

The Four Corners

The quarterly Alumni Association newsletter

Issue 41: September 2017

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EDITORIAL

Message from the chairman

Welcome to the Autumn edition of The Four Corners.



One would have had to be marooned on a remote island over the summer not to have been overwhelmed by the relentless news of the damage and suffering caused by hurricanes, floods, earthquakes and civil conflict. This has put enormous pressure on those designing and providing humanitarian assistance.

In 1975, responsibility for humanitarian aid in the then Overseas Development Administration lay with a handful of staff in the "Disaster Unit", a title reflecting how the challenge was then seen. The scale of UK assistance today dwarfs what was done then and the complexity has greatly increased. But even then, we debated how to improve the efficiency of the UN humanitarian system and mechanisms like public appeals by the Disasters Emergency Committee were still used.

Jim Drummond's report in this edition of the Four Corners on the interaction of foreign and humanitarian policy, the news on the Government's response to the various crises and UK statements at the UN about the need for reform all indicate the scope and need for continued debate and review about how best to respond to today's challenges. The experience and expertise of alumni could make a valuable contribution to this. I hope that building on our seminar later this month on the role of civil society in today's development agenda, we can arrange further discussions to explore humanitarian and UN reform issues. Your ideas and feedback would be welcome.

The Alumni Committee will meet at the end of this month to take forward ideas from the AGM, review plans of overseas chapters and to map out future thematic and social events to include in the diary. Please let us have your ideas.

We are still looking for someone to help Marc as editor of the Four Corners. Please can I therefore appeal to members who may have a little spare time available to step forward? They can discuss what is involved with Marc or other members of the Committee. We look forward to your ideas and contributions for future editions.

With best wishes,
Simon Ray

NEWS IN BRIEF

Disastrous hurricanes and floods

Throughout the summer, natural disasters exacerbated humanitarian crises around the world.

For example,

- Floods in Nepal, Bangladesh and India killed and displaced large numbers of people.
- The heavy rains increased the challenge of providing for 500,000 refugees from Myanmar.
- Flooding and mud slides displaced thousands in Sierra Leone.
- Famine threatened North Eastern Nigeria.
- In August to September, hurricanes caused widespread destruction in Caribbean countries including British overseas territories.

New Permanent Secretary

Matthew Rycroft will start work as Permanent Secretary at DFID in January 2018. He is the British Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

DIARY

EVENTS AND MEETINGS

13 October: Seminar on NGOs' experience of working with DFID

**16 November: World Bank 1818 Society seminar
Reforming Foreign Aid: Reinvent the World Bank**

To be rearranged: Seminar on agricultural development.

**11 December - Christmas Gathering at the Rubens Hotel,
Buckingham Palace Road**

February – visit to Mail Rail and Postal Museum

International Development Secretary calls for reform of the United Nations.

The International Development Secretary, Priti Patel, warned that the United Nations system is not adapted to the challenges of unprecedented humanitarian challenges, protracted crises and mass displacement. Her warning came at the UN General Assembly, at a UK-led event on reforming the development system. At the event, she supported the reform agenda of the new Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, and urged him to be bold in demanding changes to ensure the organisation better delivers for the worlds' poorest.

The International Development Secretary said: *Against the backdrop of unprecedented humanitarian crises, the international system is, frankly, not coping - it's not fit for purpose. While the objectives and goals of the UN are timeless, the structures and system we have today was cobbled together over years, and it is time for change. Nothing emphasises these problems like the sickening and atrocious sexual abuses carried out under the UN flag – it will not be tolerated. The UK is putting our money where our mouth is, and to ensure these critical reforms are not ignored, a third of our spending will be dependent on UN agencies making the changes needed to remain relevant in the 21st century. The current UN system is hampered by a multiplicity of agencies, organisations, funds and programmes, unable or unwilling to collaborate, share resources or embrace innovation. Worst of all, despicable child rape, sexual exploitation and abuse has been carried out under the UN flag by peacekeepers and in peace operations.*

The International Development Secretary announced that from next year almost a third of DFID funding to UN agencies will be dependent on improved results and progress on reform priorities UN agencies will have to demonstrate effective collaboration, greater transparency and accountability. For all major emergencies, agencies will have to demonstrate that effective accountability and feedback mechanisms are in place.

The UK will demand more effective and efficient delivery of assistance to the vulnerable - including greater use of cash transfers. Cash, rather than flying in food and other supplies, is more efficient, it enables those in need to choose how to support themselves. Crucially, it helps build local markets. The UK also called on the UN to collaborate closely with the private sector, the engine of job creation around the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM DFID

IN JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2017

July

- FCO/DFID Minister Alistair Burt visited Myanmar to reaffirm UK support
- CDC launched strategy for Africa and South Asia
- The Prime Minister discussed the migration crisis in the Mediterranean with the Italian Prime Minister
- The Prime Minister announced a package of support for Africa
- The UK sent emergency aid to people in Mosul
- The International Development Secretary thanked the Search and Rescue team ahead of World Humanitarian Day

August

- DFID announced UK aid will immunise 45 million children against polio each year to 2020
- The International Development Secretary visited the HALO Trust (mine clearing)
- UK urged international community to help stem cholera in Yemen
- UK announced emergency aid for Sierra Leone mudslide victims
- DFID announced a new round of funding to match public funds raised by selected charities
- UK announced assistance to Nigeria to alleviate famine in the North East where Boko Haram operated.

