



International Service
Annual review 2008 – 2010



Our goal is to support the most excluded and impoverished people to build a more equal society. We do this by supporting people to understand and exercise their human rights so that they can improve their lives, and the lives of those around them.



**International
Service**

International Service is an international development charity.

We work in Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East.

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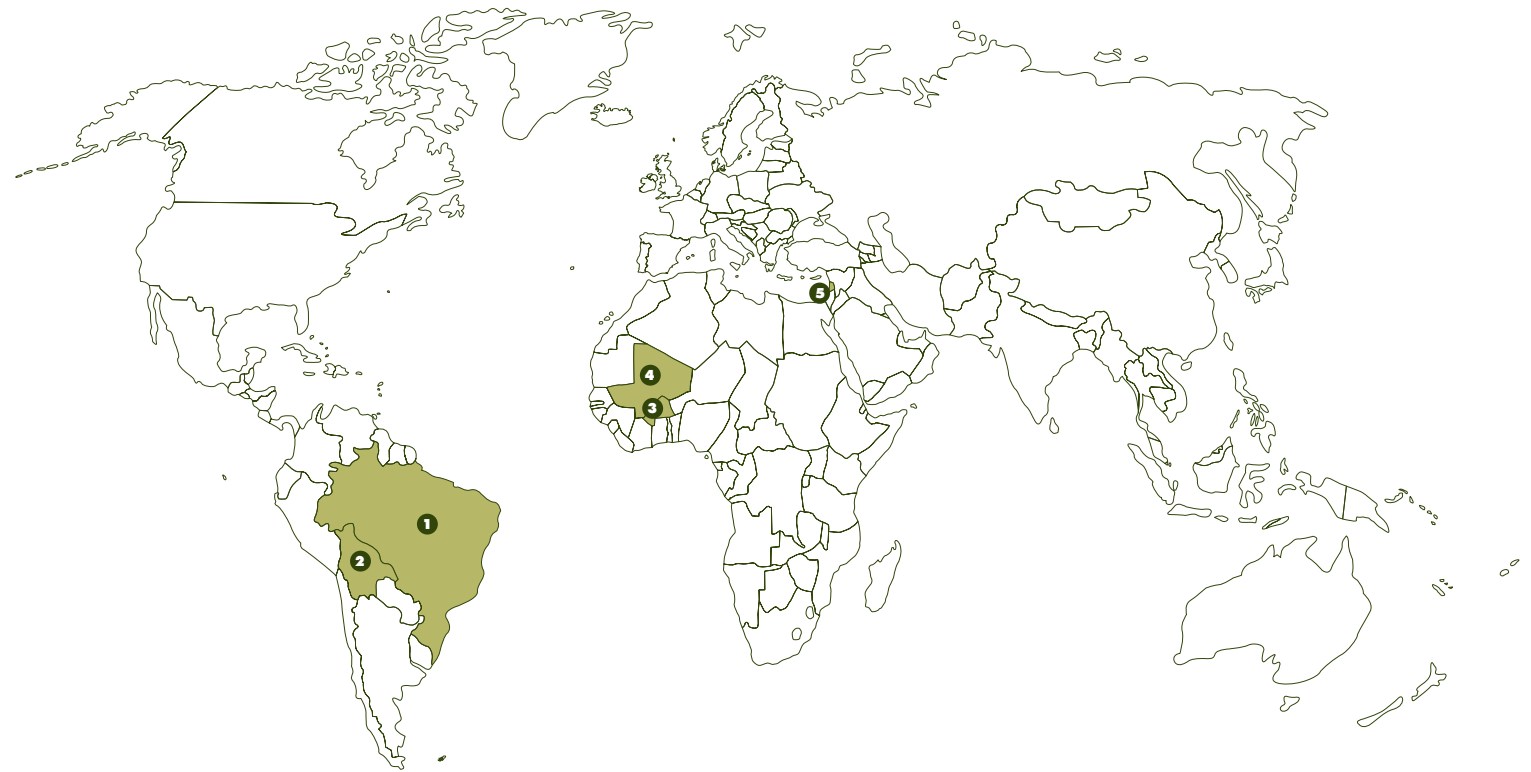
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Introduction



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This review covers the period 2008 – 2010. During this time we've faced an extraordinarily challenging economic climate, but we've also had some great successes.

