

BUILD Members Meeting

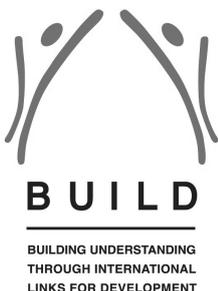
29-30 June 2009

Mansfield College Oxford

REPORT

“Responsibility does not only lie with the leaders of our countries or with those who have been appointed or elected to do a particular job. It lies with each of us individually. Peace, for example, starts within each one of us”.

Dalai Lama



The Upper Office
The Dutch Barn
Elm Tree Park
Manton
Wiltshire, SN8 1PS
pepi@build-online.org.uk
01672 861001
www.build-online.org.uk

CONTENTS	PAGE
Local Authority Partnerships – UK Local Government Alliance for International Development One World Linking – Warwick / Bo	3
Diaspora Partnerships – Africa Foundation Stone Widows Orphans Relief Development	4
Health Partnerships – Tropical Health & Education Trust Kings THET Somaliland Partnership	5
Youth Partnerships – Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council Avon Scouts – Swaziland Link	6
Faith Partnerships – Stephen Lyon Inter Diocesan West Africa Links	7
Community Partnerships – UK One World Linking Association Garstand – New Koforidua Fairtrade Town Link	8
School Partnerships – Plan UK Garden’s for Life, Eden Project	10
Feed back from panel of “Expert Witnesses” and BUILD members	12
Feed back from Workshops	15
Skills Venture – Will Snell	17
Sum up of Monday	18
Gold Star Communities – John Whitaker	18
What is happening in Norway – Ole Bjørn Ileby	19
Strategic Planning	19

BUILD Members Meeting
29-30 June 2009, Mansfield College Oxford



Appendices

I	Agenda	21
II	Expert Witnesses	23
III	Case Studies	24
IV	BUILD Members attending	25
V	Introduction by Nick Maurice	28

MONDAY 20 JUNE

LOCAL AUTHORITY PARTNERSHIPS

UK Local Government Alliance for International Development - Libby Ferguson

www.lg-alliance.org

The UK Local Government Alliance for International Development (LG AID) is an alliance of five principal local government bodies in the UK.

The five partners include: Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF); Improvement & Development Agency (IDeA); Local Government Association (LGA); National Association of Local Councils (NALC); and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives & Senior Managers (SOLACE).

LG AID was established to provide a single voice for the local government sector in relation to international development. It has four strategic objectives, including raising awareness within UK local councils, promoting the local government sector as a contributor to international development and enhancing the capacity of local councils to get involved.

LG AID has received three year funding from the Department for International Development (DFID) through their Development Awareness Fund (DAF).

Local Government Association - Rosalie Callway

www.lga.gov.uk

The Local Government Association (LGA) works to promote local government interests and to strengthen its capacity in Europe and around the world. The LGA's International Partnerships and Programmes team seeks to support and promote all kinds of international cooperation by providing advice on a range of linking issues from establishing partnerships to funding aid programmes.

LGA works with local government in the UK and with authorities and associations overseas to facilitate the establishment of links, and in a number of priority countries works to help coordinate local partnerships to maximise their impact nationally.

One World Link – Warwick / Bo - Jane Knight, Maada Fobay, Alpha Bah, Catherine Kamara

www.oneworldlink.org.uk

One World Link (OWL) promotes friendships between two communities across the world: those of Bo District in Sierra Leone and Warwick District in the UK. The link that has been running between these two communities since 1981 is inspired by a desire for justice,

equality, human understanding and mutual support. Over the years it has helped to strengthen both communities and their awareness of global and development issues.

- Financed through fees and donations
- Support from Warwick to Bo during the Civil War
- Involves women's groups at both ends of the link
- 2004 officers went to Bo and together with the Mayor put together an action plan of waste management and town planning. Now have funding and it will be spread out to the rest of Sierra Leone.

Maada Fobay: fundamental principles outlined in UKOWLA's Toolkit for Linking will make the world a better place. The only way things can work better is are if we do them together

Alpha Bah: need to change the minds of the youth away from negative perceptions to move forward

Catherine Karama: through teacher and school visits both sides of the link can work together and learn from each other.

DIASPORA PARTNERSHIPS

Africa Foundation Stone - Valentin Djoma

africafoundation@btinternet.com

The programme is aiming to support and promote the mobilisation of the African Diaspora to actively contribute through volunteering to fight poverty and improve the lives of disadvantaged people. AFS achieves this by engaging Africans – skilled professionals to volunteer between 3-6 weeks in Cameroon and in other African countries to support local NGOs.

Widows and Orphans Relief Development - Everjoice Makuve

www.wordtrustinternational.com

WORD is a program set up to relieve poverty, sickness and distress of widows, widowers and orphans especially in Africa, by raising awareness, disseminating information and advancing education among the orphans, widows & widowers. WORD works in 8 different countries at community level to which assistance rarely reaches

- Provides education facilities including payment of school fees.
- Women's empowerment projects (income generating projects)
- HIV/AIDS awareness (in primary and secondary schools)
- Advocacy & Training
- Volunteer development and management
- Work with asylum seekers and refugees
- Partnership Development

The communities do not define development in terms of goals. They define development in terms of

- food on the table
- my child going to school.

Women are managing global warming by diversifying farming crops. But most of their stories are not sung

HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS

THET - Karen Peachey

www.thet.org

THET is the national umbrella organisation for international health links between hospitals and medical schools and other health training institutions in less developed countries and their counterparts in the UK. THET's goal is to improve health services and thus health outcomes through these partnerships. THET is working to develop and promote links and best practice for links more widely in the UK. Our vision is that all hospitals and Primary Care Trusts, medical and nurse training schools, should have a link with a counterpart overseas. THET has developed a Links Manual for best practice and maintains a national database of the Link members that can network by partner country, speciality and UK region.

