

Scrutiny Review of Jersey's Overseas Aid.

Submission of behalf of **Wanangwe School and Orphanage Trust (WASOT)**, registered in Jersey and WASOT-UK, a charity registered in both Jersey and UK. We are looking at (b) policies and procedures and (c) measuring the effectiveness of JOAC and not commenting on the size of the Aid budget

History The trust started in the year 2000 as the Wanangwe School and Orphanage Trust to support AIDs orphans in the area near Kisumu, through Dr. Hezron Mc'Obewa, who did A level in Jersey and was supported through his medical studies by a Jersey trust with Sir Peter Crill as Patron. It received a grant of £2000 in December 2000 from JOAC under the £ for £ scheme, to rebuild classrooms at Wanangwe School.

In Kenya, an NGO called OGRA was formed with Hezron as Patron and Charles Awuor, his former Headmaster, as local Chairman and with a representative group of local trustees, including the chief of the area.

In August 2001, Mr. E. Le Quesne took over from the first chairman of WASOT, Mr. Lee Manning. In May 2002, he visited Kenya with Hezron to see the progress being made. The name was shortened to WASOT.

In December 2002, a grant of £3300 was given by the Jersey Overseas Aid committee, matched by £3300 raised by the newly formed WASOT-UK to construct a simple clinic in the area.

In 2003 there were exceptionally heavy rains and 50 homes were destroyed. An appeal for £10,000 (= £200 per house!) was launched and £3000 was donated by Jersey Overseas Aid. Also a grant of £16,300 from the Guernsey Overseas Aid committee enabled the remaining classrooms at Wanangwe to be completed and helped to complete the clinic. At the end of 2003, the Le Quesne clinic opened at Ombeyi, the village nearest to Wanangwe.

In 2004 a grant from the Elton John Foundation of £15,550 helped to fund the working of the clinic. A grant of £17200 from the Guernsey Overseas Aid committee in January 2005 enabled a one stream secondary school to be built to cater for able pupils leaving primary school. I saw the completed school in June 2005. It was also visited by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Perchard in September 2005.

In 2006, a grant of £34,600 was received from the Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission,. half to build a feeding centre so that orphans can get a midday meal and food to take home to their elderly carer and half to build an accommodation block for the workshop that will train orphans with skills to support themselves and their siblings. An application to Jersey Overseas Aid was turned down as it was felt we already had enough funding.

In July 2006, the Elton John Foundation paid £8000 for a thorough review of the work of OGRA (and two partner organisations, Omega and Port Florence Community Hospital) in combating AIDs in the area. It also looked at the effectiveness of OGRA's work in

promoting IGA's (Income Generating Activities) They were generally positive, with useful suggestions for the future which are being evaluated now. (Both are available in electronic form or paper form for the Scrutiny panel if required).

Summary

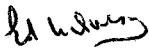
We have been established for 6 years and have proven links with local people in Kenya and particularly with Dr. Hezron Mc'Obewa, who is determined to make maximum use of the opportunities he has been granted by the support of Jersey Trusts and a number of Jersey people. We are working in one of the poorest areas of Kenya, with 28% of the population HIV +. Money invested there will be building on a strong base.

Question for the Scrutiny panel

Why do we not fit any of the criteria of JOAC and thus don't receive any ongoing support?

We believe we add value to money given by

- A) collecting and transporting donated items in containers
- B) giving talks to schools about life in a developing country
- C) working as long term partners with people determined to improve their community and fulfilling OGRA's motto 'Giving hope, saving lives'
- D) reporting to the people of Jersey just where their money is going
- E) encouraging special fund-raising efforts


Ed Le Quesne

Chairman, WASOT and WASOT-UK

The regular reports sent to our supporters have been combined into one document to show the ups and downs of our project. It is available if the panel wish to see it.

So too are the two reports on our activities, mentioned above, dated August 2006. both are about 60 pages long.

