



INTRAC

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*A Survey of Research by
UK NGOs*

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INTRAC

SURVEY OF RESEARCH BY U.K. NGOS.

Introduction:

This review is the product of an initiative taken by the Development Studies Association (DSA) Study Group on NGOs. During the DSA annual meeting in Nottingham in September 1992, various members raised questions about the quality and quantity of research being carried out by British NGOs. The Convenor of the Study Group, Alan Fowler, was asked to carry out a survey of agencies involved in development work, to review their present research programmes and future research needs. The International NGO Training and Research Centre (INTRAC) agreed to allow its database of NGOs to be used for the mailing and as a result some 200 agencies were sent questionnaires. Just over 50 replies were received.

The ODA Senior Research Adviser, Sean Conlin, subsequently agreed to support a two-day meeting to discuss issues raised by the survey. A range of agencies and representatives from a number of research institutions in the UK were invited to a workshop, held in Coventry in March 1993. Their thoughts and recommendations have been incorporated into this report.

(For a full list of those agencies which replied to the survey and participated in the Coventry workshop, please consult Appendix A).

Reasons for the Survey:

Research should be an integral part of the work of all developmental NGOs. If conducted at all levels, research should enable an agency to learn from its experience, become better organised and enhance its accountability. Research carried out by other NGOs and by institutional research centres should also help an agency improve the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of its programmes.

Individual NGOs produce reports and newsletters discussing their work and interests. These often refer to research they (or others) are carrying out or mention specific issues they would like to see researched. But at the moment there is no directory of NGOs involved in research and little known about the research needs of most British developmental NGOs. This lack of information can result in the wasteful duplication of research work by different NGOs and mean that opportunities for collaborative research between NGOs and institutional research centres are being missed.

The aims of the survey were therefore:

* to review the research needs of UK NGOs dedicated to development and relief issues.

* to review and discuss the potential and actual research capacity of British NGOs.

* to review present research being carried out by British NGOs, either internally or in conjunction with others.

* and to explore the links between research institutions and British NGOs.

What constitutes "Research"?:

"Research" means different things to different people or to put it another way, "research is a function of who you are and what you do".

In some contexts, research means nothing more than the systematic collection and analysis of information: as such, it is something we all do, since we all collect information in our daily lives to help us make choices and decide which course of action to take. This type of research, research with a small 'r', is integral to the running of any organisation.

Others use the term research to refer to more specialised studies, set apart from everyday practice and carried out by professional researchers or qualified academics. This type of research, research with a capital 'R', is often undertaken as an end in itself, to investigate more general-or theoretical issues.

No set definition of research was used in the Survey questionnaire; the aim being to give NGOs the opportunity to define research in their own terms. Some found this all-encompassing approach to the question of research too vague and were unsure how to respond to the survey. Others imposed their own structure on the questionnaire or assumed that we only wanted details of "research programmes" carried out by NGOs with established research departments.

Different NGOs interpreted the questions asked by the questionnaire differently, revealing the lack of any single NGO approach to research.

Types of Research.

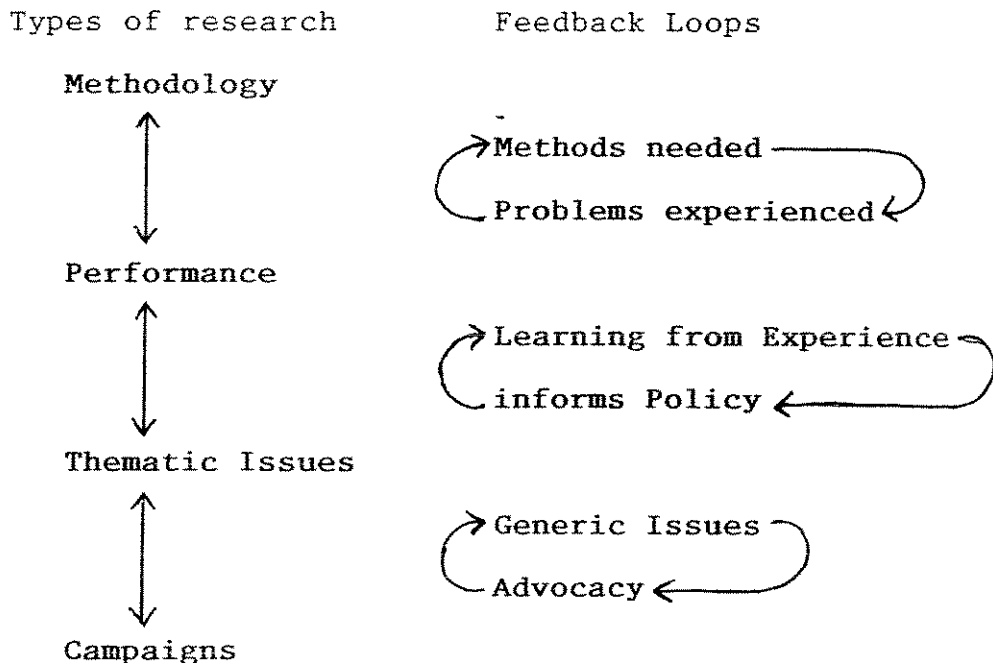
From the evidence of the survey, NGO research programmes fall crudely into the following categories:

- A) Project based research:
 - i) Pre-project feasibility/base line data.
 - ii) Learning from project experience; i.e. project monitoring and evaluation.

- B) Thematic research:
 - i) Broader comparative studies of project experience.
 - ii) More 'detached' and exploratative studies of social issues;

- C) Campaigning and advocacy:
 - i) To raise public awareness; i.e. for education.
 - ii) To actively change government or World Bank policy or the policies of other NGOs on generic issues.

This framework for distinguishing the different types of research carried out by different types of NGO is far from rigid. While some NGOs concentrate on just one category of research, many agencies do all three types of research. And the boundaries between categories are not hard and fast. Thus problems experienced in the field may give rise to research into methods to overcome these problems (project-based research). This work may then lead an agency to undertake a more wide-ranging, comparative study, designed to inform policy making on a larger scale (thematic research). And this research may then be adopted by a new campaign, the original research being redrafted for advocacy purposes (advocacy research).



Alternatively, research designed to collect information for a particular campaign may generate new ideas on how to

improve operational efficiency. Thus the arrows on the diagram above can be seen to represent interlocking loops, each one feeding back into the next.

Research capacity:

The resources devoted to research by NGOs were found to vary considerably.

(A) Organisations without an Ongoing Research Programme.

A large number of agencies appear to have no ongoing research at all, and no plan to develop a research capacity or programme. Research was felt to be something beyond the scope of many small NGOs.

"We leave the research to the bigger organisations who have the manpower and financial resources." (Population Concern).

"Our income is extremely low and there are few resources for any activities other than a reactive response to applications for help.." (ACWW).

Many assumed that research was best carried out by specialist "research institutions".

"We are not a research organisation and, whilst QPS is interested in the results of relevant research, we are not actually in the market for "specialist assistance, resources and collaboration". (Quaker Peace Service).

(B) Organisations involved in Research.

Of those involved in one or more of the above categories of research the following emerges:

1) Some agencies see research as the core of their activities, especially those concerned with Human rights and advocacy work. Amnesty International, for example, devotes almost 50% of their staff to research into individual and group violations of human rights. Anti-Slavery International and The World Rainforest Movement (UK office) are further examples of advocacy agencies heavily involved in research. Most of the information they collect is for lobbying purposes and may come from secondary sources, local newspapers, government reports and so on; although these NGOs may also do more 'in depth' research to investigate the cultural beliefs, political manoeuvrings etc. that underly slavery, the illegal logging of the rainforest, etc.

2) A few of the agencies more directly involved in overseas project work have an approach which integrates research into their overall programme. An example of this would be ITDG (the Intermediate Technology Development Group), where it is sometimes difficult to distinguish between their

research activities and their operational programme. SOS Sahel could be taken as another example.

3) Only a few NGOs have fully developed research departments and those tend to be the largest eg: ActionAid, SCF. We see here a conceptual distinction drawn between research as part of the on-going project cycle ('Programme-led'/'Project-Oriented' research) and research in its own right, ('Advocacy-led'/'global' research) with it's own department and staff, investigating wider social issues.

4) Several of the project-based development agencies confine their research to their advocacy programme rather than their project work. Christian Aid, for example, replied to the questionnaire by giving details of research it was carrying out into a number of topics, all tied to their campaign work. It is worth stressing that this probably owes more to their interpretation of the survey questionnaire than it does to an actual lack of interest in project-related research.

5) Some agencies do very occasionally support or get involved in 'research with a capital R' for very specific reasons, without developing a real capacity institutionally; research being carried out on an ad-hoc basis. Farm Africa, for example, is presently engaged in a number of small research projects linked to its project work in East Africa, but it has no separate research budget or staff.

6) There is some evidence that more agencies are planning to develop their Research capacity. New departments are being introduced into several agencies (for example, World Vision, CAFOD and ADD (Action on Disability and Development)).

7) What is not clear from the survey is the degree to which UK based agencies are supporting research in developing countries; either directly through their field operations or indirectly by providing grants to local southern institutions. Certain agencies such as SCF and OXFAM replied that they believed that their field offices were probably quite active in commissioning locally based research or in funding local institutions. At the moment most agencies are unable to give a very clear idea to what degree their field offices are supporting local research. It seems possible that field offices could contribute considerably towards building up the research capacity of southern NGOs and research institutions.

