

GROWTH, GROWTH, GROWTH

Implications for international development



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Securitising aid

Meeting poor people's needs

TAKE ACTION

New website focusing on economic justice

VALUE FOR MONEY

Results-based development

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Coming full circle

Economic growth is once again emerging as the dominant approach to development with the UK government, EU and G20 all aligning their policies to this agenda.

In this issue, several articles focus on particular aspects of growth in a development context. Joanna Rea outlines the historical background and current thinking including several perspectives advanced by speakers from DFID, the EU, UK civil society and academia at a recent Bond event.

Meanwhile, ODI explores growth in relation to natural resource scarcity and climate change, Fairtrade Foundation explains why the government's trade white paper won't lead to inclusive growth and Christian Aid focusses on the impact that corruption can have.

Securitising aid: implications for NGOs

The 'securitisation of aid' is rapidly becoming a key debate with US, EU and UK leaders speaking of the need to strengthen the link between development policy and security in fragile and conflict-affected states. There is concern however, that this will lead to development spending being directed towards the security interests of governments and donors. Saferworld, a leader on security and justice issues, unpacks the complexities on page 8-9.

Economic justice for all

Of all the Millennium Development Goals, it is goal 8 on economic justice that receives the least attention and has the most progress to make. To shed light on the issues it addresses and to find out what your organisation can do to raise awareness with governments and other decision-makers, go to page 12-13 and visit a new website launched by Bond and its partners: www.MDGeconomicjustice.org

Innovation and development

'Innovation' is a claim often made in development projects, funding proposals, and indeed a requirement often cited in funders' criteria, but what does it really mean and how can it be used to the greatest positive effect in a development context? Using practical examples, the Humanitarian Centre provides insights into what it takes to be innovative on page 14-15.

With my best wishes,

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

Tiri

Tiri (Making Integrity Work) is an international charity whose vision is for a just and equitable world, where citizens are empowered and integrity is central to vibrant societies.

Our mission is to enable citizens to act with and demand integrity, actively taking part in building institutions to promote a state that is open, accountable and responsive to their needs and expectations.

The key to resolving the challenges lies locally, and so we are catalysts and incubators for innovations, working with governments, business, academia and civil society to build integrity into a nation's institutions from bottom-up. Our programmes include:

- mainstreaming integrity into professional and higher education
- improving accountability and effectiveness of post-war reconstruction
- improving governance of basic services for the poor
- building integrity in the workplace
- promoting democratic governance

Bond Annual Conference on 3 November

The Bond Annual Conference and AGM, on 3 November, has a reputation for attracting eminent speakers and a wide range of NGO leaders to discuss and debate together some of the most pressing issues facing international development.

Regarded as the networking event for members, it is often over-subscribed so please save the date in your diary. More details about this year's programme and how to register will be available soon. Video, photos and highlights from the 2010 event is at www.bond.org.uk/annualconference2010



We offer training, mentoring, tools and grants to equip our partners in Asia, Africa, Middle East, Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the former Soviet Union.

Highlights of our work

- Education networks with 200 academics from 170 universities in 60 countries, teaching 2000 students annually
- Pioneering role in community-driven accountability of reconstruction projects.
- Incubated Publish What You Fund (www.publishwhatyoufund.org), a standard-setting aid transparency initiative
- Annual Integrity School (2005); 250 participants from 40 countries now driving integrity reforms
- Accra Principles to strengthen electoral justice

For more information:
www.tiri.org
mary.muchena@tiri.org

New Bond members

12 organisations joined Bond in February. Go to www.bond.org.uk/membership and click on 'Membership Directory' for more information about all Bond members:

- ACDF-UK
- Act4Africa
- Africare
- Age UK
- Baha'i Agency for Social and Economic Development
- Conciliation Resources
- Jane Goodall Institute
- Purple Field Productions
- The Akshaya Patra Foundation
- The Gaia Foundation
- The Indigo Trust
- The Vegan Society



Network spotlight: Trade Justice Movement

Trade Justice Movement is a coalition of more than 60 organisations, including trade unions, aid agencies, environment and human rights campaigns, Fair Trade organisations and faith and consumer groups.



Together, we call for trade justice – with the rules weighted to benefit poor people and the environment. We believe that everyone has the right to feed their families, make a decent living and protect their environment, but the rich and powerful are pursuing trade policies that put profits before the needs of people and the planet.

Trade is firmly on the agenda for the UK government: David Cameron has said "we must be messianic in wanting to see free trade and open markets around the world", DFID are leading on trade in the G20, departments across Whitehall are being told to prioritise trade in their work plans, and Vince Cable is touting a conclusion to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Doha round, now in its tenth year, as a way out of the economic crisis.

Whilst the overall approach is now taking shape, the government is still developing its thinking on key issues for trade justice; now is the time to influence them.

Trade justice Movement is calling for:

- A halt to unfair EU trade deals with Africa, Asia and Latin America
- A rethinking of EU trade policy so that it prioritises development, environmental sustainability and human rights
- For trade policy and processes to be opened up to enable better democratic accountability and scrutiny by parliamentarians and civil society
- For serious, democratic debate on the purpose and powers of the WTO
- For no rush to conclude the Doha Round – a deal that developing countries have rejected several times

For more information:
www.tjm.org.uk
020 7440 8560

Changing hearts and minds



We need to change how the UK public perceives poverty otherwise support and action for international development will continue to fall. A new approach is required.

Evidence shows that public support for international development is in decline and what is understood about the causes of poverty is often very limited¹.

Yet, when asked, hundreds of thousands of people together give millions of pounds to high profile campaigns such as Red Nose Day or disaster appeals such as the Haiti earthquake. The supporter base of Bond members can be counted in millions. There is clearly concern for global poverty and a desire to help at a basic level. However, this is not matched at sufficient scale either by the wish, or means, to gain understanding of what are often complex issues and to become more involved. This needs to change if UK NGOs are to fulfil their missions and for the UK as a nation to play its full part in fighting poverty and inequality and meeting the challenges of environmental degradation and climate change.

The launch of the *Finding Frames* report in March 2011 marked the start of a new conversation between UK NGOs about how to attract a broader and deeper base of public support and inspire more people to take action for international development. Success depends on a new vision for public support and engagement as well as how we can build widespread understanding of and action on global poverty and social justice within British culture.

Why is public support important?

Public support is essential for:

- expanding the insufficient political space and increasing pressure on the UK and other governments to enact change
- achieving sustainable lifestyle and behaviour changes to halt excessive and harmful consumption



- ensuring that the private sector operate in ways that improve impact on development
- enabling NGOs and other civil society organisations to provide and advocate solutions

A growing number of Bond members are thinking through how they might renew their approach and relationship with their constituencies and, by so doing, take public engagement to a different quality of engagement. A greater and more systematic sector approach would help realise these plans and provide a stronger programme of activity to deliver increased public support: a common agenda for future success.

What next?

Over the coming months Bond members will set out a shared approach and develop a programme of activity to meet these ambitious aims. The website will become a resource on new thinking and improved practice on public support for development for Bond members and the wider development sector:
www.bond.org.uk/publicsupport.

Glen Tarman is Advocacy Manager at Bond.
To get in touch: advocacy@bond.org.uk

¹ Polling and surveys by DFID, IDS and other Bond members

Find out more

Finding frames: New ways to engage the UK public in global poverty, by Andrew Darnton and Martin Kirk: www.bond.org.uk/publicsupport

The authors took part in the Bond Leaders Series event on public support on 16 March. Notes from the meeting are online: www.bond.org.uk/leadersseries

Common Cause: The Case for Working with our Cultural Values: www.wwf.org.uk/commoncause

Ten ways to build support

- 1 Create a wider and deeper understanding of polling within the development community; address gaps and deepen our knowledge of audiences.
- 2 Focus on what inspires people to take action to support development; build on approaches that enable citizens to act. Ultimately, actions in the real world create change, rather than what people say they think in polls.
- 3 Increase cooperation, sharing and leadership within civil society on maintaining and building public support for development.
- 4 Improve communication practice and skills within the development community to better influence decision-makers and enable supporters to understand, respond and take action to address the causes of poverty.
- 5 Use positive story-telling and put in place effective response and rebuttal to negative coverage. More proactive and reactive initiatives are needed to target the public and media to advance the cause of development. A powerful new narrative should include the voices of people living in poverty.
- 6 Explore and respond to the emerging evidence on values and frames on global issues, such as *Finding Frames* and *Common Cause*.
- 7 Develop partnerships with media and creative industries. NGOs/non-profits cannot achieve public support goals alone. We need a new scale of relationships with the private sector to extend reach and capacity.
- 8 Support champions of development from outside the development community. Allies and voices from politics, commerce and public life help create greater leverage with decision-makers, opinion-formers and supporters.
- 9 Develop campaigning, individual giving and public education in ways that maintain and build public support.
- 10 Develop a common vision and shared ambition around the optimum level of support for international development and how we can get there.

