



Quaker Service Sweden

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1. Background

Quaker Service Sweden (QSS) is an independent organisation that focuses on international development activities in the form of development cooperation and direct support to Quaker-led and Quaker-inspired projects. The aim is to contribute to peace, reconciliation and democratic development. The activities are carried out with respect for every person's inviolability and equal value and mainly consist 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 disasters 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. Our way of working includes trust, patience and a long-term perspective.

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 2021

2021 was characterised by the COVID-19 pandemic and our partners' efforts to maintain their project work despite lockdowns and restrictions. Instead of meeting face-to-face in various contexts, board members became used to holding and attending meetings online. All the meetings with SMC and Sida took place online, as well as the now twice-yearly network meetings between QSS and the SUS-support groups in Sweden.

In Bangladesh, most of the planned activities in the development of an active ITC-centre for Sabalamby Unnayan Samity (SUS) have been carried out. In the first phase of this project the aim has been to increase the IT knowledge and skills of SUS staff. The next phase will

Read more about us at <https://www.kvakare.se/in-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 can earmark their contributions for specific 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 meetings, contributions have continued to come in as usual.



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be directed towards the project participants themselves. This is the first time that SMC has funded a value-added initiative of this kind.

During the year our identity as an independent organisation has become clearer thanks to the board's new policies and guidelines. These include guidelines for the follow-up of projects and a policy for capital investments. QSS sees itself as a professional actor in the development sphere and at the same time maintains its identity as a Quaker organisation by emphasising the Quaker testimonies, especially those relating to equality and peace.

As an organisation QSS has remained stable during 2021 and no major difficulties have been experienced.

6 board meetings were held during the year.

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 their independence and sustainability. We learn from each other. Our work is governed by a constitution, guidelines and Agenda 2030.

Bangladesh

Our local partner is Sabalamby Unnyan Samity (SUS) in the northeast of Bangladesh. Here we support an Integrated Development Project (IDP) in rural villages around Netrakona and Mymensingh that helps the project participants to claim their rights, improve their living standards and gain access to government agencies. The project model is 3 years of development, 3 years of continuous support and 3 years of phase-out; the aim being to allow the villagers and local authorities to continue to collaborate and focus on rights. 2020 was the final year in this cycle. In 2021, QSS was able to support SUS with interventions in 40 new villages, thanks to a new 3-year agreement with Sida via SMC.



The empowerment of women and adolescents is in focus, as this is vital for ensuring change in the local communities. Men and senior citizens are also included in the work and have important roles to play, which also indicates how the development is to everyone's benefit. The SUS support groups in Jönköping and Stockholm collaborate with QSS in the IDP project. During the pandemic the project was able to proceed more or less as planned, apart from the work in schools, which was prevented due to the national lockdowns. SUS was nevertheless able to disseminate knowledge and materials that helped to minimise the spread of the virus.



In 2021, with the support of QSS, SUS created an ITC learning centre and carried out a one-year training programme for its staff. This in turn made it possible for the SUS staff to train the local population in using new digital services and thereby enable them to claim their rights and increase their possibilities. The one-year value-added ITC project was financed via SMC and took place from December 2020-December 2021.



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Burundi



Bridge building

QSS's long-term engagement in the 'Farming and Food Security' project in Burundi continues. Five local cooperatives are supported and as more people join the cooperatives the network widens. An important ingredient is the dissemination of knowledge about tree planting, irrigation, fertilisers, harvests, sustainable farming and crops that provide better yields and have less environmental impact. New techniques have been introduced for rice cultivation and the eradication of palm oil. Nurseries for vegetables and trees have also been established. The trees provide shade for delicate plants and at the same time stabilise the soil and prevent erosion and landslides.

The project participants' annual joint evaluation was held in April, in which they analysed and reflected on how the planned work had gone. It was ascertained that 96% of the activities had been carried out as planned. An important goal in the work is to build new communities for villagers and neighbours belonging to different ethnic groups (Hutu, Tutsi and Twa) or different churches where the old conflicts from the civil war can be put aside.

Ethiopia

The aid organisation FIRC supports young people between the ages of 9 and 18 who have been released from prison and are socially stigmatised. In 2022 it is hoped that a new programme for transit-living, safety and income-generating activities will begin. QSS cooperates with the Swedish support association SEFIR, which has direct contact with the actors in place in Ethiopia.

Palestine (Ramallah)

At Friends School, the Learning Support Programme for pupils with special educational needs has continued to struggle with the strict pandemic restrictions. However, pupils in the programme have been given precedence with regard to on-site education at the school.

