



Charles Patterson, SID's executive director, has spent more than 30 years working to improve the coverage and impact of international development programs. He was instrumental in the design of SID's new innovative regional approach that gives large numbers of farmers an opportunity to increase their income and graduate from poverty. SID collaborates with farmers and local partners to help create sustainable prosperous rural communities, where farmers do not need to migrate to cities or other countries in search of employment and a better life.

From 1988 to 1993, Charles was country director for Bolivia for Planning Assistance, a U.S. nonprofit that helped improve the planning, management, and performance of development projects. He designed and implemented a program to fund Bolivian NGOs to help carry out the Cochabamba Regional Development Project. Prior to that, he directed a three-year program that helped U.S. food-aid nonprofits convert their programs from relief to development.

From 1973 to 1988, Charles was the executive director of Planning Assistance. He developed a three-stage process for planning regional rural development projects (goals, projects that achieved them, support to all projects) and used it to prepare the development plan for the ORD for the Sahelian Region of Burkina Faso and an agricultural program for the Peanut Basin (Sine Saloum) of Senegal. He directed a three-year project to help improve the performance of a World Bank-funded integrated rural development project in the Eastern Province of Cameroon. He also developed a participatory process for helping plan World Bank-funded health projects in Mali and several states of Nigeria.

Charles began his career as a Peace Corps volunteer in Tanzania. He was also the operations and training officer for Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland for the Peace Corps. He then established a national training department and program for the Planned Parenthood Federation of America. He also helped establish the Federation's international division and program (Family Planning International Assistance).

Charles holds a Certificate in Economic Planning and Development, a master's degree in economics, and a bachelor's degree in history, all from New York University.