

Annual Review 2001-2002



Director's review

Introducing this year's annual review, I am struck by the political, social and economic challenges that face us all. The events of September 11th have had repercussions far away from the twin towers in New York, with consequences that inevitably have seen a rise in the level of political uncertainty and instability in different parts of the world.

The social impact of HIV/AIDS has become more acute and is a part of everyday life for many people in Africa and Asia. In economic terms, Africa's share of world trade remains at 1.5 per cent, compared to four per cent only 20 years ago.

These external challenges provide part of the context in which we approach our work: strengthening the voices of disadvantaged groups and communities, building the capacity of organisations operating in HIV/AIDS and supporting economic and social development at different levels of society.

Throughout this review, there are examples of how we are assisting the reduction of poverty, developing broad based partnerships, identifying innovative ways of meeting the needs of our partners, building a broader constituency, and developing and diversifying our resource base.

Skillshare International maintains its commitment to working for sustainable development in each of our countries of operation. As a result of Action Health joining Skillshare Africa, we have diversified into new countries and new areas of the world. We have become a larger organisation with higher levels of activity. One of the key activities of the year has been managing a greater number of programmes, spread across a wider geographical area.

The localisation of our two main programmes under the Action Health Programme in India and Tanzania has been achieved. From our office in Arusha, Tanzania, we are developing a significant rural health programme. A Country Co-ordinator has been appointed for India and a new office in New Delhi is being set up.

At the same time, Country Plans setting out what each country programme seeks to accomplish within the framework of the Corporate Strategy are being developed for India, Tanzania and Uganda. The South Africa Country Plan has now been published and a Regional Plan for southern Africa will be produced in 2002.

For the third consecutive year, the Leadership Development Programme has taken place in southern Africa. Our commitment to increase the capacity of our partners remains at the core of our work. By providing an understanding and tools for strategic leadership to our partners organisations we can impact on the service provided to their beneficiaries or primary stakeholders.

I would like to thank all those who have provided financial resources for our work, especially the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), without whom our activities would not be possible. Our Partnership Programme Agreement with DFID came into effect on 1 April 2001.

This agreement is based on our own commitments within our Corporate Strategy, and the emphasis is on the outcomes of our work and activities, not just our inputs.

After eight years of dedication and commitment, Sarah Westcott resigned in September 2001 as Chair of the Board of Trustees. Wendy Tabuteau was appointed as the new Chair. Wendy was a development worker in Botswana and has been a trustee since 1997. Her long standing association with us and her commitment to the organisation is a huge benefit for us.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the great contribution made by everybody connected with Skillshare International, including staff, development workers, health trainers, programme partners, our Programme Advisory Committee members in southern Africa and our supporters.



Dr Cliff Allum



Skillshare International works for sustainable development in partnership with the people and communities of Africa and Asia. We do this by sharing and developing skills, facilitating organisational effectiveness and supporting organisational growth.



Poverty and HIV/AIDS

Over 36 million people worldwide are estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS. Over 25 million of these live in sub-Saharan Africa. Almost six million live in South and South-East Asia. Every day, more than 8,000 people die of AIDS related illnesses. Many of the people who die are parents of young children.

The HIV/AIDS pandemic puts a huge strain on over-stretched and under-funded health services in the poorest countries. The number of people living with AIDS is causing already strained health systems to spend even more of their limited resources on care rather than preventative strategies.

The level of HIV/AIDS infection is having a staggering impact on family life, employment and productivity. AIDS related illnesses and the increased regularity of funeral attendance impacts on performance and attendance in the work place. Reduced incomes lower the productivity of subsistence agriculture and increase food insecurity.



Masego Mmipi is 38 years old and lives in Lerala, in the Tswapong Hills, eastern Botswana with her three children. She said:

“A lot of people pass away, usually from AIDS, and so I help work on their land. People as young as 15 are dying of HIV/AIDS. There are funerals every day in Lerala.”

The loss of income and the additional burden of orphaned children can put a tremendous strain on family resources that are already severely limited. Children drop out of school to care for sick relatives or to make up income lost through family illness.

HIV/AIDS is the largest single threat to human development in Africa. Botswana has the highest percentage infection rate in the world with close to 36 per cent of adults HIV positive. South Africa has the highest number of people living with HIV/AIDS with 4.7 million people HIV positive. Official figures show that 25 per cent of the Swazi population are infected with the virus (unofficial estimates put this figure at 30 per cent).

Women are more vulnerable than men to the effects of HIV/AIDS, both in terms of risk of infection and the impact of the virus. For example, in Namibia, women comprise up to 60 per cent of those known to be living with HIV. This is likely to impact on women's social and economic roles and therefore households and the community.

For these reasons, the spread and impact of HIV/AIDS is an essential part of Skillshare International's poverty focus in Africa. Every part of our work is affected either directly or indirectly by the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Ruth Allen a development worker at the Botshelo Project in Serowe, Botswana explains:

"Everyone will face the impact of HIV/AIDS on society. Emotionally it is very draining to see what is happening to whole communities."

Skillshare International believes that fighting the HIV epidemic and providing appropriate care and support for people living with AIDS is essential for the promotion of economic and social development in Africa and Asia. We support efforts to control HIV/AIDS by addressing the factors that exacerbate the illness. We empower people living with HIV/AIDS to ask for the kind of support they need. We also work in support of African and Asian civil society organisations and initiatives designed to directly combat HIV.

