

FACT SHEET 2010



The International Award is an exciting self-development programme for all young people worldwide. It equips them with life skills, builds their confidence and engages them with their communities. To date more than six million young people from over 130 countries have undertaken a variety of voluntary and challenging activities through the Award.

- It began in 1956 in the UK, where it is known as The Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Over the last 54 years it has spread across the globe, because the philosophy and the format have proved attractive and adaptable to many cultures.
- It gives all young people aged between 14 and 25, regardless of their background, abilities or circumstances, an opportunity to experience challenge and adventure, to acquire new skills and to make new friends.
- The Award transforms lives. Some of the Programme's participants include young offenders, street kids, youths from indigenous populations and children living in post conflict situations. For these marginalised groups, the Award can prove a decisive turning point in their lives, but also in those of the people around them.
- There are three Award Levels, Bronze, Silver and Gold, each requiring increasing commitment and effort. Bronze usually takes 6-12 months to complete, Silver 12–18 months and Gold 18–24 months. Participants are in charge of their own programme, setting their own goals and measuring their progress against them.
- The Award Programme comprises four Sections: Service develops a sense of community and social responsibility; the Adventurous Journey cultivates a spirit of adventure and an understanding of the environment; the Skills Section develops cultural, vocational and practical skills; and Physical Recreation encourages improved performance and fitness. The Residential Project, an additional requirement at Gold Level, broadens horizons through a worthwhile residential experience.
- The Award has a presence in 131 countries. It operates on a national basis in 62 countries and there are nearly 230 Independent Operators in a further 69 countries.
- The International Award is the generic title, but each National Award Authority (NAA) can choose its own title, for example the El-Hassan Youth Award in Jordan, The President's Award in Ireland and The Hong Kong Award for Young People.
- Over 785,000 young people worldwide are currently participating in the Programme. Last year around 162,000 young people achieved Awards and over 340,000 started the Award for the first time.
- In most countries the Gold Award is presented by the head of state.
- Find out more by visiting www.intaward.org.

"The Award is life changing. It got me off the streets and channelled my energies into something positive."
Jorgianne Williams, Jamaica



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*challenging
young people
everywhere*