

The Four Corners

The quarterly Alumni Association newsletter

Issue 34: December 2015



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EDITORIAL

Message from
the chairman



Welcome to the Winter edition of *The Four Corners*. The development news continues to be dominated by the Middle East and the suffering of innocent people from conflict, hunger and poverty. But we also have reports on how the world is responding to climate change and how the UK Government is planning its future aid strategy to tackle global problems, address the crisis in Syria and in neighbouring countries and to start delivering the new sustainable development goals. The seminar in London in December addressed how to draw on the lessons of experience to make the future development effort more effective. We shall continue these reflections in 2016, firstly with the event in February which will look at the fictional and real stories of the aid effort to support the countries of the former Eastern Bloc, and with a seminar in April which will look at the future role of the multilateral agencies in delivering the SDGs. I hope as many as possible of you will participate in these events.

On the Association's own affairs, you will see my note of the Committee's meeting on 15 December, the report on the 100 Club and information on other events coming up in 2016. We would be pleased to add information on other events or plans that members are working on around the world.

As always, your comments and contributions are requested, to make *The Four Corners* interesting and relevant. Thanks once again to Marc for putting this newsletter together, despite his problems with the record rainfall over Christmas. It was good to see a number of you at the Christmas Party at the Rubens Hotel and we hope to be in touch with more of you this year.

With best wishes for 2016

Simon Ray

NEWS IN BRIEF

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

Nick Hurd MP was appointed as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for International Development on 28 November 2015, following the resignation of Grant Shapps.

Mr Hurd has been MP for Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner since 2010. He was Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Charities, Social Enterprise and Volunteering at the Cabinet Office in the Coalition Government.

Educated at Eton and at Exeter College, Oxford (where he was a member of the Bullingdon Club) he then ran his own business and represented a British bank in Brazil. In 2002, he set up the Small Business Network to advise the Conservative Party on business policy. His father is Lord Hurd, who was Foreign Secretary in 1989 to 1995.

DIARY

EVENTS AND MEETINGS

9 February: seminar on aid to Ukraine

March (details to be confirmed): 200 Years of UK-Nepal Relations

March (date to be confirmed): tour of BBC Broadcasting House

26 April (to be confirmed) Role of the multilaterals in delivering the SDGs

7 June: Annual General Meeting at DFID

7 June: Summer Party (details follow)

DFID Alumni Association Seminar – Did Aid Work in Ukraine (*The Road to Donetsk*)?

Tuesday 9 February 2016 at DFID (Room K1.1, 22 Whitehall) from 13.00 to 15.00.

Objective: To discuss the remarkable case of Western technical assistance to Ukraine in the 1990s, against the current renewed DFID programme, drawing on the novel, *The Road to Donetsk*, by former DFID Ukraine Programme Manager, Diane Chandler (née Marshall).

Speakers:

John Stuppel will chair the discussion

Diane Chandler will introduce her novel, *The Road to Donetsk*, and elaborate on its theme of technical assistance to Ukraine in the 1990s.

Others to be advised. Although we have still to firm up the make-up of the panel of speakers, we have had indications of interest from the following to be involved: Adrian Campbell, Duncan Leitch, Annie Feltham, Jeremy West and Neil Carruthers, all of whom led or were involved in various DFID projects in Ukraine from the late 90's to the early 2000's and many still have connections there. We hope to add to these names with current staff members and others who were or are involved in delivering aid to Ukraine.

All participants will be encouraged to debate the issues following the formal presentations. The seminar will be held at DFID's office at 22 Whitehall, London SW1A 2EG in Room K1.1 from 13.00 to 15.00.

Refreshments will be served during the event. For security reasons you will need to be escorted while you are in the building, so to enable us to advise Security who is attending, please let the Secretary of the Alumni Association, John Stuppel (john-stuppel@dfid.gov.uk), know by Friday 29 January 2016 whether you wish to attend.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM DFID IN OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2015

October

- Food crisis in Malawi
- Humanitarian aid for victims of conflict in Central African Republic
- Secretary of State met Malala Yousafzai
- Secretary of State attended the EU Council for Development
- Desmond Swayne visited Nigeria, announcing support for solar energy, security and anti-corruption capability

November

- International work of Scottish medics
- Elections in Myanmar
- Energy Africa's solar revolution
- Mark Lowcock visited Ethiopia
- Syria donors' conference
- Spending Review set DFID budget to 2020
- Grant Shapps MP resigned from Government
- Nick Hurd MP was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

December

- EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement
- Global climate agreement
- Prof Chris Whitty appointed Chief Scientist at the Department of Health
- The UK met its commitment to resettle 1,000 refugees by Christmas
- British response to Ethiopian food crisis

Global climate agreement



In December a global climate agreement was struck at the United Nations conference on climate change in Paris. The deal took a significant step forward to reducing emissions. For the first time ever 195 countries, including the world's largest emitters, committed to act together to combat climate change and be held equally accountable. It marked a clear turning point towards a sustainable and low carbon future. Countries will now have to come together regularly to review their climate plans and collectively ensure that the necessary action is being taken to tackle climate change.

Prime Minister David Cameron said:

“In striking this deal, the nations of the world have shown what unity, ambition and perseverance can do. Britain is already leading the way in work to cut emissions and help less developed countries cut theirs - and this global deal now means that the whole world has signed up to play its part in halting climate change. It's a moment to remember and a huge step forward in helping to secure the future of our planet.”

Energy and Climate Change Secretary Amber Rudd said:

“We have witnessed an important step forward, with an unprecedented number of countries agreeing to a deal to limit global temperature rises and avoid the worst impacts of climate change. This is vital for our long-term economic and global security.

“This deal will ensure all countries are held to account for their climate commitments and gives a clear signal to business to invest in the low carbon transition.”

The deal sets out a clear long-term goal of net zero emissions by the end of the century, showing that the world is committed to decarbonising. Progress against this goal will be independently assessed in 2018 and every five years thereafter. This long-term goal sends a strong signal to investors, businesses, and policy-makers about the shift to a low carbon economy and provides confidence that will help drive the scale of investment needed. As a global leader in low carbon goods and services the UK is in a unique position to benefit from this.

As the costs of low carbon technologies come down, countries will be able to step up their targets on reducing emissions. To reflect this, in 2020, countries will be expected to update their plans to cut emissions by 2030. Countries will also be legally obliged to make new post-2030 commitments to reduce emissions every 5 years, from 2025. For the first time, all countries will be held accountable by independent review for acting according to their pledges.

