

NGO Effectiveness Bulletin
Strengthening ways to prove and improve
NGO contributions to social development



Welcome to the first e-bulletin of the Bond Effectiveness Programme. We hope that you had a great festive season and are ready for an exciting new year! This e-bulletin will go out every two months to provide a quick update on upcoming events, progress and people involved in the Effectiveness Programme.

You have received this email because at some point you have expressed an interest in NGO effectiveness. If you know anyone that will be interested in this email please forward it to them. If you have received this email as a forward and wish to subscribe to the e-bulletin please reply with the subject line 'subscribe'. Similarly if you do not wish to receive this e-bulletin, reply with the subject line 'unsubscribe'.

Brief overview of the Effectiveness Programme

Since joining Bond as Effectiveness Programme Manager in October 2009, Julian Srodecki has been consulting with Bond members to make sure that the more detailed programme remains reflective of real needs, priorities and thinking of Bond members. Nearly 20 organisations have participated in this process and if you would like to be part of it please e-mail ngoeffectiveness@bond.org.uk. In January, single agency input will be supplemented by a more general short targeted questionnaire to members that will provide a baseline to measure progress and provide further input into the design of the programme.

The current consultation process builds on the work of the Inception Phase in which many Bond members and other stakeholders helped to define the agenda. In early 2010, it will move from discussion towards the practical work to take the Programme forward. A major product of the Effectiveness Programme will be an Effectiveness Framework - incorporating emphasis on both participation/partnerships and on management culture. This will be further developed in a major working meeting to be held on 16 February 2010 and detailed below. Alongside the framework, work has also started to develop a research agenda to share best practice on how organisations work with partners and assure real participation. As planned, the Effectiveness Programme has teamed up with the well-established Bond Quality Group to jointly move forward on this initiative. In January 2010 we will co-host a member consultation to shape this research agenda.

The first working meeting on the components of the Bond NGO Effectiveness Framework

On 16 February 2010, the Effectiveness Programme will host a full day event "Defining the Components of Effectiveness" to bring together senior managers and technical specialists to work together to nail down the scope and main areas for the Bond Effectiveness Framework. The meeting will be the first of a series of key moments for the Effectiveness Programme in 2010 and is your opportunity to ensure that the effectiveness framework will cover what you need for it to be useful. During the meeting, participants will begin work on some of the content of the framework as well as make concrete recommendations that will shape its future direction. All of this

input will then be used to set the broad parameters for future work by smaller expert groups who will work on the technical details.

If you would like to request a place at this event please email ngoeffectiveness@bond.org.uk.

Shape the research agenda of the Effectiveness Programme

On 20 January 2010, the Bond Quality Group will hold a meeting to help identify priorities and partners for research into best practice around partnerships and participation for the Effectiveness Programme. The Quality Group steering committee is delighted to be able to work with the Effectiveness Programme on this and hope that many of their members get involved. We plan to move forward with at least one piece of research from this meeting and there is scope to carry out several others over the coming year.

If you have any ideas that you would like to have considered before the meeting please send a short summary to [Julian Srodecki](mailto:Julian.Srodecki@bond.org.uk) before 18 January. (Up to one page outlining the initiative, what is new about it, resources involved from both Bond and others). Alternatively, come along on the day with your ideas.

To register to attend you will need to [join the Quality Group](#) and visit the 'Meetings' section.

Questions and Comments

If you have any comments about this e-bulletin or any other aspect of the Effectiveness Programme please contact ngoeffectiveness@bond.org.uk

Five minutes with....

Irko Zuurmond, Manager Programme Effectiveness Team, PLAN

What is effectiveness?

"With increased emphasis on effectiveness and accountability, this Bond initiative is very timely. When talking about effectiveness, the immediate thought that jumps to mind is how effective our programmes are and against what criteria we measure their effectiveness. However, effectiveness is multi-dimensional. It has both programmatic and organisational dimensions that cannot simply be looked at in isolation. We have to ask ourselves the question how effectively we operate internally and how well we work with partners in order to deliver effective and quality programmes."

What should the programme do?

"It is encouraging that this Bond initiative aims to look at the different dimensions of effectiveness and map good practice and relevant tools under each dimension, building on existing experience among its members. By taking this approach, this initiative will contribute to the development of clearer standards for the development sector, without claiming to provide a one-size-fits-all solution. This initiative will therefore help both small and large member organisations in taking the effectiveness agenda further."

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