



The Four Corners

The quarterly Alumni Association newsletter

Issue 42: December 2017

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EDITORIAL

Message from the chairman

Welcome to the Winter edition of The Four Corners.



In our last edition we reported on DFID's various initiatives and programmes to support humanitarian and relief programmes around the world. This remains a central theme of this edition. Mark Lowcock's reflections on his new role as head of OCHA and Chris Austin's article on the challenges of managing emergency assistance to the islands of the Caribbean give more flavour on the practical and policy realities faced by those directly involved in mobilising effective relief. As mentioned in the last newsletter we still plan a seminar on humanitarian issues, bringing together alumni and DFID; more details will follow. We will continue in 2018 to look at how we can support DFID in a more structured way. This will need high level support from DFID. We enjoyed this from Mark Lowcock and we are hopeful that Matthew Rycroft will continue the tradition. The report on the NGO seminar last October, included in this edition, mentions ideas for follow up.

At the Christmas party in December, I floated the idea of a seminar on disability to share alumni and DFID views on the issues and on the evidence of approaches that have and have not worked. This would support the new Secretary of State's commitment to put consideration of disability at the heart of everything DFID does. And it would feed into preparation of the planned Global Summit on Disability this summer (see the extract of the Secretary of State's speech in this edition). There was a positive reaction. We would welcome feedback from members interested to participate and share their experience.

It was good to see a good turn-out at the Christmas party, even if affected by the normal challenges of winter weather and transport failures. Both the Christmas and summer parties in London seem to remain popular and we will continue to organise them. I hope that other chapters around the world can organise their own events and report them to all the membership. The Committee will meet this month and consider further ideas for our social programme in 2018. Your ideas are always welcome

We wish you a happy and successful New Year.

With kind regards,

Simon Ray

NEWS IN BRIEF

Penny Mordaunt MP appointed Secretary of State for International Development

On 9 November 2017, the Prime Minister appointed the Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP as Secretary of State. See page 3 for more on Ms Mordaunt's career.

Ms Mordaunt had previously served as Minister of State at the Department of Work and Pensions, and before that as Minister of State for the Armed Forces.

Ms Mordaunt replaced Priti Patel MP, who resigned. Ms Patel had been Secretary of State since June 2016.

New Permanent Secretary

Matthew Rycroft CBE takes up his post as Permanent Secretary at DFID in January 2018. He was the British Permanent Representative to the United Nations from 2015 to 2017.

DIARY

EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Seminar on agriculture with George Gwyer (rescheduled, date tbc)

Possible seminar on humanitarian aid (tbc)

Possible seminar on disability (tbc)

23 March – visit to Mail Rail and Postal Museum

June - AGM and summer party (date and venue tbc)

DIPHTHERIA OUTBREAK IN BANGLADESH

British doctors, nurses and firefighters from the UK's Emergency Medical Team are going to Bangladesh to treat the disease. More than 40 British doctors, nurses and firefighters from the UK's Emergency Medical Team (EMT) are making their way to Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh to save thousands of lives at risk from a rapid and deadly outbreak of diphtheria.

The UK's response follows a formal request for assistance from the WHO and the Government of Bangladesh after more than 2000 suspected cases and 22 reported deaths from the airborne virus. This was expected to increase significantly over the Christmas period.

Diphtheria is a fast spreading, deadly infection, and there are a reported 160 new cases every day in Cox's Bazar which is home to more than 600,000 Rohingya people who recently fled the violence and military persecution in Burma. It is especially dangerous for children. It causes extreme difficulty breathing, inflammation of the heart which can lead to heart failure, problems with the nervous system and fatal paralysis.

People in the UK are routinely vaccinated against diphtheria. The overcrowded camps in Bangladesh are a breeding ground for this disease. DFID is already providing vaccines in response to the crisis. The EMT will be deployed to Cox's Bazar for six weeks, where clinicians will work using existing health facilities.

36 NHS doctors, nurses and epidemiologists will provide immediate specialist life-saving care to tackle the diphtheria outbreak. Logistics staff from UK fire and rescue services will provide expert advice to create the infrastructure for the EMT to start their work. The UK's support will strengthen the capacity of the Government of Bangladesh and NGOs to manage future outbreaks.

The UK's Emergency Medical Team is a collaboration between DFID, the NHS, Public Health England, UK Med – a register of NHS volunteers ready to deploy to emergencies, Handicap International and the UK Fire and Rescue Service.

This is the first deployment of the EMT since it was verified by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in December 2016. UK medical personnel were previously deployed to Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines in 2013 and the Nepal earthquake in 2015.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM DFID IN OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2017

October

- The UK Government announced it would match funds raised by the Disasters Emergency Committee for people fleeing Myanmar
- The UK government announced a private sector Task Force to help reconstruction in countries and territories hit by Caribbean hurricanes
- Secretary of State Patel announced a 5 year plan for the Commonwealth Development Corporation to create jobs and growth
- The UK announced more aid to victims of conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo
- The International Development Secretary announced UK support to clear landmines and restore hospitals and medical treatment for victims of conflict in Raqqa, Syria

November

- UK and Sierra Leone governments opened an improved public health lab in Freetown to fight highly infectious diseases like Ebola.
- Secretary of State Patel made a statement about private meetings she held with the Government of Israel and others.
- The Prime Minister appointed the Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP as Secretary of State for International Development
- DFID published *Statistics on International Development 2017*
- Minister Burt addressed Parliament on Yemen
- Minister Stewart visited Zimbabwe
- Secretary of State Mordaunt announced more aid for Rohingya refugees from Myanmar

December

- UK announced £52m humanitarian package for South Sudan as peace talks began
- Secretary of State Mordaunt visited Djibouti to announce £50m humanitarian aid for Yemen
- Minister Burt visited the DFID disaster aid hub at Kemble to thank staff for their work.



The Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP, Secretary of State for International Development

Penny Mordaunt was appointed Secretary of State for International Development on 9 November 2017. She was Minister of State for Department for Work and Pensions from 15 July 2016 to 9 November 2017.

Born in Devon, Penelope Mordaunt was educated at Oaklands Roman Catholic Comprehensive School in Hampshire, and at Reading University where she read Philosophy. Ms Mordaunt worked for Conservative Central Office, becoming Head of Broadcasting under William Hague. In 2000 she served as Head of Foreign Press for George W. Bush's presidential election campaign.

Ms Mordaunt worked as an aid worker in post-revolutionary Romania before and during university. She was director of communications at Kensington & Chelsea Council and the Freight Transport Association and was a director of Diabetes UK, the Community Fund and the Big Lottery Fund. In 2004 Penny founded a media company, which she sold in 2010. She is a Royal Navy Reserve officer and a supporter of charities in Portsmouth.

She was elected Conservative MP for Portsmouth North in 2010. In Parliament, she served on the European Scrutiny Committee, Defence Select Committee, and as chairman of the All Party

Parliamentary Groups for Life Science and for Ageing and Older People. In autumn 2013 she was appointed Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Defence, Rt Hon. Philip Hammond MP. She served as Minister of State for the Armed Forces from May 2015 until July 2016.

As Secretary of State for International Development, she leads the DFID ministerial team, setting the overall direction of the department, and in particular:

- National Security Council
- Strategy
- G7 and G20, World Bank, IMF and other IFIs (including Regional Development Banks)
- Overall delivery and management of 0.7%
- Communications
- Reform: United Nations and multilateral
- Economic Development (including CDC, Trade Policy and private sector)
- Modern day slavery and child exploitation
- Women and girls

FOREIGN SECRETARY ARGUES FOR CHANGE IN EMPHASIS OF BRITISH AID

In an interview with The Sunday Times published in December, the Foreign Secretary declared his intention that British aid will increasingly be spent on supporting the government's foreign policy rather than on only helping the world's poor. His aim was for the money to be "more sensibly distributed" to support Britain's policy goals.

The newspaper reported that part of the aid budget would be diverted to support British efforts to deny safe havens to Islamist terrorists in Africa, Yemen and in refugee camps for Rohingya Muslims fleeing into Bangladesh.

The Foreign Secretary reportedly expected more progress in aligning official development assistance with British foreign policy aims in Africa. He also looked forward to having control over the aid the UK currently contributes to EU projects, once the UK leaves the European Union.

UK aid for humanitarian crises in 2018

In an announcement in December, the International Development Secretary warned 2018 could be even “bleaker” than 2017

International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt announced a new package of support for humanitarian crises in the coming year, after UK aid delivered life-saving support to millions of people around the world and averted two famines in 2017.

In early 2017 the United Nations warned that the world was facing its worst humanitarian crisis since 1945. Ms Mordaunt said that 2018 could be even worse with ongoing famines and conflicts in Yemen, South Sudan and Burma. The new UK aid package will add £21 million to the United Nations’ Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) so agencies can respond more quickly to under-funded emergencies around the world. It will help to provide critical health services to 20 million people, plus clean water and sanitation to 13 million people and food to 9 million people.

The UK package is part of a wider international relief effort. Globally, the United Nations estimates that in 2018 some 136 million people in 25 countries will be in need of humanitarian assistance. The UK is ready to deliver life-saving aid to those that need it most.

During 2017, UK aid helped prevent famines in Nigeria and Somalia, as well as alleviating suffering in South Sudan and Yemen, by providing:

- 1.8 million people in Yemen with food, 300,000 with safe water and 250,000 with medical treatment
- 1.6 million people in Somalia with food, 1.1 million with safe water and 700,000 with medical treatment
- 1 million people in northeast Nigeria with food assistance and 500,000 with safe water
- 500,000 people in South Sudan with food,
- 300,000 with safe water and 100,000 with medical treatment

In November, DFID published the 2017 edition of [Statistics on International Development](#).

In addition, UK aid delivered 827 tonnes of supplies in response to hurricanes Irma and Maria in the Caribbean. It also provided emergency shelter to 130,000 people affected by the Rohingya crisis and medical support for more than 1 million people in Syria. Ms Mordaunt also announced ongoing support for people driven from their homes as a result of the conflict in Syria, which is in its seventh year.

The UK aid package will give money directly to Syrian refugees living in Lebanon, so they can decide how to look after their families. The programme, delivered by the UN’s World Food Programme (WFP), will help stamp out child labour by providing more than 10,000 families with an allowance so that they can buy food, shelter, household supplies and medical assistance.

UK promotes change in international aid rules for disaster relief

In October 2017 the UK secured progress at the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) meetings in Paris towards a change in the international aid rules set by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Donor countries at the DAC meetings in Paris agreed to work on a process which could allow previous aid recipients to receive short-term ODA support in the event of catastrophic humanitarian crises, such as the recent hurricanes in the Caribbean, even when their Gross National Income per capita would normally rule them out of receiving ODA.

Anguilla, British Virgin Islands and Turks and Caicos are all previous recipients of ODA. The DAC also agreed to work to create a new mechanism to re-admit countries that had graduated from being eligible for ODA back to the list of ODA-eligible countries, if their income per capita falls low enough, for example as a result of a catastrophic natural disaster or other crisis.

EVENTS

DFID Alumni Christmas Party



The DFID Alumni Association held a successful Christmas Gathering on the evening of Monday 11 December in the Palace Lounge of the Rubens Hotel in London.

As usual there was a good mix of members past and new, plus representatives from the senior ranks of DFID, and Lord Malcolm Bruce attended for a brief period.

Unfortunately due to train disruptions and inclement weather some members from further afield were unable to attend in the end.