September

- UK mobilised emergency assistance to Caribbean countries and British overseas territories following Hurricane Irma.
- UK announced further aid for victims of violence in Myanmar.
- UK announced preparations to assist Caribbean countries following Hurricane Maria.
- UK announced additional aid to Dominica.
- Foreign Secretary hosted a summit on Myanmar
- FCO/DFID Minister Alistair Burt visited Bangladesh.
- International Development Secretary called for humanitarian access to displaced people in Myanmar.

International Development Secretary visited Dominica and British Virgin Islands following Hurricane Maria

The UK is providing a further £5 million aid package for Dominica, the island worst hit by Hurricane Maria, Priti Patel announced during a visit to the region in September. Hurricane Maria ripped through Dominica leaving 98% of buildings damaged and thousands without power. It was the first category five hurricane to hit the island in living memory, affecting almost the entire 70,000 population.

The UK aid will provide immediate relief, including shelter, hygiene kits and cooking equipment, to the areas left devastated by the tropical storm. Ms Patel announced the fresh UK government support as she visited HMS Ocean, which on Friday delivered 60 tonnes of UK help to the Caribbean, almost doubling the amount in the region. Later she spent time on the British Virgin Islands where she saw UK help in action, and met families whose lives were torn apart by Hurricane Irma, which struck earlier in the month. She also visited Anguilla to see UK efforts to get schools and businesses up and running to speed up recovery.

The £5 million pledge brought the British Government's financial support for islands hit by Hurricane Maria and Hurricane Irma to £62 million. This was for islands including British Overseas Territories: British Virgin Islands, Anguilla and Turks and Caicos.

This UK aid came after the Prime Minister of Dominica formally requested international support to address the devastation caused by Hurricane Maria. 40 DFID aid experts are on the ground alongside over 2,000 military and 50 police officers and DFID has chartered a number of flights and vessels which will transport additional relief items when and where they are most needed.

The DFID field team are also looking at long-term recovery on the islands, and rebuilding houses, hospitals and schools. During her visit, Ms Patel met Government representatives from the overseas territories to discuss how to build better to make sure these islands have greater resilience to future storms.

40 tonnes of humanitarian assistance had already been distributed across the Caribbean, including over four tonnes of food and water on the British Virgin Islands; 720 litres of water to the Turks and Caicos Islands; and over two tonnes of building materials to

Anguilla. Work to prepare Anguilla for the impact of Hurricane Maria proved hugely successful in preventing further damage to infrastructure. Two tonnes of corrugated iron was provided to bolster hospital and police stations roofs. Food, tarpaulins, hygiene and shelter kits provided by DFID are also being distributed on the island by the Red Cross. Vital supplies, including food, bottled water and shelters, were also distributed to the Turks and Caicos Islands via three RAF flights and DFID field teams assessed the damage on the island. A DFID barge will soon arrive with supplies to restore power, including building materials, generators and equipment.

A Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Rapid Deployment Team (RDT) arrived in St Lucia to provide consular assistance to affected British nationals who had left Dominica by ferry. The FCO is also finalising plans for an RDT to travel to Dominica to provide consular assistance to affected British Nationals.

The £5 million is UK Official Development Assistance (ODA) for immediate humanitarian needs and early recovery in Dominica. This £5 million brought the UK's total hurricane response to £62 million. On top of this, the British Government is matching public donations of up to £3 million to the British Red Cross' appeals for Hurricane Irma and Maria. Ms Patel has asked the OECD to consider the definition of ODA so that UK assistance to British Overseas Territories is included.

Response efforts are being led by DFID experts on the ground, working with national authorities and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA). HMS Ocean brought over 60 tonnes of UK supplies to the British Virgin Islands to provide relief to the victims of both Hurricane Irma and Maria across the region. The ship arrived with 5,000 hygiene kits, 10,000 water buckets and over 500,000 water purification tablets to provide more than 10 million litres of water, along with more troops to support our aid experts on the ground who are helping restore the lives of those who have lost everything.

This is on top of the 75 tonnes of DFID relief items that have arrived or been bought in the region, including food, water, nearly 3,000 shelter kits, 5,000 solar lanterns and 10,000 buckets. An additional \$19 million is being provided to Dominica by the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility – which the UK, along with others, helped to establish – and CCRIF has paid out \$50.7 million in total in light of both Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria.

CDC strategy to boost long-term prosperity in Africa and South Asia

In July the Commonwealth Development Corporation – the UK's and world's oldest development finance institution – launched a new 5 year strategy that set out how it will direct more investment into conflict and fragile states, drive innovation and improve its development impact and accountability.