Case Study – Kings THET / Somaliland Partnership (KTSP)

- Started in 2000
- Initially with small projects with several partners but in 2006, at partners request, efforts to scale up started
- Concept note and proposal endorsed by MOHL and President of Somaliland
- Consortium formed. Negotiations led by THET/Kings. Donor approved May 2007
- Aim: strengthen the health system by developing human and institutional capacity
 - Of four planned outcomes, two for KTSP:-
 - (i) health training institutions with technical capacity to deliver basic training for doctors and nurses
 - (iii) capacity of professional bodies is increased and progress made towards appropriate regulatory framework

Some Highlights

- Medical teaching and external examiners
- Graduation of the first Somaliland doctors
- Development of first internship programme
- Community work by students and interns
- Inclusion of mental health in undergraduate teaching
- Audit projects in Hargeisa and Boroma Hospitals

- Harmonisation of exams and first joint exams
- E-learning ... bi-directional

Examples of Impact

- Doctors in public hospitals

- New cadre of nurse tutors about to enter system
- Multi-disciplinary working
- Improved health outcomes e.g. paediatric ward now used
- Global health teaching at Kings College Hospital strengthened

Scaling up lessons

- Build trust, have a long term vision
- Challenges of scaling up
- Links as part of a mixed economy
- Need for project management
- Building the case - evaluation

YOUTH PARTNERSHIPS

Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council - Vic Craggs

www.cyec.org.uk

“Problems without frontiers, issues without passports”

CYEC is an educational charity founded in 1970. It supports youth development and global citizenship primarily by promoting locally based two-way group youth exchanges for people aged 15-25. Our services include advice, information, grant aid for approved exchanges, training, publications and events for young people. Exchange projects develop skills for life-long learning, global citizenship and respect for cultural diversity. CYEC also develops and helps facilitate Commonwealth wide forums for young people. Young people need to be seen to be part of the solution.

Avon Scouts Swaziland Link – Thirst for Life

Karla Forrest and Becky Lambert

www.avonscouts.org.uk/thirstforlife/

- A youth designed and led project which came out of a meeting between Avon Scouts and Swaziland Scouts at the Jubilee
- Dan Wood and Becky met up at the World Jamboree and came up with the idea of linking. Home stays at both ends and each UK scout had a Swaziland scout partner when the Avon group went out. All still in contact with each other.
- 2005 21 UK scouts went and joined 21 Swaziland Scouts, all aged between 18-25.
- Went over for a month and got involved in manual labour. Had land donated by local chief, had it fenced and then made it sustainable for cultivating crops.
- Worked with Ministry of Agriculture to get livestock up and running.
- Promoting gender equality – empowering women, 50 / 50 split in UK group but only 2 or 3 Swaziland girl scouts. Trying to get more girls involved in Swaziland.
- Developing Scout centre and water and sanitation project.
- We wanted to ensure environmental stability in the water and sanitation project. Dug bore hole and got water pump, for scouts and local community. Both groups of scouts

built pit latrines. All UK scouts were guided by Swaziland scouts in the building and manual labour.

- 2006 - 7 Swaziland scouts came to UK, focused on going to schools in Bristol. Hoping to link schools with Swazi schools.
- HIV/Aids, Malaria. Swaziland has highest prevalence of HIV/Aids. UNICEF provides training to take out into the wider community. Scouting events bring HIV/ADS into the community. When the Swaziland scouts came to the UK they wanted to have discussion around HIV/AIDS. The Avon Scouts invited the Terrance Higgins Trust to talk with both groups.
- Now developing global partnerships for development

Main challenges

- The 'big cheeses' in the scouting movement didn't want a group of young people going out un-led.
- Funding, lot of local fundraising, great support from CYEC.
- Young people are very flexible, adaptable and can cope with change and challenges in ways that older people find difficult.

FAITH PARTNERSHIPS – Stephen Lyon

www.pwm-web.org.uk

PWM is an umbrella organisation that co-ordinates the different links that the Church of England has with churches in other parts of the world. These are at local (parish) and regional (diocese) level and include all aspects of the life of these faith communities. The growing area of linking is through schools within the dioceses.

Inter-diocesan West Africa Link (IDWAL) – Mark Payne

www.diochi.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=activities.content&cmid=79

The average Anglican is a 24 year old Nigerian woman!

1 in 3 primary school children go to Church of England schools

IDWAL is based in the diocese of Chichester which covers West and East Sussex.

Since the early 1960s have had links with

- The Gambia
- Guinea – Conakry
- Sierra Leone
- Liberia
- Cameroon
- Kenya (Nakuru, Nyahururu, and Kericho dioceses)

What happens

- Church to Church links
- Church and community links (inter faith)
- School to School links
- 3 way linking
- Mother's Union links

These links are based on:

- Reciprocal visits
- Youth exchanges
- Sabbatical placements
- Special appeals / projects

Since 2004 embarked on a school linking project with Sierra Leone.

- Following the war the priority was re-building the schools. Two thirds had been destroyed during the war. Now 50 active primary and secondary school links.
- Audit of school links was completed in March and it found that only 2 or 3 were inactive.
- Setting up links was relatively easy, maintaining them more difficult. Managing expectations.
- Challenging stereotypes
- Termly communications, visits crucial, 6th form visits.
- Rushed into linking but on reflection would now begin with global citizenship training before embarking on a link.
- Difficulties with communication
- Working with partners in SL to raise standards in schools

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

UK One World Linking Association – Lynn Cutler

www.ukowla.org.uk

UKOWLA is the umbrella organisation for community based partnerships. UKOWLA is committed to supporting mutually beneficial partnerships between communities in the UK

and in other parts of the world particularly Africa, Asia, Caribbean and Latin America.

UKOWLA offers advice and mentoring for its members.