As a result of the 2008-9 banking and economic crisis in the UK, we lost around 20% of our income that year. We elected to use our reserves in order to honour commitments to our partners. This enabled us to maintain operations in all countries, and I am delighted to report recent growth across 60% of programmes. Introducing a very tight budget in 2009-10 enabled us to start rebuilding our reserves, a policy we will carry forward into 2010-11.

In spite of the global economic situation, we have been very fortunate

to work with inspirational partners and volunteer Development Workers across programmes in Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Mali and the Palestinian territories.

Some of our greatest successes have been in the provision of business skills training. Over 20 partners reported improvements in their business planning; 16 reported that their beneficiaries had seen their income grow between a staggering 20% and 50%. This is particularly important and rewarding in the face of the current economic climate.

Other important successes have included work on the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. It is extraordinary to think that this was only ratified in May 2008. In Ireland, we celebrated this by developing and

launching a disability publication that has been taken on board by over 400 community development projects, family resource centres, and international development NGOs. In Brazil, we worked with local partners and the national government to develop the first official policy document on the sexual and reproductive rights of disabled Brazilians, of which there are an estimated 24 million!

The following pages highlight some exciting examples of our partnership work. I hope you enjoy reading them.

Matthew Snell
Chief Executive

Partnerships to transform lives

Meaningful development and lasting change come about when people work together, helping each other achieve their goals and transform their lives.

Working in partnership to develop skills, exchange knowledge, and share expertise is a highly effective way to overcome poverty and inequality.

International Service works in close partnership with a broad spectrum of people and organisations in developing countries; from those serving the very grassroots of their communities right through to those working at a national, ministerial level.

The people we work with are already trying to work themselves out of poverty, fight for equal rights, and deliver the services and support that will benefit the most excluded people in their communities or countries.

We support them in becoming stronger and more effective at what they do.

Many of our partners have very few resources. Many haven't had the opportunities to develop essential skills and experience. Many are so involved in the day-to-day challenges that it is difficult to stand back and look at what's working and what isn't.

We help them build on their strengths, and we support them in developing their weaknesses. In turn, we benefit from their knowledge and expertise.

Working in such close, long-term partnerships brings about quality, long-lasting change for thousands of marginalised and poor people.

From April 2008 to April 2010 we worked with 74 partners including:

- NGOs
- workers' co-operatives
- government departments
- networks of organisations
- creative, disability, business and agricultural specialists
- university departments
- healthcare providers
- legal specialists

The main way in which we support our partners is by placing skilled and experienced volunteer Development Workers to work with them for 2 – 3 years, sometimes longer.

Between April 2008 and April 2010 we had 84 volunteer Development Workers in the field. They supported our partners to make a positive impact on the lives of over 37,000 people.

We also reach hundreds of thousands of people by supporting work designed to benefit populations on a regional or national scale.

For example, our sexual and reproductive health project in the Amazonas State of Brazil (see Sexual and reproductive health for the full story) reached a population of 275,000, and we have worked with the Brazilian government on policies that take account of the human rights of over 24 million disabled Brazilians.

It is never truly possible to account for how many people are reached by partnerships like these, but they engage, involve and affect significant portions of the populations in the countries and regions where we work.



Sustainable livelihoods

Stable and prosperous livelihoods are the foundations for healthy populations, individuals, and families. Despite economic growth across the globe, vast inequalities persist as millions of people in developing countries struggle to earn a living or feed their families.

Creating new opportunities to develop skills, access training, and find decent, productive employment – especially for women – is essential in breaking the cycle of poverty.



How we are helping transform lives in Bolivia

As a result of our support, isolated rural families and young people have been able to access agricultural training so that they can improve their nutrition and create local employment.

Luc Mattheij, a volunteer Development Worker since 2006, has been working at the Municipality of Arampampa, one of Bolivia's poorest rural areas. He was put in charge of setting up a community training centre with the Asanquiri community. The challenge was huge. They started with nothing, not even electricity.

