

the Networker

June / July 2009 Issue 86

MEDIA POWER BRING DEVELOPMENT TO LIFE



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- Beneficiary voice in campaigning
- EU elections
- AidWatch report

Plus the latest funding, BOND groups and development news



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Media power

Together, by combining the strong individual policy analysis of members, BOND has made a strong submission to the DFID White Paper consultation on behalf of the sector. We are told that our two-stage process (early headlines and, later, full submission), and our repeated face-to-face dialogue with senior DFID staff meant that BOND was able to be influential at key moments.

While we wait for DFID to present the new White Paper to Parliament in July, we have captured the views of some of our members on page 13.

The media – television, radio, print, and internet – has the potential to be an enormously important, and beneficial, tool for NGOs. Yet, the opportunity it provides for NGOs to tell their stories is largely untapped and its power has yet to be fully realised. In this issue, several articles challenge NGOs to wake up to these possibilities.

I recently met with Charlie Beckett of Polis to discuss his idea that ‘we are all journalists now’ and the need for NGOs to be smarter about working with the media and using new technology to tell their stories to the ‘public’, including to the citizens of the countries where NGOs work. AMREF, a BOND member, offers some practical advice and lessons learnt from their media partnership with *The Guardian* and the challenges and opportunities this has brought.

Meanwhile, Mark Galloway, of IBT, looks at some of the new ways that television is used to raise public awareness of, and engagement with, development. The digital age provides many and varied ways to use the new technology and new media creatively. As NGOs, we must take every opportunity to think outside of our established ways of doing things – the struggle needs constant creativity and imagination to promote the development agenda as widely as possible.

The role of beneficiary voice in campaigning is fundamental to legitimacy and also an important contributor to effectiveness, yet it is a relatively unexplored area. BOND has been looking at this in more detail as part of the Campaigning Effectiveness programme and asks BOND members some challenging questions about how this can be achieved (see page 10).

Finally, the Members’ Area of the website is up and running and I encourage you to register and explore. Sign up on the homepage: www.bond.org.uk

As ever, we want to hear from you so please do contact us with your thoughts, views and suggestions: bond@bond.org.uk

With my very best wishes,



Nick Roseveare
Chief Executive



About BOND

BOND is the UK membership body for non-governmental organisations working in the international development sector. We promote the exchange of experience, ideas and information and, as the UK’s broadest network of international development organisations, provide our members with opportunities to influence change through collective action.

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About *The Networker*

The Networker is a bi-monthly publication that is sent to all BOND members and subscribers. It offers topical and forward-thinking features and news relevant to the sector, with the aim of inspiring thought, debate and reflection. It is complemented by a monthly e-bulletin, *Your Network*.

Contributing to *The Networker*

If you have an idea that you think would be of interest to readers, or if you would like to comment on this issue of *The Networker*, please contact Jemma Ashman, Communications and Marketing Officer: jashman@bond.org.uk

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Member Spotlight: International Tree Foundation

The International Tree Foundation plants, protects and promotes trees around the world in partnership with local communities.

Trees and forests are immeasurably precious; they provide shelter, fuel, medicine and nutrition and are central to many spiritual and cultural beliefs. Perhaps most importantly, they enable us to breathe. We have been protecting and planting trees for over 80 years and support projects that achieve the twin goals of improving lives and healing the planet.



©Samaritan's Purse

Training in nursery propagation

Projects primarily involve planting trees that provide food and income for local people; in many cases this simultaneously addresses environmental issues such as habitat restoration. There are often also fundamental rights issues involved such as access to ancestral land.

One project we are supporting is SUNARMA who work in Ethiopia to reverse the degradation of the Wof Washa Forest, one of the most important sources of water for North East Africa. They are working with local communities, with the long-term objective of helping families move from subsistence farming, to a market economy where income can be earned outside the forest area. The beneficiaries receive training in nursery propagation and produce seedlings of indigenous, multipurpose exotic and fruit trees to help with reforestation.

A common characteristic demonstrated by all of our projects is the inherent value in trees and forests to address some of the greatest challenges of our time in a sustainable and empowering way.

For more information:
info@internationaltreefoundation.org
www.internationaltreefoundation.org

Next membership round deadline

The next membership round deadline is **19 June 2009**. Full details on how to join BOND can be found on our website or by contacting the Membership and Communications team.

Email: membership@bond.org.uk
www.bond.org.uk/pages/membership.html

Staff news

Rebecca Evans, Membership and Communications Manager, will be going on a period of extended leave from June to November 2009. Her role will be covered by a temporary replacement.

BOND Annual Conference and AGM: Thursday 5 November 2009.

Please save Thursday 5 November in your diary and we will send further details in the next few months.

New members

Welcome to the following members who joined in the last membership round in February 2009.

- Amnesty International
- Central America Women's Network
- Great Britain China Centre
- Humanitarian Forum
- Jigjiga Rehabilitation and Resettlement Organisation
- Peace Direct
- Retrak
- St Mathew's Children's Fund Ethiopia
- Sudanese Development Programme (SDP) UK



Network Spotlight: Central America Women's Network

The Central America Women's Network (CAWN) is a London-based organisation that supports, publicises and learns from the struggles of women in Central America in the defence of their rights.

CAWN's work is grounded in strong and active links with the women's movement in Central America. Since our beginnings, we have worked with regional women's organisations that are active in defending their rights and increasing women's voice and presence in decision-making across the region.

In March 2009, CAWN invited two women's rights activists from our partner organisation Centro de Estudios de la Mujer – Honduras (CEM-H) to participate in a range of meetings across the UK to raise awareness and discuss about the situation of women's rights in the current political context in Honduras.

Several public events and talks were organised in Oxford, Manchester, Birmingham and London, where Maria Amalia Reyes and Sara Tome shared the successes and challenges of their work in tackling violence against women and their initiatives to influence policy and decision-makers for better and more sustainable services, policies and institutions for women.

The CAWN-CEMH project supports young and adult women in poor and marginalised communities, including ethnic minorities (indigenous Lenca and black Garifuna) affected by violence. CEM-H has been a pioneer in setting up self help groups for women to access services, emotional and legal support. The project provides training on reproductive rights, HIV and AIDS, self-esteem and practical income generation skills for their economic independence.

To continue this work, CAWN will be organising a seminar in November 2009, focusing upon the phenomenon of Femicides. Women's activists from Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras will be speaking in London and Brussels.

For further information: www.cawn.org

Charity Talks 2008-9

Building support among affinity groups - nationally organised, locally focussed community fundraising

Wednesday 17 June, 6.00pm for 6.30pm, London



Learn and reflect on how to apply principles of focussed relationship building to actual and potential affinity groups for your charity. Daleep Mukarji, Chief Executive of Christian Aid, and Sue Douthwaite, Course Leader, Cass CCE will be leading the talk.

For more information:
www.cass.city.ac.uk/cce

Two BOND members shortlisted for Charity Awards 2009

BOND members Mango and Build Africa have been shortlisted in the International aid and development category.

The awards ceremony takes place on **Thursday 11 June**

For more information:
www.charityawards.co.uk

The Guardian International Development Journalism Competition 2009

The competition highlights some of the issues facing the developing world which are under-represented by the media. To enter, write a 650-1000 word article on an aspect of global poverty covered by the themes set. The deadline for entries is 22 June 2009.

For more information:
www.guardian.co.uk/journalismcompetition



One World Media Awards 2009

Monday 22 June
London

Hosted by Jon Snow, the awards recognise the unique role of journalists and filmmakers in bridging the divide between different societies, and communicating the breadth of social, political and cultural experiences across the globe.

For more information:
info@oneworldmediaawards.org

Refugee Week: 15 - 21 June 2009



Refugee Week is a UK-wide programme of events which celebrate the contribution of refugees to the UK. The week will see

hundreds of events that explore refugee experiences across the UK. You can get involved either by organising or visiting an event or by just spreading the word.

For more information: www.refugeeweek.org.uk

International Rescue Committee UK Annual Lecture

Foreign Aid: dead right or dead wrong?
Monday 22 June 2009
The Royal Geographical Society, London

Dambisa Moyo, Yash Tandon and George Biddle will be debating the issues. It will be chaired by Mike Woodridge, BBC World Affairs Correspondence.

To book your space:
020 7692 2737

The Sheila McKechnie Awards 2009

The awards are given to individuals who show passion, tenacity and potential to create change for the better, or stop change that will make things worse. BOND sponsors the Global Action award.

Closing date for entries is Tuesday 30 June 2009.



For more information:
www.sheilamckechnie.org.uk

Put People First

More than 35,000 people took part in the Put People First March for Jobs, Justice and Climate on 28 March 2009 in London.

Marchers were calling on G20 leaders to deliver a democratic economy that delivers decent jobs and public services for all, an end to global poverty and inequality, and a safe climate. Five days after the march, G20 leaders to discuss the future of the global economy.

Civil society organisations were in unanimous agreement that the G20 communiqué did not deliver the break from 'business as usual' that the world needs. In particular the opportunity to signal the transition to a green economy was not seized, and concrete plans for increasing the accountability of the IMF were not forthcoming, despite a decision to increase its funding.