- Communities are made up of groups of people - they are expanding and reducing all the time.
- Involvement, inclusion, advocacy and grassroots activity.
- Potentially community based partnerships are the easiest and also the most difficult. They need the everyday person on the street to be involved, this applies at both

BUILD Members Meeting
29-30 June 2009, Mansfield College Oxford



ends of the link. We all come from a similar type of back ground in this room, how do we get everyone, young, unemployed, disaffected involved.

- There is no one right way of doing it, all communities are different and the journeys are all different.
- The journey and process are key.
- Community partnerships bring a face to development issues, e.g. knowing someone who has malaria, global trade issues, the right to clean water.

Challenges and problems:

- Visa issues, very difficult to demonstrate why someone should have a visa. Visas may be turned down because it's a community link not a school one.
- Building relationships with local High Commission is very important.
- Links can contribute to stereotypes both North and South, but they can also bring out the best in people.

"It is important to reflect on the ways in which our own perspectives, experiences, political commitments, wider aims in life and social identities shape our understanding. Linking equips us to learn more, not just about people who have different religions, cultures and beliefs, but also allows us to take a step back and analyse our own behaviour – how do our actions, whether we think them to be small or large, negative or positive, affect those in other nations who may live half a world away?"

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Garstang New Koforidua Linking Association – Bruce Crowther

www.garstangfairtrade

Community to community link built around Fairtrade

- Garstang was the first Fairtrade town.
- All aspects of the community are involved in the link with New Koforidua – the Kuapa Kokoo cooperative produce cocoa for Divine chocolate. Link originally came out of the 'On the Line' project. A group from Garstang went to Ghana to explore the slave ports and cocoa farming. Original project was meant to be a one way exchange but in 2004 there were two way exchanges. Garstang found funding for both trips. Built play area in New Koforidua.
- 2006-7 a group got together in Garstang. "Do you want this link and what do you want from it?" The same process happened in Ghana. During the next year a partnership agreement was put together. Identified 11 different projects to start on.
- The UKOWLA toolkit was essential to putting together the MOU.
- Community house built in New Koforidua, used as education and resource centre, people coming from all over the world to learn and stay there. Funded by individuals and businesses from all over the world.
- Wanting to put solar panels on to bring electricity to New Koforidua.

BUILD Members Meeting
29-30 June 2009, Mansfield College Oxford



- Campaigning and advocacy alongside people in New Koforidua, which adds strength to lobbying.
- New Koforidua wants to be the first Fairtrade Town in Africa.
- Fair Trade Town in US now formed a three way link between UK, Ghana and US.
- Never set out to be a trading outlet, but now have Fairtrade bags made in New Koforidua made from local cotton and sold in Garstang.
- Lots of projects – big lunch on 19 July, Fairtrade picnic in Garstang, Ghana and US all eating at the same time.
- Challenges met: funding; obtaining visas; evaluation.
- Garstang has more to gain from this link. Need education here as much as in the South.

SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

Plan UK – Susan Evans

www.plan-uk.org

- Spend money from partnerships on resources for schools. Coordinators who are ex teachers do school visits to UK and in the South. Can send letters etc, very quickly, and have on-line communication. Ask schools what they want to get from their link, and work with schools to achieve their outcomes.
- Work in UK, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Malawi and China
- Impacts of links over the last few years. Working with Institute of Education on impact assessment, currently doing second year assessment. Positive feedback from teachers that students are engaged more and interested more.
- Students in a school in Sierra Leone have benefited from a student steering committee which runs the programme. This is something that all overseas schools did but only 3 in UK had in first year. UK schools getting more on-board now and find it is very important to engage student
- Have video conference in UK with a school in China through Plan office, speaking to each other was good, Chinese students started speaking in English and now the UK schools want to start learning Mandarin.

Next steps:

- Some schools are in their third year of linking, trying to involve the whole school and now the community. Communication is very important for keeping a link alive and making it stronger.
- Have 250 UK schools, next year would like 450, in a couple of years 700 schools to make it sustainable (schools pay £700 to be members of the Plan linking programme). Plan provides schools with all the support they need. Hoping schools will develop strong relationships, keep resources up to date.
- Work with local IT NGO in Sierra Leone, in Malawi and Kenya

Plan is part of the BBC World Class group and they meet regularly to discuss challenges and working collaboratively. UNESCO report said that 5% of schools have links, has gone up but still many that don't have links despite DCSF policy.

'Gardens for Life' – Rob Lowe

- 'Gardens for Life' is a living network of schools that explores the world through gardening and growing food.
- It helps schools create gardens to explore the issues of food security, sustainable development and global citizenship.
- GfL helps children share their knowledge and experience of growing food with their counterparts from around the world.
- Its currency is stories and ideas
- Successful pilot program ran in 74 schools across 3 countries: UK, Kenya, and India.
- Developed by: Eden Project, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew; Royal Horticultural Society; Science Across the World - Association for Science Education; and The Department for International Development Central Research Department.
- Evaluated by University of Exeter
- Funded and supported by:
The Department for International Development; Syngenta Foundation;
Creative Partnerships; Department for Education and Skills, Growing Schools Initiative; The Ernest Cook Trust, Barclays and Cisco Foundation.
- 'Gardens for Life' now has over 300 schools in the UK, Kenya, India, the Gambia and Singapore.
- The National Gardening Association of America are keen to develop their own GFL programme
- Other prospective partners have been identified in South Africa, Japan and Australia.

Gardens for Life is evolving to become:

- An online community of school gardeners
- A means of offering (and delivering) curriculum based content, assessment methods and qualifications

- A project that sets up new school gardening programmes around the world that have the capacity to sustain themselves as part of a global network

RESPONSE FROM PANEL OF EXPERTS AND BUILD MEMBERS

- Amazing to hear about the grassroots work, it is not heard about or seen. Why doesn't everyone know what is going on?
- Why don't people engage with the diaspora living near them?