Growth comes full circle

In recent years, the policy approach to development of the UK, the EU and the G20 have converged once again on the concept of growth. **Joanna Rea** explains.

Economic growth dominated the development discourse throughout the 1970s, 1980s and early 1990s.

The 'Washington Consensus' and its associated policy prescriptions presented an approach to development that was almost entirely focused on economic growth. Towards the end of the 1990s however, this was challenged and rejected; it was considered to be flawed for many reasons but mainly because it did not deliver the progress expected.

A new way of measuring development, the Human Development Index (HDI), acknowledged that economic growth (measured in GDP) must be considered equally along with other development indicators, such as education levels and life expectancy. Although imperfect in its own way, this move towards a conceptualisation of 'human development' was an important change in approach. At the same time, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were being agreed and growing concern for the environment, increasingly scarce natural resources, and the impact of climate change entered mainstream development discourse.

Throughout the 2000s, the MDG framework provided political impetus and a focus for international development efforts. Official Development Assistance (ODA) increased,

In May 2011, Bond will publish a discussion paper, supported by the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), on the new growth agenda and explore alternative indicators to GDP-led growth. The paper will be circulated to Bond members and available on the website.

For more information, contact Joanna Rea, International Advocacy Officer: jrea@bond.org.uk +44 (0) 20 7520 0255

Christian Aid's Getting Growth Right paper: www.christianaid.org.uk/images/getting_growth_right.pdf

as did debt relief. Trade, along with other structural issues, were acknowledged to be central components of international efforts to tackle poverty.

The re-emergence of growth

Following the financial crisis in 2008, approaches to development began to shift again. The MDGs were not on track to be achieved by 2015 and ODA came under pressure with national donor governments experiencing acute fiscal strain. With these changes came political discussions about the role of growth in development. Most recently, the UK government, the EU and the G20 have aligned their approaches and policies with a growth agenda.

UK government

The UK government has set growth and wealth creation as a priority component of the UK's development policy, as publicly stated by UK Secretary of State for International Development, Andrew Mitchell MP. Speaking at the London School of Economics in October 2010, he said: "For every extra percentage point of growth more schools can be built, more health facilities developed and more safe drinking water supplied. So, if you are in the business of helping reduce poverty, you have to believe in economic development and growth. Growth that is broad-based, inclusive and sustainable, in which all people benefit from the proceeds of prosperity, and in which even the poorest have access to the opportunities and markets that it creates."

European Union

The EU has recently concluded a consultation process on its new development green paper, *EU development policy in support of inclusive growth and sustainable development*. European Commissioner for Development, Andris Piebalgs, speaking to CONCORD members in March 2011 about responses received to the consultation said:

"I think we both agree that sustainable and inclusive growth is essential if we are to see a step-change in development levels worldwide. I also agree with you that growth is not sufficient in and of itself. It is a means to an end and, as the Lisbon Treaty says, that end is poverty reduction. I put the emphasis on "sustainable" and "inclusive" growth. The challenge is to ensure that growth benefits all members of society, particularly the poorest and most vulnerable.

All respondents agree that economic growth is essential for development; few, however, see economic growth as sufficient to eliminate poverty."

More detail on the green paper, including the Bond and CONCORD submissions to this consultation: www.bond.org.uk/pages/european-commissions-green-papers-2010.html

Global level

The G20's development agenda, launched at the Seoul G20 summit last year, focuses on the link between growth and development. The Seoul Development Consensus for Shared Growth, Seoul G20 Summit official documents state:

G20 development principle #1

"Focus on economic growth. Be economic-growth oriented and consistent with the G20 Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth, which requires narrowing of the development gap. More robust and sustainable economic growth in Low Income Countries will also go hand-in-hand with their capacity to achieve the MDGs. Actions and policies should have the capacity to significantly improve the prospects for inclusive, sustainable and resilient growth above business as usual."

More details and full summit outcome documents: www.bond.org.uk/pages/g20-2010.html



Responding to the new growth agenda

Bond is supporting members to engage on the issue and civil society thinking on how best to influence this emerging agenda.

In March 2011, Bond hosted a member event to open a dialogue and to give the UK government and the EU an opportunity to outline their approaches and hear civil society and academia perspectives.

1 Malcolm Ridout, Team Leader of the DFID Growth Team, presented the UK government's thinking on growth and wealth creation.

Malcolm noted that wealth creation is at the heart of development but while this issue is a priority for the UK government, their focus remains on tackling poverty and delivering the MDGs. On growth specifically, he noted that while we might know the ingredient, the recipe for growth is still unknown and if different for individual countries. He also acknowledged that the issue of sustainable wealth creation is less clear, while at the same time recognising the challenges of resource scarcity and exploitation.

2 Sven Kuhn Von Burgsdorff, Head of Unit, Forward Looking Studies and Policy Coherence, DG DEVCO, explained the EU perspective.

Sven acknowledged that this is no agreed definition of inclusive growth and accepted that growth does not equal development.

He also noted that growth must be seen as a condition that needs to be in place for human development and for achievement of the MDGs. During the EC green paper consultation, member states noted that EU development policy should maintain its focus on poverty reduction, as mandated by the Lisbon Treaty, and the consistent feedback from NGOs was that growth is necessary but not sufficient for development.

3 Alex Cobham, Chief Policy Adviser at Christian Aid and Neil McCulloch, head of the Globalisation Team at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) offered their views.

Alex outlined concerns about seeing growth as the goal of development. Instead he suggested that growth should be seen as an instrument for development. Alex explored the relationship between human development and economic growth and he noted that a country's starting point is a critical factor in determining if growth can contribute to or hinder development efforts.

Neil, drawing from academic studies, suggested that while growth, overall, is good for development we can't just "decide to have growth", and growth doesn't always happen when or where we would like it to. He noted

Neil's blog about the event (The inclusive growth fashion parade under March 2011): www.globalisationanddevelopment.com

that if we know little about how to create growth, we know even less about how to create sustainable and inclusive growth. Overall, Neil thought that the focus should be on the process for getting the correct policy for each country (ie. tailored industrial policy) and suggested areas that donors should focus on.

The event was a useful way for members to explore the spectrum of opinion and this will form the basis of further Bond work.

An event report and speaker presentations are available: www.bond.org.uk/pages/growth-and-development.html

"The challenge is to ensure that growth benefits all members of society."

Reclaiming security to meet poor people's needs



Tom Donnelly unpacks some of the complexity around the security and development debate.



• A pastoralist family in Warrap State, South Sudan © Pete Mueller

Poor people want to feel safe, just like anyone else. Whether in the midst of endemic violence, such as in Afghanistan or Somalia, or in more stable countries where the police and judicial services may still be inadequate, unfair, or abusive, security and access to justice are development goals in their own right.

Although we often recognise this through our experience on the ground, as a sector we have not yet fully engaged with aid's potential to help address poor people's security and justice needs.

In this respect, the recent focus on conflict and security within the development agenda is to be welcomed – though many worry that this is motivated less by a concern for ordinary people and more by the perceived security interests of donors.

We would be right to reject any such 'securitisation' but, whilst doing so, must not lose sight of aid's potential to promote genuine security and justice for poor people themselves.

What does 'security' mean?

Security is a small word with many meanings. While there is sometimes an assumption that 'security' refers primarily to states or regimes, there are alternative approaches, such as 'human security' which takes the security of individuals and communities as its starting point. This has widened the idea of security beyond physical safety and 'freedom from

fear' to also encompass other important aspects needed to 'secure' human wellbeing – such as political empowerment or 'freedom from want' (having access to health and education, for instance).

However, 'state' and 'human' security are not mutually exclusive. The human security of vulnerable individuals and communities relies, at least in part, on a functioning and responsive state which itself needs security. In this way, the relationship between donors, national governments and individual communities are all important. We need an inclusive approach to security that recognises the needs of both states and communities and, for us in the development community, the real challenge is in ensuring that the needs of poor people are met throughout.

Meeting poor people's security and justice needs

Communities must be given the opportunity to define their own vision of security and access to justice. In some places this may mean ending violent attacks and rape but in others it could mean livestock being safe from theft, the monsoon not washing away crops, or not being unfairly exploited in commercial transactions.

The international community can do much to help:

- supporting communities to identify their security and justice concerns and develop appropriate solutions
- aiding the development of not just capable but accountable and responsive security and justice services
- promoting a dialogue between national civil society and governments in developing countries about how to meet the security needs of both people and the state

But such a 'developmental approach' to security and justice is far from assured and this subject is a live debate within as well as between donor governments.

The idea of reforming unaccountable security services has its roots in the development agenda, but it is a vision of a development-led process itself that is at risk of being 'securitised'. Far from seeing security as an imposition into the development agenda, we in the development community must claim our central role in promoting poor people's security and access to justice.