Funding:

Few respondents elaborated on the source of their research funds, although some attempted to calculate the amount of the research funds they are managing. The larger agencies (OXFAM) seemed to rely primarily on their own funds, whereas others appear to be far more dependent upon raising funds from outside grant-giving bodies for specific research purposes (ADD, ACORD). Some agencies use internal resources

but only managed to fund their work by utilising resources from several "budget lines".

It should be noted that a considerable number of NGOs have never seriously considered the possibility of carrying out research or of trying to obtain funding for it. Their replies indicate that all their funds "go to the programme", and indicate a lack of awareness that they might be able to obtain special funds earmarked to research.

At the workshop, several NGOs called for funding organisations to make the availability of funds for research known to relevant NGOs. There was also a feeling that the conditions attached to research grants by funders are too rigorous and 'academic' for NGOs to meet. Many agencies appear too daunted by these conditions to apply for research money. Significantly, only one ODA ESCOR research grant was awarded to an NGO in 1991-2.

Collaborative research:

(i) Between NGOs.

Collaboration is an important way of identifying areas of shared concern, which need to be researched. Through the sharing of skills and experience, collaboration should in principle strengthen NGOs, both in their advocacy work and in project related research. But the survey replies produced only a few examples where NGOs had collaborated on research. These included Cafod and Christian aid on food security in the Horn of Africa, World Vision and OXFAM on a book about street children in Brazil, SCF and UNICEF on the monitoring of Children's rights, and the new research by the NGO AIDS consortium.

Joint collaboration between NGOs occurs more rarely than it might because of:

- * the different aims and philosophies of NGOs.
- * the different time-limits of NGOs.
- * competition/turf issues between NGOs working in the same field.
- * worries about confidentiality.
- * an overall lack of collaborative & management skills.

To overcome these problems, the workshop suggested more networking between NGOs (in particular Northern and Southern) and the establishment of NGO issue groups and operational consortia to coordinate NGO research on particular subjects.

(ii) Between NGOs and 'Academics'.

The survey also found very little evidence of collaborative research between NGOs and academic centres. SCF and ACORD provided notable exceptions to this; various joint research projects having been conducted with IDS (ACORD & SCF), IDPM Manchester University (SCF), and LSE's Centre for the Study of Global Governance (SCF).

One of the aims of the workshop was to investigate the reasons for this lack of collaborative research between NGOs and institutional research centres.

'The problem with academics': From an NGO perspective, conventional academic research can appear too theoretical and too time-consuming, with too general a focus and too 'top down' an approach. Operational NGOs need quick, action oriented advice and favour participatory methods; while Advocacy NGOs need powerfully-written reports that argue a particular case rather than adopt a relativistic standpoint on such issues as human rights, child labour and so on.

'The problem with NGOs': Some NGOs can be criticised for their anti-intellectualism; many developing agencies lack a 'learning culture' and see a greater need for 'action' than for 'study'. As a result they feel they have little in common with academic research institutions and don't look to work with academics.

Participants at the workshop believed there were differences in approach and philosophy between NGOs and 'academics' (used here to refer to members of development studies departments or other research institutions (eg. the ODI). But it was argued that these differences tend to be over-exaggerated and obscure the benefits that both NGOs and academics may gain by working together on research.

Academics can provide NGO research practitioners with;

- * advice on how to prepare research proposals,
- * guidance on reviewing the literature and access to libraries,
- * help actually carrying out the research, facilitating research management within an agency and possibly between agencies, providing MSc students to help etc.
- * validation of an agency's research findings and conclusions,
- * and training for NGO staff on research methods.

NGOs can provide academics with;

- * data and experience to use in research,
- * MSc. student placements and research opportunities,
- * a means of disseminating the results of academic research,
- * and funding for relevant research projects.

Various suggestions were made to improve NGO-Academic collaboration on research: See Recommendations below.

Research being carried out by NGOs:

It has already been pointed out that many NGOs failed to reply to the questionnaire. Unfortunately, postal surveys tend to be 'binned' or given a low priority, particularly when agencies are very busy. Organisations may not have the staff to cope with answering surveys. To quote from one reply;

"The survey questions that you outline in your fax justify a considered and detailed response, but I regret that we cannot give an undertaking to participate due to the other pressures that we have at the present time." (Care).

The results of this Survey cannot claim to be comprehensive. Appendix B lists research being carried out by those NGOs who replied to the questionnaire. Some of the entries are quite long, others very patchy. One of the drawbacks of the rather general nature of the original questionnaire was that many of the replies received were vague and lacked detail, broad topic headings being given instead of more specific outlines. Clearly there is a need for more information to be gathered and as with any directory, the list needs to be continuously edited to keep it up to date.

But major areas of concern can be seen to include:

- * Project Monitoring and Evaluation.
- * AIDS.
- * The effects of Structural Adjustment Policies.
- * Small Enterprise Development & Credit Programmes.
- * Gender issues in Development.
- * Children in Development.
- * Development and the Environment.
- * Food Aid.
- * Disaster response and Mitigation.
- * Working in Areas of Turbulence.
- * The Politics of Aid.
- * Human Rights.

It is interesting to compare this list with the 1991-92 list of research projects, funded by the ODA Economic and Social Committee on Overseas Research (ESCOR). These projects are carried out almost exclusively by British Research Institutions rather than NGOs. The ESCOR list indicates that academics are concerned with many of the same issues as development workers: e.g. the social and economic aspects of AIDS, structural adjustment, agricultural development, poverty reduction and environmental change, food security, small-scale enterprise development and global governance. Differences in approach clearly distinguish some of the more project orientated research by NGOs from the more theoretical research by university departments, but there are many examples where NGO interests and those of the academic may be seen to overlap.

Future Interests:

The topics listed by many agencies as concerns for the future mirrored those already being covered by other agencies at the moment or were extensions of existing research priorities.

Dissemination:

Research is not an end in itself. It is not enough for NGOs to produce results from research. These have to be disseminated and translated into improved practice. The survey did not ask NGOs about the dissemination of their research findings, but at the workshop this issue was raised and discussed.

A distinction was made between 'Internal' dissemination, ie the channeling of information within an NGO; and 'External' dissemination, information sharing between NGOs.

Internal dissemination: Within an organisation there are various resistances to the dissemination of information;

- * problems of staff turnover,
- * internal departmental divisions,
- * poor contact between regional offices and the central office,
- * and the lack of a learning culture in many NGOs.

Participants at the workshop argued that high level support was essential for internal dissemination mechanisms to be successful and sufficient time to be given for the assimilation of new knowledge. Ways of improving the internal dissemination of information through a large NGO include:

- * inter-departmental circulars,
- * newsletters,
- * talks given by invited external speakers on new topics of interest,
- * and delegating particular staff to keep others informed of relevant research findings (although it was pointed out that such staff should allow others room for the self discovery of this information.)

External Dissemination: The Problems of collaboration and sharing information between NGOs have been discussed above. Devices to improve the dissemination of research findings between NGOs and between NGOs and research centres, include

- * newsletters,
- * focussed group discussions,
- * professional networks,
- * databases, and resource centres.

Use:

Making research findings available and accessible is very important. But it is also necessary to build up the 'reception capacity' of NGOs, so that research feeds back into the planning process and is translated into improved practice.

Participants at the workshop emphasised the need for research to inform policy making and for ongoing reporting to practitioners.

Conclusion/Recommendations:

(i) The publication of a more complete inventory of past and present research projects, to increase information on and dissemination of research findings.

(ii) The establishment of a 'broker' organisation to help NGOs seeking research advice and support, locate appropriate partners (be they specialist research institutions or other NGOs).

(iii) The formation of some kind of researcher's Network, involving both academic and NGO research practitioners, to improve collaboration between NGOs and between NGOs and the institutional research centres on specific research topics.

(iv) The documentation of a series of case studies showing how collaborative research between NGOs and between NGOs and institutional research centres has proved successful/ unsuccessful in the past and the lessons to be learnt.

(v) The compilation of a list of funding sources and a call for funding organisations to make the availability of their funds for research known to relevant NGOs and for funders to revise the conditions they set on research grants to make them less daunting to NGOs.

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The Chief Executive

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: A SURVEY ON NGO RESEARCH

At the annual meeting of the Development Studies Association recently held in Nottingham I was asked, as convenor of the NGO Study Group, to gather information on the research activities and research needs of the NGO community. Findings of this simple survey would be used to identify potential areas for collaborative research that could be followed-up by study group members. Subsequent to agreeing on this DSA initiative, the Overseas Development Administration (ODA) has indicated its interest in sponsoring a workshop to discuss NGO research priorities.

I would therefore be grateful if you, or the appropriate member of your staff, would answer the following questions about your endeavours and ideas on NGO research. In addition, in replying, would you please indicate if your organisation would attend a workshop on NGO research priorities that would probably be jointly organised in March 1993 by the ODA and the International NGO Training and Research Centre (INTRAC).

Survey on NGO Research

Would you please answer the following questions.

1. Does your organisation have an ongoing research programme and resources? If yes, would you please:
 - a. indicate the annual budget and staff levels;
 - b. provide a summary of the research area(s) (major objectives) and their scope (budget size, duration, etc).
 - c. indicate future research plans; and,
 - d. prioritise research areas where you would like support or collaboration.

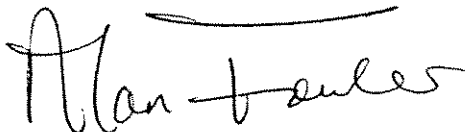
2. If your organisation is not undertaking research, are there (prioritised) topics or issues which you like to see studied and in which you would look for specialist assistance, resources and collaboration?

