

FOCUS ON HEALTH
AND THE MDGS

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Health in crisis

The recent change in Government sees Andrew Mitchell confirmed as Secretary of State for International Development while the Minister of State at DFID is Alan Duncan and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State is Stephen O'Brien. As the situation evolves, we are finalising the action plan for our engagement with the new Government and Parliament on our common agenda. This will focus initially on building and strengthening relationships with key figures to encourage delivery of the priorities set out in the Bond *Vote Global* manifesto for international development. More information about the new Government is on the 'Policy' pages of the website: bond.org.uk/policy

As 2015 edges ever closer and with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Review Summit just a few months away, it is becoming clear that health in many developing countries is in crisis and the health-related MDGs are unlikely to be met. In this issue, several articles focus on different aspects of this crisis and touch on some of the cross-cutting issues that link health to other factors including transport and climate change, see page 6-8 and 13. In another health-related article on page 12, InterHealth provide important analysis and insight into staff care within NGOs, specifically on aid workers returning from the field.

An update on Bond learning and training, on page 10, includes details of a new series of six 'How to' guides to complement our courses. The guides are free and can be downloaded from the website. Each one introduces the main issues, terms and definitions, gives a step-by-step process to getting started and explains where to find out more.

The Bond Effectiveness Programme continues to deepen the work towards an effectiveness framework, and on working with partners. At the next quarterly working meeting on 22 June, new research, options and propositions developed by members will be discussed. More information is on page 11.

Finally, as you are aware, we will publish the Bond Strategy 2011-16 this autumn. The strategy will layout the future priorities for the network and will be firmly rooted in the views of members. The consultation runs until 18 June so now is the time to have your say. Go to page 4 or the website for more information: bond.org.uk/strategyconsultation

The Networker is available to download as a PDF from the website. Please share the link with your colleagues so that the features and news are shared as widely as possible: bond.org.uk/pages/the-networker-magazine.html

For more information, or if you would like to contribute to *The Networker*, please contact Jemma Ashman: jashman@bond.org.uk

Nick

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 Quaker Bolivia Link-UK

The Aymara people of the high Andes and Altiplano of North West Bolivia are some of the most self-sufficient people in the world. They are also amongst the poorest.

Quaker Bolivia Link-UK was registered as a charitable trust in 1995 by a group of Friends who went on a study tour of Bolivia. They resolved, as part of their Quaker witness, to work in partnership with Bolivian Quakers and local rural communities to increase the possibilities available to the Aymara people by giving them the tools and opportunity to improve their own lives.



• One of Quaker Bolivia Link's project participants shows off produce from her greenhouse in the community of Masaya on the Altiplano © Quaker Bolivia Link-UK

Since its formation, Quaker Bolivia Link-UK has provided financial assistance and training to over 160 small community-initiated projects. We helped establish, and now work closely with, Fundación Quaker Bolivia Link, based in La Paz, whose board of directors is also made up of Quakers.

Aymara communities in the region where we work are increasingly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Our current focus is on enhancing food sovereignty and security through training in traditional agricultural practices and local food production. This includes helping a group of women to breed native chickens, working with a Producer Association to improve yields of quinoa and training llama herders in animal care. We also continue to support initiatives that aid health, such as bringing safe drinking water closer to homes.

Quaker Bolivia Link-UK employs a part-time coordinator but all other support is voluntary. As a small, focused NGO, we appreciate the benefits of Bond membership and the opportunities it opens for us to engage with the wider network of international NGOs within the UK.

For more information: www.qbl.org
pattierichmond@qbl.org or 01872 553227

Bond strategy consultation: have your say

Thank you to all members who have shared thoughts and ideas, either by submitting a response online or by post, or by taking part in one of the consultation events. We appreciate the time you have taken to have your say on the future direction of Bond. If your organisation has yet to respond, please do so by 18 June.



• Participants at a Bond strategy consultation event © Bond

For full details and the consultation questions, go to bond.org.uk/strategyconsultation

Network spotlight UK Aid Network

The UK Aid Network (UKAN) was established in 2004 as a space for UK development NGOs to work together to share information and carry out analysis on aid and to lobby for more and better UK aid. The network is currently coordinated by Gideon Rabinowitz and supported by a part time researcher.

A key part of our work is to carry out advocacy during UK budget discussions in order to promote increases in aid and ensure the UK is on-track to reach its promise to deliver 0.7% of national income as aid by 2013. In April 2009, we worked successfully with member agencies to oppose cuts to aid spending plans that were being discussed, and over the next few months will be engaging closely with expected budget discussions.

Over the last year, we have undertaken extensive consultations with members to identify the key aid issues UKAN should engage on and to develop policy positions to support lobbying in these areas. UKAN members have identified issues such as defending the poverty focus of the UK's aid, the future of aid effectiveness agenda and the challenges for improving the impact of aid.

In addition to its activities in the UK, UKAN is a member of AidWatch network of European development NGOs that work together to monitor and assess the EU's progress in delivering more and better aid. The 2010 AidWatch report will be published on 10 June.

For more information: www.ukan.org.uk
ukan@bond.org.uk or 020 7561 7563

Bond Annual Conference and AGM on 4 November

Online registration will begin in mid July so please keep an eye on the website for further information: bond.org.uk

New members

Welcome to the new members that joined in May:

- Children of the Andes
- Dalit Freedom Network UK
- Home-Start International
- Humanitarian and Charitable ONE Trust
- Jubilee Action
- Odanadi UK
- Raleigh International Trust
- Spreading Health
- Village Service Trust

Staff news

Welcome to all our new staff:

- Julius Honnor, Online Content Editor
- May Phoon, Database and ICT Officer
- Kaisa Hutchinson, maternity cover for PA to the Chief Executive
- Clare Haskins, Business Development and Fundraising Coordinator
- Leo Williams, MDG Advocacy Officer
- Zia Choudhury, interim Effectiveness Programme Manager

We are sorry to say goodbye to Rebecca Evans, Georgia Newsam and Julian Srodecki who all recently left Bond. We thank them for contributing to the success of Bond and wish them well for the future.



Vote Global in 2010: what we have achieved so far



The 2010 General Election campaign saw tens of thousands of people across the country call for action against global poverty.

The *Vote Global* manifesto has been endorsed by 207 organisations. Over 40,000 emails were sent demanding a Robin Hood Tax and 13,000 people emailed their candidates calling for a reduction of CO2 emissions of 40% by 2020.

Over 100 hustings events on global issues were held – including 45 in marginal constituencies organised by the ‘Ask the Climate Question’ initiative. Shortly before election day, City of London churches and Vote Global signatories joined up to hold a pre-election rally on the steps of the Bank of England.

Many tens of thousands also got involved in Bond member campaigns. For example, over 7,000 people signed ONE’s ‘On the Record’ petition asking party leaders to publish their party’s plans to fight global poverty, leading to all three major party leaders making videos outlining their plans. Over 18,000 people signed Save the Children’s election petition leading to 531 candidates pledging to work to tackle child poverty at home and abroad.

The campaign also saw party leaders profile international development. On election 2010 World Poverty Day, arranged by Bond, Gordon Brown and Nick Clegg made speeches at churches and David Cameron paid a visit to an aid distribution depot in Birmingham. The Prime Minister took the opportunity to write to leaders of UK NGOs outlining his international development priorities for 2010. The Green Party, SNP, SSP and Plaid Cymru also released statements.

Thanks to persistent campaigning, the Conservatives, Labour and Liberal Democrats all pledged to introduce legislation to deliver aid spending targets of 0.7% of GNI by 2013.

The final moments of the old parliament also saw two bills passed addressing some of the most egregious anti-development practices of UK firms. The first was the Debt Relief (Developing Countries) Bill curtailing the activities of Vulture Funds, the second created a new offence of bribing a foreign public official and a corporate offence for

companies that fail to prevent bribery. These successes overcame opposition to win cross party support – showing what is possible when expert advice and public pressure are combined.



• Ask the climate question’ hustings

More information on the campaign and our ongoing work to build momentum for influencing the new Government and Parliament visit the ‘Policy’ page: bond.org.uk/pages/uk-general-election.html

Sector update

Charity Commission to update Disaster Appeals guidance

The Charity Commission is to review its Disaster Appeals guidance and invites Bond members to inform them of the type of guidance, not currently covered, that would be useful for development NGOs.

The review and update will look at both international and domestic disaster appeals. It is likely to explore failed appeals and secondary purpose as well as when not to respond, in addition to matters around transparency and accountability. The guidance will fit across with new Fundraising Appeals advice.

Have your say

Bond takes action to improve the regulatory framework so that NGOs have the space to carry out their work more effectively. This means working on the legislative and political environment that NGOs operate in and advocating on their behalf.

Bond is working on its strategy for 2011-2016 and this includes exploring future sector advocacy. One of the consultation questions asks how can we protect civil society space in the UK and internationally, particularly in solidarity with the South, and what sector-wide issues will impact on NGOs.

We want to hear your views on this and the other consultation questions. To contribute, go to the website or email us.

To find out more and to register your interest in being involved in the review, contact Joni Hillman, Bond Donor Advocacy Officer; jhillman@bond.org.uk 020 7520 0254

For more information: bond.org.uk/strategyconsultation consultations@bond.org.uk

Nick Hurd appointed Minister for Civil Society

Conservative MP Nick Hurd is the new minister responsible for charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises heading the Office of Civil Society in the Cabinet Office (no longer called the Office of the Third Sector).

