



1. Background

Quaker Service Sweden (QSS) is an independent organisation that focuses on international development activities in the form of development work and direct support to Quaker-led and Quaker-inspired projects. The aim is to contribute to peace, reconciliation and democracy. The work is carried out with respect for every person's inviolability and equal value, and mainly consists of education and helping people to help themselves.

Our key words are love, justice, equity, community and mutual responsibility for a sustainable development.

Our donors, together with applications for funding from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) via the Swedish Mission Council (SMC), provide the financial means for the work. In Sida-supported projects we follow SMC's guidelines for follow-up and evaluation. In other projects we follow our own project-related guidelines.

The projects are carried out in areas that are often prone to conflict, natural disaster and all kinds of communication difficulties. We work with our partners to ensure that the projects we support are professionally managed and reflect our Quaker values.

The QSS board is registered with the Swedish Companies Registration Office. QSS is also a member of Swedish Fundraising Control and Swedish Mission Council.

2. Important events in 2020

2020 was our first complete year as an independent organisation, which also coincided with SMC's organisational evaluation of QSS. This evaluation led to the creation of 14 new policy documents in order to clarify and document our way of working. We regard ourselves as professional development work actors, yet at the same time maintain our identity as Quakers. This also means honouring our Quaker testimonies of peace, equality, integrity, community, simplicity and stewardship.

In 2020 we carried out an organisational evaluation of our partner Sabalamby Unnayan Samity (SUS) in Bangladesh, which was an important learning experience for everyone involved.

Participation in training courses and seminars is an important part of QSS's capacity development. In 2020 QSS board members took part

Read more about us at <https://www.kvakare.se/english/quaker-service-sweden/>

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

Donors are able to earmark their contributions for particular projects if they so wish.

Effects of COVID-19

Some projects have had to be reorganised in order to focus on information about the pandemic and how to protect against it.

QSS has not been directly affected by the pandemic, other than all our meetings have been held online.

As our fundraising efforts do not require physical



in courses on conflict sensitivity and freedom of religion or belief run by SMC and an information meeting organised by Sida on the new strategy for Bangladesh.

We rejoiced over a new three-year contract with SMC for Sida support for the project we support in Bangladesh.

Another important event was being accepted as a member of Swedish Fundraising Control and once again being able to offer our donors the quality of a Swedish 90-account. As an independent organisation, we now also have a bank account in our own name and are no longer dependent on that of Sweden Yearly Meeting.

3. Projects

QSS supports projects in Europe, Africa och Asia. Most projects have a direct connection to the activities run by local Quakers, many of which are long-term. QSS strives to be a stable and reliable partner. The starting point is always local needs and local ownership. Our relations with our partners are characterised by mutual respect, which in turn leads to independence and sustainability. We learn from each other. Our work is governed by a constitution, policies, guidelines and Agenda 2030.

Bangladesh

The contract for SUS's 3-year integrated development project (IDP) in northeast Bangladesh came to an end in 2020. Important work had been done and the inhabitants of 40 villages had been helped to improve their living standards and their access to human rights and health care. Although the situation of women is the main focus, in recent years the project has been broadened to include younger men and the elderly. The support associations for SUS in Stockholm and Jönköping also cooperate with QSS in this project.

When the pandemic broke out the project had to refocus. The lockdown in Bangladesh affected poor people most and led to increased unemployment, an increase in domestic violence, more child marriages and hunger. In 2020 SUS carried out an intensive information campaign on COVID-19, supported families in acute need and lobbied governmental authorities for support. Despite the difficulties, the project was able to be completed with good results.

In December, a one-year project was started with a view to increasing the capacity of SUS as an organisation by making it possible for SUS staff to educate the population in its catchment areas in the use of new digital services, and in that way exercise their rights and increase their possibilities. The project is financed via SMC as a value-added initiative.

meetings, contributions have continued to come in as usual.

As an organisation QSS has remained stable during 2020 and no major difficulties have been experienced.



Adolescent girls presenting their annual goals.



SUS provides pre-primary education in the villages through the IDP.



Burundi



The creation of new seedbeds.

The work to develop new farming methods continues and new cooperatives are established all the time. A completely new cooperative was established in 2020 for 30 families on the outskirts of the Kwibuka area in eastern Burundi, close to the border with Tanzania. Vegetable and tree nurseries have also been created. Trees give shade to sensitive plants and at the same time stabilise the soil to prevent landslides and erosion.

Small shops have also been opened in the collectives, where they sell soap, salt, sugar, fruit juice and palm oil at affordable prices. When people can sell their own vegetables and animals at the local market, it means that more families are able to afford to send their children to school and buy new crops and tools.

Ethiopia

In 2020 the aid organisation focusing on the rehabilitation of young women who have been in prison was reorganised and renamed as "Gate of Hope". The aim of the new organisation is to ensure a more effective re-integration into society. We are following this development in cooperation with the Swedish support organisation SEFIR-S.

Palestine (Ramallah)

The Friends School in Ramallah runs a Learning Support Programme for pupils with special educational needs. During the year the programme struggled with the difficulties of carrying out distance education. However, in autumn the pupils in the programme were able to return to their normal classrooms. *(Photo)*

Georgia

In Georgia, a Quaker who has already run several social projects with our support studied the situation for refugees from Armenia and Azerbaijan with a view to spreading knowledge and increasing awareness about their difficulties.