However, other announcements, including the transparency of tax havens, clearly showed the impact of the campaign and were cautiously welcomed. Gordon Brown proclaimed the Washington Consensus to be 'dead', opening up new ground for civil society to hold the Government to its word on issues such as conditionalities and enforced liberalisation.

Different voices on the outcomes of the summit can be found at the 'Policy news' page on the website: www.bond.org.uk/pages/responses-to-the-g20-summit.html

The next major international meeting is the G8 in Italy. If your organisation is taking action on this, please contact Tim Gee, BOND Campaigns Communications Officer tgee@bond.org.uk



Put People First march on 28 March 2009

NGOs and the news media must work together to tell stories of our world and its citizens and to encourage greater public participation. **Charlie Beckett** challenges NGOs to realise their media potential.

Here's the news

YOU ARE THE MEDIA



Here's a paradox that matters if you care about getting your message across to the public. The news media has never been more powerful and yet it is never been less powerful.

New technologies mean that journalists can now report from anywhere in the world to anyone on the planet more quickly and cleverly than ever before. Mobile phones, digital equipment and the internet have made journalism cheaper, easier and much more fun. Journalists now have the power. But the same new technologies are killing the mainstream news media. Advertising is zooming online faster than you can sign up with Facebook and the people formerly known as The Audience are finding much easier ways to get news than picking up a paper or turning on the telly.

This is not good news if you are a traditional journalist. But it might also be bad news if you are an NGO that wants people to know about your issues. How will you get your message out in a credible way? And it won't help if there isn't journalism around to hold the powerful to account on behalf of the poor and marginalised.

But here's the good news. The power is shifting to the people. And even better, it is shifting to the NGOs.

We are all journalists now

I am a journalist from a very traditional TV news background at the BBC and ITN's Channel 4 News. So this should worry me.

'All NGOs are in effect media organisations so it makes sense for them to engage with and support local media'

But in fact, I think it could be the best thing to happen to news since the invention of printing.

In my book *SuperMedia* I explain how journalism is changing and the threats to the old business model. I also set out the new ways that journalism is produced in collaboration between the citizen and the news media. I call it 'Networked Journalism'.

Put very simply it means that the public participates in all aspects of news production. They contribute material, they interact, blog, Twitter, put videos on YouTube and post comments. They ring in to radio talk shows and text complaints to the BBC. So the journalist changes from being someone who manufactures a product to someone who provides a service. They facilitate the consumer in their quest to find the news they want. Instead of telling the public what to think the journalist now helps create a conversation with the citizen about their world.

We now enjoy a super-abundance of data and the citizen wants someone to help edit and make sense of it all. That is what Networked Journalists do. They will tend to be people who work for news media brands like the BBC or *The Guardian*. But increasingly people are doing it for themselves. They are going to Google or RSS feeds or social networking sites to sort out their news information. Or they go direct to companies, governments and NGOs. And that is where you come in. You are all citizens and you work in NGOs, so you, too, will be journalists.

NGOs as gatekeepers should be old news

In the jargon of media studies, NGOs have become 'gatekeepers' for news. This is not entirely new. Michael Buerk's famous Ethiopia film back in 1984 was not 'pure' reporting. It was a trip facilitated by an NGO. And since then NGOs have become ruthlessly expert at 'helping' journalists to cover stories in return for a pretty easy ride from the news media. Most NGOs have press offices full of ex-journalists who find stories and create material which is handed over to grateful hacks.

I have always been uneasy about the effect of that relationship. Too often it was not open and it meant that the media rarely put NGOs under the scrutiny they deserve. Journalism is founded on critical independence. But the reality is that NGOs are communicating and the platforms are there for them to do so direct to the public. In practice I believe that it is possible and indeed desirable for the news media and NGOs to work together in a networked way.



Collaborative working demands transparency

After Cyclone Nargis when journalists could not get into Myanmar the BBC teamed up with Merlin who sent in two of their doctors. They acted as reporters for a film broadcast on Newsnight. The BBC kept final control but they could not have made it without Merlin. The collaboration was clear and the viewer ended up with a piece of revelatory and informative journalism.

So, welcome to my world of news media production. You are very welcome. But don't make the mistake that traditional media made and treat the public with contempt. If you are going to act like a journalist, a least try to be a good one. Be transparent and be interactive and accountable. Make sure that the public participates in your journalism or they will simply lose interest. And by the public I mean the citizens in the countries where you work as well as the people who fund you.

NGOs acting as media gatekeepers raises interesting ethical and political questions. Polis has been doing some fascinating research on this. We have teamed up with a couple of major international charities to look both at their campaigns work in this country as well as their use of the news media in areas where they work. Many other NGOs have taken part in the discussions around this research.

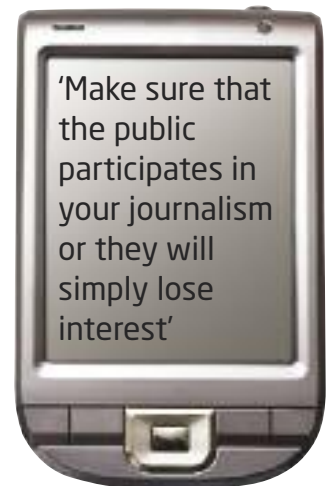
Engaging and supporting local media

We have been looking at how NGOs that claim to be democratic and devolved could do much more work with media in programme countries. Our work argues that media in developing countries is too important to be left to the classic Media Development organisations. The BBC World Service Trust and the Thompson Trust do a good job but it's not enough. We argue that all NGOs are in effect media organisations so it makes sense for them to engage with and support local media. Indeed, we think that anyone who believes in public participation in the development process should promote Networked Journalism wherever they work.

This means providing resources for partner organisations or field offices to do more than just put out press releases. Our research showed that development groups in the field recognise the advocacy and programme benefits of proactive Networked Journalism in development work. We saw how a community radio station used text messaging by its journalists and its listeners to create a journalism that was vibrant and open but that was also very effective as a social service. Too often NGOs see media work like this as a low priority or even as a contradiction of their programme strategies.

If they follow our advice they have to understand that it means investing in media literacy, media production and training for their staff and clients or partners. It might even mean forms of journalism education for local news media. But it has to be integrated

into programme work, not bolted on as a separate strand. And it always has to be on the Networked Journalism principle of thorough public participation. That way you build trust and transparency into the process and that is to the benefit of the public, the NGO and the journalism itself.



Charlie Beckett is the director of Polis, the journalism think-tank at the London School of Economics which does research and holds events on media and development and humanitarian communications.

Polis welcomes inquiries from NGOs about this work.
 Email: Polis@lse.ac.uk
 Website: www.polismedia.org
 Director's blog: www.charliebeckett.org

If our goal is to raise public awareness of, or engagement with, development then television needs to be a central element of the process, argues **Mark Galloway**.

REALITY CHECK

development on TV



Despite the huge growth in the internet in recent years, television remains the main source of information about the wider world for most people in the UK.

But if television is to be effective, we need to develop a greater understanding of how audiences respond to it. Which programmes engage and inspire them? Which programmes wash over them and fail to leave their mark?

In recent years, IBT in conjunction with the CBA-DFID Broadcast Media Scheme, has published a number of research reports, with the aim of deepening our understanding of audience behaviour. In our latest, *The World in Focus*, we have taken a representative cross section of the population and focused on UK citizens who are less engaged. Instead

of the usual one off focus group, we worked with them over a three month period. The result is a unique piece of research which shows that television has a huge potential to inform, engage and inspire, but, for a number of reasons, it is simply not realising that potential.

Where does the UK public get its information about development?

Media consumption habits are changing all the time but each new piece of research consistently demonstrates that – even for young people – television remains the dominant source. *New News, Future News*, a major piece of audience research conducted by the communications regulator, Ofcom, in 2006, asked UK citizens what their main source of news was. 65% said television

compared to 6% for the internet (14% for newspapers and 11% for radio) and when asked what sources they ever used for news, the figure using the internet rose to just 27% whereas 94% cited television.

'We must encourage television news to reflect a wider range of stories from developing countries and to search out more positive images'

'Entertainment shows could use a developing world setting to 'take them to places' which they might not otherwise go to'

DFID's Public Attitudes to Development 2008 survey also found that television remains the most commonly cited (80 % of survey respondents) source of information about poverty in developing countries. The internet was mentioned by just 15%. It appears that the internet is rarely the main source of information but is used as a supplementary source to follow up on a story already encountered elsewhere. This makes the internet an effective way of communicating with those who are already engaged and interested in the developing world but less effective for attracting the attention of the disengaged.

What this means for broadcasters, and NGOs

Given that television is the main source of information, which programmes successfully engage viewers and have an impact on their attitudes to development, and what are the lessons for broadcasters and NGOs? These were the central questions which we set out to answer when we commissioned *The World in Focus*.

There were two main findings. Firstly, the dominance of news and charity appeal TV (especially Comic Relief) meant that, amongst our respondents, the term 'developing world' prompted deeply ingrained responses dominated by images of malnourished children, flies, disease and dying babies. Therefore, if audiences are to acquire an understanding of the more complex realities of life in developing countries and the role which development plays, there is already a significant hurdle to cross. One of the first aims of those of us involved in working with broadcasters should be to encourage television news to reflect a wider range of stories from developing countries and to search out more positive images. Of course, this is a big ask as news inevitably deals with the bad rather than the good.

