



Network of International Development Organisations in Scotland
ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2009-10

NIDOS mission:

NIDOS is a network of organisations in Scotland involved in international development. **NIDOS** aims to improve the effectiveness of Scotland's international development sector by facilitating and promoting the sharing of experience, ideas and information on international development policy and practice. Our charitable purposes are:

- To improve communication among international development organisations in Scotland
- To improve understanding of Scotland's international development sector
- To build the strength and capacity of international development organisations in Scotland
- To increase opportunities for advocating on international development issues with decision makers in Scotland, the UK and beyond

1 network • 8 networking groups • 8 training courses

9 networking events • 10 new member organisations

75 participants in the Good Practice and Effectiveness programme events • 80 member organisations

• 287 networking participants • 615 enquiries

...and many communities of benefit around the world!

NIDOS this year

- 7% growth in **NIDOS** membership - 3 of the 10 new members being diasporan-led organisations
- 11% growth in newsletter readership; 93% of respondents said **NIDOS** information was "excellent" or "good"; 615 enquiries responded to; 32% increase in use of website information resource materials
- 40% of members involved in Good Practice and Effectiveness programme developing a Self-Assessment tool to be launched in September 2010
- Strengthened the capacity of **NIDOS** member organisations to work more effectively and to fundraise – 70 participants in training courses with 8.6 satisfaction rating out of 10
- Facilitated active networking resulting in collective action on effectiveness, programme development, advocacy and media relations
- Raised awareness among members of the impact of climate change on development work
- Raised profile of the Scottish international non-governmental organisations' sector among other players in Scotland

Front cover photo source: Save the Children/photo by Karin Beate Nosterud. Sokha, six, lives with her parents and siblings in the Banteay Sleuk slum, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Chair's report

Welcome to the **NIDOS** Annual Impact Report for 2009-10, which shows a maturing network, growing in size and effectiveness in support of Scotland's contribution to international development.

In the past year there has been an increase in membership and newsletter readership, while use of website resources has risen by a third. The information provided by **NIDOS** was rated as 'excellent' or 'good' by nearly all responding members and our training courses achieved satisfaction rating of over 85%.

It is heartening news that we are providing a relevant and high quality service to our members, but this is far from being an end in itself. Our core purpose is to improve the effectiveness of Scotland's international development sector, i.e. increasing the sector's contribution to achieving real reductions in global poverty. With this in mind the drive for good practice and effectiveness in the sector remains central to our work.

Excellent collaboration amongst **NIDOS** members has enabled the development this year of a self-assessment tool, which will support organizations in monitoring and improving their effectiveness in international development. The tool, presented at our AGM in September 2010,

is being piloted before being formally launched in 2011. A new staff member has been appointed to support members in using the tool and promoting good practice.

We have provided member training in key areas of good practice such as governance, financial management and M&E. Networking continues to be an important benefit of **NIDOS** membership, improving information sharing and support and enabling more specific collaboration on a thematic or geographic level.

It has become increasingly important to look beyond the network to support and influence the wider international development sector.

NIDOS and its members provided significant input to the Scottish Government's revised International Development Programme. We have raised the profile of the Scottish international development sector and **NIDOS** with the new UK Government through events and meetings in the lead up to the 2010 elections. A future area for development will be in engaging the private sector more effectively in international development.

Finally, my sincere thanks to the dedicated **NIDOS** team (volunteers, staff and board), our supporters and members.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Page'.