A call to action

Poor people's security and access to justice should be of concern to us all but as a sector we have not got behind principles of security and justice and work on addressing these issues has gone on largely without us.

As development NGOs, we have a key role in advocating for the interests of poor and vulnerable populations. If we are absent from the debate on security and justice, policy development and programming will not stop, but the voice of some of the world's poorest people does risk being absent.

To help start the more detailed discussions that are needed, Saferworld offers the following agenda for how we could approach security and justice within our advocacy and programming:

- Recognise that poor people are entitled to security and access to justice just as they are to other basic services
- Take an inclusive approach to security based on the needs of people and the state...
- ... but always put concern for people at the heart of work on security and justice: reforms must be locally-owned, informed by a good understanding of realities on the ground and involve the meaningful participation of those they affect
- Recognise that 'security' and 'justice' are indivisible, we can't have one without the other
- Always begin with the context: what 'security and justice institutions' look like in some societies may be very different than in others
- Coordinate, even integrate, but don't subsume: coherent development, defence and diplomatic policy will be necessary to meet poor people's needs – but this shouldn't mean subsuming development policy into other objectives

We invite others to join the debate on how we might begin to better approach poor people's security and justice as a sector.

Tom Donnelly is UK Advocacy Coordinator at Saferworld and a co-chair of the Bond Conflict Policy Group (www.bond.org.uk/groups).

The Securitisation of Aid? Reclaiming security to meet poor people's needs is available at www.saferworld.org.uk

Viewpoint

John Hilary, Executive Director at War on Want, gives his view on the 'militarisation and securitisation' of aid.



"Andrew Mitchell's announcement that a third of all British aid will now be tied to the UK's security interests is hardly a surprise, given the leaks which came out of DFID to this effect last year. Nor is it a new phenomenon. Since 2001, the British government has increasingly treated aid as an integral part of its military interventions, using it as a device to win the hearts and minds of those people whose country it has invaded and occupied.

Within a year of coming to power, the coalition government has jettisoned many valuable aspects of the British aid programme. Instead of addressing the root causes of poverty, British aid will now be directed either towards short-term symptoms or towards meeting British strategic interests."

War on Want's new report, *The Great Game: The reality of Britain's war in Afghanistan*, is available from www.waronwant.org

Afghanistan provides a clear example of how the securitisation of aid works in practice. Relief is increasingly delivered by military units or military-led Provincial Reconstruction Teams, thereby creating further instability and distrust of any wider reconstruction effort. Moreover, the majority of 'aid' in Afghanistan has been directed not to reducing poverty at all but to reinforcing the state through building up the Afghan army and police.

This militarisation of aid has become a defining characteristic of British intervention in 'fragile states' from Iraq to Palestine. Post-conflict reconstruction has prioritised the creation of state forces that will be strong enough in future to defend the West's client governments against popular unrest.

"The militarisation of aid has become a defining characteristic of British intervention in fragile states."



• Women and minority groups in Nepal face many difficulties in accessing security and justice services © Tom van Kackenburghe

"It is a vision of a development-led process itself that is at risk of being 'securitised'."

Great expectations

As accountability, quality and the need to demonstrate value for money become ever more important, how can NGOs be sure that they achieve, and can prove, the changes that they claim? The Bond effectiveness programme might have the solution.

The Bond effectiveness programme works with members to strengthen the management and reporting of NGOs' performance. It has identified two areas where support is needed to improve effectiveness

- 1 Demonstrating and evidencing effectiveness
 - what indicators should be used?
 - what are the best methods for measurement and assessment?
 - how to demonstrate value for money?

Bond is developing the Im-Prove it! framework to support organisations to assess, manage and report their effectiveness more confidently and consistently. The framework is grounded in the distinctive contributions that NGOs make to international development.

- 2 Capacities to be effective

Bond is also developing an effectiveness self-assessment tool through which members can reflect, in a structured way, on their strengths and weaknesses. For example, does an organisation have the rights skills base (and mix of skills) to be effective in what they do? Do they have the appropriate structures and processes in place to ensure consistency in what they do? Does the leadership of the organisation support a culture of effectiveness?

Self-assessment tool

The tool will be structured according to a number of core capacity areas such as 'leadership and strategy', 'participatory processes', 'relationships and alliances', and 'human resource management'. Each area will have a number of questions and for each question an organisation will be able to score themselves on a scale from 1 to 5. Descriptions for each point along the scale will help to ground discussions on what it means to be at that level.

Bond is acutely aware that there are already a plethora of other quality/accountability initiatives in existence, and this tool seeks to complement rather than replicate what already exists. It will provide a top level picture of an organisations core capacity to be effective and will signpost users to other initiatives that can provide more detailed, tailored support for plugging gaps. As the self-assessment will also be conducted online, it will facilitate benchmarking between peers.



What next?

- End April:** Pilot self-assessment and process guide completed
- May – June:** Testing of pilot self-assessment with a small number of Bond members
- June:** Online beta version of self-assessment
- July – August:** Testing of pilot online self-assessment and benchmarking function with Bond members
- November:** Launch of online effectiveness self-assessment and resources

For more information and to receive regular updates go to www.bond.org.uk/effectiveness

Thank you to the following organisations for providing financial support to the Bond effectiveness programme:

Action Aid	Islamic Relief	Sightsavers
CAFOD	Mercy Corps	Wateraid
Care	Oxfam	World Vision
Christian Aid	Plan	
Comic Relief	Practical Action	
EveryChild	Save the Children	*at May 2011

The benefits of using an effectiveness self-assessment tools

- Self-assessment is a learning and development process. Going through the process will help organisations develop confidence in what they are doing well, stimulate new ideas, and develop a common purpose
- Self-assessment can help organisations to prioritise which areas need the most investment and identify within the planning schedule the best time to carry out improvement work
- Self-assessment can provide a baseline for improvement and serve as a tool for monitoring and evaluating the effect of capacity building efforts
- Conducting a self-assessment and seeing how you place in relation to peers helps stimulate deeper reflection and learning within organisations

Developing the effectiveness self-assessment

- We are working with the consultants at Framework to design a pilot version of the self-assessment. They have a wealth of experience designing similar tools both for individual organisations and at sector level and have worked with a number of Bond members including Progressio, WWF, International Service and Amnesty.
- We ran a one day workshop with 11 members to discuss and decide the structure for the tool and the process for conducting it. A number of these organisations will be part of the group to test the first pilot of the self-assessment
- 10 member have been interviewed as part of the development of the pilot self-assessment

Getting more for your money



With the results agenda rapidly increasing in importance in the UK international development sector, it is timely for Bond and its members to examine the issue.

'Value for money' seems to be the catch-all term to express the need for proof that the UK aid budget is being well spent; a key determinant in awarding new DFID PPAs (Programme Partnership Arrangements) for 2011-14 was how well an organisation could deliver value for money while improving the lives of the poorest. Yet the term has acquired a fear-filled credence amongst the NGO sector, with people whispering about races to the bottom and cost over quality.

With this in mind, and conscious that several NGOs were already thinking about how a value for money approach could be applied to development work, Bond convened both DFID and several NGO speakers to share their thinking in early February 2011.

DFID – "It's not about what's cheapest"

Jo Abbot, Deputy Head of DFID's Civil Society Department, was at pains to stress that the cheapest way of doing things does not necessarily equal value for money. Emphasising that well thought through programmes, with budgets, logframes and proposals telling a coherent story, are more likely to score highly on value for money, DFID would like to see NGOs thinking about getting the most benefit for their funding across all areas of an organisation, and not as an afterthought or add on. From unit costs, through considering the real costs of 'doing business', to benchmarking against other providers, considering value for money must be a strong thread running through all organisational processes.

Existing work amongst Bond members

Aside from DFID, participants heard from several Bond members who have already embarked on looking at how value for money can be applied to their organisation. WaterAid and VSO worked with nef (the New Economics Foundation) to look at using 'social return on investment' to measure the impact of their work. Oxfam presented their 'basic efficiency resource' approach and the

International HIV/AIDS Alliance spoke about the substantial progress they have made in applying value for money and social return on investment to HIV programming.

Next steps

- Bring the sector together to define common position on value for money expressed in a discussion paper
- Bring together NGO programmes and aid effectiveness / policy to ensure positions are informed by both these perspectives
- Map existing work in the sector, and beyond, on approaches to value for money in development
- Ensure we work with funders, particularly DFID, to develop a common interpretation and implementation of value for money
- Embed value for money within the tools and approaches developed as part of the Bond effectiveness programme

Resources

Resources on the website include Jo Abbot's presentations from DFID, the International HIV/AIDS Alliance, Oxfam, VSO and WaterAid.

Go to 'Meetings' and click on 'Value for money': www.bond.org.uk/effectiveness

"Value for money must be a strong thread running through all organisational processes."

What does DFID want to see NGOs doing on value for money?