BUILD Members Meeting
29-30 June 2009, Mansfield College Oxford



- What other organisations are involved in partnerships, synergy to engage with other groups eg WI, various Institutes eg Waste Management etc.
- We are living in very cynical times, certain sections of the media focus entirely on negative stories, we need to overcome this cynicism – partnerships could play an important role in this.
- Salvation must lie amongst the young. There is a huge amount of idealism amongst the young and they will be the victims of the down turn in the economy.
- We have a lot of work to do to counteract the lack of confidence in ex-colonial countries.
- Development is the process of improvement from within, “we can do it” - we can help.
- There is enormous potential of partnerships in bottom-up strengthening.
- You have to have a structure through which wealth is distributed throughout society.
- Trade is very important for sustainable development.
- People in the South have enormous knowledge about survival. We have to learn from them.
- Students leaving higher education now are highly educated but don’t necessarily have a job. Send them out to volunteer in Africa. Universities are multi-cultural environments.
- In the present market place and in the future there is a target audience we are missing. Corporate sector has interest in communities through CSR. Not just the Fortune 500 and FTSE 500. In the corporate sector everyone has worked out that charity begins in the world in which they compete.
- Harnessing support from corporate sector is sometimes a challenge as they are demanding about the messaging and goals. Pearson likes the simple, decent, brave messages and those organisations that achieve great things with little support but great commitment.
- NVCO can create national umbrella organisations and networks which can help facilitate exchanges.
- Through the experiences of voluntary organisations, local communities can take action for themselves and not wait for the politicians to do it for them.
- Social enterprise element is crucial, NCVO is looking to work in a more social enterprise model.
- We can use links to address the social cohesion here in the UK by using the diaspora on your doorstep. There can be problems working with the diaspora groups eg their political issues.
- To tackle the “brain drain” from the South must look at dealing with the whole problem. Training midwives is not the solution, look at whole package of workforce planning issues. For effective health systems you have to have the specialists who will train the health officers.
- We still build colonial structures without realising what we are doing.
- Needs to be a focus. Linking people who continue to talk is sustainable.
- Think about leadership, develop it and responsibility.
- Think about old fashioned exchange, local business equitable exchange

BUILD Members Meeting
29-30 June 2009, Mansfield College Oxford



- “Partnership” what does it mean? Do you have a good relationship with your partner? Mutuality, balanced with “what’s in it for me?”, both sides have to look at this and both sides need to have something that’s in it for them.
- Partnerships don’t have to last for ever to be enduring

Scalability

- Focus on simple messaging
- Good links into professional bodies
- Companies want to talk about impact and how much impact there is. Pearson wants to be engaged at local community level, but want to package it and take it to an audience in Yemen, Vietnam etc. Education, not training, offering the individuals the opportunity for progression
- Scalability is essential if you are going to convince people of the impact
- Promote continuance of government spending on development. If we don’t insist that it keeps going it won’t happen. The government are putting “peace keeping” as a part of overseas aid
- Demand from the government that it uses our money and uses it in the right way.
- There is a potential tension as all partnerships are different, none are the same. Is there a real gap between this linking movement and the corporate mass-market replicability? Equipping people on the ground to spread the message.
- The really sustainable partnerships are the ones that reach out into the wider community.

Funding

- Employ someone at BUILD to write funding applications.
- All members to club together to pay for fundraiser.
- Look outside UK, Hilton Foundation have \$1m every year.
- Need to show impact and educational improvement to help access funding.
- Universities have found it difficult due to university funding. Debate about appropriateness of engagement, when to do it during your medical training. Royal Colleges International Forum has debates around these issues as does Medsin, the medical student international association.

Communication

- Take a member of the press to a link, get them engaged, have regular columns.
- Use “trafficking of children” as a hook to hang a story on, then include the partnership.
- Use different types of communication, facebook, twitter, etc encourage the young.
- There are massive technological advances which make it easier to drive the agenda yourself
- Drop the jargon – let people know what is going on in simple language.
- Don’t broadcast issues / stories too early as it can be blocked by the media. Sometimes it’s easier to do things under the radar, but after the event it’s not newsworthy.

BUILD Members Meeting
29-30 June 2009, Mansfield College Oxford



- There is deep pessimism about the media. Challenge the media, demand to see / hear what you want. Face to face and new media, by-pass classic media.
- The general public don't have a clue about what development means – use the word aid. The public understands the word.
- Need to help breakdown barriers in institutionalised media
- Get the local newspaper to follow the story of the link community as they would with their own UK community. Have a page a month to the life in the Southern link community.
- Engage with the PR market in the private sector, where there are legions of journo types and corporate experts.
- There are cuts in LA funding from government. There is a big communication issue to keep funding for international work. Aid versus non-Aid, Local Authorities have a strong story and need to get that out so constituents who have lost jobs and don't want their LA funding going on international development
- Local government have to battle with “jollies” – twinnings are now very different but are always fighting that battle.

Advocacy

- BUILD to advocate the strong potential of partnerships on behalf of its members and their membership.
- Zimbabwean groups tied into campaigning groups here in UK, access to diaspora in UK strengthens and benefits both sides.
- Role that links can play in enabling those in the South to have a voice.
- Support for development is collapsing, if you are not reaching out and demonstrating inter-dependence the question arises “why are we spending all this money on international development? It's all wasted and raised by those who don't know what is happening”
- Partnerships make a difference but need to leverage this. Talk beyond the groups who are working with us. Tell the stories; sell the message, what's in it for them. Fight the cynicism.
- Need to find commonality to make politicians make the right decision.
- Get advocates into positions to advocate.
- Advocates have helped with the increase of health care links. There is a business case template to go to the NHS bosses. Crisp Report, in Wales in Scotland the Chief Medical and Nursing Officers and Government response has helped.
- Jargon is part of life but we need to explain it better.
- Measuring impact – some LAs are doing it, LGA producing toolkit for measuring impact for partnership in UK and South. Will be a help for funders and communicating message to public.
- Funding – linking is done mainly through volunteering. In the Netherlands the government matches with money the amount of voluntary funding

Workshop Feedback

Stephen Lyon – *what makes a great project of a link and the role that BUILD could play in that.*

- What is the link based on?
- What is it that the community wanting to link is looking for?
- What are the founding principles, true mutuality, that's a slippery concept.
- We say we are open and honest but it's not necessarily true.
- *Expectations*: agreements with outcomes, sustainability. Is there a need for a common vocabulary,
- Sustainability in terms of expectations, the broader it is spread the more sustainable it will become.