Examples from previous random enquiries include:

- sector specific issues related, amongst others, to food security, sustainability and AIDS
- the affects of official aid conditions on NGO functioning and performance
- the influence of macro-policies on micro-projects

May I thank you in advance for giving your time to respond to this enquiry.

Yours sincerely,



Alan Fowler

APPENDIX A: NGOs THAT REPLIED TO THE SURVEY.

49 Replies were received (from 215 sent out).

32 Positive replies (nb. some more informative than others)

ACORD	Lesotho Durham Link*
ActionAid*	One World Action
ADD	Oxfam*
Aga Khan*	Oxfam Trading
AHRTAG*	SCF*
Aids Consortium*	SOS Sahel*
Amnesty International	Third World First
Anti-Slavery*	Tools for Self Reliance
ApT	UNICEF
British Red Cross	UKF for Peoples of South Pacific
CAFOD	Vision Aid
Christian Aid	Water Aid
Christian Children's Fund	World Rainforest Movement*
Eathwatch*	World Vision*
ICVA*	
INTRAC*	
ITDG	
Lassallian Developing World Projects	

(* denotes attendance at the Coventry Workshop).

17 Negative replies, no information given (eg. "we have no time to answer your questionnaire"; OR "we have no ongoing research programme and no plans to set one up..")

Population Concern
Greenpeace
Opportunities for Women
Friends of the Earth
BESO
Britain Tanzania Society
Southeast Asian Outreach
CARE
Climate Action Network
UK Leaf for Life
Quaker Peace Service
Associated Country Women of the World
Methodist Church Overseas
Skillshare Africa
SCIAF
Sue Ryder Foundation
Ockenden Venture.

APPENDIX B: CURRENT NGO RESEARCH 1992-3.

(i) Grouped by theme:

(1) Project Monitoring and Evaluation.

Acord	A review and analysis of ACORD's appraisal, monitoring and evaluation experience; investigating ways to increase the capacity of local structures to monitor and evaluate their own work and level of organisational development.
Actionaid	In collaboration with the ODA, Actionaid is developing and field testing a methodology for measuring the impact of its work.
Intrac	Research leading to the production of a set of guidelines for evaluating social development programmes, funded by several agencies, drawing on case studies from India, Zimbabwe, Colombia, etc. Intrac is also organising a workshop on NGO use of 'log frame' analysis (ZOPP).
Oxfam	No precise details
SOS Sahel	Participatory Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation research, funded by the UN's Sudano Sahelian Office (UNSO), begun in 1991, studying ways of involving communities at every stage of a project, using SOS Sahel's own experience in Sudan, Ethiopia, Mali and Mauritania.

(2) AIDS

Acord	A study of programming options in relation to AIDS in East Africa, identifying the key issues, responding to the problems posed by AIDS, and helping communities and other NGOs learn the lessons from experience elsewhere.
Actionaid	Research into the impact of the AIDS epidemic on communities in Asia and Africa.
AIDS Consortium	The AIDS Consortium is presently working on a project proposal to carry out a collaborative study of HIV programmes in developing countries, run or funded by UK agencies.
Oxfam	various research projects on AIDS.

(3) The effects of Structural Adjustment policies.

- Actionaid A study on the effects of structural adjustment on communities in RDAs in countries where ACTIONAID has programmes.
- Cafod Minor studies (1 week's work) conducted into the effects of Structural Adjustment and Food Security in Zimbabwe and Ethiopia.
- ITDG In Zimbabwe, the combined effects of the drought and the structural adjustment programme have led to a programme of investigation into the impact of these two 'disasters' on poor people - particularly pastoralists in some of the more severe agricultural zones and those engaged in small-scale food production.
- Oxfam A major project over 2-3 years involving both the PPD, DS units and country offices, studying the impact of structural adjustment programmes at household, community and national levels on poverty and food security.

(4) Small Enterprise Development and Credit Programmes.

- Acord A review and analysis of the use of credit in the programmes of ACORD and other NGOs in Africa.
- Apt Design and Dev. ApT is currently looking at ways in which small enterprises can be assisted more effectively; for example, they are currently researching the literature on traditional apprenticeships in East Africa in order to determine how such apprenticeships might best be supported. In Uganda, ApT has recently undertaken a review of government policy as it affects small-scale enterprises, recommending that laws and bureaucratic procedures which hinder small enterprise development be changed. In Ghana a survey carried out by ApT on the situation faced by local rural industries (primarily metal workers and woodworkers) has resulted in a 3 year project funded by the UNDP to assist rural industries in the country.
- Intrac A review of the current level of support for Small Enterprise Development (SED) by UK NGOs, identifying agencies with distinctive SED interest and competence, and an assessment of the needs of NGOs wishing to develop their activities in the SED sector; funded by the ODA.

Christian aid	Environment and development.
Oxfam	NO precise details.
World Rainforest Mvmt.	Research on various areas: Land Insecurity, Land reform and Deforestation Community-based Sustainable Forest Management Political Ecology of Deforestation Models of Participation Plantations Mangroves

(8) Food Aid.

Actionaid	Operational research project on community based food security monitoring and community managed relief responses, partly funded by Comic relief. data collection has taken place in four African countries in areas affected or threatened by food shortages.
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Cafod	In 1992 CAFOD carried out a joint piece of research (3 month's work) with Christian Aid, on Food Security and Food Aid in the Horn of Africa.
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SCF	Famine and food Security: Early Warning and response. A joint venture with IDS, looking at case studies of early warning systems in five countries and five donor agencies, to examine the system of international response to famine and early warning systems and recommend improvements in timing and targeting of donor response. Duration 2 years. Total budget £84,000
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SOS Sahel	Food Security Research Project. This is exploring the sustainable alternatives to food aid and food-for-work schemes in the Sahel region of Africa.
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(9) Disaster response and Mitigation.

ICVA	Emergency Coordination.
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ITDG	Research into disaster mitigation issues is being carried out by IT's Peruvian office. This work is designed to shift the paradigm away from disaster relief into longer term and locally based planning, through a recognition of people's own skills in coping with disaster.
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SCF	Options for reforming the International System for Responding to Disasters. A joint venture study with LSE's Centre for the Study of Global Governance, looking at the issues of sovereignty, intervention, and international institutional performance in
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recent disasters, referring to SCF's recent experience in Somalia, Iraqi Kurdistan and southern Africa.

Duration 9 months Total budget £14,000 (shared)

(10) Working in Areas of Turbulence.

- Acord Operating in Areas of Conflict and Turbulence; a study into ways of coping with crises and responding to the special difficulties faced by ACORD and other agencies working in Sudan, Somalia and other areas of conflict.
- Actionaid Research into traditional systems of authority of the elders in north-western Somalia. This work is to inform Actionaid's work in Sanaag and policy decisions in UNOSOM II.
- ITDG In Sri Lanka a small research effort is examining ways to improve IT's work with refugees from the country's internal conflict.
- OXFAM Research into various issues around conflict by desks and by the central DSU.

(11) The Politics of Aid.

- Actionaid For campaigning purposes, Action Aid collects data on the international flow of Aid from rich to poor countries, the policies of the World Bank and the accountability of UN Agencies. On behalf of ICVA and Eurostep, Actionaid is currently producing a publication, entitled "the Realities of Aid". This will be an NGO commentary on the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the OECD and will be completed in June 1993.
- Christian Aid UK ODA and the quality of British Aid; the UN and international institutions; good government issues human rights, democracy and conditionality.
- SCF EC Development Policy. A study of the structure and evolving policy of the emergency and development sections of EC institutions. Aiming to identify key contact points for SCF and a general organizational map for all NGOs concerned with the EC. Duration 6 months Total budget £20,000

(12) Human rights.

- Amnesty International. Various.

Anti-Slavery Int'l

Major research areas are the following:

Children in domestic work in Asia, Latin America and Africa; a six country study. (approx budget £80,000 over two years).

Service Forms of Marriage; focussing on specific examples drawn from Africa and South Asia. (total cost £250,000 over 3 years).

Bonded Labour in South Asia; an on-going project in Pakistan is investigating the carpet-making and brick kiln industries. (approx cost £30,000)

Vestiges of Slavery in the Sahel and West Africa; work concentrated in the Sudan and in Mauritania. (annual budget £50,000).

Other areas of current research include;

forced labour in Brazil

child labour in Nepal

trafficking between Mozambique and South Africa and forced prostitution in Turkey.

CURRENT & FUTURE RESEARCH PROGRAMMES and INTERESTS.

(ii) Grouped alphabetically by Agency:

Organisation: ACORD (Agency for Co-operation and Research in Development)

Address: Francis House (3rd Floor)
Francis Street
London
SW1P 1DQ
Tel: 071 828 7611/7612
Fax: 071 976 6113

Person Responding: Chris Roche
Position: Research and Policy Programme (RAPP) Officer

Agency Type: Operational

Aim/Mode of Operation: ACORD is an international consortium of NGOs. It works for long term development in Africa and in direct response to requests from local communities. It focuses particularly on the more disadvantaged groups, like women and refugees and makes use of local resources so that projects may eventually become self-sufficient.

Current Research Programme:

In 1991 ACORD established a Research and Policy Programme (RAPP). "The primary objective of this programme is to improve Acord's capacity to evaluate the impact of its work and hence improve programme quality through the 'valorisation' of its experience to date and through the development of systematic learning within and between ACORD programmes". Total research budget (1993) expected to be c. £145,000.