The prevention of HIV transmission is not only about the levels of information and education available, it is also about personal empowerment and the esteem needed to put good education and awareness into action.

Skillshare International is supporting the YWCA in Botswana in their work with young women in local communities. One of the projects

run by the YWCA is the Peer Approach to Counselling and Teenagers (PACT), a peer education project which seeks to raise awareness of sexual health issues with young people and to empower them to take control of their own lives.

PACT is based in Maun in the north of Botswana. The project trains young people to become peer educators who will then educate and influence people of their age on issues important to them, such as HIV/AIDS. In this way, young people are able to support one another to take positive action against HIV/AIDS in their own lives.

Oatleng Oatleng Sethodi is a Community Mobilisation Field Officer at PACT:

"I'm 19 years old and joined YWCA in 1996. Now I'm a peer educator. I go to bus stations and markets, anywhere and everywhere. I move around the community on a door to door campaign and recruit people for HIV testing. I travel all over Ngamiland through dusty villages up to 400 kilometres away. Some people are very ignorant about HIV/AIDS. They think that the

lubricant on condoms gives you AIDS. It's important that they have access to the right information.

I start working in the villages in the early morning. In a typical week I visit about 15 households and give three lessons in schools or bars. I also give basic counselling.

When I first became a peer educator my friends thought it was funny and they would laugh at me but after a while my classmates started to understand. My parents like my work because I can educate them on HIV/AIDS and other related issues.

I became a peer educator because I'm concerned about the problems other young people face like teenage pregnancy and HIV/AIDS which is escalating right now."

Skillshare International continues to support organisations that work with people affected by HIV/AIDS through the delivery of counselling, home based care, awareness raising and advocacy programmes.

Healthcare

Skillshare International continues to assist organisations involved in health promotion, education and community health programmes (particularly those aimed at HIV/AIDS, TB, cholera, malaria and sexually transmitted diseases).

Millions of people in developing countries suffer and die each year from poor health and preventable illnesses. Malnutrition, diarrhoea, polio and HIV/AIDS are some of the threats people face on a daily basis.

The problems of poverty, under development and ill health are interrelated and complex. The rich and poor countries of the world are interdependent and health is an international issue with global implications.

Many people living in rural areas and informal settlements have such limited access to health services that diseases like measles, TB, cholera and malaria are still prevalent. While there have been great strides in the development of health policies, the implementation of primary healthcare remains slow and inequalities still exist.

Skillshare International is working to improve access to healthcare, particularly in rural areas.

During the civil war in Mozambique one in three health posts and one in every five health centres were closed down or destroyed.

Originally from Nigeria, Dr Patrick Okinedo has worked as a development worker in Mozambique for five years. He is a doctor at the Mavalane Hospital in Maputo. Once a fortnight he travels by boat to a hospital on Ilha Inhaca. The island has 4,000 inhabitants and Dr Okinedo's Thursday clinics are the only opportunity for people living there to get medical attention.

Every fortnight about 40 patients visit the hospital for medical advice. The most common medical conditions are malaria, worms, gastro intestinal problems and problems with high blood pressure because the island water has a high salt content.

Sofia Singa is 61 years old and has been one of Dr Okinedo's patients for three years. She has irregular blood pressure and suffers from a largening of the heart. She also has a gastric ulcer which is exacerbated by farm work.

"The doctor comes and takes care of us and gives us the medication we need. My own case is chronic and the presence of the doctor gives me peace of mind because I know I will be treated if I am sick. Before the doctor came, people had to pay to take a boat to Maputo. It was very expensive and sometimes babies would die on the journey."

Fredericio Nhaco is also a visitor at Dr Okinedo's clinic:

"My daughter Nelsa is five years old. She has been sick for two days. It is important that the doctor comes here because when we get sick there is someone who can help us. Every visit the doctor makes is very important. It's still difficult because there's a shortage of medicine here. We only pay for the medicine, we don't pay for consulting the doctor. If you don't have any money to pay for the medicine you need, then you die. But you can also die if it's a serious situation and there's no boat to take you to Maputo."

Skillshare International works in partnership with the Association for Health Welfare in the Nilgiris District (ASHWINI), in the Nilgiri Hills, Tamil Nadu, southern India. Our health trainers Bharat and Deepa Gadhvi, doctors from Brighton in the UK, give training inputs to ASHWINI's team of health animators in basic primary healthcare. They in turn will train a network of volunteer health guides who will form the "front line" of their own communities' fight against preventable ill health.

The health animators work closely with the *adivasi* (indigenous or tribal) people who live in the outlying villages of the district. They monitor people's health, give basic treatments and, if need be, refer patients to ASHWINI's own hospital in Gudalur, the district's main town. More importantly, for the long-term, they spread the message of how to stay healthy and prevent disease.



Health animators, Urvasi and her husband Parashu regularly visit the village of Tharppakolly, home to the Kattunaickam, who are forest people. One of their main concerns is that some of the children in the village are malnourished. They teach new mothers how to make *kanji*

(a porridge made from millet, rice and pulses) as a solid nutritional base. One kilogram of *kanji* lasts three days and costs 25 rupees (Rs) to make.

