

Chapter 10:

Opportunities for Outside Help

Many projects have gained help from various outside organisations. Some organisations may help with funds, and others, the volunteer bodies, with teachers. This chapter is mainly written for communities and non-government organisations. It provides suggestions on bodies to which they might apply, and some addresses which can be followed up.

1. Religious Organisations:

Community leaders wishing to set up a school could find it useful to approach the churches in their areas. The churches might be able to help with funds and materials, both from the local neighbourhood and from overseas. They might also help with management.

2. Business Organisations:

In many countries, schools have received sponsorship from the Rotary Club, the Lions' Club, and the Round Table. Again, they might be able to obtain funds from overseas to supplement those available locally. The local addresses should be obtained from the telephone book for the capital city and other major towns.

3. Local Businesses and Industries:

Community leaders often find it worthwhile to approach commercial enterprises and industries. The companies like to feel that they are contributing to local development, and are sometimes quite generous. Several communities in Kenya, for example, have secured grants from the Brooke Bond Tea company. In Zambia, some copper mining companies sponsor students, who may or may not be named. Elsewhere, companies sponsor sports and academic competitions, and present prizes.

 * **Support from Brooke Bond Tea** *
 * *Provision of education for the children of its employees has long* *
 * *been a priority of Kenya's Brooke Bond Tea company. In 1984,* *
 * *it had 17 schools. The company provides the land and* *
 * *constructs the buildings, and hands the schools to the* *
 * *government when they are completed. In 1985, Brooke Bond* *
 * *built eight teachers' houses in the Kericho area, and new schools* *
 * *at Chelimo and Kentmere estates. It also provided funds to assist* *
 * *the relocation of the government-aided school in Kibwezi, and* *
 * *for girls' and boys' hostels.* *
 * *Source: Lillis & Ayot (1985), p. 11.* *

4. Embassies:

Schools can often obtain small grants of cash, books, sports equipment, etc. from foreign embassies. Each one should be approached separately. The addresses can be found either in the telephone book or in government handbooks/directories. Remember that some diplomatic representatives may be accredited to your country even if they are resident in a neighbouring one. They can be approached too.

5. Overseas Charities:

Several overseas bodies are willing to assist with community development projects and have no religious affiliation. They may help with money, equipment or materials.

Two very comprehensive directories of agencies in Europe and North America have been produced, and you may be able to find them in university or other large libraries, through local volunteer organisations, or through bodies like the British Council or the United States Information Service.

The directory of European donors has been produced by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). It is called *Directory of Non-Government Organisations active in Development Co-operation in Member Countries*, and was published in 1981. If you cannot find the directory in your own country, you could write to:

OECD Information Service,
2 rue André-Pascal,
F 75775 Paris,
Cedex 16,
FRANCE.

The list of American agencies has been compiled by the Technical Assistance Information Clearing House (TAICH). It has a special section on education, and a geographical section through which users can check whether agencies specifically operate in their countries. It is called *U.S. Nonprofit Organizations in Development Assistance Abroad*. Again, if you cannot find the directory in your own country, you could write to:

TAICH,
200 Park Avenue South,
New York,
NY 10003,
USA.

Both the OECD and the TAICH would probably send you the directories without charging you any money.

Thirdly, community leaders could search for international foundations which operate from their own or neighbouring countries. For example, the international headquarters of the Foundation for Education with Production is in Botswana (P.O. Box 20906, Gaborone), and it has branches in Zimbabwe and Zambia.

To maximise their chances of getting money in all these cases, community leaders should first check on the type of assistance that the organisations usually provide (e.g. water pumps, textbooks, nutrition projects, etc.). They should then draw up individual proposals to match the organisations' interests. Having obtained the assistance, the community leaders should present periodic reports on how money has been spent and how the project is progressing. If community leaders do this, the donor will see that they are well organised and will be more likely to give further help in the future.

6. Foreign Volunteer Organisations

These bodies provide teachers. Schools must provide housing, but the volunteers work for the same salaries as local staff. Volunteer teachers usually work with strong dedication, and are often enthusiastic about remote locations. The organisations' local officers normally visit schools to see if they are viable before they commit themselves to projects.

The United Nations has a volunteer organisation which also publishes information on other volunteer bodies. Its comprehensive international directory on volunteer and development agencies can be obtained by writing to:

The Executive Secretary,
United Nations Volunteers (UNV),
Palais des Nations,
Ch-1211 Geneva 10,
SWITZERLAND.

The addresses of some other prominent organisations are:

- Australia:* Australian Volunteers Abroad (AVA)
69 Grey Street,
East Melbourne,
Victoria 3002.
- Canada:* CUSO,
135 Rideau Street,
Ottawa,
Ontario K1N 9K7.
- France:* Coordinating Committee for International
Voluntary Service,
1, rue Miollis,
75015 Paris.
- Japan:* Fuji Volunteer Bureau,
Oki Building,
5-12-5 Shinyuku,
Tokyo.

- Netherlands:* Stichting Nederlandse Vrywilligers,
P.O. Box 20061,
2500 EB The Hague.
- New Zealand:* Volunteer Service Abroad (VSA),
31 Pipitea Street,
P.O. Box 12-246,
Wellington.
- United Kingdom:* British Volunteer Programme (BVP),
22 Coleman Fields,
London N1.
(This body coordinates the work of the main
UK volunteer organisations.)
- United States:* Peace Corps Volunteers (PCV),
806 Connecticut Ave, N.W.,
Washington DC 20525.
- International Voluntary Service (IVS),
1424, 16th Street, N.W.,
Washington D.C. 20036.

In some countries, governments insist that all foreign aid should be channelled through them. They do this in order to control and coordinate operations. Usually the process severely slows projects, however, and causes considerable frustration for both donors and recipients. Governments would be wise to consider whether their efforts to control and coordinate are worth the cost, and whether they are not in fact discouraging donors and communities from embarking on projects.

Meanwhile, even when governments insist that overseas funding should be channelled through them, communities would be wise to make the first steps themselves. They can contact the outside agencies and set up the project, and when it is ready they can ask the government for approval. If the project is already well planned, governments are likely to grant approval quite readily.