In 1992, the following were undertaken by ACORD;

1) A review and analysis of ACORD's appraisal, monitoring and evaluation experience; in particular with a view to increasing the capacity of local structures to monitor and evaluate their own work and level of organisational development. From this review, there emerged 3 major trends:

- * the need to develop multiple accountability (eg. southern evaluation of northern partners)
- * the need to reconceptualise evaluation from a gender perspective
- * and, the need to make evaluation more relevant to situations of turbulence and rapid change.

2) A study of programming options in relation to AIDS in East Africa. This set out to identify the key issues and respond to the problems posed by AIDS in terms of policy, strategy and action. while in addition helping communities and other NGOs learn the lessons from experience elsewhere.

3) A review and analysis of the use of credit in the programmes of ACORD and other NGOs in Africa.

4) Issues surrounding 'scaling up', based on a critical review of ACORD's own experience and efforts to increase its own impact in Africa.

5) A study of Gender issues in East Africa; taking an in depth look at the changing gender relations at the community level, based on a workshop held in Uganda, attended by participants from programmes in neighbouring countries.

A paper was also produced on 'Gender-related violence: its scope and relevance', in conjunction with Oxfam, as a discussion document for a meeting of the ODA/NAWO (National Association of Women's Organisations) Liason Group.

6) Operating in Areas of Conflict and Turbulence; a study into ways of coping with crises and responding to the special difficulties faced by ACORD and other agencies working in Sudan, Somalia and other areas of conflict.

Future Research Priorities:

- * Continued research into improving monitoring and evaluation.
- * A follow up to the East Africa AIDS study, looking at other regions.
- * A study on informal credit systems and how they might best be built upon.
- * A study of livestock marketing in West Africa.
- * The compilation of gender profiles on all of ACORD's programmes.

Comments:

The Research and Policy Programme of ACORD has produced 5 documents, examining different aspects of its development work, evaluating its experience and suggesting guidelines for improving programme performance etc., most of which are available in English and French. The RAPP has also produced six occasional papers on wider areas of general interest, stemming from its research.

Organisation: ACTIONAID

Address: Hamlyn House
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Archway
London N19 5PG
Tel: 071 281 4101
Fax: 071 272 0899

Persons Responding: Robert Dodd
Position: Director of Policy and Research.

Agency Type: Operational

Aim/Mode of Operation Actionaid helps children, families and communities in the world's poorest countries to overcome poverty and secure lasting improvements in the quality of their lives. It works in some 15 or so countries in the developing world.

Current Research Programme:

ActionAid's research falls into two main categories;

(a) Programme-Led: Carried out by programme staff. It comes in the form of baseline surveys situational analyses, PRA and RRA surveys and studies for monitoring and evaluation. This information is usually held by the country programme and is used to inform their operations.

(b) Advocacy-Led: Carried out by a group of policy analysts and research assistants, although ActionAid do not have a separate Research Unit as such. Budget unconfirmed (c. £250,000). This group carries out the research that informs ActionAid's advocacy work.

Decision on research topics as follows; Field offices prepare Country Strategy Papers (CSPs) that identify specific policy issues which are of importance to them. At a corporate level, ActionAid in London also makes its own selection of research issues. Topics are then ranked in order of importance and an agreement on priorities is reached.

ActionAid currently has 5 Primary focus issues:

1. Poverty and the Environment; studying how policies at a national and international level effect the sustainable use of resources and exploring the links between poverty and the environment.
2. Children; case studies on "Children, children's work and roles", being carried out in various countries in preparation for the IY of the Family and UN Conference on Population in 1994.
3. AIDS; research into the impact of the AIDS epidemic on communities in Asia and Africa.
4. Education; research to improve informal and formal education and adult

literacy training programmes.

5. Structural Adjustment Policies; studying the effects of structural adjustment on communities in RDAs in countries where ACTIONAID has programmes.

Secondary focus issues for ActionAid include;

- * The international flow of Aid from rich to poor countries.
- * The policies of the World Bank.
- * The accountability of UN Agencies.

Future Research Priorities:

ActionAid has plans to initiate a wider programme of research and related activities, aimed at the enhancement of ActionAid's programme work abroad. Included in this programme will be:

- * Research into the experience of other agencies in managing single-sector experimental programmes in, eg savings and credit.
- * Research into the successes and failures of Integrated Rural Development programmes by the World Bank, the ODA, government departments and NGOs over the past 15-20 years.
- * An evaluation of ActionAid's experience in the 1992 UNCED.
- * Up-dating and revising ActionAid's 1989 Task Force Papers, to make them more accessible and relevant to programme and agency work.
- * The establishment of a live library/ resource centre in Hamlyn House, to act as a point of reference and study centre for all members of staff.
- * And the establishment of an academic network with colleges and university departments in Europe and developing countries in order to facilitate collaboration in research, analysis and dissemination.

ActionAid's Advocacy-related programme will continue as above.

Comments:

ActionAid clearly have a sizeable research programme and are eager to collaborate with other NGOs.

Organisation: ADD (Action on Disability and Development)

Address: 23 Lower Keyford
Frome
Somerset
BA11 4AP
Tel: 0373 473064
Fax: 0373 452075

Person Responding: Dominique Cadiou
Position: Programme Fundraising Manager

Agency Type: Operational

Aim/Mode of Operation: ADD's primary role is to facilitate the active involvement of people with disabilities in the development process of themselves and their countries.

Current Research Programme:

ADD do not have an ongoing research programme and resources as such. No distinct research budget or research personnel. The research they carry out is funded out of existing programme funds or by fundraising separately.

Field research is undertaken before a programme is established.

Exploratory Visits (EVs) are made to countries to:

- * research local policies and legislation on disability and related issues
- * collect information on existing initiatives by disabled people - self help organisations, co-operatives, social groupings, or any other groups.
- * define need
- * and collect base-line data against which progress to objectives can later be made.

Future Research Priorities:

No details given.

Comments:

ADD find that "due to the growing competition for fewer funds, funders are less enclined to pay for the cost of Researching and Developing a programme; preferring to pay for the implementation of a designed project".

They are looking to establish a R & D programme, but as yet have found no unrestricted funds to set one up.

Organisation: AGA KHAN FOUNDATION (UK)

Address: 33 Thurloe Square
London
SW7 2SD

Tel: 071 225 2001
Fax: 071 589 0641

Person Responding: Firoze Manji
Position: Chief Executive Officer

Agency Type: Funding

Aims/Mode of Operation: The Aga Khan Foundation is a funding agency, but it also involves itself actively in the genesis and evolution of its projects, as well as learning from the experiences it funds. The majority of AKF projects are grants to grassroots organisations interested in testing innovative approaches to selected generic problems related to development. The aim of the AKF is to develop ideas and methods for sustainable and equitable social development that can then be applied more broadly both by AKF's grantees and other agencies.

Current Research Programme:

The AKF does not have a formal research programme or budget. Its work is primarily involved with grass roots development and as such it does not have a mandate for "research proper". Having said this, it has gained a great deal of experience through monitoring and evaluating the innovative programmes it supports.

Current Thematic Interests are:

- * Health
- * Education
- * Rural Development

Concerns that cut across all thematic areas of the AKF's work are:

- * Strengthening NGOs
- * Human Resource Development
- * Community Participation
- * Women in Development
- * and The Environment.

(For more details consult Current Projects Brochure.)

Future Research Priorities:

- * Rural Built Environment
- * and Small Enterprise Developmen

Organisation: **AHRTAG (Appropriate Health Resources & Technologies Action Group)**

Address: 1 London Bridge Street
London
SE1 9SG

Tel: 071 378 1403
Fax: 071 403 6003

Person Responding: **Abdul Jetha**
Positions: **Co-Director and Head of Operations**

Agency Type: **Thematic.**

Aims/Mode of operation: AHRTAG is an information centre working in support of primary health care and community development. It produces publications on key health issues which are distributed free of charge to developing countries, provides training for health volunteers and professionals working overseas and promotes the development of appropriate technologies.

Current Research Programme:

Research components within existing projects include:

- * review of literature and methodologies that are being used to evaluate information services and systems.
- * assessment of the appropriateness of these services for NGOs with small health related libraries/resource centres.
- * development of methodologies for monitoring and evaluation of information services.

Future Research Priorities:

- (1) Urban Health: the aim of this programme will be to contribute to the improvement and quality of the urban environment and health care in partner cities through collaborative (operational) research and training in health. In particular, AHRTAG will be focussing on the development of a network of information centres and will investigate how information is used and what impact it has.
- (2) AIDS issues: AHRTAG is looking to carry out research into a) the impact of AIDS on sexual behaviour and b) the organisational development problems that accompany the integration of AIDS issues into existing or new NGOs.
- (3) Disability issues: AHRTAG is interested in examining appropriate methods for evaluating community based rehabilitation (CBR) projects in the field.

Organisation: AIDS CONSORTIUM
Address: Fenner Brockway House
37/39 Great Guildford Street
London
SE1 OES
Tel: 071 401 8231
Fax: 071 401 2124

Person Responding: Sue Lucas
Position: Co-ordinator

Agency Type: Thematic

Aims/Mode of Operation: The AIDS Consortium brings together 40 development agencies and a number of AIDS organisations in the UK, to exchange information and help to ensure cooperation.
Its aim is "to promote understanding and awareness of HIV/AIDS and responses to HIV/ AIDS in the context of development".
Its main activities are the provision and exchange of information; networking; and lobbying, campaigning and advocacy.

Current Research Programme:

The Consortium has only two permanent staff: one part-time Coordinator and one research assistant.