In Arampampa, 80% of children and young people are unable to complete elementary school. Many migrate to the cities and end up working under exploitative conditions just to survive.

The CECTFIA centre trains young people by strengthening local culture and farming knowledge. This improves agricultural production and opportunities so that young people have a real option to stay and work within their communities. The training also strengthens values such as leadership, local administration, and environmentally responsible development.

2007 saw the first group of 10 students graduate from CECTFIA's training programme - the first technical students in the whole of the region.



The first female student - Daría Ramos Cordova – graduated at the end of 2008.

Aged just 17, Daría was shy and lacked confidence. But personal dedication and support from the training centre saw her quickly grow in skills and confidence. She became experienced in caring for livestock, cultivating the land, managing projects, using computers and giving presentations.

She decided to finish school, and is now using her new skills to help teachers and children build a solar greenhouse and produce vegetables such as lettuces, radishes, onions and tomatoes.

Daría says: "Thanks to the CECTFIA Training Centre I am a professional now. I want to be a leader, and I want to be an example for all women here."

The Centre now educates around 25 students each year, and works directly with 21 community schools to improve children's nutrition. So far, around 800 children have benefited from new greenhouses, crop fields, small animal farms, and fruit trees.

Sexual and reproductive health

Around 2 million people die each year from advanced stage HIV and HIV-related illnesses, and infection rates are increasing at an alarming rate. Certain groups such as people with disabilities, those in rural areas, and the LGBT community are even more vulnerable to the disease.

Poverty denies people access to even the most basic healthcare. Millions of people cannot afford birth certificates, which are often necessary to access treatment. Millions more live in isolated locations putting them out of the reach of services.

International Service helps more people access essential healthcare, and supports healthcare providers to provide better quality services. And because much fear and misunderstanding surrounds HIV, education is an essential component of our work.

How we've helped reduce AIDS rates in northern Brazil

With our support, the Brazilian government and healthcare professionals have reduced cases of AIDS in the State of Amazonas by 51%.

Amazonas State – an area three times the size of France – has the 5th highest rate of HIV/AIDS in Brazil. Infection rates have been climbing at an alarming rate.

The State government, and the local governments of six municipalities, wanted to tackle this worrying trend.

But it's an incredibly challenging part of the country in which to work.

29% of people live in poverty, 20% are functionally illiterate, and one quarter of all live births are to mothers aged between 15 and 19. Immense distances between locations, limited health services, and widespread misunderstanding about HIV and sexually-transmitted infections all present a serious challenge to the government authorities responding to the STI/HIV epidemic.

In 2006, International Service accepted the challenge of supporting the government to educate people about sexual health, improve their access to healthcare, and improve the effectiveness of national sexual healthcare programmes.

Our seven volunteer Development Workers and two project managers helped the project partners produce information and education materials; train health workers and professionals; and facilitate surveys into knowledge, attitudes, and behaviour. Most importantly, we strengthened our partners' skills and abilities so that they can sustain this work into the future.

The project has had great success in reducing the number of cases of HIV, AIDS and sexually-transmitted diseases:

- The incidence of AIDS in people over the age of 13 **fell by 51%**
- The incidence of HIV in pregnant women **fell by 13%**, and more pregnant women are being tested for HIV and syphilis
- Parintins Municipality saw a **30% increase** in the number of people requesting HIV testing, and the HIV prevalence in the population **fell from 1.78% to 1.06%**
- Over **1500 health professionals** and health workers received training
- **50,000 young people** increased their knowledge of how to prevent STI/AIDS, and **gained access** to condoms and testing services
- **Over 141,500 adults** increased their knowledge of how to prevent STI/AIDS, and gained access to condoms and testing services

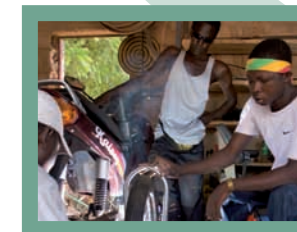
Human rights

Human rights are at the heart of our work.

