Letter of Intent

Parts:

Swedish Library Association
P.O.Box 70380
107 24 Stockholm
Sweden

Kenya Library Association, KLA
P.O.Box 46031
00100 Nairobi
Kenya

Project Stronger together

Background

The Swedish Library Association has always kept a strong international engagement. The Swedish Library Association discussion about the impact of a broad versus a more specially aimed support to other library associations were carried on during 2010 and lead to a meeting with Professor Constantine Nyamboga, chairman of Kenya Library Association in Gothenburg during the IFLA annual conference 2010. The concentration on Kenya was then chosen because it was a focus country both for SIDA – The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and IFLA – The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, but also for the good possibilities of cooperation.

Objectives

The most important objective will be to strengthen KLA - Kenya Library Association – so that the necessary development of the Kenyan libraries can take place in the country itself and with support from The Swedish Library Association. It is therefore not a question of aid but a question of cooperation.

IFLA

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) is the leading international body representing the interests of library and information services and their users. It is the global voice of the library and information profession. Therefore it is important for the Swedish Library Association that this project will take place in close connection with IFLA in general and especially with their BSLA programme.

Building Strong Library Associations – BSLA

BSLA, Building Strong Library Associations is a comprehensive programme, arranged by IFLA, offering a strategic and coordinated approach to capacity building and sustainability of library associations. The programme benefits associations, libraries, and their communities.

IFLA’s vision for the BSLA programme is to enrich society and the library and information profession by building strong, sustainable library associations. The programme will help library associations and their members increase their potential to:

- Improve services for library users
- Provide equitable access to information
- Develop the library and information profession
It will do this through a series of learning materials and activities that can be customized to accommodate different cultural, political, technological, social and other conditions.

The programme will focus on a sustainable and evidence-based approach to library association development, using impact assessment and other methods as appropriate to evaluate the outcomes of training and activities.

Our common project will not use the whole BSLA programme, but will, from the beginning, focus on the three main modules – Library on the Agenda, Library in Society and Sustaining the library.

**Common work and commitments**

**Stake holders**
Engagement from the many different stake holders is important for a successful work for the KLA. In connection with a visit in Kenya October or November 2012 the Swedish Library Association will meet representatives from Government offices, Kenya National Library service, KNLS and other important stakeholders. This is to discuss how we all together can secure that there will be a wide and broad engagement for this project. When meeting in the end of this year we can also for example discuss how the project can continue, recruiting staff and next workshop.

**Strategic plan**
One of the most important goals for KLA during this project is to establish a strategic plan. The strategic plan will show how KLA can work to build a stronger library association than ever. The Strategic plan needs to state how KLA can work with dissemination, advocacy, marketing, development, long-term financing, stake holders, working groups, different libraries etc, but also how KLA can gain approval for their work in the society, by members and others.

**Office with a staff**
One of the more important goals for KLA is to establish a staffed office in Nairobi. The reason for this is to have the means to develop the organisation, work with marketing, advocacy and information towards stake holders, members and citizens throughout the country.

**Dissemination**
It is important that lessons and experiences from the activities reach out in the whole of Kenya. The good example to follow for this is IFLA’s so called training the trainers’ model. The annual KLA conferences in Kenya will be natural continuous information occasions suitable for holding workshops.

**Financing**
The Swedish Library Association will support KLA with different kinds of financing during five years with an annual reduction during year four and five. The financing will consist of three different parts: the annual member fee to IFLA, the participation of one representative at the IFLA annual conference and part financing for establish the project, the project plan and the office. The exact amount will be discussed and decided later according to a jointly agreed budget and financing.

**Workshops**
In connection with and during the KLA annual conference the Swedish Library Association will hold workshops. The workshops will address different matters but will follow the spirit of the IFLA’s BSLA programme
Other contacts
As a result of our cooperation other contacts through which the library associations can act as intermediaries are possible. Swedish libraries can on their own initiative in the long run form partnerships with Kenyan libraries, Swedish LIS students will be able to apply for grants to visit, study and work as volunteers in Kenyan libraries, workshops and seminars will be held, study tours arranged, representation in different library and other relevant contexts can be established.

Follow-up and Evaluation
The follow-up of the activities and evaluation of the impact will be an important part of the project. Tools for this can be for example interviews, questionnaires to participants, course evaluations and focus groups. Parts of the BSLA material will be used.

This Agreement is signed in duplicate and the parties have each received their sample.

Helsinki August 14, 2012

Swedish Library Association

Kenya Library Association

Inga Lundén  Niclas Lindberg  Constantine Nyamboga
President  Secretary General  Chairman