In 1992 the AIDS Consortium produced a Directory of European funders.

The AIDS Consortium is presently working on a project proposal to carry out a collaborative study of HIV programmes in developing countries, run or funded by UK agencies.

Future Research Priorities:

As above.

Comments:

AIDS Consortium is a specialist network organisation, collecting and disseminating research. In 1993 it plans to carry out its own research.

Organisation: Amnesty International

Address: 1 Easton Street
London
WC1X 8DJ

Tel: 071 413 5500
Fax: 071 956 1157

Person Responding: Malcolm Smart
Position: Head of the Research Department

Agency Type: Advocacy

Mode of Operation: Amnesty International seeks the release of all prisoners of conscience and an end to torture and other human rights abuses. It campaigns on behalf of those denied the right to hold and freely express their beliefs and convictions; by publicising the plight of prisoners of conscience, approaching the governments responsible, organising letter-writing campaigns, marches and so on.

Current Research Programme:

The work of Amnesty International relies on research. About half of Amnesty International's staff in the UK are involved in research; approximately 240 people. Annual budget £12 million.

AI's research involves the continuous monitoring of the human rights situation; and the political, legal and other factors influencing it, in all countries. The purpose is to identify cases of human rights violations, or potential victims, on whose behalf AI will intervene. This research is therefore on-going and also leads AI to focus from time to time on particular human rights themes or phenomena, eg torture.

Future Research Priorities:

Future areas highlighted for campaigns include, enforced "disappearances" and political killings/extrajudicial executions.

Organisation: Anti-Slavery International

Address: 180 Brixton Road
London
SW9 6AT

Tel: 071 582 4040
Fax: 071 587 0573

Person Responding: Lesley Roberts
Position: Director

Agency Type: Advocacy

Aims/Mode of Operation: Anti-Slavery International works in accordance with the 1948 UN Declaration on Human Rights. Its main function is to educate public opinion in order to change the predicament of those trapped in slavery or forced labour. It does this by influencing international legislation through the submission of reports and involvement in debates with governments directly and/or through the UN.

Current Research Programme:

Anti-Slavery has an on-going research programme, with 6 full-time staff, 3 part-time staff and 2 volunteers. Research work abroad tends to be carried out by nationals of other countries. Budget is about £200,000.

Major research areas are the following:

- 1) Children in domestic work in Asia, Latin America and Africa; a six country study. (approx budget £80,000 over two years).
- 2) Servile Forms of Marriage; focussing on specific examples drawn from Africa and South Asia. (total cost £250,000 over 3 years).
- 3) Bonded Labour in South Asia; an on-going project in Pakistan is investigating the carpet-making and brick kiln industries. (approx cost £30,000)
- 4) Vestiges of Slavery in the Sahel and West Africa; work concentrated in the Sudan and in Mauritania. (annual budget £50,000).

Other areas of current research include;

- * forced labour in Brazil
- * child labour in Nepal
- * trafficking between Mozambique and South Africa
- * and forced prostitution in Turkey.

Future Research Priorities:

As above

Organisation: ApT Design and Development

Address: 29 Northwick Business Centre
Moreton-in-Marsh
Glostershire
GL56 9RF
Tel: 0386 700130
Fax: 0386 701010

Person Responding: Jim Tanburn
Position: Chief Executive Officer

Agency Type: Specialist Operational

Aims/Mode of Operation: ApT works to promote employment opportunities and strengthen local economies through the encouragement of small industries in developing countries. It offers practical down-to-earth advice and teaches people how to design and manufacture their own equipment.

Current Research Programme:

Research is carried out on an ad-hoc basis. Budget £50,000. Areas relate to project design and project evaluation.

In design, ApT is currently looking at ways in which small enterprises can be assisted more effectively; for example, they are currently researching the literature on traditional apprenticeships in East Africa in order to determine how such apprenticeships might best be supported. In Uganda, ApT has recently undertaken a review of government policy as it affects small-scale enterprises, recommending that laws and bureaucratic procedures which hinder small enterprise development be changed. In Ghana a survey carried out by ApT on the situation faced by local rural industries (primarily metal workers and woodworkers) has resulted in a 3 year project funded by the UNDP to assist rural industries in Ghana.

In evaluation, all of ApT's longer term projects have an external evaluation, written in to their design. These evaluations typically last 2 months and investigate to what extent the original objectives of the project have been reached.

ApT also conducts research into the findings of other organisations involved in enterprise development. In particular the ITDG, ILO and TOOL.

Future Research Priorities:

To continue monitoring the literature and their projects.

Comments:

ApT would like to do more research, but do not have the funds. They feel that academics who are not actually in the field implementing programmes are a little out of touch.

Organisation: British Red Cross

Address: 9 Grosvenor Crescent
London
SW1X 7EJ

Tel: 071 235 5454

Fax: 071 245 6315

Person Responding: Mike Adamson
Position: Development Specialist, International Division.

Agency Type: Operational

Aims/Mode of Operation: The British Red Cross Society works both in Britain and overseas. It specialises in emergency relief operations, but also funds rehabilitation and development projects in Africa and elsewhere in partnership with other Red Cross societies.

Current Research Programme:

The British Red Cross does not have an on-going research programme. But where it is involved in long-term development projects overseas, it does carry out basic socio-economic research.

Personnel: No details given.

Research Partners: None specified.

- Future Research Priorities:

The BRC is interested in collaborating on research into;

- * community based disaster preparedness.
- * making relief accessible to the most vulnerable groups.
- * refugees
- * and gender related issues.

Organisation: CAFOD
Address: Romero Close
Stockwell Rd
London
SW9 9TY
Tel: 071 733 7900
Fax: 071 274 9630

Person Responding: Richard Miller
Position: Assistant Director

Agency Type: Operational

Aims/Mode of Operation: CAFOD is the Catholic Church's official agency for overseas development. In line with its aim to relieve sickness and poverty throughout the World, CAFOD supports over 500, mainly small-scale projects in 75 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Where possible, CAFOD works through the catholic church networks at national, regional and local levels.

Current Research Programme:

CAFOD set up a new unit for Public Policy, Research and Evaluation in September 1992. This unit currently has one member of Staff and a budget of £10,000 for commissioning external research.

Last year CAFOD carried out a joint piece of research (3 month's work) with Christian Aid, on Food Security and Food Aid in the Horn of Africa. Minor studies (1 week's work) were also conducted into the effects of Structural Adjustment and Food Security in Zimbabwe and Ethiopia.

Future Research Priorities:

CAFOD would like to commission a piece of research on the relationship between Structural Adjustment and Food Security.

Other priorities include research on Refugees and on AIDS.

Comments:

CAFOD, by its own admission, has not yet fully developed its thinking on research. It is therefore very interested to know what other pieces of research other organisations are involved with.

Organisation: CCF GB (Christian Children's Fund of Gt. Britain)

Address: 52 Bedford Row
London
WC1R 4LR

Tel: 071 831 7145
Fax: 071 404 0760

Person Responding: E Glenn Rogers
Position: Programme Director

Agency Type: Operational

Aims/Mode of Operation: CCF GB is part of the world family of CCF, based in the States. The aim of the organisation is to assist poor children of any race or religion through the funding of child welfare projects. These are owned and managed by people in the local community, supervised by staff from CCF's field offices. In addition CCF operates on the one-to-one basis of sponsorship. A sponsor supports particular child via CCF and receives a photograph, family details and regular letters.

Current Research Programme:

CCF research the feasibility and effectiveness of the projects they fund and supervise. But they have no ongoing research programme as such.

CCF has sought specialist assistance from academics to help set up a training programme for social workers in Roumania and a foster family care programme in Bulgaria.

Future Research Priorities:

No details given.

Organisation: Christian Aid

Address: PO BOX 100
London
SE1 7RT

Tel: 071 620 4444

Fax: 071 620 0719

Person Responding: Robert Archer
Position: Policy Unit

Agency Type: Operational

Aims/Mode of Operation: CA works to relieve poverty without encouraging dependency. It funds projects devised and run by poor communities themselves. 10% of its income is spent educating people in the UK and Ireland about the root causes of poverty.

Current Research Programme:

Ongoing data collection and analysis is done mainly by Christian Aid's Policy Unit. This is a small unit; with 3.3 staff and a budget (in addition to staff costs) of about £10,000. This group monitors a number of general issues for CA and supports pieces of work and advocacy done by the organisation.

Research Topics (1992-4);

- a) Campaign themes; Trade, Debt, International Financial Institutions;
- b) UK ODA and the quality of British Aid;
- c) "good government" issues (human rights, democracy and conditionality);
- d) the UN and international institutions;
- e) population;
- f) environment and development.

Occasionally CA will commission a larger piece of research; eg they recently commissioned Peter Madden to write a book on trade and the ODI to write a report comparing poverty in the South and Eastern Europe.

Future Research Priorities:

- * International Financial Institutions
- * UN reforms.
- * Case studies examining the application of conditionality and "good government" principles.