The strategy will ensure CDC can continue to make pioneering investments to create the jobs and opportunities needed to fight poverty in the hardest to reach places, and cement CDC at the heart of the UK's work, promoting responsible, private investment to stimulate economic growth in the poorest countries.



Workers at a Globeleq Africa power plant in Tanzania supported by CDC investment

In the last 3 years, businesses backed by CDC in Africa and South Asia have created over 3 million new jobs and generated over \$9 billion worth of local tax revenue, helping support improvements to public services like health and education.

The 5 year strategy, launched by CDC's new CEO, Nick O'Donohoe, builds on recent successes and addresses important issues raised by previous independent audits, development NGOs and Parliament. CDC will continue to focus on creating jobs in Africa and South Asia and within these regions, on fragile and conflict affected countries such as DRC and Sierra Leone. CDC is committed to maximising its development impact through new and innovative approaches that can transform whole sectors – for instance increasing access to affordable medicines and developing clean off-grid solar technology.

The strategy keeps job creation at its heart, but broadens CDC's impact goals to include women's economic empowerment and climate change. It also commits CDC to increased levels of reporting on investments and achievements, making more data available online, improving transparency and accountability.

International Development Minister Lord Bates said:

"Creating jobs and boosting prosperity in the poorest countries is a hallmark of Global Britain, furthering our national interests by developing our trading partners of the future. CDC uses its expertise to invest in growing businesses that can create more and better jobs, tackle poverty and reduce aid dependency. And this is fundamentally about people. By strengthening infrastructure, businesses and markets, CDC is helping individuals find work so they can feed their families and send their children to school."

"We have radically transformed CDC over the last 5 years to ensure their investments are targeted where they are needed most, and the new strategy reflects our shared ambitions for the organisation to have the greatest impact for the world's poorest and deliver value for money for UK taxpayers."

"Developing country markets have huge potential to become the UK's trading partners of the future and to contribute to global prosperity. However, there is a currently a huge shortage of the investment needed to stimulate this growth."

The additional financing needed to achieve the UN Global Goals by 2030 is estimated at \$2.5 trillion every year, but current investment levels are less than half of that. CDC is pivotal in forging the path for future investment by demonstrating that it is possible to invest responsibly and successfully in the hardest –to-reach places, encouraging more much-needed private sector capital to flow into these countries.

CDC, which is wholly owned by the UK government, uses its skills and expertise to support over 1200 businesses in over 70 of the poorest countries. Every penny of profit generated by CDC is reinvested – this makes every penny of UK taxpayers' money go even further. Since 2012 all of CDC's investments have been focused in developing countries in Africa and Asia - where 80% of the world's poorest live - and where it can have the greatest impact for the world's poorest and deliver value for money for UK taxpayers.

PM announces new measures to help Africa boost its prosperity and stability

In July the Prime Minister Theresa May unveiled a package of support to create new wealth in Africa - reducing the continent's reliance upon aid and improving global security. Speaking to G20 leaders in Hamburg she called for global action to unlock the economic potential of Africa. She said a more prosperous Africa would lift millions of people out of poverty while also offering the UK greater security at home and significant future trading opportunities.

The new long term approach set out by the Prime Minister is based on three key principles:

- Building a modern partnership with Africa which is focussed much more strongly on supporting African aspirations for trade, investment and growth;
- Creating millions of new jobs;
- A commitment to work with others including the private sector to stimulate trillions of pounds/dollars investment into Africa.

Some 20 million jobs need to be created in Africa every year until 2035 just to absorb new entrants into the labour force. If young people remain permanently excluded with jobs and opportunities always out of reach then destabilising migratory patterns will persist – with extremist causes and criminality more likely to thrive. But with the right approach, our efforts will make it less likely that people migrate to Europe, turn to extremism or join criminal networks.

The Prime Minister announced a package of new measures designed to help Africa reduce its reliance on aid and boost its prosperity and stability over the long-term, including:

- Announcing a new London Centre for Global Disaster Protection, which will use world-leading UK expertise and innovation to help developing countries strengthen disaster planning and use insurance to provide more cost-effective, rapid and reliable finance in emergencies, such as the severe drought in East Africa. This will reduce the need for

expensive humanitarian aid, reassure private investors and help people rebuild their lives. Insurance protection built through this centre could provide £2 billion when crises hit to ensure that the high costs of disasters aren't borne by people or businesses trapping them in cycles of poverty, and its work to build insurance markets in developing countries could generate billions of pounds each year in additional national investment to boost economic development;

- New support (£60 million) to help Africa integrate into global financial markets, by building a robust and transparent financial sector that will attract more investment and financial innovation, help its banking sector stand on its own two feet and direct finance where it is most needed. This paves the way for a strong partnership with the City of London, creating more opportunities for London to become the finance hub for Africa;
- Providing £61 million to boost trade infrastructure in Tanzania – including working with the World Bank to nearly double the capacity of Dar es Salaam port;
- £30 million dedicated to helping Somalia's state and economy recover from conflict by building a functioning civil service for sound economic management and helping up to a million people benefit from better roads and water supply; and
- £35 million UK support to Ethiopia and £11.8 million to Rwanda to help attract private investment so these countries can be less dependent on aid.