Less about:

- Isolated methods / approaches (social return on investment, disability-adjusted life years, cost benefit analysis)
- Analysis delinked from organisational processes
- Applying a value for money recipe book or step by step guidance
- Value for money as an add on, discrete process or activity
- Blanket approach of formulas and ratios

More about:

- Organisation-wide thinking
- Justifying the approach in a specific context
- Identifying options and prioritising areas for maximising value
- Continual commitment to learning and improving
- Piloting and monitoring
- Showing evidence and feedback loops
- Being practical

Bond Leaders' Series event on value for money

In January, NGO leaders discussed the meaning and the implications of the value for money agenda for UK NGOs in an international development context. For notes from the meeting and to find out more about the Bond Leaders Series visit the website: www.bond.org.uk/leadersseries

Shine a Light

There is still a huge amount to do to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and goal 8 in particular needs greater attention. A new website, lead by Bond, will shed light on goal 8, what is being done to make progress on it, and how to get involved: www.MDGeconomicjustice.org

7 issues

Overseas Development Assistance

Donor countries have repeatedly committed to spending 0.7% of their Gross National Income on Official Development Assistance. Very few have actually done so.

Debt justice

Although over \$100 billion of debt has been cancelled for 32 countries over the last 10 years, more needs to be done to enable poverty reduction and to free citizens from the burden of odious debts.

Financial Transaction Tax

A tax on the financial sector could raise billions to fight poverty in the UK and abroad and to help tackle climate change.

Trade justice

Despite signing up to all the MDGs, developed countries have done little to ensure trade works in the interest of the poorest.

Tax justice

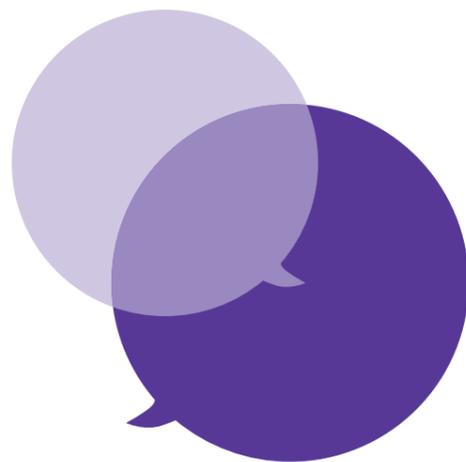
Developing countries lose more money every year through tax dodging by huge multinational companies than they receive in aid, money which could pay for essential services.

International financial institutions

Concerns exist around accountability, governance and policy approaches of the World Bank and the IMF, as well as the social and economic impact of these policies on developing countries.

Growth agenda

The concept of growth has gained prominence in political development discourse – it is a priority for the UK government, the EU recently launched a green paper consultation and the G20 is framing its approach to development in the context of growth. What does this re-emerging growth agenda mean for development?



Toolkits

Get the know-how

Understand the UN departments working on the MDGs

- Find government's MDG commitments
- Influence the UK, EU and UN on the MDGs
- Learn what might come after the MDGs

Take action

- Sign a petition
- Send an e-action
- Write a letter
- Get others involved

5 campaigns

Debt justice

South Sudan may become the world's newest country in 2011, but it could be saddled with some of the debt of Sudanese dictators. Jubilee Debt Campaign is campaigning to prevent this.

Financial Transaction Tax

The Robin Hood Campaign is calling for the financial sector, who precipitated the economic crisis, to pay their fair share in these times of austerity. It favours financial transaction taxes at an average rate of 0.05% on transactions of things like bonds, foreign exchange and derivatives.

Tax justice

SABMiller, which sells beers like Peroni and Grolsch is dodging its taxes. In Africa and India, ActionAid estimates that countries are losing out on £20 million a year, that's enough to educate 250,000 children.

Raw materials

Many of the world's poorest countries are rich in valuable raw materials – natural resources that include everything from cotton to wood, as well as minerals and metals. Traidcraft is campaigning to stop the European Union stealing developing countries' valuable raw materials.

Great cotton stitch up

The Fairtrade Foundation's campaign demands that the EU scraps its trade-distorting cotton subsidies in the developing world.

What is Millennium Development Goal 8?

This goal is about economic justice and the creation of an equitable global economy that provides a platform for ending global poverty.

Find out more about all the goals at www.un.org/millenniumgoals

To learn more about any part of the website contact Leo Williams, Bond MDGs Advocacy Officer: advocacy@bond.org.uk

Beyond 2015

Campaigning for a global development framework after the Millennium Development Goals.

Beyond 2015 is a group of NGOs and academic institutions who are interested in kick-starting and accelerating the post-Millennium Development Goals (MDG) planning process.

Following workshops at the World Social Forum and a global consultation, Beyond 2015 has developed a set of 'Essential Must-Haves' for the process of creating a post-MDG development framework. Key demands include:

- The development of the framework must be completely open and transparent, participatory, inclusive and responsive to voices of those directly affected by poverty and injustice
- The UN must lead an inter-governmental debate on the process, which should be connected to the on-going discussions about sustainable development and organise a summit to adopt a new framework in 2015
- The framework must establish targets for developed and developing countries aiming at a sustainable and equitable global development
- The framework must include clear and enforceable accountability mechanisms at a national, regional and global level

Beyond 2015 website

The website www.beyond2015.org will be live in early June and will enable civil society to effectively engage with the must-haves and provide feedback and comments. It will also contain the latest Beyond 2015 news, resources and relevant events and influencing opportunities, and later, discussions on the content of the post-2015 framework will also take place.

Beyond 2015 has developed an influencing strategy to guide its work until 2013, the year of the next UN MDG Summit, which focuses on influencing at national and international levels.

To learn more about Beyond 2015 or to become part of the campaign, contact Leo Williams at advocacy@bond.org.uk



An innovative approach

Innovation is a word often used, but what does it really mean in the development context? The Humanitarian Centre provides a perspective.

Innovation is one of those buzzwords that are difficult to pin down. Projects are “innovative”; funding proposals must demonstrate innovation to be accepted. The sense of innovation involving something new and different, something beyond business as usual is widely understood. Yet innovation (as opposed to invention) is about much more.

Innovation is the process of taking new ideas and inventions to the point at which they become the normal way of doing things. It is about creativity, problem solving, adaptation and sustainable change. Innovation may involve changes in products, processes, positioning and even the overarching paradigms we use.

The report *Cambridge and international development* examines innovation in international development through the lens of one UK city. It draws on Cambridge's NGOs, academics, consultants and private sector to explore different types of innovation, and their impacts.

Innovation and international development

At the heart of the report is the relationship between innovation and international development. If development is about change, then innovation must be a key process within development: without innovation there is no change. Yet key aspects of innovation (as opposed to invention) are first the sustainability of the change produced, and second its scale. For change to be truly innovative, it must produce lasting benefits which meet the needs of the many, not just the few.

Of course, the impact of innovation on human development goes well beyond processes

managed by external agencies. Individuals and communities innovate in order to meet new, growing and changing needs. Supporting local capacities to innovate is therefore a powerful developmental intervention.

The innovation process

Innovation starts with an idea. This might be an incremental suggestion – a small change to improve an existing product or process perhaps. Or it might involve a revolutionary idea that could lead to a total paradigm shift. The idea might emerge from a managed environment – a workshop, or academic research perhaps – or might be spontaneous, emerging from unplanned conversations, or chance events. Innovation often occurs at the boundaries of organisations where different cultures and ways of working intersect.

The idea is tested in reality and modified to meet unforeseen needs and challenges. From the commercial sector we would expect about 90 per cent of business innovations to fail, so there is a good chance that the idea will not survive the harsh light of reality.