Georgia

In 2021 the Quaker Misha Elizbarashvili carried out a job-seeking project for internal refugees from Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Misha's actions have helped several refugees to find work and thereby also a more bearable existence for very vulnerable families.

Palestine (Gaza)

Quaker Service Norway has been responsible for the support of 13 preschools in Gaza's refugee camps. In 2021 it became clear that Norwegian state aid would no longer be granted. Support from QSS's Swedish donors helps to facilitate the necessary changes that will need to be made.



Taleen learns to read at Friends School

Russia

The collaboration between nature schools in Sweden and St. Petersburg is exploring new forms. Interesting conversations are taking place about how to inform and inspire in order to help Russian teachers make their pupils more curious about the natural world.



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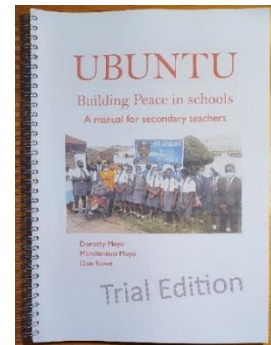
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Uganda – AVP

Despite the pandemic and its lockdowns, AVP-Uganda was able to carry out 'training the trainers' workshops in alternatives to violence. This initiative is supported by QSS together with other European Quaker service organisations

Zimbabwe

QSS has contributed to the peace manual called "Ubuntu, Building Peace in Schools. A manual for secondary teachers". It describes how to create a peace club, provides lesson material on dealing with conflicts, human rights, communication etc. The manual is being tested in peace clubs and schools during spring 2022. Peace work is important in a country like Zimbabwe, with its long history of violence.



4. Financial summary

- In 2021 QSS received a donation of 100,000 SEK earmarked for the continuation work in Russia.
- QSS also received two large donations, together amounting to 125,000 SEK. This has inspired us to consider supporting new ventures.
- The project work in Bangladesh, which receives funds from Sida, is also supported financially by QSS and the SUS support groups in Jönköping and Stockholm.
- QSS funds are held in bank and plusgirot accounts. 350,000 SEK of QSS's long-term capital has now been placed in Aktie-Ansvar, Sverigefond B.

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 QSS's Annual Meeting and receive information via newsletters (which are also sent to every donor) and members' bulletins. QSS strives to be transparent and attentive and follows the agreed guidelines for the care of its members.

In 2021 we welcomed 7 new members. At present QSS has 50 members and 146 regular donors.

6. Sustainability work

The greatest effects of QSS's work on the environment and equality can be seen in the projects that we choose to support and how they are governed. The close connection between climate, the environment and sustainability on the one hand and peace and human rights on the other means that these aspects are in focus for the project goals. QSS also exercises care and sensitivity with regard to travel and the use of resources.

Work began on a **climate and environmental policy** in autumn 2021. SUS in Bangladesh also produced a similar policy – here we inspire and guide each other in this work.



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7. Expected future developments

The 3-year Integrated Development Project in Bangladesh continues in 2022 in 40 villages. The total budget of 6 million SEK is relatively equally distributed, with 2 million SEK being sent each year. QSS is also exploring the possibility of scaling up the activities 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 2021, 6 board meetings were held and an annual meeting.

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

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

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

QSS is looking to strengthen its board and increase its capacity. We also hope to continue to attract new members!

A QSS **Nominations Committee** has been formed and is working towards finding people to join the board. No new appointments to the board were made in 2021.



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Income and Expenditure in 2021 (in SEK)

Income	2021	2020
Membership fees	4 350	3 800
General donations	392 688	282 398
Earmarked donations	186 300	113 173
Sida funds via SMC	2 164 114	1 623 205
Total income	2 747 452	2 022 576
Expenditure		
Purpose costs	2 358 876	1 870 574
Administration costs	77 354	62 971
Fundraising costs	34 407	18 443
Total expenditure	2 470 637	1 951 988
Operational results	276 815	70 588
Appropriations:	-84 580	-19 040
Annual Results	192 235	51 488

Balance sheet for 2021

ASSETS	2021-12-31	2020-12-31
Financial placements	350 000	0
Receivables	0	0
Cash and bank	325 392	385 167
TOTAL ASSETS	675 392	385 167
OWN CAPITAL PROVISIONS AND LIABILITIES		
Capital, non-restricted and dedicated	474 565	282 330
Dedicated funds for projects	128 227	43 647
Sub-total	602 792	325 977
Short-term liabilities	72 600	59 190
Total own capital and liabilities:	675 392	385 167



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