As previously agreed, all developed countries will collectively mobilise \$100 billion per year from both the public and private sector, to help the poorest and most vulnerable countries to protect themselves from the effects of climate change and support low carbon development. This agreement now recognises the role of emerging economies in mobilising resources and contributing finance over time as well.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change said that this agreement drives us forward towards limiting global temperature rises to below 2 degrees, or even 1.5 degrees if action happens quickly enough. But governments cannot act alone, all parts of society, including businesses and investors have a role to play.

To read the final agreement, please click [here to find the new text on the UNFCCC website](#) and [here to see the EU statement](#).

New humanitarian support will help millions of people facing a severe and escalating food crisis in Ethiopia.



International Development Minister Nick Hurd at the site of a DFID-funded World Food Programme food distribution in northern Ethiopia. Photo: Bobby Stansfield/DFID

Ongoing drought has left 18 million Ethiopians in urgent need of relief. Crop failure and the death of livestock have led to widespread food shortages. Many children face the risk of malnutrition and a lack of clean water is increasing the threat of disease.

The UN and Government of Ethiopia have launched an appeal for an additional £923 million for the response.

The UK is already the second largest bilateral humanitarian donor in Ethiopia. On 23 December the UK announced a £30 million package of support from the Department for International Development including:

- £15 million to the UN's World Food Programme so it can distribute emergency food to 1.9 million people
- £14 million for the Humanitarian Response Fund to help UN agencies and NGOs provide emergency water and healthcare and protect vulnerable girls and women
- £1 million to fund immediate secondments of humanitarian experts to the UN and Government of Ethiopia

International Development Minister Nick Hurd said:

A relentless drought is pushing millions to the brink in Ethiopia. The scale of the drought is similar to the one that killed so many in 1984. This time the Ethiopian Government is in a much stronger position to help their people. However, they need the help of the international community. New funding from Britain will ensure families get the emergency food that they so desperately need in order to survive.

Working alongside the Government of Ethiopia, the UN and others, we are also helping to prevent child malnutrition, treat disease outbreaks and keep children in schools during this emergency. But the scale of the current crisis means much more needs to be done. With millions in serious need of help, Ethiopia is facing a major humanitarian crisis and urgently needs the world to step up and provide lifesaving relief.

A stable, more prosperous Africa is firmly in Britain's national interest and it is right that we do all that we can to prevent the crisis spiralling out of control.

The UK will also make an extra £25 million available to help those most in need, as part of our support for Ethiopia's safety net programme which is boosting longer-term food security. This new support brings our total funding to the current humanitarian response in Ethiopia to £113 million.

While difficult to predict, the El Niño effect this year looks set to be the strongest on record, threatening people's lives, health and livelihoods around the world. The Government of Ethiopia has committed to its largest ever response to a drought, but this is vulnerable to changing weather patterns. The scale of the crisis means a global response is needed.

Ethiopia has made great progress on development over the last decade. With UK support, the Government's investments over the years have meant that Ethiopia can cope with the current crisis much better than would otherwise have been the case.

Britain's long-term support for Ethiopia's strategy to protect the most vulnerable has already helped millions of families to build their resilience to extreme weather events such as the current drought.

The UN and government of Ethiopia estimate that due to the drought over 10 million are currently in need of food assistance and have launched an appeal for an additional \$1.4 billion (£923 million) for the response. This is on top of 8 million extremely poor who are programmed receiving multi-year food security support under Ethiopia's rural safety nets programme – bringing the total number of people in need of assistance to more than 18 million.

Mark Lowcock saw the stark contrast between economic development and desperate need in Ethiopia during his visit in November.

Powering markets

On his trip Mark visited the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), which will be the largest hydropower facility in Africa when complete and will provide green energy to both the domestic and international markets.

The visit provided a valuable opportunity to consider the social, environmental and safety risks associated with the project and how the concerns of countries downstream of the dam are being managed. It also illustrated the important role infrastructure plays in the Government of Ethiopia's development plans, which has seen the country grow at around 9% per annum and reduced poverty and child mortality by a quarter in the last five years.

Food insecurity and drought risk leaving 15 million people hungry by January

Mark saw how UK aid is helping 2.6 million people affected by the drought, worsened by an unprecedented El Nino effect. He met community representatives in Tigray, northern Ethiopia, and heard about the impact of the drought on local crops - destroying livelihoods and leaving thousands of families hungry.

UK delivered on its promise of resettling 1,000 Syrian refugees by Christmas.

- 1,000 vulnerable Syrian refugees resettled through the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme
- PM announced in September that scheme would be expanded to take up to 20,000 vulnerable Syrians over next 5 years
- Part of UK's comprehensive strategy to addressing the Syrian crisis, including committing over £1.1 billion in aid to the region

The Prime Minister announced on 16 December that the UK had delivered on its promise of resettling 1,000 vulnerable Syrian refugees by Christmas. He confirmed the UK had reached the milestone and stressed that the government would continue its focus on resettling those in the region who are most at risk.

By hitting the target, the government has shown it is on track to [resettle up to 20,000 Syrians](#) through the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement (VPR) Scheme over the next 5 years.

The Prime Minister said:

"I made a promise that we would resettle a 1,000 Syrians by Christmas and I can confirm today that we have met our commitment. The charter flights that arrived yesterday at Stansted and Belfast mean that over a 1,000 have been settled and another flight is coming today.

"The government has provided funding so that all these refugees get housing, healthcare, education and I want to thank all the local authorities and all those who have worked so hard. I said that Britain would do its duty and with these 1,000 we've made a very good start.

"Groups of refugees have been arriving in the UK over the last 3 months as part of a carefully coordinated, staggered approach. The most recent charter flights arrived yesterday at Stansted and Belfast – with another arriving today."

More than 50 local authorities from across England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales have taken a share of the 1,000 refugees resettled, showing that this country is again acting in the finest traditions of providing shelter to the most vulnerable. Alongside the help we are providing through our VPR scheme, the UK has also granted asylum or another form of protection through normal processes to 1,868 Syrians in the year ending September 2015.

The VPR scheme is one part of the government's comprehensive approach to the Syrian crisis, which has seen the UK become the second biggest bilateral aid donor with £1.1 billion in aid pledged to date. In addition, the Royal Navy has saved over 8,000 lives in the Mediterranean and is working with partners to tackle and smash the evil people smuggling gangs. At the Valletta Summit in November the Prime Minister announced a £200 million package of support for Africa and £275 million of support to Turkey to help it cope with the scale of the crisis.