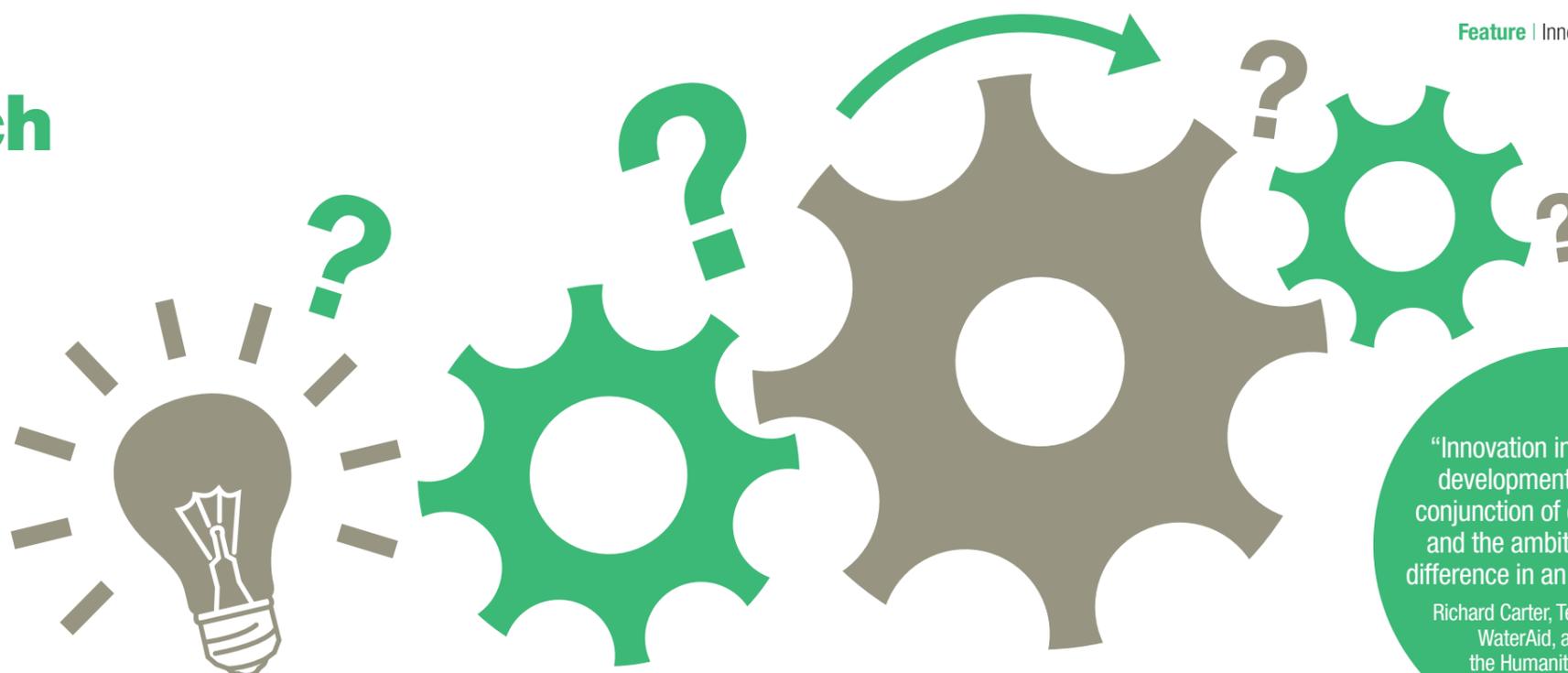
If the innovation survives, however, it starts to spread, whether as part of a managed process or by osmosis as people adapt the idea to their own needs. Information and communication technologies are a particularly prolific medium for innovations.

At some point, we can consider an idea adopted, because it is reasonably stable and sustainable within a particular environment. The environment may be small, a community perhaps, or much larger, the UK NGO community for example, but in either case there comes a point at which the idea is accepted and generally recognised, until the next innovation comes along.

The Humanitarian Centre is a Cambridge network of individuals and organisations engaged in international development. *Cambridge and international development* is an annual report that summarises and celebrates the impact that the Cambridge community has on global poverty.

Download the *Cambridge and international development: Innovation in international development* report and the extended case studies from www.humanitariancentre.org

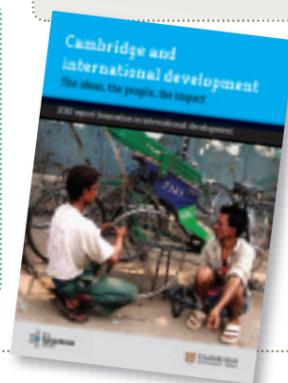
For a hard copy email info@humanitariancentre.org



“Innovation in international development is about the conjunction of creativity, need and the ambition to make a difference in an unequal world”
Richard Carter, Technical Director, WaterAid, and Trustee, the Humanitarian Centre

Key questions for NGOs

- If the goal of innovation is sustainable change, what is the role of projects in the development cycle? What is the point of a project if it is not sustainable, and how should projects be designed in order for them to become sustainable, and go to scale? One particular issue is ensuring that pilot activities are tested at a cost that will allow for replication. If external money subsidises an activity in a way that is not realistic at scale, then it cannot, and will not replicate. It is all too easy for pilot projects to die prematurely.
- Given the immense difficulty of developing and replicating sustainable practice in different cultures, what is the role of external NGOs in supporting innovation in developing countries? Should they see themselves as primary innovators themselves, or as catalysts, supporters and funders of indigenous innovators and entrepreneurs with local knowledge and credibility?
- Failure and learning from failure are key aspects of the innovation process. To what extent do NGOs, and the agencies that fund them, encourage and celebrate failure and subsequent learning as positive aspects of the development cycle?



Innovation in practice

1. New technologies enable grassroots innovation

Over 1.5 million immigrants in Pakistan have been receiving information by text message. In Malawi, the number of people treated by a hospital TB programme has doubled in six months, and thousands of dollars for fuel and missed appointments have been saved through introduction of a simple text-based messaging system.

Ken Banks, the founder of FrontlineSMS, designed it to be easily adaptable by people with little formal training. The software, which enables large numbers of text messages to be sent and received instantaneously, is available online for free. This flexibility gives local groups a tool with which to innovate to achieve their goals. These range from election monitoring in Afghanistan and Nigeria, to enabling fishermen and farmers to access actual market data.

Ken points out that many technologies thought of as innovations in the UK are irrelevant in developing countries. “Too many people change the way they do things to fit with technology. But ideally you want something that just slots in; that allows them to continue with what they do, but to do it more efficiently.”

www.frontlinesms.com

2. One innovation leads to another

Most Significant Change (MSC) is an approach to monitoring best described as “monitoring without indicators”. It has been developed by Cambridge consultant Rick Davies, and aims to help vocalise a diversity of beneficiaries’ views about development projects. It is a reaction to methodologies which rely solely on indicators, which are useful to show how a project achieved its expected results, but can’t by definition describe other impacts which were not expected.

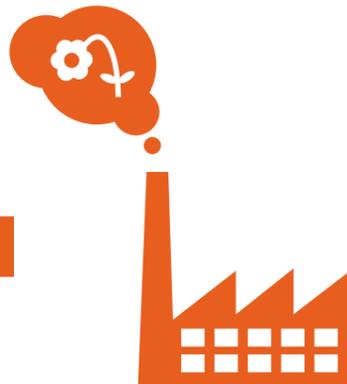
Since its inception as an organisational learning tool for NGOs in the 1990s, MSC has constantly evolved. This process has been aided by the internet, which enables people around the world to download the methodology, and ‘listservs’ which support practitioner communities of practice. Constant incremental adaptation can lead to misuse of the methodology as well as improvement. Yet as Rick says, “the risk with a focus on innovation is that you can lose track of the good stuff that’s been done in the past, and not make use of it.”

www.mande.co.uk



“Innovation is the translation process, getting the invention to a place where it can be used”
Shelley Gregory-Jones, Development Director, PHG Foundation

Growth in a resource-scarce world



How can we balance the need for growth against the increasing scarcity of natural resources and effects of climate change? Overseas Development Institute provides a perspective.

Growth is a complex process in which a variety of actors and sectors play different roles in different countries.

China, for example, has emerged as the global manufacturing power-house but this has led to challenges for manufacturing capabilities in poorer countries. The service sector is becoming more important with rising incomes including in poor countries but it is often forgotten in development circles. Both sectors can also cause problems. Manufacturing increases pollution and carbon emissions which have been insufficiently regulated globally while inappropriate regulation of the service sector caused by market and governance failures contributed to the global financial crisis.

The natural resource sector: opportunities and challenges

Many livelihoods are directly based on goods produced from natural resources – according to the World Bank, natural capital accounts for 26 per cent of the total wealth in low-income countries. As we face global scarcity on a range of interconnected resources, individual countries are increasingly expected to receive revenues from exploiting their natural resources. The key question now is how they can best promote inclusive and sustainable growth while avoiding the wastage of natural resource revenues which have affected so many resource-rich countries in the past.

The rise of the emerging powers has highlighted a number of other debates relating to natural resources, for instance as competition for raw materials increases the spotlight falls on how to access these in poor resource-rich countries. A separate but related current debate on the level and volatility of food prices shows the importance of promoting productivity, appropriate regulation and open trading systems to tackle food security. The G20 is addressing this issue but there are also opportunities at the regional level to ensure that food products can be traded freely, with less volatile food prices but food that is more readily available.



• Copper mining in Zambia
© Michael Fuller/iStockphoto

Climate change and resource scarcity

A crucial debate receiving comparatively little attention from mainstream development practitioners is the land-water-energy nexus. Climate change and increased resource scarcity provide a new context for effective natural resource management. Global incomes are increasing, technologies are spreading, poverty is decreasing and a new global middle class is emerging. At the same time, demand for natural resources is growing rapidly and carbon dioxide emissions and other levels of pollution are increasing. It is expected that by 2030, the demand for energy and water will have risen by 40 per cent and for food by 50 per cent. This will have a corresponding impact on pressures on land acquisitions and the environment. A variety of actors, ranging from business to governments, civil society and international organisations, will need to work together to manage the new pressures on land, water and energy use and ensure that natural resources continue to contribute to development in the long-run.