Traditionally, the Kattunaickam lived off the forest, hunting and cutting wood, but these activities

are illegal in the State Reserve Forests. They also fall foul of the Forest Department in clearing land to grow tapioca and cassava. The spreading tea plantations threaten the small holdings and encroach on the forest.

Kattunaickam families try to bridge the widening gap between resources and needs. Some days they scour the shrinking forest for non-timber forest products, such as brush wood and peppers, and sell a day's harvest for Rs20. On other days, they earn wages for manual labour: Rs60/day for men or Rs40/day for women, for the same work.

For the forest people in Tharppakolly, low-cost and locally appropriate health education methods, such as training mothers to make *kanji*, are vital.

Our support has historically taken the form of placing experienced and committed professionals with partner organisations in order to build up the skills base of the partner organisations and the communities they serve, with the firm belief that sustainable development can only be effective through building the capabilities of communities.

So-called uneducated and illiterate members of the community - both men and women - have become effective agents of change and service providers in a variety of disciplines including basic health. These community workers are key elements of the work that we do across India.

Empowerment of disadvantaged groups

In Africa and Asia, as in many parts of the world, disadvantaged groups often experience discrimination. This has led Skillshare International to prioritise work with disadvantaged groups seeking to improve their status and gain greater control over their lives.

Our involvement focuses on providing skills training and improving access to basic services, such as health and credit facilities, as well as promoting the welfare and rights of disadvantaged groups in general.

In Lesotho, disadvantaged groups form a large part of the population and include women, young people, people with disabilities and people living with HIV/AIDS. The situation is more acute in rural areas where limited access to education and health facilities and a lack of equal opportunities discriminate against already disadvantaged sections of society.

Furthermore, children with a disability face discrimination and possible abandonment by their families.

The Lesotho Society for Mentally Handicapped People (LSMHP) was established in 1992 by parents of children with disabilities. These parents work together to protect the rights of children with disabilities and of adults with mental disabilities.

LSMHP empowers parents with skills to enable them to understand and cope better with their children who have disabilities. The parents are also empowered to advocate for inclusive services, such as education, employment, health and recreation, for their children.

We work in partnership with LSMHP as Thaba Joseph, the Director, explains:

“We want our work with Skillshare International to be an integrated piece of work. It is being continually developed to respond to the needs of the individual community. We are taking a holistic approach, for example, linking people with self-help organisations.

It is very good for a local NGO to have a bigger partner. It gives us much more political clout and we get many more

contacts. We also have the opportunity to share learning with our partner.

A development worker acts as a catalyst for change.

They come from a different organisational culture. Many things have changed at LSMHP. The planning culture has been developed through the presence of development workers, and there is now a culture of evaluation too. We frequently have in-house training delivered by development workers.

This is generally not skills development but about personal development which makes the staff more effective in their work. We also benefit from the administrative and management skills of the development worker which we didn't have before.”

LSMHP's activities include training parents and families, advocacy, raising awareness of government departments and amongst community leaders, formation of branches, training children at home, the inclusion of children in main stream education and a youth development programme.

Previously, there were no early intervention or rehabilitation services available in Lesotho but now children can be placed on a training programme with LSMHP and occupational therapists. Parents meet regularly in their own communities to assist each other and review the development of their children.

The work of LSMHP in a community allows parents to take good care of their children with disabilities and improves their ability to speak out and demand better services for their children.

Young people who come together once a week as part of the youth development programme gain confidence over time from speaking in a group situation, travelling to and from meeting places, and in building a distinct self image and personality.

People living in remote areas are often considered powerless and ignorant but, with some training from LSMHP, parents at the Quthing Branch of LSMHP have felt empowered enough to take their concerns to parliament. The response is now being used as an advocacy tool by parents all around Lesotho, since it clearly stated what the government policy was in education, welfare allowance and health services for people with disabilities.





<< Some of the Basarwa San women who participated at the workshop.
They have high rates of illiteracy and are not able to access old age allowance as they do not know their birth dates.

Empowerment of disadvantaged groups

The Basarwa San people are considered one of Africa's oldest indigenous people and among the last of the world's hunter-gatherers. Once called the "Lords of the Desert", the Basarwa San pastoralists have become the poorest, most marginalised and disadvantaged group in Botswana. They have the highest rates of illiteracy, lack viable economic opportunities, suffer high rates of ill health and disease, and have no land or geographical territory of their own.

During the last year, Skillshare International has developed a project with the Basarwa San pastoralists using participatory approaches. This gives the community a voice to map out their own strategy for development.

Women make up the majority of the Basarwa San community and were the most vocal among the 37 participants during the workshop sessions. They expressed what they felt contributed to the poverty, loss of culture and low self-esteem that places the Basarwa San community in a vicious circle of underdevelopment.

The result is a programme of initiatives which focuses on the social and economic empowerment of the Basarwa San people. Activities range from livestock, gardening and income generating activities, to awareness raising on HIV/AIDS, domestic violence and alcoholism, to youth work and pre-school education.

Emang Basadi is a women's human rights organisation based in Gaborone, Botswana. The portfolio of programmes run by Emang Basadi includes economic empowerment for women, political education, legal aid and counselling.