Role for BUILD to play: telling the story.

- How and in what kind of way can BUILD tell the story?
- Helping with language, don't like jargon, what's the difference between jargon and technical language.

You can use language with certain people that is inappropriate for others.

Value of the BUILD network, can it be virtual network do people have to meet.

Margaret Burr – relationships are key to great projects, develop trust, mutuality and reciprocity to work at a level of understanding. Work with different members of the community.

Over-lap between UKOWLA and BUILD.

- BUILD needs to be clear on what good links are, something shorter and snappier than the toolkit.
- If any of this is going to survive we need to look at the mobilisation of members
- Need members to take part within BUILD.
- Use of BUILD database of links can be used to lobby MPs.

- Need for membership to grow and for members to recognise what's in it for them.
- What are we going to be offering different organisations.
- Look at possible placements within BUILD.
- Greater engagement with the diaspora for community cohesion and BUILDs future.

Lynn Cutler – *reflecting on burning issues in people's minds.*

- Messaging, CSR was quite strong.
- We are all working together for global change.
- Politically should we be helping and supporting each other at an action level.
- Interdependency – “no partnership is an island” should BUILD have more of an advocacy agenda, with members buying in.

BUILD Members Meeting
29-30 June 2009, Mansfield College Oxford



- Perhaps we should have a wider view, look at corporate direction.
- Should we be allying with business and their skills and what they have to offer?
- Whose agenda is it if we are involving Corporates? Would it give help and support to Southern partners therefore giving support to all three, North, South and Business
- BUILD to be clearer on the messaging side.
- Corporate building capacity of civil society in the North as well as the South
- BUILD should be raising awareness more amongst members and corporate organisations. South / South skill-sharing, more members drawn from corporate sector.
- Rather than working with the media work with the power brokers

Howard Jones.

- ‘Pick the right battles’ as BUILD is small organisation.
- BUILD not very well understood.
- Need to define boundaries between BUILD and its members particularly in relation to those that are themselves membership agencies.

Building a broader context.

- Political role of BUILD, if it wants to create value for its constituency: must be a strong advocacy organisation and could do more. This needs to be explored.
- Depending where BUILD is pitching itself, must beware it doesn’t tread on members’ toes.
- Role for BUILD to advocate in general development terms, but linking must be at the heart of it.
- BUILD is valuable in creating space like this two day meeting to talk about how to do it better.
- If BUILD didn’t exist it would have to be invented. How could it do better then?
- BUILD carries a great deal of political weight, and needs to understand how to position that weight. Conversations need to be happening now on the direction of BUILD and its members.
- Where does BUILD sit in its position on international development, the weight we can put on the political debate. Do we take a strong view on that or not?

Corporate sector and BUILD’s involvement with business:

- The rules are the same and business requires proper alignment.
- Sporting organisations, largely UK based have strong international links. CBI and Regional Business networks could be valuable.

Skills Venture, Will Snell

www.skillsventure.com

- Skills Venture is a new member of BUILD. They place business employees from the UK to mentor entrepreneurs in Kenya.
- Working on proposal with BUILD for engagement with corporates, to go beyond CSR. Benefits to corporates are enormous, leadership, inter-personal skills, knowledge of emerging markets. There needs to be more work in engaging with corporates in this.
- BUILD/ Corporates, academics, media etc will be brought together to discuss the benefits, with case studies from BUILD members and how it can work.
- Would like involvement from BUILD members, either corporate contacts or any other way.

TUESDAY 30 JUNE

SUM UP OF PREVIOUS DAY

- Work with business,
- Whose agenda would it be if we worked with business, it could be BUILD's
- Diaspora linking back to their own communities, use them for social cohesion in UK.
- Trim down Westminster advocacy, don't get political and media profile for the sake of it.
- **How can we scale up and get a more strategic approach?** Two areas are working with corporate sector and working with diaspora.
- Have to have a discerning eye working with corporates, some have a very dubious track record. Need to identify who are the right corporate partners to work with.
- What do you mean by partnership eg working with other organisations. Think about broader collaborations. Could be deeper impact by collaboration.
- It is a slow process, moving towards better practices, rather than saying all companies will move towards the road to Damascus.
- Small piece of work for BUILD, guidelines for working with companies, does it have CSR etc.
- **There is not a clear understanding of what BUILD is about, not clear on website. No concise message coming through, three simple core messages, 3 key values, goals should be identified and communicated very clearly and will get more interaction with the business world if you do this.**
- "partnership" is a scary word for companies, so is "community" people don't know what you are talking about. Need to identify outcomes, dress it up in a way that business will understand, make it specific.
- **Need to explore area of working with business.** Need to be careful about compromising what we believe in.

GOLD STAR COMMUNITIES - RECOGNISE THE BEST TO INSPIRE THE REST - John Whitaker

- Need to define what 'equality' means in the context of partnership both for communities and for a panel of experts.
- Need to translate the language of development for the person on the street,
- Ongoing funding has been established for the next 3 years from Welsh Assembly Government,
- to make the programme sustainable for the next years will be developing without relying on a WCVA.
- Need to dovetail with other projects going eg. DFID Communities Link

FREDSKORPSET NORWAY - Ole Bjørn Ileby

- FK is a Governmental body, under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Schools, municipalities, corporates, churches etc who have partnerships.
- Working with partnerships with Latin America and Africa
- Norway is a small country and if the partnerships are not getting new knowledge and inspiration they will die.
- BUILD and FK Norway could build a network in all Europe. There are good partnerships in other European countries, but we don't know what they are doing or how are they are working.
- BUILD and FK are setting up small meeting at the end of September with central actors from other European countries, and in the long term building up a network across Europe that could be a BUILD.
- Need to find those organisations and people. BUILD will be sending out a message to sector leaders for European network leaders.
- Norwegian parliament recognises the importance of the partnership work of FK and all government departments agreed.
- Need to bring in people from outside Norway to bring inspiration.
- Would like to run a Gold Star Communities pilot in Norway as well as build up new network together.
- National Election in Norway this autumn, at the moment it's a Labour / Green alliance in government. Progressive party is young but slightly bigger, but they have said they will cut the international relations budget in half.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Participants were divided up into three groups to discuss the three questions with relation to the Strategic Plan.

