

Summary Information Return 2010 (Online)



Summary Information Return 2010

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

All this information will be made public - P

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

Charity Number: 1069182

Financial Year End: 31 March 2010

Submitted on 17 January 2011

This online version of the form shows the information you have entered through Annual Return 2010 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 17 January 2011. 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 your charity's 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 development?

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 an d 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 Services' programme 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 continue to focus on tight 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 facilitated via a detailed Organisational Self Assessment Tool. This is implemented on annually and allows partners to set action plans and allows us to monitor change and impact. IS has developed a Participatory Needs Assessment process and an Impact Assessment Framework for implementation with partners, focussing on needs definition and impact assessment at beneficiary level.

Aside from this, where Development Workers are in place progres is monitored every 6 months but our Field Office staff. This allows IS, the partner and the Development Worker 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 70 partner organisations develop their capacity in terms of communications, advocacy, human resources, monitoring and fundraising. More than £1million was secured for the furtherance of their work.
Alleviate the socio-economic condition of the poorest people	Technical and vocational training has improved 44 partner organisations capacity to improve the socio-economic conditions of target groups. Beneficiaries of 27 organisations have secured livelihoods leading to greater income security.
Improve sexual and reproductive health	In Amazonas State of Brazil there has been a 51.4% reduction in the incidence of reported cases of AIDS in 6 municipalities where IS operates between 2007-10. IS has also sought to disseminate HIV/AIDS resources in 4 of its 5 operational countries.
Building public support for international development in the UK and Ireland	We worked with 39 schools in the UK, held the Human Rights Awards in the chambers of the House of Lords, held an event promoting global culture in the grounds of York Minster and built new relationships with key UK disability organisations.

Question 5 - The Charity's Income and Expenditure

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

Charitable Activities	£ 000s
Overseas Programme	1,725
Public Education	225
Fundraising & Marketing	48
Explanatory Comments	

In our overseas programme we worked to support partners deliver services to over 300,000 people. 50% of our work was with children; 25% was with people with disabilities and a further 25% 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 (North East & Amazonas). 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 £ 000s	Cost of Activity £ 000s
Strategic Partnership with DFID	1,560	3
Submissions to the European Commission	500	15
Bids: institutional funders, foundations & trusts	100	30
Explanatory Comments		
We are in the final year of a six year strategic Partnership Programme Agreement with DFID. We have actively supported our Dublin office to secure €600,000 from the European Commission for work in Bolivia and have secured €800,000 from the EC ourselves for work in Brazil. Our small fundraising team in the UK have secured funding from COmic Relief, the Big Lottery 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 2009-10 continued to be a challenging year for International Service. Over 75% of IS funding is in Sterling, which had crashed in value in the previous year. Our overseas expenditure is in currencies tied to the Euro or the US Dollar. This saw a continuation of the low purchasing power of our budgets. This was further compounded by a continuation in the reduction in the availability of funds from traditional sources that were also impacted by the economic collapse at the end of 2008.

IS continued a policy of honouring existing commitments to partner organisations, whilst maintaining a regime of tight budgeting on all programmes. Guaranteed income only was used in budgeting and extremely conservative exchange rate projections applied. A policy of only recruiting to posts where new funding was secured was also applied.

We are pleased to have been able to continue operations in all countries.

Question 7 - The Next Year

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

The global economic environment continues to dictate tight budgeting restrictions on our operations due to the low value of Sterling overseas and the level of reserves available to IS. We have continued to review our financial procedures to support this process. We have also sought to implement changes to the way in which we deliver services to our partners, providing support to several from one volunteer, rather than the one to one model. We continue to seek to diversify our funding base to improve security and sustainability of our work. This has focussed on both restricted and unrestricted sources of funds, working with partners both in the UK and our operational countries.

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

To diversify our funding base

To improve and extend our support for our target groups overseas

To improve and extend our development education programmes

Question 8 - The Charity's Governance

How does your 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 sub committees stand within the Board: Finance & Audit; Programme Quality; Fundraising.

Question 9 - Further Details

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

The Audited Accounts

Declaration

This Summary Information Return was submitted online by MR CHRISTOPHER JOHN LUDBROOK on 17 January 2011, telephone number 01904647799.

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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