However, a good time was had by one and all, and we held the 100 Club Draw (which raised £800 - half of which went towards the Association's running costs and the other half was shared by the winners of the draw).

This year's winners, drawn by Gillian Holmes, were: 1st Stephen Sharples, 2nd Ronald Kemp, Joint 3rd Andrew Bennett and Geoff Williams.



Visit to the Postal Museum and Mail Rail on 23 March 2018

A visit has been arranged to the Postal Museum London on Friday, 23 March 2018. We are limited to 15 places which means it will be first come first served, so if you are interested in joining the party please let Kathy Marshall know. Kathy can be contacted on katushka194@me.com

“Relive the history of the world’s first “social network” at The Postal Museum, through objects and artefacts charting the development of postal services. Discover a host of objects such as post boxes, uniforms, greeting cards and stamps, and delve into stories from the past and present with permanent collections and temporary exhibitions. Read letters sent from thousands of miles away with Writing Home, a collection of post sent home by soldiers in conflict, survivors of human trafficking, or those who left in search of a better life across the globe.

For an extra thrill, travel back in time on the Mail Rail through the original tunnels under the museum. You’ll have the chance to enjoy a 20-minute ride on this specially adapted subterranean train network, which stretched from Whitechapel to Paddington and kept London’s communications flowing for more than 75 years.

Read more at <https://www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/place/74189-postal-museum#9ZtDCevS7XSBmxqT.99>

The cost is: Over 60s. - £10.60; Under 60s - £12.50. This price includes the museum and the train ride. We have to pay the museum in full in early March 2018, so we won’t be able to add late-comers this time.

Please pay direct to our account **by 6 March**: Sort Code: 40-01-13 Account No: 51705032. Let John Stuppel know when you have done so. If you can’t pay this way, make out a cheque to the DFID Alumni and send it to DFID’s Whitehall office marked for John’s attention, to arrive by 28 February.

Alumni/DFID lunchtime seminar on working with NGOs, 13 October 2017

Alumni and DFID met on 13 October to share perspectives from former DFID staff working in international NGOs and to explore how constructive dialogue between former and current DFID staff on civil society issues could be strengthened.

Issues were raised on how government development policies were seen from the angle of international civil society, how NGOs can influence government policies when they benefit from government funding and what the experience was of aid delivery and of the role of private contractors.

Reflections by Tamsyn Barton (BOND), Howard Taylor (ex Nike/Girl Effect), Laurie Lee (CARE), Sam Sharpe (SCF), Ian Shapiro (Crown Agents) and Gerard Howe (Head of Inclusive Societies Department, DFID) were followed by a lively and well-attended discussion.

The seminar discussed the challenges faced by the NGO sector and the feeling of being under siege, trusted less, more regulated and less able to lobby. The need to reset the tone between funder and implementer was emphasised, based more on trust and partnership and on the recognition of what NGOs could offer in terms of local knowledge, expertise and readiness to work in very difficult areas excluded for the purposes of normal official aid dialogue.

The importance of compliance and due diligence was recognised and accepted, but this needed to be balanced by an assessment of risks and opportunities. Payment by results made sense for regular and well-tested interventions, but undermined efforts to promote innovation and risk-taking.

There was a need to harmonise donor practices in relation to NGOs, particularly for the audit of NGO activities. The example of an NGO in Africa having to handle over 100 internal and external audits in a six-month period was quoted. Endless audits required by different donors put an enormous strain on the resources of NGOs, even large ones. An ISO type standard ought to be developed.

In developing new types of entrepreneurial initiative, there were lessons to be drawn from experience about pro-active communication, managing expectations from the start, recognising the different culture of start-up enterprises and looking for measures of success beyond the log frame.

The challenges of managing an NGO business as a strategic supplier for DFID were discussed, including the management costs of fragmented support and how to cover the overheads and working capital that institutional donors were not ready to finance. The particular challenges faced by small NGOs was mentioned, including the need for proportional systems of scrutiny.

The seminar provided a frank exchange of views on how to balance the political realities and sensitivities of support for civil society with the desire to achieve the best impact on development outcomes. The value of tapping the experience both of DFID staff moving to the NGO sector and NGO staff coming to DFID was recognised.

There was a readiness to explore how the alumni framework could provide an additional channel for regular dialogue on NGO issues with DFID, building on the issues raised in the seminar. We will be exploring with DFID how best to do this.

Simon Ray

2018 International Meeting on IWT

In October, Ministers launched the London 2018 **Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference**, with less than a year to go before the global conference begins. Foreign Office, Defra and DFID ministers brought together NGOs, academics and key countries affected by the illegal wildlife trade (IWT) to call on them to work with the UK to help stamp out this crime. It is now the fourth most lucrative transnational crime in the world after drugs, weapons and human trafficking.

Building a strong, global consensus on tackling IWT is a priority for the government as this crime, which is destroying entire populations of endangered species and causing misery for local communities, can only truly be addressed through international collaboration. From previous conferences in London in 2014 through to Kasane in 2015 and Hanoi in 2016, the UK has shown leadership and ability to secure the political commitment needed to bring an end to IWT.

The UK government has committed £26 million between 2012 and 2020 to fund practical action around the world to help fight the illegal wildlife trade. This includes, to date, 47 projects funded through the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund. The UK will host the fourth consecutive conference on IWT on 10 to 11 October 2018.

Planned DFID/DFID Alumni event on disability and development

Could you contribute to a DFID Alumni seminar on overcoming disability?

As Simon Ray said in his editorial to this edition, he has floated the idea of a seminar on disability to share the views of alumni and DFID on the issues and on the evidence of approaches that have and have not worked.

The seminar would support the new Secretary of State's commitment to put consideration of disability at the heart of everything DFID does. There was a positive reaction. We would welcome feedback from members interested to participate and share their experience.

