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## International Programmes - underlying principles & themes

1. As with any programme of ICA:UK, the International Programmes strive to:
  - a. Contribute to the overall mission of the organisation
  - b. Reflect and put into practice the agreed values of the organisation
2. In addition, the International Programmes seek to embody and demonstrate the established values that underpin the ToP methodology, principally out of belief, but partly also in an effort to establish our uniqueness.
3. In line with our 2005 3-year strategy, the International Programmes seek to emphasize growth through third parties, growth of impact rather than our own organisation. The International Programmes have a established track record in working in this way with strong relationships already established with other individuals and organisations, both within and outside the ICA International network. The intent is to achieve an appropriate balance between direct, indirect and partnership delivery.
4. The International Programmes have a history of working in partnership with other members of the ICA International network, particularly those in Africa. Principles have been established and strong relationships developed as a result. The International Programmes in this coming period want to extend this approach to cover more third parties, moving beyond the more common types of relationships (e.g. client-service provider, donor-recipient) to a more mission focused relationship which brings benefits not only to the two (or more) organisations involved, but also to their target groups (a “win-win-win” situation).
5. In recognition of current tension between the dearth of evidence in many areas of development, and the growing importance being attached to evidence-based approaches, the International Programmes intend to integrate quality documentation and learning processes into its work. This is a recognised weakness in ICA globally in the past, and yet is also key to ICA:UK building its profile and expanding its credibility and markets.
6. Capacity Development is a theme in the International Programmes which runs through all the components, be it of individuals, other ICAs, client organisations, ICA:UK staff and Associates. We want ourselves and the people and entities who we engage with to be different as a result of our intervention.
7. The International Programmes seek to take a holistic, cross-programmatic approach to their work, seeking to link their various components in a mission-focused strategy. A contract to deliver a training course in Africa, for example, although classified under “in-house training”, would be designed and delivered to achieve impact in other categories as well, taking into account capacity development of ICA:UK, capacity development of the national ICA (either in the same country or nearby) and capacity development of the client’s own staff. Again the International Programmes have a track record in this approach.

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