Secondly, content about developing countries has the potential to challenge and inform audiences either by providing new knowledge about places and cultures which audiences previously knew little about or by breaking down stereotypes. There is no magic formula, no single type of programme that is most effective in achieving this. But the traditional documentary or current affairs programme did not fare well with our participants. They preferred presenter-led shows like Bruce Parry's Amazon (BBC2) or Ross Kemp in Afghanistan (Sky1) or formats like Blood, Sweat and T-shirts (BBC3).

For some, reality TV formats set in developing countries – like *The World's Strictest Parents* (BBC3) – were one way of providing an entertaining way into understanding 'everyday life', and also a way of making connections with their own lives. For others, entertainment shows could use a developing world setting to 'take them to places' which they might not otherwise go to. As one participant commented, 'Top Gear, it's a programme about cars but they went up and down Vietnam on a bike. That way I'm getting the main programme but I'm getting the bit on the side as well. If they were coming at you with the information it would probably overpower you and you'd turn off'.

There was evidence to suggest that some audiences did pick up impressions of what life was like in developing countries which could, over time, challenge stereotypes. Indeed, one of the conclusions shared by most of those in our focus groups was a strong desire to see content which lay inbetween 'squalor and safari', which they described as 'real life', 'normal' and 'everyday lives'.

... and the implications for how audiences are understood

Previous studies of the relationship between audiences, the media and the developing world have attempted to create audience categories such as 'actively engaged' and 'passively disengaged' (Darnton, 2007) or 'active enthusiasts' and 'disapproving rejecters' (DFID, 2008). But the results of this study show that the reality of audience engagement is much more complex. What determines the programmes someone watches is not simply their level of engagement with developing countries, rather it is a function of dynamic and unpredictable factors such as what formats they enjoy, where they have been on holiday, what time of day they watch TV and who controls the television remote.

Furthermore, developing country programming is not a particular genre of television. All genres – including drama and entertainment – should be seen as having the capacity to include connections that relate audiences to developing countries. If government, broadcasters or NGOs want audiences to have greater engagement with developing countries then instead of attempting to provide certain types of programming for certain audiences, the focus should instead be on encouraging



The World's Strictest Parents, BBC3

broadcasters and producers to ensure all content offers as many potential connections as possible.

This is very much the goal of IBT's lobbying work. So far, we have achieved a BBC Charter commitment to 'bring the world to the UK' and a Channel 4 purpose to 'challenge people to see the world differently'. But there will be new broadcasting legislation in the autumn after the Government publishes its final Digital Britain report, and we'll need to ensure that in the future public service broadcasters continue to have a statutory commitment to international content across a range of genres.

IBT's strength lies in the fact that we represent a broad coalition of NGOs from the development sector, but we urgently need to extend our network. I hope NGOs feel inspired and encouraged to join us and support our lobbying work.



Written by Mark Galloway, Director at IBT. For more information about IBT: Email: mark@ibt.org.uk Website: www.ibt.org.uk

Thanks to Martin Scott, author of *The World in Focus*. *The World in Focus*, funded by DFID, will be published in June 2009 and will be available to download from the IBT website.

How we advance the voice of the poor, voiceless and excluded in our campaigning is a key to success in the fight against poverty and inequality.

Voices that matter

Gertruida Baartman, a 40-year old single mother with three children, earns just 38p per hour as a fruit farm labourer in South Africa. The fruit she picks ends up on Tesco's shelves in the UK. ActionAid enabled Gertruida to speak out about pay and conditions at the supermarket's annual meeting. She told 600 shareholders and Tesco's CEO, 'I don't get paid enough to feed my children and I have to work with pesticides with my bare hands. I don't get the same wages as other men even if I do the same work.'

Gertruida is one of the many people whose voice should be heard, yet, the role of beneficiary voice in campaigning in the UK has not yet been adequately explored. This is why BOND has initiated a beneficiary voice theme as part of its new and pioneering Campaigning Effectiveness programme.

Through discussions, BOND members have brought to the surface the need for practical solutions to ten key questions relating to beneficiary voice and campaigning in the UK. These questions were developed at peer exchange events in 2008-9 and, in the coming year, further peer exchange events and conferences will seek answers. These will draw on the expertise of the many organisations leading on these issues, as well as reflections about

what can be improved in campaigning practice. Outputs will include guidance notes and training courses for NGOs working on global issues.

We are also in conversation with UK groups campaigning domestically to produce resources for any organisation working on any kind of advocacy.

We would like to hear from interested members that have case studies, research or an ongoing interest in the theme of beneficiary voice in relation to public campaigning.

To keep in touch with developments in the Campaigning Effectiveness programme, and to find out how you can get involved, check our website (click on 'Campaigning') or contact Tim Gee, BOND Campaigns Communications Officer:

Email: advocacy@bond.org.uk
Telephone: 020 7520 0252

BOND is a partner in a campaigning and advocacy capacity building programme led by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) (www.ncvo-vol.org.uk) and supported by Capacitybuilders (www.improvingsupport.org.uk).



Gertruida Baartman with the fruit her labour helps produce for Tesco's shelves

Ten key questions on campaigning effectiveness and beneficiary voice that need to be explored

Conceptually

- What is meant by 'beneficiary' in campaigns and is there a typology of affected people(s) and partners that might be used to structure campaigning choices?
- How does involving beneficiaries in the stages of the campaign cycle affect its effectiveness?
- How can we best deal with power asymmetries in our campaigns, including wealth, gender, information and education, both between and within the North and South?

Behind the scenes

- How do we find our beneficiaries and what effect does this have on the campaign?
- When and how is it crucial to involve affected parties in the campaign strategising and planning process and what are the models for the governance and accountability of campaigns?
- How can we best bridge the differences in outlook that can occur between campaigners and other sections of our own organisations, for example, fundraising and programmes?

On the stage

- What are the best ways of giving beneficiaries and partners a voice in effective UK campaigns and how can we best use new media, media and 'face to face' strategies in this?
- How does visibility and connection of voice interrelate with what inspires activist and supporter involvement in a campaign in the UK?

Behind the scenes and on the stage

- How can the development community work better with Diaspora communities in the UK in campaigns on development issues affecting specific countries and regions?
- How do we work with vulnerable groups and give a platform to their voices if being seen to speak out could potentially bring harm?

AMREF is implementing a three-year development project to improve the lives of the people in the Katine sub-district of northeastern Uganda. What is unique about this project is that it receives daily coverage in *The Guardian*, in print and online.

Communicating development through the media



©Dan Brown/The Guardian

School children in Katine

There is no denying that the Katine project has received unprecedented media coverage, as well as unprecedented scrutiny, thanks to its partnership with *The Guardian*.

While the project brings sustainable benefits to the Katine community by improving access to health services, water, education, livelihoods and training and strengthening its civic committees and decision-making structures, it also provides an insight into the world of international development by allowing readers and supporters to follow the project in real time to understand how money is spent and how AMREF works to achieve long-term community development.

Transparency shows the reality of development

Numerous articles, blogs and commentaries critiquing our work, as well as the reflections of the external evaluator, mean we sometimes find ourselves taking criticism on the chin while attempting to defend our methods and ideas. However, it is precisely this that allows us to show what we do and how development actually works. The successes and failures in development and the level of humility that comes with being open and transparent make the story of development much more compelling. And although the media challenge

us to express why development takes time, they have the skill to translate development into something that is interesting for the general public, and offers a new perspective on our work that we continue to learn from.

Hearing the beneficiary voice

Using digital media in development gives an unmediated voice to the people we work with, making them agents of their own development; they become an actual voice in the debate on development. Framing development within a global context means that people can relate a human story to issues that affect them, for example, during the G20 summit, people from Katine gave their views of what world leaders should focus on.

The coverage allows readers to relate to the beneficiaries of the project as individuals, through stories and blogs, online chats and short films made by the people of Katine, rather than avatars of suffering, thus breaking down certain persistent stereotypes in development.

This model of telling the story of development moves away from focusing exclusively on abject need and showing instead how and why need exists in a community. Katine is more representative of someone's experience of Africa where people are people.

Regular updates allow supporters to follow our work over time, showing the real-life impact of their support and encouraging them to think differently about how their money is used; a form of self-journalism for NGOs.

Technological challenges

Digital media necessitates considerable communications. Unreliable internet connection and the challenges of operating in a rural setting can limit community engagement. Tensions between the pace of development (slow) and media coverage (very fast) have occasionally strained the partners' relationship. There has been a steep technological learning curve.

Training villagers to blog has taken longer than expected, as the tradition of oral storytelling, very strong in Katine, does not always translate easily into online communication. There are cultural sensitivities and different perceptions of working with the media in a developed versus a developing country. Managing community expectations has also been a challenge with frequent media visits raising expectations.

Communities at the centre of development

We believe we are breaking new ground in communicating development to multiple audiences and by presenting a view of African development beyond poverty, conflict and disease. What is critical however is that communities are kept at the centre of communication for development. This approach works because it is a dialogue between beneficiaries, NGOs, the media, and the public that tells the story of development over time and through all of the people involved in the process. We must never lose sight of this.

