



Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP  
Secretary of State for International Development  
DFID  
1 Palace Street  
London SW1E 5HE

4 October 2010

In copy to: Mark Lowcock, Director General of Country Programmes

Dear Andrew,

**Re: DFID Bilateral Aid Review**

Thank you for your Department's invitation to Bond to input into the DFID Bilateral Aid Review (BAR). On behalf of Bond members, I enclose an initial joint submission, presently endorsed by 16 of our members. As NGOs who work closely with communities in developing countries and campaign for sustainable development, we support your desire to ensure that bilateral aid is spent effectively in the fight against poverty.

In our submission we highlight a number of issues and approaches that we think should be at the heart of the BAR - the importance of taking a country-led approach at all stages; a focus on the Paris, Accra and wider aid effectiveness practices; a focus on the needs of the poorest countries and groups; and an approach to development results that is consistent across all of DFID's work, suitable for the challenging context in which DFID's resources are invested and tailored to the diverse goals it is pursuing. We also urge DFID to take decisions about the future of country programmes in full consultation with recipients, over suitable timeframes and based on understanding what support other donors are providing in those countries.

Due to the compressed timing of the consultation period with UK NGOs, we have restricted ourselves to comments based on existing research and conclusions from our experience as we were unable in the window available to meaningfully gather the additional inputs from our partners that ideally we would have liked to have done.

We hope these comments are useful and look forward to opportunities to discuss them with relevant DFID officials. We are also eager to feed into further stages of the BAR and would request a formal opportunities to do so.

With my very best wishes,

Nick Roseveare  
Chief Executive, Bond

The following organisations have contributed and support this briefing note

1. ActionAid
2. Care International UK
3. Christian Aid
4. Health Poverty Action
5. Leprosy Mission
6. Leonard Cheshire
7. One
8. One World Action
9. Oxfam GB
10. Progressio
11. Results UK
12. Sightsavers
13. Tearfund
14. TUC
15. UNICEF UK
16. WWF