



Network of International Development Organisations in Scotland

ANNUAL REVIEW 2007-08

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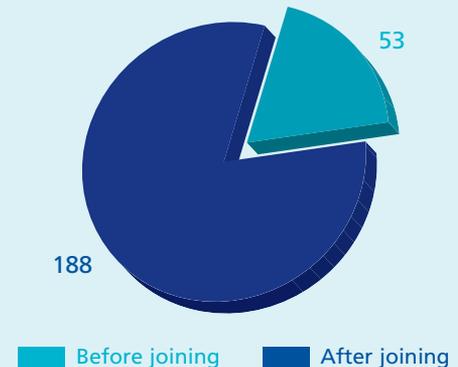
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NIDOS mission:

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

NIDOS action:
"255% increase in relationships
before and after joining **NIDOS**"



Assist Social Capital: **NIDOS** Social Capital Profile 2007

Cover image courtesy of Mercy Corps Printed on 100% recycled paper Design: 39steps, www.39stepsstudio.com

Chair's report

External change and internal debate have challenged **NIDOS** members on fundamental questions about international development in the past year, making it one of the most interesting in **NIDOS'** eight year history. With a membership of 72, the focus has shifted from growing the number of members to reaching a shared understanding of best practice.

The process has been mirrored externally, where the shaping of a new Scottish international development policy was marked by extensive consultation and willingness on the part of government to listen and learn. **NIDOS** members individually and collectively contributed to the consultation over several months, and many of the points they made were reflected in the final policy.

When I was asked to contribute to an awayday of the new European and External Affairs Committee in August last year at the start of the consultation process, there was a clear consensus on the message **NIDOS** members wanted to convey. The focus of the new strategy should be poverty eradication; it should support communities in the South to

develop their own solutions to poverty; and its implementation should reflect good practice.

One of the highlights of the year for the **NIDOS** board has been visiting member organisations to discuss best practice. It has brought home the enormous diversity, skill, creativity and experience that exists within the network. I hope that **NIDOS**, through networking, skill sharing, facilitating discussion with government and helping develop best practice, will continue to serve its members well and strengthen Scotland's developing international sector.

Mary Cullen

Mary Cullen, Chair



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NIDOS members July 2008

ACTSA Scotland
African Scottish Development Organisation
BalCraig Foundation
Books Abroad
British Red Cross
Caledonia Centre for Social Development
Centre for Development Studies
Challenges Worldwide
Charity Education International
Chesney Trust
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
Community Business Scotland Network Ltd
Concern Worldwide
CORE Coalition Scotland
Deaf Action
Edinburgh Global Partnerships
Friends of the Earth Scotland
GALVmed
Ghana Plastic Surgery
Global Concerns Trust
ICTHES World Care
IDEAS
IIED
Institute for International Health & Development
International Association for Community
Development
International Network of Street Papers
International Voluntary Service
Islamic Relief



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- Jubilee Scotland
- Leprosy Mission Scotland
- Link Community Development
- Link Overseas Exchange
- Lydia Project
- MAFAM
- Mamie Martin Fund
- Mary Slessor Foundation
- MedicAid Africa
- Mercy Corps Scotland
- Missionary Aviation Fellowship (MAF)
- Orskov Foundation
- Oxfam in Scotland
- Rokpa UK Overseas projects
- Royal Society of Arts, Manufactures & Commerce
- Save the Children Scotland
- SCIAF
- Scotland Malawi Partnership
- Scotland's Buddhist Vihara
- Scottish International Relief
- Scottish Palestinian Forum
- SEAD (Scottish Education & Action for Development)
- Sense Scotland
- Signpost International
- SKIP Glasgow
- Soko Fund
- Solas Educational Trust
- South Asia Voluntary Enterprise
- Street Child Africa
- Tearfund
- UNA (United Nations Association)
- VETAID
- Vine Trust
- VSO
- Woodford Foundation Scotland
- World Development Movement (WDM)
- World Exchange

Picture

Scotland's role in International Development

Members of **NIDOS** cannot have failed to notice the involvement of the Scottish Government in International Development in recent years, with active involvement of our sector in the debate and discussion on this. With an initial budget allocation of £3m starting, significantly, in 2005, the Scottish Executive under the Labour/ Lib Dem administration focused its policy on supporting developing countries to meet the Millennium Development Goals and specifically on work in Malawi. An active and 'special' relationship with the Malawi Government was developed and the key development themes of the programme - health, education, economic development and civil society - were established.