Alex Page, Chair

Who are we? NIDOS Members July 2010

ACTSA Scotland
African Scottish Development Organisation
African Youth Development Action Project
Balcaig Foundation
Books Abroad
Bressay Outreach
British Red Cross
Burma Assist
Cairdeas International Palliative Care Trust
Capstone Projects
Centre for Development Studies
Challenges Worldwide
Charity Education International
Children in Distress
Children of Songea Trust
Christian Aid Scotland
Christian Blind Mission
Christian Engineers in Development
Clann Sona Romanian Appeal
Comas
Communities for Social Change
Community Business Scotland Network Ltd
Concern Worldwide
Darfur Training Committee
Deaf Action
Edinburgh Global Partnerships
EngineerAid
Friends of the Earth Scotland

GALVmed
Global Concerns Trust
IDEAS
IIED
Imani Development Foundation
Impact and Ipact
ImpAcTAIDS
INSP - International Network of Street Papers
Institute for International Health & Development
International Assoc. for Community Development
International Voluntary Service
IRPS Ghana Project
Islamic Relief
Jubilee Scotland
LifeMosaic
Link Community Development
Link Overseas Exchange
Lothian Partnership for African Links
Mamie Martin Fund
Mary Slessor Foundation
Mary's Meals / SIR
Media Support Partnership
MedicAid Africa
Mercy Corps Scotland
MIND
Mission Aviation Fellowship

Orskov Foundation
Oxfam Scotland
ROKPA UK Overseas projects
Royal Society of Arts, Manufactures & Commerce
Save the Children - Scotland
SCIAF
Scotland Malawi Partnership
Scotland's Buddhist Vihara
Scottish Fair Trade Forum
SEAD (Scottish Education & Action for Development)
Sense Scotland
Signpost International
SKIP Glasgow
Soko Fund
Solas Educational Trust
South Asia Voluntary Enterprise
Take One Action
Tearfund
The Blackford Trust
The Chesney Trust for Education in Malawi
The Leprosy Mission Scotland
UNA (United Nations Association)
Vine Trust
VSO
Woodford Foundation Scotland
World Development Movement (WDM)

What do our members do?

'improving livelihoods'



'encouraging ethical choices in Scotland'



'improving health and education'

'responding to emergencies'



'communities securing their human rights'

'tackling discrimination'



© Sean Sprague

'people making their voices heard'



© SCIAF

'pushing for action on climate change'

'tackling the root causes of poverty'

'developing good practice'

NIDOS's impact: Improving the effectiveness of Scottish international development organisations

• Mobilized members to develop effectiveness in international development

This year NIDOS has taken major strides forward and mobilized over 40% of our members to collaborate on sharing their experience on developing effectiveness and good practice. A major members' good practice and effectiveness debate was held in November 2009, followed by a series of consultation events which has resulted in the production of an effectiveness self-assessment tool, targeted particularly at small and medium sized organisations. This is being piloted first and we will seek feedback from users as well as existing agencies such as Disasters Emergency Committee, Humanitarian Accountability Partnership and in liaison with Bond. NIDOS has also employed a new development worker to encourage engagement on the use of this tool and of implementing improvements in effectiveness among members.

• Built the capacity of NIDOS member organisations to work more effectively

With an average of 8.6 rating out of 10, seventy participants learnt much from well received workshops and peer learning on Good practice in Financial management; Good practice in Governance,

for Trustees and Chief Officers; Monitoring and Evaluation; the use of web and social media technologies for working more effectively in international development; and Fundraising (from Corporate sector and from Major Donors. With more individual surgeries too, 12 member organisations have reviewed and strengthened their fundraising plans during a hard financial year. 'I loved the training last week and learned so much that I am bringing back to our organisation!'

• Facilitated more and effective networking

We stimulated 287 people to network with each other, through events and NIDOS's eight Working Groups. NIDOS members' networking has resulted in: raised awareness of existing codes of good practice in development; collaboration in developing the self-assessment tool on effectiveness as well as further work on testing a code of good practice in International Volunteering; mutual support between

Small NGOs in relation to capacity building; joint advocacy on key development asks among Scottish politicians and officials; new linkages between NIDOS members working in Asia; increased knowledge of funding sources among NIDOS members; greater awareness among non-NGO actors in international development in Scotland.