Palestine (Gaza)

Together with Quaker Service Norway we support 13 preschools in Gaza's refugee camps. In November the Gaza Community Mental Health Programme started a campaign ("Femina") to support the rights and health of women and girls.



Russia

QSS has been a long-term supporter of the "Neva River Clearwater" project – an exciting collaboration between nature schools in Sweden and St. Petersburg. In 2020 the project management on both sides was handed over to a new generation.



Uganda – AVP

Together with German, Norwegian and Dutch Quaker service organisations we support an Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) in Uganda. This is an international programme that helps the participants to manage conflict and violence in new and creative ways.

Zimbabwe

A peace education programme adapted for Zimbabwe is run in Hlekweni with support from Quakers in several countries. Lockdown, drought and hunger have made the situation there difficult, so support is very welcome.

Quakers helping Quakers

In 2020 we helped to support the Africa Section of the Friends World Committee for Consultation during the pandemic, e.g. in the running of Quaker hospitals and clinics.

4. Financial summary

- In 2020 QSS received an unexpected legacy of 30,000 SEK. A decision on how to use this money has not yet been taken.
- The results for 2020 are in line with the organisation's long-term goals. One of the goals is to ensure that most of the donated funds go to the projects in the field. Our administrative costs are small and are more than well covered by the funds we receive from SMC in connection with Sida funding.
- For the project in Bangladesh, which is financed by Sida, the requirement is that 5% of the amount is covered by own funds, in this case 68,523 SEK. The SUS support associations in Stockholm and Jönköping have contributed 17,000 each to this amount.
- QSS assets and funds are held in bank or PlusGiro accounts, with no exposure to risk.

5. Members

QSS members are encouraged to support the organisation both financially and practically, e.g. by contributing with specific skills. Members take part in the Annual Meeting and receive information via a newsletter (which is also sent to every donor) and e-mailed reports. QSS strives to be transparent and attentive and to take good care of its members.

In 2020 we gained 35 new members. At present we have 44 members and 148 regular donors.

6. Sustainability

The impact of QSS work on the environment and issues like equality are made visible in the projects we choose to support and how they are managed. The close connection between climate, environment and sustainability on the one hand, and peace and human rights on the other, mean that all these aspects are in focus in the project goals. QSS also exercises care and sensitivity with regard to travel and the use of resources.

What we at QSS do:

- Offer strategic support to our partners.
- Apply for Sida funding.
- Follow up and report on our supported projects.
- Make field visits.



We can see clear examples of the results in these areas in Bangladesh, where so many women have been helped to understand their rights and make use of opportunities to improve their incomes and their standing in society. SUS training in sustainable farming methods and sustainable environments has also helped people to become more environmentally conscious.

7. Expected future developments

2021 sees the start of a new 3-year period of the Integrated Development Project in Bangladesh in 40 villages in the Netrakona-Mymensingh area. This time the budget is for 6 million SEK, divided into 2 million SEK per year.

We are exploring the possibilities of increasing the project work in Burundi.

The project in Gaza is facing an uncertain future due to the fact that Quaker Service Norway has been unable to secure further funding from Norad, the Norwegian equivalent of Sida.

Preparations are in hand for the recurring natural catastrophes in the areas in which we are active.

8. Management

QSS work is led and managed by QSS board members and co-opted members who take on temporary assignments. All these people are unpaid volunteers. In 2020 11 board meetings were held and 2 annual meetings.

The organisation has no paid employees. Its administrative centre is at present in Nässjö, at the home of the Treasurer. The QSS accounts are audited by Dag Köllerström, a chartered accountant at KPMG in Nässjö.

The QSS board consists of Görel Råsmark (Clerk), Tofte Frykman (Treasurer), Arnold Langefors (Secretary), Annika Hollsing and Sue Glover Frykman.

- Take part in networks and courses run by SMC and Swedish Fundraising Control.
- Manage the organisation.

Quaker Service Sweden is seeking to strengthen its board membership, increase its capacity and increase its general membership.

Nominations work is carried out by a Nominations Committee. No new nominations to the board were made in 2020.

QSS is very grateful to all its donors for their steadfast support! Thank you!!



Income and Expenditure in 2020 (in SEK)

Income	2020	2019
Membership fees	3 800,00	0
General donations	282 398,00	280 842,20
Ear-marked donations	113 173,20	71 160,20
Sida funds via SMC	1 623 204,95	1 382 565,35
Total income	2 022 576,15	1 734 567,75
Expenditure		
Project costs	1 870 573,86	1 621 398,35
Administration costs	62 971,30	72 587,50
Fundraising costs	18 442,50	24 773,50
Total expenditure	1 951 987,66	1 718 759,35
Operational results	70 588,49	15 808,40
Appropriations:	- 19 040,00	17 790,00
Annual results	51 548,49	33 598,40

Balance sheet for 2020

ASSETS	2020-12-31	2019-12-31
Receivables	0,00	19 876,00
Cash and bank	385 166,98	263 113,44
TOTAL ASSETS	385 166,98	282 989,44
OWN CAPITAL PROVISIONS AND LIABILITIES		
Organisation's own capital	282 430,28	230 881,79
Approved funds for projects	43 647,00	24 607,00
Total own capital, see below	326 077,28	255 488,79
Short-term liabilities	59 089,70	27 500,65
Total own capital and liabilities:	385 166,98	282 989,44

