

VÄNNERNAS SAMFUND I SVERIGE

The Religious Society of Friends in Sweden

Quaker Service Sweden Annual Report 2010

Account number for contributions: Plusgiro 30 39 01-3

Quaker Service Sweden actively cooperates with local partners to safeguard the rights of civil society.

New for 2010: *we are decided to translate our Annual Report into English and distribute it to our local collaborative partners so that they too will know how Quaker Service Sweden (QSS) distributes the financial support received from donors and from Sida (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency).*

QSS work – which includes fundraising for projects that safeguard the rights of civil society, applying for Sida-funding via the relevant Swedish grant aid organisations, maintaining contact with project managers, administrative work in connection with new projects, visits to projects, the monitoring of projects and financial reporting to grant aid organisation Forum Syd, bookkeeping and accounting, contacts with donors etc – is dealt with by a committee appointed by Sweden Yearly Meeting. The committee also co-opts people with expertise in certain areas as and when appropriate. QSS work is carried out on a voluntary basis, which means that the funds raised can be channelled into the development aid projects. Committee members only receive reimbursement for certified expenses.

Despite its size it is clear from the following activities that QSS has achieved a lot. QSS accounts are examined by a chartered accountant and its annual financial report constitutes part of Sweden Yearly Meeting's official report. Some years ago QSS decided to withdraw from the Stiftelsen för Insamlingskontroll (SFI) due to the high cost of membership and open a new account: Plusgiro 30 39 01-3.

Although QSS is part of Sweden Yearly Meeting, its finances are completely independent. Information about Swedish Quakers and QSS can be found on the website: www.kvakare.se/kvakarhjalpen.

QSS cooperates closely with other European Quaker service organisations and is part of the worldwide Quaker network. See the website: www.quaker.org

A big thank you to all donors! In 2010 we raised 252,588 SEK (232,275 SEK in 2009).

Income 2010: (2009 in brackets)

General donations	181,296	(164,678)
<u>Ear-marked contributions</u>	<u>71,292</u>	<u>(67,597)</u>
Donations:	252,588	(232,275)
Interest	973	(351)
Sida-funded project grants	467,000	(710,000)
<u>Sida-funding admin. etc.</u>	<u>59,100</u>	<u>(140,000)</u>
Total	779,661	(1,082,626)

The total turnover dropped from 1,082,625 till 779,661. We spent 35,033 (52,509) on fundraising and administration costs.

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Financial forecast for 2011

On 31 December 2010 QSS had current assets amounting to 235,351 SEK (199,347) in the bank and accounts payable of 84,900 SEK (15,000). The owners equity amounted to 150,251 SEK (192,701), of which 35,996 SEK (76,788) was reserved for project funding.

In 2010 QSS transferred funds (SEK) to the following projects:

	2010	2009
Bangladesh	426,306	621,209
Burundi	188,374	279,907
Ramallah MM	14,614	0
Int. Centre Ramallah	27,474	0
Friends Schools Ramallah	20,607	0
Am'ari Play Centre, Ramallah	64,560	20,641
Russia	1,800	17,900
Total	743,735	939,657

Other expenses during 2010

	2010	2009
Administration	25,278	40,937
Fundraising newsletter	9,755	11,572
Other projects	2,150	49,274
Total	37,183	101,783

Total expenses in 2010: 780,919 SEK (2009: 1,041,440)

QSS activities in brief

Bangladesh

In Bangladesh some 3,000 people + 100 local staff benefit from the project. At the beginning of 2010 Sue Frykman and Lisa Ann Winddotter from QSS visited the project for 10 intensive days. QSS support helps local partner organisation SUS to continue its work in the city slums of Mymensingh, which began in early 2009. The target groups are women and children, adolescent girls, disabled people and minority groups (the landless, the poor and the extreme poor) amounting to 1,000 households.

In Mymensingh the project aims to create income-generating activities for participants through micro-finance and micro-enterprise initiatives and to improve reading and writing skills by means of infant school education (children above the age of 5) and junior school education (school years 1-3). Another aim is to improve health, nutrition and sanitation. Participants learn about family planning, pregnancy, HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases. SUS staffs also work with the programme "Stop Violence Against Women" (SVAW) and organise human rights groups. One programme aims to train adolescents to become social change agents. The rehabilitation of people with different kinds of disabilities is also underway.

The project in Purbodhala has similar objectives. Although QSS support will be phased out completely during 2011 the SUS activities will continue to be organised and run by the local communities themselves.

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Burundi

In Burundi about 400 people take part in the project and acquire organic homestead gardening skills and knowledge.

The project "Farming and Food Security" (Development of local food production) continued to operate with Sida support via Forum Syd, albeit with a severely reduced Sida budget. Local agriculture is developed by means of cooperative model farms, which are designed to improve people's self-sufficiency. The project's activities contribute to the development of the local community around the cooperatives.