On 4 January, DFID issued a revised briefing note on the UK's response to the Syria crisis. See The Back Pages. On 5 January the International Development Committee published a [report](#) on the Syrian refugee crisis.

NHS health professionals in Scotland teach counterparts in developing countries.

Skilled health professionals in the NHS in Scotland are to benefit from UK government funding to help them teach and offer practical assistance to their counterparts in developing countries.

International Development Minister, Desmond Swayne, announced the support for two Scottish projects at a meeting in Glasgow on 6 November with Scottish medics and volunteers involved in the schemes. The funding will link the Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board with hospitals in Malawi and Ghana to improve survival rates and treatment for burns patients in those countries.

Medics in Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board will benefit from £98,200 towards their project work with Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Blantyre, Malawi. It will fund workshops on preventing burns injuries. These will reach an estimated 200,000 people in Southern Malawi.

They will also receive £76,200 to improve their links with Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital in Accra, Ghana, with Scottish medics training 15 specialist nurses and up to 100 additional nurses in advanced burns care courses.

Announcing the support, Mr Swayne said:

“The world class doctors and nurses, surgeons and anaesthetists that make up our NHS have the potential to transform healthcare in the world's poorest countries. This is something we can all be genuinely proud of. The UK Government continues to back this excellent work by providing new funding to medics here in Scotland to harness their skills and expertise and link them up with projects in Malawi and Ghana respectively to help improve the survival rates of people with burns injuries.

The Health Partnership Scheme works to improve healthcare for people in some of the world's poorest countries. The scheme involves partnerships between NHS and UK organisations and health systems in developing countries. With a shortage of 4.25 million health workers around the world, the growing gap between the supply of appropriately trained health workers and the demand for their services is a key issue for underdevelopment and poverty worldwide. The scheme also benefits the UK healthcare system as volunteers return to the NHS with increased knowledge, better leadership skills and an improved ability to deal with complex situations under pressure.

The Health Partnership Scheme (HPS) is funded by DFID. To date, nearly 40,000 health workers in developing countries have received training and education necessary to address a wide range of issues, such as maternal and child health, mental health, trauma care and palliative care. This includes 5,000 nurses, 3,000 midwives, 3,000

community and traditional health workers, 3,000 doctors, 3,000 clinical officers and medical assistants, and 8,000 medical and health-care students. Nearly 1,500 UK health professionals have volunteered to deliver this training. HPS is managed by The Tropical Health and Education Trust (THET). For more information, visit: <http://www.thet.org/hps>

Nepal earthquake: six months on

Winter weather and fuel shortages threaten relief efforts

Sunday 25 October was six months after the earthquake that killed more than 9,000 people, injured over 23,000, and destroyed 600,000 houses in Nepal.

The humanitarian crisis isn't over. Cold winter temperatures and the absence of a national strategy for recovery and reconstruction means the outlook is bleak for many people living at high altitudes. 81,000 households are living above 1,500m and are in urgent need of support. More than half a million people are food insecure and over 58,000 internally displaced people are still living under canvas in displacement sites.

The UK announced in October that it was stepping up its response, providing winterisation assistance to over 200,000 people and camp management support to 57 sites, with a particular focus on health and protection, and additional temporary shelter to 60,000 people.

The terrain is challenging, and the political turbulence after the long awaited constitution was passed triggered political unrest and conflict across the country. Protests and limited trade facilitation significantly reduced the import of essential items from India in October, causing shortages of fuel and cooking gas. Humanitarian logistics stalled due to limited fuel availability.

Minister of State Swayne visited Nepal in August to assess the situation. He pressed for a quick resolution to the crisis, and issued a statement urging the authorities to act swiftly to avoid a second humanitarian crisis.

The UK was quick to respond to the earthquake, deploying humanitarian experts in the first 48 hours and had an approved programme up and running within the first week. It provided over:

- 200,000 people with shelter
- 50,000 people with safe water, and improved hygiene and sanitation
- 27,000 people with blankets, cooking sets, and essential day-to-day household items
- 25,000 people with cash transfers, complementing the Government of Nepal's assistance
- 10,000 women and girls with gender-focused protection initiatives
- 2,000 people with rehabilitation services.

The UK's pre-earthquake humanitarian preparedness paid off. The staging area at the airport was operational within hours, facilitating the movement of humanitarian assistance and saving up to three weeks in the response. Over 1,500 Nepal Red Cross volunteers were trained in first aid, and search and rescue volunteers provided direct support to over 6,500 people immediately after the earthquake.

Were you involved in UK development cooperation with Nepal?

Did you have a part in helping Nepal recover from the earthquake last year?

Please continue to share your experiences with DFID Nepal, ahead of the 200th anniversary of Nepal/UK diplomatic relations in March 2016.

Please share your experiences with fellow alumni by writing for The Four Corners.

Spending Review

Department for International Development

(1) In this table, Resource DEL excludes depreciation (2) 2020-21 Resource DEL departmental budgets have only been set for some departments. For the rest, these budgets will be set in full at the next Spending Review.

	£ billion					
	2015-16 baseline	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 (2)
Resource DEL (1)	8.5	9.1	9.3	10.7	11.0	*
Capital DEL	2.6	2.7	3.2	2.8	3.1	3.6
Total DEL	11.1	11.8	12.6	13.6	14.2	*
Of which cross-government ODA funding	1.2	1.6	2.2	2.7	3.1	*

In November, the Chancellor published the results of the spending review, including details of the Department for International Development (DFID) budget. The Spending Review and Autumn Statement set out a 4 year plan to return the country to surplus and run a healthy economy that starts to pay down the debt. It said that by ensuring Britain's long term economic security, the government is able to spend £4 trillion on its priorities over the next 4 years. For DFID this means:

- increasing ODA spend across government to meet the commitment to spend 0.7% of gross national income as official development assistance, shaped by a new aid strategy that supports poverty reduction and aligns aid spending with the UK's national interest
- allocating 50% of DFID's budget to fragile states and regions in every year of this Parliament, a major investment in global stability, including in regions of strategic importance to the UK, such as the Middle East, South Asia and Africa

- establishing a new £500 million ODA crisis reserve, enabling flexible, quick and effective cross-government responses to crises as they happen and a £1 billion new fund (working with the Department of Health) over the next 5 years for research and development of products for infectious diseases
- efficiency savings of over £400 million by 2019-20

Security

Shaped by a new aid strategy, DFID will work to strengthen global peace and security. The government will increase aid spending to tackle the crisis in Syria and the related region. The government will also expand the cross-government Conflict, Security and Stability Fund from £1 billion in 2015-16 to over £1.3 billion by 2019-20. This will include increased resource and expertise to tackle the drivers of violent conflict which threaten stability and development.

