2020
MEMBER SURVEY REPORT

ASAP
Academics Stand Against Poverty
| 01 | Introduction                        |
| 02 | Summary of research outputs        |
| 03 | Key findings and high level messages |
| 04 | Qualitative questions              |
| 05 | The work of ASAP and fees          |
| 06 | Who engaged                        |
| 07 | What this tells us                 |
| 08 | Membership                         |
| 09 | Fees                               |
| 10 | Next steps                         |
1. INTRODUCTION

Background:
Academics Stand Against Poverty (ASAP), is a truly global association. With a strong presence among universities and academics in the global South, we focus on creating opportunities for those who face barriers to full participation in global academic dialogue. Our wide network links like-minded professors, students, and researchers from different disciplines around the world to formulate and articulate policy reforms at both national and international levels.

Our growing network of national and regional chapters is the driving force behind our impact on global poverty. ASAP has been supporting its Chapter network for ten years, during this time ASAP members have proposed interventions which they have designed and developed, implementing them collaboratively with other members and with the assistance of ASAP Global.

Purpose:
The success of ASAP is dependent on the capacity and resources available within the member network. The survey was developed to understand how ASAP Global can better support our network of academics through the next phase of development in a way that meets the needs of the chapters and the individuals within them.

We are aware that there is more ASAP could do to serve its members and Chapter network, and as a small organisation we wanted to understand the most important priorities we would need to have in place are in order to enable individuals across the chapter network to work with one another to build the scale and the reach of our work. The findings outlined in this research will be used to enable ASAP to design its future support offering to members and to secure the funding needed to support the work of the network.
2. SUMMARY OF RESEARCH OUTPUTS

The report is separated into two parts. The first part presents a brief review of the responses (number of members who replied and breakdown by chapters and how often they engage with ASAP - individually, or as chapters).

The report captures quantitative questions. There are four questions where respondents were given a list of options and asked to select the top 3 (or 5 in question 6) options they see as the most important/relevant answer to the question. The results are presented in a chart format and accompanied by a high-level analysis.

The second part of the report tables the answers to the three qualitative questions:

1) How would you describe the work of ASAP?
2) What would you expect from a membership fee?
3) State the most important thing you or your Chapter needs from an organisation like ASAP?

Respondent describing ASAP:
"An organisation established to mobilise the academic community towards eradicating poverty."
3. KEY FINDINGS & HIGH LEVEL MESSAGES

No. 01 — Respondents
A total 37 respondents replied to the survey across the network. These individuals represented 15 chapters in the network. Additionally, 12 people did not include Chapter membership affiliation. There were also a number of chapters with no identifiable respondents: Cambodia, Columbia, Cyprus, East & Southern Africa, India, Romania, Oceania

No. 02 — Frequency of engagement
Just over half of respondents (51%) said they were active and in contact within their Chapters or across Chapters either weekly or monthly. The one respondent that said they had engaged only ‘once’ was from the Malawian Chapter, which is unsurprising given the Chapter is not yet formally established and does not have membership beyond this person.

No. 03 — Priority areas for ASAP
We asked our members to identify the top three areas ASAP Global should be focussing on.

Three thematic areas from the list in chart 4. Numbers are based on all 37 answering this question, making 111 responses in total. There was the option to use one of the three choices to put forward an additional topic.
Problem areas

9 people offered alternative recommendations of problem areas, including: human rights violations; lifetime poverty; regulation of social rights and entitlements at international level; Positive economic policies to alleviate poverty and reduce inequality (e.g. basic income); Built environment; Vulnerable territories; Education in developing countries; What to expect from the role of States and global organisations in reducing poverty; Political will.

No. 03 cont — Problem areas

[Chart 4: Priority areas of focus for ASAP by No. of votes]

No. 04 — How ASAP Global should be engaging

Respondents were given the option to select three activities they believed ASAP Global needed to offering or to facilitate in order for the organisation to achieve its mission to make an impact on poverty-related issues.

The following areas were identified in section 3 as priorities. The survey included the option to suggest other activities but no alternatives were presented. The following pie chart is based on 108 responses of 36 people.
No. 05 – Value of ASAP Global to the network

Three did not answer this question, so this is based on 34 responders but several of these only selected two options rather than three, making 93 answers.

No. 06 – What should ASAP Global offer its network?

The network was asked based on the list below, which 5 things they felt it would be helpful for an ASAP membership to offer.

The following two tables filter the 15 possible answers based on a total number of responses. It is based on 161 selections representing 32 people giving the full 5 answers, one person only selecting one option ‘collaboration with colleagues globally’, and four people did not answer.
4. QUALITATIVE QUESTIONS

The aim of the qualitative set of questions was to gain a better understanding of what ASAP means to its members, to gain a better understanding of what the members feel is the wider purpose of ASAP, and the support it should be offering to its network.

No 7 - DEFINING THE PURPOSE OF ASAP

How would you describe the work of Academics Stand Against Poverty in one sentence? (34 responses)

All responses, with one exception, cast the role and work of ASAP in a positive light, the outlying member response saw the network in itself as beneficial for academic members, but also questioned 'how much wider impact the network has generated'.