Written by Grace Mukasa, Director of Programmes and Advocacy, and Claudia Codsì, Uganda Partnerships Manager, at AMREF.

For more information:
www.amref.org
www.guardian.co.uk/katine

The Katine project is run in partnership with *The Guardian* and Barclays and with technical support from FARM-Africa. The project is being funded by donations from Guardian readers and Barclays who are donating £1.5m to the project and drawing on its business expertise to promote financial education and the provision of basic savings and loans services.

AMREF UK manages the fundraising, communications, and advocacy components of the project within the UK, working with *The Guardian* to facilitate reporting, while AMREF Uganda delivers the project on the ground in Katine.



In 2009, representatives will be elected to the European Parliament, a new European Commission will be appointed and the EU budget will be reviewed. **Romina Vegro** looks at the implications for development.



A woman walks with an umbrella donated by the European Union

©Dieter Telemans/Panos Pictures

EU elections signal wind of change

On 4 June 2009, residents of the 27 European Union (EU) member states will elect their representatives to the European Parliament for the next five years, signalling the beginning of a crucial time that will define the EU's institutional architecture and budgetary system for years to come.

A new European Commission

In November, six months after the election of the new European Parliament, a new European Commission will be appointed and 27 new Commissioners will be chosen, one for each member state. The new Commission might have a different administrative structure from the current one, where development cooperation is divided between the Directorate General for Development and Relations with African, Caribbean and Pacific States (DG Development) and the Directorate General for External Relations (DG RELEX).

Ratification of the Lisbon Treaty

Meanwhile, the ratification process of the Lisbon Treaty is still underway in two of the EU member states, Ireland and Czech Republic. Ireland plans to hold a second referendum in October and, if the results are in favour of ratification, the Lisbon Treaty could come into force on 1 January 2010.

This would bring a number of reforms including the creation of a post of High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy who would be in charge of EU foreign policy and would be supported by a new EU 'diplomatic service', the European External Action Service (EEAS). The EEAS is made up of national and EU diplomats and officials from the European Commission.

EU budget review

Finally, the European Commission is undertaking a fundamental review of the EU budget which will look both at income and expenditure of the EU and, among other areas, will assess the size and way of funding of the EU budget, the reform of the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) and the balance between EU policy priorities.

These changes will have major implications for EU development and humanitarian policies and for the way development cooperation and humanitarian assistance are implemented. The future political space for development within the new institutional structure that will emerge is at stake.

Reform implications for development

On one hand, the upcoming reforms carry a unique opportunity to ensure that there is greater coherence between development cooperation and other EU external action policies and to improve effectiveness and impact of EC development cooperation. However, attempts to consolidate the EU's profile on foreign and security policy and to strengthen the EU external action and strategic vision also bring a potential danger of increased politicisation of development cooperation or instrumentalisation of development funds for implementing foreign policy objectives.

From a development point of view it is vital that, whatever direction the EU decides to take on future institutional reforms, poverty eradication remains the primary objective of European development policy and coherence is ensured between the EU external affairs and development objectives as stated in the European Consensus on Development. This will avoid subordinating development instruments

to a narrowly defined foreign policy agenda or Europe's commercial objectives. This should be translated into practice by:

- Having a dedicated commissioner for development who is in a position to promote the interest of EU development policy within the College of Commissioners and towards the Council. The Commissioner should have a say not only on policy formulation and funding but also on implementation of development policies in order to end the inconsistencies caused by the gap between policy and implementation in the current structure
- Having a dedicated administrative structure responsible for EU development policy and its implementation that has a clear focus on development objectives and sufficient capacity and is responsible for development policy and programming in all developing countries – African, Caribbean, Pacific, Asian and Latin American countries – to avoid current inconsistencies due to the split between DG Development and DG Relex

Most importantly, EU member states will have to show the political will to ensure that the new arrangements work and that their commitments to poverty eradication and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals are fully implemented and funded.

More information is on the 'EU Policy' and 'Campaigning in Europe' pages on the website.

The BOND European Policy Group develops advocacy and policy initiatives on EU development policy issues. To find out more, or if you are a BOND member to sign up to the group, go to the 'Groups' page on the website: www.bond.org.uk/pages/epg.html

BOND

INFLUENCED THE

DEBATE

In May, BOND sent a joint White Paper submission to DFID reflecting on key concerns and contributions by BOND members and BOND groups. Following the end of the public consultation process, DFID will present their new White Paper to Parliament in July 2009.

Key focus of the joint submission was on the four themes DFID laid out in their consultation document:

- Global economic growth
- Climate change
- Conflict and fragile states
- International institutional reform

However, the BOND submission also looked beyond these themes covering cross-cutting issues such as human rights, gender equality, the role of the Millennium Development Goals and other key priorities of the sector.

Many BOND members and BOND groups actively engaged in the consultation process, by contributing to the BOND submission, sending in their thoughts to DFID, engaging in different White Paper consultation meetings and participating in DFID's public events around the UK. BOND members are now looking at DFID to produce a progressive, forward looking and strong White Paper to deal with current and future challenges in development.

The BOND secretariat would like to thank everyone for the hard work done. As in 2006, BOND again put together a strong joint submission which reflects the priorities and positions of the network.

The BOND submission and next steps on the DFID White Paper can be found at: www.bond.org.uk/pages/white-paper-consultation.html

What BOND members say

'A key message is around global interdependence. It is essential that the UK public better understand this global interdependence and its implications for their lives and the choices they make'

'Economic growth is a vital component of poverty reduction but on its own is insufficient. Growth must be sustainable, inclusive and equitable'

'The UK government needs to recognise that climate change must be considered in the context of global justice, equity, and interdependence, and in the wider context of the natural environment and the ecosystem goods and services we all depend on - but the poorest most directly'

'The White Paper should note that financing for mitigation and adaptation must be additional to the 0.7% aid targets'

'The Millennium Development Goals must remain central to development policy in the next six years'

'Action on agriculture, income opportunities, education and health must focus on inclusion of the most marginalised, including disabled people men, women and children'

'To make international institutions more effective and more responsive to those in whose name they claim to work, the democratic and transparency structures of the institutions must undergo a radical overhaul. While abandoning archaic traditions, such as the head of the World Bank must always be an American, signify change, the reform of international institutions must be deep and far reaching'

'DFID should acknowledge the linkages between essential services - health, education and water and sanitation - and shape its development policies accordingly'

These quotes are taken from formal and informal contributions by different members to give a flavour of different priorities and perspectives across the sector. These quotes do not claim to be a representative summary of BOND members' views on the White Paper.



The annual AidWatch report outlines EU member state performance on aid quality and quantity in 2008. While there is some good news, explains **Anders Dahlbeck**, aid figures are still inflated.



© Lucas Jans

Education is often dependent on aid

The report, launched on 14 May 2009, is an important moment for European civil society to hold national governments to account on their aid performance.

It shows that, while many EU member states were on track to meet their commitments in terms of quantity, many others were not, and there was generally a problem in the quality of the aid provided.

Among the best aid performers in 2008 were Sweden and Denmark who both dedicated around 1% of their Gross National Income (GNI) to aid. The worst performers were Bulgaria and Latvia, themselves relatively low income countries, who provided less than 0.1% of their GNI to aid. In Bulgaria aid levels decreased by 27% from the year before.

The UK fared relatively well in comparison with other EU countries. Aid increased by 24% in real terms (by 17% when debt cancellation is discounted), to \$11.4 billion, equivalent to 0.43% of UK GNI. This followed a 29.1% fall in 2007 and left UK aid just above its 2005 level. The AidWatch report found that there is cross-party support for the UK to reach its 0.7% of GNI target by 2013 and concrete spending plans are in place to reach 0.56% by 2010 – 11.

Aid figures still inflated

The AidWatch report highlights the fact that official numbers provided by European governments tend to be inflated and include

items as aid that are not actually aid. Out of the almost €50bn that European governments say they provided as aid in 2008, almost €5bn is debt cancellation, €2bn is student costs and close to €1bn is refugee costs.

When these figures are discounted from the glossy official numbers, European aid amounted to only 0.34% of collective GNI, nothing like the officially reported 0.40% and a very long distance from the 2010 target of 0.56%. This is a tiny increase compared to the 0.33% level of genuine aid provided in 2007.

Quality improvements needed

Along with calling on EU governments to only declare genuine aid, the AidWatch report sets out how the quality of aid needs to improve. One way for this to happen is better aid transparency. Good transparency is critical for improving democratic accountability mechanisms at country level through enabling citizens and parliaments, in donor and recipient countries to fight corruption, ensure aid is spent on its intended purposes, and hold their governments to account.

Another problem with the quality of aid is that it is often given in the form of tied aid. This means that aid is given on the condition that the beneficiary will use it to purchase goods and services from suppliers based in the donor country. The problem with tied aid is that it fails to boost demand and create jobs in recipient countries. Tied aid also decreases the real value of aid because it makes it more expensive.

