



ANNUAL REPORT 2005



“As a result of development cooperation, thousands and thousands of people are gaining access to food and education, changing their lives for the better.”

President of the Republic Tarja Halonen, who chose the winner of the Partnership Award

Acknowledgement of a Long-Standing Partnership

The Swallows of Finland were the recipients of the 2005 Partnership Award. President of the Republic Tarja Halonen, who chose the winner, explained her choice by stating that the Swallows' cooperation had been sustained and "beautiful".

The Swallows assists India's poorest rural workers and landless people. The association's local partner is VCDS (Village Community Development Society). Their joint project, which was started in 1984, has given tens of thousands of people hope for a future free of caste discrimination. 📍

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Photo: VCDS teaches organic farming in the villages of Tamil Nadu. VCDS is the Indian partner of the Swallows, winner of the Partnership Award.

The Year 2005

2005 was an important year for development. During the summer half of the world's population watched a series of concerts organised by Bob Geldof with the aim of urging the decision-makers of the G8-countries to cancel the debts of developing countries. Immediately after the concerts a summit was held in New York in which progress in attaining the goals of the UN Millennium Declaration was assessed. In December it was the turn of the World Trade Organization, at its meeting in Hongkong, to discuss the mechanisms of international trade from a development point of view.

We, and through us, Finnish NGOs working in the field of development cooperation monitored these processes both from an external and internal perspective. Unfortunately the outcomes of both meetings were somewhat disappointing, but nevertheless, the events established that poverty eradication and the unjust nature of international agreements are now an acknowledged subject for international political debate.

Last year was a significant year for Kepa as well. In March together with a hundred old and new friends, we celebrated Kepa's 20 years of operation. Kepa has become a fully established umbrella institution for over 270 organisations and has consolidated its role in Finnish civil society.

Last year the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland commissioned an evaluation of Kepa's operations over the past ten years. According to the evaluation the content of our activities has been appropriate and the quality of the activities has been high both in our field work and in Finland. The evaluation was carried out by Intrac, a British organisation specialising in training and evaluation. According to the evaluation our partner organisations in the field countries considered their cooperation with Kepa particularly valuable because the partnership is based on equality.

Kepa's main strategy was approved last autumn. Over the next five years our focus will be on developing Kepa's expert knowledge regarding the processes, mechanisms and structures that bring about continuing impoverishment. Other priorities will be reinforcing our organisation and networks, promoting the interests of our member organisations and increasing Kepa's prominence.

In recent years our activity has focused more and more on development policy advocacy and facilitating our members' activities. We believe that development policy advocacy and service provision are equally important in realising Kepa's mission. I would also like to stress our "one programme policy": our activities both in the field and Finland form a coherent whole.

Our desire is to make sure that Kepa remains an open, encouraging and courageous organisation and continues to evolve. To that end, we wish to encourage the readers of this publication to give us feedback and ideas about how we could improve our support for NGOs in their development cooperation and policy advocacy. ●



PHOTO: SANNNA JÄPPINEN

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In December Kepa's Executive Director Timo Lappalainen presented Development Minister Mari Kiviniemi with an empty gift package at a White Band campaign event. The Minister was about to attend a WTO meeting.

"Kepa has played a significant part in the history of development cooperation, and in development cooperation NGOs have often been the ones to set in motion the processes that have eventually brought about important changes."

Under-Secretary of State Pertti Majanen at Kepa's 20th anniversary celebration.

TIMO LAPPALAINEN
executive director
timo.lappalainen@kepa.fi



Change Your World

2005 was the tenth anniversary of the World Village festival. The year also saw the previously biennial festival become an annual event. The two-day festival was held at the end of May in Helsinki at Kaisaniemi park and nearby Rautatietori (Railway square). The main theme was the environment. This was particularly evident in the Amazonia exhibition held in a marquee on Rautatietori.

The festival broke its previous attendance and exhibitors records. Some 70

000 people visited the festival over the weekend, and development cooperation was presented in various ways both by approximately 260 different stalls and on the several stages.

International performers appearing in the concerts and at the festival clubs were Cheb Balowski from Spain, Gondwana from Chile, Maryam Mursal from Somalia and Bogostyle from Senegal. This was the first time that clubs were organised for the festival. Finnish performers

included Värttinä, Kimmo Pohjonen, Jonna Tervomaa and Kymppiorkka ("The Anniversary Band") which was formed specially for the occasion of the festival's anniversary by several top Finnish artists.