Long term investment

Emerging and developing economies are increasingly important for global growth, and the government will give greater priority to promoting the economic reforms needed to support this. The Spending Review creates a new National Security Council led Prosperity Fund, worth £1.3 billion over the next 5 years.

DFID will continue to invest in improving the lives of the world's poorest. This investment will include getting 11 million children into school, helping 60 million people get access to clean water and sanitation, saving 1.4 million children's lives through immunisations, and improving nutrition for at least 50 million people. DFID will continue to invest more in building countries' resilience to shocks and climate change through a 50% increase in government spending through the International Climate Fund.

Reform

The government has set out a [new approach to UK aid spending in its new aid strategy](#).

Development spending will be reshaped according to the government's 4 strategic objectives of; strengthening global peace, security and governance; strengthening resilience and response to crises; promoting global prosperity; and tackling extreme poverty and helping the world's most vulnerable.

DFID will continue to improve the impact of UK aid, including through cutting programmes that are poor value for money or have a weak fit with the government's strategic objectives and reprioritising spending. This includes continuing the move away from traditional general budget support to more targeted forms of financing. The government will aim for the first time for all UK government departments to be ranked as 'good' or 'very good' in the international Aid Transparency Index within the next 5 years.

DFID will make efficiency savings of over £400 million by 2019-20 through transformation of its administrative functions including improved

technology. These savings will be recycled to deliver DFID's aid commitments.

International Development Secretary Justine Greening said:

"Our UK aid strategy sets out how Britain will tackle extreme poverty and in doing so protect our own national security and interests. The DFID-led UK response to Ebola alongside our work on the Syrian refugee crisis shows how DFID is playing an increasingly important role in the UK government's efforts to tackle global problems such as terrorism, disease and migration. Our determination to achieve value for money will continue to underpin our international development strategy across government."

In December the House of Commons International Development Committee began an inquiry into DFID's allocation of resources.

UK Aid Direct is currently closed to applications.

UK Aid Direct is DFID's central funding mechanism for grants to small and medium sized UK and International Civil Society Organisations working to reduce poverty overseas. Formerly known as the Global Poverty Action Fund (GPAF), the Fund was relaunched in 2014 as UK Aid Direct. Since 2010, more than 200 grants have been awarded across 36 countries. A new funding round is expected to be announced following the outcome of DFID's [Civil Society Partnership Review](#).

From 4 January 2016, the Fund Manager for UK Aid Direct is [MannionDaniels](#), in consortium with Oxford Policy Management (OPM), Centre for British Teachers (CfBT), Water, Engineering and Development Centre (WEDC) and Royal Tropical Institute (KIT). The UK Aid Direct Fund Manager contract was awarded to MannionDaniels in September 2015, after procurement following European legislation.

Enquiries

For further information about the UK Aid Direct programme, please contact the Fund Manager team at: ukaiddirect@manningdaniels.com

or +44(0)1225 436078

DFID & DFID Alumni Association Seminar on Aid and Development

15 December 2015

At a well-attended seminar on 15 December, Myles Wickstead and Alan Harding led a discussion on aid and development.

Drawing on the themes of his new book entitled "Aid and Development. A Brief Introduction", Myles reflected on the political history of aid and development since the end of the 2nd World War: from the US-led Marshall Plan and Bretton Woods to post-war decolonisation to the ideological struggles and proxy wars of the Cold War period. The way in which aid was perceived and managed was very much guided by political and commercial considerations.

With the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the collapse of the Soviet Union, new opportunities opened up for a more global articulation of development challenges and the crafting of international development targets which turned into the Millennium Development Goals. Attention was increasingly paid to social and environmental dimensions of development, not just political and economic and to the opportunities and challenges of globalisation.

However the climate change agenda was not directly hitched to the development one until the recently agreed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Myles highlighted just how far the SDGs have gone in linking global public goods and in embracing the full range of government policies.

Alan looked at the more specific issue of good and bad aid and how to get more of the former and less of the latter. He discussed the 1992 DAC Principles for Effective Aid, and the various critiques of aid from Bauer in 1972 to Easterly to Dambisa Moyo ("Dead Aid"). He noted Richard Manning's paper of 2012 on aid as the second best solution, which discussed the problems of

effectiveness and how to address the criticisms. Many of these challenges are still reflected in current analyses of institutional performance and in, for example, the latest 2015 ICAI on DFID's approach to delivering impact.

Alan argued for further work to address the evidence on the operation of the overall aid system and on the effectiveness of individual agencies and to tackle the issues in the unholy trinity of donor, service provider and client. His slides are attached.

In discussion it was recognised that the issues were more complex than in the past and that aid was now a major business worth \$140m a year (even if small in relation to private sector activity). But had the institutional structures adapted sufficiently for the new challenges and where were the thinkers on the future of international development?

Comments were made about the legacy of the colonial experience (see the report of last September's seminar on Hilary Sunman's book about agricultural development in East Africa), the massive challenge of job creation, corruption and the relation between ordinary people and aid elites. Operational questions were also raised, for example about the challenge of managing such large aid programmes, of results agendas which put emphasis on short-term deliverables more than long-term impact and which made changes of direction difficult and of rethinking evaluation.

This may have been a nostalgic discussion for some; for others there will have been a distinct feeling of déjà vu. But a clear and continuing agenda was set out of lessons to be learnt and issues to be addressed in delivering the new SDGs.

Thanks to Myles and Alan for a very stimulating session. I should note that the DFID alumni Association plans a seminar in 2016 on the role of the multilaterals in delivering the SDGs. This will offer the opportunity to continue discussion on a number of the themes at this seminar.

Simon Ray

DFID Alumni Christmas Party



The 2015 Christmas party was held on the evening of 15 December at the Rubens Hotel. We are grateful to the Secretary, John Stuppel, for making the arrangements.



PEOPLE



Dick Jenkin

Dick died on 14 December 2015, aged 80.

Pictures from SEADD, Christmas 1994



Memorial service for Dick Jenkin

Dick's service was held on Tuesday 5th January 2016 at Woking Crematorium. Donations to go to Water Aid, Nepal Appeal via Woking Funeral Services, 119-121 Goldsworth Road, Surrey GU21 6LR. A notice was published in the Daily Telegraph on 21st December.

Contact: Sian Todd (sister of one of Dick's godsons) at cataractc@btinternet.com or Woking Funeral Services, 119-121 Goldsworth Road, Surrey GU21 6LR.

