the proverb his mother used:

- “Since it is for the moment we need to do it in a good way”. We are doing too many things with only a short-term perspective.

In illustrating the example he brought up the reconstruction of communities and houses in Costa Rica after an earthquake in January 2009. Although Costa Rica has the right regulations and engineers and architects who know what is needed to construct houses, there still are lots of construction problems.

- We found that people were building their houses exactly the same way, the wrong way, as they had before the earthquake. Poor people don't have the resources to go to engineers and architects they need.

Mario Rodríguez took also up the issue of subsidies for poor comparing these with actual subsidies the rich rely on.

- When we argue for subsidies to poor we are often met by the argument that ‘subsidy is not long-term solution’. But the fact is that the business community and the rich receive lots of subsidies in the construction of infrastructure and no one protests about that.

Mistra, the Swedish Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research, will fund a centre for knowledge and capacity building on the theme *Modern Cities, Centre for Urban Futures*. The approach is to move away from traditional knowledge production, including both practitioners and policy makers, thus breaking the barriers between them. In the meeting of practitioners and theoretical analysts the context is extremely important. Technology transfer may not work at all when you take it from one place to another.

- Cities are no laboratories, people live there and you cannot experiment with their lives. Reality cannot be a laboratory. We can learn from one urban context, and implement some of the ideas to another area, but never copy and paste, said one participant.

When looking at human security and personal security, the most dangerous places are the urban areas.

- Security is an income problem, which increases with the income of the community. Poor areas are often centres for drugs and other businesses, that make a lot of money but also create insecurity and not wealth, said Mario Rodríguez.

He then added the need of finding ways to put more money into poor communities, such as micro-loans, and, to better find out how they work in Latin America, for instance.

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Programme for the Seminar

Lifelong Learning

Capacity Development at Local and Regional Level

Held at Sida HQ, Stockholm, 29 January 2010

Morning Session

09:00 Welcome

Hans Magnusson, Sida, Regional Cooperation, Latin America

09:10 Introduction to the PROMESHA Programme

Key components and regional training strategy

Laura Liuke, HDM, Lund University

09:20 Social Housing Improvement and Capacity Development

Results of the programme and challenges for the future

– Presentation of concrete results

Sonia Jiménez, IIA /UMSS, Bolivia; Reina de Cabrera, FUSAI, El Salvador;

Maritza Canek, FDLG, Guatemala; Marlon Olivas, PRODEL, Nicaragua

10:30 Capacity Development and Lifelong Learning

Impact of the programme at individual and institutional level and for the end users

– How to develop professional capacity in a long term perspective

Panel discussion of PROMESHA partners:

Mario Martín, CEDAC, Honduras; Ivette Arroyo IPUR, Ecuador; Carmen González,

FUPROVI, Costa Rica; Sandra Drummond, MEJORHA, Guatemala

11:30 PROMESHA in the Future

Concrete ideas and plans for future collaboration within the PROMESHA network

Mario Rodríguez, Rodríguez y Asociados, Costa Rica

Karla Benitez, ISCYC, El Salvador

12:15 Conclusions

Per Fröberg, Sida, Regional Cooperation, Latin America



Afternoon Session

13:15 Introduction

Karin Rohlin, Sida

13:30 Summary Presentation of the PROMESHA Initiative

Lessons learned, what could be brought forward to similar initiatives in Africa and Asia?

Gustavo Riofrío, DESCO, Peru

13:50 International Training Programmes for Strategic Capacity Development and Lifelong Learning

Challenges for the future

Johnny Åstrand, HDM, Lund University

14:10 The Role of Research Cooperation

How can researchers, institutions and COBs interact for a lifelong learning?

Thomas Kjellqvist, Sida Research Cooperation

14:45 The Way Ahead – Panel Discussion

How can the experience from PROMESHA, ITP and Research Cooperation be used in different settings?

Inge-Lise Syversen, Chalmers University of Technology; Gabriel Marin Castro, SIPU International; Hasse Ericsson, NCG Consultants; Henrik Nolmark, Node; Mario Rodríguez, Rodríguez y Asociados, Costa Rica; Erik Johansson, HDM, Lund University