The Prime Minister called on other G20 leaders to prove similar assistance to other African countries to help create millions of new jobs, stimulate trillions of investment and harness the power of trade. This will enable African refugees to be supported in the first safe country they reach and reduce their need for risky onward journeys.

Germany, the G20 hosts, already champions this approach, including through a Compact with Africa initiative to promote private investment.

UK renews push to tackle world's worst cholera outbreak in Yemen

Yemen is on the brink of a catastrophic disaster, International Development Secretary Priti Patel warned in August, as she urged the international community to follow the UK's push to stem the country's cholera outbreak – the worst ever recorded in a single year. The number of suspected cases of cholera is nearing half a million and the UK is working with organisations including UNICEF and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to tackle the disease which has so far claimed thousands of lives.

The UK's support will provide medical supplies, such as chlorine tablets and hygiene kits, for half a million people and rehabilitate medical facilities to help 250,000 people. The UK's efforts will prevent and treat cholera across three of the most affected areas of Yemen: 300,000 people will benefit from access to safe, chlorinated water, helping to prevent the further spread of the disease; while seven health centres and 35 oral rehydration points will treat more than 27,300 cases.

British support will also include the secondment of an international health specialist from IOM to the Emergency Operations Centre in Sana'a to strengthen the response to contain cholera. Other partners, including the Yemen Humanitarian Pooled Fund, are also tackling cholera through re-prioritisation of their work within the UK's existing support. This includes providing medical treatment for vulnerable women and children, training health workers, and establishing oral rehydration centres.

Cholera is a bacterial disease, usually spread through contaminated water, which causes severe diarrhoea and dehydration. The risk of cholera is highest when poverty, war or natural disasters force people to live in crowded conditions without adequate sanitation. Cholera can be fatal in a matter of hours if left untreated, but with medical support can be easily remedied.

Prevention is equally important and the UK is supporting chlorination campaigns in more than half the country's governorates, as well as public awareness sessions on how the disease is spread. UK support is also tackling the underlying causes of cholera by helping to provide emergency nutrition, health, water and sanitation to over a million Yemenis.

Crackdown on unethical practices

DFID is to crack down on unethical practices among aid suppliers. A reform of DFID's work with suppliers, will reduce the risk of profiteering, excessive charges and unscrupulous practices. Following a fundamental review of DFID's work with suppliers, the International Development Secretary has just announced that DFID is introducing stricter new rules that will ensure all contractors deliver results for the world's poorest people and provide value for taxpayers' money, with the threat of legal repercussions for those who break the rules.

The new measures include:

- a robust new Code of Conduct to ensure the highest standards of ethical and professional behaviour by DFID suppliers, with legally enforceable sanctions - such as ending contracts early – for those caught breaking the rules by our new compliance team
- tougher scrutiny of costs and greater transparency by including new clauses in contracts to allow DFID to inspect costs, overheads, fees and profits of suppliers in detail and new powers to intervene to tackle profiteering and cut out waste
- publishing annual league tables of supplier performance to name and shame those who are not delivering value for money
- stopping so-called “bid candy” practices, by which large suppliers include smaller businesses to win bids, but then drop them from the contract
- cutting red tape to boost competition and open up DFID's market to new businesses including small enterprises in the UK and the world's poorest countries.

In December 2016, the International Development Secretary announced a fundamental review of DFID's management of its contracted suppliers, to ensure the highest standards of ethical behaviour and protect against any possibility of profiteering. Ms Patel has published an open letter to suppliers setting out the reforms, as well as a code of conduct for suppliers and DFID staff. DFID introduced new contract terms and conditions to apply to all new procurement tenders and extensions from September 1 2017, and will now renegotiate existing contracts in line with these changes, focusing on major contracts totalling over £20 million, which account for a third of the overall value of DFID's contracts and are delivered by its 30 biggest suppliers.

EVENTS

Gamekeepers turned poachers? Perspectives of DFID Alumni on working in the international civil society sector

Joint Lunchtime Seminar with DFID on Friday 13 October at DFID's Whitehall Office (Room: RB.G13 and video link with AH280) 1230 to 1430

Issues

How are government development policies seen from the angle of international civil society? How can NGOs influence government policies when they benefit from government help to fund their activities? What is the experience of the aid delivery chain and of the role of private contractors? How does DFID currently see the evolving role of civil society? How can we feed ideas into constructive dialogue with government? How can we establish more regular exchange between current and former DFID staff working in the non-government sector?