Following the Scottish elections in May last year the new Government stated its commitment to continue and develop the special relationship with Malawi. They reviewed the international development policy and within that, increased the budget and the number of countries the policy will impact on. This change came about following a Government led consultation exercise in Autumn 2007. **NIDOS** played an important role in this process by stimulating information flows across the sector and ensuring that the Government was able to hear the views of **NIDOS** members as the

process played out. **NIDOS** co-ordinated cross-sector input and encouraged individual organisations to make their own responses to the consultation too.

The outcomes of the review process are available on the Scottish Government website. In short, £6m will be allocated this year and next with £9m available in 2010/11. The programme will be expanded to cover Sudan (Darfur), Rwanda, Zambia, Tanzania and the countries of the Indian Sub-continent. Within the budget, £3m will be ring-fenced annually to provide continued support to Malawi. Detailed guidance for applications has been produced, again following consultation with **NIDOS** and the Scotland Malawi Partnership.

The Scottish Parliament's European and External Relations Committee also initiated its own inquiry into international development during the year, to which **NIDOS** and individual members submitted written and oral evidence. **NIDOS** supported the committee's Europe Day

Conference for young people which was hosted in May 08 as part of the inquiry.

NIDOS will continue to facilitate advocacy with the Scottish Government and Scottish Parliament, as well as with other decision makers and funders such as the Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland, enabling members to put forward their views and raising the profile of the sector in Scotland. We are helping to host information days on the new Scottish Government international policy in partnership with their International Development Team, enabling members and others to get well briefed in advance of application deadlines later in the year.

Our best practice discussions across the **NIDOS** membership will also inform future policy development and stimulate active involvement in improving our work and that of the sector.

Judith Robertson

NIDOS Board member

The full Report of the Scottish Government's International Development Policy and related documents are at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Government/International-Relations/internationaldevelopment>

The full report of the Scottish Parliament's inquiry into Scotland's role in International Development is available on the European and External Relations Committee's website at: www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/europe/

NIDOS ACTIVITY over the year 2007/08

NETWORKING AND BUILDING LINKS

NIDOS has four Member Groups, through which members learn from each other, work jointly on issues of concern and share information. The **International Volunteering Group** has been very active in developing a Code of Practice for International Volunteering – and aims to set up a kitemark scheme to recognise best practice standards. More detail on their progress is included under Best Practice on page 10. The **Malawi Group** input to the Scottish Government's Education Action Plan and discussed options for collaborating more effectively on the training, support and resettlement of staff and volunteers going to Malawi. **The Small NGOs Group** learnt about securing better value for money from banking services, completed a needs assessment of its members and had a session on branding and marketing. It is now looking at options for securing resources for capacity building of small NGOs in the network. A new group, **The Funding Group**, was set up during the year, with the aim of sharing fundraising experience between members. A recent session brought in expertise on Core Funding and sustainability in fundraising strategies. Group members hope to build relationships with strategic partners and funders.

PARTNERSHIP BUILDING AND ADVOCACY

As outlined under Scotland's Role in International Development, **NIDOS** and its members have contributed effectively to consultations by both the Scottish Government and the Scottish Parliament's European and External Relations Committee. **NIDOS** is seen by key decision makers and funders as an important partner and over the year we have continued to develop this increasingly important partnership building aspect of our work, also meeting with DFID and The Scotland Office. Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland invited **NIDOS** to input to the review of their International Funding programme and most recently the Scottish Government consulted with **NIDOS** on the delivery of their new international development funding programme.

INFORMATION PROVISION

NIDOS' popular monthly e-newsletter and email updates provide members with the latest relevant sector news on funding, events, resources, jobs and profiles of members' work. 83% of respondents to a **NIDOS** survey "strongly agreed" or "agreed" to the statement "I find the **NIDOS** Newsletter useful to my work" whilst 97% rated **NIDOS'** information as "excellent" or "good". A new, more interactive website was

launched in December 2007, with a members' only area for networking, sharing information and accessing tailor-made resources including a regularly updated Funding Directory, template policies and information on Best Practice.

WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

"Managing Risk in International Volunteering", "Participatory Learning and Action", "Managing People Effectively at a Distance" and "Raising money from Major Donors" were some of the 10 workshops which **NIDOS** ran over the year. Evaluations showed a high average satisfaction rating of 8.8 out of 10 with an attendance of 71. In November 07 **NIDOS** hosted a very popular networking event, attracting 85 participants, at which Linda Fabiani MSP, Minister for Europe and External Affairs, spoke on Scotland's role in international development. Planning is also nearing completion for an event to help the network explore how it might work more effectively on Climate Change and Climate Justice.

BEST PRACTICE

NIDOS has been gearing up its work on Best Practice and for more information on the progress made please go to page 10.

What **NIDOS** members gain from the Network



MERCY CORPS

"Mercy Corps has enjoyed membership of **NIDOS** for many years now. As well as the training courses organised, the networking opportunities are valuable, such as the meeting organised for Scottish NGOs and DFID. Additionally, the updates via the **NIDOS** newsletters and website of new governmental funding streams and developments are extremely useful."

Mercy Corps works amid disasters, conflicts, chronic poverty and instability to unleash the potential of people who can win against nearly impossible odds. Since 1979, Mercy Corps has provided £600 million in assistance to people in 106 nations. The agency's unified global programmes employ 3,500 staff worldwide and reach nearly 16.4 million people in more than 35 countries.

EDINBURGH GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

"**NIDOS** has helped us a great deal through networking and training on issues like OSCR accounting, good practice in volunteering, and risk management. Membership of **NIDOS** is very important to us and we continue to look to **NIDOS** to help us develop good practice."

EGP is a student run organisation which places dozens of volunteers each year in group projects which aim to support community led initiatives and work with people to help them achieve their goals for development, as well as building trust and respect between cultures. Current projects with overseas partner organisations in Africa, Mongolia and Nepal focus on HIV and AIDS, social education, and construction of income generating, training or educational facilities.

CHILDREN OF SONGEEA

"Children of Songea are a small charity with big ideas for the future. **NIDOS** helps us to network with others and share best practice. We have benefited from up-to-date information on funding, been more able to contribute to the national debate on international development issues, accessed a wealth of knowledge and expertise that otherwise would be impossible to find, and feel less isolated in what we are doing as a result.

NIDOS also provides a valuable platform for small organisations' voices to be heard"

Children of Songea Trust has been working since 2005 to improve the life chances of children affected by poverty and HIV/AIDS in the Songea District of Tanzania. Our vision is that communities achieve a sustainable future free from poverty and the threat of HIV/AIDS. We provide financial and technical assistance to our community-based partner in Tanzania, and focus on building their capacity.



LINK COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

"**NIDOS** membership this year has given us access to quality training, information and networking opportunities all of which have a positive impact on the performance of Link Community Development in Scotland. We're looking forward to the further opportunities for networking with members to improve the impact of the sector initiated by the **NIDOS** best practice consultation over the coming year."

Our focus over the past year has been on working in partnership with departments of education and rural schools in Malawi, South Africa, Ghana, Uganda and Ethiopia. Further funding from the Scottish Government has enabled us to develop our work in the Dedza and Mulanje districts of Malawi to support the departments of education to improve the teaching and learning, management, and community ownership of rural schools.

JUBILEE SCOTLAND

"As a coalition, Jubilee depends for its success on close collaboration between charities, churches and civil society groups," said Co-ordinator Ben Young. "We're grateful to **NIDOS** for helping to create an environment in which such teamwork is possible."

Jubilee Scotland is a strong global justice coalition in Scotland. Born from the Jubilee 2000 movement, it fights to cancel the unpayable and illegitimate debts that enslave the world's poorest countries, and to overturn the harmful economic interference that accompanies existing debt relief programmes. Listening closely to campaigning partners in indebted countries, and harnessing a rising Scottish tradition of public engagement in issues of global poverty and justice, we put pressure on decision makers to secure lasting debt justice for the world's poor.



SENSE SCOTLAND

NIDOS associate membership gives our organisation a way of keeping in touch with the international sector. We have also benefited from funding advice and overseas links.

Sense Scotland's roots go back to 1977 when a small group of parents of deafblind children met to offer mutual support. Today it is a highly professional organisation providing support to children and adults with complex needs arising from deafblindness, sensory impairment, learning and physical disability.