Thousands of Finns interested in development cooperation also visited the Markets of Possibilities which are similar but smaller events held throughout the country with the support of Kepa. In 2005 these events were organised in 18 different towns. The Markets provide local associa-



tions and organisations an opportunity to gain publicity, acquire new members and do advocacy. ●

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Photo: The World Village festival enjoyed sunny weather.



Imagine You Couldn't Read This

Kepa's most visible campaign in 2005 was "Pose for a Better World". This was a photo petition that was presented to Members of Parliament in September. Some 4500 people submitted photographs of themselves holding a message for the MPs.

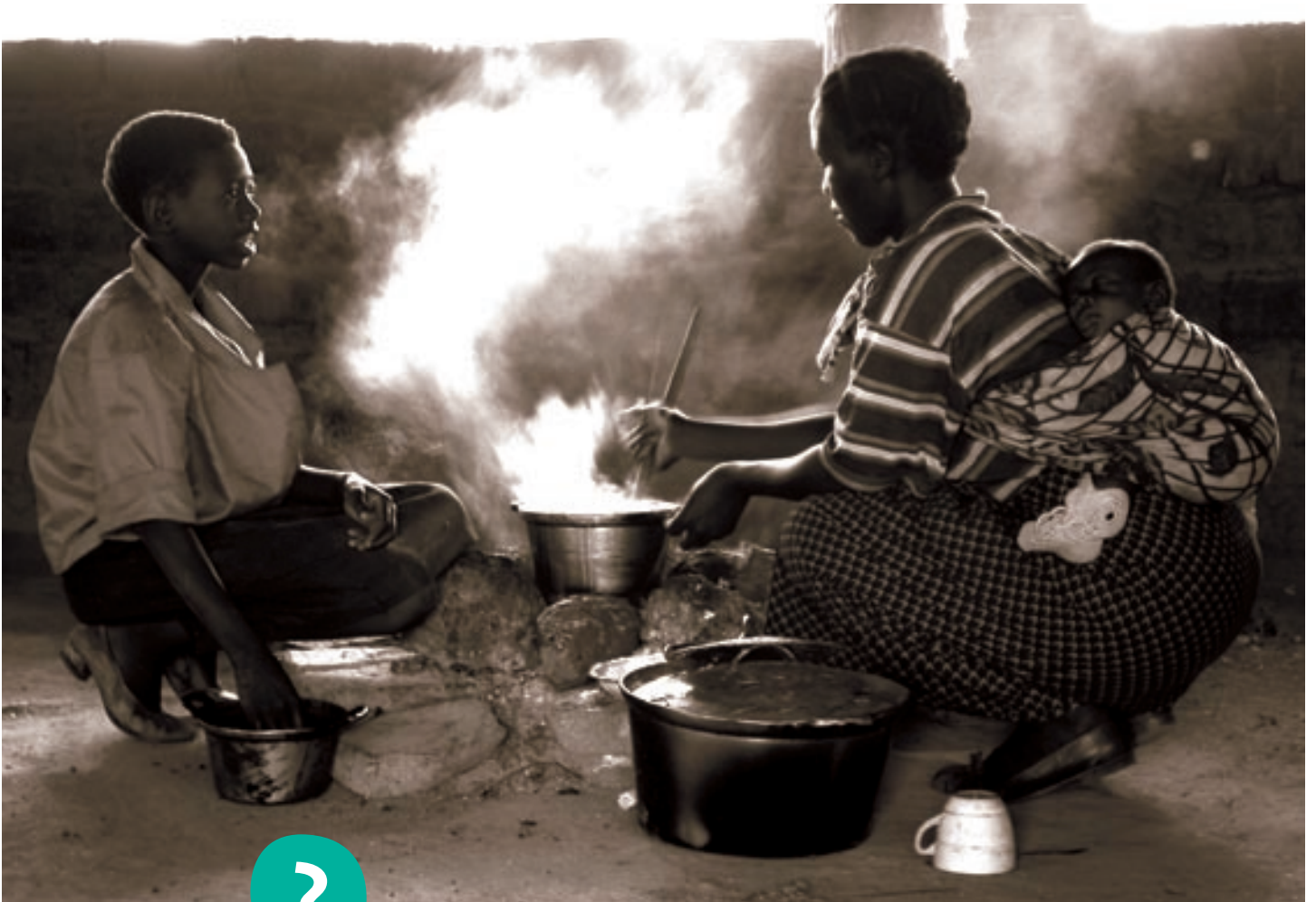
The messages were imaginative: "One cent from you is worth a million to someone else" and "We can afford anything, except to go back on our word" were some of the appeals made to the MPs. The aim of the petition was to remind the Finnish government about our nation's duty toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals set by the UN.