Speakers

Tamsyn Barton (CEO, BOND) for a sector wide perspective and chair

Martin Dinham, Howard Taylor (ex Nike/Girl Effect), Laurie Lee (CARE), Sam Sharpe (SCF) for their reflections

Gerard Howe (Head of Inclusive Societies Dept, DFID) on DFID policy towards civil society

Followed by discussion

Many alumni are or have been involved in NGO activity so we hope to have a wide range of views and personal perspectives. DFID staff are invited to give their own perspectives from overseeing current policies and programmes which support civil society. Please let the Secretary to the DFID Alumni Association, John Stuppel: john-stuppel@dfid.gov.uk, know by 7 October 2017 if you wish to participate.

Reforming Foreign Aid: Reinvent the World Bank

Tuesday, 16th November 2017, 1.30 – 3.30 pm

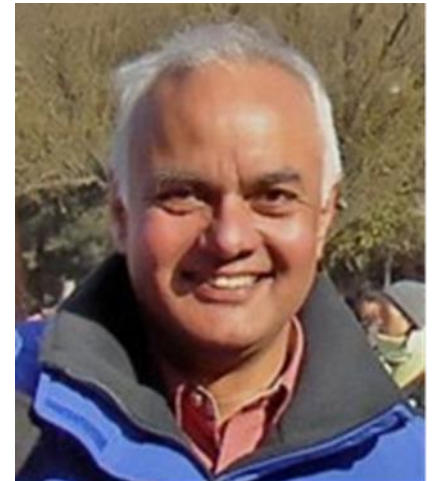
Department for International Development

22 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2EG

Dr. Inder Sud

Dr Sud is currently president of the 1818 Society. He started his career at the World Bank where he held a variety of management positions in operations, finance, and policy. He pioneered the use of the World Bank's partial-risk guaranty for public-private partnerships in infrastructure, and was also involved in the Bank's early work providing the basis for re-establishing its relationship with China.

Since retiring, he has taught international development at graduate level at Duke and George Washington universities and consulted for a number of organizations.



In his book by the same title, Inder argues that aid has been successful in promoting development only in those few countries in which the leaders are committed to development. Successful countries are those which could utilize foreign aid to support their own, home-grown, national development.

He believes that the World Bank can take a lead in setting a new path for delivering foreign aid, if it undertakes serious reforms. Among his recommendations are: strengthening governance; transparent, qualification-driven process for selection of president with proven leadership as the key criterion; increased autonomy for the Independent Evaluation Group; performance-based budget support instead of

project lending; and a leaner Bank as the true knowledge bank. These ideas are likely to be hotly debated, so come prepared for a lively discussion!

This is the eleventh of the special Alumni Seminars arranged by the British Chapter of the 1818 Society, and the fourth in partnership with DFID. It is kindly being hosted by DFID, and light refreshments will be offered. Seating is limited, so please contact seminars@1818bc.org.uk as soon as possible to reserve your place.

An 1818 Society British Chapter Seminar.

2018 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting announced

On Tuesday 19 September leaders from across the Commonwealth gathered for a reception where Prime Minister Theresa May launched the theme for the [2018 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting](#) – towards a common future – which will be hosted in the UK in April.

The reception was an opportunity for Heads for Government to hear from the current and future chairs-in-office, the Commonwealth Secretary General and young people from across the Commonwealth on their vision for the future. During her [speech](#) the Prime Minister also set out leaders' priorities for the summit – to deliver a more prosperous, secure, sustainable and fair future for all.

The meeting will see Commonwealth leaders come together to respond to global challenges faced by member states and focus on delivering for its 2.4 billion citizens. This will take place in iconic venues such as Buckingham Palace, St James's Palace and Windsor Castle and is the biggest meeting of Heads of Government the UK has ever hosted. It will bring together up to 52 Commonwealth leaders and Foreign Ministers, Her Majesty the Queen and thousands of people from across business and civil society, representing a vibrant and diverse global network.

UK Aid Match

UK Aid Match brings charities, the public and UK government together to collectively change the lives of some of the world's poorest people.

Britons can have an even greater say on how UK aid is spent helping the world's poorest, International Development Secretary Priti Patel said in August as she launched the largest ever round of UK aid-supported charity appeals to back causes which matter to the British public.

With old pound coins going out of circulation in mid-October, the UK public were invited to get rid of their old change by donating to a variety of charity appeals, which will be match-funded by UK aid, doubling the amount their favourite causes receive. UK Aid Match brings charities, the British public and the UK government together to collectively change the lives of some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people.

This year, more than 20 charities from across Britain have been selected to run UK Aid Match appeals and implement high-quality projects in developing countries. For every £1 donated to a charity appeal, the government will also contribute £1 of UK aid to help these projects go further in changing and saving lives. The extra funding raised by the appeals will boost support to millions of the world's poorest through work which includes clearing landmines, ensuring people have enough food and water to survive, and protecting women and girls from the risk of violence.

The first appeal in this round of UK Aid Match was Action Against Hunger's #HealthyMumsHealthyKids appeal, which runs from 2 September until 2 December 2017. Diners at more than 400 venues including Hawksmoor and Pho can make a voluntary donation when they pay their bill. It will support mums-to-be and children in Senegal where one in five children are stunted and 30% of all child deaths are due to malnutrition. Support for this programme will ensure adolescents, pregnant women and children get the food they need.