Sense Scotland's international work comes through its membership of the Deafblind International Council, which operates across 35 countries. Our international skill sharing includes helping to establish family networks in Slovakia, teacher training in India, and hosting international meetings in Scotland.

THE GLOBAL CONCERNS TRUST

"The Global Concerns Trust has supported the **NIDOS** network from its conception and feels it has benefited in several ways. We are actively engaged in the small organisations fora and this has led on to some collaborative work. We have attended subsidised training events and this has contributed to our broader funding base, as we now hold grants from Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland as well as the Scottish Government. We would like to see **NIDOS** reach out to more small organisations in the sector who could well benefit from membership and active engagement."

Alastair Christie, Chair, Global Concerns Trust

CHRISTIAN AID

"The website and newsletter are excellent ways of hearing what other agencies in our network are doing. We also appreciate the way in which **NIDOS** keeps abreast of the policy and parliamentary updates from the Scottish Government and communicates this to us."

Gavin McLellan, head of Christian Aid Scotland

Christian Aid Scotland is the official agency of most of the Scottish churches for emergency aid and tackling global poverty. We support partner organisations who are working to end the injustice of poverty in 50 countries, through both long-term projects and emergency response.



Best Practice

What is Best Practice and what should NIDOS and its members be doing about it?

There is considerable interest in the not-for-profit sector improving its effectiveness and accountability and this is the same for the international development sphere too.

NIDOS has been enthusiastic in considering how we can best support members on this and following a Board away day to plan our work, Board members and the Coordinator have visited the majority of members to consult them on what support they would find helpful. There is a strong interest in building consensus on what best practice means and in promoting best practice codes and guidance.

It is anticipated that **NIDOS** will support members through collating information, organising networking and peer support events as well as training where requested.

Best Practice in International

Volunteering: **NIDOS'** International Volunteering Group has made lots of progress in promoting best practice. Their proposed Code of Practice has been finalised and a Steering Group has been



NIDOS training day

set up, bringing together expertise in international volunteering, auditing and links with both the not-for-profit and profit-based volunteer agencies. Fundraising is continuing, to employ a Development Worker to get this initiative

tested and rolled out across the UK. **NIDOS** and member organisations involved have been instrumental in getting this project pushed forward and we look forward to seeing the results of all the hard work in the coming year.

Financial Summary

These are summary accounts. A copy of NIDOS' full audited accounts can be downloaded from our website at www.nidos.org.uk or requested by ringing 0131 243 2680

Income and Expenditure Account For the Period from 1 February 2007 to 31 March 2008

	14 Months to Mar 08 £	13 Months to Jan 07 £
Incoming Resources:		
Total grants receivable	110,518	103,333
Membership fees	7,463	6,145
Training & other fees	4,920	4,248
Bank interest	4,734	1,343
Total incoming resources	127,635	115,069
Resources Expended:		
Charitable activities:		
Training & workshops	37,310	24,245
Working groups & networking events	13,126	17,101
Information dissemination	28,054	8,562
Strategic support	2,964	3,868
Advocacy & consultation response	9,255	5,873
Organisational development	15,909	31,701
Governance costs	7,948	6,390
Total resources expended	114,566	97,740
Net Incoming/ (outgoing) resources	13,069	17,329
Funds brought forward	63,755	46,426
Funds carried forward	76,824	63,755

Balance Sheet at 31 March 2008

	At 31-Mar 2008 £	At 31-Jan 2007 £
Fixed Assets		
Tangible assets	1,988	3,165
Current Assets		
Debtors	1,537	5,979
Cash at bank and in hand	84,367	77,072
	85,904	83,051
Creditors:		
Amounts due within one year:	11,068	22,461
Net Current Assets	74,836	60,590
Net Assets	76,824	63,755
Funds		
Restricted funds	29,660	32,531
Unrestricted funds	47,164	31,224
Total Funds	76,824	63,755



List of Trustees:

Mary Cullen, SCIAF – Chair

David Christison, Christian Blind Mission – Treasurer

George Rawlinson, Solas Educational Trust – Company Secretary

Alex Page, Challenges Worldwide

Judith Robertson, Oxfam in Scotland

Mhairi Owens, Concern Worldwide – Co-opted

Neil Thin, Centre for South Asian Studies, Edinburgh University – Co-opted

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