The new Secretary of State, Penny Mordaunt, was previously Minister of State for Disabled People. She gave a [speech in November](#) at an event on Solutions to Disability Inclusion ahead of International Day for Persons with Disabilities.

In it she spoke of the UK's ambition to transform employment opportunities for disabled people, and about international collaboration to tackle discrimination.

She announced that the UK Government will host its first ever Global Disability Summit in London this summer.

She said:

We will work with disabled people's organisations, governments, companies and charities to find creative and lasting ways to help transform the lives of all people living with disabilities around the world.

DFID supports the idea of a seminar but expects the Alumni Association to take the lead.

Please contact Simon Ray or John Stuppel with your ideas for themes to cover at the seminar, or people to invite.

SPOTLIGHT

UN emergency relief

By Sir Mark Lowcock

I started working at the United Nations on 1 September as the Emergency Relief Coordinator and head of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Having spent 33 years with DFID, I have enjoyed the challenge of adapting to a multilateral organization.

It was a busy start to the job. Within the first few weeks the world was dealing with the Rohingya refugees fleeing from violence in Myanmar, consecutive hurricanes that battered the Caribbean and an earthquake in Mexico. The UN was at the forefront of the response to all these crises. I was also grappling with ongoing crises across the globe, such as Syria, Yemen and the Lake Chad Basin.

My experiences in my first few months confirmed to me what I already knew before I took the job: the global humanitarian system is effective. It reaches tens of millions of people a year and saves millions of lives. However, our failure to resolve conflicts, and the increasing vulnerability of people to climatic shocks has led to a massive increase in the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance around the world.

War, drought, and other disasters will put 135 million people at risk around the world next year, a five percent increase on 2017. We will need \$22.5 billion in 2018 to help 90 million people. We are dealing with increasingly complex crises and protracted conflicts are becoming the new normal. Despite these daunting challenges, I remain optimistic about the humanitarian community's ability to save lives and protect people. When the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres called me in April 2017 to ask me if I wanted this job, I was excited to take it because of his clear vision for reform of the UN. He is driving

efforts to reform the UN development system, to improve the UN's contribution to peace and security, to improve the way the UN is managed. These are fundamental steps towards building a UN that can meaningfully contribute to dealing with the problems of the world in the 21st century. As Emergency Relief Coordinator, there are three specific areas that I have identified on which I would like to try to help improve the world's approach.

Firstly, we need to find ways to address the behaviour of combatants in conflict. International norms and laws are routinely being violated. This is partly about effective public and private advocacy. But I also think that as a global community we need to explore options for strengthening accountability and information gathering mechanisms. We should consider how we can make better use of modern technology, digital media and Commissions of Inquiry. I have seen for myself from my experiences in Bosnia in early-1990s that impunity can be tackled and that the perpetrators of these horrific crimes can face justice.

Secondly, too many protracted humanitarian crises are escalating into food security crises, and sometimes verging towards famines. In a number of countries, including some of the poorer ones, resilience and social protection schemes have been successfully developed over the last ten or fifteen years. They can be scaled up to respond to crises, and we should actively explore how these sorts of systems can be introduced in other vulnerable contexts. I have seen first-hand the positive impact that social safety nets have had in Ethiopia and Northern Kenya. In Somalia, cash transfer schemes have played a major role in averting famine in the last twelve months. We have to learn the lessons of some of these programs and see if they can be replicated elsewhere. I believe that would be a critical contribution to the prevention, resilience and readiness agendas.

Thirdly, we need to find better solutions to the world's growing caseload of longstanding refugees and IDPs. The Secretary-General's conflict prevention agenda is key to this. We also need faster and better solutions incorporating livelihoods and education support to IDPs and refugees. I was closely involved in negotiations of a compact with Jordan on these issues in 2016 in the run up to the London Conference on Syria, and we should explore whether similar approaches could be taken elsewhere.

The UK remains such an important player in the humanitarian sector, both as a major financier but also as a policy and thought leader. One of the things I have enjoyed about my new job is that I have had the chance to work closely with many of my former colleagues in DFID both at HQ and at the country level.

New Members of the Association

We welcome our new members who joined the DFID Alumni in October to December 2017.

Meenakshi Nath

Sylvia Lacey

Jiji Bhattacharji

Christopher Musoke

Arundhuti Roychoudhury

Benny Panayi

Nicola Watt

Angela Dearing

Allison Beattie

Silke SecoGrutz



IN THE EYE OF THE STORM

By Chris Austin

From mid-September to mid-November I was in the Caribbean (not at all as glamorous as it sounds, honestly!), leading the UK's response to Hurricane Irma and then Maria in the Overseas Territories (OTs). It was exhausting and exhilarating in equal measure. Our response was substantial: upwards of £70 million, more than 500 tonnes of relief supplies and some 3,000 British personnel deployed. The impact was equally substantive, helping the OTs get their economies and public services up and running again and paving the way for an ambitious long-term reconstruction effort.

Being part-way through my DIY-filled decompression leave after 30 months in Kabul, the call-up was most unexpected. Reflecting now, it was great: I learned a lot and am proud of what we achieved.

What happened?

Hurricane Irma, the world's first Category 5 hurricane, hit the Leeward Islands on 5-6 September. The British Overseas Territories of Anguilla, British Virgin Islands (BVI) and Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) were especially badly whacked; Barbuda had to be evacuated. Less than two weeks later, a second Category 5 hurricane, Maria, battered Dominica and exacerbated the damage caused by Irma elsewhere.



The physical damage was accurately described as “biblical”: lives and livelihoods were turned upside down; at least 90% of properties were affected; power, water and telecommunications were taken out; food supply routes were cut off; public services stopped. Whilst the three OTs are relatively well-off in terms of per capita incomes, their economies and public finances are quite fragile, with a heavy dependency on the tourism sector.

