

## Upcoming study: What can Denmark learn from four country evaluations?

The Mozambique evaluation is one out of four recent country evaluations on Danish bilateral aid commissioned and published by EVAL, the others being Bolivia, Nepal and Vietnam. Though the countries are very diverse, the evaluations draw a number of parallel conclusions about key characteristics of Denmark as a development partner.

They document **Denmark as a predictable and flexible donor** engaged in long-term partnerships, which provide a solid foundation for building trust and a thorough understanding of the dynamics of the political context in partner countries. The evaluations also document **Denmark's strong commitment to the aid effectiveness agenda** and show how Denmark has applied the principles of the Paris agenda consistently.

However, the evaluations also point to possible **unintended consequences** of supporting a harmonization agenda in countries where democracies have not been consolidated and where state-centrist governance models prevail.

What are lessons learned from long-term Danish engagements in these four countries – and what are common features that should be considered for future development cooperation? These are questions an upcoming analysis of the four country evaluations commissioned by the Evaluation Department will be shedding light on.

The study will also look into:

- The **decentralisation** of the management of development cooperation from Copenhagen to Danish embassies from 2003 and onwards. The evaluations show that this decentralisation in some cases caused challenges between honoring political decisions in Copenhagen and alignment ambitions in partner countries.
- The evaluations show that **implementation of cross-cutting issues** has been a challenge – despite of strong commitment to these issues in the planning phase.
- **In conflict-affected countries**, such as Nepal and Mozambique, Denmark has focused more on state-building and less on reconciliation.

### The expert team

The study is conducted by three independent researchers from DIIS and RUC. The final report is expected early April and will be made available on this website.