This year's European Report on Development 2012, led by the Overseas Development Institute with the German Development

Institute and the European Centre for Development Policy Management, will examine appropriate roles for the public and private sectors, as well as the relationship between them, in seeking to ensure that natural resources make the best possible contribution towards inclusive and sustainable growth.

The natural resource nexus manifests itself in policy debates at global and local levels: the current threats to food security have led to more demand for land, water and energy in poorer countries (eg, through land acquisitions); there is more action on becoming resource-efficient globally; whilst there is increased attention to the potential of biofuels as a source of renewable energy, there are tensions on using land and water that could be used for other processes.

Who is responsible?

The private sector is introducing new schemes to examine its carbon and water footprints and businesses recognise that global scarcity risks challenge the world economy and in particular have emphasised the existence of a food-water-energy nexus. Appropriate public sector policies and institutions such as governance and effective state-business relations, remain crucial for managing resources as well as appropriate global rules and action by international bodies such as the EU. There will also be an important role for civil society who can provide the check and balances for a more accountable and forward-looking relationship between the state and business in addressing the newly emerging pressures on natural resources for inclusive growth.

Dr Dirk Willem te Velde is the Head of Programme of the International Economic Development Group at the Overseas Development Institute (ODI).

www.odi.org.uk

He is also the Team Leader of the European Report for Development 2012, supported by the European Commission and seven EU member states

If you could like to comment on this, please email Jemma Ashman at jashman@bond.org.uk



Inclusive growth trade-off



The government's Trade White Paper won't lead to inclusive growth in poor countries, says Aurelie Walker, Fairtrade Foundation.

In February, Coalition Ministers set out the government's strategy for building trade and investment in the UK in the long-anticipated Trade and Investment White Paper.

While Fairtrade Foundation welcomes the White Paper and the ongoing commitment to support fair and ethical trade, we are concerned that the paper fails to acknowledge any alternative to liberalisation as the key to development, growth and food security.

"Now more than ever is the time to champion a free, open and fair trading system" states the 2009 Conservative Party Green Paper, One World Conservatism, which informed the trade strategy, along with the Liberal Democrat manifesto. It should come as no surprise then that the White Paper opens by making the case for open markets and continues this theme throughout.

Commitments highlight areas of conflict

The commitment to "ensure that Europe's Free Trade Agreements take into account the differential stages of development of countries signing" sits alongside the commitment to "maximise the opportunities for UK business in Free Trade Agreements as they are negotiated" and to "press the EU to negotiate greater liberalisation on services". The potential conflict is stark. Exiting the economic



• Fairtrade has made a big difference to coffee farmers
© Jamie VanBuskirk/iStockphoto

crisis is the political priority of this government, and without civil society oversight, there is a danger that UK PLC is promoted at the expense of developing country interests.

Free trade is the principle underpinning the trade negotiations and expanding the business opportunities.

Ministers acknowledged that during the consultation, NGOs and academics cautioned that free trade could also introduce distortions, and make it difficult for developing countries to negotiate their trade objectives and in response committed to "providing aid... to assist the poorest developing countries to use trade and investment as levers of growth and development." But aid is not an adequate response to the damage that free trade might do. The government has failed to acknowledge each country's right to nurture their own strategic sectors through limiting exposure to imports or exports that might, for example, determine the food security of millions of hungry people.

"Focus on economic growth is worrying"

Aid commitments will be implemented by DFID and sadly, in the new DFID strategy, ministers reiterate that "the government knows that economic growth is the most effective way of raising incomes and permanently lifting people out of poverty". The focus on economic growth is worrying, because aid measures such as health, education, trade facilitation and infrastructure development can contribute to much more than growth but their potential may not be realised if growth is the only objective.

The fair trade movement was set up in response to the failure of the free market economy to lift marginalised producers out of poverty. Gerardo Arias Camacho, a Fairtrade coffee farmer from Costa Rica says, "We've been working within the 'free market' for almost two hundred years. The rules of this system have brought only poverty and a lack of equality to my country and others in Latin America. By comparison, we've been working with Fairtrade for 18 years and I see the great difference that it has made every day."

Inclusive growth

To ensure that the benefits of trade reach the poorest, trade and development policies also need to be targeted directly at them. Investing in transport and communications infrastructure and financial services will facilitate increased trade in Africa and lower the cost of doing business for some, but factors that determine how trade will benefit poor people and policies that promote inclusive growth to underpin trade and development strategies are notably absent.

Without policies promoting inclusive growth, a peoples' future can be left in the hands of investors, which will not necessarily lead to a favourable outcome for the poor. If government aid and private sector investment does not result in increased opportunities to develop for a whole community then trade will not lead to long-term employment creation and poverty reduction. Poverty is nuanced. government needs to play a role beyond "facilitator" and promote targeted policies that will ensure local, regional and international business use markets and public money to generate employment creation and ultimately poverty reduction.

"Policies that promote inclusive growth... are notably absent from the Trade White Paper."

Aurelie Walker is Trade Policy Advisor at Fairtrade Foundation.

For more information: www.fairtrade.org.uk



In-house training goes global

Bond in-house training is a cost effective and flexible option that will meet all your international development training needs, wherever you are.

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- International Planned Parenthood Federation
- Islamic Relief
- Leonard Cheshire Disability
- Practical Action
- UNESCO

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Learn with Bond

Our courses cover a wide range of international development issues including advocacy and campaigning, NGO effectiveness and fundraising.

For the latest details including the events calendar go to www.bond.org.uk/learn



Participants on a Bond training course © Ross Spearman/Bond

“Excellent, regular and precise communication gave me confidence the course would be well run.”

Ross Coxon, Islamic Relief

Speaking from experience

Earlier this year, British and Irish Agencies Afghanistan Group wanted an in-house course to learn more about South-North partnerships.

“Some of colleagues from Afghanistan were visiting the UK and wanted to participate in a training session which looked at partnership working from a South-North perspective. I knew about Bond's expertise in crafting training to meet specific in-house needs and got in touch.

The process of commissioning an in-house course from Bond was extremely easy. The benefit of in-house is that you can tailor the training to meet your exact needs. In our case, we had one person working through an interpreter, so it really helped to have only a small number of people present and a training session focused only on issues that had been decided in advance.

The facilitator was wonderful. She had experience of working in a number of conflict-affected countries against which parallels with Afghanistan could be drawn. She was particularly inspired by recent developments in Egypt, which in turn catalysed interesting discussion about the possibilities of social mobilisation for peace in Afghanistan.

Feedback from our colleagues showed that they had all had an interesting, useful and enjoyable day. It was very much a team building exercise that motivated us all to review how we work. We will definitely be putting the tips that we were given into practice as we enter new partnerships.”

“The course was extremely useful and well presented. The activities well thought through and really allowed me to practice what I had learnt.”

Jane Galton, Leonard Cheshire Disability

Turning governance upside down

To create growth and fight corruption, we first need to transform the powerful elite into productive economic agents, argues Eric Gutierrez at Christian Aid.

Many people consider corruption as a barrier to growth. But why is it that some countries, for instance China and South Korea, have achieved high rates of growth despite chronic corruption problems? Conversely, why is it that some countries that have scored dramatic victories against corruption, such as convicting and jailing ex-presidents (Philippines, Peru and Nicaragua) continue to be locked in slow growth? It seems that a fresh approach to clarify corruption's link with growth is needed.

The 'rent-seekers'

It is said that economic actors can either be producers or consumers of goods and services. But where corruption is rife, a third set emerges – the 'rent-seekers' – those who seek and capture positions of power from which they can extort payments or favours in exchange for allowing normal economic activity to take place. In many countries, rent-seekers get elected, or those elected turn into rent-seekers, eventually.

Most anti-corruption strategies are attempts to remove rent-seekers from their positions, but removing them can be politically destabilising, not to mention expensive. Just look at what happened to Thailand and its Red Shirt movement. Or in Kenya where politicians, to protect themselves, hijacked the anti-corruption agenda and put the blame on rivals from other ethnic groups. It is precisely such inadvertent impact that led anti-corruption campaigner John Githongo to declare that “before fighting corruption, we should first think about fixing politics”.

A powerful elite

Rent-seekers have the power to block reforms. When China first introduced a market-based pricing system, it threatened economic agents who enjoyed rights to fixed quantities of goods at typically low, centrally-determined prices. But the efficiencies created by free market pricing were just too great so China introduced instead what economist Yiqing Qian called a dual-track approach: a combination of keeping privileges enjoyed under central planning but allowing for participation in the free market. Simply, China simultaneously improved efficiency while protecting existing rents. Politically, this

meant that reforms were implemented without creating losers from among those who had the power to oppose them.

