

The MIC Programme
Peer Review
Guatemala, February 2009.
Resume

1. Introduction

The MIC programme (Municipal International Cooperation) is financed by the Norwegian state through NORAD (Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation). The funding of the state oblige KS (The Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities) as a coordinating institution of MIC to establish control methods for the results and the quality of the programme and of the use of the finances in the project.

The method called Peer Review is a mutual evaluation of the results and the work of the partners in the MIC project.

KS has done two such evaluations earlier, one in Malawi 2007, one at Madagascar 2008. The results of these evaluations are describes in the publication "*Buenas practicas MIC*".

2. Organisation

The evaluation took place in Sololá in Guatemala, February 23rd - 25th 2009. The programme started with a visit to a township the 23rd followed by presentations, plenary discussions and y group discussions until the 25th in the evening. The participants was representantives from the four municipalities Solola, Comalapa, Ál and Stord.

The Peer Rewiew in Guatemala focused on the two common topics of the MIC programme of Stord-Comalapa and Ál-Solola:

- Education of newly elected politicians
- Education of female politicians

This focus implies that the evaluation did not include the other topics of the MIC partners in Guatemala such as waste management in Comalapa or school projects in Solola. The focus also implies that the more indirect effects of the education of the politics like alfabetization or economic activities for women are neither evaluated.

Looking at these two topics, the focus has been the following questions:

1. What was the results of the capacitation?
2. What are the lessons learned for Solola and Comalapa?
3. What are the lessons learned for the Norwegian participants?
4. What has the parnters in the South learned from the Norwegian partners in this area?

3. Evaluation

The Peer Rewiew in Guatemala was very positive and useful, in spite of the short time for preparation. It is possible that it functioned even better than if someone external did the evaluation. The evaluation process has been very open and creative, and a lot of innovative

and concrete ideas has come up – not only for Stord and Comalapa, but also for the MIC programme in total. Now it is important to follow up the ideas. ‘

Compared with the former MIC evaluations; this has been the best. It is possible that this is due to the following reasons:

- It was a small group – only 2 partners and 4 municipalities
- There were two countries represented, Guatemala and Norway
- All of the participants spoke the same language, there was no need for translation
- The meeting was quite short, 2 days, from midday Monday until midday Wednesday
- The method and the questions were simple and concrete
- There was an external person working as referent during the whole meeting

These factors imply that a peer review can easily be combined with a regional MIC meeting

4. Conclusions and work to be done

MIC contacts

- It is necessary to have 2 persons responsible of MIC within each municipality, one of those with the main responsibility. The two need to be paid and employed by the municipality.

Use of Spanish in Ål and Stord

- In Guatemala it is absolutely necessary to use Spanish for the MIC work, and therefore, Stord and Ål have to assure that within the municipal administration there are two responsible Spanish speaking MIC persons.

Learning of English in Comalapa and Solola

- MIC has a challenge regarding Norwegian politicians, because they very seldom know Spanish.
- Therefore it is important that there are persons in Solola and Comalapa that speak English and can translate during meetings and translate short texts.

Travel coordination

- Ål and Stord will try to coordinate their travels to Guatemala and the travels of the Guatemalan travels to Norway. KS want to participate when possible.

Coordination of MIC, Friendship North South and the Peace Corps

- The cooperation between MIC, **Friendship North South and the Peace Corps** is very positive in the 4 municipalities and implies huge synergies. They can also represent certain challenges if the function of the project responsible and their different activities and budgets are not well defined.

Web site

- It was decided to make a web site in Spanish in the web site of KS for the partners of MIC Guatemala.

Programme for municipal administration capacity

- A programme of leadership or administration routines was suggested, with the following subjects: delegation, information sharing, and public information / communicating with the citizens

Programme for recruiting women to the municipal administration

- It would be interesting to develop a programme of capacity especially for women within the municipal administration.
- In Norway there is a programme for female leaders in local politics and municipal administration. Women often have a lot of self criticism, therefore it is necessary to create programmes helping women overcome this.

Videos or photos of the 5 dominación techniques

- One of the participants in Guatemala said that she would like to have those videos of the 5 “dominacion techniques”.
- Liss Schanke said that it would be better to make new material adapted at the Guatemaltecan context.

Possible extension of the numbers of partners in Guatemala

- KS publishes an advertisement in Norway for recruiting new partners for MIC for the period 2010-2012 and will send the advertisement to the partners of Friendship North--South of Norway-Guatemala. If they accomplish the goal of getting more partners, it would be interesting to have a meeting of 5 days in Guatemala during the first semester of 2010 for all the partners of MIC Guatemala.