

Review of activities 2012/2013

India

The “Women’s Transformative Leadership” project in Karnataka, funded by the Scottish Government from 2010 to 2012, was successfully concluded, although the work in India continues. There was an underspend on Scottish salary costs during 2011-2012, due to the ill health of Alastair Christie. The Scottish Government agreed that the funds, amounting to £1,355.13, could be retained, for use primarily to fund a visit by Global Concerns India Director, Brinda Adige, to Scotland. Brinda was invited to give a talk about the project to civil servants at the Scottish Government, as part of her visit to the UK, which will take place at the end of May 2013.

Sadly, Alastair Christie, the founder of The Global Concerns Trust, passed away in June 2012. Donations were made at his funeral, amounting to £2,108. This money was sent to India to contribute towards the construction of a Children’s Creativity Centre in a Bangalore slum.

Preparations have been made for the visit of Brinda Adige at the end of May 2013. Brinda will be giving a talk on “Women’s Transformative Leadership” at the Scottish Government and will be the lead speaker at a fundraising event held in Edinburgh.

Global Concerns India continues working on women’s empowerment projects, children’s education projects, and supporting the use of the Right to Information Act to challenge corruption. We were unable to apply for funding from the Scottish Government’s South Asia funding round in 2012 due to eligibility restrictions (Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh states, where our projects are based, were not eligible for funds). We have continued to work in partnership with GCI to develop project designs for future funding applications.

Malawi

A funding application to continue vocational training projects in Malawi was submitted to the Scottish Government in February 2013. The application was successful and The Global Concerns Trust will be awarded £109,738 over 3 years (May 2013 – March 2016) for project delivery. The main aim of the project is poverty reduction through vocational and business training opportunities for adults with disabilities living in rural areas of Malawi. Project participants in Malawi will be trained with all skills needed to start up their own enterprises; to be able to be self-sufficient and produce increased income for themselves and their families.

We will continue to partner KODO (Kuthandiza Osayenda Disability Outreach), Salima, and MACOHA (Malawi Council for the Handicapped). The Scottish TFSR workshops will continue to collect and refurbish tools to be sent to Malawi. Emma Duncan will act as Project Manager in Scotland on behalf of GCT.

KODO will train 30 adults with disabilities per year in tailoring, knitting, basket/chair making and curios making. MACOHA will start new vocational training courses in tailoring and carpentry, for 13 adults with disabilities per year, in Nkhotakota District. All trainees will also receive business training and post training business support, AIDS, gender awareness and reproductive health training, and start up equipment. The Global Concerns Trust will produce a booklet and a film about the project.

The Global Concerns Trust will conduct 2 monitoring and evaluation visits to Malawi, in the first and last years of the project. The first visit is scheduled for late August 2013.

The Malawi Advisory Committee, comprising of GCT trustees Zara Christie, Eileen Henderson and GCT member Blessings Kachale, has been established, and will meet quarterly with Emma Duncan to be updated on project development. Emma Duncan will report to all other GCT trustees annually.

Prior to being awarded funding from the Scottish Government in April, The Global Concerns Trust supported KODO with a donation of £1300, raised by Trustees at events held in Scotland.

Kenya

The Global Concerns Trust has continued to communicate with Humble Generation and its various supporters in Mombasa, to discuss the possibility of working in partnership in the future on projects working with street children.