



I WANT TO
BE HEARD



Network of International Development Organisations in Scotland
ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2008-09

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 • 6 networking groups • 6 training courses

8 networking events • 8 funding information sessions

22 funding surgeries • 41 replies to climate change survey

76 member organisations • 270 networking participants

675 enquiries ...and many communities of benefit!

NIDOS this year

- 12% growth in NIDOS membership
- 30% growth in newsletter readership; 97% of respondents to a survey said NIDOS information was "excellent" or "good"; 675 enquiries responded to; 38% increase in website use and 150% increase in use of website 'Information Resource' materials
- Challenged the sector to develop good practice in international development and increased access to good practice resources
- Strengthened the capacity of NIDOS member organisations to work more effectively and to fundraise – 63 participants in training courses with 8.5 satisfaction rating out of 10; 22 fundraising surgeries with NIDOS member organisations
- Facilitated more and effective networking resulting in collective action on good practice in international volunteering, new collaborations on health and mutual support between small NGOs
- 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: Sharenlyn Mae Garay, from the Philippines, lives with her parents and 3 sisters in the North Baluarte slum area of Iloilo City and wants to train to be a teacher. She is being supported through Signpost's child sponsorship programme.

Chair's report

What do we understand by good practice in development? How effective is the work we do? And how do we know if we are really making a positive difference?

These are some of the challenging questions being addressed by a growing number of NIDOS members through the network debate on good practice. A key priority in the last 12 months has been to stimulate, lead and facilitate discussion on this critical issue, building on questions identified by members following consultation – questions about the meaning of good practice, strengthening of Southern partnerships, improvement of organisational governance, and development of impact assessment systems and practice.

The good practice debate is crucial. As global poverty becomes more entrenched and the number of hungry people grows, so too do questions about the effectiveness of aid and the impact of development. Donors, whether individual or institutional, increasingly look for accountability and demonstrable impact. NIDOS members, many of them small organisations with few resources, need to be able to rise to the challenge. The NIDOS

network provides a supportive space in which to do so through its tailored programme of events, training, and opportunities for networking and sharing.

The issue has a particular resonance in Scotland. As a small country developing new international development policies, the government faces not only the challenge of ensuring the effectiveness of its overseas aid, but also that of integrating its development programme with wider international policy. NIDOS has contributed comment and feedback at a time of change and opportunity.

It has been a great privilege for me to chair the NIDOS board for the last two years as the challenge of good practice has taken shape. I would like to pay tribute to my fellow board members for the time and experience they contribute to the development of the sector through NIDOS, and to thank the staff team for their unfailing commitment and support. A network is only as good as the members who make use of it, and judged by the level of engagement in the past year reflected in this report, NIDOS is thriving. Long may it do so.



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Mary Cullen

Mary Cullen, Chair

Who are we? NIDOS Members July 2009

ACTSA Scotland
African Scottish Development Organisation
Balcraig Foundation
Books Abroad
British Red Cross
Cairdeas International Palliative Care Trust
Caledonia Centre for Social Development
Centre for Development Studies
Challenges Worldwide
Charity Education International
Child Support Project - Malawi
Children in Distress
Children of Songea Trust
Christian Aid Scotland
Christian Blind Mission
Christian Engineers in Development
Clann Sona Romanian Appeal
Comas
Community Business Scotland Network Ltd
Concern Worldwide
Darfur Training Committee
Deaf Action
Edinburgh Global Partnerships
EngineerAid
Friends of the Earth Scotland
GALVmed

Ghana Plastic Surgery
Global Concerns Trust
IDEAS
IIED
INSP - International Network of Street Papers
Institute for International Health & Development
International Assoc. for Community
Development
International Voluntary Service
Islamic Relief
Jubilee Scotland
LifeMosaic
Link Community Development
Link Overseas Exchange
Lothian Partnership for African Links
Lydia Project
MAFAM
Mamie Martin Fund
Mary Slessor Foundation
Mary's Meals / SIR
MedicAid Africa
Mercy Corps Scotland
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
Scottish Palestinian Forum
Scottish Education & Action for Development
Sense Scotland
Signpost International
SKIP Glasgow
Soko Fund
Solas Educational Trust
South Asia Voluntary Enterprise
Tearfund
The Chesney Trust for Education in Malawi
The Leprosy Mission Scotland
The Nepal Trust
UNA (United Nations Association)
VETAID
Vine Trust
VSO
Woodford Foundation Scotland
World Development Movement (WDM)
World Exchange

