

Skillshare International/DFID – PPA2 - 2005 - 2010

1. Introduction to DFID and Skillshare International

1.1 Skillshare International description and strategy

Skillshare International is an international development agency, whose purpose is to reduce poverty and to further economic and social change in partnership with people and communities throughout the world. Skillshare International does this by sharing and developing skills and ideas, facilitating organisational and social transformation and building awareness of development issues.

Skillshare International believes that a major contributor to its success has been the participation of international volunteers, who work with Skillshare International's partners, both governmental and non-governmental organisations. The experience both of partners and of international volunteers underpins Skillshare International's capability both to deliver, and to argue the case for, international development.

Skillshare International has more than 40 years of experience of working in southern Africa, and has placed well over 1 500 development workers during the period. Development workers, skilled and professional in areas such as health, education, community development and small business development have worked alongside a wide range of partner organisations, which have included government departments, health centres, local NGOs and community groups. In 2000, Action Health brought into Skillshare International its own 18 years' experience of training health workers and building health programmes in India and East Africa.

Skillshare International currently works in ten developing countries, and has plans to develop further programmes in the regions of its main activities.

Skillshare International believes that its distinctiveness lies in working with partner organisations towards locally determined sustainable development through locating international volunteering within an holistic way of working. This means recognising the need to look at the whole situation and working with its partners with a range of inputs

Skillshare International's strategic plan for 2005 – 2010 identifies four priority sectors: health; education; environment; and economic empowerment. In addition, HIV/AIDS is identified as a cross-cutting issue that will be addressed thematically in its work, while human rights, gender and responding to conflict are perspectives through which it addresses its activities.

1.2 DFID description and strategy

DFID is responsible for leading the UK Government's contribution to the international effort to reduce poverty. It works as part of a wider international effort, collaborating with many organisations, including: other UK Government Departments, international development agencies, governments of developing and transition countries, civil society, business and academia.

To increase the impact of development assistance on poverty, DFID focuses on helping the poorest countries and on supporting agreed longer-term financial commitments, which will mean beneficiaries will be able to predict their income. DFID has moved away from stand-alone projects – where the donors decide the agenda – towards support for poverty reduction strategies led by developing countries themselves. DFID also works to improve the work of the main multilateral agencies through which it channels funding.

2. PPA rationale

2.1 *DFID wants a PPA with Skillshare International because*

DFID believes Skillshare International adds significant value to development particularly through international volunteering. Skillshare International has been endorsed by an independent evaluation in 2004 as a highly cost effective way of using public money to tackle poverty and disadvantage. Skillshare International has a range of good working relationships with DFID – in the UK and in the regions in which it works. The partnership agreement offers a framework within which to consolidate these relationships and to develop a wider engagement with Skillshare International in development.

2.2 *Skillshare International wants a PPA with DFID because*

Skillshare International and DFID share philosophies for working in development that have provided a strong basis for past and present partnership. These include commitment to empowerment, commitment to learning that informs both policy and practice, and commitment to partnerships that facilitate the participation of people who experience economic and social disadvantage. Skillshare International appreciates the non-directive nature of the partnership, which therefore supports Skillshare International to develop its own distinct strategy, for support of the development of global Civil Society and its general contribution towards the elimination of poverty that DFID also supports. The long term commitment and strategic level of support offered by a PPA is recognition of the long-term nature of the work that Skillshare International does.

3. Current areas of synergy between Skillshare International and DFID

- Shared priorities, working towards the Millennium Development Goals. The PPA can be seen as having had a highly significant and positive impact on each organisation's contribution towards achieving the MDGs. Skillshare International contributes by building the capacity of partner organisations in the south to address the needs of disadvantaged groups, to influence pro-poor policies and to develop leadership capacities for sustainable development.
- Focus on Health & HIV & AIDS: building the capacity of civil society organisations, and supporting governmental initiatives to address the prevention, treatment and broader impact of HIV/AIDS, including facilitating the networking of organisations involved in HIV/AIDS across national borders.
- Focus on Education & Vocational Training: working with governments, parastatal organisations and local education institutions to empower people and communities to improve their standard of living through skills development required for employment.
- Focus on Economic Empowerment: working with disadvantaged groups, including indigenous peoples, women and people with disabilities by providing skills training and supporting small business skills and services such as credit unions and marketing systems
- Capacity building of government and civil society organisations at local, national and international level through skill sharing, organisational development and learning.
- Development Awareness: building and strengthening awareness of development issues in the UK and the EU, through engagement in civil society, specifically in the health and education sectors.