Dick was a very kind person who always had a good word for everyone. Although a lifelong bachelor, he was a very social person who enjoyed his beer and maintained a wide circle of friends and colleagues. Dick was particularly protective and supportive of staff whom he worked with and supervised. Rarely if ever did Dick make a critical comment and he spent much of his time mentoring and encouraging young foresters assisting and developing their careers.

Dick's first overseas post was as the forest soils chemist at the Forestry Department in Ibadan in the then Western region of Nigeria. His work there left a legacy of a new and fully-equipped Forest Soils research laboratory. On leaving Nigeria, Dick joined the Land Resources Division where he worked on a wide variety of projects in a number of countries. These included:

- surveys of the Lower Mgeta River area in Tanzania,
- the coconut growing potential of Christmas island in the Pacific (the site of the early UK atom bomb tests),
- the agricultural potential of the Belize Valley and
- forest development of the Imatong Mountains in Southern Sudan.

In 1976 Dick participated in the ODM reconnaissance of the Khosi Hills area in eastern Nepal. This led to his passion for the area and its people. He was involved in the development of the Phase II plan for the area and from 1979-82 was Senior Technical Adviser of the Khosi Hills Area Rural Development Programme (KHARDEP) for ODM.

At that time there was no vehicle access into the Khosi Hills and Dick and his team would fly in from Kathmandu, overnight at the Gurkha camp in Dharan before walking 3,000 feet uphill to the project headquarters in Dhankuta. The project area covered over 6,000 km² and all travel was by foot. There was no telephone so Dick established radios at each district centre manned by ex-Ghurkha radio operators with poor English skills from where Dick and team would send cryptic messages in Morse code to the outside world with some hilarious results.

The HQ and rest house in Dhankuta where Dick made his base became a haven and the social centre for those working in the eastern hills; staff from PAC, VSOs and passing visitors were always welcomed by Dick who ensured that sufficient beer was in stock even though every bottle had to be transported to Dhankuta by porter.

During his time in the hills until well after retirement Dick supported the exceptionally talented craftspeople and was able to guide and promote several initiatives including weaving, basket work and embroidery that were promoted and sold at several exclusive central London outlets. After Dick joined ODM as a forestry adviser he was posted to SEADD in Bangkok where he continued to support people and projects in Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Nepal.

All who knew Dick have many fond memories of him and his warmth and support.

Nana Leverington recalls Dick's time at SEADD and afterwards

I started working at South East Asia Development Division (SEADD), previous name of DFID South East Asia in August 1993 as Personal Assistant to Dick Jenkin - Senior Forestry Adviser - and John Hansell - Senior Natural Resources Adviser. Dick was kind, gentle, always content, hardly got angry with anything. Soon after I joined, SEADD started to have email communication and I remember I helped Dick get himself familiar with this new technology.

When I applied for a job transfer to Assistant Office Manager in Jan 1995, Dick supported me greatly to late Head of Office, Christopher Raleigh, that I could do this new role. Dick finished his posting with SEADD in February 1995, then took his early retirement. He told me later that there was no need to adjust himself and worked at HQ for few months, then retired in October.



I met him more between 1999 and 2002 when I visited the UK for holidays and work. Dick loved seeing and catching up with his friends and colleagues at the airport. He always picked me up at Heathrow, drove me to the hotel, showed me around where I could find supermarkets, how to walk to DFID Victoria Street, etc. He also offered this generosity to other SEADD girls such as Pusadee, Nalinee, Songsang and Wipawadee when they visited UK on business.

Dick loved walking. He told me that his father did the mapping for the UK (unfortunately I forgot which part of the country). Walking is the best way to get to know the area. He also loved beer and chocolate. You could always find his chocolate bars or biscuits in one or two of his drawers at work or shelves at home.

I stayed at Alan and Joan Hall's house (also Senior Natural Resources Adviser) and Dick's house during those years. I saw more of the UK because of Dick, for example, Brighton, York, Cambridge, Lake District, House of Commons, House of Lords, Wisley Garden, Kew Gardens, etc. He also drove me to meet his close friends, for example Jean West - mother of one of his godsons.

His favourite countries were Nigeria and Nepal where he worked voluntarily for the Britain-Nigeria and Britain-Nepal Associations after retirement. He managed to visit Nepal and Thailand once after his retirement. That was the time I showed him Hua-hin beautiful beach. Dick was a great supporter of Nepal weaving materials, empowered Nepalese friends to produce and found the markets in the UK for them to sell their products to.

Dick told me that he took some plants back from Indonesia and Thailand and handed to Kew Gardens. I remembered thinking whether he could do that and how he got away with it.

Then I started visiting him again in 2009 after I got married in 2008. My late husband Bob always drove me to visit Dick almost every year especially after he was at the care home in 2012. It does not matter that Dick did not remember about me or anything. I do remember how kind, generous, and gentle he was, not only to me, but to so many people around him, his genuine interest in people and the countries he worked for, and how he made a difference to their lives. He will be greatly missed.

Nana

Srimeena Uupatikul

What are they doing now?

Do you have a new role, interest or achievement? Share it with fellow DFID Alumni.

Please send your news for the next edition of The Four Corners to Marc Taylor by the end of March: c.marc.taylor@gmail.com.

Chris Whitty Appointed Chief Scientific Adviser with the Research and Development Portfolio for the Department of Health

In December 2015, Professor Chris Whitty CB FMedSi was appointed as Chief Scientific Adviser, with the Research and Development Portfolio for the Department Health.

Professor Whitty took up his new post in December, reporting to Professor Dame Sally Davies the Chief Medical Officer who remains in post. He will retain some academic and clinical responsibilities.

Professor Whitty is Professor of Public and International Health at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, and Honorary Consultant Physician in acute medicine and infectious diseases at University College London Hospitals. Until October 2015, he was Chief Scientific Adviser at the Department for International Development.

As Chief Scientific Adviser for the Department of Health, Professor Whitty's responsibilities will include overall responsibility for the DH R&D budget (which includes the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR)) and for research policy.

A member of the Department of Health Senior Leadership Team and executive board, he will provide senior medical input to discussions and decisions as Chief Scientific Adviser.

SPOTLIGHT

How the UK helped to end Ebola in Sierra Leone

The UK led the international response to the Ebola crisis in Sierra Leone and has committed £427 million so far to ending the epidemic. The UK is the largest bilateral donor to Sierra Leone and its action in response to this unprecedented Ebola epidemic had a significant impact.