The Legal Aid and Counselling Centre was set up in April 2001. Skillshare International assisted Emang Basadi to raise funds for the centre which offers counselling and legal services, including legal advice and court representation, to women and children and a few men. The centre also advocates for laws that fully protect women and children against any form of abuse.

About 20 clients visit Emang Basadi's Legal Aid and Counselling Centre each week for advice on issues such as violence against women, sexual abuse, marriage counselling, maintenance cases, property disputes, settlement wills and general counselling. Between August 2001 and February 2002, Emang Basadi handled 396 cases.

Skillshare International has been assisting Emang Basadi to

strengthen its leadership, democratic governance structures and internal and public social audit/accountability systems.

Our Leadership Development Programme (LDP) is an initiative designed to develop the strategic leadership skills of our partner organisations. It focuses on continual improvement of processes and systems of work as a way to achieve better quality of services. The LDP has already had a positive impact on the way Emang Basadi works.

Keboitse Machangana, the Executive Director of Emang Basadi was one of last year's participants:

"The LDP is a bigger plus than any other in my life. Following the LDP we had a planning meeting that was extremely intense but very satisfying because we discovered that we didn't need a consultant as we could do it ourselves. Staff members can help clients analyse issues now. The LDP also gave me practical skills on how to run a successful organisation."

Education, training and employment

Skillshare International works with a variety of organisations and institutions in Africa which provide education and vocational training to people of all ages. Our aim is to enable people to develop the skills and knowledge needed to enhance their prospects for work.

Our programmes support a range of activities within educational institutions. We offer a variety of educational inputs such as formal teaching or training posts where there are shortages of local staff, curriculum development and examination systems development.

Across southern Africa the dominant language of business and commerce is English. This means relative isolation for the people of Mozambique where Portuguese is the principal language. Learning English remains a priority for Mozambicans and Skillshare International continues to provide teachers of English to work with schools and universities.

Frank Chadzala, a lecturer at the Catholic University in Nampula explains:

“Mozambique is part of the commonwealth - English is now the second language and is an important part of life.”

One hundred and twenty five million children across the world are not enrolled in school. This means that one in five children in the world are out of school. Two-thirds of these are girls. Many more children drop out of school before learning how to read, write or do simple sums.

Albertina, age 17, Ribaué School, Nampula Province, Mozambique said:

“If we get tenth grade, we can do our nurse or primary teacher training. We can help our families too, and help our brothers and sisters go to school. We don't want to spend our lives as peasants.”

People who cannot read, write or manage numbers are easily exploited. They can be cheated financially and deprived of their human rights. They miss out on vital information and cannot understand instructions, for example, on bottles of medicines or agricultural chemicals. Literacy is a skill that can help people remember, record and communicate.

The Sebenta Institute in Swaziland has provided adult basic education for many years. More recently, Sebenta has widened its approach to help the large numbers of rural children who do not go to school and to reach young people, mainly girls and women, between the ages of 15 and 24, who need basic education and vocational skills training.

Development worker, Hazel English, with counterparts George Tsebede and Sibongile Dube, has developed a new curriculum for these groups. Hazel explains:

“Sebenta provides adult literacy courses across the country, currently to over 2,000 students. My brief is to introduce vocational courses to supplement the basic literacy courses Sebenta already offers very successfully. I work with George and Sibongile. We discuss where we want to go, what we want to do and how we want things to develop. We decide what the new adult vocational curriculum should be, then get it designed, accredited and implemented.”

The teachers are drawn from the local community and are given training and support by Sebenta. One village group is learning dressmaking and numeracy skills so they can produce garments to sell for income generation. Providing basic education and vocational skills is empowering for the women who live in very remote areas with poor access to roads and markets.



Education, training and employment

People with disability form one of Uganda's and Tanzania's most disadvantaged groups. They face social and economic exclusion due to their disabled status. Children and adults with disability are among the most excluded members of both urban and rural society: the young miss out on education and training opportunities, adults cannot access employment or engage in income generating activities.

It is estimated that about four per cent of Uganda's and Tanzania's population has a disability. Disability continues to increase amongst adults as a result of road traffic accidents, neurological disorders and HIV/AIDS related factors.

Action Health started working in Uganda in 1996 in a programme that, in September 2000, became part of Skillshare International. From its initial stages, the work has focused on developing occupational therapy (OT) as a new profession in Uganda and Tanzania.



In Uganda, where there are only four doctors per 100,000 people, OT has an important role in rehabilitation. Skillshare International is working to provide support and training to occupational therapists (OTs) across the country. We are also assisting the OT Training School in Kampala to

develop as a Faculty of Occupational Therapy. The aim is to completely phase-out expatriate support.

There are now over 40 qualified OTs in Uganda, all of whom have been taught by our health trainers. They are supported in the field by

two District Support Occupational Therapists from Skillshare International in partnership with the Ministry of Health. The aim is to develop the clinical and health management skills of newly qualified OTs and help them set up occupational therapy services throughout Uganda.

Samantha Shann, Acting Principal Tutor at the OT Training School and Fieldwork Coordinator in Kampala explains:

“The OT profession in Uganda is new and the Ugandan OTs are very dedicated. They achieve amazing things with very few resources.”

