



ANNUAL REPORT 2010-2011

BRIDGE TO AFRICA

A summary of the year 2010-2011










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BTA Officers

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
|  | <p>Elisabet Ihse Chairperson elisabet.ihse@gmail.com</p> |  | <p>Carolyn Glynn General Secretary Secretary@bridgetoafrica.se</p> |
|  | <p>Rikard Landberg Project Coordinator Projects@bridgetoafrica.se</p> |  | <p>Rabab Elkarib External relations external-relations@bridgetoafrica.se</p> |
|  | <p>Asnaketc Woldetensaye Fund-raising fundraising@bridgetoafrica.se</p> |  | <p>Valeria Giandomenico Reserve Reserve@bridgetoafrica.se</p> |
|  | <p>Balsam Haseeb Treasurer and recruitment balsamhaseeb@hotmail.com</p> | | |

Webmaster

| | |
|---|---|
|  | <p>Jan Frank Web-Master Webmaster@bridgetoafrica.se</p> |
|---|---|

All working on voluntary basis

VISION & MISSION



Vision

The vision of BTA is to work towards the benefits of vulnerable groups in Africa, toward the empowerment of women and for the benefits of persons interested in Africa.

Mission

To participate in and promote sustainable developmental projects that target vulnerable groups in Africa.

To raise awareness of the rights and plights of the vulnerable groups in Africa; both locally in the African countries and in Sweden and the rest of the world.

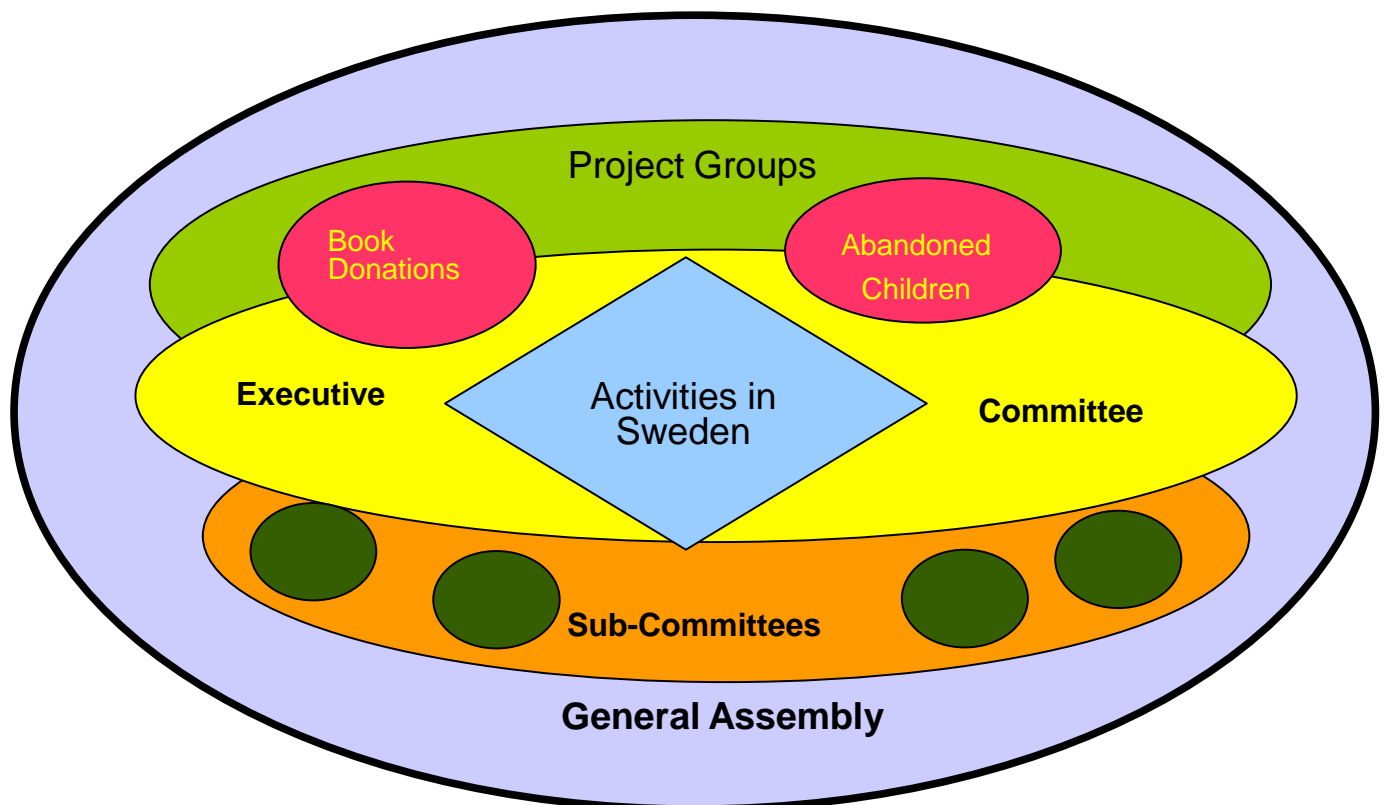
To facilitate and promote the exchange of experiences and ideas.

To empower women, both in Africa and Sweden, and to enable them to deliberate together and work under democratic forms towards guarding their rights and strengthening their role as active members in society.

To promote racial and cultural diversity both within the organization and within larger communities.