Its objective is to support the Government of Sierra Leone to end the outbreak, and to maintain vigilance and preparedness to prevent any future outbreaks from growing into epidemics – maintaining a ‘resilient zero’.

Over 1,500 British military personnel deployed to Sierra Leone to help oversee the construction of six UK funded treatment centres from scratch and trained over 4,000 Sierra Leonean and international health care workers. The UK deployed over 150 NHS volunteers who worked on the front line to support over 1,500 treatment and isolation beds – more than half of all the beds available for Ebola patients in the country.

The UK set up a 36-bed mobile field hospital, which can be up and running anywhere in the country within 96 hours to treat an outbreak of Ebola, or other infectious diseases. Over 100 Public Health England staff ran three new laboratories, testing over a third of all samples across the country, greatly speeding up the diagnosis of people with Ebola-like symptoms. The UK delivered 2,800 tonnes of aid for the response - more than one million PPE suits and 200 vehicles, including ambulances, were supplied to Sierra Leone.

The UK supported more than 140 burial teams to provide safe and dignified burials. Burying bodies is one of the most common ways the disease can be spread. A Royal Navy support ship (RFA Argus) and three Merlin helicopters provided transport and logistic support for medical teams and aid experts working in the country.

A report from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine estimated that 56,600 Ebola cases were averted in Sierra Leone as a direct result of additional treatment beds. The first £5 million of public donations to the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal on the Ebola outbreak were matched by the UK.

Ongoing UK support to Sierra Leone

Post-Ebola, it is essential to ensure Sierra Leone has the capabilities, systems, and structures in place to respond to a future outbreak of Ebola or other public health emergency.

Ebola vaccines

DFID co-funded early clinical trials of some of the possible vaccines, working with partners including the Wellcome Trust, Oxford University and the Medical Research Council, and is working closely with the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention to support trials in West Africa amongst at-risk groups.

Survivors

The UK is supporting the Government of Sierra Leone in its work with survivors to reduce the potential risk of Ebola transmission. This includes:

- providing medical advice and counselling to help survivors cope with ongoing health problems
- providing guidance on avoiding sexual transmission and semen testing services to survivors
- exploring options for extending a trial Ebola vaccine to survivors’ partners and relatives

The UK will support a longer term package of assistance for Ebola survivors, helping them to restore their livelihoods, access to healthcare and tackling the stigma they may face when reintegrating into their communities.

Helping the country recover

In parallel with the ongoing response, the UK is supporting Sierra Leone’s early recovery and transition from the Ebola crisis.

- UK support for early recovery in health is addressing the urgent needs of the health system for immunisation, essential drugs, improving protection control, water, sanitation and hygiene and district capacity-building.
- UK support for early recovery in education has allowed schools to reopen safely and catch up on lost time, and includes specific assistance for pregnant adolescent girls and disabled children.
- UK support for early recovery in social protection is providing support to those worst affected by the Ebola outbreak.
- UK support for early recovery in the private sector is helping promising medium-sized businesses in Sierra Leone escape the country's current economic slump, restart growth and create jobs. Up to \$50 million of short-term loans or overdrafts have been made available through Standard Chartered Bank and CDC – the UK's Development Finance Institution – to businesses that are struggling to get the finance they need to grow. The UK also providing \$50m for debt relief through the IMF.

The House of Commons International Development Committee published its Report *Ebola: Responses to a public health emergency* on 19 January 2016 as the Second Report from the Committee, Session 2015-16, HC 338.

Nobel medicine prize

Three researchers who exploited naturally occurring compounds to fight parasitic diseases shared the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. William Campbell, an American, and Satoshi Omura, from Japan, discovered avermectin, a compound extracted from naturally occurring bacteria that quickly kills parasitic worms.

A derivative of avermectin, ivermectin, is now the first-choice medicine against worm-caused diseases, such as river blindness and lymphatic filariasis. Tu Youyou, a Chinese scientist, was honoured for discovering artemisinin, a potent anti-malarial drug. She isolated artemisinin, which is derived from sweet wormwood, a common plant, in the 1960s while working on a Chinese military research project that screened traditional medicines for anti-malarial potential.

Thanks partly to discoveries like these, the global burden of parasitic disease is easing. The World Health Organisation calculates that deaths from malaria have fallen by half since 2000, to 438,000 expected in 2015, mostly children.

New Members of the Association

Welcome our new members, who joined the DFID Alumni in October to December 2015.

Sandeep Sahay

Lyn Comerford

Maria Collins

Louisiana Collins

Bushra Zulfiqar

Caroline Phillips

Garth Armstrong

Alither Mutsago

Padma Kumar

Shailesh Kumar

Andy Leigh

100 Club

The DFID Alumni Association experimented in 2015 with setting up the 100 Club to encourage members to make a voluntary contribution to the Association's costs, and also have the opportunity of winning a small financial prize. The 100 Club experiment did succeed in boosting the Association's modest budget by just over £400, so we intend to continue it in 2016 and that we hope to increase numbers from the 40* that contributed in 2015.

The arrangements for 2016 are the same as for last year. So you can make a contribution of £20 to buy one ticket per calendar year (you can buy more than one ticket if you wish). The winners - 1st, 2nd and 3rd - will be drawn twice a year, once at the Summer party and once again at the Christmas party.

The size of the prizes will be determined by the amount raised, but the money raised will be split 50/50 between the prize money and a contribution to the Association's costs (£10 will be used towards the costs of the Alumni Association – thus helping us to organise more events across the country, better support the members based overseas, and develop the ways we communicate with members through the website and e-mails, and £10 will be set aside for the prizes).

If you wish to participate please make a contribution either through an electronic bank transfer or setting-up a regular standing order to the [DFID Alumni Association bank account](#): **Sort Code: 40-01-13 Account No: 51705032** (this is our preferred method of payment as it simplifies the administration of the scheme, so we encourage to opt for this option) or by **cheque payable to DFID Alumni** (send to John Stuppel, Secretary to the DFID Alumni Association c/o DFID 22 Whitehall London SW1A 2EG). ***Please make your contribution by 3 June 2016 if you wish to be entered for the draw at the Summer Party and by 25 November if you wish your name to be put forward for the Christmas Party.***

This Scheme is voluntary (it should be emphasised that we remain a membership fee free organisation), but we do encourage you to participate. As a thank you for those who make a purchase we shall publish the names of all who have contributed, so please let the Secretary, John Stuppel, know when you have made a bank transfer payment or set up a standing order.

In addition to making a contribution to the Association by entering this scheme, we acknowledge that not all members wish to be linked to the 100 Club, so welcome on a donation of £10 or more from those members not wishing to participate.