The new Government has said policy will focus on three fundamental issues:

- Making it easier to run a charity, social enterprise or voluntary organisation
- Getting more resources into the sector: strengthening its independence and resilience
- Making it easier for sector organisations to work with the State

Bond will continue to advocate on behalf of members to the remodelled department for the right enabling environment for civil society organisations in the UK and strong recognition of our role in British and international civil society.

Shaking up the debate

Five years remain for the world to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, yet the health-related targets are among those most off track and have seen the least progress. Action for Global Health assess the situation.

With the 2015 deadline looming, combined with the after-effects of the global financial crisis, urgent action is needed by donor countries to support developing countries in progress to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and realise the right to health for all.

In order to address this global health emergency, and what is arguably the greatest human rights violation of our time, it is important to diagnose where efforts for progress are not having the impact that they should and what actions are needed.

Lets work together to meet the health MDGs

The statistics on the global health emergency speak for themselves:

- **Every minute** a woman dies from complications in pregnancy or childbirth
- **Every day** about 29,000 children die before they reach their fifth birthday, the vast majority from preventable causes
- **Every year** TB, HIV and malaria jointly kill over five million people

A unified approach is needed

The interconnectedness of poverty-related diseases, sexual reproductive health, as well as maternal mortality and child survival are clear. Yet there is not enough focus on the overlap between the health-related MDGs (4, 5 and 6 – see fact box) and they are continually addressed in isolation from one another and with varying levels of commitment.

“The cross-cutting nature of the health-related MDGs requires a cross-cutting approach and solution”

The trend of shifting funds between efforts to address the different health-related MDGs, rather than responding to them as a package, is compounding the problem further and unravelling any progress previously made. Diverting limited resources from one health-related MDG to another risks alleviating one problem in the short-term only to result in bigger problems in the long-term, and serves only to undermine all of the health-related MDGs.

What is needed is not the re-prioritising of existing commitments but rather additional resources for a unified approach.

Addressing the health MDGs together

The reality is that the cross-cutting nature of the health-related MDGs requires a cross-cutting approach and solution. This is true of all the MDGs to varying degrees:

- Access to clean water and sanitation can reduce child deaths from pneumonia and diarrhoea, leading causes of child mortality which account for 3.5 million child deaths a year
- Malaria, another leading cause of child mortality in Africa accounting for 20% of all childhood deaths, is four times more likely to strike pregnant women than other adults and has life threatening implications for both mother and child
- Children who lose their mothers after childbirth are up to ten times more likely to die before their second birthday than children whose mothers are alive
- Provision of HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment services for pregnant women not only reduces the risk of complications in pregnancy, but also creates opportunities to increase the provision of antenatal care and other critical sexual and reproductive health services
- TB is the leading killer of people with HIV. People who are HIV positive and infected with TB are 20 to 40 times more likely to develop active TB in their lifetime than people who are HIV Negative. Half a million people with HIV died of TB in 2008, many



of them because they did not have access to Anti-Retroviral Treatment

- Neglected tropical diseases, which result in approximately 57 million disability-adjusted life years annually, increase susceptibility to HIV, TB and malaria, making action to control neglected tropical diseases a powerful tool in reaching the health MDGs

Delivering an integrated approach

How can we reach the health-related MDGs in five year's time, and how can we protect the right to health?

Action for Global Health believes that the accomplishment of the health-related MDGs requires a two-pronged approach that tackles both disease-specific problems and health systems strengthening. We advocate for a combination of efforts, the most important of which are:

- Attending to the shortcomings of national healthcare systems by increasing access to primary and preventative healthcare through technical support and the removal of user fees



• Door-to-door TB/HIV awareness in Zambia © TB Alert



• Chemoprophylaxis helps protect children under five from catching TB within their households © TB Alert

- Strengthening the human resources for health available by (a) addressing fiscal constraints that prevent developing countries from investing in their workforce, and (b) providing technical and financial support to developing countries to support them in planning and implementing programmes to train, retain and expand their health workforce
- Finding solutions for drug shortages through the expansion of the international patent pool and support for other innovative models for life-saving medicine
- Providing targeted support for the capacity-building of civil society – especially community-based organisations representing marginalised and vulnerable groups – to enable their meaningful engagement in decision-making about health provision
- Securing adequate funding by ensuring that current ODA commitments are met, and aid effectiveness principles are adhered to, and that 0.1% GNI of donor countries is allocated to health aid in line with a World Health Organisation recommendation. Remaining funding shortfalls must be met through additional pledges and the exploration of innovative financing mechanisms

The issue of funding

Having already failed to provide universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS by 2010, as included in MDG 6, it is important to take

forward lessons learned from the past 10 years while also recognising the successes and achievements made.

One such success is the model of health funding mechanisms which include an active voice for civil society, such as the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria. More support is still needed to enable civil society to hold governments and donors to account and ensure that the funds being allocated are being used effectively.

However, there still remains the issue of limited funding. In order to meet the MDGs additional funding, above ODA commitments, is key, and new sources of revenue need to be explored further if we are to fulfil our commitments. Projects like the Robin Hood Tax campaign need to be explored as potential sources of additional and sustainable funding. Other innovative finance mechanisms such as the UNITAID airline levy have proven that such initiatives can have a real and long-term impact on health funding.

The key principle underpinning all these efforts is the right to health as enshrined in the Alma Ata Declaration, recognising that a strong primary healthcare system and human rights are central to the realisation of the health-related MDGs. The current state of health in developing countries continues to constitute a global emergency and as such, requires a proportional and comprehensive response.

Action for Global Health is a cross-European network of health and development organisations advocating for the European Union and its member states to play a stronger role to improve health in developing countries. In the UK, Action for Global Health is represented by the International HIV/AIDS Alliance, Interact Worldwide and TB Alert.

Learn more about our work and read the joint manifesto, *Righting Health: A call for UK action to improve health in developing countries*:

www.actionforglobalhealth.eu

Contact us to find out about opportunities for joint work: ukadvocacy@actionforglobalhealth.eu



Where we are on health

MDG 4: Where are we in reducing child mortality by two thirds?

- Progress has been slow with only 28% fewer children under the age of five are dying in 2008 than in 1990
- The majority could be saved by simple and, for the most part, low-cost, measures such as rehydration, vaccines, antibiotics and bed nets

MDG 5: Where are we in reducing maternal mortality by three quarters and achieving universal access to reproductive health?

- Of all the MDGs, improving maternal health is most off-track. There has been no measurable change in maternal mortality in Sub-Saharan Africa in two decades. The lifetime risk of dying in pregnancy and childbirth in Africa today is as high as one in 22, compared to one in 120 in Asia and only one in 7,300 in rich countries
- Women have little access to adequate prenatal care or trained personnel during delivery, and only one in four women in Sub-Saharan Africa have access to contraception

MDG 6: Where are we in reversing the spread of HIV, malaria and other major diseases; and have we achieved universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS?

- There has been some progress in the fight against malaria, with 27 countries reporting a reduction of up to 50% in the number of malaria cases between 1990 and 2006 but every 30 seconds a child dies from this disease
- With 9.4 million new cases reported in 2008, there is more TB in the world today than at any other time in history
- The 2010 target to provide universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS has been clearly missed: only one half of the 9.5 million people in need of treatment were receiving it in 2008

Bridging the health and transport divide

The role of transport in the health of rural communities needs to be better understood, argues **Maria Arce Moreira**.



• *Nithya Soundarya narrates problems she faces in getting down the stairs from her house. Due to polio, both her legs have been paralysed* © Leonard Cheshire Disability – SARO

My grandmother gave birth to seventeen children, nine of which died before five years of age. In all cases she either could not afford or could not access health assistance on time to save her children.

For many women, this devastating situation has not changed much and it is now recognised that the risk of not achieving the health related MDGs 4 and 5 is very real. Several factors have been identified as contributing to this situation including weak health systems, funding and access to these services. Although it may not seem obvious, the influence that mobility-related factors have on accessing and benefitting from health services is very significant but poorly understood.

Relationship between health and mobility

It is well known that transport interventions impact on livelihoods and promote economic and social development. However, until recently, the relationship between health and transport has not been properly understood in all its complexities.

In poor urban and rural communities in developing countries, the dynamics between health and mobility has not been reflected

by either the health or transport sectors and therefore the strategic knowledge to support informed cross-sectoral approaches and proper investments is often missing.

Research highlights gap in health care access

An insightful workshop held in 2004 with support of the Swiss Development Co-operation (SDC) led the International Forum for Rural Transport and Development (IFRTD) in alliance with the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute and SKAT to implement a global networked research programme on mobility and health. A study commissioned in 2006 highlighted that there was limited research on how marginalised, rural and poor communities access health services. The programme involved 13 different countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America resulting in 25 studies which address some relevant questions in this debate and which highlight some knowledge gaps that need to be addressed in the future. The programme was supported by SDC and Swedish SIDA.

The objective of the programme was to encourage and enable transport professionals to take a more holistic and health sensitive approach to the planning and implementation of transport interventions, and to sensitise the health sector to mobility and access issues for poor rural communities.

Some of the findings emerging from the results highlight the existing lack of synergies between the current health and transport systems and the disconnect between their investments.