Our health trainers in Uganda and Tanzania have also facilitated the establishment of national OT professional bodies which are linked into regional and world OT networks. As a result Skillshare International has been able to have a positive influence on national policies.

For the last three years, we have been working with the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical College (KCMC) of Tumaini University in Moshi, Tanzania. This involves placing experienced OTs as tutors in the college to train Tanzanian undergraduates to become the country’s first locally-trained occupational therapists.

Last year the first Tanzanian OTs qualified, having been trained and supported mainly through the Action Health Programme.

Previously, there was no indigenous OT profession in existence in Tanzania. The clinical services that existed were performed by expatriates on fixed term contracts.

Ingrid Sturkenboom, Tutor, KCMC OT Training School in Moshi said:

“In November 2001, the first group of Tanzanian occupational therapists qualified and it was an unforgettable event. It’s very exciting and rewarding to see the profession grow in a country where the potential for work for occupational therapy is enormous. I’m impressed with the effort and enthusiasm the students and newly qualified therapists show in their work to improve the quality of life of the disabled.”

Joyce Kasamba a third year student at KCMC describes her experience:

“It was nice to come to KCMC to learn about occupational therapy. Before I came here, I was working as a rehabilitation assistant with children who have cerebral palsy. I’m happy to train because when I qualify as a therapist it means those children with cerebral palsy will receive quality, individual, holistic therapy to enable them to be as independent as possible. It’s very helpful to have health trainers here because they are facilitators of learning in school and also in different hospitals when we go for practical placements.”

Our work to support building the capacity of the rehabilitation professions links in with our overall aim to empower people with disabilities. Through the provision of occupational therapy a disabled person can work towards independence and be increasingly able to contribute to the economy of their immediate family, community and country as a whole.

Rural development

In many parts of the world, rural communities remain at a disadvantage because of limited access to education, food security, land, water and sanitation, infrastructure development and income generation.

Skillshare International continues to support rural development through our partner organisations, small community based organisations and local authorities.

We assist with income generation, employment and self-employment initiatives, particularly those aimed at improving food security and the use of local materials, for example, local art, handicrafts and food.

We help develop the skills needed to improve the provision of community services, such as water and sanitation, health, housing, education and training.

Less than three per cent of the rural population in Swaziland have access to electricity. We are working with the Ministry of Natural Resources Renewable Energy Association (REASWA) to ensure the sustainable supply and use of energy for all Swazi people.

In June 1999, development worker Jonathan Curren started working with the Ministry of Natural Resources as a Renewable Energy Officer. His role includes staff training, improving systems through the utilisation of computers and programme development, notably the development of a solar village in the Manzini region of Swaziland.

The Mphaphati solar village was established with UNESCO help in one of the many rural areas that has no mains electricity. The village comprises a primary school with approximately 170 children, a small shop and a community managed vegetable garden.

Solar panels have been installed which provide electricity for the primary school. The school's interior lighting, colour TV and video, external safety lighting, lighting for the teachers' houses and water pump for the vegetable garden are all powered by the solar panels.

A village co-operative society has been developed which is responsible for the security of the fittings, and for managing the use and maintenance of the equipment. The active participation of the community in the solar village has been crucial to the success and sustainability of the project.

Jonathan explains:

"I feel very encouraged by the involvement of the village people. The community has taken full ownership and responsibility for the project. It has been running successfully for two years now and attracts many visitors. The co-operative members ensure the whole system runs steadily."

Mrs Hleta a teacher at Mphaphati Primary School welcomes the use of the solar panels:

"Now we don't have to spend money on candles or batteries for torches or the radio. People come from other villages to watch TV and they pay a small fee which helps pay for the maintenance of the panels."

Peter Nkosi, Associate Renewable Energy Officer for the Government of Swaziland and Jonathan's counterpart, said:

"I'm very proud of the Mphaphati solar village project. For the first time the school has electricity. The water pump means that the community has been able to establish a garden and grow vegetables for village consumption and for selling."



Rural development

Namibia is one of the least densely populated areas in the world. There are more people living in Birmingham in the UK than in the whole of Namibia (824,290 square kilometres). Skillshare International is working to build links between people in remote areas to share ideas and develop the income generating capacity of rural Namibia.

Namibia Rural Development Project (NRDP) is an NGO working in rural eastern Namibia on the borders of the Kalahari, with a specific focus on enterprise development. It seeks to assist people and communities to be better able to support themselves through income generation projects and community development programmes.

There are few employment opportunities outside subsistence agriculture in Namibia's rural areas which leads to lower income levels and standards of living. NRDP works with small businesses that range in size from one to 10 participants or owners. It offers a range of support according to the needs of each

business, including business training, vocational skills training, logistical support, technical advice, financial advice and mentoring.

The businesses are involved in activities such as sewing, poultry keeping, vegetable gardening, take away food, baking and brick-making. Other activities taking place in the community include knitting, leather processing, mushroom growing, photography, soap making, tent making and wire mesh manufacturing.

In 1999, NRDP requested the skills of a management adviser to support its work. Andrew Harris was placed with the organisation as a development worker and he has been providing business skills for staff and members of the rural communities:

“The Skillshare support system of a development worker or health trainer, organisational and leadership development and fundraising support is a valuable development package.”