When the budget framework negotiations were about to begin in April, Kepa and over 80 of our member organisations presented MPs with cakes from which a segment equivalent to 0.7 per cent had been removed. MPs were also lobbied via publicity and through direct contact.

As a result, opposition MPs raised objections about the Finnish government's proposed spending on development cooperation. For the first time in history, the Finnish government faced a vote of no confidence regarding development cooperation policy. The government won the vote, but as a result of lobbying by Kepa and our member organisations a concrete improvement of five million euro to the aid budget for 2006 was achieved.

2005 saw the fifth anniversary of the UN Millennium Declaration. Kepa took part in the Millennium +5 summit in New York, with one of our officials included as part of the official Finnish delegation. With regard to trade policy lobbying, the most important event was the WTO ministerial meeting in Hongkong. Kepa actively contributed to Finland's preparations for the meeting and represented NGOs in the Finnish delegation. ●

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Photo: In April NGOs presented MPs with cakes from which a segment of 0,7 per cent had been removed to illustrate how small such a percentage is.



PARTNERSHIP

SUSTAINED EQUAL COOPERATION AND INTERACTION BETWEEN TWO OR MORE PARTIES.

PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

OUR WAY TO RAISE FINNISH CIVIL SOCIETY'S AWARENESS ON GLOBAL ISSUES AND TO IMPROVE ITS ABILITY TO ADDRESS THEM. THE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME ALSO AIMS TO STRENGTHEN CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND TO BUILD COOPERATION NETWORKS.

IMPOVERISHMENT

STRUCTURES, SYSTEMS AND AGREEMENTS WHICH MAKE PEOPLE POOR AND KEEP THEM THAT WAY. SUCH STRUCTURES INCLUDE INSUFFICIENT OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN POLITICAL DECISION-MAKING AND TRADE AGREEMENTS THAT FAVOUR THE WEALTHY NATIONS.



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Part two in the series "At the Edge of the Global Village" describes the Finnish third world movement.

Effectiveness of the Third World Movement Evaluated

A new part was published in Kepa's series of reports entitled "At the Edge of the Global Village". Finland and the Impoverished describes the Finnish third world movement which strives to change the structures at the root of poverty.

According to Thomas Wallgren, who was one of the authors, all voluntary selfless acts that are intended to subscribe to global justice, regardless of how modest those acts are, can be regarded as involvement in the third world movement. Thus it can be claimed that the majority of Finns involve themselves in some manner with the third world movement every year.

In recent years development cooperation practitioners have begun to more effectively evaluate the results and effects of their work. Kepa helped development policy researchers and practitioners form a network that began to promote the evaluation of development cooperation's effectiveness. 📍

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Photo: A mother cooking maize porridge in a southern province of Zambia.



PHOTO: JANNE SIVONEN

Kepa in the Field

Kepa implements its programme on a global basis. The focus of the programme is, on the one hand, poverty eradication work done in conjunction with our partners in the field and on the other, creating links between NGOs from the developing and the developed world and supporting them in their work.

MOZAMBIQUE

Kepa began sending aid workers to Mozambique in 1991. In the course of the past ten years the focus of Kepa's activity has switched from sending aid workers to establishing partnership programmes with local organisations, supporting the public sector and reinforcing Mozambique's civil society. In recent years Kepa has increasingly supported the development policy activities and advocacy work by Mozambican NGOs.

Kepa's main partners in Mozambique are FAMOD, an NGO advancing the rights of the disabled, a women's organisation called Forum Mulher and a small-scale farmers' organisation called UNAC. In 2005 ten or more Finnish organisations made use of Kepa's liaison services in Mozambique.

TANZANIA

Kepa's local partners in Tanzania are TANGO, which is a national umbrella organisation for Tanzanian NGOs, and UNGO, a union of NGOs working in the town of Morogoro.

