



ICA:UK International Partnership Programme

Impact Assessment, April 2007

ICA:UK has been implementing the International Partnerships Programme in its current form since 1999. Although it has been reviewed and refined in the period since then, it was felt that this is a good time to try to assess the impact of the programme. This was partly as an opportunity to learn and to adjust the programme itself, but also to provide evidence of impact to potential future supporters of the programme.

The questionnaire was sent to the IPP's main partners in Africa, with nine out of the eleven ICAs responding. The following points, taken largely verbatim from the responses, represent the main findings:

1. The average time that ICAs in Africa have been working with ICA:UK (or ICA Development Trust before that) is 7 years, with some being significantly longer than that (e.g. ICA Kenya), and some ICAs since their inception.
2. During that time, the **key areas for support** were identified as:
 - a) Networking and Information
 - b) Supporting fundraising efforts (proposal writing advice/feedback)
 - c) Capacity Building
 - d) Accessing programme funding from UK donors (institutional and individual)
 - e) Moral/personal support and guidance
 - f) Facilitation of African Regional Meetings
 - g) Support for (inter)national training programmes (e.g. IToPToF, Ghana)
3. The **forms of this support** include:
 - a) Links to donors (e.g. World Bank Small Grants, Simavi)
 - b) Information sharing (e.g. the Home Based Care toolkit and general HIV/AIDS information)
 - c) Practical linkages (e.g. with other ICAs regarding the Big Lottery proposal)
 - d) Fundraising (e.g. ICA Tanzania received five and half years programme support from the Baring Foundation)
 - e) Training (e.g. ICA Tanzania and NIRADO staff and other local NGOs have been trained in Participatory Strategic Planning, Fundraising and Proposal writing)
 - f) Ongoing feedback and advice on proposals
 - g) Programme Management, Monitoring and Evaluation Advice (e.g. Kenya, Ghana, Tanzania)
 - h) Provision of resource person in training event (e.g. IToPToF, Ghana)
 - i) Moral support (e.g. "When you write a proposal and the donor turns that proposal down, there is always an encouragement of not to lose hope and to try somewhere else an attitude which has given us a positive thinking and have kept us on trying until we succeed.")

4. From the responses, the ICA:UK approach is particularly **appreciated** for:
 - a) The support offered to other ICAs, and how very few staff in ICA:UK can have such a great impact on so many other ICAs
 - b) Its openness and transparency, particularly in regard to communication
 - c) ICA:UK's willingness to involve ICAs in proposal writing
 - d) Dependability: the feeling that ICA:UK is available to give support and advice, and the care and attention given to it
 - e) Friendly approach: a "true understanding of the "human factor" in development", unobtrusive not domineering, offering suggestions
 - f) Presence: Attendance in meetings in Africa and helping to facilitate planning events

5. Most ICAs thought that the current ICA:UK approach does not need any change, although there were **three specific suggestions for improvement**:
 - a) To include staff exchanges
 - b) More training on Monitoring and Evaluation
 - c) How to push for greater accountability at all levels within the ICA network without appearing to be 'preaching' about good practice.

6. ICAs identified the following **changes** that have taken place in their organisations **as a result of the ICA:UK support**:
 - a) Recognition of the importance of international networks, and a feeling of greater connection with other ICAs in Africa.
 - b) Improved knowledge and skills in programme and organisational management, monitoring and evaluation, fundraising, and a better understanding of our work
 - c) Raised profile in the communities and in the country, and confidence to go into partnership with government, private sector and civil society
 - d) More funding, enabling new initiatives to start, capital improvements (e.g. new vehicle), contributing more to learning and impact
 - e) Expansion (e.g. ICA Tanzania's staff numbers have increased from 5 – 14)
 - f) Greater confidence in facing difficulties and in implementing a major project and reporting to a large donor
 - g) Strengthened ability to attract consultancy work
 - h) Exposure of staff to international training programmes

7. Other **benefits** to the ICAs as organisations included:
 - a) It has added to the list of partners significantly
 - b) It has served as a foundation for us to attract support from other donors, attend training events
 - c) Time and money saved by the ICA:UK advice
 - d) We have learnt a lot from the openness and transparency of ICA:UK, their ethics, values and practices

8. Respondents suggested how they would like to see the **ICA:UK approach develop in the future**. Most wanted to see the current approach continue, but there were some specific suggestions:
 - a) Playing a greater role at the regional level in Africa (e.g. promoting more regional projects like the one submitted to the Big Lottery Fund, working more with the network rather than with individual ICAs)
 - b) Strengthening links with European charities now that ICAI no longer has a presence in Europe
 - c) Do projects with partners, where ICA : UK is the European partner and can actually monitor activities at that level

- d) Assists new ICAs in finding sponsors for little projects (e.g. around £ 5,000 to £10,000).
- e) Continued support with fundraising, project development and networking
- f) Support for exchange programmes (workers, youth etc) within the ICA network (Africa-Africa, Africa-Europe etc) and skills development of staff
- g) Support for development of facilitation services throughout the continent as a key means of developing sustainable organisations
- h) More efforts in identifying donors who are ready to support administrative work and community development work will help some African ICAs perform better. (e.g. continued development of Village Volunteers programme)
- i) Greater effort to organise fundraising events for Africa in the UK (like the Red Nose Day!!)
- j) Advocacy activities in UK & Europe to support issues raised by African ICAs