1. What are the top two priorities that have come out of the last two days?
2. What should we drop in favour of the new priorities?

Feedback from groups

Q1. What should be the top priorities?

- Engagement with wider audiences, business, foundations, those wanting to link with us for BUILD's purposes.
- Identify corporates very carefully. Develop good case studies around working with the corporate sector, making sure the vision of BUILD is not lost in the process.
- Communications: sharpen up the core messages with a proper understanding of the target audience. Use a language members understand and something that a wider audience understand.
- Education is at the basis at all of these links, strap line, "links for learning" or something short and snappy.
- Website needs to be improved.

- Lobby for development, with linking at the heart of it.
- Need to have a clear message, explain what BUILD does in 3 minutes “elevator conversation”
- Focus on the outcomes of partnerships, pull out the impact of the story
- Avoid generalisations and stereotyping
- Impact of membership of BUILD, scope and reach, in Europe.

Q3. Should we drop some of last year’s priorities?

- Increase value of visa work
- Increase working with diaspora.
- Drop UN FAO,
- Review database of links,
- Drop web based resource library
- Demoting advocacy work with appg to put more emphasis on communication with others

There wasn’t time to answer question 2 which was “Can you help resource the extra work?”

APPENDIX I

AGENDA

Monday 29 June 2009

- 10.30 Coffee and registration
- 11.00 Welcome – Chairman, Nigel Thompson
- 11.05 Setting the scene – Nick Maurice, Director, BUILD
- 11.20 **Local Authority Partnership Case Study** – Introduced by Libby Ferguson, UK Local Government Alliance for International Development
Jane Knight from One World Link - Warwick – Bo
- 11.40 **Diaspora Partnership Case Study** - Introduced by Valentin Djoma, Africa Foundation Stone
Everjoice Makuve from Widows and Orphans Relief Development
- 12.00 Response from and discussion with Panel of Experts and BUILD members
- 12.45 Lunch
- 13.45 **Health Partnership Case Study** introduced by Karen Peachey Tropical Health & Education Trust
- 14.05 **Youth Partnership Case Study** introduced by Vic Craggs, Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council
Avon Scouts – Swaziland Link, Becky Lambert and Dan Wood
- 14.25 Response from and discussion with Panel of Experts and BUILD members
- 15.10 Tea
- 15.30 **Faith Partnership Case Study** introduced by Stephen Lyon
Canon Mark Payne, Inter Diocesan West African Link, Chichester
- 15.50 **Community Case Study** introduced by Lynn Cultier, Director, UK One World Linking Association
Bruce Crowther, Fairtrade Towns, Garstang – New Koforidia Fairtrade Town Link

BUILD Members Meeting
29-30 June 2009, Mansfield College Oxford



- 16.10 Response from and discussion with Panel of Experts and BUILD members
- 17.00 Workshop groups to discuss issues arising from previous Case Studies *
- 18.00 Feedback to and comments from Panel of Experts
- 18.30 Finish
- 19.30 Supper

Tuesday 30 June

- 9.0 Sum up of previous day
- 9.10 **School partnerships** introduced by Susan Evans, Plan UK
Case study from Eden Project's Gardens for Life Programme, Rob Lowe
- 9.30 Response from Department for Children School and Families, Panel of Experts and BUILD Members
- 10.15 **Gold Star Communities update and rolling out of programme**, John Whitaker
- 10.30 **What is happening in Norway**, Ole Bjorn Ileby, Fredskorpset Norway
- 10.45 Coffee
- 11.15 Based on the discussion on Monday, how can BUILD add value and impact the Government, Corporate, Charity, Media sectors to increase the quality and quantity of international partnerships.
- BUILD's current strategy – is it fit for purpose?
- 13.00 Lunch

***Workshop groups will discuss issues under the following headings:**

- Southern Voice
- Replicability
- Sustainability
- Quality Control
- Diversity
- Social Cohesion
- Overcoming challenges

APPENDIX II

“EXPERT WITNESSES”