Distance is an attributing factor

In many countries, while investment has improved health infrastructure, the distance between health posts and public transport services further limits access by poor communities. This is compounded by the fact that accessibility is strongly influenced by the specific socio-economic conditions of communities. In southern Ethiopia and Tigray regions, for example, the distance pregnant women need to travel to health centres and/or asphalt roads is proportional to the incidence of obstetric fistula – the

"The distance between health posts and public transport services further limits access"

greater the distance travelled the higher the likelihood of the condition occurring.

Thinking beyond road infrastructure

While the World Bank Transport Strategy Business Plan recognises that between 40% and 60% of the population in developing countries live at least 8km from a health service, and that 1.2 billion of the world's poor lack access to an all-weather road, the emphasis of the interventions and the renewed interest on transport is either on road infrastructure or a reduction of emissions in view of climate change. For poor and isolated communities, taking the decision to seek health assistance involves considerations such as the cost of travel, availability of vehicles and road infrastructure, geographical situation and distance which are not always internalised when designing health interventions.

The results of the networked research on mobility and health show that it is important to think further than road infrastructure when trying to improve the mobility and access of poor communities to health services. Innovative solutions involving intermediate means of transport, participatory planning and community managed systems, cross-sectoral interventions and a strong gender approach are key elements to ensure a positive contribution of transport to the achievement of the health-related MDGs.

In the current cycle of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, transport is one of the main themes of discussion. This represents an important opportunity to bring the contribution of transport to the poverty eradication agenda back to the forefront, including its role to promote and facilitate access to health services and to the achievement of the MDGs 4 and 5.

Written by Maria Arce Moreira, Executive Director at International Forum for Rural Transport and Development

For more information: www.ifrtd.org

The outcomes of the networked research programme will be available in September 2010. More information on the programme can be found at: www.mobilityandhealth.org

AidWatch report optimistic

The annual AidWatch report details EU member states performance on aid quality and quantity in the past year. **Gideon Rabinowitz**, UK Aid Network, outlines the findings from latest report and the opportunities for change in 2010.



• Key summits and meetings in 2010 must deliver for aid, development and the MDGs © iStock Photo

Looking back at the EU's performance on aid there is much to be concerned about, yet EU AidWatchers remain upbeat that the September 2010 MDG Review Summit provides an important opportunity to change this picture.

AidWatch report 2010 highlights challenges on EU aid

It is commonly acknowledged that 2009 was not a great year for the EU's aid effort. In fact, EU aid actually fell last year at a time when developing countries most needed support as they faced the devastating impacts of the financial crisis. There has been very limited progress on reforms to make EU aid more effective, and important reform commitments that should be met by 2010 are way off-track. There was also an attempt by EU member states to start counting non-development focussed resource flows from their countries as aid, which would have reduced support from the EU for development even further.

Significant opportunities for change in 2010

Despite these concerns, which are explored in some detail in the 2010 AidWatch report, *Penalty Against Poverty – More and Better EU aid can score Millennium Development*

Goals, it remains upbeat and focussed on the opportunities to change this picture during 2010.

In September 2010, the international community will meet in New York to review progress on the MDGs and agree coordinated actions to achieve these targets by 2015. EU member states are currently discussing how they will feed into this process and, as the AidWatch report makes clear, they can still play a vital role in the final push to achieve the MDGs by committing at the EU Foreign Affairs Council and the EU Leaders Summit in June to deliver on their aid quantity and effectiveness commitments. The report argues that anything short of this will put into question the willingness of the EU to act as a genuine development partner to the world's poorest countries.

AidWatch network increasingly active on EU aid

A cause for optimism is the growing capacity and engagement of the AidWatch network – a group within CONCORD, the Confederation of EU development NGOs. The AidWatch network comprises of the national platforms of development NGOs working together in each of the 27 EU member states – the UK platform is coordinated jointly by Bond and the UK Aid Network. The AidWatch report is published every year in spring with national platforms contributing analysis on the aid performance of their countries and on trends in EU aid, making it a truly unique piece of analysis and commentary on EU aid.

In its earlier years, AidWatch activities focused mainly on its annual report and the analysis on the aid performance of EU member states. However, this year the network has been much more active in joint EU advocacy. This was most clearly illustrated by its successful efforts in late 2009 to lobby against proposals to start counting non-development focussed resource flows from EU countries as aid and ongoing efforts to lobby the European Commission and EU member states on their position for the MDG Review Summit.

AidWatch demands greater political will on EU aid

As the 2010 AidWatch report makes clear, the most critical factor that will determine the outcome of the EU's policy discussions on aid and the MDG Review Summit is "political will". We know from the enormous bank bailouts in 2008 that political will can mobilise huge resource flows when required.

In order to generate political will across the EU to deliver more and better aid, many AidWatch national platforms are organising country launches of the report, which will be used to engage their policy-makers on the challenges around EU aid and how they will be responding.

AidWatch in the UK

UK Aid Network and Bond are organising a UK launch of the AidWatch report on 10 June, providing an opportunity for UK NGOs and their supporters to quiz the new Secretary of State for International Development on the UK's role in ensuring the key moments in 2010 – the EU Foreign Affairs Council, the EU Leaders Summit, the G8 and G20 and the MDG Review Summit – deliver for aid, development and the MDGs.

Bond and UK Aid Network members are invited to attend this event – more information is on the UK Aid Network website: www.ukan.org.uk



Written by Gideon Rabinowitz, Coordinator of the UK Aid Network and chair of the AidWatch group

UK Aid Network's work on aid: www.ukan.org.uk

More about AidWatch: bond.org.uk/pages/aid.html

More about the MDGs process and joint position paper: bond.org.uk/pages/mdgs.html

Get the know-how

New 'how to' guides available

Are you new to your job? Are you getting into a new area of work, wanting to change roles or in need of a refresher?



• Participants on a Bond training course © Ross Spearman

Bond learning and training is launching a new series of six free guides to complement our courses.

Each guide introduces you to the main issues, terms and definitions, gives you a simple process to follow to get started and tells you where to find out more. Each is written by one of our trainers, so you can be sure they contain expert advice and the latest thinking on each topic.

They are free to download from the website: bond.org.uk/learning-resources

They cover:

- Advocacy and campaigning
- Fundraising from institutions (DFID, EC, Comic Relief)
- Fundraising from trusts, foundations and companies
- Project budgeting
- The logical framework approach
- Monitoring and evaluation

The guides will put you on the right path, but to really get to grips with the topic you will need to attend the relevant training course. As you would expect, the courses will give you much more detail on the topic, access

to comprehensive materials, and the chance to try out tools and approaches with others in the same field.

What each guide covers

- 1 Why the topic is important**
 - a brief history of the topic
- 2 What it involves**
 - the main issues and debates
 - terms and definitions
- 3 Who's who**
 - the key players
- 4 When is the right moment**
- 5 How to do it**
 - a short summary of the steps in the process
 - pros and cons
 - dos and don'ts
- 6 Where to find out more**
 - resources and training

Download the guides free from bond.org.uk/learning-resources

Choosing a training course: what matters to you

Earlier this year, we asked website visitors and e-bulletin subscribers what they look for when choosing a course. The results showed that the most important factor is a good, detailed description of the content and learning outcomes. The second most important factor is cost.

We also asked about other ways of learning and found that there is a lot of interest in online support and learning opportunities.

Get full course information

You can download full details of the course programme, trainer, prices and how to book from the course pages on our website. Bond members get 1/3 off and can book online: bond.org.uk/learn

Come to an e-learning conference

Oxfam and Bond are inviting other international NGOs to a two day conference on 17-18 June to share experiences, successes and challenges in developing e-learning. Contact Cynan Houghton at Oxfam for more information: choughton@oxfam.org.uk

Find out more

1. Visit the website: bond.org.uk/learn
2. Sign up to *Your Development*, our monthly learning and training e-bulletin: bond.org.uk/e-updates
3. Contact us: learn@bond.org.uk or 020 7520 0242

Our new learning and training programme for September 2010 – July 2011 will be out in July 2010.

Take effective action

Nick Roseveare presents a summary of the latest news from the Bond Effectiveness Programme.

In June 2010, members will meet to discuss the propositions for the NGO Effectiveness Framework.

In February, 30 member organisations participated in the first working meeting of the Bond Effectiveness Programme. The next meeting, on 22 June 2010, will take the debate to the next level. Building on recommendations from the February event and new research both on frameworks and on partnerships, there will be options and propositions on the table to discuss and choices to be made.

This full day working meeting includes professional facilitation and will take place in Islington, London.

Sign up for your free place on the website:
bond.org.uk/pages/future-plans-and-meetings.html



New developments

Having made an important contribution to the start up phase, Julian Srodecki has moved on from his position as manager of the Bond Effectiveness Programme. Zia Choudhury has been appointed as interim Programme Manager until a permanent postholder is identified.

Zia has many years of senior programme management experience with Oxfam, Save the Children and Action Aid, several years at the Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP), and latterly served as Deputy Regional Director for the Danish Refugee Council in Nairobi.



© Giacomo Pirozzi

Partners: what do they say about you?

Get data on how your partners think you can support them better, and how you compare to other NGOs. Bond members are invited to join the Keystone Partner Survey, with a special discount of up to £500.