NIDOS members – working with communities around the world

'improving livelihoods'



'encouraging ethical choices in Scotland'



© Septh Bergerson

'improving health and education'

'responding to emergencies'



'communities securing their human rights'

'tackling discrimination'



© Sean Sprague

'people making their voices heard'



© Christian Aid

'pushing for action on climate change'



© Ed Barnett/LCD

'tackling the root causes of poverty'
'developing good practice'

What do our members think NIDOS's impact is?



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.

SIGNPOST INTERNATIONAL: "Signpost International, like many small NGO's, does not have all the resources we need to achieve our goals. NIDOS has helped us by providing training that meets our real needs, is both practical and delivered by people with small NGO experience. We found the monitoring and evaluation training particularly helpful – both the content and the networking. NIDOS provides extremely helpful networking opportunities too – recently we were put in touch, through NIDOS, with another member willing to share their experience on setting up an office in India, cutting the time and effort we had to put into achieving this."

Signpost International works to empower poor communities, building their capacity to find sustainable solutions to poverty. Signpost International currently works in India, the Philippines, Uganda and Dundee.

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. www.qmu.ac.uk/iihd



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

ENGINEERAID: "EngineerAid is an innovative charity model based upon knowledge transfer. We joined NIDOS in March 2009, and have been greatly impressed by the resources available. The networking opportunities provide us with invaluable links to other charity organisations, and the fundraising workshops and good practice meetings have helped us grow in both size and our approach. As well as this, NIDOS gives us considerable knowledge and experience to draw upon, and helps us work together with others as a cohesive part of the international development sector."

EngineerAid provides free engineering consultancy online to projects in the developing world. 21st century technology is harnessed to connect professional engineers all over the world with the international development projects that need their expertise.

ROKPA UK: "NIDOS has been a great help to us in many ways including providing affordable training in relevant subjects at a level to suit us. These have been attended by a number of staff and have provided ideas for best practice and helped make us more professional. The training sessions have also been a useful forum for networking, comparing practice and helped us to see how we fit into the bigger picture in Scotland. NIDOS staff have also been a source of help, advice and support with fundraising and administrative practice over the years and should take credit in our growth. The Newsletter has also been a useful way to advertise our events."

ROKPA UK responds to poor people's basic food, education and health needs in Nepal, Zimbabwe, South Africa, the Tibetan areas of China and the UK. We also work on environmental and cultural projects.



SAVE THE CHILDREN: "Within the international development sector in Scotland, NIDOS plays an invaluable role providing information and networking opportunities. NIDOS' newsletter ensures that we are kept up to date with the activities of other organisations and for us to share information about what we are doing. In addition, the training courses



Scots singer, KT Tunstall makes her mark for Save the Children at Glastonbury

offer a unique space where we can address the specific needs of an INGO operating in Scotland. NIDOS brings us together with other organisations based in Scotland that share our values and commitment to challenging injustice across the world. We look forward to our continuing involvement with NIDOS so that we can be more effective in supporting the people of Scotland to play their part in changing the world for children."

Save the Children is the world's independent children's charity. We're outraged that millions of children are still denied proper healthcare, food, education and protection. We're working flat out to get every child their rights and we're determined to make further, faster changes.

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.

VSO SCOTLAND: "VSO has been tackling the underlying causes of poverty for over 50 years and as a result of VSO volunteers and the organisations they work with, there are now women and men able to make a sustainable living, children getting a quality education, AIDS orphans being looked after in their own community and disabled people living full lives with access to support.

NIDOS plays a key role in keeping VSO abreast of funding opportunities in Scotland the moment they arise. Day to day, NIDOS have been invaluable as a news and information resource, essential for a small VSO team with a large remit. The training courses have proved to be varied, affordable and tailored around members needs and allow for much needed but often neglected networking. As our office in Scotland grows, we will continue to benefit from the friendly and efficient service NIDOS offers it's members."