As a result of Andrew's placement, NRDP's programme of activities has been rebuilt, funds have been secured, including a grant from the European Union, through Entraide et Fraternité, to employ four community development workers. Subsequently, a more comprehensive set of resources and a strong work team have been established to carry NRDP's business forward.

Some of the small enterprises that NRDP has been working with have seen their profits rise by up to 60 per cent. In the communal farming areas of Omaheke and Otjozondjupa, NRDP has supported 41 different income generating activities, 66 per cent of which were headed by women. A total of 258 people were involved in the activities and of these 191 were women.

Veronika came to NRDP at the beginning of 2001, after her husband left her with two young children. She could sew and began to make leather shawls for Herero women to wear with their traditional dress. NRDP helped her with business training. Her business has slowly grown to the point where she now is confident of a regular income and she has been able to buy a better sewing machine, using an NRDP loan.

NRDP has been able to find appropriate solutions for entrepreneurs facing technical difficulties. For example, one entrepreneur came to NRDP with the idea of promoting ice-cream sales. The local market looked promising and NRDP was able to assist the entrepreneur with recipes and some simple equipment with which to get started. NRDP has also been exploring solar energy solutions for businesses that use wood for cooking.

Urban development

In some of the countries where Skillshare International works, governments are unable to meet the needs of poor people for housing, schools, clean water and hospitals.

Unequal levels of development and income distribution result in some regions having relatively strong infrastructure and institutional capacity, while in other regions there is an urgent need for the repair of infrastructure and capacity building. Organisations need to be strengthened to find their own solutions and this can be achieved by providing technical, managerial or financial support.

In order for the population's standard of living to improve, a country needs to function effectively at local level as well as at national level.

Mozambique covers an area of almost 800,000 square kilometres and is divided into 11 provinces. The country has over 1,000 urban localities. These represent the most direct link between the citizens and basic services, such as education, health, drinking water, access to land and housing, and support for income generating activities, which determine their standards of living.

Skillshare International has been working in Angoche, in the Nampula Province of Mozambique, to help build the capacity of the municipal authority to deliver services to local communities.

Angoche used to export rice to Malawi and Tanzania but the factory was closed down after independence in 1975 due to the economic downturn. This, coupled with the closure of the cashew processing factories in 1996, has meant that fisheries is now the only significant industry in Angoche.

There are rusting ships along the coastline and the harbour needs to be repaired before it can be reopened. There are no vehicles or other systems to collect litter so the streets are lined with rubbish.

Jose Constantino, President of Angoche City Council explains:

“The main challenges facing the municipality are education, health, town planning and the supply of water. By working with Skillshare to tackle different areas of deprivation and need, we’re trying to create a better life for everyone in the town. We’re working with schools, hospitals and communities in an integrated and planned way.”

There is an acute shortage of GPs in the whole country and there is only one GP serving 243,000 inhabitants in and around Angoche.

Dr Braganca, Director of the Angoche Rural Hospital said:

“The main medical problems are malaria and respiratory problems from TB. Sometimes we can’t identify illnesses because there is no equipment. Basic health supplies are not available so people get very sick.”

The City Council had planned to build three new health centres but there is no staff or equipment available and there are no funds to pay for resources.

As well as there being a shortage of teachers in Angoche, a major constraint for the municipality is the accommodation available for school boarders from rural areas. The hostel is in an exceptionally bad condition but there are no finances available to repair the building.



Urban development

The City Council has had a request to improve the water station so that there is clean water and fish can be exported in line with EC regulations. Pipes need replacing and the water treatment centre needs to be renovated. There is no money to buy chlorine to clean the water.

Faustino Atumane, is a fisherman in Bairro de Inguri, Angoche.

“I am 50 years old. I’m married with four children and four grandchildren. I started fishing when I was born. That is all there is to do apart from praying. I’m a muslim so I fish and I pray. All my family fish.

I sell 90 per cent of the fish I catch. If the weather conditions are good I catch more fish but if they are bad no-one buys fish so I’ll stop fishing. There are regulations on how much fish can be caught each day and where. For instance, you can’t fish within three miles of the Angoche coastline. This is to protect the environment. If it’s wet I can’t dry the fish for selling in Nampula.”

In the wet season many of the roads are impassable which makes it very difficult for the fishermen to access the markets. A project for the rehabilitation of roads has been established but there is no money or resources to pay for the maintenance or labour.

During the last year, Skillshare International has been assisting the municipality by placing development workers in Angoche. Our development workers, including English teachers, architects, town planners and accountants, are working closely with the local authority to help develop the municipality of Angoche.

Constituency building

Last year saw the publication of Skillshare International's Constituency Building Plan which outlines the ways in which we engage new stakeholders - members of the public, governments, businesses and other NGOs - in support of international development.

The last 12 months have seen some significant developments in the implementation of the initiatives and activities set out in our Constituency Building Plan.

Both Skillshare Africa and Action Health enjoyed enormous support over the years from committed individuals. In the early part of 2002, a supporter survey was carried out to improve the services and information that Skillshare International offers to supporters. The results indicate that joining the two supporters' associations into a single network has been successful.

This year our active and engaged supporters have raised over £20,000 towards our work. As well as taking part in fundraising initiatives, some of our supporters have been involved in our development awareness activities. Our development awareness programme in the UK aims to increase understanding of development issues and of the realities facing people in developing countries.