More than 30 Finnish organisations, most of which are members of Kepa, are active in Tanzania. Finnish organisations have over 50 ongoing projects in the country, which is more than in any other country. Kepa established an office in Morogoro in 1997.

ZAMBIA

Kepa's very first field office was established in Zambia in 1987, and the partnership programme began in 1996. Kepa supports Zambian civil society and promotes interaction between Finnish and Zambian NGOs.

Altogether we assist over 40 Zambian NGOs. Our longterm partners are JCTR (Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection), which advocates the cancellation of developing countries' debts and carries out extensive information and advocacy work, and GLM (Green Living Movement), which promotes and teaches sustainable farming techniques.

NICARAGUA

In Nicaragua Kepa's activities are centred on the two multicultural autonomous areas on the Caribbean coast. The Caribbean coast is the poorest area of Nicaragua, and its particular challenges include the land ownership issues of indigenous peoples, the implementation of autonomy, education, food security and logging.

Kepa cooperates with the Alexander von Humboldt Center, UNDP, Oxfam and the URACCAN University. Kepa's activities in Nicaragua began in 1989, first by sending aid workers and since 1995 in the form of a partnership programme.

INDONESIA

Kepa has cooperated with the Indonesian NGO Insist (an acronym for Indonesian Society for Social Transformation) since 1998. Insist is a network consisting of 20 organisations. Kepa has supported Insist's educational projects, policy research and its magazine Wacana. We have no field office of our own in Indonesia, so our local representative is based at Insist's premises.

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Photo: Kepa's Liaison Officer Esa Salminen visited the wheelchair workshop of a Zambian NGO called Disacare.



PHOTO: MIKKO TOIVONEN

Training for Everyone

Kepa provides training for anyone interested in development issues, such as NGO representatives, students and activists. The aim of our training is to provide information and skills that are useful to participants in solidarity work both in Finland and abroad.

The main topics of Kepa's training are development cooperation projects, development policy, development of partnerships, gender equality, participative methods and advocacy.

In 2005 a series of workshops on the mechanisms of impoverishment was organised. The series, entitled The Face of Poverty, was a great success. In addition we organised sixteen courses on project administration, four of which were internet courses.

Kepa's project adviser helped NGOs to plan, monitor and evaluate their projects. She was contacted in over 200 instances, almost as often as in the previous year.

Sixty member organisations participated in a network that discussed and evaluated the quality of development cooperation.

Training is an important part of Kepa's activities in Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Nicaragua. The majority of NGOs in developing countries that participate in Kepa's training are our partner organisations, or partners of our member organisations. But training is also provided to other organisations, if it is deemed necessary to reinforce civil society within the country in question. The topics of the courses organised in developing countries range from basic IT skills to current trade policy issues. Also some developing world organisations are able to benefit from Kepa's internet courses. ●

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Photo: ETVO's volunteer worker Modesta Kokwenda from Tanzania, worked for five months as a school helper at a primary school in Kalanti in South-Western Finland.



MEMBERS' VIEWS ON KEPA

IN 2005 A SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED AMONG KEPA'S CONSTITUENT ORGANISATIONS TO ASCERTAIN THEIR VIEWS ON US. THE RESULTS SHOWED THAT THEY ARE MOST SATISFIED WITH OUR EVENTS, TRAINING AND INFORMATION SERVICES. ACCORDING TO THE LESS FAVOURABLE FEEDBACK, KEPA NEEDS TO IMPROVE ITS FIELD OFFICE SERVICES, PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF ITS MEMBERS MORE VIGOROUSLY AND TO DO MORE TO PROMOTE NETWORKING AMONG ITS MEMBERS.



PHOTO: MIKKO TOWNEN

Various Forms of Global Education

In 2005 fifty people took part in the Finnish Volunteer Programme, ETVO. The Finnish volunteers worked in Asia, Latin America and Africa. Prior to leaving Finland, they underwent different kinds of training. The topics covered by this ranged from health issues to encountering different cultures and the Millennium Development Goals. The programme also brought three volunteers from developing countries to Finland.

The growing interest by Finns towards volunteer work translated into numerous people contacting ETVO. ETVO provides an opportunity for field work at the grassroots level. The programme covers ten countries spread throughout three continents, and the volunteers get to work, for instance, with environmental organisations, handicapped people or street children.