Aid continues to matter

While systematic change is needed to ensure a fairer world, this does not detract from the need to provide high quality aid to poorer countries. Through large scale bank bailouts, EU governments have clearly showed that if the will is there, large quantities of money can be mobilised for the right cause and now they shall not retreat from their aid commitments. For those whose education, health care and daily survival depends on it, aid is as important as ever.

It is therefore imperative for European civil society to continue making the case for national governments to stick to the commitments they have made; to provide high quality, genuine and transparent aid which represents 0.7% GNI.

The AidWatch report is written by the pan-European development NGO confederation CONCORD and its members, including BOND and its partner network the UK Aid Network.

For more information, go to the 'Campaigning in Europe' page on the website:
www.bond.org.uk/pages/eu_campaigning.html

Read an interview with Jasmine Burnley, AidWatch Coordinator:
www.bond.org.uk/pages/jasmineburnley.html

What's on offer

books for NGOs

Here Comes Everybody: How Change Happens When People Come Together

Clay Shirky
Penguin, 2009

This book is all about, in his own words, 'what happens when people are given the tools to do things together, without needing traditional organisational structures'.

Clay's emphasis, rather on the technology itself, is that it is only when a technology becomes old and mundane does its social affects start to become interesting – it is only when the masses are capable of using a technology does its affect on society reach a critical mass. The internet has been about for decades now, it is no longer new, we are no longer surprised to hear of new groups forming from connections made and developed through social media tools. Now comes the interesting bit...

An essential read for anybody who is looking to harness this social change, Clay has plenty to say how social media tools make working together different. The internet has radically reduced the costs of forming groups and undertaking collective action. There will therefore be a proliferation of groups springing into existence that could never have existed before. Clay rightly identifies that this new freedom to form groups isn't without its problems; society will have to shift its focus preventing groups from forming to deciding on which to oppose.

Drawing a parallel with the development of the printing press and its affect on the traditional scribe, Clay sees the internet changing the ways in which the established forms of organisations will have to adapt to the new environment. Just as the scribe was the 'bottleneck' (read vested interest) in the production of material for distribution, the traditional reporter was the 'bottleneck'. However he is less enlightening on how we can ensure that no new 'bottleneck' inhibits the flow of information into the future.

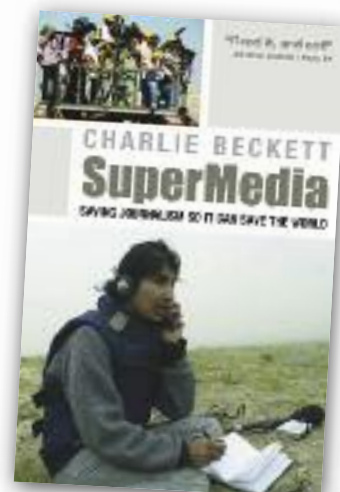
In the epilogue Clay details the activity on various social media tools to the 2008 Sichuan earthquake. The speed with which information was shared is dramatic and the detailed contained is comprehensive. This response has help form new social connections between China and the rest of the world despite the Chinese Government's attempts at restriction. Clearly there are a number dynamics at play in which there is plenty to feel positive about.



SuperMedia: Saving Journalism So It Can Save The World

Charlie Beckett
Wiley-Blackwell, 2008

SuperMedia: Saving Journalism So It Can Save The World, by Polis Director Charlie Beckett, is the first detailed manifesto for "Networked Journalism" based on Polis research and debates. It surveys the new media landscape, outlines the crisis facing journalism and the opportunities on offer for a radical new relationship between the media and the public. It includes one section devoted to the role of new forms of journalism in promoting governance and development in Africa.



Beyond Developmentality: Constructing Inclusive Freedom and Sustainability

Debal Deb, with foreword by Richard Norgaard
Earthscan, 2009

This incisive, epic work turns the dominant industrial development model and its economics upside down and argues for a new way of thinking about the meaning of development and the complexion of our economy. The book traces the origin and development of the concept of development in the economic context, and suggests a way to achieving post-industrial development with zero industrial growth.

It argues that sustainable development is possible only when concerns for biodiversity and human development are put at the centre of the economy and social policy. It both provides a theoretical foundation to sustainability and presents practical instances of sustainable production systems.



If you feel inspired and would like to write a book review, please contact Jemma Ashman, Communications and Marketing Officer: jashman@bond.org.uk

Written by Matt Morris, BOND Database and Website Development Officer.
For more information:
www.herecomeseverybody.org,
www.shirky.com, @cshirky

What is advocacy and how is it measured?
The BOND Advocacy Capacity Building Group explain.

Advocacy: rising to the challenge



©WaterAid/Adam Rubin

WaterAid campaigners highlight issues of poor sanitation on World Health Day 2009

It is increasingly recognised that social development projects can only have limited success when conducted within a local and global environment of gross inequality and wealth. Many organisations involved in social development are addressing this problem by engaging in advocacy programmes which aim to change this wider context.

The challenge of understanding the role of advocacy

Advocacy for social development can be described as the strategic use of information to influence key decision-makers, to democratise unequal power relations and to improve the conditions of those living in poverty or suffering discrimination.

Two key advocacy methods are campaigning, where people are mobilised en masse in publicly visible processes, and lobbying, a more private process which targets powerful individuals and decision-makers. Whatever the method, advocacy's aim is to challenge the root causes of poverty and discrimination, by seeking specific changes in policy or practice that favour the poor.

Some advocacy work is targeted at changing national, and international, policy and practice. But it is also rooted at the grassroots local level, with communities and their members

empowered and enabled to take action for themselves to achieve change.

None of this negates the direct service delivery work of civil society organisations (CSOs). However, there is increasing demand for civil society to participate in the process of policy and practice change. One addresses the effects of poverty; the other, the causes. Together, they can aim for sustained long-term change.

The challenge of monitoring and evaluating advocacy

Monitoring and evaluating the impact of advocacy can be complex and difficult. It can often be hard to see and attribute unexpected and sudden changes. Advocacy timeframes tend to be long. External factors and actors can be unpredictable. Sometimes change is partial rather than complete. Attribution is difficult for advocacy conducted in coalitions and alliances. And traditional impact assessment is often inappropriate.

Nonetheless, every advocacy plan needs to incorporate monitoring and evaluating from the outset, and it should influence the outworking of each plan at every stage. Plans with clear objectives, indicators, targets and a stakeholder analysis make monitoring simple and evaluation of progress possible.

Monitoring and evaluation relies on collecting, and analysing, information about the positive and negative aspects of your work and its progress. It is concerned with answering questions about outputs, objectives and impacts. This information has to be collected throughout the project's operation to assess progress in periodic evaluations and to understand the project's impact.

The challenge of setting advocacy indicators

In setting indicators, it is important to ask: What is being measured? Why? Who for? Where possible, indicators should be both quantitative (numbers) and qualitative (narrative).

The difficulty is that much advocacy work results in things that cannot be recorded statistically. For example, the quality and tone of speeches made by key decision-makers, the networks established, and new policies drafted. The linkages between activities, outputs, outcomes and goals are difficult to measure, let alone predict! Each step depends to some extent on the response of those who have been the target of the advocacy activity. In these cases, the activity needs to be accompanied by a narrative analysis. Otherwise, understanding will be restricted.

Good monitoring and evaluation helps guide actions to ensure they are as effective as possible. It also provides the information needed for reporting accountability, assessing performance, documenting learning, and improving communications.

Without good monitoring and evaluation, it would be very difficult to assess impact. Yet impact is the key to showing how advocacy complements service-delivery in transforming the lives of those impacted by poverty and discrimination. We need to rise to the challenge.

Written by Mary O' Connell (WaterAid) and Joanna Watson (Tearfund) who are both Steering Group Members of the BOND Advocacy Capacity Building Group.

The mandate of the BOND Advocacy Capacity Building Group is to support effective policy analysis, engagement and advocacy by CSOs in the South. The quarterly meetings focus on specific themes including programme and policy integration, structures required to support advocacy with partners; communications tools; and, monitoring and evaluation in advocacy work.

For more information:
www.bond.org.uk/groups

BOND members can join the group and take part in discussions by logging onto the 'members area' of the website:
www.bond.org.uk/join.php

Group Spotlight:

Governance Group

The BOND Governance Group was formed in autumn 2008 to provide a common platform for UK NGOs working on international development and focussing on governance issues - both at the policy and practice levels.

The group jointly influences policy processes within the UK and EU and enhances common learning and sharing among its members.

Current work focuses on various issues including:

- Decentralisation and local governance
- Fragility and fragile states
- Corruption and public accountability

The first two issues were identified through a scoping exercise amongst the members. The results revealed that making decentralisation work for the poor and re-evaluating the UK Government's policy and perspectives on the concept of 'fragility' and 'fragile states' and its real impact on citizens and poor communities in developing countries were major challenges.

The third issue, corruption and public accountability, will see the UK and other governments adopt an effective review mechanism for the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), with the UK setting role model best practice in international standards to tackle corruption. To this end, members have been engaging with the UK pilot review process of the implementation of Convention and is also having ongoing meetings with public officials on the draft UK Anti-Bribery Bill prepared in March 2009.