South Korea likewise, did not attempt to cut the power of its chaebols – the family-based conglomerates that influenced government policy. Instead, the chaebols agreed to certain conditions on which their access to privileges was kept. For example, car companies were given tariff protection and generous subsidies, but on condition that they export 20 per cent of their production. This meant that they were under pressure to be competitive. Inability to export meant losing privileges. Over time, Kia and Hyundai became global brands. By then, their privileges from rent-seeking had already become redundant.

These examples are not necessarily suggesting that rent-seekers should be left alone. Rather, it tells us that a bargain needs to be struck with a country's elite. The outcome of such bargaining – which can be peaceful or violent, formal or de facto, extended or swift, wholesale or piecemeal – is a political settlement. The question is not so much whether corruption is a barrier to growth. Rather, what needs to be asked is: how can a country's elite transform from destructive rent-seekers to productive economic agents?

Changing our understanding of governance

The think tank Centre for the Future State suggests the need for an 'upside down view of governance', where the focus will be less on the destination and more on the means for getting there. In other words, rather than try to build an ideal governance model or prioritising reform of formal institutions, explore instead how elements of public authority are being created through complex processes of bargaining between state and society actors, and the interaction of formal and informal institutions.

Eric Gutierrez is Senior Adviser on Accountable Governance at Christian Aid. www.christianaid.org.uk

The Bond Anti-corruption sub-group provide a platform for UK NGOs who recognise the devastating impact of corruption on governance, poverty and development. For more information email groups@bond.org.uk

Squeezing civil society space

Cambodia is the latest in a growing number of countries where new laws restrict civil society operations and activities. **Katherine Astill**, Bond Sector Advocacy Officer explains.

The importance of strong, vigorous and plural civil societies has been vividly demonstrated by the recent events in the Middle East. However, over the last few years, many countries have put in place laws which restrict the operations and activities of civil society and NGOs, particularly in developing countries. Whilst the most notorious examples are Ethiopia and Russia, repressive NGO laws are increasingly prevalent. Only this autumn, restrictions on NGO activity were tightened in Venezuela, Ecuador, Honduras, Iran, Bahrain and Cambodia

Bond has been helping to coordinate the advocacy of a few member organisations seeking to allay the impact of a new Cambodian NGO law. With the support of our sister national platform in Cambodia, the Co-operation Committee of Cambodia, Bond has facilitated information sharing amongst the group, and lobbied the Cambodian Minister of the Interior, Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and the European Union delegation in Phnom Penh. As a member of the International Forum of Platforms, Bond is also encouraging other national and regional fora to lobby the Cambodian and their own governments.

The Draft Law, which was released on 15 December 2010, has a number of features common to repressive NGO laws globally.

- Only Cambodian nationals are allowed to be founding members of associations and NGOs. Consequently, refugees, and stateless persons are barred from forming NGOs. The nationality requirement infringes freedom of association which should be available to all under international law.
- The draft law requires a high minimum membership for associations. In order to form an association, 21 Cambodian national founders must be named as members and at least seven leaders must handle the registration process. A group of 15-20 individuals who wish to associate to pursue a legitimate collective purpose would not be permitted to form an association as a legal entity.
- The registration process for NGOs is potentially unfair. The draft law includes no clear, limited list of objective grounds for denial of registration. This allows officials to deny registration on subjective and arbitrary grounds. The lack of a fair registration

process may impact disproportionately on groups that engage in advocacy or support unpopular causes or are openly critical of the government. The registration process is lengthy and difficult. It requires 'profiles' of the leaders of the NGO, an undefined term which could lead to open-ended enquiries by the government into the background of leaders.

- The draft law prohibits any activity conducted by unregistered associations and NGOs, meaning that registration is mandatory and unregistered groups are banned. Every group of individuals who gather together with a different level of frequency and perform the broadest variety of imaginable activities, from trekking and football fans to chess and silk weaving groups, will be acting in violation of the law.
- The process to determine the suspension or termination of an NGO is potentially unfair. There is no requirement for the government to provide notice or any opportunity to rectify problems before the suspension or termination and there does not appear to be any right of appeals from the decision to suspend or terminate.
- The draft law erects barriers to the registration and activity of foreign NGOs. Firstly, the registration process is bureaucratic and lengthy, lacks procedural safeguards and subject to arbitrary decision making. Secondly, the draft law



• A game of checkers played in the streets of Phnom Penh Cambodia
© Jamie VanBuskirk/iStockphoto

makes collaboration with Cambodian government compulsory in the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of activities. There appears to be no option for foreign NGOs to act independently of the government in addressing the needs of the community.

- The draft law imposes extensive and burdensome notification requirements on NGOs. Firstly, associations are required to inform local authorities in writing when implementing activities in any locale. Secondly, the government must be informed of any change of personnel or membership. These requirements are not only themselves an obstacle to effective activity by NGOs, for some stigmatised groups such as those living with HIV/AIDS it may prevent them convening at all.

Bond is hoping to expand its work on civil society space in developing countries. We intend to:

- monitor upcoming developments and convene groups of interested UK NGOs to carry out advocacy work in advance of repressive laws being put in place
- create a joint programme with a southern national or regional platform to build southern capacity to lobby on civil society law
- formulate a set of asks to national global governance institutions to limit restrictions on civil society

For further information contact Katherine Astill, Sector Advocacy Officer:
kastill@bond.org.uk
advocacy@bond.org.uk

Thinking outside the water box

Sue Yardley outlines the impact of climate change on community water resource management.



• Agnes Anyabo lets dry earth slip through her hands. Omulala women's group, Soroti
© Geoff Crawford/Tearfund

The now oft-quoted phrase 'a perfect storm' that Professor John Beddington, the government's Chief Scientist, first used just over a year ago, refers to the overlapping problems of food shortages, water scarcity and insufficient energy resources.

These existing problems, exacerbated by climate change, are on a trajectory to create a perfect storm by 2030 and need to be tackled together, alongside climate change, in an integrated way. If not, then we could see widespread unrest, mass migration and destabilisation. Regardless of who or what is to blame, what is indisputable is that the poor are hit first and hardest.

Water and climate change

Climate change will continue to have a significant impact on many aspects of life, though UN Water have stipulated that water is the primary medium through which most people will experience its effects. Furthermore, it is the poorest people, who often live in the least-productive, fragile environments who are most vulnerable to climate impacts on water.

The statistics are startling. Nearly 900 million people globally lack access to a safe water supply. About 1.2 billion people – almost one-fifth of the world's population – live in areas of physical water scarcity¹, and 1.6

billion people face economic water scarcity. Nearly all of them live in developing countries. It has been estimated that by 2025 some 6 billion people will be living in significantly water-stressed countries.

Traditional ways of life affected

Communities are already adapting to climate variability and changing how they manage their water resources – they have no choice. The dynamics of changing patterns of water availability are also having knock-on effects that reach far beyond just water. Traditional cultural norms, agricultural methods and wider livelihood approaches are also affected.

In the Tahoua region of Niger, for example, research carried out by Tearfund found that in a context of diminishing water availability and rising water needs for animals (generally linked to poor quality pasture and rising temperatures), traditionally nomadic pastoralists now have limited mobility.

The burden of finding and collecting water is also increasing as more trips over longer distances add to the hardships faced by pastoralist households. Social conflict has also become more prevalent due to rising populations, movement of people into areas with accessible water resources and increased resource use. In particular there is increased

"Nothing is impossible for the man who doesn't have to do it himself."

A.H. Weiler

conflict between transitory herders and the local population over surface water and pasture.

Adaptive methods being used by the communities are having a significant impact on Tuareg women. For instance, women are increasingly involved in the duty of collecting and hauling water – hard work when a well is in excess of 100m deep and is drawn by donkeys. In addition to the water responsibilities, the women are involved in new tasks such as small stock rearing, triggering a significant cultural switch in Tuareg groups.

How can we respond?

It is recognised that all development portfolios are at risk from climate change. Therefore we need a 'whole of government' approach to integrating climate change adaptation into national development planning. With donors aligning their programmes and support with developing countries' own adaptation strategies. Within the water sector, water policies need to incorporate ways of coping with current climate variability and use this as a foundation for dealing with longer-term climate change. Key to this is taking a climate risk management approach, which would seek to anticipate the climate changes ahead and to build strategies for managing both short-term climate variability and longer-term climate change in climate-sensitive areas.

We also need a definite shift in thinking and approach. Adaptation is not just 'business as usual but better'. We need to help communities change their approaches to more adaptive ones as well as supporting increasingly vulnerable communities to prepare for the threats of climate change.

Large scale additional financing for adaptation in the developing world is required to deal with the impacts of climate change. Given the critical importance of water to all aspects of life, the water sector should be among the main priorities for climate change adaptation funding.

Sue Yardley is Senior Policy Officer at Tearfund. She is co-Chair of the UK Water Network and a member of the Bond Development and Environment Group.