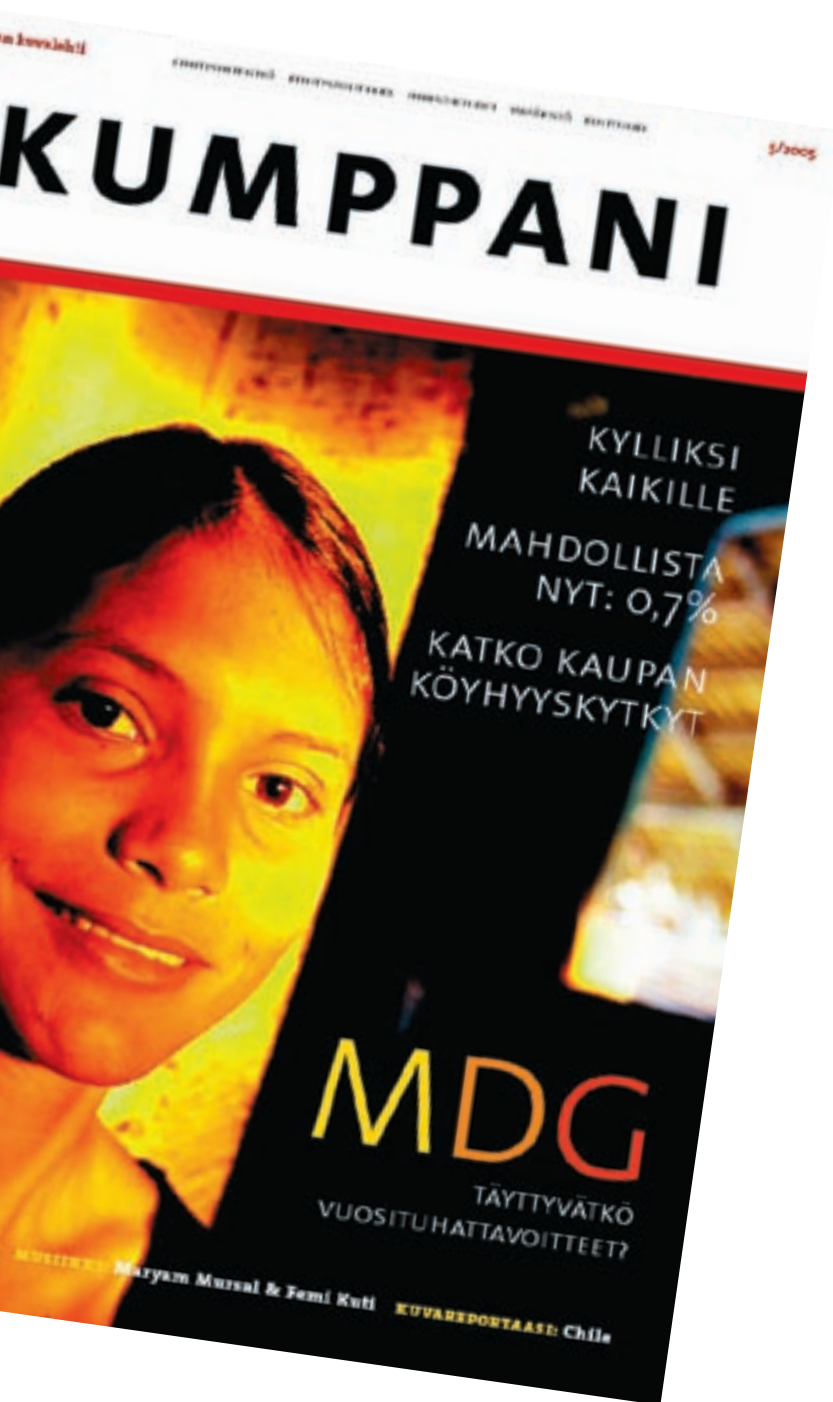
In 2005 a pilot project was launched with the aim of encouraging returning volunteers to get involved with Finnish NGOs. The objective is for as many people as possible to benefit from these volunteers' experience.

ETVO is a joint programme of Kepa and four Finnish NGOs: Finnish Youth Co-operation (Allianssi), International Cultural Youth Exchange (ICYE Finland), Finnish Tinku Association and Finnish Branch of Service Civil International (KVT).