NIDOS's impact: Our achievements within the Network

- **Increased access to information**

Members have valued having better access to information through the newsletter, email updates, website and briefings : quotes regarding the Newsletter, "very impressed" and "what an excellent newsletter". New areas on the website on funding options, good practice in development, particularly on HIV/ AIDS, children's nutrition, climate change and governance. With increased marketing there has been a 150% increase in use of these website materials and much positive feedback "I'm learning a lot from the NIDOS website – really interesting". Distribution of the newsletter has grown by 30% over the last year.

- **Challenged the sector to develop good practice in international development**

Members identified four main themes for support on good practice, through a members' consultation: encouraging debate and exchange on what is meant by good practice in development; strengthening Southern Partnerships; improving organisational governance; and developing improved impact assessment systems and practice. In response, NIDOS brought together 253 people through five

good practice related networking events on health, climate change and development, and through this supported member organisations to build new relationships with other organisations in the same field and think critically about their own approaches to development work. A major good practice debate event is being planned, to involve members in agreeing a "Challenges for developing good practice" document which they will sign up to and start implementing.

- **Raised awareness of the impact of climate change on development work**

Over the past year NIDOS has helped more members to network with others involved in climate change issues and also stimulated other members to think about how climate change does and will increasingly impact on the development work they do.

- **Strengthened the capacity of NIDOS member organisations to work more effectively**

Sixty three people have enjoyed expert training on Monitoring and Evaluation; Fundraising strategies and techniques; and building Media strategies and partnerships. With an average of 8.4 rating out of 10 from participants

these courses were well received. With more individual surgeries too, 22 member organisations have reviewed and strengthened their fundraising plans. This has been especially crucial during the increasingly difficult financial times facing the sector this year.

- **Facilitated more and effective networking**

As well as the learning achieved through the good practice events a total of over 270 people were enabled to network with each other, through these events and also through NIDOS's six Working Groups. NIDOS members met a wide range of contacts from health, academic and diasporan sectors in Scotland. This networking resulted in: collaboration in taking forward a code of good practice in International Volunteering; mutual support between Small NGOs in relation to capacity building; action to raise awareness of the impact of climate change on international development; new linkages between NIDOS members working in health projects and other organisations and professionals working in health in Scotland; increased knowledge of funding sources among NIDOS members; greater awareness among non-NGO actors in international development in Scotland.

NIDOS's impact: The Network looking out, building connections and affecting change

NIDOS and International Development policy in Scotland

NIDOS has facilitated members to develop their own direct relationships with the Scottish Government as well as coordinating collective advocacy on Scotland's International Development policy and programmes. This has resulted in some significant improvements to the Scottish Government's approach to and delivery of the International Development programmes, particularly in relation to the further development of the Malawi programme; the new Sub-Saharan Africa programme and input to ideas for the emerging South Asian programme. NIDOS has also, through collective feedback on monitoring and evaluation systems for the ID programmes, secured some improvements to these.

NIDOS's strengthening reputation and growing membership, means we are recognised as a key agency for both the

Scottish Government and other sectors in Scotland to work with when tackling issues of international development – including the academic sector in Scotland.

NIDOS and Scotland's Academic players

A number of Internationally focused departments of Scottish Universities are NIDOS members and they bring a complimentary research expertise to the networking. Such Associate members can also benefit from linking with those NIDOS members who are practitioners in the field, helping to shape their research agendas.

Effective collaboration with Queen Margaret University's Institute for International Health and Development, University of Edinburgh, Glasgow University's Centre for International Development, and the Development Studies Association resulted in four well attended events with a focus on good practice in international development. St Andrews University's

Management School also worked with us on an event disseminating the results of research on Management approaches to NGOs.

We are building links with the emerging Scottish Collaborative Alliance for International Development (SCAID), an alliance of Scottish academic institutions involved in international development, to further develop cross-sectoral collaboration.