Key messages and themes include:

- The relevance of ASAP as an organisation and network in spearheading the fight against global poverty.
- Value of the network as a way of connecting academics to affect change. Through the responses, you can see a difference between those who see networking as a way of galvanizing a community of academics, compared to those who emphasize the importance of ASAP as a bridge between academia, civil society, and Governments (little mention of the wider public).
- Recognize the potential of ASAP as a vehicle for progress, innovation, and normative change around tackling poverty.
- Importance of the ASAP network as a leader of knowledge generation on poverty issues, influencing and educating for progressive change.
5. THE WORK OF ASAP

The following table includes all responses in full. Key descriptors that appear regularly or are thematically similar are highlighted in bold:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relevant, contemporary and practical need</th>
<th>Attractive</th>
<th>An important initiative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The work of ASAP is to build a bridge between academic reform proposals</td>
<td>It encourages and gives hope to intellectuals who are defying education</td>
<td>A valuable contribution and support in the areas showing that academics also have their role to play</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The work of ASAP is noble</td>
<td>Through collective, independent academic research, ASAP seeks to alleviate poverty through a national approach</td>
<td>A global network of energized academics dedicated to eradicating poverty and alleviating the most pressing issues of poverty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A community of academics who collaborate to fight against poverty</td>
<td>Very effective</td>
<td>A way that is much needed in the world we currently live in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The work is important because it integrates people who are physically distant</td>
<td>Good job, thanks people will understand the problem of poverty and how fight with it</td>
<td>Very useful for academics but not sure if I have been able to link it to the work being done here immediately</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work of independent academics in an international collaboration network aimed at the production and dissemination of knowledge in order to propose alternatives to the problems that affect different countries and communities and provide new reflections among different countries and professionals</td>
<td>Cooperation with ASAP creates a chance to make an impact</td>
<td>A network of researchers dedicated to investigate the many aspects of poverty in our times, and the ways and strategies that can be adopted to transform these situations for the better</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Could exert a catalyzing influence in the fight against poverty</td>
<td>Innovative and challenging within the global agenda against poverty</td>
<td>Transdisciplinary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active academic research which promotes social justice</td>
<td>A network of academics who want to collaborate more effectively with civil society and governments to eradicate poverty and reduce inequality</td>
<td>ASAP should support network of academics working on poverty related field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is an attempt to remove the poverty from the society</td>
<td>Unite the forces of academics around the world to fight poverty as a global phenomenon</td>
<td>Relevant, yet to be expanded for greater impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multidisciplinary, focused on impact and global</td>
<td>An organization established to mobilize the academic community towards eradicating poverty</td>
<td>Linking academics to fight poverty</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No 9 - DEFINING THE PURPOSE OF ASAP AND FEES

33 responses out of the total 37 respondents answered. The respondents outlined a number of interventions that they would value and would help them as representatives of chapters. The survey also wanted to establish the overall level of appetite for a membership fee and any reservations or concerns were ASAP to undertake such a consideration.

Whilst the majority of people were not against the idea of a fee, there are mixed feelings about the value of fee-charging in terms of what ASAP could realistically offer, there were also ethical questions it could raise (should this be a flat fee or graded based on factors such as geographical location, point in career). 5 respondents were negative, and three replied – ‘no idea’, ‘never thought about it’, and ‘not sure’. The following tables set out answers according to three categories – i) practical suggestions for what the network can offer, ii) responses directly relating to a fee and, iii) those against the idea.

### Practical suggestions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding for research</th>
<th>Know-how, good practices, laboratories etc.</th>
<th>In this case I would expect ASAP could deliver more fellowships to implement research projects.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access to networks and opportunities</td>
<td>Access to Journal of Poverty</td>
<td>Monthly updates on progress, regular conference and a platform to connect easily with other academics involved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More networking opportunities to connect with colleagues in other countries to explore research opportunities/access and support for potential funding</td>
<td>I would like to have access to copyrighted material in English. Where I live is very expensive to buy academic journals licenses</td>
<td>Support with the dissemination and marketing of the results of my research as well as helping connect me to policy makers and organisations who would benefit from knowing about it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance learning courses, funding for ASAP events, research grants, institutional support for event dissemination</td>
<td>Assistance to get our work finished and spread, e.g., access to resources like publications, training, and informal peer review and advice</td>
<td>Sorry, but I did not understand the proposal to charge a membership fee to the best of my knowledge of ASAP so far. Anyway, I understand the differential of ASAP in joining a network of independent and autonomous academics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interaction with colleagues</td>
<td>Funding</td>
<td>Access to research funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to members and research, generation of network, access to a general database, access to funding opportunities</td>
<td>Clear evidence that the organisation is having more impact on poverty and inequality than its members could achieve without it</td>
<td>A journal with selected ASAP articles, a newsletter with worldwide opportunities of funding and discriminating research.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilitate wider link connection among the members and their works</td>
<td>More integration between members in the world, opportunities of funding for conferences and research</td>
<td>Training, networking, and travel funding for events to share research</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Fee related

| a reasonable fee | Minimum | The fee should be linked to an indicator such as GDP per head. In advanced countries it should be no lower than 100 USD per annum | $20 USD |

Against – one person simply wrote ‘No’ but others gave more expansive answers:

I do not think ASAP Global Network should charge a membership fee, as we could restrict the participation of researchers from developing countries that would not have means to pay for it.