In 2005 global education became a more permanent and important part of Kepa's activity. We now coordinate a large global education network, which participated in a working group that prepared a national action plan for global education. The proposed action plan was presented to education minister Antti Kalliomäki.

The network also came up with the idea of creating a pilot project called Global School. As a result, schools in the city of Oulu and its environs can obtain from a single source carefully prepared ready-to-use study material produced by various organisations on development issues and global education. ●

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Photo: ETVO's Indian volunteer Subramanian Panneer Selvam trained Finnish volunteers at the Viittakivi International Centre during a weekend in October.



Publications reshaped

Kepa's main web site gained in popularity, the number of visitors rose by 26 per cent from the previous year. The historic 50 000 visitor limit was passed in October 2005.

The main web site was redesigned during last autumn. Kepa's old giraffe logo was retired, and a balloon was chosen for the new logo to symbolise dialogue. At the same time the name of our e-letter changed from Nettikirahvi to Nettiviikko. Nettiviikko provides a summary of current news and events.

As a part of the reshaping, the main menu of the site was simplified for clarity. Now the navigation is clearly defined into services and campaigns. In addition, new sections were created for organisations and journalists. The search function was improved, and the campaigns section was expanded. The site also features blog pages, where people can read about everyday life in Africa, the progress of campaigns and thoughts on the presentation of developing countries in the media.

GLOBAL PICTORIAL SURPASSED EXPECTATIONS

Our magazine, Kumppani, which was previously published bimonthly, became a monthly magazine in 2005. At the same time we introduced a charge for the magazine that had previously been free.

These changes were successful beyond all expectations. The subscriber target was easily surpassed, and the magazine was better able to react promptly to current events. Kumppani covers important topics long before they are featured in the mass media. The conflict over the construction of pulp mills that involves Uruguay, Argentina and the Finnish company Metsä-Botnia was featured in Kumppani last December, three months before the mainstream media became interested in the topic. 

kepa SERVICE CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

TÖÖLÖNTORINKATU 2 A
00260 HELSINKI
+359-9-584 233
INFO@KEPA.FI
WWW.KEPA.FI/INTERNATIONAL

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Fighting for a more just world since 1985

SERVICE CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION (KEPA)

- Global lobbyist for better policy: advocacy, both through the corridors of power and on the streets
- Umbrella organisation for development cooperation: cooperation between NGOs, training, services and interest protection
- Forum for everyone and everything: events, publications and networks

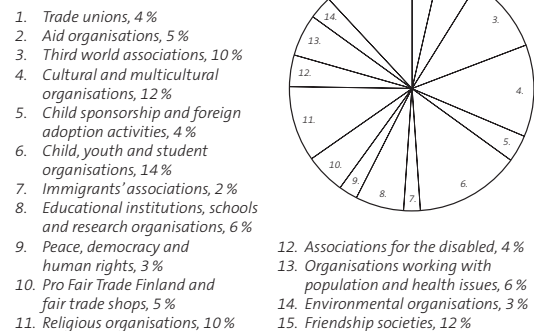
STAFF

At the end of 2005 the average age of Kepa's staff was 38 years. Sixty per cent of the staff were women. In total 88 employees and 7 conscientious objectors worked for Kepa. Fourty seven of the employees were based in Finland and 41 in various field countries.

MEMBERS

At the end of 2005 Kepa had 270 member organisations, who fell into categories as follows:

The classification is based on the principal form or focus of activity by the members.



FINANCES

In 2005 the costs of Kepa's activity amounted to 5,3 million euros. Ninetyfive per cent of the costs were covered by state subsidies and the rest was paid for by membership contributions, participation fees and proceeds from sales.

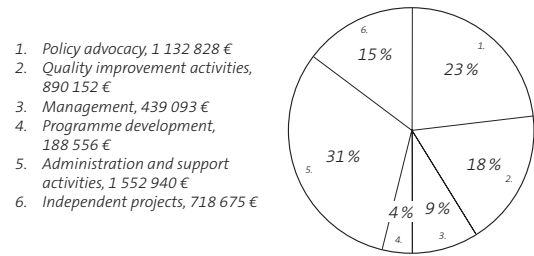


Photo: Lower caste children studying at a nightschool run by VCDS, the local Indian partner organisation of the Swallows of Finland.