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

¹ Economic water scarcity refers to when there is physical water availability but human, financial or institutional capital limit access – see Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture (2007)

Development People

Paul Chandler, Chief Executive at Traidcraft, reflects on the rise of fair trade and argues that although gains have been made, more needs to be done to get big business and governments to change trade policy and practice.

What does Traidcraft do?

Traidcraft practises and promotes approaches to trade that help poor people in developing countries transform their lives. We are the UK's leading fair trade organisation and one of the early pioneers of fair trade worldwide. Our turnover is in excess of £20 million and we work with producers from more than 30 countries. Our dual identity, as a trading company and as a development agency, gives us a unique perspective and helps us to have influence with policymakers and decision-makers.

We are a real innovator in pushing forward the boundaries of fair trade. Established as a Christian response to poverty, we also mobilise the Christian community on issues of trade justice.

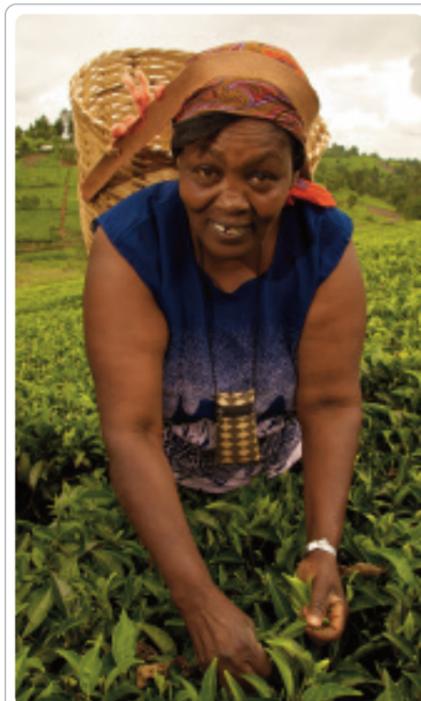
Why do you want to be part of the organisation?

I am very passionate about the potential that trade has to create sustainable improvements in poor people's livelihoods. It's not just about blowing the whistle on how big company practices can cause exploitation and damage in the developing world; it's also about harnessing the creative potential and expertise of business for lasting change. I am very excited that fair trade and Traidcraft utilises the consumer power of ordinary individuals to change the way companies think about their business and governments think about business regulation.

What are you are working on at the moment?

We have just finished a major strategic review of our activities and one of the findings was the need for a more robust monitoring and evaluation system to improve the scale and quality of our impact. We want a greater understanding of how we engage with producers around the world, not only to provide higher and more sustainable incomes but also to develop communities and help people to fulfil their potential.

Although we have made positive impacts in these areas, we haven't been able to monitor and measure it as much as we would like to. The other big emphasis is the need for more innovation within the trade and development arena. To support this we want to harness the synergies between our trading company and development charity so that we can maximise the potential for both.



• Kenyan tea farmer Purity Muthoni picking buds and leaves to sell to Ndima Tea Factory which supplies Fairtrade tea to Traidcraft. © Traidcraft / Richard Else



"We are a real innovator in pushing forward the boundaries of fair trade."

What are your views on the Government's recent Trade White Paper?

Some of it is positive, particularly the commitment to being more flexible in trade negotiations with African countries and wanting to promote more regional economic integration in Africa and elsewhere. However, I think there are some lost opportunities and I don't think it delivers on the Government's assertion that promoting more trade and freer trade will help the world's poorest the most. More thought could have been given to what types of trade will actually filter through to help poorer producers.

The emphasis on big companies and international trade flows doesn't tackle what happens to small businesses and the individual. Unfettered, very speedy liberalisation of markets will not always be in the interests of developing countries and a more nuanced and staged approach to ensure investment filters down to the most needy would have been welcomed.

Are governments / policymakers attitude to fairer trade changing?

Although we have seen a good level of support for international development and the growth of fair trade labelling initiatives, support for fairer trade and the wider trade justice agenda is less strong. Under the Coalition Government there appears to be more focus on promoting the direct interests of the UK, and given the current economic climate that's understandable, but from our point of view it means that policies that might help poorer countries and the poorest people aren't getting the attention they should.



• Satheesan K proudly shows off some ginger seedlings grown by his father who is a member of NAPCL in Kerala, India which provides candied ginger for Traidcraft cookies. © Traidcraft / Richard Else

Do you think that economic growth is the most effective way of lifting people out of poverty?

Economic growth is a helpful and effective way of lifting people out of poverty but not all forms of growth are equal so the way that growth is achieved and business practices are carried out is also important. Some people do benefit but the poorest people and those in rural areas often don't see many of the trickle-down benefits. Economic growth doesn't automatically benefit the poorest; it is an engine that provides opportunities. We must also recognise that there are environmental limits to what is sustainable economic growth and that unlimited growth is not the answer.

What is Traidcraft's biggest challenge at the moment?

As fair trade has become mainstream, we need to maintain enough market share to remain viable as a trading organisation in the face of significant competition. As the popularity of fair trade rises, the perception amongst some of our supporters might be that the job is done and that we have won the big arguments. We need to communicate clearly that although great strides have been made, what's out there is

just a drop in the ocean of what could be fairly traded and we still have a lot of work to do about big company practices and the way they trade.

What is its most significant achievement?

The most visible achievement has been the growth of fair trade from something that was initially dismissed as idealistic but unrealistic to getting it into the mainstream and making it something that businesses want to engage with. We founded Cafédirect, we helped set up the Fairtrade Foundation and the labeling systems, we have been one of the leading organisations which proved the business case and got big companies interested, and we harnessed the church community to reach out to the wider public to build the fair trade consumer base that has driven company decisions.

Importantly, we have helped put ethics very firmly onto the agendas of boardrooms up and down the country. We were the first company in the UK to produce social accounts to report on impacts on society, staff, suppliers and the environment and now most of the big companies in this country will produce some level of social report. We also lobbied, and won, changes

to the Companies Act so that a duty was put on directors to demonstrate that due consideration is given to the wider social and environmental impacts of their business. This has been a very important cultural change.

What is the best piece of professional advice you have been given?

The former British High Commissioner in Bangladesh, Anwar Choudhury, once said to me "remember to be impatient". That had a profound impact on my thinking because it is so easy to think in a long term, measured way but actually the scale of the challenge means that we do need an urgent sense of the need for change and to be proactive in making change happen.

Paul Chandler joined Traidcraft as Chief Executive in 2001. Previously, he spent nine years as head of the Christian mission agency, book publisher and retailer, SPCK and worked in a range of managerial roles for Barclays Bank. Paul is also chair of the European Fair Trade Association, a director of the William Leech Foundation and a member of the CBI North East Regional Council.

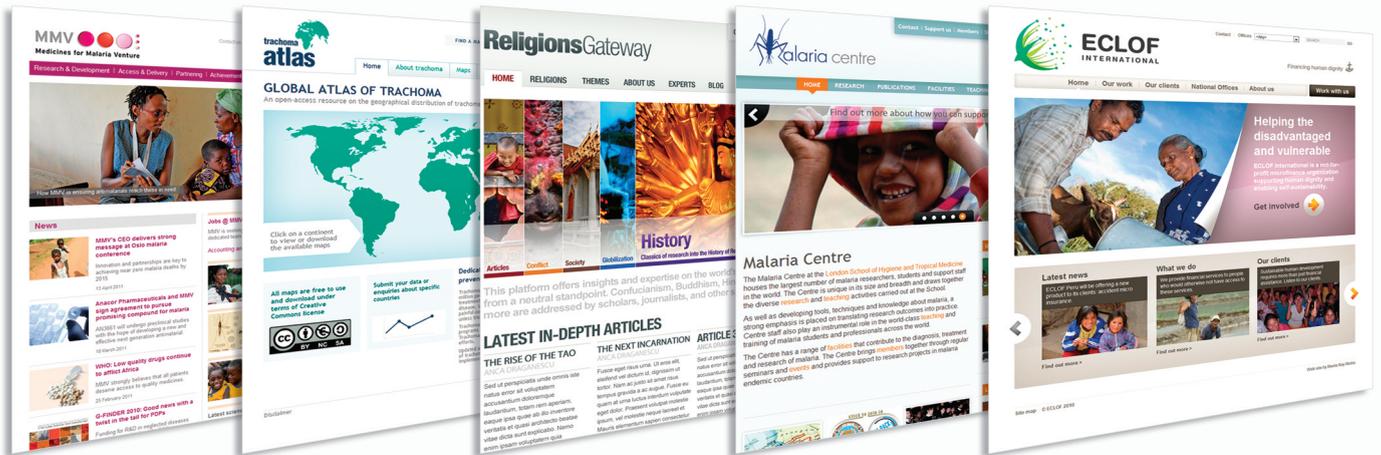
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