Response

The scale of the damage and large number of Brits affected attracted high political attention. COBR was assembled and quickly decided to mobilise Joint Forces HQ (including DFID logisticians), to complement the immediate response from RFA Mounts Bay, pre-stocked with DFID-funded supplies and standing by in the Caribbean.

For the first few days, the (brilliant) military helped clear airstrips, restore calm, patch up power and water supplies and deliver food, water and other basic emergency supplies across the islands. DFID staff choreographed the supplies from London, Antigua and the Task Force HQ in Barbados.

After a month, our efforts shifted to “early recovery”: starting to restore power connections; re-opening airports and ports for commercial traffic, preparing the way for tourists to return; and re-opening schools and hospitals. At this stage, the need for military airlift and troops on the ground fell away and the JFHQ deployment came to a managed close. My Task Force remained for a further month (now relocated to the High Commission, where it was great to work with HC Janet Douglas again), with a great DFID programme team and military planners, plus military engineers on the OTs.

My role

I was asked late on 13 September (and on a plane the next day) to be the senior civilian representative. This meant inserting myself in the already well-established military base, working closely with Brigadier John Ridge; liaising with FCO and DFID HQs; and engaging with the Governors and their local authorities. My remit was to ensure we put all UK assets (people, money, equipment) to best use, to help those affected to survive, recover and return to normal life as quickly as possible.



From day one, I also became the UK's civilian spokesperson. Media interest was intense, with both Brigadier John and I conducting radio and TV interviews daily. The time difference made for long days, with a few interviews done at about 0200 local time.

Finally, I led a DFID/FCO mission that put advice to Ministers about longer-term reconstruction. The political slogan (not new to DFID) was "build back better"; not just repair schools, roads and hospitals, but to improve the capacity of public infrastructure, utilities and local economies to deal with extreme weather shocks. This will cost billions and take time, hopefully the OTs will be spared an early repeat of Category 5 hurricanes so will have time to invest for a more resilient future.

Achievements and lessons

I think we did well: timely emergency relief; targeted early recovery support; advice and a plan (with additional HMG funds) for "building back better"; and, after some initial grumbles, positive media coverage - key for local confidence as well as HMG's reputation.

But it was not all plain sailing: I would have liked a more direct line to Ministers and HM Treasury. And in my opinion, we could have been quicker with contracting for the early recovery efforts.

Sadly, this kind of response is likely to be needed again. Cabinet Office is harvesting lessons from all stages and quarters. I would highlight two:

- Maintain a pool of HMG civilian staff at various grades who are fully trained (hostile environment, media) and ready to deploy at short notice, at HQ and in the field.
- Start early recovery planning almost immediately (with people not involved in the immediate response), drawing on previous natural disasters as well as local situation awareness.

Photos by DFID/Watkins

WANTED: AN ASSISTANT EDITOR OF THE FOUR CORNERS

We are still looking for someone to help Marc Taylor 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 (c.marc.taylor@gmail.com) or other members of the Committee.

We look forward to your ideas and contributions for future editions.

Simon Ray

PEOPLE

New Year's Honours

Two people on the 2018's New Year's Honours List were recognised for their work at the Department for International Development.

Dr Phil Evans has been made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE), for his services to humanitarian relief, while Bill Kilby has been made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to International Development.

International Development Secretary, Penny Mordaunt, said:

UK Aid has saved lives and delivered hope in some of the poorest, most desperate and disaster stricken parts of the world throughout 2017. I am delighted to see that the individual contributions of Phil and Bill have been recognised in this year's Honours and I congratulate them both.

For many, the festive season is a time for family and friends to come together. Yet so often, our humanitarian workers sacrifice this time to ensure UK aid gets to those who need it most, saving and improving millions of lives around the world. We can all be exceptionally proud of the good that they do.

Sad news: Peter Neil

Peter, who worked for DFID for many years as a forestry adviser, died on Monday 30 October after a long and cruel illness. He was 58. His last post was in DFID Nepal, a post he had to leave prematurely when he fell ill in 2013. Those of us that worked with Peter remember him as hugely knowledgeable and technically at the top of his game, but also as a calm presence, with enormous warmth and care for the people he worked with. Behind the sometimes shy exterior lay a fabulous sense of fun and a humorous glint in his eyes; something he maintained throughout his illness.

Peter was brought up in Hong Kong where an interest in nature kindled in the mountains of the New Territories led him to study forestry at Bangor and Oxford. His first job, in 1981, was in the Solomon Islands under the Overseas Development Administration's Postgraduate Training Scheme (a precursor of the DESA scheme). From there, Peter island-hopped to Vanuatu where he set up a protected area, on the island of Erromango, for Kauri, a highly prized and endangered tree endemic to the southwest Pacific.

Peter's work subsequently took him to Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Honduras, South Africa, and Thailand. His work was varied and involved lots of exciting travel, in light aircraft and boats as well as by road, usually involving long hikes to reach work sites. This posed no problem for Peter who was a fearsomely fit runner and squash player.

Peter had a special relationship with Nepal where he worked on three separate occasions. Throughout the years of conflict, his support for staff in the field and pioneering work to bring the principles of conflict sensitivity into programming, meant the forest programme continued to operate in spite of the many challenges faced. This experience led to a period advising DFID Nepal on conflict sensitive development. It was in Nepal that Peter met his partner, Sunil Pant, who cared for him throughout his illness. When Peter returned to the UK in 2013, he and Sunil became civil partners bringing much joy in the midst of a very difficult time.

Becky Dykes

Becky Dykes, a member of DFID staff working in the British Embassy in Beirut, was found dead on

16 December. A taxi driver was arrested for murder. Our sympathies go to her family and friends.

James Tuohy

Jim's funeral took place in East Kilbride on 3 November 2017.