Beyond donorship: UK foreign policy and humanitarian action

Jim Drummond

Since I retired in 2012 I have done the occasional research project with ODI. The latest, with others at the Humanitarian Policy Group, is a study on the interaction between UK's foreign policy and its humanitarian policy and operations. There are parallel studies on Saudi Arabia and China.



Photo: Simon Davis/DFID

Lots of former DFID colleagues helped us, including several former ministers. We looked at the changing and increasingly complex foreign policy challenges, the centralising of government decision making and increasing dominance of national security issues, and we compared the severity of crises to the UK's response.

For much of the past half century, the UK has exerted a strong influence over the creation of the rules and standards that underpin the international humanitarian system.

It is the world's third-largest humanitarian donor, and so is well positioned to lead the humanitarian system as it adapts to new

donors and a stronger role for national governments and NGOs.

However, as the UK navigates an increasingly complex set of crises that impinge on its national security, particularly in the Middle East, and as the country's exit from the European Union (EU) creates new imperatives for trade, its reputation as a 'good' humanitarian actor and its role as a leader in the humanitarian field is at risk if 'aid in the national interest' does not take a principled humanitarian approach. And in the long term taking a principled approach to humanitarian crises is likely to bring wider influence.

Whereas responses to natural disasters and lower-profile protracted crises are generally driven by a straightforward sense of the UK's values and obligations as a 'good' humanitarian donor, there are an increasing number of complex situations where multiple national interests, including counter-terrorism, arms sales and migration, coincide with humanitarian crises.

In these cases, national interest appears to trump international humanitarian commitments, or produces a complex mix of policy objectives within which the humanitarian imperative can get lost. Or, as in Yemen, arms sales to Saudi Arabia appear to increase the humanitarian bill paid by UK tax payers.

We also considered whether major UK NGOs should be more vocal and critical of UK government policies in this area, even where they separately deliver programmes for the government. A point that will no doubt be covered at the Alumni seminar on 17 October.

I hope you will find this set of issues as interesting as I did.

You will find the report at

<https://www.odi.org/publications/uk-foreign-policy-and-humanitarian-action>

DFID's Permanent Secretary

Matthew Rycroft CBE was appointed DFID's Permanent Secretary at the end of September. He will take up his job at DFID in January.

Matthew is a career diplomat who has been the British Permanent Representative to the United Nations since April 2015. From 2011 to 2015, Matthew was the FCO's Chief Operating Officer. In that role he oversaw the running of the FCO and its network of 270 posts around the world, including all the Human Resources, Finance, Estates, Security, Information Technology, Protocol, Procurement and Corporate Services.

He was born on 16 June 1968, and brought up in Southampton and Cambridge. He has a degree in maths and philosophy from Merton College, Oxford. He joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 1989. After a few months at the UN in Geneva and then on the NATO desk in London, he spent four years in the British Embassy in Paris.

In 1995-96 Matthew was head of the political section of Eastern Adriatic Department in the FCO. In this role he was a member of the British delegation to the Dayton peace talks on Bosnia. After two years in the FCO's Policy Planning Staff covering European and trans-Atlantic issues and brief secondments to the US State Department and US Congress, he joined the British Embassy in Washington, following US domestic politics from 1998 to 2002.



New Members of the Association

We welcome our new members who joined the DFID Alumni in July to September 2017.

Jennie Richmond

Josephine Hedges

Jenny Yates

Godfrey Kalamula

Cecile Sorhus

Chris Roberts

From 2002 to 2004, Matthew was Private Secretary to the Prime Minister for Foreign Affairs, covering all foreign, European, Northern Ireland and defence issues in No 10. He received a CBE for his work with Tony Blair in the period leading up to the war in Iraq. He was British Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina from 2005 and the FCO Europe Director from 2008.

Matthew is married to Alison. They have three daughters, born in 1998, 2000 and 2005. Matthew speaks French and Bosnian, plays the double bass, and enjoys soccer and other sports.

Commenting on his posting to DFID, Matthew said:

"It is a huge honour to be given the opportunity to lead DFID and support Priti Patel and her ministerial team at this exciting time for the Department."

"I look forward to working with my new colleagues and across Whitehall: to ensure that the UK remains a world leader in the fight against poverty; to support the delivery of the Global Goals for Sustainable Development; and to tackle other global challenges."

Pam Jenkins, our new committee member asks: from C2 to A1 in DFID - where did those 40+ years in DFID go?

Pam Jenkins

The beginning

In 1973, a friend suggested I apply for a job at the Tropical Products Institute, part of the then Overseas Development Ministry. At £21.50 a week (a £10 increase over my previous job in a travel agency), paid in cash every Friday lunchtime, this was too good to miss, so I applied for and was appointed as a Clerical Assistant (C2).

