



# Operation A Day's Work

## About the Student council organisation of Sweden

About 350 Swedish student councils have gathered and formed an organisation called the Students council organisation of Sweden. A student council is an assembly of chosen representatives of pupils from each class in school. The student council usually serve as a contact body between pupils and school management.

### **We have national meetings every year**

At the national meetings two things happens. We share our experiences and our knowledge from our own student councils and we invite people with special knowledge about an area we're interested in. At one of the national meetings we have our annual meeting – The Students' Parliament – in which we vote for a new committee, we decide what activities our organisation will cover during the following year.

At Operation A Day's Works National Congress students also choose which project we are going to support the following year.

### **Together we have employees to support student's organisation in Sweden**

Through the Student council organisation of Sweden we apply for subsidies. With the money we get we employ young people to ease your cooperation and our daily work in our schools.

We have about 45 employees, partly at our office in Stockholm and partly spread around the country. The employees' main task is to support the student councils with whatever we could need. The activities among our employees are decided by the committee of the Student council organisation.

The Student council organisation of Sweden also has an exchange fund from which we can apply for money to be able to meet other student councils in the country to exchange experiences and contacts and also to be able to make financial benefits since many of the student councils have common interests.

## About Operation A Day's Work

Operation Dagsverke is an information- and fund collecting campaign that started in Sweden in 1961. The campaign is done by and for youth between 13 and 19 years old. The idea is that pupils in Sweden leave school for one day (normally in May) to work or do some other fund-raising activity in order to collect money for an education project in a country where the right to education in one way or another is neglected. The fund-raising is always preceded by an information campaign that aims at boosting an interest in international development in general and informing about the project and its context in particular. The projects are implemented by a Swedish partner organization and its local partner in the country where the project takes place. New project and partner organizations are selected every year.

### Purpose

Our purpose is to organize young people at their schools and give them support to facilitate their work to rise young people's rights. Operation A Day's Work is a tool for the students to make a difference.

Operation A Day's Work can be meaningful for each student in Sweden, since they organize themselves in order to increase young people's right to education, at the same time as they are learning while working at a company, planning the campaign at their school and so on.

### Method

Operation A Day's Work is arranged in a co-operation with Swedish NGOs. They apply for support from The Swedish national association for student councils. On the basis of the criteria for our projects, the students who arrange the campaign on their school decides which organization Operation A Day's Work will give its support to the following campaign. This is decided at our annual meeting in March.

The members of the organisation are very committed to this campaign and take it very seriously. For the student organisation it is very important to meet the implementing partners and to get knowledge about how the project was implemented etc. The people who work with follow up process report back to the annual meeting every year and explain the result from the project.

The fundraising is arranged by the student councils and operation day work-groups from the senior level of compulsory-school and senior high school, which all are invited to take part in the campaign. During the initial project-journey, representatives from Operation A Day's Work meet the organization with whom we collaborate with, in order to prepare and organize the information campaign. The campaign organizers produce, among other things, an information folder, an film and a guide for the student councils and the students who carry out the campaign. We also meet and support the councils and students and inform them about the project and the annual theme.

We try to encourage participating schools to hold special lessons for a day or maybe a week on the project country and the benefiting organisation and additional themes around the project. Their fundraising also gives students a chance to learn more about the Millennium development goals, children's' rights and development issues.

Through Operation A Day's Work Swedish students are doing an effort for other students/youth.

# History about Operation A Day's Work

Young people around the world have the right to a good education. Through Operation A Day's Work, students in Sweden show their solidarity to students/youth in other countries.

Operation A Day's Work started in Sweden in 1961 and has been run by the Swedish students since then. Every year we support different organizations such as, Plan International, Swedish Cooperation Centre, Save the Children and more. One day in may the students collect money, through different activities, that finances the annual projects. The projects' focus is always education. The main essence about Operation A Day's Work is that *students* in Sweden is doing an effort to *students* in other countries. Below you can read some about our latest projects.

## Projects from 2003 – 2005

(for information about older projects, contact [info@operationdagsverke.se](mailto:info@operationdagsverke.se))

**2003** – SEK 5.4M was fundraised to build 30 class rooms, a cultural centre, 12 sport halls, 12 toilets and 12 water-pumps in Paraguay (in cooperation with the Swedish Cooperation Centre)

**2004** – SEK 6.7M was collected to partly increase girls participation in 1,000 selected schools in the Democratic Republic of Congo from 20 % to 50 % (in cooperation with UNICEF)

**2005** – Over 80 000 students collected SEK 6.3M for a project concerning education in Pakistan and areas in Indonesia affected by the Tsunami. Schools was to be renovated and teachers to receive training to create a more child friendly environment (in cooperation with Plan).

**2006** - Students fundraised SEK 5.9M for an education project in refugee camps in Rwanda (in cooperation with UNHCR).

**2007** – Students collected money in order to create preconditions to develop student council and parenting clubs in Albania. We also conducted an exchange between Albanian and Swedish students (in cooperation with Plan).

**2008** – The campaign was coordinated around better conditions in schools in Bolivia. They are also about to build a culture centre that will have different activities for young people. The students in Sweden fundraised over 6 million SEK. (in cooperation with the Swedish Cooperation Centre)

**2009** – Together with ActionAid, Operation A Day's Work will fund a project concerning education to children affected by war in Afghanistan.

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