Polly Hauxwell is an occupational therapist who worked with us for two years in Uganda. We are encouraging supporters like Polly, and other returned health trainers, to take part in teaching programmes for medical students. In November, we arranged for Polly to contribute to a course about international health issues for first year medical students at University College London (UCL).

Talking about her work with the students at UCL, Polly said:

"It's really important for medical students to learn about health in other countries. Many of today's medical students will end up working overseas at some point in their career. More importantly though, Britain is a multi-cultural society and doctors need to understand the health context of where their patients come from.

Skillshare International's returned health trainers can give medical students a recent and real perspective on international health issues.

I was able to share my enthusiasm and experiences of living and working as a medical professional in a developing country.

It also gave me time to reflect on what I had achieved overseas and to present it to other people. And I know my teaching session went well because UCL have asked me to come back next year!"

Our supporters also attended campaigns and events around the UK, including Fair Trade Fortnight and DFID Policy Forums.

Skillshare International is also working to build understanding of development issues amongst a younger group of people. One of Skillshare International's main constituency building activities over the past year has been to support the development of a strategy for global perspectives in schools in the East Midlands region of the UK. This will help thousands of teachers in the region to have the knowledge and resources they need to teach about development issues and about life in developing countries.

Liz Blackshaw, a science teacher at Crown Hills Secondary School in inner-city Leicester explains why taking a global perspective is an important part of her teaching:

“Ninety-eight percent of the students at my school are from Asian backgrounds. If we only talked about what’s happening in the UK it would be really isolating for them.”

There are many other reasons why it is important for young people in schools to learn about international issues. In a globalised world nearly every decision we make, from the clothes we buy to the votes we cast, has consequences for people overseas. Every young person in Britain needs to understand how the way they live their life impacts on people in other countries, particularly those in the world's poorest countries.

Liz said:

“It can be really difficult to find the time to fit global perspectives into the curriculum. The schemes of work we’re given don’t always include an international angle. Teachers need to have the knowledge and find the opportunities to slot it in. For example, I know that you can teach about energy conservation by looking at the energy-efficient stoves now being used by many poor families in Latin America and Africa but other science teachers may not know that.”

It is for these reasons that Liz welcomes ‘Global Perspectives’, the regional strategy that Skillshare International is co-ordinating in partnership with DFID, schools, organisations and local education authorities across the East Midlands:

“Sharing good practice is great because you can access teaching resources with a global perspective that you don’t have to produce yourself.”

Financial review

Skillshare International's financial position remains strong. Over the past year, we have met the objectives set by our Board of Trustees, managed our expenditure effectively and within budget, increased the proportion of our income from sources other than the Department for International Development (DFID) and maintained an adequate level of reserves.

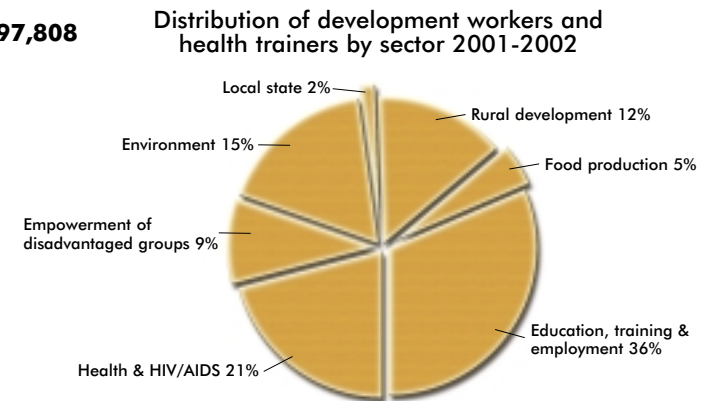
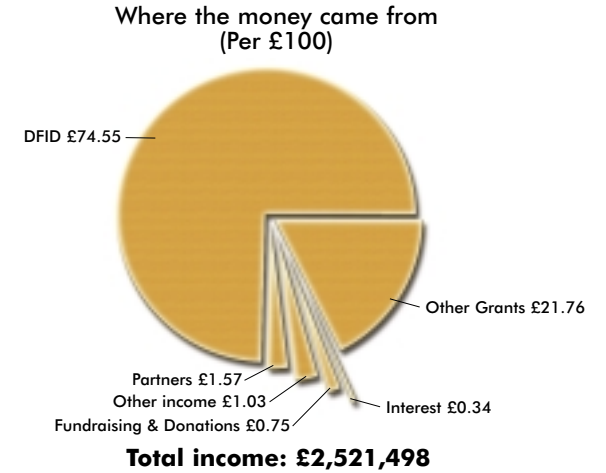
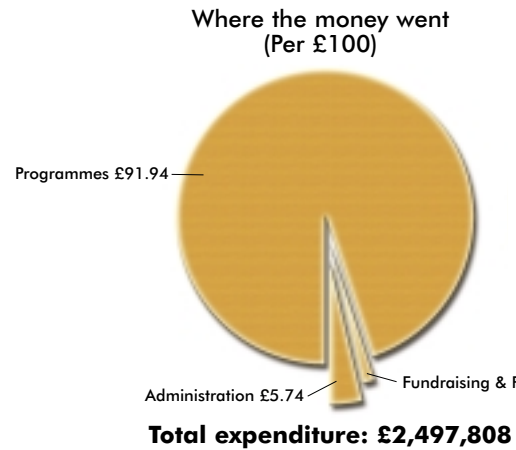
We also maintain sufficient reserve as cash or short-term deposits to meet immediate needs, for example, to respond to political or natural emergencies in the countries in which we work.