After a year or so, I got a call from “Head Office” in Eland House, Victoria, to attend a promotion board to Clerical Officer. I declined to attend as my chums said I wouldn’t like it at Head Office. Fortunately, my HEO at the time talked some sense into me and so I went for the interview and was successful. I tearfully left my colleagues at TPI but my career really started there.



EDITOR NEEDED

Could you edit The Four Corners?

Marc Taylor is in his fifth year as editor. It is time for a change. We would welcome a new editor who can bring new ideas and new interests to keep the Association’s quarterly newsletter relevant to the needs of alumni around the world.

Please contact Marc (c.marc.taylor@gmail.com) or another member of the DFID Alumni Committee to find out more.

The middle

I worked in almost every field of DFID’s work in UK and overseas, from: Overseas Travel Section (no travel implant in those days); to Health and Population Division (at the time HIV was first discovered); to various geographical desks (including an amazing chance to spend 4 months in Bolivia; to HR (as a Personnel Officer at the Natural Resources Institute at the historic Chatham Dockyard) and later as HR Business Partner for Africa; and much later, to UNCD in East Kilbride (including a spell as Acting Head of Department, covering the gap between David Hallam leaving and Keith MacKiggan joining).

My first overseas posting came when I got the chance to help open DFID’s first fully delegated overseas office, in India. I recall Sue Unsworth putting a proposal to the Management Board to transfer running of the India programme from London to Delhi and facing much scepticism that this could ever work.

Her response was to up the ante and she pledged to do it in 6 months, which indeed we did. As my job was transferring, I had the opportunity to travel out to Delhi - my husband Mark and our two sons joined me and there began my overseas career with DFID, including 5 wonderful years as a family in Zimbabwe.



The “end”

I have just completed my final DFID posting, in Ghana. My wonderful colleagues in Accra gave me the best send-off I could have wished for. I was blessed to share my retirement event in Accra with Joseph, a BHC driver and it was a truly one HMG event which brought together the best of Ghanaian and British culture and traditions. If I had known back then in 1973 what a marvellous, diverse career I had ahead of me, I would not have changed a thing.

The next chapter

I haven’t decided yet how I would like to spend my retirement chapter, but for now, I am very happy not having to set the alarm and playing lots of tennis in the lovely spring sunshine. Goodbye my DFID family (it feels like that after all this time). My email address (should any of you need or want to contact me) is <mailto:pamjenkins@outlook.com>.

World Development Report 2018

The new IBRD World Development Report is devoted to education. Download it from <http://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/wdr2018>

Your Committee

The members of the Committee are:

Simon Ray	Chairman
John Burton	Treasurer
Helen Darling	
Isobel Doig	
Jim Drummond	
Janet Grimshaw	
Pam Jenkins	
Kathy Marshall	
John Stuppel	Secretary
Marc Taylor	Editor of The Four Corners

Committee meeting

The Committee plans to meet next on 30 October.

Planned event for members

Kathy Marshall is preparing a visit to Mail Rail and the Postal Museum which is likely to take place in February 2018.

CONTACT

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UK to save a woman's life every 90 minutes by increasing family planning support

Progress has been made globally to reach more women with family planning services, but more needs to be done. The UK will save the life of one woman every 90 minutes through its global leadership in supporting modern, voluntary family planning, International Development Secretary Priti Patel announced at a major international summit in July.

Today there are 214 million women around the world, who despite not wanting to get pregnant, aren't using modern contraception. Progress has been made globally to reach more women with family planning services, but more needs to be done. Voluntary family planning saves lives by enabling women to plan, and have fewer, pregnancies – reducing their risk of death through unsafe childbirth. This risk is very high in the world's poorest countries, especially for adolescents.

At the Family Planning Summit, Ms Patel set out an increased support package - boosting and extending the UK contribution until 2022 - to provide voluntary, modern family planning to women in the world's poorest countries across Africa and Asia. The UK's total package of support until 2022 will every year:

- help save the lives of over 6,000 women by preventing maternal deaths – that's one woman every 90 minutes
- support nearly 20 million women to receive voluntary contraceptives through family planning services
- help avert 6 million unintended pregnancies
- help prevent the trauma of 75,000 stillbirths and nearly 44,000 new-born deaths

The London Summit was co-hosted by Ms Patel, Melinda Gates (Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation) and Natalia Kanem (UN Population Fund – UNFPA). It looked at practical measures to reduce costs and increase availability for the millions of women who want contraception, but can't afford it or get hold of it.

Africa's population is rising to unsustainable levels, with Sub-Saharan Africa passing the one billion mark this year. Giving people access to voluntary family planning helps slow population growth and makes real economic sense. For every £1 spent, governments can save over £4 which can in turn be spent on improving health, housing, water sanitation and other public services.

In her key note speech, Ms Patel highlighted the UK's global leadership in responding to the urgent need for voluntary family planning; the innovative technology being used to

reach women in the poorest communities across Asia and Africa and call on others – including businesses – to do more.