• Increased access to information and advice:

Members have said how useful it has been: 'The latest NIDOS newsletter has been extremely useful. I needed information about quality standards for non-profit organisations and there in the NIDOS newsletter was the link I needed. Thanks from a satisfied customer!', 'Many thanks for your comprehensive and informative response', 'The mentoring session on adobe contribute was very useful'. We have widened our resources on funding options, good practice in development and climate. Distribution of the newsletter has grown by 11% and website resource use by 32%.



NIDOS's Impact: Influencing the wider world

Scotland and International Development - working with the Scottish Government

As well as supporting **NIDOS** members, **NIDOS** has built relationships with decision makers and international development players in Scotland and increasingly become a key agency for them to liaise with when tackling issues of international development. With significant support from **NIDOS**, the Scottish Government has improved their approach to and delivery of their International Development programme. **NIDOS** has facilitated members' feedback on priorities and proposals for the new South Asia Programme; supported the sharing of good practice among Malawi programme grant holders and input to the Scottish Government's thinking on effectiveness in their grant programmes. We have also been a forum for discussion on opportunities for strengthening the Malawi programme and on improving overall monitoring and

evaluation systems for the government's international development programme.

NIDOS and Scotland's Academic players

NIDOS's Associate members include academic institutions or University departments in Scotland, bringing a complimentary expertise to the networking and enabling better flow of relevant research outcomes into our sector. Such Associate members can also benefit from linking with practitioners in helping to shape their research. Aberdeen University's renowned Impact programme has joined the Network as an Associate member this year. We have also collaborated with the Development Studies Association in Scotland and linked with the Scottish Collaborative Alliance for International Development (SCAID), an alliance of Scottish academic institutions involved in international development, to discuss cross-sectoral collaboration and joint working.

NIDOS and UK development strategies

Links with the Department for International Development (DFID) have been strengthened, with joint sessions on DFID funding and the involvement of **NIDOS** members' in DFID's training on Monitoring and Evaluation of Advocacy programmes. We also worked with them and with Comic Relief to launch their new Common Ground Initiative in Scotland. Comic Relief and **NIDOS** are collaborating to make better links with diasporan-led organisations in Scotland and building their engagement on advocacy issues. Relationships with diasporan organizations are strengthening with 3 out of the 10 new members being diasporan-led. Effective engagement with politicians in the lead up to the UK elections raised the profile of the Scottish sector with the new UK Government.



What do our members think NIDOS's impact is?



Children in Sichuan Province receiving books from Sunrise Library, supported by the Blackford Trust (courtesy of Sunrise Library)

BLACKFORD TRUST: "As a very new member of NIDOS, the Blackford Trust has found its information services and networking opportunities to be very valuable. It is useful to compare notes with other organisations with greater experience, and to get new ideas, as well as sharing our insights too! We have been involved in some of the work on the new Good Practice guidance, and when completed this will be an extremely helpful tool to introduce to our partners in China. We look

forward to learning more from our friends in the NIDOS network."

The Blackford Trust supports projects in Scotland and China that give people opportunity, and where appropriate, have a local and global relevance. So far, we have funded seven partners delivering anti-poverty, education, heritage and earthquake reconstruction projects in several Chinese provinces.

IIHD: "NIDOS plays an extremely important role in enabling a Scottish dimension to International Development. As an organisation we are always looking for ways of highlighting our programmes as well as to make our work in International Health and Social Development relevant within Scotland. NIDOS is an excellent way of doing this through many different networking mechanisms and in particular through promotion of partnership events. We have now collaborated on two such events which were very exciting and successful."

The Institute for International Health and Development is a research and postgraduate teaching institution within Queen Margaret University in Edinburgh. We run 5 MSc degrees as well as flexible short courses and doctorate level research. We are notable for the breadth of our approach to health which is based on incorporating an understanding of social justice, difficult environments, health systems, inequalities, health economics and gender differences.