I am stunned and saddened to hear about James Tuohy. I worked closely with him in IUDD and many a time we put the world to rights over a liquid refreshment or three but no one ever took a blind bit of notice! Distance prevents me from getting to his funeral but please pass my condolences to his family. A much missed friend as well as a colleague

Graham Sharpe

I well remember Jim when he was in IUDD, and I do recall that he moved up to AH shortly before I Retired in December 2004. Jim Tuohy was a lovely man - a real Gent with a smile for everyone. Knowing that he had moved up and lived in EK, I would like to think that he found happiness here in Scotland. Please convey my Condolences to his family - were I still living in EK, I would be there for you at the West Kirk.

Isobel Doig

I was saddened to learn of Jim Tuohy's death. He was a familiar and ever-present figure from the time I joined in 1995, much involved in the administration of the infrastructure research programmes. He moved to East Kilbride following the Department re-organisation in 2003. I'm rather shaken he's now gone. Like Graham and some others, distance means I'm unable to attend his funeral but I do well remember a really pleasant, unassuming colleague.

Peter Davies

Deeply saddened to learn of the death of Jim Tuohy. A lynch-pin of the Engineering - then Infrastructure & Urban Development Dept administrative team from my earliest days with ODA/DFID in the mid-90's. Sincere condolences to his family. Regrets I cannot attend the funeral.

Yusaf Samiullah

Brian Heald

I today learnt through my cricket connections that Brian Heald has passed away. I remember Brian from the OSAS section in Accounts Department in the early 1970s. I think he then went on to what was then PSE and then to HM Customs & Excise in the VAT recruitment exercise.

Brian was connected with the Cricket Society and the Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians and was the Official Scorer for Essex CCC. I did meet him a couple of times at ACHS meetings.

Graham Sharpe

Terence Wright

Terence passed away on 26 October in the nursing home in which he has resided for the last few years. Details of the funeral arrangements are not yet available. Terence was in his early nineties, but until recently still contributing anecdotes to the home's newsletter, including the one in which as a Colonial Office Duty Officer he put Sir Winston Churchill on hold while dealing with another emergency.

Terence was Head of Section when I joined ODM in 1965. He shared a room with another legend, Harry Finch, and the banter was endless, most visitors to their room leaving it shaking with laughter. That made it a pleasant place to work, but Terence also ensured that work got done in strict accordance with procedures and always to an acceptable standard. He had a fund of stories, several of them emanating from his time in Private Office. The first Permanent Secretary, Sir Andrew Cohen, had indecipherable handwriting, which in an era of largely handwritten minutes could make life difficult for recipients.

However, there were others with a difficult hand, one of them i/c the Nigeria desk. He sent a minute to Sir Andrew and received the file back very promptly, but neither he nor his immediate colleagues could understand what the PS had written. He therefore took the file up to the 9th floor and asked Sir Andrew's Exec Assistant if she could read the minute to him. "Certainly", she replied, "It says, 'I am unable to give an opinion on the minute below because I cannot read the handwriting'."

I am sure the remaining Colonial Office veterans who are Alumni will have many more such stories emanating from the lively source that was T D Wright, MVO.

I fully share the sadness over Terence Wright's death. My first job in ODM, in Edward West's Natural Resources Department was in the FAO section of which Terence was head, assisted by Harry Finch and Geoff Williams. A great combination indeed for someone brand-new to the civil service. Terence was a thoroughly decent man and a highly-effective civil servant with good humoured cynicism about bureaucratic nonsense. He will be much missed.

Richard Manning

I was saddened to hear about Terence. He was my second boss after Ernie and I have many fond memories of working with him.

Simon Ray

I share the sadness of others to learn of Terence Wright's passing. I first learnt of Terence when he was made a MVO following the 1953 Royal Tour. (He was in the Colonial Office Telegraph Branch at the time). I twice took over from him as a Desk Officer & he was our highly efficient back-up Desk Officer for BDDP in Suva. – When you sent him a telegram, the reply would be waiting for you when you got in to the office next morning. (The advantage of a significant time difference as well!)

As a Colonial Office Duty Officer you could expect anything to happen. – I was woken up in the night to be handed a telegram reporting the incursion into Brunei. – But it was just like Terence to put Sir Winston Churchill of all people on hold while dealing with another emergency!

Things out of the ordinary just seemed to happen to him. He would mention them without any change of facial expression. He also clearly inwardly relished recalling things which were likely to get his listener a bit anxious. When I took over from him in Aid Policy Dept. it meant dealing with other donors amongst other things. The Embassy of one donor would kindly offer hospitality from time to time & Terence ensured that I was rather on edge as to what might be on the menu. – For the record I never had a problem! I am sure his friends in his nursing home will miss him very much.

Ron Wootton

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

At the last committee meeting on 30 October it was agreed Simon Ray would write to Matthew Rycroft introducing the Alumni Association and proposing a meeting in the New Year when Matthew takes up his post as DFID's Permanent Secretary.

Committee members will work on ideas for a seminar on humanitarian/UN issues, drawing on the various ideas suggested at the meeting.

Jaz Bennie and John Stuppel will look at ways to strengthen liaison between DFID and the Alumni Association (more advertising of AA, mentoring, honorarium arrangements etc)

It was agreed to send the usual reminders about the 11 December Xmas party and the 100 Club and to explore visits to the Mail Train and possibly the Sir John Soane Museum, and to find a date for the postponed agricultural seminar with George Dwyer .

Committee members will follow up various ideas to help get stories written in time for future Four Corners.

It was agreed to discuss separately ideas for future activities when the Committee had received details of DFID Alumni members' suggestions.

It was agreed some issues with the website and Dgroups need action.

The Chairman will be in touch with Gerard Howe to follow up on the NGO seminar held in October.

The Committee will meet next on 17 January 2018.

CONTACT

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Follow us on Twitter: @DFID_Alumni

Our Facebook page is @dfidaa.