15:15 Closing Remarks

Göran Tannerfeldt, Senior Advisor, Structura KB

16:20 Closing of the Seminar

Moderator: *David Isaksson, Global Reporting*

List of Participants

Lifelong Learning

Capacity Development at Local and Regional Level

Sonia Jiménez <i>Bolivia</i>	Instituto de Investigación de Arquitectura/ Universidad Mayor de San Simón (IIA/UMSS)
Carmen González Mario Rodríguez <i>Costa Rica</i>	Fundación Promotora de Vivienda (FUPROVI) Rodríguez y Asociados
Ivette Arroyo <i>Ecuador</i>	Instituto de Planificación Urbana y Regional – Universidad Católica de Santiago de Guayaquil (IPUR-UCSG)
Karla Benitez Reina de Cabrera <i>El Salvador</i>	Instituto Salvadoreño del Cemento y el Concreto (ISCYC) Fundación Salvadoreña de Apoyo Integral (FUSAI)
Maritza Canek Sandra Drummond <i>Guatemala</i>	Fideicomiso para el Desarrollo Local en Guatemala (FDLG) Asociación para el Mejoramiento Habitacional de Guatemala (MEJORHA)
Mario Martín <i>Honduras</i>	Centro de Diseño, Arquitectura y Construcción (CEDAC)
Ninette Morales Marlon Olivas <i>Nicaragua</i>	Centro de Estudios y Promoción para el Habitar (HABITAR) Fundación para la Promoción del Desarrollo Local (PRODEL)
Gustavo Riofrío <i>Peru</i>	Centro de Estudios y Promoción del Desarrollo (DESCO)
Anna Erlandson Inger-Lise Syversen Miguel Prado Julia Björne Petter Bolme David Isaksson Åsa Forsman Alicia Borges Månsson Laura Liuke Erik Johansson Maria Rasmussen Johnny Åstrand Henrik Nolmark	Chalmers University of Technology (CTH) Baltic Insurance Consultant Network (Bicon) Global Reporting – " – – " – Hifab International – " – Housing Development and Management, Lund University (HDM) – " – – " – – " – Node AB

Hasse Ericsson	Nordic Consulting Group AB (NCG Consult AB)
Gabriel Marin Castro	SIPU International
Nils Öström	Stockholm Group for Development Studies AB (SGDS)
Göran Tannerfeldt	Structura KB
Georg Andrén	Swedish International Cooperation Agency (Sida)
Neda Farahbakhshazad	– " –
Per Fröberg	– " –
Ana Gren	– " –
Ulla Britt Hedvall	– " –
Tomas Kjellkvist	– " –
Nayoka Martinez-Bäckström	– " –
Veronica Melander	– " –
Veronica Nouched	– " –
Gunnar Olivik	– " –
Pelle Persson	– " –
Helena Reutersvärd	– " –
Karin Rohlin	– " –

PROMESHA 1995-2010

Improving Low-income Housing and Reducing Urban Poverty in Latin America

Capacity Building and Policy Development through Institutional Cooperation

PROMESHA (Programa de Capacitación para el Mejoramiento Socio Habitacional – Improving low-income housing and reducing urban poverty in Latin America) is a programme for capacity and policy development through institutional cooperation on improving low-income housing in Latin America. Sida has supported the programme since its initiation in 1995. During the past 15 years more than 5,000 professionals in housing and urban development have participated in the capacity development offered by PROMESHA.

The support and capacity building of the PROMESHA programme *focuses on* improving the competence of decision makers and professionals active within central and local governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community based organizations (CBOs) and the private sector in order to better contribute to improving living and housing conditions of the poor. This includes working for higher awareness about the role of social and low-income housing policies and programmes as tools for democratization, poverty reduction and local development.

The *ultimate goal* of the PROMESHA programme is to contribute to the process by which social and low-income housing policies, programmes and projects become effective tools for poverty reduction, local development and democratization in Latin America.

Specifically, PROMESHA seeks to develop and strengthen the commitment and competence of practitioners, decision makers and other professionals who are active and directly involved within the field of human settlements in the region so they can influence, design, promote and execute effective policies, programmes and projects that improve the living and housing conditions of the poor.

The programme activities include:

- International courses
- Regional courses
- Housing policy seminars
- National workshops
- Research, studies and evaluations
- Publications
- Institutional strengthening

The department of Housing Development & Management (HDM) at Lund University is responsible for the programme and has well established institutional collaboration with key partners, universities and NGOs in the seven partner countries in order to carry out the activities in a coordinated fashion. HDM is responsible for the strategic orientation, follow up and administration of PROMESHA. Implementation of activities is done in collaboration with national partners in Bolivia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Peru.

For contact details for the PROMESHA partners, kindly look on the inside of back cover.

Statement of Intent for Continuation of the Network PROMESHA



Stockholm, 29 of January, 2010

Statement of Intent for Continuation of the Network PROMESHA

As a result of the closing seminar of the activities of the PROMESHA programme, held in the city of Lund, Sweden from the 25 to the 29 of January 2010, we representatives from the institutions and organizations in the network, have signed this statement of intent to establish mechanisms and actions to be able to continue in line with the objectives of the program, defining agreements and collaboration compromises from this day.

Taking into account the history of 15 years of work, experience accumulated and social capital formed we agree further:

1. That the problems of poverty and precarious housing conditions persist in Latin America and that they affect particularly the urban poor
2. That the PROMESHA programme has generated local, national and international networks through different activities; the programme has contacts with experts in various subjects related to low income housing areas, working within governmental, non governmental and academic institutions.
3. That the PROMESHA network can contribute to reach the target 11 of the Millennium Development Goals in Latin America “ *By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers*”.