Every one of us has rights, and we have the right to claim them. But every one of us also has a responsibility to make sure that rights can be fulfilled, and equally so. To fulfil human rights for all, it is essential to involve everyone at all levels of society – from the poorest and most excluded, to those with resources and power.

Our goal is to support poor and excluded people to understand and exercise their rights so they are empowered to create the opportunities and make the decisions that will change or guide their lives for the better.

We also work with those in positions of power and responsibility so that they understand and respect the rights of all people, and act in a way that makes it possible to fulfil equal rights.



How we've helped create a better foundation for children's rights in Mali

In Mali there an historical lack of reliable data and information about children and their economic, family, educational and health backgrounds has made life difficult for those working in child protection.

For organisations working with children, it has been difficult to develop projects and services that accurately respond to children's needs. For the government, it has been difficult to develop effective national policies and evaluate the impact of work already happening.

In collaboration with UNICEF and the government of Mali, International Service recruited a volunteer Development Worker to develop systems of data gathering and analysis, and to create a national database.

Over 80 government partners have been trained in how to collect and monitor data, ensuring that reliable data can be collected over time. The project also created a digital library, making resources and information accessible to all those working in child protection. The government is now developing a better understanding of the challenges facing children, and will be able to design policies that better respond to children's needs and rights.

Moving disability rights up the agenda in Burkina Faso

About 10% of the planet's population has a disability. Approximately 80% of all people with disabilities live in developing countries. In April 2009, the Government of Burkina Faso ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled Persons.

The Convention identifies areas where adaptations have to be made so that people with disabilities can exercise their rights. It also reinforces the protection of disabled people's rights.

However, progress like this isn't possible without collaboration between governments and grassroots organisations.

International Service's volunteer Development Workers have been sharing their skills and expertise with seven disabled people's organisations, supporting them in their fight for equal rights, and better inclusion in society.

Michel Youma, Co-ordinator of the Association of Disabled People of Gourma, says: "We now have to make the Convention more clear and accessible to disabled and non-disabled people, and claim our rights point by point."

We will be there to support them into the future.



Our UK programme



The International Service Human Rights Awards

The Awards recognise the achievements of organisations and individuals around the world working at a grassroots level to promote human rights and change the things that cause people to be excluded, impoverished or disempowered.

Uplifting ceremonies in the UK Houses of Parliament in December 2008 and 2009 saw Channel 4's Jon Snow, Samira Ahmed, and the BBC's Mike Wooldridge present awards to winners from Zambia, Algeria, Brazil, Palestine, Kyrgyzstan, Iran and Mali.

Born Free and Equal

In December 2008 we marked the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with Born Free and Equal – a multi-faith, cultural celebration at York Minster.

Led by the Archbishop of York, Bork Free and Equal involved over 600 Yorkshire primary school pupils who had taken part in our human rights poetry competition, judged by distinguished African poet Jack Mapanje.

Jamia – celebrating world cultures

In December 2009, over 500 people joined us for the first ever Jamia. Part of our Human Rights Awards celebrations, this feast of global music, dance, drumming, song, and spoken word took place inside Nordic tepees in the park at York Minster.

We plan to make Jamia an annual event, www.is-jamia.org.uk



Seashell Trust partnership

Our partnership with Manchester-based Seashell Trust grew rapidly. Seashell provides high quality education, care and specialist services to people with complex learning and communication difficulties.

In August 2008, we ran a fully-inclusive Global Arts Week for over 150 disabled and non-disabled children. The week was funded by the National Lottery Awards for All.

From May to July 2009, our Arts Educator completed a residency at the Trust, collaborating on a multi-sensory arts project, mentoring staff, and integrating creative activities into the award-winning CADS sports events.

School activities

To support pupils in their transition to high school, we delivered creative activities for 100 children from 12 primary schools in North Yorkshire. Pupils produced a collaborative collage based on life in Africa that was displayed at their new high school.

We also delivered creative Global Day and Environment Day workshops to a number of primary and secondary schools.