Each participating NGO will receive a unique, confidential report presenting quantified data from your partners on:

- **Efficiency:** how appropriate is the quantity and type of funding you provide?
- **Relationships and communications:** how well do your partners feel that you understand and respond to them?
- **Non-financial contribution:** how useful do partners find your capacity building?
- **Value added:** how do the benefits of working with you compare to the costs, such as reporting to you?
- **Credibility:** what do your partners think about your overall impact and credibility?

For each measure, your performance will be compared to sector benchmarks. Your report will provide rich data for learning, dialogue and improvement and for discussion of findings with partners. Bond believes that the process can significantly help strengthen trust and build better relationships.

Help with costs?

Bond is delighted to be able to offer members a discount of 50% (up to £500) to make it easier for small and medium sized organisations to take part. NIDOS is offering a similar deal for members in Scotland.

More information can be found on the website:
www.keystoneaccountability.org/partnersurvey

The deadline for joining the survey is 11 June 2010.

Frameworks: who does what?

Bond has commissioned One World Trust to make a comparative analysis of quality frameworks being used across our sector and beyond. The research will consider the design, implementation and use of several different approaches ranging from HAP, SPHERE, and the People in Aid Standard, to ISO 9000, EFQM, and ISEAL. The findings in the report will inform the presentation of options at the 22 June quarterly working meeting of the Bond Effectiveness Programme.

Go to the website to find out more:
bond.org.uk/pages/the-latest-updates.html

Informal monitoring and evaluation peer roundtable

A meeting of senior technical specialists has been scheduled for 10 June for peers to discuss common issues and interests. The roundtable will bring together sector experts and bring forward recommendations to the Bond Effectiveness Programme.

Best practice partnerships?

Bond has commissioned a study to capture and examine sector learning on partnerships. Many NGOs have undertaken their own internal reviews of relationships with their partners in the South and introduced their own guidelines or policies to ensure these partnerships are conducted properly and to deliver real benefit. Little of this knowledge and experience has been shared to wider sector advantage. The findings will be discussed at the 22 June meeting, and options considered for developing and trialling this aspect of the Bond Effectiveness Programme.

Go to the website to find out more:
bond.org.uk/pages/the-latest-updates.html



Out of Haiti

Are NGOs doing enough to care for aid workers after they return from the field?

In the past few weeks the InterHealth team has seen many aid workers returning from Haiti.

Many who were involved in the humanitarian response to the devastating earthquake have had difficult experiences. One experienced aid worker had spent two weeks in Port au Prince in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake. At his post-assignment health check, his face and eyes spoke volumes; complete exhaustion, confusion, disorientation- his world had turned on its side. Another was wrestling with the living and security challenges he had encountered, "Are we seen as expendable?" he asked at his post-assignment health check, clearly frustrated by what he saw as inadequate in-field support from his agency.

In our work providing medical and psychological services to more than 200 aid and development NGOs, we meet many people in a similar state after their return from the field. And while we know great improvements have been made in NGO staff care over the last ten years, there is the need to highlight again an issue that still needs attention.

Picking up the pieces

Last year, InterHealth and People in Aid published a fascinating report, *Approaches to Staff Care in International NGOs*¹, based on wide ranging interviews with NGOs on their staff care processes from recruitment through to resettlement.

If we compare the findings with the well-known *Room for Improvement*² report published a decade earlier (which contributed to the birth of People in Aid), it is encouraging to see how provision for staff has moved on.

"It appears that many NGOs are still struggling to forge meaningful connections between human resources policy and practice."

Nevertheless, from this report and from the daily experience of both our physicians and psychological care team, we continue to observe a distinct lack of post-assignment care. Just under half of all agencies (45%) interviewed for the latest report still had no standard procedure for post-assignment care¹. Likewise only 25% of those interviewed required (or strongly encouraged) a post-assignment psychological review or debriefing. So alongside some improvements, it is clear that care continues to be very patchy.

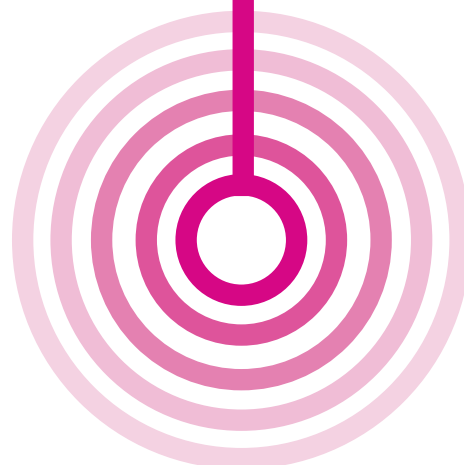
Pre-operation preparation and operational debriefing processes are usually pretty robust. When the Haiti earthquake struck we were hit by a sudden demand for last-minute vaccines, medical and medicine kits, but despite the rush, most people deployed promptly and healthily. But as the aid operation moves into the reconstruction and long-term development phase, a lot of those humanitarian personnel are now returning home where the opportunity for personal and emotional processing and reflection with an experienced professional can be much less consistent.

It appears that many NGOs are still struggling to forge meaningful connections between human resources policy and practice. For organisations devoted to helping the traumatised and the bereaved, this absence of care for the carers seems puzzling.

What to do next

When we do see returning aid workers, we find that there are invariably issues of importance that they need to discuss. These range from diarrhoea and possible malaria, to concern about HIV, to persistent exhaustion and post-traumatic stress. It is important that these are thoroughly addressed by experienced travel medicine practitioners, and not left to over-worked GPs who may have neither the time nor the insight to deal with any but the most routine cases.

We also know that many aid workers find it difficult to acknowledge personal needs and may even turn down support in favour of trying to resolve their issues alone. For this reason, a well-designed post assignment personal review process tailored to the specific needs and personality of the returning individual can be of great benefit and comfort.



Meeting the challenge

Awareness that such care is essential is a good place to start, and the People in Aid *Code of Good Practice*³, especially Principle 7, Health, Safety and Security, gives the basic essentials, which is fleshed out in *Staff Health and Welfare*⁴.

Once NGOs see the importance of this care they can then develop policies which are costed, implemented and monitored. This is not as daunting as it seems given the specialist agencies there to guide and support best practice, such as People in Aid and InterHealth.



• © Layton Thompson Photography
www.laytonthompson.co.uk

Written by Dr Ted Lankester, Director of Health Services at InterHealth.

If you would like to discuss any of the issues that are highlighted, please get in touch for free confidential advice: ted.lankester@interhealth.org.uk

References:

- 1 Approaches to Staff Care in International NGOs – InterHealth and People in Aid 2009
- 2 Room For Improvement – Macnair R. 1995, Net-work Paper 10, Relief and Rehabilitation Net-work
- 3 Code of Best Practice – People in Aid
- 4 Staff Health and Welfare: Guidelines for the Aid Sector – People in Aid and InterHealth 2004

A crisis in the making

The global health workforce is in crisis with hundreds of thousands of additional healthcare professionals needed. AMREF explain what they are doing to address this crucial issue.

“Effective (successful) delivery of essential health care services depends on a sufficient supply of well trained health workers”

The global health workforce crisis is immense and universal but its effects are certainly worse in sub-Saharan Africa. Health workers are the glue that bonds the health system and sub-Saharan Africa is the epicenter of the crisis. Africa, with 24% disease burden, has only 3% health workforce. By contrast, the Americas, with 10% disease burden, have 37% of the global health workforce and health expenditure of 50% of the global resources. The scale of the problem is obvious.

Workforce shortages and low retention of health workers

There is sufficient evidence that the density of health workers has a positive impact on immunisation coverage, primary care and infant, maternal and child survival which is essential to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). To deliver 80% of the essential health package, Africa needs 2.5 health workers per 1000 people. This equates almost 800,000 doctors and nurses/midwives by 2015.

The factors that contribute to the continued health workforce shortages in the public sector include:

- large numbers of unemployed, under employed trained and skilled health workers
- sluggish training trends for health workers
- internal maldistribution of health workers in urban and rural areas

International migration triggered by dismal and unsafe working conditions, inadequate compensation and incentives and no career development opportunities result in the poor retention of health workers.

Initiatives to overcome the shortfall

Development partners and African governments have increased investment



• Health worker Mary Keji attends to an expectant mother at the Tali Health Centre in Terekeka, Southern Sudan where AMREF is training health workers and traditional birth attendants © AMREF/Alex Hooper

in pre-service training, including improving income and living wage estimated to be US\$2.6 billion per year and increasing the current wage bill by 2.5 times. Quick fixes include extending retirement age, recruiting from abroad and incorporating ‘task shifting’ to achieve a more appropriate skill mix. Some initiatives have succeeded in improving the distribution of available human resource health (HRH).

In Malawi, MOH, DFID, and Global Fund engaged in a multi year effort to improve retention, deployment, recruitment and training of multiplicity of health workers including doctors, nurses and clinical officers. This resulted in an increased enrollment of 250%, with 40% more doctors, 50% more clinical officers and 30% more nurses than in 2003.

African Medical Research Foundation (AMREF) has been at the forefront of HRH development and management across Africa for the last 50 years. Significantly, AMREF has led in the development of the concept of “skill mix” (task shifting), one solution to overall HRH crisis in Africa such as training clinical officers and community midwives to carry out duties of physicians in Southern Sudan and training community health workers across Africa to undertake high level functions.