The group will launch on 25 June 2009. The steering committee is planning a roundtable dialogue that promises to stimulate thought and debate around the theme of 'making governance work for the poor'. Some of the speakers expected to attend include, Paul Collier, Professor of Economics at the Oxford University, Sue Unsworth, Research Associate, Institute of Development Studies, Mark Robinson, Head of Governance, DFID, and Alison Evans, Director, Overseas Development Institute.

If you are a BOND member and interested in governance issues in international development why not join the group? Contact Eeva Sarkinen, Membership and Networks Officer, for more information:

Email: esarkinnen@bond.org.uk

Join Us!

If you are a BOND member and understand the challenges facing small NGOs why not join the Small NGOs Group Advisory Panel to make your thoughts and ideas count.

The Advisory Panel work closely with the BOND secretariat to influence and shape BOND services to meet genuine needs.

To find out more, contact Eeva Sarkinen, Membership and Networks Officer, esarkinnen@bond.org.uk

Upcoming BOND groups meetings

Quality Group

Thursday 11 June, 1:30pm – 5:00pm

The Great Debate: The Strengths and Weaknesses of Logframes. Come and hear well-researched evidence on both sides of one of the most important - and contested - questions in managing and reporting performance today. Then make up your own mind!

For more information or to register: groups@bond.org.uk

Organisational Learning Group

Wednesday 17 June

Quarterly meeting: 10:00am – 1:00pm

Learning Practitioner Exchange: 2:00pm – 5:00pm

Please register for this meeting online in the relevant group area.

Advocacy and Capacity Building Group

Wednesday 17 June, 2:00pm – 5:00pm

Please register for this meeting online in the relevant group area.

Voluntary Income Fundraising Group

Wednesday 17 June, 2:00pm – 5:00pm

Please register for this meeting online in the relevant group area.

Governance Group

Thursday 25 June, time to be confirmed

Please register for this meeting online in the relevant group area.

Funding Working Group

Friday 11 September, 10:00am – 1:00pm

Please register for this meeting online in the relevant group area.

EC Funding Group

Friday 11 September, 2:00pm – 5:00pm

Please register for this meeting online in the relevant group area.

BOND groups are online

All BOND groups are now online. This is a members' only area and you will need to register to access the pages.

To register: www.bond.org.uk/join.php

Once there, you will be able to:

- Register to attend BOND groups meetings
- Sign up to BOND groups and emails
- Share work, thoughts and expertise in the discussion forums
- Book onto BOND learning and training courses
- Download past issues of *The Networker*

More features are coming soon





A guide to redundancy

Question:

Having recently lost a significant source of funding because of the current financial climate, we have to consider decreasing our staff team. What are we legally required to do if we make redundancies?

Answer:

First, you need to determine if there is a redundancy situation.

The meaning of the word 'redundant' in common parlance is 'no longer needed or useful; superfluous', according to the Concise Oxford English Dictionary, Tenth Edition.

Assuming that you, the employer, do not wish to make twenty or more employees at one establishment redundant within a period of 90 days or less (which would then entail different legal obligations not covered in this article), you must ensure that your circumstances fall within the definition of redundancy contained at s139 of the Employment Rights Act 1996. A loss of funding situation might fall within s139(1)(b) namely:

'the fact that the requirements of that business –

a. for employees to carry out work of a particular kind, or

b. for employees to carry out work of a particular kind in the place where the employee was employed by the employer, have ceased or diminished or are expected to cease or diminish'

Warning!

You should seek to give all employees affected as much notice as is possible of an impending redundancy situation.

Genuine consultation

You should aim to consult with all employees affected including those who are absent due to illness or maternity leave. Consultation must take place when the proposals are still at a formative stage and employees should be given adequate information and time in which to respond. You must conscientiously consider any responses to the consultation.

Careful selection

This will require you to consider and design a fair and objective selection process, and ensure its fair implementation. Objective or neutral criteria commonly used include:

- skills/qualifications/training
- experience
- time keeping
- disciplinary record
- future potential

However, you will need to identify criteria that suit your own particular organisation and employees. You must also ensure that the criteria adopted do not disproportionately impact on any particular groups of employees, such as those on maternity leave or suffering from a disability, who may then have claims for discrimination.

Redeployment/suitable alternative employment

You are obliged to redeploy any employee at risk of redundancy into any suitable vacancy that exists or arises during the redundancy exercise.

The statutory procedures

Finally, until they are abolished later this year, you will need to comply with the Statutory Dismissal and Disciplinary Procedures. These are:

- a. **Letter** – to set out in writing the circumstances which lead you to contemplate dismissing the employee. You must send the statement to the employee and invite the employee to attend a meeting to discuss the matter.
- b. **Meeting** – this must take place before you take any action. In advance of the meeting you must provide the employee with information as to why you consider there is a redundancy situation, the selection criteria used and your assessment of the employee against those criteria.
- c. **Appeal** – after the meeting you must inform the employee of your decision and notify them of their right to appeal. If the employee appeals, you must invite them to attend a further meeting.

If the employee can prove that you dismissed or unfairly selected them for redundancy, your organisation may be ordered to pay the employee compensation for any financial losses they have incurred up to the relevant statutory limit (currently over £65,000). Or in a discrimination claim, you may be ordered to pay unlimited damages and compensation for injury to feelings. In addition, the employee may be entitled to statutory or enhanced redundancy pay.

Claire Darwin is a barrister at Matrix Chambers who specialises in Employment Law.

This article is a brief overview of a complicated area of law and is intended as a summary of redundancy procedures only. This article should not be used as a substitute for specific legal advice.

Advocates for International Development (A4ID), a BOND member, facilitates the provision of free legal advice to development organisations.

Further details can be found at www.a4id.org

NGOs and development research resources



The right in-depth research and information is crucial for NGOs' programme, policy and advocacy work, and knowledge of the development sector is vital for NGOs themselves as well as for all their stakeholders. Some of the key on-line resources available include:

About development

Research for development – a portal for research funded by DFID, contains a database of research and research contacts which is searchable by country or theme.

www.research4development.info

INTRAC – International NGO Training and Research Centre, includes short briefing notes on research and practice on topics such as evaluation, dilemmas of humanitarian development, and INGOs and indigenous social movements. www.intrac.org

ODI – Overseas Development Institute, an independent think tank on international development and humanitarian issues. On-line resources range from blogs to briefing papers. www.odi.org.uk

IDS - Institute of Development Studies, research, teaching and communications on international development. www.ids.ac.uk go to 'Knowledge services' to access a range of reports on development issues.

IDS hosts Eldis, which contains a large database of documents from over 7,500 development organisations. www.eldis.org

DSA – Development Studies Association, a membership organisation for people studying, teaching and researching development issues. Membership is for individuals and institutions. www.devstud.org.uk

DESTIN – Development Studies Institute at LSE, promotes teaching and research on processes of social, political and economic development and change. Working papers on many relevant issues are available to download, and the centre also runs seminars and events. www.lse.ac.uk – go to 'All departments' and 'DESTIN' in alphabetical list.

About the UK voluntary or third sector

Office of the Third Sector – Government led and sponsored research, including surveys on citizenship, the state of the sector and volunteering and charitable giving, estimates of central and local government spending on the sector, research on measuring the sector and the sector's access to finance, and third sector review discussion papers.

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk – go to 'Third Sector' to access the OTS site, then 'Research and statistics'.

The new **Third Sector Research Centre** aims to develop a research programme that will lead to improved understanding of the key patterns, processes and impacts of developments in the sector. The Centre seeks to strengthen the evidence base for policy towards the sector, and will act as a resource for the sector itself.

www.trsc.ac.uk

For more information on BOND's sector advocacy work go to the 'Sector' pages on the website:

www.bond.org.uk

NCVO / VSSN Researching the Voluntary Sector Conference

7 - 8 September 2009

University of Warwick, Coventry

This event is aimed at academics, practitioners and policymakers with a shared interest in the voluntary sector and voluntary action.

www.ncvo-vol.org.uk – go to 'Events'



G20 protests in London

The right to protest

A significant number of BOND members use advocacy and campaigning as one way of meeting their organisation's objectives.

Campaigning has been recognised by the Charity Commission as a legitimate way for charities to achieve their goals, and a charity can decide to devote all or most of its resources to this aspect of their work. One of the tools of an effective campaign is a public demonstration to raise awareness of an issue and of the public support that a NGO has for its campaign goals. The right to hold peaceful demonstrations is therefore crucial, but recent events around the G20 protests have highlighted some current threats to that right.

The right to protest is underpinned by human rights law including the rights to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression. The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights has recently produced a report on its inquiry into the policing of protests in the UK, which considered evidence from various NGOs and activists. It recommends a number of changes to legislation and police practices.

Check the 'Sector' pages of the BOND website for an update on Government response to the report.

Contact Clare Palmer, Sector Advocacy Officer, if your campaigning work has been hampered by legal barriers or if you would like to get involved in any joint lobbying in this area:

Email: advocacy@bond.org.uk



UK

DFID Annual Report

DFID will publish its Annual Report for April 2008 – March 2009 in July 2009.

For more information: www.dfid.gov.uk



DFID publishing new White Paper in July

Secretary of State Douglas Alexander is presenting the new White Paper on International Development to UK Parliament in July 2009. This will be the fourth DFID White Paper since DFID was established as an independent department in 1997.