Same Difference children's art project

Between 2008 and 2010, our Same Difference exhibition was displayed at 25 venues, and over 1600 children took part in our creative workshops. We plan to extend Same Difference into a series of online creative classroom resources, available free at www.is-samedifference.org.uk

Income and expenditure

This page gives an overview of the income and expenditure during the years 2008 – 09 and 2009 – 10 of International Service (charity registration number 1069182).

These years constitute the fourth and fifth years of a six-year agreement with the UK Department for International Development (DFID). We gratefully acknowledge the receipt of a £1.56 million grant in 2008 – 09, and a £1.61 million grant in 2009 – 10.

The remainder of our income was raised from institutional and trust donors, individual donations and legacies, and fundraising events.

Total expenditure includes the cost of International Service’s international development programme, the cost of raising funds, the cost of recruiting volunteer Development Workers, and the cost of the UK development awareness programme.

The financial information provided has been extracted from the published financial statements, which have been audited by RSM Bentley Jennison. The full financial statements, which received an unqualified audit report, are available from the Charity Commission website and International Service’s website.

2008 – 2009

Income

Donations and grants	879,745
Investment income	3,925
Charitable activities	1,510,000
Total income	2,393,070



Expenditure

Cost of generating funds	172,726
Charitable activities	2,339,162
Governance	96,952
Total expenditure	2,608,840



2009 – 2010

Income

Donations and grants	661,153
Investment income	1,346
Charitable activities	1,560,000
Total income	2,222,499



Expenditure

Cost of generating funds	164,514
Charitable activities	1,950,162
Governance	90,928
Total expenditure	2,205,604



Looking forward

During the next five years we will strengthen links between the countries where we work and across continents.

An innovative partnership is emerging with the Brazilian government and its overseas aid department. Brazil is an emerging super power and it is an exciting time to be working with the Brazilian government as it develops its programme in sub-Saharan Africa – both in West Africa where we already work, and in Mozambique where we have an emerging presence.

We will further develop our presence in West Africa, by building on nascent programmes in Ghana and Sierra Leone, ensuring greater alignment with Commonwealth countries whilst retaining our presence in neighbouring French-speaking countries.

Our commitment to the Palestinian territories remains firm. We aim to build on our vibrant and well-established partnerships throughout West Bank, and will seek once again to work in Gaza.

In the UK, we plan to focus our work in the Yorkshire and Humber region.

Our annual Human Rights Awards celebrations will move from Westminster to York Minster, enabling us to make more of the region's long (and not always pretty) history of human rights. The

Awards represent a great opportunity to simplify the language of human rights making it a more accessible concept, and to work in partnership with key policy influencing organisations such as the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and Charitable Trust.

We are in the midst of an innovative partnership with the University of York, which will combine their academic rigour and kudos with our overseas expertise. Exciting work has already begun with the Centre for Applied Human Rights, Stockholm Environment Institute, and Post War Reconstruction and Development Unit.

Finally, there has been considerable in-country interest in a number of organisational development resources and tools which we have recently developed. Our resources focus on assessing the skills and abilities of partner organisations, and supporting them in undertaking

the training and development they need in order to become stronger, better-functioning organisations. Our aim is to further develop these tools and resources, and position ourselves as an international NGO with a consultancy specialism.

We are lucky to have so many new partnerships on the horizon, and we hope to develop them to the full so that we can further the attainment of human rights for everyone.



Thank you!

The organisations, trusts and foundation that appear on this page have given substantial support to International Service in 2008-09 and 2009-10.

We cannot mention all our individual donors and supporters here, but we would like to thank everyone who has contributed and continues to contribute to International Service – our work couldn't continue without your support.

Beatrice Laing Trust
Big Lottery Fund
Comic Relief
The Cotton Trust
Dowager Eleanor Peel Trust
European Commission
The Fitton Trust
Holbeck Trust
Guinness Trust
Irish Aid
Isle of Man
Marr-Munning Trust
Mercury Phoenix Trust
Miss Harbinson's Trust
Phillip Henman Trust
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State of Guernsey's Overseas Aid
Staple's Trust
The Tibdon Trust
W.F. Southall Trust

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