We propose:

1. To make PROMESHA into a permanent regional entity in the context of Latin America with the permanent participation of the department for Housing Development & Management at Lund University, being the original developer of the programme.
2. Appoint a commission to find and propose a legal concept that allows participation and continued actions of the different organizations, institutions and individual members in the network PROMESHA in Bolivia, Ecuador, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Costa Rica.
3. Continue with the realization of capacity development activities, awareness and advocacy, research and publications, on issues related to improving social housing taking advantage in the short term of the capacity developed.
4. Build a seed capital to finance the transition of the PROMESHA programme into a permanent organization.
5. Build a seed capital of transition and continuity in the short term with the perspective to obtain funding to allow sustainability for PROMESHA
6. The partners will contribute to the seed capital in solidarity according to their possibilities.

The document was signed by:

Sonia Jiménez
IIA/UMSS, Bolivia

Ivette Arroyo
IPUR, Ecuador

Marlon Olivas
PRODEL, Nicaragua

Reina Cabrera
FUSAI, El Salvador

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FUPROVI, Costa Rica

Maritza Canek
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Johnny Åstrand
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Mario Rodríguez
Rodríguez y Asociados, Costa Rica

Mario Martín
CEDAC, Honduras

Karla Benitez
ISCYC, El Salvador

Sandra Drummond
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Housing Development & Management (HDM)

Lund University

Lund University was established in 1666 and is Scandinavia's largest institution for education and research, with eight faculties and several research centres and specialised schools. It cooperates extensively with other universities, colleges and research institutes around the world. One such example is Øresund University, which is run by Lund University, and 13 other Swedish and Danish universities and colleges. Lund University has 42 500 students and 6 000 employees.

Housing Development & Management (HDM)

HDM undertakes training and research in housing from an international perspective: planning, design, production, use and management, and the relationship between the dwelling and its surroundings from neighbourhood to city level. The aim is to understand how to improve the processes leading to good housing and sustainable development, especially for the poor.

HDM conducts advanced international training for planners, architects, engineers and other professionals working with housing and construction. HDM staff conducts research and studies in the following main areas.

- Housing improvement and local development
- Users' participation in the housing process
- Gender aspects in planning and design of housing and built environment
- Housing segregation
- Risk management for buildings in regions with natural disasters
- Influence of urban design on microclimate and thermal comfort around buildings
- Building design with consideration for climate, comfort and energy consumption
- Environmentally-aware and cost efficient construction

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Lifelong Learning Capacity Development at Local and Regional Level Experiences from Latin America Brought Forward

The regional housing capacity building program, PROMESHA, has strengthened the capacity of more than 5,000 key agents representing NGOs, professionals, public and private entities, communities, government officials and decision makers. It has distributed 50,000 publications and been instrumental in framing social housing concepts into the constitutions of both Bolivia and Ecuador, as well as extended networks, transferring knowledge and the exchange of methods and ideas between organizations in Latin America.

– The success of PROMESHA is due to the fact that it is a Latin American, not a Swedish programme. We haven't exported Swedish experiences, but rather facilitated the spreading of Latin American experiences throughout the region, said Per Fröberg, programme officer at Sida, at a closing seminar held in Stockholm in January 2010.

Apart from local ownership it was agreed that donor flexibility and long-term commitment are the main components of successful regional capacity building programs.

With guidelines and support from Sida, the department of Housing Development & Management at Lund University (HDM), with its long experience in capacity building in developing countries, has been the guide agent of the programme between 1995 and 2009. PROMESHA included social housing experts from nine partner organizations in Bolivia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Peru. Thousands of people have participated in workshops, policy seminars, regional courses and conducted research within the program.

– We have learnt by doing and also from what has been done in other countries, by other organizations, and by looking at which elements we could use and how we could

build capacity mobilizing local resources with Swedish support, said Marlon Olivas, representing PRODEL, from Nicaragua.

Yet another important conclusion drawn from the programme is that social housing can be a sustainable tool for poverty reduction and development and fighting for equality in a region where inequality is extremely high.

– The poverty in Latin America will remain and probably even grow. With PROMESHA professional contacts and networks have been created, and we are sharing institutional experiences. We will continue to work together because we need to continue sharing experiences, said Karla Benitez from the El Salvadorian Cement and Concrete Institute (ISCYC).

Among the methods developed and used is the importance of including all actors in the housing sector, holding a variety of capacity building activities, to produce publications aimed at both research and popular levels, have a long term approach and the strengthening of institutions.

'Lifelong learning', a concept that evolved in the PROMESHA programme, emphasizes the importance of continuous learning, both for professionals, civil society, community leaders and government officials.

With the regional network created, PROMESHA will be able to exchange methods and ideas on capacity development to other regions as well as continuing the work between its members.

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