IIHD/ Children's Clinic, Brazil (Edson Aruajo)



WORLD DEVELOPMENT MOVEMENT (WDM): "With WDM being only a small staff team in Scotland, NIDOS has played a vital role in helping us to keep in touch with the wider network of international development organisations in Scotland. NIDOS has also provided some really relevant and useful training days, and advertising in the newsletter has helped us recruit interns and new staff members on several occasions."

WDM Scotland, as part of a democratic campaign network across Britain, exists to achieve justice for the world's poor through campaigns that tackle the fundamental causes of poverty.

OXFAM: "NIDOS plays a crucial role in framing international development issues in Scotland. NIDOS coordinates the wide range of international development activities undertaken by more than eighty Scottish-based organisations. This ensures that we are all able to learn from each other, exchanging learning and good practice, as well as mobilising collectively to lobby for a better deal for the poor and marginalised people with whom we work."

BURMA ASSIST: "As a small developing organisation, being linked into the resources NIDOS provides a major support for us. Our focus is sustainable livelihoods for Burmese refugees and migrants in India. To be able to tap into NIDOS resources and know NIDOS exists to support organisations such as ours makes a difficult job, easier. All the NIDOS workshops I have been, to I have come away more resourced. I thoroughly recommend the work of NIDOS and I would say to any organisation out there that is not a member yet 'you are missing out!'"

Burma Assist training for sustainable livelihoods for Burmese women in Delhi



MARY'S MEALS:

"NIDOS is a very valuable resource for Mary's Meals. The monthly newsletter is a helpful update on the international sector in Scotland and we have been able to advertise jobs



School girls in Malawi

through the NIDOS website, which enabled us to directly access the appropriate audience in Scotland. We have contributed to NIDOS good practice events and are actively involved in formulating the toolkit, which will be a useful guide for Scottish NGOs. Most importantly, NIDOS has allowed us to meet and develop links with other Scottish organisations working in similar fields, which has the potential to increase the impact that our aid can make overseas."

Mary's Meals is an international movement to set up school feeding projects in communities where poverty and hunger prevent children from gaining an education. Mary's Meals provides daily meals in school for over 400,000 children in Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe. Mary's Meals not only addresses the immediate needs of hungry children by giving them a daily meal, it also allows those children to receive an education that can provide an escape from poverty for themselves and their communities.

SOUTH ASIA VOLUNTARY ENTERPRISE (SAVE): "NIDOS has made a marked difference to us, as collectively we have a much better understanding of the Scottish NGO scene and Scottish Funding agencies. It has been easy to relate to NIDOS. NIDOS plays a very important part in the development of Scottish INGOs by providing a platform for networking, sharing knowledge and experience on best practice and helping to engage with funding agencies including the Scottish Government. We wait eagerly for the informative 'NIDOS UPDATE' every month. NIDOS has been a breath of fresh air on the Scottish scene and its continuing existence and vitality are essential for the Scottish sector."

SAVE was registered in Scotland in 1994 as an International NGO to work mainly in the spheres included in the Millennium Development Goals amongst the poorest people in South Asia.

LIFEMOSAIC: "Through our participation in NIDOS net-working events, LifeMosaic has been able to enter into stimulating and inspiring conversations with many other Scottish based NGOs. NIDOS updates help us to stay informed of the constantly changing 'development environment' and networking events provide a dynamic and informative forum where we can share ideas, experience and knowledge. It has been inspiring to work alongside other NGOs who share our values and sense of urgency to promote social and environmental justice. As a 'young' and rapidly growing NGO, it has been very helpful for us to participate in the on-going NIDOS work on best practice, particularly in relation to embodying best practice in our own governance. NIDOS has pro-actively engaged with us and sought our views on best practice. This has been both stimulating and challenging."

Life Mosaic works in partnership with indigenous communities and movements to promote positive social and environmental change. LifeMosaic supports indigenous peoples' right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent about changes to their environment. We produce and distribute films for community empowerment, as well as other educational resources. Grass-roots distribution approaches ensure that they reach thousands of communities and inform critical conversations and land-use decisions.