AMREF has also tested the use of ICT as an approach to scaling up training of HRH. In Kenya, we are implementing a programme to upgrade 22,000 certified nurses to registered level nurses. So far,

1,500 have graduated and over 6,000 are enrolled, at 20% of the cost and without disruption to service and family lives. The approach is being replicated in Uganda.

AMREF has continued its advocacy for human resources for health including more health care workers in Africa and calling for an increased investment such as training, deployment and management of migration by governments and the international community. In addition, AMREF continues to advocate for task shifting for countries with severe shortages, including the elimination of rigid proof barriers and HRH leadership and management enhancement.

The shortage projected in 2006 remains the same in 2015 at 800,000 health workers. Funding for improving the human resources for health crisis has not improved, and therefore the NGO sector in the UK should ask their government to commit and take leadership to ensure that national and global strategic plans are funded and delivered.

To find solutions for this crisis, we need to focus on the bottlenecks and how to overcome them. AMREF propose the creation of a global fund for human resources for health, similar to the funds set up for malaria and HIV/Aids, from which countries with severe shortages would draw financial in kind support.

Written by Dr. Peter Ngatia, Director of Capacity Building at AMREF.

For more information: peter.ngatia@amref.org



An enterprising solution



“Citigroup have introduced BRAC UK to other companies that have potential for collaboration and funding”

In the last issue of *The Networker*, BRAC UK explained their approach to working with the private sector. These case studies illustrate some of that work.



CASE STUDY 1 An enterprising solution



Besides securitisation of microfinance loans for BRAC, Citigroup has supported BRAC UK from its very inception.

We have received grants from Citi Foundation on an annual basis for a financial education needs assessment of British-Bangladeshi women in Tower Hamlets. As a result, over the last three years they have funded a money management project for women and young people in the borough. Citigroup has introduced BRAC UK to other companies that have potential for collaboration and funding, and discussions are in progress for BRAC UK to become involved in Citigroup's employee groups. These include the women's, roots (ethnic minority) and parents groups. Such partnerships have the potential for raising funds through payroll giving and/or fundraising events and employees volunteering.

Citigroup has worked with BRAC UK as a part of its community work and corporate social responsibility. The supportive working relationship has benefited BRAC UK not only with funds for the money management project but also support for organisational expenditures. It raised our credibility with other organisations and gave us access to highly skilled volunteers.

In return, Citigroup has benefited by being associated with a well known international NGO. It has received value for money against its investment in the organisation and project (1,250 people benefited from the project 2009) and fulfilled its corporate social responsibility and contribution to the local community.

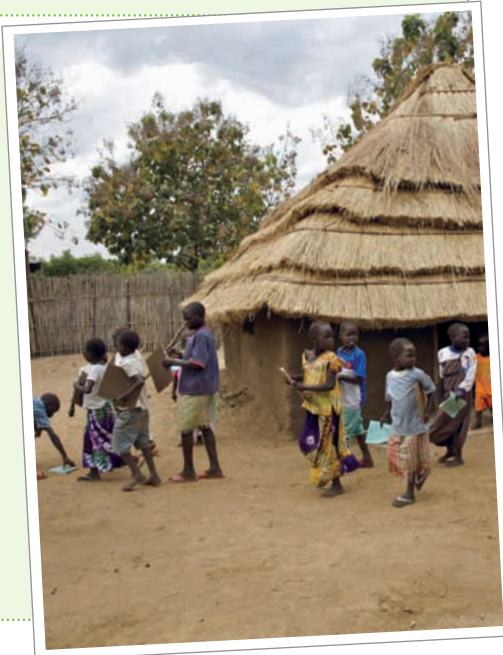


CASE STUDY 2 In partnership with Petrofac

We have worked with Petrofac, an oil and gas support company with commercial interests in Sudan, for almost two years. They fund 60 non-formal primary schools in Southern Sudan which has enabled 1,800 pupils, mostly girls, to access education in this post war country.

So far, 60 women have been trained as volunteer teachers, school management committees have been created and the Government of Southern Sudan's Ministry of Education has approved and is involved in the programme. It is anticipated that this partnership will continue beyond May 2010. In addition, discussions are in progress for possible funding of a BRAC UK London-based project.

BRAC UK has benefited from supporting its sister organisation, BRAC Southern Sudan, in its creative and successful education programme. Petrofac has benefited too, in several ways; it has been able to fulfil its corporate social responsibility, gain credibility in Southern Sudan and is kept informed of conditions on the ground, for instance, security, infrastructure, and other development programmes taking place.



For more information: www.bracuk.net



Unfinished business

Concern Universal explain how working in partnership with business can challenge poverty and inequality and further their development work.



CASE STUDY 1 Business and the MDGs

Concern Universal believes that business can play a vital role in development by generating employment and providing much-needed goods and services.

Most of our country programmes encourage small-scale business and improve livelihoods through enabling better access to markets and credit. Companies will also be a source of the innovations needed to address challenges such as climate change and food security.

The scale of the private sector makes it too big for us to ignore when, for example, foreign direct investment in developing countries is already many times greater than official aid. The current convergence of global financial turmoil with impending

resource shortages is causing many companies to re-think their business models. While we know that sometimes business activity can have a negative impact on communities and the environment, now is the time to harness the potential force for good, while minimising any negative effects.

The Africa Progress Panel chaired by Kofi Annan, asked Concern Universal to examine the role that business could play in helping to achieve the MDGs. A unique feature was the convening of an Advisory Group of 14 leading business people chaired by Concern Universal's Richard Harvey, the former CEO of Aviva. To help inform the Group's discussions, we carried out sector-based research. Drawing on

this work and guided by the Advisory Group, a short Policy Brief was produced and six recommendations emerged. These are primarily aimed at the private sector, but are also for African governments and the development community to consider. Each has a set of practical actions intended to have positive impacts for both business and communities in Africa.

For Concern Universal's development work, some of these recommendations are directly relevant, namely strengthening agricultural value chains, ensuring the wider availability of credit (especially for small enterprises), and promoting social business models.



CASE STUDY 2 Multiple partnerships for financial services

Concern Universal's micro-finance company in Malawi (CUMO) has several productive partnerships with the private sector, enabling CUMO to offer a range of services to its remote rural clients. These are delivered in their villages using existing community infrastructure.

To further reduce transaction costs, CUMO uses third party outlets (for example, Farmers World agricultural depots). This permits a cashless system as loan disbursements and repayments are made via these agents. With Telkom Networks Malawi mobile phones are lent to farmers to deal direct with traders, both to receive a fair price for their crops and not to overpay for essential inputs. This is supported by sending market information from the Malawi Agricultural Commodity Exchange to farmers by text message.

The aim is to enable the self-reliance of remote rural villagers, who are excluded from normal financial and related services.

CUMO is unleashing new self-employment opportunities through the provision of an integrated set of services that allows villagers to grow both agricultural and off-farm businesses. Starting with small enterprise loans in 2003, CUMO now offers staple agriculture loans, funeral benefit micro-insurance, enterprise training and market linkage services. It is working with NICO Life to introduce a sickness micro-insurance service. CUMO is also developing sector-specific products, for example, with a tea estate company and an association of smallholder tea growers.

CUMO is now the second largest rural micro-finance provider in Malawi, with an exclusive focus on deprived remote rural villagers. It has brought financial services to 42,000 people, 85% of whom are women. On-time repayment levels are very high at 97%, and 100% of clients also deposit savings. The Government of Malawi views CUMO as an icon in rural financial service

delivery. Independent comparisons across Africa show CUMO is more efficient per staff member and has a far greater proportion of women borrowers.

CUMO has developed a sustainable microfinance model for poor rural households. This is a low-cost, revenue generating and self-sustainable social business enterprise. It is now 100% operationally self-sufficient. The impact of the model is now encouraging its upscale and replication.



For more information: www.concernuniversal.org



A Natural Partnership

Why the environment is crucial for achieving the MDGs

Ruth Fuller and Joanna Phillips highlight why it must be central to a successful outcome from the review summit in September.

“Without a sustainable environmental base, we will have little hope of attaining our objectives for reducing poverty and hunger and improving health and human well-being.”¹ Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General

Ensuring environmental sustainability is the overall goal of MDG 7. It encapsulates a broad array of environmental issues including biodiversity loss, air pollution, forests, climate change, fish stocks, clean drinking water, sanitation and improvement of slums. Progress towards much of MDG 7 is desperately off track, and this has major implications for the other MDGs that all directly or indirectly rely on the natural environment.

Without environmental sustainability, any gains in the MDGs will be transitory and inequitable.

MDGs in a changing environment

Throughout human history we have depended on nature for sustenance, well-being and development. We have, however, consumed natural resources faster than they renew, living beyond our means environmentally. Consequently we are heading into an ‘ecological credit crunch’ and are now beginning to see the implications of failing to safeguard our natural resource base.

Climate change is the starkest example; it has risen hugely up the global agenda since the MDGs were agreed. The United Nations Development Programme call it the defining human development challenge of the 21st Century.² The poorest countries and most vulnerable people are suffering the earliest and most damaging setbacks, even though they have contributed least to the problem. Climate change impacts play out first through changes in the natural world, and understanding the links between natural systems and human wellbeing is a key part

of building climate resilience. It is vital for both mitigation and adaptation.

Pollution and degradation threaten resources

Freshwater and marine resources are increasingly stressed and polluted. Demands on rivers and groundwater resources for agriculture and industry already use about 90% of the world’s freshwater. Soils are degraded, depleted of nutrients and increasingly lost to erosion.