The website of the Jersey Overseas Aid Commission has not been updated since 2nd June (looking on 25th Nov.) and is very brief, with basic facts on membership of the Commission.. It also looks for projects which can be completed in 12 months. This is quite unrealistic for a development agency, which has a partnership approach

Below is the submission from Dr. Hezron Mc'Obewa, who is the key person in WASOT-UK, working tirelessly to benefit his home area. He also offers some positive suggestions for the way forward.

Executive Summary:

HIV/AIDS is an unprecedented epidemic and public health emergency. Presently, world-wide, it is estimated that over 35 million people are infected with HIV, and over 20 million have died of AIDS-related illnesses. In many resource poor countries and among marginalised groups of people in industrialised countries, the number of new HIV infections continues to rise. In some countries in Africa, AIDS-related morbidity and mortality are causing major reversals in development, childhood mortality, and survival and life expectancy.

It is these facts that led to the formation of WASOT in 2000 in Jersey to try and make a difference in a village community in Western Kenya. Subsequently Dr H O Mc'Obewa together with the local chief, teachers and clan elders formed a local NGO OGRA Foundation in Kenya to implement WASOT'S projects.

OGRA Foundation is a Community-based, non-governmental organisation founded and registered in Kenya in 2000 to promote health, socio-economic and cultural development among the resident communities of Kisumu and Nyando Districts in Kenya. It aims to fight against knowledge gap, disease especially HIV/AIDS, poverty and social exclusion among Africans. OGRA's main objectives and aims have centred on:

- creating greater openness about HIV/AIDS among individuals and within families and communities through education, capacity building and poverty eradication
- encourage more people to test for HIV, inform sexual partners about the results, and prevent further infections
- better protect people **not** infected from becoming infected
- increase acceptance, care, treatment and support for people and families affected by HIV/AIDS, and
- Improve epidemiological surveillance of HIV/AIDS.

OGRA has been able to achieve its objectives through its UK based fundraising Charity WASOT-UK registered both in the UK (2003) and Jersey Channel Islands (2000). WASOT-UK has been able to raise funds for various OGRA projects from different grant giving bodies i.e. Elton John Aids Foundation, Guernsey Overseas Aid Commission, Jersey Overseas AID Commission, Various small Trusts and Foundations etc. It is through this involvement that I have been able to meet and interact with members of JOAC over the years.

First Impressions:

WASOT has received funding from JOAC ranging from £2000 towards completion of school to £3,300 for completion of Outreach Clinic on £ for £ basis. We have never received any tangible funding from JOAC and previous correspondence as well as enquiries from the Committee members gave the answer that unless the charity was on their 'list of recognised charities', we were not eligible. NO mention of how charities join this elite list. This to me is discrimination. Again despite repetitive letters to the secretariat at JOAC including the Chief Executive, I have never received a concrete answer as how charities join the elite list. In other words, communication with the outside agencies is wanting at JOAC.

Having been involved in international development now for many years, I have found it extremely difficult to receive information relating to grant applications from JOAC. I would like to mention the following areas:

JOAC does not run a clear, concise and up to date timetable of when to apply for grants, who can apply, threshold of funding, formal funding application form (both for small grants, large grants),

There is no information available on their websites or leaflets detailing Monitoring and Evaluation Tools, Project reporting time tables and criteria. Do they have any records of project reports that failed? Or succeeded? And what did they do with the reports? Does

JOAC audit the successes of the projects it funds? How many fail? Why do they not have the successes on their website for people to read?

There exist no evidence of quality control framework for vetting project proposals, and feedback to applicants is non-existent. Again JOAC exists to help people and charities implement their goals. Why is there no logical framework analysis for proposals? If it exists, who gets it? Again this is basic. Do its members understand these?