Don Alejandro, of the Cofan Dureno community, Ecuadorian Amazonia

NIDOS making a difference on effectiveness and value for money

NIDOS has focused this year on driving up standards and developing effectiveness in our sector. Good practice, or effectiveness, will continue to be our major theme in the year ahead. Many of our members are already active on improving their approaches and are enthusiastic about strengthening these – so there is considerable energy behind this work and it is growing through **NIDOS**'s work. We will build on this by supporting more members (including more new members) to become effective contributors to poverty reduction as well as delivering better value for money.

What has NIDOS done so far?

A major participative event attended by nearly half of our members identified some of the challenges to achieving good practice. From this emerged demand for the development



'Good Practice: What are the Challenges?' event, Glasgow November 2009

of a practical, capacity building support tool. A core working group of members have coordinated a consultation process resulting in the production of an effectiveness self-assessment tool targeted at small NGOs. External consultation on the draft tool, involving others with experience in the field, including the Disaster Emergency Committee, One World Trust, Bond and PQASSO, sharpened the approach and a pilot version of the tool was presented at our AGM in September 2010. An online version of the self assessment tool, which includes a platform for networking, discussion and feedback, has been developed to be used alongside the tool itself.



'Developing the self-assessment tool with members', May 2010

Over the past year we delivered a range of workshops on good practice: partnership working, participative approaches, good governance and financial management – all with wide uptake and enthusiastic feedback. Our resources online have also been built up, linking to other similar initiatives around the world. We will continue to provide and develop this type of capacity building support in collaboration with other agencies.

We are enthusiastic about the progress and look forward to the challenge of securing greater member engagement with the tool and in implementing their learning from it.

Financial Summary

These are summary accounts. A copy of **NIDOS's** full audited accounts can be downloaded from our website at www.nidos.org.uk/about or requested by ringing **0131 243 2680** or writing to Thorn House, 5 Rose Street Edinburgh EH2 2PR. These have been independently examined by Norman Downie and Kerr Ltd, Chartered Accountants, 130 Constitutions Street, Edinburgh EH6 6AJ whose report was unqualified.

Income and Expenditure Account For the Year to 31 March 2010

	2010	2009
	£	£
Incoming Resources:		
Grants Receivable:		
Scottish Government - received	57,833	28,962
Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland - received	20,530	19,460
deferred grant released	8,556	8,109
- (deferred) in period	-	(8,556)
Total Grants Receivable	66,389	49,045
Membership fees	9,640	7,811
Training & other fees	2,424	1,429
Advertising & other income	880	
Bank interest	100	2,420
Total Incoming Resources	79,433	60,705
Resources Expended:		
Charitable Activities:		
Training & workshops	23,283	20,836
Working groups & networking events	15,729	13,388
Information dissemination	20,217	16,964
Strategic support	2,786	2,451
Advocacy & consultation response	8,177	8,189
Organisational development	10,842	8,010
Cost of Generating Funds	3,235	3,407
Governance Costs	7,593	7,742
Total Resources Expended	91,862	80,987
Net (Expenditure) / Income for Year	(12,429)	(20,282)
Funds Brought Forward	56,542	76,824
Funds Carried Forward	44,113	56,542

Balance Sheet at 31 March 2010

	2010	2009
	£	£
Fixed Assets		
Tangible assets	491	1,579
Current Assets		
Debtors	1,220	2,382
Cash at bank and in hand	47,295	66,475
	48,515	68,857
Creditors:		
Amounts Due Within One Year:		
Deferred income	150	8,907
Accruals & other creditors	4,743	4,987
	4,893	13,894
Net Current Assets	43,622	54,963
Net Assets	44,113	56,542
Funds		
Restricted funds	-	29,660
Unrestricted funds	44,113	56,542
Total Funds	44,113	56,542

NIDOS would like to thank the following funders and agencies who have generously supported our work over the past year or provided support in kind: Scottish Government | Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland | Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) | Morton Fraser Solicitors | **NIDOS** members | Comic Relief

