

# Summary Information Return 2009 (Online)



## Summary Information Return 2009 Of Aims, Activities and Achievements

This return is intended to comprise a Summary of key information contained in the Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts and in other documents.

### UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

**Charity Number: 1069182**

**Submitted on 27 January 2010**

This online version of the form shows the information you have entered through Annual Return 2009 Online and has been designed to make it easier for Charities to print.

**This Summary Information Return was submitted online by MR CHRISTOPHER JOHN LUDBROOK on 27 January 2010. You do not need to send us a signed copy.**

#### Question 1 - The Charity's Aims

What are your charity's aims?

International Service believes in a world where poverty and oppression are history.

We aim to help combat poverty and oppression by sharing skills to help develop the capacities of organisations that work with the poorest groups in our countries of operation and by increasing understanding of global development issues, both in the UK and overseas.

#### Question 2 - Who benefits?

Who benefits from the charities work?

We focus our support on work that benefits children, women and people with disabilities, as we consider these groups to be amongst the most vulnerable in society.

How do you respond to their needs and how do they influence the charity's developments?

International Service supports the organisational and technical capacity development of charities and government so that they are better able to defend the human rights of and provide better quality services to their beneficiaries, communities and citizens. We focus this support on partner agencies that work with the beneficiary groups defined above.

We work with our partners to identify the needs of the beneficiaries, which informs the support that we help them to provide. This influences our own development through organisational learning based on the experience of supporting our partners deliver services to their beneficiaries.

### **Question 3 - The Charity's Strategy**

What are the key elements of your charity's medium to long term strategy?

International Service's programmes are aimed at improving governance and capacity building within civil society and government, alleviating the socio economic condition of the poorest people, improving sexual and reproductive health and development education work in the UK.

We seek to review our models of support to assure that they enable us to deliver optimum benefit to as many partners as possible from the resources that we are able to secure. We will also seek to identify potential new countries where our intervention may be of benefit to people, exploring collaborations and complementary approaches. Within this we will also explore South-South cooperation, linking together experiences and skills of people and organisations in our countries of operation.

The impact of the economic downturn was universal. We are now focusing on tighter budgeting processes, improved work efficiency and are seeking to diversify our funding base in order to improve security and sustainability.

How does your charity measure the success of the strategy?

At the outset of work with a partner an appraisal is conducted, which will be facilitated via detailed Organisational Self Assessment Tool. This will be implemented on an annual basis and allow us to set development plans and monitor impact and change within our partners. We have also developed a detailed Impact Assessment Framework for implementation with our partners, which focuses on impact at the beneficiary level.

Aside from this where Development Workers are in place progress is monitored every 3-6 months by our Field Office staff. This allows International Service, the partner organisations and the Development Workers to reflect on and assess progress against the objectives via a series of meetings and reports.

#### Question 4 - The Charity's Objectives and Achievements

What were your charity's main annual objectives and were they achieved?

Objective	Achievement
Improve governance and capacity of civil society and government	We supported 51 partner organisations develop their capacity and developed an organisational self assessment tool to help them facilitate the planning and monitoring of their own capacity development.
Alleviate the socio economic condition of the poorest people	23 partner organisations reported improvements in their business skills and 16 have helped their beneficiaries increase income by 20%-50%. The beneficiaries of 21 partners stated that they had better access to markets as a result of our support.
Improve sexual and reproductive health	We have provided educational resources to all partners in 4 out of 5 of our country programmes. In Brazil we helped train 2,403 health professionals and disseminated information and condoms to more than 37,000 people.

Building public support for international development in UK and Ireland	We worked with 46 schools in the UK, held an event in York Minster to celebrate the Human Rights of the Child, hosted the Human Rights Awards in the Houses of Parliament, launched a new website and produced 2 key publications about our work.
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### Question 5 - The Charity's Income and Expenditure

What were your charity's most significant activities during the year and how much did you spend on them?

Charitable Activities	£ 000s
Overseas Programme	2,135,000
Public Education	135,000
Fundraising and Marketing	172,726
Explanatory Comments	
In our overseas programme we worked to support partners deliver services to over 300,000 people. 50% of our work was directed at work with children; 25% was directed at work with people with disabilities and a further 25% at work with women. Our work in sub Saharan West Africa covers three countries (Burkina Faso, Mali and Togo), in South America we focus on Bolivia and the poorest states of Brazil. In the occupied Palestinian territories, we worked throughout the West Bank.	

What were your charity's three main fundraising activities in the year and how much did each generate and cost?

Fundraising Activity	Income generated	Cost of Activity £ 000s
Strategic Partnership with DFID	1,510,000	4,500
Submissions to Irish Aid	388,826	21,000
Bids to institutional funders, foundations & trusts	419,108	41,070
Explanatory Comments		
We are in the fifth year of a six year strategic Partnership Programme Agreement with DFID. We have actively supported our Dublin office to secure funding from Irish Aid for our overseas programme. Our small fundraising team in the UK we have also secured funding from Comic Relief, the Big Lottery Fund, European Commission and numerous other small trusts and foundations to support our overseas programme.		

### Question 6 - The Charity's Financial Health

How would you describe your charity's financial health at the end of the period?

Financially, 2008-9 was an extremely challenging year for International Service. Over 75% of our funds are received in Pound Sterling whilst all overseas expenditure is in Euros, US Dollars or tied currencies. As a result, our purchasing power fell considerably from November 2008. This was compounded by a significant reduction in the availability of funds from traditional sources that were also suffering from the economic collapse. We estimate that this cost us £400,000.

We adopted a policy of honouring existing commitments to partner organisations whilst introducing a series of cuts across the organisation. Reserves carried forward from 2007-8 were healthy and were used to continue to support programmatic work. A very tight budget has been set for financial year 2009-10. Guaranteed income only has been used in budgeting and extremely conservative exchange rates have been applied.

We are pleased to have been able to maintain programmes in all our countries of operation.

#### **Question 7 - The Next Year**

How will the overall performance last year affect your charity's medium to long term strategy?

The economic collapse in 2008 has dictated tighter budgeting restrictions on our operations due to reduction in the value of pound sterling overseas and the impact on our reserves. We have developed tighter budgeting processes and improved financial management procedures. It has also led to the review of the means by which we deliver support to our partners in order to assure the delivery of optimum benefit from the resources we are able to secure. We are also seeking to diversify our funding base in order to improve the security and sustainability of our work in the long term. This will focus on both restricted and unrestricted sources of funds both in the UK and in our operational countries.

What are your charity's main objectives for next year?

To diversify our funding base

To improve and extend our development education programmes in the UK and Ireland

To improve and extend our support for our target groups overseas

#### **Question 8 - The Charity's Governance**

How does the charity ensure that its governance arrangements are appropriate and effective?

International Service is a charitable company limited by guarantee established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. Trustees can serve for a renewable term of four years, with no more than two terms. All existing trustees bring expertise from a wide range of backgrounds, including charity and business. Aside from expenses, none of the trustees are remunerated. Our trustees are responsible for approving the strategy and are responsible in law for the running of International Service. Three new sub committees have been formed comprising: Finance and Audit, Programme Quality, Fundraising.

Further details on all the answers given in the Summary Information Return can be obtained from:

The Audited Accounts

## DECLARATION

Your Summary Information Return was submitted online by MR CHRISTOPHER JOHN LUDBROOK on 27 January 2010, telephone number 01904 647799.

MR CHRISTOPHER JOHN LUDBROOK certified online that:

- the information provided was correct
- it had been or would be brought to the attention of all the trustees

Those who give answers that they know are untrue or misleading may be committing an offence.

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