I hope this does not happen. It will put off people joining, particularly in developing countries who really need to be connected and heard.

I don’t think that the introduction of a fee is a good idea. Maybe for ordinary membership, but definitely not to the people who run the chapter.

I don’t favor the idea of charging the fee at this stage.
No 9 - WHO RESPONDED TO THE MEMBER SURVEY AND WHAT THEY NEED

The survey asked respondents to identify themselves and to outline any specific requests or immediate requirements of support they would benefit from as members of the ASAP at the point they completed the survey (Autumn 2019)

This question received 27 substantive replies which are provided in full below. Only 7 people listed their name, and three people did not answer. The specific ‘need’ in each reply has been highlighted in bold and underlined:
7. WHAT THIS TELLS US

The findings of Member Survey 2020 have provided ASAP with both practical and strategic insights that will help focus the charity's strategic priorities and the work we deliver for our chapter network over the forthcoming years.

The response rate of formally registered active members was over 50%, which based on the average response rate for surveys, is excellent and indicative of the strong commitment and interest in engaging with ASAP and its network.

The responses from members suggest that there is a high level of commitment and goodwill towards ASAP and its work but also indicate there is more work ASAP Global could do to support and engage the network more widely.

The frequency of engagement suggests that there are many individuals or members of chapters who have limited time but want to engage with the work of the network. It suggests that models that enable members to engage on a monthly basis or ad-hoc basis are most relevant to members.

**No. 01 — Focus**

The three areas members of the chapter network collectively felt they would most like ASAP as a network to focus on were: Climate Change; Migration, and Economic Policies (listed in order of priority).

**No. 02 — What ASAP Global should offer**

Responses were more evenly spread across the offerings but the members of the network felt most strongly that in order of priority ASAP Global should be focusing on: Connecting members of the network; Funding research; Disseminating Research Findings and providing training to academics on disseminating their research more widely.

**No. 03 — Value of ASAP Global to the network**

The members felt strongly the most demonstrable value ASAP Global could offer its network was to provide opportunities to connect with diverse multidisciplinary academics; to provide access to new opportunities; make a difference to poverty; work with new colleagues, and make anti-poverty methods more effective.
No. 04 — How ASAP should support its members
The three areas members of the chapter network collectively felt they would most like ASAP as a network to deliver: Connections with other chapters; access to funding; training on how to influence wider social change, networking and presenting at conferences (listed in order of priority).

No. 05 — What activities ASAP should deliver
Responses were more evenly spread across the activities suggested but the members of the network felt most strongly that in order of priority ASAP Global should be delivering were: Training; access to publishing in journals; chances to work with senior academics and opportunities to expand the work of chapters.

8. ASAP MEMBERSHIP

Members of ASAP clearly feel institutionally the charity has the greatest value contributing towards the discourse around global poverty by bringing together multidisciplinary academics.

The following key messages and themes came through most strongly in the way the members described what they believe ASAP exists to deliver:

- The relevance of ASAP as an organization and network in spearheading the fight against global poverty.
- Value of the network as a way of connecting academics to affect change. Through the responses, you can see a difference between those who see networking as a way of galvanising a community of academics, compared to those who emphasize the importance of ASAP as a bridge between academia, civil society, and Governments (little mention of the wider public).
- Recognise the potential of ASAP as a vehicle for progress, innovation, and normative change around tackling poverty.
- Importance of the ASAP network as a leader of knowledge generation on poverty issues, influencing and educating for progressive change.
9. FEES

Members of the network did not actively oppose the idea of a prospective charge of fee for their connection with the organisation, but there were some individuals who felt a fee would be a barrier to participation or might mean the organisation was at risk of excluding segments of its membership where cost might be an excluding factor.

It was clear that there also was a commensurate expectation that if member paid a fee they would receive something in return. There were a number of recommendations of ideas members felt ASAP could provide in return for a subscription fee like access to journals, access to funding, access to know-how and good practice and specific support on the launch and dissemination of research.

10. NEXT STEPS

In response to the feedback of this member survey report ASAP will be host at least four ‘all ASAP meetings’ in the year.

The aim of these sessions will be share research, knowledge and good practice but also to work with the chapter network and individual members to understand what the network needs to provide in order to enable us to deliver against the needs the network has defined in this survey.

The feedback research in this report will inform the focus and content of these sessions and help ASAP to design its future support offering to members and to secure the funding needed to support the work of the network.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many thanks to Craig Walker and Helene Vannier who helped collate and undertake the analysis of the member survey.

We would also like to thank all members of the ASAP network who participated and provided their feedback to help us complete this report.

We thank you for your continued support in our efforts to contribute to the eradication of poverty and supporting the ASAP mission.

Contact

Academics Stand Against Poverty
www.academicsstand.com
global@academicsstand.org
@AcademicsStand