4. Strategic Outcomes of partnership on which Skillshare International will be monitored

Strategic Outcomes	Indicators and Means of Verification	Risks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity of partner organisations improved and strengthened through the sharing and development of skills, building strategic leadership, organisational learning and resourcing strategies, to enable them to address poverty, injustice and inequalities within their communities. • HIV/AIDS, gender, human rights and peacebuilding mainstreamed across the work of Skillshare International 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country-level programme reviews that demonstrate progress towards strategic outcomes. • Regional level sectoral reviews that demonstrate progress towards strategic outcomes. • 80% of International Volunteers are placed in the priority sectors of health (including HIV/AIDS), education, environment and economic empowerment. • 80% of Skillshare International systems and activities adequately address themes of human rights, HIV/AIDS, peace building and gender. • A range of models of international volunteering in place, building on established ones: for example, enabling development workers to work across different programme partners. • Increased participation of partner organisations in the Leadership Development Programme and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of HIV/AIDS on the human resources of our partners. • Availability of skills for International Volunteering. • Change in availability of resources to enable regional (as opposed to country-based) programmes. • Civil unrest. • Military action in neighbouring countries. • Reduced resource capacity to deliver the Leadership Development Programme organisation-wide. • Skillshare and its partners systems not effective in generating the necessary data. • Baselines not in place to be able to evaluate the change. • Relationships with host governments become strained.

	evidence of learning being effectively implemented within their organisations.	
Strategic Outcomes	Indicators and Means of Verification	Risks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced capacity of partner organisations, individually and/or collectively to engage with policy makers, leading to changes in local, national and international policies in key thematic areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case studies indicating how the capacity of partner organisations to take up policy issues has been improved and policy engagement enhanced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skillshare and its partners systems not effective in generating the necessary data. Baselines not in place to be able to evaluate the change. Relationships with host governments become strained.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced public awareness of development issues in key sectors such as health and education. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programmes for development awareness in place targeting professionals across the health and education sectors: for example, working with university medical schools. Level of engagement of current and returned development workers in development awareness activities in the UK, including organisations outside the development sector. Level of collaboration with networks in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public interest in international development issues diminishes generally. National and local government support for development awareness diminishes and loses priority in educational curricula. Capacity of networks to be self-sustaining. Capacity of SGA holders to sustain engagement in international development issues.

	<p>development awareness and global health education, such as the East Midlands Network and SGA holders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of Skillshare International participation and engagement with civil society networks, including UK, European and international development networks. 	
Strategic Outcomes	Indicators and Means of Verification	Risks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skillshare International systems support and enable the development and delivery of the organisation's activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality standards of delivery to our partners met • Extent of progress towards externally verifiable quality standards for HRD, equivalent to Investors In People, beyond the UK • Alternative models of funding for key areas of our work established 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political or social change in donor countries. • Instability of currencies arising from global uncertainty. • Change in the human resource environment. • Significant changes in Skillshare International staffing.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

5.1. Annual Reporting

Skillshare International will demonstrate its progress towards strategic outcomes through annual reporting. The format of the report will be short (no more than 12 pages) including an executive summary for ease of reference. The report will be supplemented with annex containing relevant case studies and illustrative examples of achievements and lessons learned in areas of strategic focus, and in specific countries.

In order to report on effective outcomes and share learning with DFID, there will be an annual reflection and dialogue in the countries and regions of activity. These reflections will be recorded, and key lessons on strategic outcomes submitted as part of PPA reporting.

5.2. Evaluation

Formal evaluation processes, including possible mid-term review, will be discussed and agreed during the first 2 years of the PPA.

6. Core Information

6.1. Funding & Term Of Arrangement

The PPA is a 6 year arrangement commencing 1/4/2005 and ending 31/3/2011. Total DFID funding (contribution) for the first 3 years of the PPA will be £7,050,000 (seven million and fifty thousand pounds). Funding for the last three years will be agreed during the initial 3 year period. The contribution will be allocated within DFID financial years as follows:

Year	Funding
2005/06	£2,350,000
2006/07	£2,350,000
2007/08	£2,350,000
2008/09	To be confirmed
2009/10	To be confirmed
2010/11	To be confirmed

6.2 Memorandum of Understanding

The formal administrative arrangements which relate to this PPA, including full funding details, are provided in the associated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).