The new White Paper will focus on interconnectedness and highlighting four key themes:

- Global economic growth
- Climate change
- Conflict and fragile states
- International institutional reform

The official consultation process ended in May and BOND sent a joint submission emphasising key concerns by BOND members.

For details of the BOND submission and more information on the White Paper process: www.bond.org.uk/pages/white-paper-consultation

Read the demands and views of some BOND members on page 13 of this issue of *The Networker*.



EU

EU Parliamentary Elections

On 4 June 2009, UK residents voted to elect their Members of the European Parliament (MEPs). The European Parliament makes decisions about EU budgets, scrutinises aid programmes including Country Strategy Papers and ratifies all European trade agreements.

Visit the European Parliament website to see the final results: www.europarl.eu

Sweden taking over EU Presidency

On 1 July 2009, Sweden will take over the Presidency of the EU. The overarching priorities for the Swedish Presidency will include climate, energy and environment and the EU as a global actor and continued enlargement.

For more information: www.se2009.eu

Meeting of the General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC)

Development Ministers from EU member states came together at this biannual meeting. Key items on the agenda were trade, aid commitments and the impact of the financial crisis on developing countries.

An analysis of the outcomes of the GAERC meeting can be found at the CONCORD website: www.concordeurope.org

AidWatch report launched

The 2009 AidWatch report has been launched. The CONCORD AidWatch Initiative monitors and advocates on the quantity and quality of the Official Development Assistance (ODA) provided by European member states and the European Commission.

For more information, read the article on the AidWatch report on page 14 of this issue of *The Networker*.

Further details, including the report, are on the BOND website: www.bond.org.uk/pages/aidwatch



International

Meeting of the G8 finance ministers

The meeting takes place on 12 June 2009 in Venice, Italy. The agenda is expected to cover development and the Millennium Development Goals.

G8 Summit

Italy, 8 -10 July 2009

Climate change, energy and food security and development in Africa will all be part of the 2009 G8 agenda this July. Leaders at the Summit will also discuss the global economy following the outcomes of the G20 Summit in London earlier this year.

International civil society met in Rome in early May to discuss key demands for this G8 which they will present to G8 leaders ahead of the Summit.

At a UK level, several BOND members and coalitions are lobbying the UK and other G8 governments on sticking to their commitments in the areas of water and sanitation, health and education.

Particular concerns have been raised by UK and international civil society about the Italian proposal of applying a 'whole of country approach' to development which will not only include aid flows to developing countries but also foreign, trade and economic policies. It is feared that this approach will be used to distract attention from G8 countries cutting their aid budgets.

For more information on the agenda of the G8 Summit and UK and international civil society demands: www.bond.org.uk/pages/g8.html

World Population Day

11 July 2009

On this day, the UN marks the anniversary of the day, in 1987, when the world's population exceeded five billion. This is a day to think about population-related issues in an increasingly crowded world.

Key challenges that emerge as consequence of increasing populations, such as demographic changes, ageing populations and increasing urbanisation and migration, need to be taken into account by development actors and decision-makers at both national and international levels, says the United Nations Population Fund.

For more information: www.unfpa.org/wpd/
www.brettonwoodsproject.org

EC funding: deconcentration and working with EC delegations

Do you manage EC grants? Do you, or your partners, work with EC delegations in country?

BOND's EC Funding Group is gathering information on delegations to feed into discussion about deconcentration within CONCORD's working group on Funding for Development and Relief (FDR).

If you have comments about particular EC delegations or any reflections on working with delegations, the EC Funding Group would like to hear from you. BOND is represented in the CONCORD FDR Deconcentration group by Simon Derry (BBC World Service Trust) and Mark Stroud (Action on Disability and Development).

Please email your input to Joni Hillman to pass on: jhillman@bond.org.uk

Big Lottery Fund: Big Thinking consultation

Thank you to all BOND members who contributed to the recent Big Lottery Fund Big Thinking consultation.

Feedback from BIG has been very positive, with staff and trustees finding the consultation meeting at BOND a useful experience and a great opportunity to find out more about the challenges facing international development NGOs, as well as the impact and reach that has been achieved with funds from the International Programme.

BOND members, led by the Funding Working Group, communicated key messages about the value of the International Programme and the importance of retaining a flexible, broad approach to funding UK NGOs. BIG have commented on the high number of consultation responses they received from the international development sector so thank you to all those who completed the online questionnaire.

We expect to hear initial responses and a new strategic framework from BIG in June or July.

For more information on the BIG consultation, please contact Joni Hillman: jhillman@bond.org.uk



BOND: upcoming funding and finance courses

Putting together a funding proposal
1-2 July 2009

Managing your finances
14 July 2009

For a full list of all our learning and training events, and details of how to book:

www.bond.org.uk/learn
Email: learn@bond.org.uk
Tel: 020 7520 0242

Next BOND groups meetings

Voluntary Income Fundraising Group
17 June, 2.00pm – 5.00pm

Funding Working Group
11 September, 10.00am – 1.00pm

EC Funding Group
11 September, 2.00pm – 5.00pm

Please register for these meetings online in the relevant group area.

New EC funding resources online

There are now many new resources related to EC funding online, including information on:

- Financial Regulation, including PADOR
- ECHO
- Visibility
- Food Facility
- Water Facility
- Latest calls for proposals

To access the EC Funding Group, go to www.bond.org.uk/join.php and follow the registration instructions.



EC Funding Advice Line

Are you considering putting in a proposal to the EC? Are you managing an EC Grant?

If so, our EC Funding Advice Line can help!

The line offers:

- answers to questions on your funding applications
- help meeting grant report requirements
- the latest information on the co-funding budget line 21 02 03
- telephone and email contact with Angela James, an expert on EC funding issues with a wealth of experience, contacts and information

For more information and to find out how to subscribe email: funding@bond.org.uk

It is vital that we put the beneficiary voice at the heart of our work and how we do accountability, stresses **Matthew Frost**.

Development People



Global Church in Burkina Faso

What are you working on at the moment and what impact do you hope this will have?

There are two key areas of work. Firstly, Tearfund has a long tradition of knowledge and learning and an essential part of this is growing the resource base of guides and tools for frontline communities, partners and staff, which are available free on the internet. We need to take the whole of the knowledge and learning strategy to the next level, looking at how to better support our partners and the wider sector.

I hope that this work will empower frontline staff by giving them the support and tools they need to maximise their capacity for effective action. We put frontline staff at the heart of our organisation, empowering them with as much responsibility as possible. So it is vitally important that our knowledge and learning serves them and increases their capacity, and that of our local partners and the communities they serve.

Secondly, I am on the board of the Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP) and am passionate about bringing beneficiary accountability to the heart of the way the development sector works; the voice, views and perspectives of the beneficiary must be at the centre of all we do. We must be more accountable to those we seek to serve. I think there is a growing appetite to make it happen, and many realise it is the right thing to do, but it is challenging because it turns the way we currently work on its head. There has been the desire to control and dictate and some are fearful of the consequences of losing this power to a new model.

The promise of beneficiary accountability is that it gives the beneficiary voice power. This in turn builds the capacity of grass-roots civil society, and this in turn is the missing element to truly sustainable development. Frontline communities should, indeed must, play a central role in shaping the development agenda.

What is your role at Tearfund?

As Chief Executive I am responsible for the direction and vision of the organisation. I make sure that Tearfund is fit to deliver its goals and that it performs at a high level. I aim to provide leadership of a high calibre and ensure that we have the capacity in place so that we can function effectively as a team.

I also advocate on behalf of Tearfund and the poor against poverty and injustice.

What inspired you to work in the sector?

I am a values-based person and I have always felt very passionately about issues of poverty and injustice – feelings that were compounded by a visit to India in my gap year. I think it is in my bloodstream; to me, poverty and injustice are fundamental issues that must be addressed.

What motivates you to go to work every day?

The main motivator is knowing that I, and the people that I have met and worked with, are making a tangible difference to poverty and injustice. A lady called Joyce springs to mind. Joyce is HIV-positive. I went to stay with her for a few days, in her small hut, to see the world from her perspective; the way she lives and how she makes a living. The reality of her predicament is, significantly, the by-product of the way that I, and others in the West, choose to live. It is profoundly challenging to think in this way.

Often the people working with the poorest of the poor are poor themselves, and this resonates with my strong Christian beliefs. I find it inspiring to see grassroots communities, which are more often than not Christian communities, rise to the challenge of meeting the needs of the poor in their midst.

What are the main challenges for Tearfund's work at the moment?

The turbulence in the exchange rate and the depreciation of Sterling against the US dollar is having a severe effect on our programme work.

Another challenge is the need to educate and challenge Christians in this country to really live in such a way that demonstrates they are following Christ's example. We need to see a renewed commitment of what it means to be Christian, embracing a commitment to compassionate care of those in need in the community and a determination to take our faith into the public square speaking out on behalf of the voiceless.

We need to mobilise grassroots civil society, which is often an overlooked and forgotten partner in the fight against poverty. Local faith organisations – typically local churches – are key to this. In the toughest to reach and poorest communities they are all that exists by way of effective and trusted grass-roots civil society. I think a serious focus on this is critical to sustainable development and meeting the holistic needs of people living in poverty.