The Summit addressed several pressing issues, including:

- addressing the need in emergency situations. Family planning remains one of the biggest gaps in humanitarian response, leaving women at risk of maternal death or having to resort to unsafe abortions. The Summit will address this so that women experiencing humanitarian crises can obtain the contraceptives that they need to protect their health
- blockages that mean that contraceptives that are supposed to be available simply don't make it onto the shelves
- making sure women have a choice in contraceptives, along with accurate information, so they can opt for the product that suits them best be it short term, long lasting or permanent. More choice will lead to more uptake
- the specific barrier faced by adolescents - both married and unmarried - including a critical lack of access to accurate information and the cultural barriers around adolescent sexual activity, which can further restrict contraceptive provision for this group.

In addition to saving lives by stopping women from dying in childbirth, investing in family planning provides long term life-changing benefits for women and their families, communities and countries.

It means women can make their own decisions about their own lives and futures, and helps stop the cycle of grinding poverty, improving lives now and in the future. This means local economies can grow, in turn boosting global prosperity, which is in everyone's interests.

The UK put family planning on the international agenda with the inaugural 2012 Family Planning Summit where a goal was established to help 120 million additional women and girls use modern, voluntary family planning by 2020.

Britain is the second largest bilateral donor of family planning in the world. At the 2012 London Summit on Family Planning, the UK Government committed to spending £180 million per year on family planning until 2020. With this new commitment the UK Government's support will be an average of £225 million per year until 2022, an additional £45 million a year for 5 years. The £45 million is new funding for family planning.

Since the 2012 Summit, the UK has helped nearly 8.5 million additional women to access modern methods of contraception.

UK leads final push to make polio history

UK aid will immunise 45 million children against polio each year until 2020 in last push to eradicate the disease.

Polio was wiped out in the UK in the 1980s and there are more than 100,000 British survivors today. Globally, the wild poliovirus still exists in Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan, with 8 new cases this year. It is likely that the last new case of polio will be diagnosed this year, paving the way for the world to be certified polio-free in 2020.

DFID has announced UK support to lead the last push needed to end polio. This will immunise 45 million children against the disease each year until 2020 - that is 80 children a minute. Britain has had a long standing commitment to making polio the second human disease in history to be eradicated, after smallpox. As a direct result of the UK's support to global efforts, which began in 1988, more than 16 million people are walking today who would have otherwise been paralysed, and the number of people contracting the disease has been reduced by 99.9%.

The UK's support will:

- immunise up to 45 million children against the disease each year until 2020 – that is 80 children a minute;
- save more than 65,000 children from paralysis every year;
- help over 15,000 polio workers reach every last child with life-saving vaccines and other health interventions; and
- help save almost £2 billion globally by 2035, as health care systems are freed up from treating polio victims.

Paralympian and broadcaster Ade Adepitan, who contracted polio as a baby, said:

The UK has done so much to help eradicate polio and UK aid contributions have delivered great results. The number of people around the world contracting polio has gone from thousands every year to just a few cases. We can see the finish line - and we can't stop now.

The UK has always been a world leader. It can be part of our legacy to be at the forefront of the race to eradicate polio around the world. Let's keep doing what we are doing and make the world a better place for future generations.

We are so close to eradicating polio. We need just one last push to make this disease history and change the world.

This last push will help break the relentless cycle of poverty for millions more children so they can live healthier lives, go to school and then get a job. It will mean more people contributing to their economy, which will help their countries to grow and become more prosperous.

This is good for Britain too: helping people become less reliant on UK aid in the long-term. As the world becomes more interconnected, it is right that Britain acts to tackle those diseases, which pay no attention to national borders,

so that we can stop them spreading and threatening us here at home. For example, defeating Ebola – the deadly epidemic that was only ever a plane ride away – ultimately protected British lives.

In August International Development Secretary, Priti Patel, set out an additional £100 million (\$130 million) to help end polio for good. It is possible that the last case of polio will be in 2017, and it takes three years without a single case to prove eradication; meaning the world could be certified polio-free in 2020.

On 12 June 2017, during Rotary International's Convention in Atlanta, global leaders recommitted to the importance of a polio-free world, and pledged financial support, totalling US\$1.2 billion against the additional US\$1.5 billion needed to finally eradicate polio. With the UK contribution, there is still a \$170 million funding gap.

The UK's £100 million support will be channelled through the World Health Organisation (WHO) to implement programmes of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI). The GPEI is a public-private partnership led by national governments with 5 partners – WHO, Rotary International, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Its goal is to eradicate polio worldwide. Polio eradication activities are implemented by UNICEF and WHO in partnership with countries and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.

The UK's announcement builds on the British Government's commitment in 2013 to spend £300 million on polio between 2013 and 2018. Since 2013 UK support has helped control outbreaks and limit the polio virus to only 3 countries - Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nigeria. This is a success story. Less than 30 years ago there were 350,000 cases in over 100 countries. Eradication will need continued intensive surveillance, high immunisation rates and rapid responses to any polio virus identified.