Unfortunately, QSS was unable to visit the project in 2010. We will try to remedy this in 2011. Despite this we were able to organise support and collaboration via our international contacts.

Georgia

In Georgia local Quakers continue to provide legal support for human rights work. The project is ongoing and funding may also be necessary during 2011.

Ramallah

Over the years QSS has supported Quaker work for peace and reconciliation in Palestine by contributing financially to the running of the Quaker Meeting House, the Friends International Centre, the Friends Schools and the Am'ari Play Centre – all of which are situated in Ramallah. Tofte and Sue Frykman from QSS visited all the above in connection with their participation in the centenary celebrations of the Quaker Meeting House, which is also now used as an international peace centre.

Since the mid-1970s QSS has supported the Am'ari Play Centre for needy children in the Am'ari Refugee Camp. Tofte is also involved in the play centre's European management group. The Friends Schools in Ramallah, with some 1,100 students, have received funding in order to help them to provide education for all - including children with various kinds of disability. QSS is also involved in ongoing Quaker engagement in the Israel-Palestine conflict by supporting the work undertaken by Quaker Service Norway in collaboration with local partners in 13 preschools in Gaza.

Russia

Also in Russia a lot of the activity takes place behind the scenes. The "Friendship Seeds" gardening project aimed towards children in schools and preschools has been in place for the last 12 years. The project is ongoing and continues to receive our support.

European Collaboration

Gerhard Vitek took part in the annual European Quaker Peace and Service Consultation held in Brussels in November.

Inreach and Outreach

We created and distributed a fundraising newsletter.

The committee met three times in Stockholm. Committee members also maintained regular contact via email and telephone and decisions about urgent matters were only made after consulting all committee members.

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Summary and future prospects

A big thank you to all our donors within the Yearly Meeting and throughout Sweden!

- God is our guide and gives us the strength to continue the work.
- We observe that Sida, via the umbrella organisations, now has a much tighter control of aid to projects that support the civil society. This increased control has also led to an increase in costs for our local collaborative partners and to our workload. Annual audits are now required by a chartered accountant in line with ISO-standards for inclusion in the annual project reports.
- This development is now forcing us to consider the possibility of only funding our aid efforts with the money that we receive from donations.
- In 2012 a new three-year project will begin in Bangladesh and perhaps also in Burundi and Ramallah; applications will be prepared during 2011 via the Swedish Mission Council.
- We are happy that so many people in the projects benefit from our efforts. At the same time, we are concerned about what the situation would be if something untoward happened to key people in QSS. In view of this we are keen to widen engagement in QSS within Sweden Yearly Meeting in order to be able to continue to carry out development aid activities in the future.
- In addition to its ongoing projects, QSS is committed to a greater focus on European Quaker work in Ramallah, in which it is already an active participant.
- In 2011 we plan to create and distribute fundraising newsletters so that our donors and other interested parties have up-to-date information about QSS activities.
- Our aim is to encourage more Swedish Quakers to get involved in the work of QSS.
- We are responsible for updating the QSS information in Swedish and English on the Sweden Yearly Meeting website: www.kvakare.se/kvakarhjalpen and <http://www.kvakare.se/quakerservicesweden.shtml>

Appendix: QSS Guidelines

Stockholm, 17/2/2011

For Quaker Service Sweden

Gerhard Vitek
Clerk

Marilyn Barden

Tofte Frykman
Treasurer

Annika Hollsing

LisaAnn Winddotter

The Annual Report was approved by me, Stefan Kanesco, Chartered Accountant, on

Date: / /2011

Signature:

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QSS Guidelines

QSS is an independent body of Sweden Yearly Meeting [The Religious Society of Friends in Sweden, Quakers].

Its task is to:

- facilitate development aid in countries other than Sweden;
- to collect funds for this purpose;
- to be a vehicle for this work.

Development aid is mainly intended for projects and not for individuals. The projects must reflect Quaker values, such as those indicated in the following criteria:

- Help people to achieve self-reliance.
- Support projects that already at the planning stage involve the targeted groups and individuals.
- Allow people to come to a deeper understanding and practice of their own religion, whatever this might be.
- Transfer values based on love, solidarity and mutual responsibility to the communities we support, and demonstrate a humanistic approach to the problems of our time.
- Ensure that the projects are accomplished in the designated time-frame and that local people eventually take over the work and become self-reliant.

The finances of QSS are audited by a chartered accountant. The QSS Annual Report constitutes part of Sweden Yearly Meeting's official statement of accounts. For financial reasons, in 2007 QSS decided not to renew its membership of the Stiftelsen för Insamlingskontroll (SFI).

QSS is grateful for every single contribution it receives. The QSS account number Plusgiro 30 39 01-3.

QSS work is carried out by a committee, the members of which are appointed by Sweden Yearly Meeting. Two of these members are authorised to sign on behalf of the Yearly Meeting.