UK aid tackling global migration crisis

On International Migrants Day in December 2017, International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt set out how UK aid will help tackle root causes driving people to migrate. This includes a lack of job opportunities, conflict and instability at a time when 65 million people around the world have been driven from their homes – more than the entire population of the UK.

She unveiled a major package of support to address the needs of refugees and migrants, and in the long term provide people with the credible choice to stay close to their homes. While many of the poorest people safely migrate for work to neighbouring countries, others put their lives at risk.

Forced displacement causes misery around the world and has contributed to the current migration crisis. Last year alone saw more than 5,000 people die at sea while attempting perilous crossings into Europe, and many others die crossing the Sahara desert. In Libya, for example, migrants face dangerous circumstances, exploitation and even modern slavery. Migration driven by conflict and instability overseas will affect us in the UK.

The package included:

Sudan – Supporting at least 450,000 refugees, migrants and community members every year in Sudan affected by conflict and lack of food, by providing long term access to food, water, shelter and protection, enabling them to stay in their country and reduce the risk of being forced to flee. This support will help those returning to the region and ensure communities are able to cope, including by replanting crops destroyed by conflict.

Tanzania – The UK will provide support for over 460,000 refugees and migrants in Tanzania to meet emergency needs and identify ways for people to find work, so that they can stay where they are and either return home or not be forced to migrate elsewhere. This package will also provide access to land and livelihoods offering long term stability to people and their families.

Libya – The UK is confirming an additional £5 million to provide humanitarian aid and protection to migrants and refugees, some of whom are in detention, as part of the Prime Minister's announcement at the June European Council. Migrants and refugees in Libya are extremely vulnerable to trafficking, exploitation and slavery.

Announcing the UK's package of support, International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt said:

The sheer scale of the migration crisis in the Mediterranean makes it one of the most pressing global challenges we face, and behind the numbers are millions of individual tales of both hope and tragedy. That's why UK aid is working to help address the root causes of mass migration by creating jobs and providing education, whilst also supporting vulnerable migrants whose lives are at risk due to a lack of food and medicine, or whose freedom is at risk from traffickers and criminal thugs.

The UK will be directly affected unless we take action now. There is no silver bullet and this approach will take time, but as we continue to create jobs, educate thousands of children and save lives, the benefit of our support for the poorest people and the UK will become increasingly obvious. The UK is already addressing the root causes which lead people to risk their lives through dangerous journeys through a series of initiatives.

These include:

Creating Jobs

We are giving people more opportunities to find work and build a decent life at home so that they do not feel compelled to leave, whilst simultaneously boosting the economic prospects of the host countries accommodating large numbers of refugees. We are working to secure support for refugee hosting countries and are driving a new "Jobs Compact" with Ethiopia to create 100,000 new jobs for Ethiopians and refugees. In Jordan, UK support has led to 70,000 work permits being issued to Syrian refugees.

Helping those who want to return home

Some people will leave their homes under deception and false promises, and then find themselves in difficult situations, such as in Libya. We are helping these people return home and to reintegrate into society when they get there. UK aid has helped to return 2,200 people from Libya and Niger alone.

Ending modern slavery

Some migrants are at risk of falling into the hands of ruthless human traffickers, for example in the slave markets in Libya. They face forced labour or sexual exploitation. We are supporting victims of these crimes, such as in Nigeria where we are supporting safe houses, victim support and counselling. Across South Asia we are protecting women and girls, stopping exploitation, providing jobs and increasing public awareness of the risks of trafficking so that potential victims are aware of the dangers and better protected.

Education

We are ensuring children, even in conflict, have the chance to go to school and do not miss out on an education. Our support to the Education Cannot Wait fund will provide education to more than 4.5 million children in emergencies such as Chad, Ethiopia and Syria. In Lebanon and Jordan our work to provide education opportunities for those affected by the Syria crisis has enabled over 700,000 children to go to school.

Life-saving humanitarian assistance

When famine and conflict breaks out we provide life-saving assistance, such as shelter, water and sanitation, food, medical care, and protection for vulnerable people so that they can stay close to home. We know that sometimes the most vulnerable need to leave their homes. The UK has also committed to resettle 20,000 refugees fleeing the Syria conflict and 3,000 of the most vulnerable children and family members by 2020.

The support to Sudan totals £121 million over 5 years (2017-2022). It is an allocation from the DFID Sudan country budget. The package includes:

- Providing 1,300 vulnerable migrants with health and psychosocial assistance per year through partners including the International Federation of the Red Cross. This constitutes £6 million.
- Providing 425,000 vulnerable people each year with access to food through cash- and voucher-based assistance through the World Food Programme. This constitutes £45.5 million.
- Supporting returnees and host communities who have fled violence and are now returning to Sudan so that they are more resilient against conflict and other shocks. Constitutes £24 million. It will achieve this by:
 - preventing malnutrition in 30,000 households
 - giving 200 villages improved food security, and improved ability to manage natural

resources by helping communities improve their agricultural resources and manage their environmental resources such as soil or water conservation

- funding 150 local community groups to resolve local disputes so that they do not lead to conflict
- helping 2,500 displaced households integrate back into their communities.
- providing three local NGOs with increased operational capacity to support returnees

- Funding the Sudan Humanitarian Fund with a total of £45.5 million to:
 - Provide 115,000 people with shelter and non-food items per year;
 - Provide food security and livelihoods assistance to 120,000 people per year;
 - Provide 400,000 people with access to health services per year;
 - Support 110,000 people with treatment and prevention of malnutrition per year;
 - Provide 300,000 people with access to emergency water and sanitation per year;
 - Provide 100,000 people with humanitarian protection per year.