***Those who contributed to the 100 Club in 2015 were:**

Margaret Pollock, Derek Heffer, John Barrett, Ron Wooton, John Burton, Geoff Williams, Garth Glentworth, John Hodges, Pat Hiddleston, Stephen Sharples, Michael Mosselmans, Tamsyn Barton, Colin Roth, Geoff Leader, Steve Packer, Simon Ray, Sean Johnson, John Stuppel, Peter Davies, Graham Bashford, Andrew Bennett, Carol Norman, Janice Colley, Robert Graham-Harrison, S Johns, Sheila Macrae, Amisha Patel, Martin Dinham, Mandy Humm, Howard Taylor, Yusaf Samiullah, Janette Hockaday, Peter Berry, Ian and Edna Brooks, Jim Butler, David Radcliffe, Pat and Fred Scutt, Jim Drummond, Richard Manning

Other Donations 2015: Jonathan Lingham

The winners of the first draw were:

1st Prize: Richard Manning
2nd Prize: Ron Wooton
Joint 3rd Prizes: Pat and Fred Scutt and Stephen Sharples

Contributions to the 100 Club 2016:

John Kerby

Other Donations 2016: Michael Jay

YOUR COMMITTEE

The members of the Committee are:

Simon Ray Chairman
John Burton Treasurer
Jackie Creighton
Jim Drummond
Janet Grimshaw
Kathy Marshall
Amisha Patel
John Stuppel Secretary
Marc Taylor (Secretary to February 2015)

Note from Chair

The Alumni Association Committee met last Tuesday 15 December, prior to the Christmas party in London. The main points we discussed were as follows.

On the finances of the Association, we noted the need for continued efforts to maintain and increase sponsorship. The launch of the new 100 Club had also made a helpful contribution of some £400 to our finances this year. We propose to continue with the scheme in 2016, along the lines already set out to members. We hope we can encourage more members to participate, with a target of raising £1000 in 2016. For those who would like to support the Association's finances, but do not wish to be part of the 100 Club, we would welcome a voluntary contribution of £10.

The Committee agreed continued steps to develop the alumni website, to include a password-protected area for members to share news, advertise job opportunities and discuss current issues. The aim will be to remove the need for dgroups. We will keep you posted.

For you diaries in 2016, we have already announced the Ukraine Aid event on 9 February. We are planning a visit to BBC Broadcasting House in March, and a seminar in late April on the role of the multilateral agencies in delivering

the sustainable development goals (details follow).

We plan to hold the 2016 AGM in London on Tuesday 7 June, followed by the summer party (venue to be fixed).

Simon Ray

From your editor: apology with picture

This edition has been delayed because [my home in York was in the midst of the flood](#) which followed the storms between Christmas and New Year. Our cellar was flooded to 65 cm – surprisingly little when the road outside was covered by an unprecedented 1.5 m of water, and merged peacefully for a while with the River Foss after the failure of the pumping station at the flood barrier with the River Ouse.



Some of you may think this was a minor inconvenience compared with the disasters that struck many others around the world in 2015. I look forward to printing your stories in the next edition of The Four Corners.

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£200m to tackle causes of migration

In November, the Prime Minister announced a further £200 million to tackle the root causes of migration in Africa, where the UN estimates there are almost 15 million forcibly displaced people, at the EU-Africa Valletta Summit.

This funding is part of the UK's approach to address the migration crisis.

The Secretary of State said:

“If we are to stop people risking their lives by making dangerous journeys to Europe, we need to tackle the root causes of problems such as instability and lack of opportunity that drive people to move in the first place.

“If people don't have access to basics like clean water and healthcare, education for their children and the dignity of a job to support themselves and their family, they will try to find a better situation somewhere else. So creating better lives and opportunities, helping the countries that people want to migrate from develop, is the only long term solution to help lessen the drivers of migration”.

The £200 million package will:

- deliver life-saving aid and humanitarian assistance for those forcibly displaced by recent crises in the Sahel and Sudan· Provide access to education, healthcare, water, shelter and training programmes to refugees in Ethiopia
- help build resilience and mitigate the impact of environmental pressures such as El Niño in areas that are particularly vulnerable, including in Somalia, Kenya, Uganda and the Sahel
- boost private sector investment in agriculture and high value industries, and create tens of thousands of new jobs, in Somalia and East Africa.

Tackling the root causes

The UK is also contributing to the EU's £1.3 billion Africa Trust Fund which will focus on tackling the root causes of migration in the Sahel, the North and the Horn of Africa. The funding will be used to tackle the lack of jobs, growth and opportunities for people in their home countries and in the region. Our contribution will be allocated to countries in the Horn of Africa – the largest source of migration into the UK from Africa.

British support is helping register refugees in Ethiopia, providing food vouchers for refugee camps in Sudan and investing in employment programmes for young people in Ethiopia, Uganda, Nigeria and Somalia.

Early warning

The Joint Intelligence Organisation (JIO) in the Cabinet Office has launched a new set of early warning products for use across Whitehall to provide more regular tracking and monitoring of instability. These products are designed to complement the annual Countries at Risk of Instability (CRI) report, and are to link in with the National Security Council (NSC) and NSC Regional Boards.

Countries at Risk of Instability

The CRI has been running now for almost eleven years. It is an analytical risk product for policy makers that can be used to inform decisions around resources and priorities. It uses a statistical model to assess 'pressures' and 'resilience' for a list of countries. Initial assessments are moderated by Departmental geographic sections. CHASE coordinates our input into this process. The CRI has been an influential tool in NSC discussions, in particular around prioritisation. However the timings of the CRI fall short of Whitehall's increasing need to respond to emerging risks and crises. These new products have been developed to be more responsive, covering shorter periods of time.

2015 likely to break records for forced displacement

News Stories, 18 December 2015



© UNHCR/C. Tijerina

Central African Republic refugees at the Timangolo site in Cameroon, including mothers and young children, queue for food.

GENEVA, Dec 18 (UNHCR) – With almost a million people having crossed the Mediterranean as refugees and migrants so far this year, and conflicts in Syria and elsewhere continuing to generate staggering levels of human suffering, 2015 is likely to exceed all previous records for global forced displacement, the UN Refugee Agency warned in a new report today. UNHCR's Mid-Year Trends 2015 report, covering the period from January to end June, and looking at worldwide displacement resulting from conflict and persecution, shows markers firmly in the red in each of the three major categories of displacement – Refugees, asylum-seekers, and people forced to flee inside their own countries.