Organisation: Farm Africa
Address: 4th Floor,
40-42 Oxford Street,
London
W1A 3BB
Tel: 071 637 2535.
Fax: ----
Person Responding: Alistair Bradstock
Position: (none given)
Agency Type: Operational

Current Research Programme:

FA currently has 6 projects, in Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania. Research is an integral part of all these projects. Therefore it is difficult to provide a definite research budget or give staffing levels. Current projects involve;

- a) Research into conservationist farming in Tigray.
- b) Farming research, FA is working with the Ethiopian government and local ngos looking at Farmers Participatory Research, trying to make research more orientated to the practical needs of farmers. First a diagnostic survey, what crops are being farmed, the livestock mix etc. Then more specific studies, eg the effect of altitude on calving rates (nb. local students commissioned to write report).
- c) Community forest and wildlife conservation project, 4 sites of indigenous tropical rainforest identified. Aim is to reach an agreement with locals not to cut these forests down and set up some way of compensating farmers for this.
- d) Goat project in southern Ethiopia, how to improve goat husbandry of poor women in particular widows.
- e) In northern Kenya research into the problems faced by pastoralist and how to overcome them, with particular emphasis on the provision of health services and camel herding.
- f) In Tanzania, experimental crop trials with local farmers.

Research Partners: Farm Africa has made use of academics from UEA, NRI, Edinburgh University, UCL, Universities in Kenya and Ethiopia.

Future Research Priorities:

As above; projects are long-term, 3-4 years.

Comments: Over the phone, AB voiced his wish to see research geared more to the practical needs of farmers. too often research appears to be undertaken solely so that researcher can earn himself/herself academic honours.

Organisation: INTRAC (International NGO Training and Research Centre)

Address: P.O. Box 563
Oxford
OX2 6RZ.
Tel: 0865 201851
Fax: 0865 201852

Person Responding: Brian Pratt.
Position: Director

Agency Type: Training and Research.

Aims/Mode of Operation: INTRAC was set up in 1991 to provide specially designed management training, consultancy and research services to organisations involved in international relief and development. It's aim is to improve the organisational effectiveness and programme performance of Northern NGOs and their southern partners.

Current Research Programme:

INTRAC has two full-time staff that do research and several part-time research associates. It's overall research budget in 1992 was approx. £35,000; funds for research being obtained from the ODA and a number of trusts and large NGOs.

In 1992 INTRAC undertook 3 major research projects on;

- 1) The Institutional Development of African NGO's; a study commissioned by the Netherlands Organisation for International Development Cooperation (NOVIB), designed to help European NGOs decide on the best policies and strategies for strengthening the institutional capabilities of NGOs in sub-Saharan Africa.
- 2) UK NGO Support for Small Enterprise Development (SED) Programmes; a review of the current level of support for SED, identifying British NGOs with distinctive SED interest and competence, and an assessment of the needs of NGOs wishing to develop their activities in the SED sector; funded by the ODA.
- 3) Current Management Issues and Support Services for UK Aid Agencies; a review of NGOs in the UK to determine what are the key management issues facing British NGOs and how best to provide services to meet their needs; research geared to improving the management training courses run by INTRAC.

INTRAC is currently continuing its research work into the management needs of British and European NGOs and is engaged in a number of new research projects on;

* The Monitoring and Evaluation of Social Development Programmes.

- * Islamic Banking Methods.
- * Culture and Development.
- * Urban Development Issues.
- * and NGO Research Needs.

Future Research Priorities:

As Above.

Organisation: ITDG (Intermediate Technology Development Group)

Address: Myson House
Railway Terrace
Rugby
CV 21 3HT
Tel: 0788 560631
Fax: 0788 540270

Person Responding: Alex Bush
Position: Policy Planning Unit

Agency Type: Operational

Aims/Mode of Operation: IT attempts to offer a practical solution to the problems of poverty through providing technical information and advice, training, equipment and financial support. The ultimate aim of IT is that communities become self-sufficient.

Current Research Programme:

Intermediate Technology has an ongoing programme of research but no precise research budget.

A substantial amount of research is carried out by teams of staff engaged in project activities. The time/money devoted to this project-related research cannot easily be extracted from general project budgets.

In addition IT has a specific capacity for policy research in each of its offices in Peru, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Sudan, Kenya and Zimbabwe, as well as a Policy and Planning Unit in the UK containing 3 researchers/policy workers.

Specific policy research carried out by IT is varied in its focus. The list below is representative not exhaustive.

"Do it Herself" is a programme of research and case-study based workshops on the theme of women as innovators and technologists. It is jointly coordinated in the UK and Sri-lanka and has run workshops in Africa and Asia, with a forthcoming one in Latin America.

Research into disaster mitigation issues is being carried out by IT's Peruvian office. This work is designed to shift the paradigm away from disaster relief into longer term and locally based planning, through a recognition of people's own skills in coping with disaster.

In Sri Lanka a small research effort is examining ways to improve IT's work with refugees from the country's internal conflict.

In Zimbabwe, the combined effects of the drought and the structural adjustment programme have led to a programme of investigation into the impact of these two 'disasters' on poor people - particularly pastoralists in some of the more severe agricultural zones and those engaged in small-scale food production.

Future research Priorities:

Areas which currently attract minimal resources but which IT would like to see researched in more detail, include:

- * trade issues (focussing on manufactures and not just primary commodities).
- * technology transfer (Do Development agencies consider technology choices when they appraise projects?)
- * environmental issues (Is small-scale industry less environmentally damaging than large-scale industry?)
- * indigenous technological knowledge
- * participatory technological development.

Comments:

ITDG are involved with a range of NGO Networks.

Organisation: Lasallian Developing World Projects

Address: 65 Somerset Road
Laindon
Basildon
Essex SS15 6PP
Tel: 0268 411032
Fax: ----

Person Responding: Bro. Gregory Williams
Position: Director

Agency Type: Sending Volunteers.

Aims/Mode of Operation: The Lasallian Developing World Projects have two major objectives. First, they give opportunities for young people to give practical expression to Christ's command to love God and love thy neighbour, by responding to declared needs in the developing world. Most often these needs have been educational, the building of classrooms etc. Secondly, they enable these young people to travel, learn about other cultures and learn about themselves.

Current Research Programme:

LDWP is a very small NGO. It does not have a research programme, as all of its energy is devoted to the projects it runs.

Future Research Priorities:

LDWP would be interested in seeing some research conducted into:

a) Educational needs in developing areas, pinpointing these more accurately and evaluating where funding in education could effect the greatest benefit to developing countries.

b) The current NGO response to these needs, in particular the level of funding presently being provided by UK NGOs for formal education in developing countries.

Organisation: Lesotho-Durham Link

Address: 12 Gilesgate,
Durham
DH1 1QW

Tel: 091 384 9016

Fax: 091 384 9016

Person Responding: Dr. Peter Green
Position: Director

Agency Type: Operational

Current Research Programme:

All the research conducted by the Lesotho-Durham Link is directly related to the specific projects in which it is engaged. These are as follows:

- (1) A Forestry Project (in collaboration with the Community Forestry Division of the Lesotho Ministry of Agriculture)
- (2) A Poultry project (again in collaboration with the Lesotho Ministry of Agriculture)
- (3) A Rural Health Care Centre.
- (4) A Community Education Centre.

Future Research Priorities:

None specified.

Comments:

Lesotho-Durham Link has considerable research experience in both the UK and Lesotho which it uses for specific purposes and projects.

Organisation: One World Action

Address: First Floor
59 Hatton Garden
London
EC1N 8LS
Tel: 071 404 1413
Fax: 071 404 1347

Person Responding: Helen O'Connell
Position: Education Officer

Agency Type: Educational/ Advocacy

Aim/Mode of Operation: One World Action has 3 aims: the relief of poverty and distress, advancement of public education and the promotion and publication of research. The Trust forms partnerships with co-operatives and self-help groups in the developing world, offering them financial and other support: it promotes conferences, workshops, seminars and publishes reports and newsletters.

Current Research Programme:

OWA has no specific budget line for research as this is covered within education and campaigns. As a small organisation, OWA rely on current academic research from northern and southern institutions.

Key research interests are:

- * debt and structural adjustment
- * aid conditionality
- * gender and development
- * alternative development approaches

Future Research Priorities:

None given.

Organisation: OXFAM

Address: 274 Banbury Road
Oxford
OX2 7DZ

Tel: 0865 311311
Fax: 0865 312417

Persons Responding: Tina Wallace; Dianna Melrose
Position: Planning and Evaluation; Public Policy Dept.

Agency Type: Operational

Aims/Mode of Operation: Oxfam's primary objectives are to relieve poverty, distress and suffering in any part of the world and educate the public concerning the nature, causes and effects of poverty. Oxfam funds projects in over 50 developing countries and runs an educational and campaigning programme in the UK and Ireland, designed to raise public awareness of various development issues.

Current Research Programme:

Oxfam has two distinct research programmes; one tied to the work of the organisation's Development Support Units, the other linked to the work of its Public Policy Department.

Oxfam also gives grant-funding to a range of separate research projects.

No register is kept of the research projects currently underway in the field offices. But over the past two years there have been various data collection exercises on the following issues;

- * development and the environment
- * the impact of SAPs (in some countries looking especially at the impact on women)
- * income generating projects (for a workshop in the Gadu)
- * issues around conflict (for a workshop in Katmandu)
- * pastoralism in various parts of Africa
- * cost recovery and health care
- * AIDS
- * and Population.

Within Oxfam House, different parts of the Overseas Division can commission research and many of the Units have been actively engaged in various research projects on;

- * Conflict (DSU and desks)
- * Population (health Unit)
- * AIDS (health unit)
- * Water Pumps (technological unit?)
- * Gender Issues (Gender Unit?)

No single budget; these come from a variety of sources; country budgets, unit budgets and a general pot of money held by the Overseas Director. Given the decentralised nature of Oxfam it is also difficult to give

staffing figures.