Debbie Ancell
Rachel Carnegie
International Development
Lambeth Palace

Archbishop of Canterbury's Secretary for

Oli Henman
UK and International Campaigns Manager
NVCO

Lord Bill Bradshaw
House of Lords
London, SW1A 0PW

Paul Mylrea
Director of Communications
Department for International Development

020 7023 0033

Albert Tucker

Charlie Warburton
Pearson Plc

Keith White
Chief Executive
Crown Agents

Nik Wood
Nik Communications

APPENDIX III

CASE STUDIES

LOCAL AUTHORITY

One World Link – Warwick–Bo

Jane Knight

DIASPORA

WORD Trust

New Hope Church

Martineau Lane

Norwich, NR1 2HX

Everjoice Makuve

YOUTH

Avon Scouts – Swaziland Link

Becky Lambert

Karla Forrest

FAITH

Inter Diocesan West Africa Link

Mark Payne

COMMUNITY

Garstang – New Koforidua Linking Association

bruce.crowther@fairtrade.org.uk

Bruce Crowther

APPENDIX IV

BUILD MEMBERS – ORGANISATIONS ATTENDING

Africa Foundation Stone

The Paradox Centre
3 Ching Way
Chingford
E4 8YE

Valentin Yombo Djema
Marigold Nunes

020 71950051

British Council

Bridgewater House
58 Witworth Street
Manchester, M1 6BB

Alison Smith

0161 957 7582

BUILD

The Upper Office
The Dutch Barn
Elm Tree Park
Manton
Wiltshire
SN8 1PS

Nick Maurice

Pepi O'Neill

01672 861001

CISCO

10 New Square
Bedfont Lakes
Feltham
Middlesex, TW14 8HA

Jane Lewis

020 8824 8937

Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council

7 Lion Yard
Tremadoc Road
London, SW4 7NQ

Vic Craggs

020 74986 151

Eden Project

Bodelva
Cornwall, PL24 2SG

Howard Jones

01726 811934

Ethnic Minority Foundation

Forbes House
9 Artillery Lane
London, E1 7LP

Krishna Sarda

Fairtrade Foundation

3rd Floor, IbeX House
42-47 Minories
London, EC3N 1DY

Bruce Crowther

Fredskorpset Norway

PO Box 8055 Dep
N-0013 Oslo
Norway

Ole Bjorn Ileby

+47 24145700

Humanities Education Centre

Tower Hamlets PDC
English Street
London, E3 4TA

Margaret Burr

020 7364 6405

Gold Star Communities

Baltic House
Mount Stuart Square
Cardiff, CF10 5FH

Craig Owen

LifeLine Network International

LifeLine House
Neville Road
Dagenham
Essex, RN8 3QS

Terri Cheshire

Clare Da Silva

020 8548 7597

Links Japan

19 Norland Square
London, W11 4PU

Phillida Purvis

phillida@linksjapan.org

Local Government Association

Local Government House
Smith Square
London, SW1P 3HZ

Rosalie Callway

020 7664 3115

Plan UK

5-6 Underhill Street
London, NW1 7HS

Susan Evans

020 7482 9777

The Converging World

3rd Floor, Bush House
72 Prince Street
Bristol, BS1 4QD

Ian Roderick

BUILD Members Meeting
29-30 June 2009, Mansfield College Oxford



Tropical Health & Education Trust
Royal Society of Medicine, 5th Floor
1 Wimpole Street
London, W1G 0AE

Karen Peachey

020 7290 3886

UK Local Government Alliance for International Development

Local Government House
Smith Square
London, SW1P 3HZ

Libby Ferguson

020 7664 3105

UK One World Linking Association (UKOWLA)

The Glade Centre
Frog Lane
Ilminster
Somerset, TA19 0AP

Lynn Cutler

01460 55449

INDIVIDUALS

Stephen Lyon

Nigel Thompson

Grove House
Stitchcombe
Nr Marlborough
Wiltshire, NS8 2NG

Mike Waldron

Matching Green
86 Cheshire Street
Little Heath
Audlem
Cheshire, CW3 0HE

John Whitaker

1 Bannister Close
Oxford, OX4 1SH

John Wilson

APPENDIX V

Introduction by Nick Maurice, Director BUILD

My Lords, Friends

A very warm welcome to this our fifth annual two-day BUILD meeting and a particularly warm welcome to our international friends and partners from Sierra Leone, Cameroon, Congo, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Pakistan, and Norway.

And another particularly warm welcome to our “expert witnesses”, all of whom are extremely busy people in the Corporate, Government, Media, Faith, Charitable, Education and Youth fields and have given their time to join us for a day to hear about what is happening in terms of partnerships between different sectors in British society with counterparts in Africa, Asia, Caribbean and Latin America and give their advice.

For those of you that are new to BUILD (Building Understanding through International Links for Development), let me quickly explain that we are a coalition of 45 international agencies (and many of them are here) that are committed to a dream. Namely, that “no one should escape life in UK without being touched by a partnership with a community in the developing world” whether it be through a school or higher education link, their hospital, mosque, gurdwara or church, their local authority, diaspora, youth, sports or cultural group, or their business all working in partnership with counterparts in the South.

For the safety of our small globe, we need to understand that globe, the cultures and faiths and languages of the people that live on it, and the environment in which we all live and work, our interdependence and the impact both negative and positive that our lives and work are having on people in other parts of the world.

I believe our education system is failing if it is not giving our young people a profound, and I mean profound, understanding of the global context in which they live.

I think it is reasonable to say that we probably wouldn't be sitting in this room together today if I hadn't had the opportunity at the age of 18 in 1961 through VSO to live for a year with the wonderful Akouete family in Northern Togo who treated me as their son, while I did my best (which was frankly atrocious) to teach English in an African Lycee.

One way, and I would say the best way, of achieving an understanding of ‘global citizenship’ amongst our young is through the development of partnership links between schools here and schools in other parts of the world so that children can communicate with each other, learn about their similarities and differences through joint curriculum work at both ends – and there are some fantastic examples of this work at both primary and secondary level – and also recognise their neighbours in the same street or classroom who may well come from the same country or at least the same continent with which their school is partnered.

While we are certainly talking “international”, we are also talking “local” and community cohesion. And involvement of the diaspora with their natural family and community ties to their home countries must be central to these international partnerships in the increasingly diverse society in which we live.

But we are not just talking about schools. There is a growing movement of health, faith-based, local authority, culture and corporate partnerships between hospitals, churches and mosques, local government institutions, museums and music groups and businesses here and in the developing world. And those that are involved invariably talk about the impact that these partnerships are having not just on helping to meet the millennium development goals but on the effectiveness of the institutions and the personal and professional development of those involved and ultimately on the health and well-being of those they serve.

I would suggest that the current economic climate in which we are living - yes it provides us with problems, but also it provides us with opportunities. An opportunity to re-evaluate our priorities and responsibilities vis a vis those who are considerably worse affected than we are. By linking with people in other parts of the world we can better understand the impact of the global recession and act on those responsibilities in different ways whether through advocacy or direct personal action.