The package of support to Tanzania totals £55 million over 4 years (2017-2020). It is an allocation from the DFID Tanzania country budget. The package includes:

- Supporting over 300,000 refugees to live safely and with greater self-reliance;
- Work with the Government of Tanzania to provide more sustainable support to refugees and the communities that host them;
- Help integrate 160,000 Burundian refugees recently granted Tanzanian citizenship including through completion of citizenship registration; securing land title;
- We will also explore opportunities to help manage irregular migration between Burundi and Tanzania.

The support to Libya represents £5 million of the £75 million commitment the Prime Minister made at the June European Council, to be funded from 2018-2020. It will provide humanitarian assistance and protection to migrants and refugees vulnerable in detention centres and the community through the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and NGOs.

So far this year, DFID has supported more than 20,000 emergency interventions such as healthcare, funding psychosocial support, hygiene kits and safe shelter to migrants and refugees in Libya.

UK aid to help people at risk of slavery

The International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt has announced that UK aid will help over 500,000 vulnerable men, women and children around the world who have either survived modern slavery or are at risk of becoming victims. Ahead of the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery (Saturday 2 December) she condemned modern slavery as a “global disgrace” and pledged the UK’s long term commitment to “stamp out this practice abroad” which will in turn support the efforts to end slavery in the UK.

As part of the Prime Minister’s pledge at the United Nations General Assembly to double the UK’s aid commitment to tackling modern slavery, Ms Mordaunt set out UK aid support which will have a life-changing impact for hundreds of thousands of people at risk of exploitation.

The UK is stepping up efforts at home and abroad to combat the crimes of human trafficking, forced labour, and abuse, with over 40 million people estimated to be modern day slaves. Behind the numbers are people subjected to horrific exploitation every single day.

The support pledged will address slavery and trafficking in countries with a high prevalence of these crimes in South Asia, and others such as Nigeria, which are also source countries for trafficking to the UK. At the UN General Assembly, Prime Minister Theresa May announced a global Call To Action, that urged world leaders to show they will not tolerate modern slavery, human trafficking and labour exploitation – with 40 countries now having joined this call to action.

International Development Secretary, Penny Mordaunt, said:

The continued trade in human beings is a global disgrace – and simply not enough is being done to tackle it. It is time to eradicate this shameful practice. Slavery, anywhere, must not be tolerated in the 21st century, and our work to stamp out this practice abroad will support our effort to end slavery in the UK. This is a long term challenge and others must follow our lead. I met with victims of this horrendous crime during my time in Bangladesh who had been exploited and abused who we are now supporting, and it is absolutely right that we protect vulnerable men, women and children from being duped into imprisonment, domestic servitude and forced labour.

The £40 million package of UK aid includes:

- £13 million for the second phase of the Work in Freedom programme to prevent trafficking and forced labour among women migrant workers from South Asia, which has the highest prevalence of forced labour globally. This will focus on victims of forced domestic work and garment manufacturing, providing skills training to women before they move to a nearby country for work, supporting women at their destination so they can access help if they are exploited, and working with governments to improve laws and policies to protect vulnerable people from becoming victims of this crime.
- a £20 million contribution to the Global Fund to End Modern Slavery, which will be used to target sectors with a high risk of slavery, like the garment sector, fisheries and construction, combating this crime by working with law enforcement, prevention and victim services and business.
- further details of the £7 million DFID support in Nigeria which will focus on creating credible alternative livelihoods in hospitality, creative industries, technology and agri-entrepreneurship so people are not forced into a life of trafficking, providing better victim support and counselling, and increasing public awareness of the risks of trafficking. This is in addition to the Home Office’s existing £5 million of support which is improving law enforcement and justice systems to crack down on this crime and root out the perpetrators.

The Second Phase of the Work in Freedom programme follows an original £10.5 million programme which started in 2013 and finishes in early 2018. This programme has helped 380,000 women at risk of trafficking and forced labour in South Asia and the Middle East. An independent evaluation found it was innovative, highly relevant and delivering results.

The second phase will focus on sectors with the highest number of forced labour victims, including domestic work and garment manufacturing. It will help over 350,000 women, including through pre-departure training and skills development for women in the communities who are considering moving to a nearby country for work; supporting women at their destination, for example through local unions and support groups so they can access help if something goes wrong; and working with governments to improve laws and policies to protect vulnerable people from becoming victims of this crime.

The £7 million of DFID support in Nigeria will include around £3 million to create alternative, aspirational livelihoods that can be considered as viable alternatives by potential victims of trafficking to pursuing irregular and dangerous forms of migration, which often lead to victims falling into sexual slavery, forced or bonded labour. UK aid will focus on creating job opportunities in sectors including hospitality, creative industries, technology and agri-entrepreneurship and could help up to 30,000 women at risk of modern slavery.

DFID's support to Nigeria will also include around £4 million to strengthen systems that support victims of trafficking through improving safe house support and training for counsellors in at least six safe houses; changing attitudes and social norms through working with schools and universities to increase public information and awareness of the risks of trafficking; and building a stronger coalition of partners, including civil society, working on the Anti-Slavery agenda to boost rehabilitation services to help survivors reintegrate into society, to prevent vulnerable people being re-trafficked and falling back into a cycle of exploitation.

This funding is in addition to £5 million of the UK's Modern Slavery Fund, which the Prime Minister announced in September 2016, that has been allocated to Nigeria and which will build the capacity of Nigerian law enforcement to crack down on the crime, help investigate prolific traffickers, and provide protection and rehabilitation for victims.

The Global Fund to End Modern Slavery aims to leverage \$1.5 billion to address the lack of resources in tackling modern slavery, and the UK is partnering with the United States to support this initiative. Our initial investment will be used to target problem sectors, like the garment sector, fisheries and construction, combating slavery by working with law enforcement, prevention and victim services and business.

Together, UK aid support in Nigeria and for the Global Fund to End Modern Slavery will help 150,000 people.