The Public Policy Department (PPD) is more centralised. It has total budget 92/93 of £344,000, which includes a staff of 13, 9 involved in research/advocacy + 2 co-ordinators. It's current programme of research areas are:

- (1) SAPs - impact of structural adjustment programmes at household, community and national levels on poverty and food security. A major project over 2-3 years involving both the PPD, DS units and country offices.
- (2) Debt (with debt profiles on sub-Saharan Africa being commissioned from the ODI)
- (3) Viability of Regional Trade - focusing initially on Latin America and Africa.
- (4) Impact of large scale development projects and implementation of World Bank social/environmental guidelines - ongoing research project undertaken by one researcher.
- (5) Africa recovery - shortterm research project on recovery needs/developmental challenges facing Mozambique, Zambia, Ethiopia, Eritrea etc for 1993 campaigning focus.
- (6) Humanitarian Intervention- ongoing research for advocacy purposes - 1 researcher - targeted at DHA review during 1993 UNGA.

Future Research Priorities:

Various. A number of issues highlighted for research by country offices, include;

- * urban development
- * post-conflict situations and how to tackle development issues in these situations
- * land related issues
- * and research into sustainable development

For Advocacy purposes, future research priorities involve more work on familiar issues:

- * SAPs
- * Trade
- * Aid
- * Conflict/Humanitarian Intervention
- * and Arms Issues.

Organisation: Oxfam Trading

Address: Murdock Road
Bicester
Oxon OX6 7RF

Tel: 0869 245011

Fax: 0869 247987

Person Responding: Carol Wills
Position: Head of Buying & Producer Services

Current Research Programme:

The Trading division of Oxfam carries out research into the background and development of producer groups in countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, and where considered appropriate, into the crafts themselves.

Most of this work is carried out by staff as a normal function of their jobs as Project Officers. The Trading Division of Oxfam currently has 9 permanent members of staff working directly with the producer groups in India, Bangladesh, Thailand, Philippines, Indonesia and Mexico.

Oxfam Trading do not have a specific budget provision for research.

Future Research Priorities:

None given.

Organisation: SCF (Save the Children).

Address: 17 Grove Lane
London
SE5 8RD

Tel: 071 703 5400
Fax: 071 703 2278

Person Responding: Hugo Slim
Position: Senior Research Officer

Agency Type: Operational

Aims/Mode of Operation: SCF strives to promote the Rights of the Child and to influence national and international policy and practice to achieve lasting benefits for children. Long term health, nutrition, education, community development and welfare programmes form the principal part of Save the Children's work overseas.

Current Research Programme:

SCF conducts research at various different levels.

- 1) Project oriented research carried out at country level.
SCF is currently making an inventory of what its country offices are researching and where.
- 2) "Global research projects" run from London.
At the London end, current research programme and resources are as follows:

Budget for 1992/93 : £277,350 for SCF's own research
£150,000 for other organisations' research

Staff: 8 London based, 8 field researchers, 10 part-time field researchers and 6 UK based academics working on joint ventures.

In London, SCF is currently running 9 research projects:

- 1) Famine and food Security: Early Warning and response
A joint venture with IDS looking at case studies of early warning systems in five countries and five donor agencies, to examine the system of international response to famine and early warning systems and recommend improvements in timing and targeting of donor response.
Duration 2 years. Total budget £84,000
- 2) Working with Government, NGOs and Scaling-Up.
This study looked at SCF's experience in Peru, in association with IDS. Lessons learnt were presented as part of an international SCF Conference in association with Manchester University on "Scaling-Up".
Duration 1 year. Total budget n/a

3) EC Development Policy

A study of the structure and evolving policy of the emergency and development sections of EC institutions. Aiming to identify key contact points for SCF and a general organizational map for all NGOs concerned with the EC. Duration 6 months. Total budget £20,000

4) UK Tourism and the Sexual Exploitation of Children.

3 case study countries (Thailand, Sri Lanka and the Philippines) aiming to clarify the links between sexual tourism and child abuse and design appropriate public information and awareness raising programmes on the subject in the UK. Duration 6 months. Total budget £25,000

5) Economic Development and Children

A joint venture study with the IDPM Manchester University examining the impact of income generation projects on children, based on a literature review of SCF's experience and that of other agencies. Duration 6 months. Total budget £20,000

6) Residential Care and Alternatives for Children

An in-house project looking at 15 different case studies of SCFF's experience with residential care and alternatives (fostering, extended family placement, prevention programmes, legal reform), aimed at producing models and guidelines for good practice. Duration 2 years. Total budget £70,000

7) Health Sector Sustainability

A further in-house project looking at the health sector sustainability in five case study countries. Duration 3 years; Total budget £250,000

8) Options for reforming the International System for Responding to Disasters. A joint venture study with LSE's Centre for the Study of Global Governance, looking at the issues of sovereignty, intervention, and international institutional performance in recent disasters, referring to SCF's recent experience in Somalia, Iraqi Kurdistan and southern Africa. Duration 9 months. Total budget £14,000 (shared)

9) Children's Indicators

A joint venture with Redda Barnen (Swedish SCF) and UNICEF to study a range of children's indicators for evaluating child related programmes and monitoring state's implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Duration 1 year. Budget n/a.

Future Research Priorities:

Each year SCF decides on a set of new research priorities for the next year. For 1993/94 these are:

- * A study of issues affecting the "urban child", looking particularly at the hardships faced by street children.
- * Longer term research into practice issues relating to children and conflict.
- * A study of SCF's experience of water projects
- continued work on different approaches to working in partnership with other NGOs and with governments
- * and continued work on the impact of Structural Adjustment Programmes, particularly relating to health and child welfare.

Organisation: SOS Sahel

Address: 1 Tolpuddle Street
London
N1 0XT

Tel: 071 837 9129

Fax: 071 837 0856

Person Responding: Nigel Cross
Position: Director

Agency Type: Operational

Aims/Mode of Operation: SOS sahel works with the rural people across the Sahelian zone of sub-Saharan Africa, supporting community actions and initiatives that focus on the conservation of natural resources and increasing small-scale food production.

Current Research Programme:

Since 1989 SOS Sahel has been developing an applied research programme designed to improve the planning and management of its projects in Africa, and in particular aimed at improving local participation in these projects.

1) Participatory Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation research, funded by the UN's Sudano Sahelian Office (UNSO) began in 1991. This studies ways of involving communities at every stage of a project, using SOS Sahel's own experience in Sudan, Ethiopia, Mali and Mauritania.

2) Research into Migration. SOS Sahel is researching the consequences of the exodus, mainly of young men, from their families and communities that has come as a result of recent droughts, conflicts and social changes in the Sahel region. In particular this research is focusing on the links between migrants working in the cities and their communities of origin, so that agencies may support these informal channels of mutual aid.

3) Food Security Research Project. This is exploring the sustainable alternatives to food aid and food-for-work schemes.

Individual research budgets vary but tend to be in the region of £100,000 to £150,000 and last on average 2-3 years.

Total 1993 budget for research is c. £250,000

SOS Sahel has 3 full-time members of staff, excluding supervisors, involved in research.

Future Research Priorities:

None specified.

Organisation: Third World First

Address: 217 Cowley Rd
Oxford
OX4 1XG

Tel: 0865 245678
Fax: 0865 200179

Agency Type: Educational/Advocacy

Aims/Mode of Operation: 3W1 campaigns against world poverty and under development and has three guiding principles: to expose the causes of underdevelopment, exploitation and oppression; campaign for greater justice and equality internationally and in Britain; and support solidarity movements for liberation and change throughout the world.

Current Research Programme:

No ongoing research programme, but interested in carrying out research into a number of issues, for campaigning purposes.

- * Debt
- * trade
- * Aid
- * Multinationals
- * The effect of closer European Unity on the third world.

Future research priorities:

See above.

Organisation: Tools for Self Reliance

Address: Netley Marsh
Southampton
SO4 2GY
UK
Tel: 0703 869697
Fax: 0703 868544

Person Responding: Mark Smith
Position: TFSR Coordinator

Agency Type: Operational

Aims/Mode of Operation: TFSR groups collect and refurbish tools and send them overseas to communities that have need of them. TFSR does not send personnel abroad, but liaises with local partner organisations, who handle distribution and advise TFSR on development issues.

Current Research Programme:

TFSR does not have the resources to conduct its own research. No set budget; no research personnel.

But it has recently been involved in two research projects in Tanzania. These set out to investigate what impact the tools, sent out by TFSR, have had on the small rural communities that received them; with a view to improving the work of the organisation in this area in the future.

Future Research Priorities:

There are two broad areas of research that TFSR would like to see studied. Where possible they would like to find suitable researchers from overseas partner organisations.

These areas are as follows:

- (1) The total tool needs of a developing country like Tanzania, locally produced/imported, small scale/industrial etc?
- (2) The extent to which British Aid programmes, government and NGO, consider the technology dimension and the way in which technology choices encourage or discourage popular participation in development, and increase or limit local employment opportunities.

Organisation: UKFSP (UK Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific)

Address: 32 Howe Park
Edinburgh
EH10 7HF

Tel: 031 445 5010
Fax: 031 445 5255

Person Responding: Dorothy McIntosh
Position: Director

Current Research Programme:

UKFSP don't have an on-going research programme/resources.
But they would like to see research done into;

- 1) the prevalence of AIDS in the South Pacific region, and
- 2) the sustainability of forestry programmes

Future Research Priorities:

See above.

Organisation: UNICEF (UK)
Address: 55 Lincoln's Inn Fields
London
WC2A 3NB
Tel: 071 405 5592
Fax: 071 405 2332
Person Responding: Caroline Leveaux
Position: Liaison Officer

Current Research Programme:

UNICEF-UK does not initiate research. It collates it from the field and from its HQ in New York in order to prioritise it for advocacy purposes, to use it to raise awareness etc. Most of this work is done by the Information Department (2 staff members; annual budget n/a).