I returned three weeks ago from the Muslim fishing community of Gunjur in The Gambia linked for 28 years to my community of Marlborough in Wiltshire a link that has involved the exchange of 1200 people living in each others homes and compounds, it has involved a major development programme in The Gambia around early childhood education, women’s literacy, access to clean water, micro-credit and health education.

But it has also involved teachers from almost exclusively white, rural schools in Wiltshire going on study visits to Gunjur living in the compounds of friends there, learning about Islam, the role of women in the community, sustainable fishing and the impact of climate change and bringing that learning back into their classrooms in Wiltshire – bringing a global dimension into their teaching and saying that they feel a confidence as teachers that they didn’t possess before. As a result of these teacher visits 27 schools in Wiltshire are linked to schools in The Gambia.

But I can also tell you from my visit that the price of a bag of rice in The Gambia has risen by 35% in the last year, putting huge pressures on families and their survival. That provides a context for me in my life!

BUILD has been at the forefront of bringing about change through global partnerships. We work through Government to create the political climate in which partnerships at community level can prosper. As a result of our work with DfES as it used to be, with the Treasury, with DFID, with Lord Crisp the author of the Crisp Report on Health Care Partnerships, with DCLG we have made a major contribution to the Government's commitment through funding initiatives to educational, health and community partnerships. We are delighted that amongst our membership we have key members, e.g. British Council, UKOWLA, Tropical Health and Education Trust, Cambridge Education Foundation, VSO who are running these Government funded schemes.

We have recently attained Commonwealth accreditation and are currently working closely with the Commonwealth Foundation a BUILD member, attending both Commonwealth Education Ministers meetings and the CHOGMs lobbying for community based partnerships across the Commonwealth. We are delighted that the message is getting through and that the theme of the Education Ministers Meeting in Kuala Lumpur that I attended a couple of weeks ago was "Making Connections and Building Partnerships. Towards and Beyond Global Goals and Targets" and the theme of the next CHOGM in Trinidad and Tobago in November is "Partnering for an Equitable and Sustainable Future."

But all this begs the question "what do we mean by true partnerships?" Partnership is a much misused word. One person's partnership is another's dominating relationship. We are not just concerned with quantity but certainly with quality. I believe these linking partnership are about sustained personal and community relationships, about mutuality, reciprocity, solidarity, reflection leading to personal, community and political development and change at both ends of the partnership, they are certainly about having fun!

So these partnerships are about increasing the self-confidence of the participants which I believe is an essential ingredient in development..... from the French word *de-enveloppeur*, "opening the envelope", removing the constraints of lack of education, ignorance, illiteracy, poverty, ill health and releasing the contents, enabling people to reach their optimum and maximum potential. And let's remember that we are talking about benefits at both ends. Partnership is mutuality.

These principles of partnership are very well summed up in our "Toolkit for Linking" launched for us at Marlborough House by a great advocate of our work Archbishop Desmond Tutu who at the time of the launch told us that he had "a hotline to God" who told the Archbishop that when he looked down on the world he was desperately upset by the wars and conflicts, the child soldiers, the rape of women and the distress of the poor.

But then in the words of the Archbishop, a little angel wipes the tears away from God's eyes and points at BUILD, and God apparently smiles and says "That's good!" And God says "Use the Toolkit". On a subsequent occasion he told us that we are the Cat's Whiskers. My response to that is "Some cat! Some whiskers!" They need to reach out more sensitively and grow.

And for the future I would point to three initiatives that we are engaged in.

1) We are engaged in mapping links in the UK and cross-referencing them to their sector and the country to which they are linked, to their political constituency, their local authority, their health authority and their dioceses so that we can encourage communities with partnerships to raise the awareness of and lobby their national and local politicians and we can encourage greater collaboration

2) we are looking to bring together leading representatives of the corporate sector to a meeting early next year to explore ways in which the corporate sector might make a greater contribution to international development and to the professional development of its staff through the development of and support for partnerships.

3) we are continuing to work with the Commonwealth not least at the Trinidad and Tobago CHOGM to encourage the spread of BUILDS and partnerships across the Commonwealth.

4) we are working with Ole Bjorn and Fredskorpset to bring together in late September to a meeting in Norway, activists from the local government and NGO sector involved in community partnerships across Europe to encourage greater networking.

5) we are exploring with the Ethnic Minority Foundation the potential for building on the natural links that exist between diaspora groups in the UK to their home communities in order to encourage greater involvement of the schools and wider communities here.

But my Lords ladies and gentlemen - enough from me.

You are going to hear from BUILD members representing partnership links across the UK within different sectors, local authority, diaspora, health, youth, faith and community and tomorrow education. After each presentation you are also going to hear from local organisations who are involved in their own personal links and the impact that has had on the people and communities at both ends.

The purpose of this meeting is fourfold.

- 1) we very deliberately want to raise your awareness of what is going on in the field of international partnerships at community level and would ask you to take that on board in your daily lives and encourage it in any way that you can
- 2) we want you to challenge us at BUILD having heard the presentations
- 3) we want you to consider ways in which you might help to support us to become more effective and to raise the quality and the reach of our work
- 4) Based on the discussions we shall be holding today and tomorrow we will be reconsidering late tomorrow morning our strategic plan 2009-10 to make sure that it remains fit for purpose, that our action priorities are still the right ones with the right emphases. This is not to say that we will agree in the next couple of days a dramatic change of strategic direction but I, as director, will be taking away whatever steer I am given by you, and will be considering it with my trustees.

Before I hand over to Mike Waldron of “Interpares” to facilitate our two days I must thank the planning group Lynn Cutler of UKOWLA, Margaret Burr from the Humanities Education Centre, Howard Jones from the Eden Project and Jane Lewis from Cisco and John Whitaker, one of my valued trustees for their input into structuring this meeting and for putting us in touch with our “expert panellists”. I am now going to hand over to Mike Waldron with grateful thanks to him.