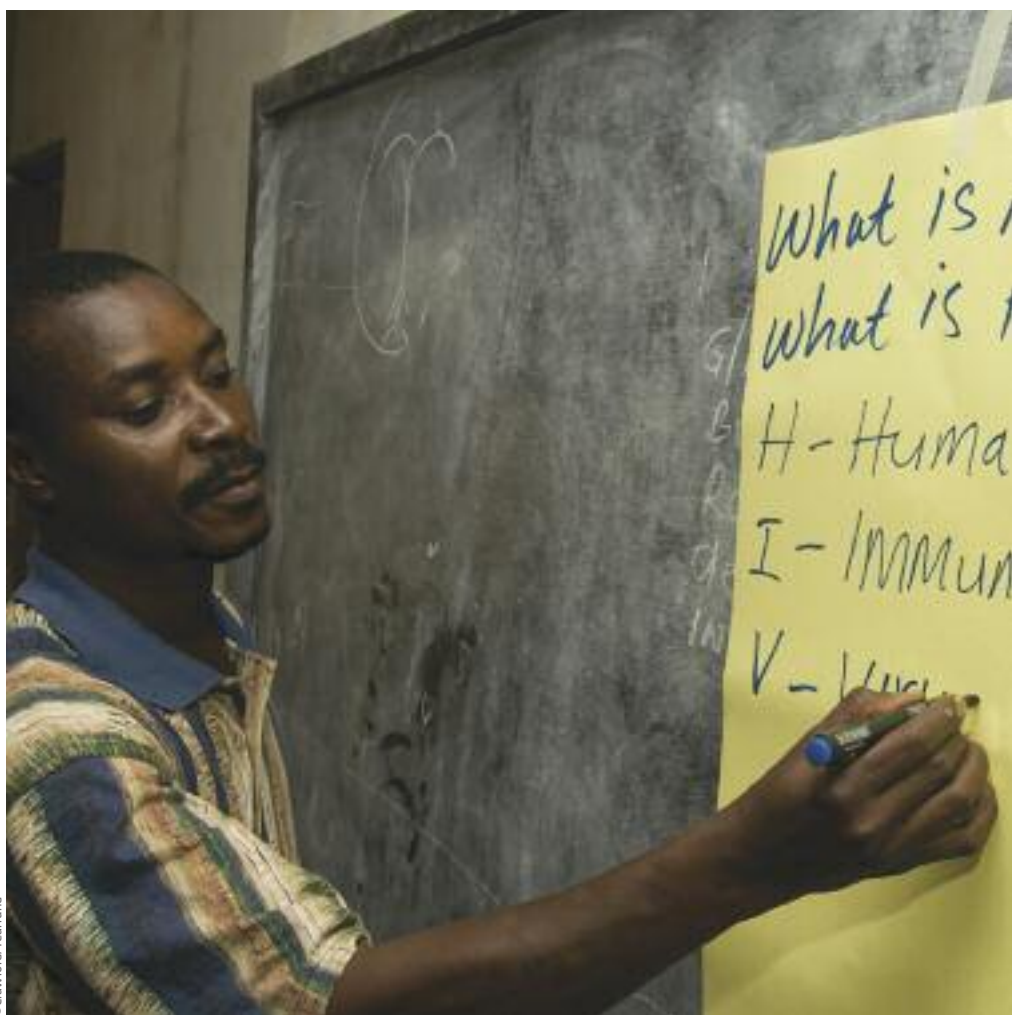
There is much talk about the effectiveness of the sector and how to best balance the needs of different stakeholders. What are your thoughts on this?

Again, the role of beneficiary voice is so important; their voice is often unrepresented and unheard. This remains a massive issue. The focus tends to be on donor accountability alone and, although this is clearly important, we need to find a better balance. We need to give more power and voice to the beneficiary and then to the actors who are closest to them. As INGOs we need to see our role more as one that serves those at poverty's frontline.

What part of Tearfund's work are you most proud of?

I am hugely encouraged by the results we are seeing in two key areas of work: HIV and environmental sustainability.

The role of frontline faith communities in confronting HIV is immense and growing. The active involvement of caring and compassionate people – motivated by their faith – is critical to fighting the disease. People living with HIV need ongoing community support: to know their HIV status, to access antiretroviral drugs (ARVs), to take these drugs regularly, to provide care and livelihood support. Faith communities also have a powerful role in confronting prejudice, raising awareness, and standing with vulnerable people for their rights and dignity. And their reach is unequalled. We are working to multiply and build the capacity of the best of these grass-roots faith communities.



©Crawford/Tearfund

Preventing the spread of HIV to the next generation is vital

We also need to acknowledge that some faith communities are also part of the problem, for example, when they have contributed to stigma. In these instances we are working to challenge church leadership on their theology and their understanding of HIV. We expose them to the experience of others and the stories of those living with HIV who have had to endure stigma.

Environmental sustainability is another key area of work. We are working to integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation approaches into frontline programmes in such a way that grassroots communities can shape and take action. We are rolling out a climate risk assessment tool to help grass roots organisations understand and respond to climate change and environmental degradation.

Tearfund has taken a strong lead on climate change adaptation issues with a very effective advocacy and campaigning agenda. We have done much to help shape the focus, ambition and pace of the international climate change negotiations. And we have also worked hard to mobilise the church in the UK, for example by setting up a carbon-sharing scheme and a carbon 'fast' for Lent.

What is the best professional advice you have been given?

Talk less, listen more.

What is the key challenge for the sector in the coming year?

To genuinely and wholeheartedly address the voice of the beneficiary and put it at the heart of how we do accountability. So much would flow from this. I believe quality and impact would improve. I think our organisations would become more agile and adaptive to the rapidly changing context of poverty. We would become more transparent to our supporters.

We can also learn a lot from the business community. Although business is admittedly driven by a narrow profit motive that often ignores externals, they have far more experience than us at putting the customer first, and creating organisations that are flexible, responsive, empowering and accountable around their stated goals.

Matthew Frost joined Tearfund as Chief Executive in October 2005.

For more information: www.tearfund.org.uk

Advertise here to be seen

We have broadened our range of advertising opportunities to give you more choice about where you can advertise with BOND.

Limited space is now available on the back page of *The Networker*, and in our monthly e-bulletin, *Your Network*.

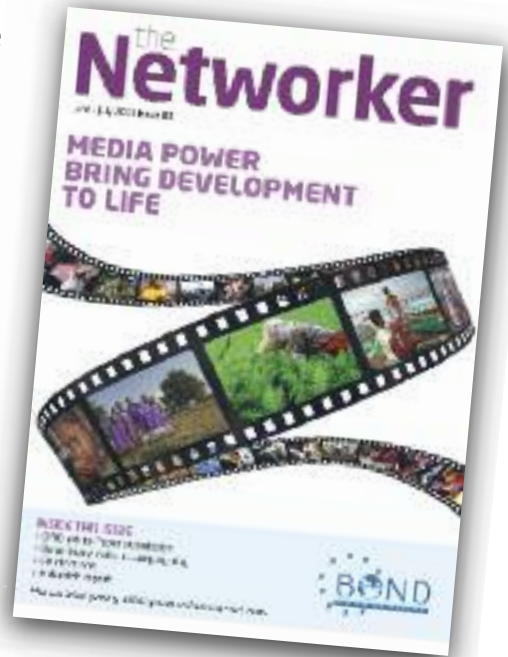
There are a variety of options available to meet your needs including adverts, banner adverts and inserts. Whatever option you choose, your advert will be seen by thousands of people working in international development.

Competitive packages are available for bulk or repeat advertisers and BOND members receive a permanent discount.

Contact Jemma Ashman, Communications and Marketing Officer, for more details:

Email: jashman@bond.org.uk

Tel: 020 7520 0256



BOND sends out regular e-bulletins on a variety of topics including

- *Your Network*: a monthly e-bulletin that offers topical, interesting and informative news and forward-thinking features on sector issues with the aim to inspire thought, debate and action. It highlights ways in which BOND members can get involved in the BOND network and it complements *The Networker*, BOND's bi-monthly magazine
- *Your Development*: BOND's monthly learning and training e-bulletin will keep you up to date with training news, learning developments and ideas, latest events and special offers
- *Jobs Alert*: Fortnightly email of latest international development vacancies
- *EU News*: provides you with a monthly digest of EU policy updates and opportunities to get involved in EU focused campaigns, trainings and other events
- *Global Call*: campaigning news and events

Sign up now: www.bond.org.uk/e-updates

Members' area on website now live

If you are a BOND member, sign up now to join the members' area on the website. Registering is easy; just follow the steps to get a username and password:

www.bond.org.uk/join.php

Once there, you will have exclusive member access to:

- Sign up to BOND groups and get regular email digests
- Book to attend a BOND group meeting
- Engage with others and take part in group discussions

There is also a map detailing where BOND members are based around the UK and you can download past issues of *The Networker*. Go to the 'membership' pages for more information.

Over the summer, new features including online booking for BOND learning and training events, will be added.