The global refugee total, which a year ago was 19.5 million, had as of mid-2015 passed the 20 million threshold (20.2 million) for the first time since 1992. Asylum applications meanwhile were up 78 per cent (993,600) over the same period in 2014. And the numbers of internally displaced people jumped by around 2 million to an estimated 34 million.

Indications from the first half of the year suggest 2015 is on track to see worldwide forced displacement exceeding 60 million for the first time. In a global context, that means that one person in every 122 has been forced to flee their home.

"Forced displacement is now profoundly affecting our times. It touches the lives of millions of our fellow human beings – both those forced to flee and those who provide them with shelter and protection," High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres said.

"Never has there been a greater need for tolerance, compassion and solidarity with people who have lost everything," he added.

Beyond the headline numbers, the report shows worsening indicators in several key areas. Voluntary return rates – a measure of how many refugees can safely go back home and a barometer of the global state of conflict – are at their lowest levels in over three decades (an estimated 84,000 people compared to 107,000 in the same period a year ago). In effect, if you become a refugee today your chances of going home are lower than at any time in more than 30 years.

New refugee numbers are also up sharply: Some 839,000 people in just six months, equivalent to an average rate of almost 4,600 being forced to flee their countries every day. Syria's war remains the single biggest generator worldwide of both new refugees and continuing mass internal and external displacement. However, the report notes that even with Syria's war excluded from the measurements, the underlying trend remains one of rising displacement globally.

A consequence of more refugees being stuck in exile is that pressures on countries hosting them are growing too – something which unmanaged can increase resentment and abet politicization of refugees. Despite such risks, the first half of 2015 was also marked by extraordinary generosity: On an absolute basis, and counting refugees who fall under UNHCR's mandate, Turkey is the world's biggest hosting country with 1.84 million refugees on its territory as of 30 June.

Lebanon meanwhile hosts more refugees compared to its population size than any other country, with 209 refugees per 1000 inhabitants. And Ethiopia pays most in relation to the size of its economy with 469 refugees for every dollar of GDP (per capita, at PPP). Overall, the lion's share of the global responsibility for hosting refugees continues to

be carried by countries immediately bordering zones of conflict, many of them in the developing world.

Europe's influx of people arriving by boat via the Mediterranean is only partly reflected in the report, mainly as arrivals there have escalated in the second half of 2015 and outside the period covered by the report. Nonetheless, in the first six months of 2015 Germany was the world's biggest recipient of new asylum claims – 159,000, close to the entire total for all of 2014. The second largest recipient was the Russian Federation with 100,000 claims, mainly people fleeing the conflict in Ukraine.

Download the full report and access accompanying photos, video and other multimedia material [here](#).

UK response to the protracted refugee crisis in Jordan

On 7 October [PUSS Harrington](#) was in Jordan, where he spoke to INGOs, the Royal Hashemite Court and major donors to start putting in place plans to resettle the most vulnerable Syrian refugees. Measures have now been drawn up to enable the UK to resettle a large number of Syrian refugees by December.

The following day, Stefan Dercon, DFID's Chief Economist, landed in Amman to consider how economic opportunities can support the hopes and aspirations of refugees and host communities alike. This was ahead of a joint visit later this month with Paul Collier and the World Bank. Stefan met with a number of financial, economic and legal players in the region, as well as with a group of Syrian refugees and Jordanian community leaders to listen to the views and concerns of the people at the centre of any future economic programming.

Jordan has received over 629,000 registered refugees since the start of the Syria crisis

Prime Minister David Cameron visited Jordan in September and saw some of our programmes in action.

- At Za'atari camp, the Prime Minister focussed on how the UK is helping the most vulnerable Syrian refugees
- At a UNICEF Makani centre he saw how out of school Syrian children are provided with psychological support, life skills and basic learning until they can re-enter formal schooling, so helping to ensure no child is left behind
- At Handicap International he talked to people seriously injured as a result of the war in Syria who were being helped with rehabilitation.

Over 80% of refugees in Jordan live outside the camps in host communities and tensions between Jordanian and refugee communities are rising. The Prime Minister met residents of Za'atari village and saw how UK aid has helped Syrian and Jordanian girls receive a decent education in an integrated group.

Throughout the trip, he emphasised how UK is supporting both refugees and the communities hosting them. This year half our aid budget will be spent in host communities.

The Prime Minister reinforced his commitment to helping Jordan in its hour of need

He stressed the importance of developing a policy response to encompass Syrians and Jordanians in an integrated way and felt there was scope for creating employment opportunities for Syrian communities without taking jobs from Jordanians.

President Xi Jinping's state visit

According to DFID, President Xi's visit to London was a huge success. It was a strong public statement of UK openness to China, signaling the arrival of a new era in UK China bilateral relations. The essence of the new partnership is captured in the official [UK China joint statement](#).

UK China Development Partnership

The Secretary of State signed a new UK China Development Partnership at No 10, focused on working together to help achieve the Global Goals. Initial focus areas for the partnership include:

- Economic development
- Global health
- Disaster management
- Women and girls.

UK support for new Chinese Think Tank on Development

DFID worked with the State Council Development Research Center (DRC) to initiate a new Chinese Think Tank on Development as part of a 5 year partnership that will support high level policy research on China's development model, China's role in global governance, and improving policy coherence for international development.

Our support for the new Think tank was announced at the UK China Development Forum, attended by UK/Chinese thought leaders to promote mutual learning and identify collaboration opportunities to help achieve the Global Goals. Discussion included whether China's economic development success could be transferred to fragile states, and how the UK and China could work more closely to promote a rules-based international system.

Partnership for Investment and Growth in Africa (PIGA)

The Secretary of State launched a new partnership with the China Africa Development Fund (CADF) for investment and growth in Africa at a UK China Africa Event at Lancaster House. We will partner with CADF and the International Trade Centre to catalyse responsible investment, specifically in labour-intensive export sectors such as manufacturing and agro-processing.

The event was attended by UK/China business leaders, Chairman of China Development Bank, Africa Union Chair, and Ethiopian Foreign Minister. A roundtable discussion, including UK and Chinese companies with operations in Africa, identified a range of obstacles including regulation, infrastructure, skills and foreign exchange, but highlighted the opportunities and the potential for UK-China collaboration to help realise these.

Next steps

DFID's China office will continue to work as part of the wider HMG Embassy team in Beijing to operationalise the new MoU, seek out collaboration opportunities (both sectoral and at the country level), and increase opportunities for UK China dialogue to help deliver development priorities.