Biological diversity is also in rapid decline, and there has been an overall 30% decline in species populations since 1970.³ If this trend continues, the functioning of ecosystems will be severely compromised, with drastic consequences to human societies. We all rely on ecosystem goods and services such as freshwater, food, timber, fibre, fuel, medicine, water purification, air and soil quality, pollination, pest control, climate regulation and flood control. Already, at least 60% of the essential services provided by ecosystems are degraded and used unsustainably.⁴

The impact of environmental degradation is felt most directly by the world’s most vulnerable people, and without access to key natural resources such as clean water, food, soil, they cannot break out of the poverty trap and prosper.

Environmental sustainability – progress and challenges

“Efforts to accelerate progress towards the MDGs must take account of the rapidly changing development landscape transformed by ecosystem decline including the challenges posed by climate change”⁵. We must not fail in this.

Accelerated progress is needed in several areas, including giving greater priority to preserving our natural resource base and addressing climate change.⁶ MDG 7 often



• A woman helps harvest maize, the staple crop of Africa, on a relative's farm © Brent Stirton / Getty Images / WWF-UK

gets sidelined, particularly the aspects concerning biodiversity and ecosystems. It is vital that the importance of biodiversity and healthy ecosystems are recognised, effectively valued, and incorporated into development.

In the MDG framework, environmental sustainability is both a sector and a cross-cutting theme. Environmental goods and services link to the MDGs concerned with hunger, education, gender, child mortality, health, disease.⁷ The vital underpinning role of the environment in development needs to be embedded in the MDG review and summit, with actions to ensure effective environmental mainstreaming.

Communicating the role of ecosystems and biodiversity in poverty reduction is challenging given the complexity of the systems involved. Developing meaningful metrics and indicators that resonate with development audiences is difficult. However, these challenges should not be an excuse for continuing to undermine the basic support systems of life on Earth.

Written by Ruth Fuller at WWF-UK and Joanna Phillips at RSPB.

For more information: RFuller@wwf.org.uk or Joanna.Phillips@rspb.org.uk

For more information about the Development and Environment group: bond.org.uk/groups

1 UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s message for International Mother Earth Day on 22 April

2 Human Development Report 2007-8, UNDP

3 WWF (2008) Living Planet Report

4 Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. (2005) Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Biodiversity Synthesis. World Resources Institute, Washington, D.C.

5 UN Secretary General (2010) Keeping the promise: a forward-looking review to promote an agreed action agenda to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015

6 United Nations (2009) The Millennium Development Goals Report

7 www.unpei.org/PDF/Making-the-economic-case-primer.pdf

Group spotlight

Policy and Lobbying Group



The Bond Policy and Lobbying Group is a forum where members can share information, political intelligence and news on members' advocacy work.

Over the past year, the group played a key role in developing the joint Bond submission for the DFID White Paper consultation. Another priority of the group has been the UK General Election campaign.

The group led on developing the *Vote Global* manifesto which serves as the joint policy position of the sector and ahead of, during and after the election campaign. It has now been signed by over 200 organisations. Other joint projects during the election campaign included a comparison of parties' policies on

international development and the planning of World Poverty Day which was held on 18 April 2010.

Now, after the General Election, the Policy and Lobbying Group will focus on how best to engage with a new UK Government and make sure that international development is high on the political agenda ahead of key international moments such as the EU Summit and the G8/G20 summits in June as well as the UN MDGs Review Summit in September.

Sub-groups also work on effective joint engagement with a new Parliament and on how to present international development issues at upcoming party conferences in autumn 2010.

The Policy and Lobbying Group has about 30 active members, mostly advocacy and government relations experts of Bond members and partner networks.

If you want to become active in joint advocacy efforts and want to join this group, please contact Elvira Kanichay, Bond Network Policy Officer: ekanichay@bond.org.uk

For more information about the election campaign and our work going forward: bond.org.uk/election

Group chairs contribute to Bond strategy consultation

The group chairs' consultation meeting, held on 10 May, provided an opportunity for the chairs and committee members of the 16 Bond groups to contribute their valued ideas towards the development of the Bond strategy 2011-16.

The event opened with an introduction from Nick Roseveare who explained the strategy, its themes, and the ways that Bond groups can feed into the process.

Participants then identified some of the key challenges facing the international development sector including climate change, bringing development and the environmental agenda together, inclusion of Southern voices, the role of Bond in public support for development and how groups can engage in national, regional and international processes.

Participants also had discussions around the three key organising themes – connect, influence, and strengthen. There was a consensus on the need for groups to share experience and work together in order to have more influence on lobbying and bringing desired change to policies.

Among other interesting suggestions, participants would like the network to have achieved the following by 2016:

- A secure funding base for UK NGOs
- A world in which the poorest and most vulnerable are able to hold powerful institutions accountable to decisions that affect their lives
- A strong unified sector dealing with new UK Government
- More engagement in EU and international advocacy and with international CSO coalitions
- Working closely with new UK Parliament
- Exploring working with other actors including think tanks and academics

The meeting ended with participants pledging to involve members of their different groups in putting together a joint response which will be fed in to the final strategy document.

The Bond Strategy 2011-2016 development consultation runs for 12 weeks from mid-March to mid-June 2010.

For more information: bond.org.uk/strategyconsultation

Group meetings



Disability and Development Group

Thursday 10 June
11.00am – 2.00pm

Latin American and Caribbean Group

Tuesday 29 June
2.00pm – 4.00pm

Quality Group

Bond Effectiveness Programme quarterly working meeting
Tuesday 22 June
9.00am – 5.00pm

Complaints mechanisms – Tearfund
Friday 16 July
1.30pm – 5.00pm

To find out more or to attend either of these meetings, login to the members' area and go to the relevant group page: bond.org.uk/groups.php

Development and Environment Group

DEG has a new Coordinator

Welcome to Kate Munro who starts as DEG's new part-time coordinator on 2 June. Kate previously worked at Policy Connect managing activities, advocacy and communication strategies for two member networks. She brings lots of exciting skills, experience and enthusiasm to help DEG become even more effective.

Thank you to Liz Gallagher

DEG would like to thank Liz Gallagher from CAFOD for her time and engagement with the DEG Steering Group. We wish you all the best in your new job. Liz leaving creates a vacancy on the DEG Steering Group for a development NGO. Please get in touch if you would like to get involved with DEG at this level: groups@bond.org.uk

Connect, influence, strengthen

With over 350 members, Bond unites the sector by creating opportunities and inspiring members to work, learn and take action together on common issues and challenges. Here are just some of the ways to get involved.

Join a Bond group

The member-led groups are a vital part of the Bond community and cover a range of interest areas. Joining a group is an excellent way to share knowledge, experience and expertise with other members to influence change at many levels.

- Advocacy Capacity Building Group
- Conflict Policy Group
- Development and Environment Group
- Disability and Development Group
- Disaster and Risk Reduction Group
- EC Funding Group
- European Neighbourhood Group
- European Policy Group
- Funding Working Group
- Governance Group
- Latin American and Caribbean Group
- Policy and Lobbying Group
- Quality Group
- Small NGOs Group
- UK Water Network
- Voluntary Income Fundraising Group

To find out more, log into the members' area of the website or contact the Membership and Communications team:

bond.org.uk/groups.php
groups@bond.org.uk
 020 7520 0259

Sign up to our regular e-bulletins



We have several regular e-bulletins that cover a range of topics including jobs, learning and training, campaigning, Europe, and the Bond Effectiveness Programme.

Sign up today: bond.org.uk/e-updates

Attend a training event

Our training courses cover a wide range of issues and are based on three themes:

- Advocacy and campaigning
- Funding, finance and donor relations
- NGO effectiveness

The courses focus on active learning and participation and as well as increasing and improving your skills in a certain area, it is also a good way to meet other Bond members. The services are competitively priced and Bond members receive 1/3 discount. You can also book online.

Details of the latest developments are on page 10 of this issue.

Visit the website or subscribe to the *Your Development* monthly e-bulletin for more information:

bond.org.uk/learn
bond.org.uk/e-updates

Influence the Bond strategy 2011-16



This year, Bond will publish its strategy for 2011-2016 which will be built on the views of member organisations. The strategy consultation runs until 18 June 2010 and provides a unique opportunity for members to influence the future vision and direction of the Bond network.

This is your chance to say what you think are the right ways for the UK NGO community to develop in the face of the enormous challenges facing us in the next five years. You can either complete the questions online or send us your answers by post or email. As the consultation is for Bond members only, you need to log into the members' area:

bond.org.uk/pages/strategy-consultation.html

If you have any problems accessing the website or downloading the documents please contact us:

consultations@bond.org.uk
 020 7520 0259

Visit the website



The website has lots of information covering all of Bond's work including:

- policy
- campaigning
- Europe
- law and regulation
- learning and training
- Bond groups
- membership
- jobs
- advertising

There is also a members' area which is a community space where Bond members can engage, learn from each other and access information not in the public domain. From the members' area you can:

- Join Bond group
- Find out what other members do and where they are based
- Get the latest news from members
- Access the EC Funding Advice Line
- Download member-only resources
- Download *The Networker* magazine

Log in from the main homepage, or if you have yet to sign up, click on the 'New user' link: bond.org.uk

It's your community, be a part of it

Cognitive Surplus

This free event marks the publication of Clay Shirky's latest book, *Cognitive Surplus*. It examines the changes we will all enjoy as our untapped resources of talent are put to use at last.

