

Terms of Reference

Evaluation of the Swedish Burma Committee's programme "Expanding democratic space in Burma through civil society support 2023-2025"

1. Background

The Swedish Burma Committee (SBC) is a politically and religiously independent organisation that aims to promote human rights and democracy in Burma/Myanmar by raising awareness about the situation in Burma in Sweden and by supporting partners within Burmese civil society.

SBC has implemented a Sida-funded civil society programme in Burma since 2010. The current 3-year phase of the programme, *Expanding democratic space in Burma through civil society support* began in March 2023 and will reach completion in December 2025. The programme supports pro-democracy change agents within civil society. The overall purpose is to contribute to strengthening civil society's ability to defend human rights, advance accountability, and contribute to future democratic and inclusive political processes that respect human rights and promote gender equality. Non-discrimination and gender are cross-cutting themes that we work on throughout the programme. 10 civil society organisations currently receive support through the programme.

The programme has three objectives:

1. Strengthening the ability of rights-holders to organise at the local level, to protect and promote their human rights;
2. Increasing domestic and international pressure for change and accountability by documenting and exposing human rights violations;
3. Promoting inclusive and non-discriminatory policies and practices on the grounds of gender, ethnicity, and religion within emerging democratic institutions.

2. Purpose of the evaluation

The purpose of the evaluation is to assess the results of the current programme phase and to provide recommendations and lessons learned for future programme development. The results of the evaluation will feed into SBC's upcoming strategy development process (2025). The evaluator is asked to apply a forward-looking perspective and take into consideration the plans and thinking in SBC's ongoing operationalisation process.

3. Specific objectives of the evaluation

SWEDISH BURMA COMMITTEE

The specific objectives of the evaluation are as follows:

- a) **Relevance:** Assess and analyse the relevance of the programme in relation to the human rights situation and ongoing developments in Burma, including changes since the last evaluation three years ago (increased conflict, repression, hardship, crackdown on civil society, local governance developments). The assessment should also take into account the new [Sida strategy](#) and any new priorities on behalf of our implementing partners. The last evaluation found that the programme had responded well to changed needs after the coup. Has the programme continued to respond to the changed needs of partner organisations and target groups adequately?
- b) **Coherence:** Comment on the relevance of the programme in relation to other donor initiatives in the area of democracy and human rights in Burma, What is SBC's added value in relation to other Sida funded initiatives?
- c) **Effectiveness:** Assess the extent to which the programme has achieved or is expected to achieve its objectives and results. The consultant should consider differential results across groups, including any gendered differences. Are implementing partners following up and documenting results in a systematic and appropriate way, including gender differences? Previous evaluations have found room for improvement in partner reporting. Is there room for further improvement?
- d) **Efficiency:** Assess and analyse the efficiency of the programme. Are the resources put into the programme justified in relation to the results achieved? Also comment on the role of SBC in the programme. Is SBC adding value in the eyes of partners? In what way? Is there room for improvement?

When assessing SBC's role, the consultant is asked to comment on whether conflict sensitivity and gender have been adequately integrated into the programme.
- e) **Impact:** Assess and analyse to what extent the programme is contributing or can be expected to contribute to (intended or unintended) long-term change (impact). The evaluator is asked to consider gender and other relevant differences in the analysis.
- f) **Sustainability:** Assess the sustainability of the results achieved. Are the benefits of the programme likely to continue after the programme has finished? Is the program implemented in a way that supports sustainability of results? Previous evaluations have indicated that the programme has been sustainable. In light of the military coup and drastically changed context, does the programme remain sustainable? What could be improved?

SWEDISH BURMA COMMITTEE

- g) **Lessons learned and recommendations:** Identify lessons learned and provide practical recommendations for future programme design, including on how the programme can stay relevant in a changing context. Given the findings of the evaluation, taking into account the above criteria, what adaptations could be made to strengthen and improve the programme?