Principle campaigning issues at the moment for UNICEF (UK) are:

- * aid, trade and debt.
- * children and the environment
- * breastfeeding
- * intolerance: racial, religious etc.
- * AIDS
- * health provision and organisation; following the Bamako initiative.

Future Research Priorities:

The future research plans of UNICEF (UK) depend upon decisions made within the organisation internationally.

Organisation: Vision Aid Overseas

Address: 133 High Street
Hurstpierpoint
West Sussex
BN6 9PU
Tel: 0273 835443
Fax: 0273 835446

Person Responding: Margaret Carey
Position: Director

Agency Type: Specialist Operational

Aims/Mode of Operation: The aim of Vision Aid Overseas is to improve the vision of underprivileged people overseas. They run eye clinics in rural areas, provide spectacles and also run training courses to teach eye-care workers in Africa skills which are currently not available locally.

Current Research Programme:

VAO do not have an ongoing research programme but are planning to carry out research into aspects of eye health, in particular levels of refractive error in urban and rural populations in developing countries.

Future Research Priorities:

See above.

Organisation: Water Aid

Address: 1 Queen Anne's Gate
London
SW1H 9BT

Tel: 071 233 4800

Fax: 071 233 3161

Person Responding: H.R. Oakley
Position: (none given)

Agency Type: Specialist Operational

Aims/Mode of Operation: Water Aid aims to enable some of the poorest people in the world to change and improve their own lives by offering them safe water and sanitation. Water Aid raises money to fund projects overseas and sends engineering advisers to the Third World to identify and assist with low cost water and sanitation projects. WA always works through local organisations.

Current Research Programme:

WA doesn't have a defined research programme. It has in the past given occasional financial and logistical support to research on areas of interest, but has no budget under this heading and no specific research staff.

WA is interested in any research that is relevant to its project work and this includes, inter alia;

- * the design, implementation and maintenance of low technology water supply and sanitation systems
- * collaboration with local partners (both government and non-governmental organisations)
- * and health education.

Future Research Priorities:

See above.

Organisation: **World Rainforest Movement**

Address: 8 Chapel Row
Chadlington
OX7 3NA

Tel: 0608 76 691
Fax: 0608 76 743

Person Responding: Dr Marcus Colchester
Position: Director of the Forest Peoples Programme

Agency Type: Advocacy/Research.

Aims/Methodology: The World Rainforest Movement is an international network of NGOs concerned about the destruction of the rainforests and the rights of the indigenous peoples that live in them.

Current Research Programme:

The WRM has an ongoing research programme.
Budget c. £100,000 pa
Staff 5. nb. research is only one part of their work.

Major research interests include:

- * Land Insecurity and Land reform
- * Deforestation
- * Community-based Sustainable Forest Management
- * The Political Ecology of Deforestation
- * Models of Participation
- * Plantations
- * and Mangroves

Future Research Priorities:

As above.

Comments:

The World Rainforest Movement is based in Malaysia. Research is carried out by all members of the network, frequently in collaboration with local research institutions. The Philippines group of WRM, for example, have worked closely with local universities on forestry issues.

Organisation: World Vision (UK).

Address: Dychurch House
8 Abington Street
Northampton
NN1 2AJ
Tel: 0604 22964
Fax: 0604 29317

Person Responding: Ian Hagg
Position: Public Policy Officer

Agency Type: Operational

Aims/Mode of Operation: WV is an international relief and development agency offering practical Christian caring to the poor and marginalised in developing countries. WV is involved in relief work following disasters, but the primary emphasis of its work is on long term sustainable development.

Current Research Programme:

WV(UK) has no budget devoted purely to research, but plans are being made to formalize this.

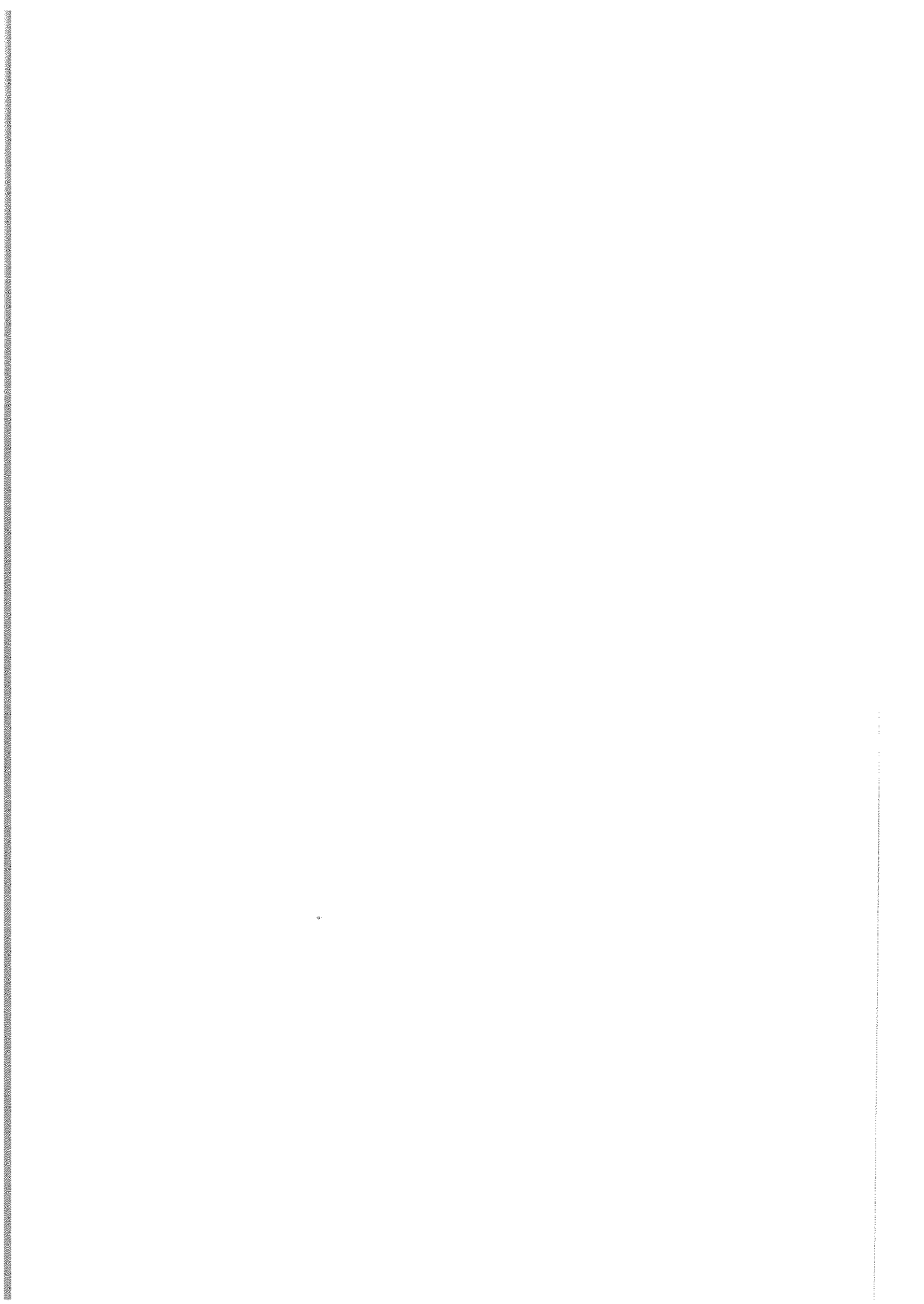
WV are in the process of establishing their research priorities. The agency believes that research should be field-led; namely, that those working on projects overseas should be given a voice when it comes to deciding what research projects to set up and fund. Information is therefore being collected from field offices and collated in London to determine which areas are most in need of detailed study.

WV(UK) are actively involved in the work of the AIDS Consortium (see above) and have also provided funds for African Rights, a newly formed NGO concerned with issues of conflict, famine and civil reconstruction in Africa.

Future Research Priorities:

Suggestions for prioritised research topics include:

- * the Impact of Mozambican refugees on Malawian structures.
- * the Impact of prostitutes being smuggled to Thailand from Burma and what this means for the spread of AIDS in Burma.
- * Commodity price control in the West. How companies keep prices down and the effect this control has on the economies and development of commodity-dependent countries.
- * the Impact of anti-personnel land mines on long term development in Cambodia, Somalia etc.



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Survey of Research by U.K. NGOs

Research should be an integral part of the work of all development NGOs. This occasional paper presents a survey that addressed questions about the quality and quantity of research by U.K. NGOs. In particular, the survey sought to:

- review the research needs of U.K. relief and development NGOs
- review and discuss the potential and actual research capacity of U.K. NGOs
- review present research being carried out by U.K. NGOs, either internally or in conjunction with others
- explore the links between different research institutions and U.K. NGOs

The paper outlines succinctly the link between different types of NGO research, calls attention to the weaknesses of the NGO sector regarding research, and concludes by suggesting a number of strategies for improving the research capacity for the NGO sector as a whole. The appendices contain useful information regarding the research activities of 50 U.K. NGOs.

The INTRAC Occasional Papers Series

INTRAC's Occasional Papers are designed to both inform and stimulate debate concerning development policy and practice, with particular reference to the NGO sector. The perspectives are derived from INTRAC's own research, training and consultancy work with development agencies both in the North and South

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