Monday 28 June 2010

6.30pm – 8.00pm

Venue: Sheikh Zayed Theatre, New Academic Building, LSE

Speaker: Clay Shirky

For more information: events@lse.ac.uk or call 020 7955 6043

Refugee Week

14 – 20 June 2010

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

Global Justice – Global Policy public discussion

Professor Amartya Sen, Lamont University Professor at Harvard and an honorary fellow of LSE, will be joined by fellow professors on a discussion on global policy. The event also marks the celebration of the paperback version of his latest book *The idea of justice*

Thursday 8 July 2010

6.30pm – 8.00pm

Speaker: Professor Amartya Sen

Chair: Professor David Held

For more information: events@lse.ac.uk or 020 7955 6043

World Congress of NGOs: Enhancing Human Dignity: The role of NGOs



Join other NGO leaders from the global non profit community as well as prominent international leaders for a unique web conference, convened by the World Association of Non-Governmental Associations (WANGO).

8-9 June 2010

For more information: www.wangoconference.org/2010/program

Integrity Awards: Empowering change: honouring the heroes in the fight against corruption

Transparency International is seeking courageous individuals or organisations that have made meaningful contributions to the fight against corruption. Winners come from all backgrounds and serve as inspiration, proving that corruption can be beaten.

For more information and to nominate: www.transparency.org/news_room/award/integrity_awards



Sheila McKechnie Awards 2010

The awards are for individuals who are new to campaigning or working with few resources. You will have passion, tenacity and the potential to create change – locally, nationally or globally. If you are demonstrating commitment to a cause then Sheila McKechnie Foundation want to hear from you.

Closing dates for entries is **Monday 28 June 2010**.

SHEILA MCKECHNIE FOUNDATION

For more information: www.smk.org.uk

Communicating climate change in Africa: challenge and opportunity

A panel of experts will lead discussion on the role of media and communication in supporting the response to climate change in developing countries.

18 June 2010

1.00pm – 2.30pm

An ODI, Africa Talks Climate, BBC World Service Trust and British Council public event and online.

For more information: www.odi.org.uk/events

Europe at the heart of international development? International development at the heart of Europe?

3 June – 1 July 2010

This meetings series will provide an opportunity to clarify and debate Europe's role in international development. Following the publication of the report, *New Challenges, New Beginnings*, these meetings offer updates on policy and institutional developments from Brussels, and help to shape decisions being taken on the future of development policy.

Events include:

- The EU's Spring Package: The radical agenda the EU needs? **17 June**
- EU coordination and division of labour: An aspiration or something to show for at the Korean High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness? **24 June**
- EU development financing: Is the EU budget fit for purpose to meet the challenges of the 21st century? **1 July**

For more information: www.odi.org.uk/events

Religion shaping development: inspirational, inhibiting, institutionalised?

21-23 July, Birmingham

The conference brings together findings from the Religions and Development Research Programme and other research and explores some of their implications with practitioners and development agencies.

For details and to register: www.rad.bham.ac.uk



UK

Political changes after the UK General Election

The UK General Election has led to significant changes in the UK political landscape with a new Conservative-Liberal Democrats Coalition being formed.

Andrew Mitchell MP is the new Secretary of State for International Development while Alan Duncan MP is Minister of State in DFID and Stephen O'Brien MP joins as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State.

Over a third of all MPs are new to Parliament with over 230 new Parliamentarians out of 650 seats.

Over the next few weeks, new and returning MPs will be debating the new Government's programme for this parliamentary session after the Queen's Speech, as well as selecting Select Committee members and chairs and All-Party Parliamentary Groups.

An emergency budget is expected to be announced by the end of June. Bond, together with the UK Aid Network, will be active to ensure that the commitment to aid spending made during the election campaign is delivered.

All three major parties committed in their election manifestos to enshrine in law the international target of spending 0.7% of GNI on overseas development aid.

Bond engagement

As the new Parliament convenes, Bond is working with members on our engagement with the new Government and Parliament to ensure that they deliver the actions set out in the *Vote Global* manifesto, which is signed by over 200 Bond members and other organisations.

Over the next months, there are several joint NGO activities planned including an International Development Parliamentary reception for all new and returning MPs on 9 June and a mass lobby of Parliament this autumn.

A public event with the new Secretary of State is planned for 10 June to mark the launch of the AidWatch report (see next column).

Bond is fully committed to building the widest political support for positive action on international development in 2010 and the years ahead.

Read more about the new Government and the new Parliament on the 'Policy pages': bond.org.uk/pages/uk-policy.html



EU

Europe-wide launch of the 2010 AidWatch Report

10 June

The annual CONCORD EU AidWatch report, *Penalty Against Poverty – More and Better EU aid can score Millennium Development Goals*, will be launched across Europe on 10 June 2010. The report assesses the state of European aid performance and identifies the actions needed from EU member states on aid quality and quantity.

UK Aid Network and Bond are organising a UK launch event of the report, *Will 2010 deliver for the MDGs and development?* on 10 June. It will provide an opportunity for UK NGOs and their supporters to engage with the new DFID ministerial team on the UK's role in ensuring the key moments in 2010 – the EU Foreign Affairs Council, the EU Leaders Summit, the G8 and G20 and the MDG Review Summit – deliver for aid, development and the MDGs.

Bond and UK Aid Network members are invited to attend – more information is on the UK Aid Network website: www.ukan.org.uk

CONCORD's AidWatch Group will be organising a stunt in Brussels on 17 June.

More information about the 2010 AidWatch report is on page 9.

Foreign Affairs Council Development Ministers meeting

14-15 June

The Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) meeting on the 14 June will issue substantial conclusions on the MDGs, possibly by way of MDG by MDG action points.

It is likely that Heads of State and Government will not debate the MDGs but it will almost definitely be part of the Council Conclusions.

Belgium takes over the EU Presidency

1 July

Belgium takes over the Presidency of the European Union in July. The development priorities for the Presidency include a focus on the aid commitments set out in the MDGs, budget support for aid effectiveness and security in fragile states.

<http://forum2010.belgium.be/>



International

G8 Summit and G20 leaders summit

25-27 June

Canada

On 25-27 June, the G8 summit will take place back-to-back with the G20 leaders summit. With the G8 summit only lasting one day, the communiqué is expected to be short with the development agenda covering G8 accountability, maternal and child health and the MDGs.

The G20 summit will focus on their progress in overcoming the global recession and review international actions taken over the past year.

Bond members have been actively engaging with the UK Government on G8 and G20 issues over the past months, including cross-Whitehall meetings and meeting the UK Sherpa for the G8 and G20 Summits. Key concerns raised in these meetings included the failure to reach G8 commitments including the Gleneagles aid funding commitments, as well as the weak accountability and governance of the G20.

Read more on the 'Policy pages' of the website:

bond.org.uk/pages/g8g20-canada.html



• A young child gets her weight measured in a local Hospital in Tana River, Kenya ©Julius Mwelu/IRIN

Whats on offer

Books for NGOs



SMS uprising – Mobile activism in Africa

Sokari Ekine (Editor)
Pambazuka Press, 2010

The request to review this book couldn't have come at a better time. I was preparing for a trip to Nigeria to help the local Save the Children create a digital strategy for our child survival campaign. Mobile penetration in Nigeria is high. The country pioneered the use of SMS in their last elections in 2007 when they used Frontline SMS to report election violations. It is obvious that mobile should be the core of any digital strategy. But how has the technology developed recently and how is mobile now being used for social change on the continent?

SMS uprising – Mobile activism in Africa was exactly the book I needed to read. Opinion pieces from leaders in the use of SMS for development, from Ken Banks of Frontline SMS to Becky Faith of TacticalTech, combine examples which excite and enthuse with the harsh realities of the digital divide and the political and community

contexts that have kept SMS from becoming a significant tool for mobilising masses in taking action for change.

Yet technology is changing by the day and there is a lot of optimism about the lowering costs and accessibility of mobile phones. This will enable access to mobile internet and open up the benefits of the world wide web to more people in developing countries.

There are also examples of amazing innovation that people in Africa enjoy which we could only envy. Paying your electricity bill by SMS? Sending money to someone via text? Kenyans have been doing this for some time through M-PESA.

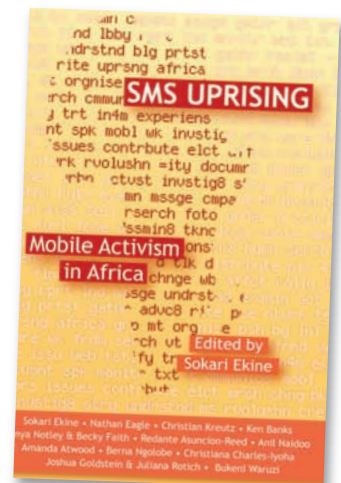
And then think about Kubatana in Zimbabwe. Operating in the atmosphere of total information black-out and censorship, this courageous organisation provided essential information and a space where people could voice their opinions and vent their frustration about the chaos caused by the last elections.

Following the 2007 elections in Kenya, Ushahidi – a mash-up of Google maps and SMS used as a reporting tool, enabled ordinary citizens to put violence hotspots on a map for everyone to see. This genius

technology has seen wider use recently like in Haiti after the January 2010 earthquake.