Organisation Structure

BTA is governed by the general assembly (GA), which elects an executive committee (EC) every second year. The EC administers BTA work according to the constitution. BTA projects are run by project groups headed by a project leader. Currently, we have three projects (activities in Sweden, book donations, and abandoned children). Sub-committees are appointed by the EC to perform specific tasks.





FOUNDATION & Progress of BTA 2010-2011

BTA was founded in Uppsala, Sweden in the summer of 2007. The driving force was a woman of Sudanese origin who took the lead hosting meetings in her apartment. A group of 8 African women took the initiative and formed an ad hoc committee to conceive a name, draft a constitution and a code of conduct. These women are:

Badria Elamin
Rabab Elkarib
Adila Elobeid
Sara Hamid
Balsam Haseeb
Afaf Kamal-Eldin
Arwa Mustafa
Asnaketch Woldetensaye

The organisation was registered at the tax office in Uppsala in June 2008. Invitation to join BTA was then extended by the founders to their friends, colleagues and other persons who may be interested in its missions. The first general assembly meeting was held in October 2008 where the current executive committee was elected.



In its first steps, the elected executive committee has approved the initiation of 5 projects as follows:

- 1- Activities in Sweden
- 2- Abandoned children
- 3- Cultivating Trees
- 4- Book donation to African universities
- 5- Elderly & Elderlyhood in Africa

During the second year, the progress in these projects varied and it became clear that the size of these activities exceeded the voluntary time available to BTA's active members. It was, therefore, necessary in our third year to downsize the activities and focus on selected activities. Therefore during our fourth year, 2001-2012, the executive committee will focus on 1-2 projects along with the book circle.

This report provides a documentation of the activities performed by BTA between October 2010 and October 2011. Today BTA has 83 members, not all of whom have paid their dues as of October 2011. Most members reside in Uppsala but many reside in other countries in Africa, Europe and the rest of the world. BTA is completely dependent on the power of the volunteers. Members and some non-members of BTA have contributed with their thoughts, donations, and voluntary hours to the organization during the passed year. The activities performed during the past year are summarized in the following pages.



Activities in Sweden

Yard sale at Vaksala Torg

During the summer of 2011 the yard sale at Vaksala Torg in Uppsala was continued. BTA members spent a very nice Saturday in the square selling donated items to raise Funds for BTA. They also spoke to many people and spread information about BTA to Uppsala residents who would stop by and have a chat or a “fika”.



Book club

During this year the book club activity took place one time. The group read and discussed the book “*From a Crooked Rib*” by Nuruddin Farah. BTA members are invited to give further suggestions for books written by Africans or about African issues. For the coming session, we plan to read and discuss “*It’s our time to eat*” by Michela Wrong. You are most welcome to join!

Future challenges

- Activities in Sweden should provide a forum for the BTA members in Sweden to meet and discuss African issues and get an opportunity to work toward the realisation of the objectives of BTA. Facing the reality of having a small number of active members, the number and types of activities should be carefully selected by the executive committee.

Future activities

- We collect donations to sell at local second hand markets in Uppsala. We use this opportunity to relate information about BTA to people at the markets.

- We plan, as every year, a cultural event with food, dance and good company with a theme from an African country.

Cultural & Social Activities



Egyptian Cultural Event

One of the aims of Bridge to Africa is to bridge cultures of African countries and the rest of the world. This is partly done through the organization of social and cultural events from different African countries. Food together with songs and dances enjoyed by a group of people of mixed backgrounds provides a nice atmosphere allowing people to reach each other and communicate.

On May 15th, 2011 BTA organized an Egyptian cultural evening with food from Egypt and a live dance performance. 37 people attended the event and enjoyed the food and dancing. The menu consisted of Egyptian food prepared by volunteering BTA members. The guests then enjoyed a performance of Egyptian traditional "belly dancing" and many joined in! The event was financed by ticket revenues and an application for funds from the ABF will also be made.



Project: Donation of Scientific Books & Journals to African Universities



The specific aim of this project is to collect scientific books, and/or journals from European donors and to transfer them to African universities and thereby improve educational and research opportunities in Africa.

During the past year, the inventory, which was started in the former year was finalized. A complete list of our over **500** books/journals is now available. We have continued our collaboration with the International Science Program (ISP) at Uppsala University and the updated list of books/journals has been sent to Peter Sundin, the director of ISP. The book list has been distributed to African universities with which ISP collaborates. The universities can place a request for books of interest. The transportation of the books is then arranged by ISP without charge. No books have been transported to Africa yet this year.

A book collection has been arranged at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) during the summer, in connection to a large change of premises for several departments. This project is still ongoing and the result will be reported in the next annual report.

Future plans include finishing the collaboration at SLU, and to transport the books collected so far to universities in Africa. We will let universities select 50 books from the list and funding for transportation will be allocated from BTA budget if needed.





Financial Statement

| Activity | Income | Expenditure |
|--|--------|-------------|
| Income from last year 27 September 2010 | 26 648 | - |
| Membership fees | 3 854 | - |
| Donations | 200 | - |
| Vaksala torg selling | 1 528 | - |
| Rest of revenue from Zimbabwe night 2010 | 1 275 | - |
| Egyptian Cultural Event | 5 600 | 5 594 |
| Homepage fee | - | 504 |
| Bankgiro fee | - | 602 |
| Fee for General Assembly venue | - | 400 |
| Total | 39 105 | 7 100 |
| Net assets (Income – expenditure): <u>32005 SEK</u> | | |



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