Ninety two per cent of our expenditure is directly related to our charitable objectives and meets the costs of running our development worker and health trainer programme in Africa and Asia and providing support to projects.

Skillshare International's involvement with projects in Africa and Asia is often a means for those projects to secure additional financial resources for themselves.

We receive some benefits in kind. For example, the governments of Botswana and Lesotho make premises available to us rent free and our partner organisations in Africa and Asia provide housing and other support for our development workers and health trainers.

Our thanks go to all the governments, organisations and individuals who have supported us during the year. Copies of Skillshare International's full audited accounts, from which the information in this review is extracted, are available from our UK office at 126 New Walk, Leicester LE1 7JA.



These figures have been taken from the audited accounts of Skillshare International for 2001-2002. For more financial information contact our Leicester office.

Our current funders include:

APSO, The Irish Government's Agency for Personal Service Overseas
The Baring Foundation
Burdens Charitable Foundation
CfBT and the English Speaking Union
The Clothworkers' Foundation
Comic Relief
Community Fund
Christadelphian Meal-a-Day Fund
City of Carlisle Overseas Aid Trust
Department for International Development (DFID)
The Edward Cadbury Charitable Fund (Incorporated)
Elton John AIDS Foundation
European Commission
The Hilden Charitable Fund
The Maurice Laing Foundation
Miriam Dean Fund
New Zealand High Commission
Nuffield Foundation
Paget Trust
Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation
States of Guernsey Overseas Aid Committee
The Trust House Charitable Foundation

Partner organisations (1 April 2001 - 31 March 2002)

Botswana

Kgetsi ya Tsie Women's Micro Enterprise Programme
Kuru Development Trust
Forestry Department
The North West District Council
Junior Achievement Botswana
Kgatleng Development Trust
Botswana Christian AIDS Intervention Programme
VELD Research & Development
Light and Courage Centre
Botshelo Project
YWCA
TOCaDI
Emang Basadi
BOCONGO (NGO Umbrella Organisation)
Thuso Rehabilitation Centre
Permaculture Trust

India

Vidya Sagar
Tribal Health Initiatives
Manav Adhikar Seva Samitee (MASS)
ASHWINI

Lesotho

Department of Rural Roads
Leloaleng Technical Institute
Appropriate Technology Section
Thaba Tseka Training Institute
Assumption High School
Lesotho Society for Mentally Handicapped People
National Teacher Training Centre

Technical and Vocational Education Department
St. Elizabeth's Training Institute
Lerotholi Polytechnic
Lesotho Opportunities
Industrialisation Centre

Mozambique

Nacala Secondary School
Angoche Secondary School
Ribaué Secondary School
Eduardo Mondlane University
Cuamba Catholic University
IDPPE
Hospital de Mavalane
Angoche Rural Hospital
ORAM (Rural Association for Mutual Support)
Angoche City Council
Water & Sanitation Training Centre
Association of Technicians for Agriculture and Animal Husbandry (ATAP)
Youth Association for Rural Development (AJDR)
KULIMA

Namibia

Farmer's Against HIV/AIDS
Namibia Rural Development Project
Yetu Yama Centre
Association for Children with Language, Speech and Hearing Impairments (CLaSH)
NAPWU
YWCA
AIDS Care Trust
Namcol

South Africa

Itireleng Community Development
Health Systems Development Unit
ENABLE
SLED

Swaziland

Malolotja Nature Reserve
Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy
National Agricultural Marketing Board
Sebenta National Institute
CARITAS
Swaziland Women's Action Group Against Abuse (SWAGGA)
SACRO
Women's Resource Centre
Fundza
World University Service
Swaziland Hospice at Home

Tanzania

KCMC OT Training School
Kenya OTs
Zanzibar Ministry of Health, Pemba
Simanjiro District Council

Uganda

Kampala OT Training School
Ministry of Health (OT District Support Project)

How you can help



"There are two reasons why I support Skillshare International. Firstly, I was brought up in Swaziland and I know how people there are struggling to escape poverty. Secondly, by sharing skills and supporting local initiatives, Skillshare is helping people in Africa and Asia to address their greatest needs, and this approach makes sense to me."

Richard E Grant
Actor



"I know how people can be trapped by poverty and that given the right opportunities most people will work hard to free themselves from that poverty. The chance to learn a practical skill can make all the difference and that is why I decided to support the work of Skillshare International."

Sir Trevor McDonald OBE
Broadcaster



Express your support for the people of Africa and Asia by joining our supporters' association. To join, or make a donation, simply fill in your details below and return to: Skillshare International, FREEPOST MID 16922, Leicester LE1 7ZU, United Kingdom. Please ask for Gift Aid details or a standing order form.

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

Family £15 Waged £12 Student £6 OAP £6 Unwaged £6 or General Donation £ _____

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*Picture of Richard E Grant supplied
by Popperfoto*

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