In summary, a fantastic book which provides a window into current and future (mobile) technology in Africa and, by extension, a lot of the developing world. As it shows a plethora of SMS uses in development projects, this book is a must-read and a guaranteed inspiration for NGO professionals.

Written by Branislava Milosevic,
Head of Multimedia at Save the Children



Aid to Africa: Redeemer or Coloniser?

Hakima Abbas and Yves Niyiragira (Editors)
Pambazuka Press, 2009

Despite a flurry of recent books probing the current aid system, very few have been written by authors raised and resident in developing countries. *Aid to Africa: Redeemer or Coloniser?* is the antidote to this – profiling the voices of sixteen writers from sub-Saharan Africa.

Although the contributors frequently disagree, Samir Amin of the South Centre captures a common theme when he argues “The choice is not between aid as it is and no aid at all. The battle must be waged for radical transformation of the concepts regarding the function of aid”.

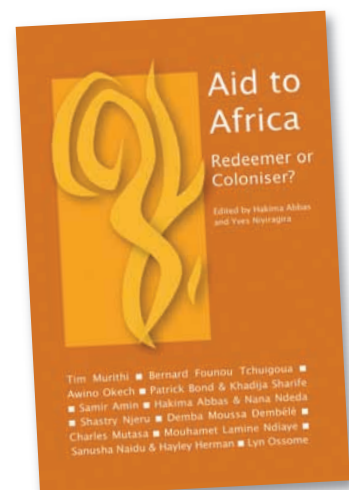
The deceptiveness of what is counted as aid is continuously highlighted, as the spotlight is turned on tied aid, high interest loans, aid used to lubricate damaging ‘free market’ trade deals, loans and debt relief based on policy conditionality, military aid, aid to finance oil pipelines and aid which is promised then not delivered. This is placed in the context of debt repayments, transfer pricing and corporate tax avoidance, resulting in a net financial flow from Africa to the North.

On the other hand, reparations, predictable budget support and solidarity with critical civil society are all met with approval, whilst the frequent quoting of Bond member policy reports reveals the reach of the research functions of UK NGOs.

The arguments in this book provide a nuanced counter-balance to those of the populist aid sceptics. However it is too fragmented and academic to become a

bestseller able to make this case to the public. That book, it seems, is still to be written.

Written by Tim Gee, Campaigns
Communications Officer at Bond



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



Development People

“The BasicNeeds Model for Mental Health and Development is a way of working with mentally ill people in the developing world”
Chris Underhill



• Subira user group meeting. © BasicNeeds

Chris Underhill, Founder Director of BasicNeeds, shares his vision for the future of the charity and explains plans to roll out a Model for Mental Health and Development.

What does your role involve?

I am the Founder Director which is the equivalent of being the Chief Executive. I founded BasicNeeds in 1999 and initially the role was to envision what the organisation would be like and to put that vision into practice, and from there to develop the strategic reach of the organisation. I set up BasicNeeds after I became aware that whilst quite a lot had been done in the field of physical and sensory disability, mental ill health in the developing world was still something which was really quite a long way behind.

It was, and still is, very common to see people with mental illness not being treated nor being given their rights so it struck me that there was a real gap. When I looked into it, I was astonished to find that there is something like 450 million people at any one time with serious mental illness in the world and because of the population skew, the majority are in the developing world.

What inspired you to work in the sector?

I started in the sector 40 years ago by going on VSO, to Zambia. I followed three themes in my career: disability and mental health, appropriate technology and leadership. What has inspired me has been a mixture of things but to stand beside people, such as mentally ill people, who are facing considerable economic and social inequalities and to work in solidarity with them is a particular joy. It has also been a sector that has afforded me an enormous amount of opportunity to be a social entrepreneur, and to be creative, and this has been very important to me.

What are your current work priorities?

As well as continuing the development of BasicNeeds, I am in the process of setting up the BasicNeeds federation. At present we work in 10 countries – seven are country-based programmes (Ghana, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, India, Laos and

Sri Lanka) which are managed by country offices. A further number are either in the process of being developed (for example, Bangladesh and Vietnam) or are already managed by partners (Nepal).

So, I am taking each of those major programmes and we are bringing into being an independent local organisation with its own board. Essentially we are creating a set of autonomous organisations that will then be part of the BasicNeeds federation and each will franchise the BasicNeeds Model for Mental Health and Development – a way of working with mentally ill people in the developing world – which I, with my friend DM Naidu, developed when I first started the charity. BasicNeeds India is already autonomous and managed by an independent trust board.

My vision for BasicNeeds was that we would always have independent and autonomous organisations once we were able to get them up and running. In order to maintain

and preserve quality around the Model for Mental Health and Development, we have arrived at a quality assurance approach offered through a franchise.

We started this in January 2010 and plan to have the Federation in place by 2012.

What outcome do you hope this will have?

By December 2012, I want to be in a position where all the current branches are independent and because they are franchise operations, meaning they are responsible for the Model of Mental Health and Development in their region, that they themselves are able to franchise onwards. This gives us the potential for major growth and therefore it means that we will be able to reach the 500,000 mentally ill people and people with epilepsy together with their carers that we would like to reach by the end of our strategic plan in 2013.

What is the most rewarding and most difficult part of your job?

We work in a landscape that is still very barren of other charities and 'competitors' or collaborators, so the satisfaction and reward is that we are really making a lot of difference to the lives of mentally ill people. From 2000 to December 2009, we supported 78,036 mentally ill people or people with epilepsy and in 2009 alone we supported 33,915, of which 28,053 were in treatment.

It's never been easy to raise money for mentally ill people and raising money for mentally ill people in developing countries is significantly more difficult. On the other hand, I really enjoy talking to high net-worth donors, charity funding bosses, bi-lateral donors and so on about the problem and the subject and slowly and by degrees convincing them to support his kind of work. I don't find it

onerous; it is demanding and always a challenge but it's not something I dislike.

What is disturbing and at times frightening is when a member of the team finds someone who is chained or bound up, and the way that you can persuade a community to ensure that the individuals are not chained up is always a matter of skill and judgement at a local level.

What challenges are there for BasicNeeds at the moment?

Our annual turnover is about £2.2 million at the moment and when we first started it was £75,000 so the challenge really is the federation transition programme. The most significant part of that challenge is to make sure that the governance of the newly created organisations are strong and robust and that they have the proper training and sense of development and ownership of their new entity. If you take the governance, the franchising and the capacity building of staff, the most vulnerable thing could be the governance – it is the thing that we have to get right.

What, in your opinion, is the organisation's most significant achievement?

That we have established a way of working for BasicNeeds and a model of working for health and development, and this has led to the big numbers of people that we have supported over the years.

Where would you like BasicNeeds to be in five years time?

A federation of autonomous organisations, both with the current branches as autonomous organisations and with new partner organisations being part of the franchise. In the end, the federation would

"It's never been easy to raise money for mentally ill people and raising money for mentally ill people in developing countries is significantly more difficult"

be more than just simply what we know today as the branches.

Do you have a mentor or someone who has inspired you?

There are several people who have either been inspiring or encouraging over the years. Over the years Joel Joffe has been an immense inspiration and a 'super-encourager and mentor from time to time. I am also really inspired by the BasicNeeds staff, so my in-country programme management staff are immensely inspirational in the way that they carry out the model that I have been referring to.

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

The key challenge in this and every year is to remain relevant and to genuinely serve the needs and aspirations of economically and socially poor people.

Chris Underhill is the Founder Director of BasicNeeds. For more information about the work of the charity: www.basicneeds.org



• Chris Underhill listening to the local community © BasicNeeds

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With over 350 members, advertising with Bond connects you to thousands of international development professionals.

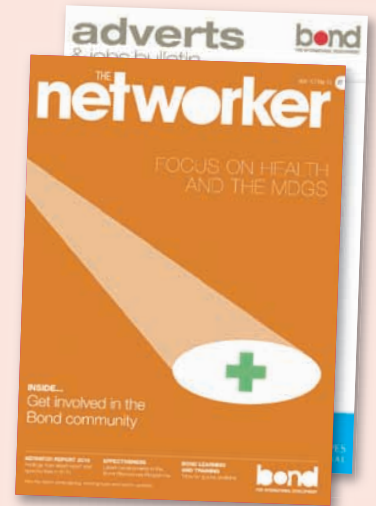
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To advertise in the *Adverts and Jobs Bulletin* or the *Jobs Alert* e-bulletin: advertising@bond.org.uk

To advertise in *The Networker* or *Your Network*: jashman@bond.org.uk



Sign up to our e-bulletins



Bond sends out regular e-bulletins on a variety of topics.

- *Your Network* provides an update on the latest news from Bond and highlights ways that members can get involved in the Bond community and contribute to key aspects of our work. It also includes news and forward-thinking features on sector issues and complements *The Networker* magazine
- *Your Development* keeps you up to date with Bond training news, learning developments and ideas, latest events and special offers
- *Jobs Alert* provides a round up of the latest international development vacancies
- *NGO Effectiveness Bulletin* outlines the latest progress and opportunities for involvement in the Bond Effectiveness programme
- *EU News* is a digest of EU policy updates and opportunities to get involved in EU focused campaigns, trainings and other events
- *Global Call* details the latest campaigning news and events



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