NIDOS and UK development policy

Links with the Department for International Development (DFID) have also been strengthened, with joint sessions on DFID funding and on Maternal Health, and input from DFID to our Climate Change event. NIDOS facilitated members to engage with the DFID White Paper "Eliminating World Poverty" and a lively and well attended meeting was held by DFID in Edinburgh. We plan to continue to build links with DFID and key UK based funders.



Climate Change and international development - why should NIDOS work on Climate Change?

Over the past decade climate change has at last been firmly put on the “top priority” list of things for governments and individuals to do something about. Much of this has focused, importantly, on how to cut emissions by industrialized countries and the huge impact climate change is having on the environment and endangered species. Now crucially, the focus needs to include the impact climate change is already having on poor communities in the ‘South’ and how they can be supported to adapt. Investment need to be made to tackle their vulnerability to flooding and droughts; changes in the agricultural seasons and cropping cycles; dwindling access to clean drinking water; increased incidence of health threats. This needs to be paid for by those industrialized countries who have contributed most to increasing climate change emissions.

What has NIDOS done so far?

NIDOS brought together 25 member organisations (30% of members), with input from DFID too, to network and share their thinking and current work on



From left to right: Sean Doolan (DIFD); Mary Cullen (NIDOS Chair) and Simon Anderson (IIED) as NIDOS Climate Change event

climate change advocacy and in programme adaptation – some for the first time. A mapping survey followed and identified that India, Bangladesh, Malawi, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania are the most common countries where NIDOS members work and which are significantly affected by climate change. Information on climate change impacts and national government and other agency action on climate change in these

six countries has been drawn together and shared with members to encourage them to link with local strategies and agencies in these countries. Our next steps are to look at how NIDOS members can be facilitated to work more effectively on building southern advocacy capacity and with adjusting programming to meet poor communities needs for adaptation (for example on water, health and food security) in the future.

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 Thornhouse, 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 2009

	12 Months to Mar 09	14 Months to Mar 08
	£	£
Incoming Resources:		
Grants Receivable:		
Scottish Government - received	28,962	85,000
- deferred grant released	-	14,167
Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland - received	20,530	19,460
- (deferred) in period	(8,556)	(8,109)
- deferred grant released	8,109	-
Total Grants Receivable	49,045	110,518
Membership fees	7,811	7,463
Training & other fees	1,429	4,920
Bank interest	2,420	4,734
Total Incoming Resources	60,705	127,635
Resources Expended:		
Charitable Activities:		
Training & workshops	20,836	37,310
Working groups & networking events	13,388	13,126
Information dissemination	16,964	28,054
Strategic support	2,451	2,964
Advocacy & consultation response	8,189	9,255
Organisational development	8,010	15,909
Cost of Generating Funds	3,407	-
Governance Costs	7,742	7,948
Total Resources Expended	80,987	114,566
Net (Expenditure) / Income for Year	(20,282)	13,069
Funds Brought Forward	76,824	63,755
Funds Carried Forward	56,542	76,824

Balance Sheet at 31 March 2009

	At 31-Mar 2009	At 31-Mar 2008
	£	£
Fixed Assets		
Tangible assets	1,579	1,988
Current Assets		
Debtors	2,382	1,537
Cash at bank and in hand	66,475	84,367
	68,857	85,904
Creditors:		
Amounts Due Within One Year:		
Deferred income	8,907	8,109
Accruals & other creditors	4,987	2,959
	13,894	11,068
Net Current Assets	54,963	74,836
Net Assets	56,542	76,824
Funds		
Restricted funds	-	29,660
Unrestricted funds	56,542	47,164
Total Funds	56,542	76,824

NIDOS would like to thank the following funders who have generously supported our work over the past year:
 Scottish Government | Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland | NIDOS members

List of Trustees:

Mary Cullen, SCIAF – Chair

David Christison, Christian Blind Mission – Treasurer

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Judith Robertson, Oxfam in Scotland

Neil Thin, School of Social and Political Studies, University of Edinburgh

Lisa Maclean, International Network of Street Papers

Mhairi Owens, Concern Worldwide (Co-opted)

Mukami McCrum, Central Scotland Racial Equality Council (Co-opted)

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