4. Methodology

In order to carry out the evaluation, the consultant should:

- Conduct a desk review of relevant documents, including but not limited to, SBC partner reports, Sweden's bilateral Burma strategy, and relevant reports on democracy and human rights in Burma.
- Carry out online interviews with relevant stakeholders, including but not restricted to:
 - o SBC staff.
 - o Sida staff.
 - o Representatives from SBC partner organisations.
 - o To the extent possible, target groups who have benefited from programme activities. It is not likely possible to interview target groups that are still in Burma due to security reasons. However, target groups outside the country might be available.
 - o Relevant civil society actors and/or relevant donor agencies involved in civil society and democracy/human rights promotion in Burma.

Due to the increased security risks since the military coup, it may not be possible to interview all relevant stakeholders, such as end receivers. SBC will assist the evaluator in the final selection of interviewees.

No travel will be required to carry out the assignment. Interviews are expected to be conducted remotely.

The evaluation process and report shall be carried out in accordance with the [OECD/DAC Evaluation criteria](#).

5. Organisation, time-frame and reporting

The evaluation is expected to be carried out during February and March 2025. Deliverables include:

- Inception report (max 4 pages) (to be approved by SBC)
 - o Outline of methodology.
 - o Timeline.
 - o Interview guide (interview questions and type of interviews).
 - o Process for selection of interviewees/tentative selection of interviewees.
- Draft report (max 25 pages, excluding annexes).
- Final report (max 25 pages, excluding annexes).
- Oral presentation for SBC and Sida (online).

Tentative time-frame:

- 28 January 2025 Submission of tender.
- 4 February 2025 Sign contract with SBC.
- 27 March 2025 Submission of draft report.
- 17 April Submission of final report.

Reporting shall be made in the form of a written report in English, not exceeding 25 pages, excluding annexes. The billable fees for the assignment shall not exceed 240 working hours in total.

6. Requirements and qualification of the evaluator(s)

Required qualifications of the evaluator(s):

- Documented relevant evaluation competence and significant evaluation experience of projects/programmes in the area of democracy, civil society or human rights.
- Relevant experience from development cooperation within the areas of democracy, peacebuilding, human rights, gender equality and civil society.
- Documented knowledge and experience of the Burma context, including the role of civil society.
- Knowledge and experience of Swedish development cooperation and priorities.

Desired qualifications of the evaluator(s):

- Knowledge and experience in conflict sensitivity.
- Knowledge and experience in gender integration in development cooperation.
- Knowledge of Burmese and/or other relevant local languages.*

* The Swedish Burma Committee can assist in identifying a suitable translator/interpreter with a strong knowledge of Burmese civil society if necessary. Approximately half of the interviews are expected to be conducted in Burmese.

7. Required information in tender

The tender shall include:

- Methodology for the implementation of the assignment.
- Timeframe of the assignment in accordance with the points specified in this ToR.
- Total cost for the evaluation, including a budget for the evaluation, specifying costs for evaluator fees (fees shall be specified as fees per hour), possible translation/interpretation costs, and other costs. The budget should be presented in SEK and specify VAT or other similar additional costs, where relevant.

SWEDISH BURMA COMMITTEE

- CV of the evaluator(s), including two references that may be contacted in relation to similar previous assignments.

In cases where the proposal includes a team of consultants, their division of labour shall be presented.

Please note that if the evaluator(s) is/are not Burmese speaking, a translator /interpreter will be required to carry out the evaluation, preferably with a knowledge of Burmese civil society. SBC can assist in identifying suitable translators/interpreters.

8. Deadline for submission of tender

Tenders must be sent to the Swedish Burma Committee by midnight CET on 28 January 2025.

The Swedish Burma Committee intends to sign a contract with the evaluator no later than 4 February 2025.

Proposals shall be sent by e-mail to kristina@burmakommitten.org.

Questions regarding the tender and evaluation process shall be directed to kristina@burmakommitten.org.