There is no consistency in the objectives and strategic planning of how JOAC is run. My impression is that JOAC has global objectives that do not take into account changing international development needs. For example JOAC refused to fund WASOT in our last three proposals simply because we had been successful in obtaining funding from other agencies to do other work. This success to JOAC meant that our organisation was told categorically through writing that we no longer needed to apply. I think to punish charities for being resourceful beggar's belief. While grant givers out there (GOAC, Comic Relief, Big Lottery, DfID, etc) are keen to fund projects that mitigate the effects of poverty and tackle health inequalities, JOAC in my view makes judgements based on sometimes personalities regardless of how well the project is put together. The bottom line here is that the decision to approve a grant to a charity should simply be considered based on the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis and not personalities. DO they ever consider needs analysis done by charities before making the application? Who reads through the proposals at the moment? These matters are pertinent to choosing who to fund and who not to fund. JOAC in my view has none- if it exists, I wonder who gets it.

The funding limit set by JOAC is too low to make a real difference in people's lives and something that needs reconsidering. Consider a project working with Street girls 13-19 year olds in deprived cities. How does a grant limit of £3,500 make a difference? Who decides these figures, do they consider the realities on the ground? Have the committee members visited real models of how such projects are evaluated to see if it makes a long term difference? In other words why can't charities with clear concise and well researched projects get the full funding and be evaluated by JOAC tools at the middle and end of their grant? The key question is: Do the committee members understand the concept of project implementation in developing countries?

Suggestions:

There is a need to have an independent executive body to run JOAC possibly headed by a Director and made up of people who understand international development and are in tune with basic knowledge such as UN millennium goals. All our projects refused funding by JOAC have been ones that tackle poverty, education, health and social exclusion yet in every one of these vignettes; JOAC told us fell outside their criteria. What do their criteria cover if they are out of UN Millennium goals?

The Director should then have Project managers and officers and together this cabinet will form the body that vets applications based on a JOAC template independent of the politicians. The politicians within the JOAC itself should not be involved in selection of projects to be funded. Proposals should be read and reviewed by people with intrinsic knowledge and interest in those areas. Otherwise there is really no point in running a service without any benchmarks from within the service itself.

The cabinet will then present the list of its successful applicants to the commission for recommendation. This will ensure that the JOAC is run efficiently and without prejudice and interference from interested parties. This cabinet will review all applications and request any further information they need before the application proceeds to next stage.

JOAC web site should have application forms downloadable in word format for:

1. A small grants programme form for charities wanting to apply for funds below £5,000.
2. A Medium grants programme form for charities wanting to apply for funds between £5k-£20k
3. A large grants application form for charities wanting to be invited to apply for larger grants. These charities should be ones that have been previously funded under 1 and/or 2 above and shown commitment and successful reports.

JOAC should provide on their website, an application guidance form detailing areas that they fund, things that they do not fund, countries that they fund etc. This form will guide the applicants in applying for funding.

JOAC needs to produce a detailed Monitoring and Evaluation Forms and Guidance for charities to accompany their grant contracts when a grant is given. This form will be completed by the charity when the grant round is completed and no charity can be reconsidered for another grant until they submit a full annual report of the grant. Someone who understands project reporting need to be the link man with the charities, he or she can then visit some of the projects as part of capacity building.

Charities should be allowed to apply for strategic grants (grants that last for up to three years with a full budget covering the three years e.g., £15k, yr 1, £20k yr 2, £10k yr 3 etc). If a charity is running for example a Peer education Programme for Street Children, a one off grant will not make a difference to the project unless there is a medium term plan and self sustainability plan in place. This takes time and three years is standard. These charities can be invited to make formal presentations of their proposals to the committee before grants are awarded. This to me is where overseas development aid is going.

To educate the public on work of JOAC and the difference the projects are making, JOAC politicians should visit overseas projects with possibly camera crews and report back to the States as well as to the public. This will also ensure that first hand information is given to the States. It may influence future budgetary allocations to Overseas Aid.

There should be specific Grant Rounds and timetable clearly put on the website and literature. This will ensure that charities apply either once a year and/or twice. At the moment it's farcical and I still don't know when to apply and getting that information is also difficult. I hope this contribution will shed some light into what we think is happening at JOAC and possible ways of moving forward.

DR H O Mc'Obewa
Hon Project Director WASOT-UK

Ed. h. Quason p.p. H O Mc'Obewa