



# The Four Corners

The quarterly Alumni Association newsletter

Issue 33: September 2015

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## EDITORIAL

### Message from the chairman



Welcome to the Autumn edition of The Four Corners. Much of the news, not surprisingly focuses on the Middle East and the refugee crisis. This is no longer just a problem for development agencies in a distant land but a profound challenge to the values and coherence of the European Union.

But there is much else to reflect on. The seminar in July with the authors of the 2003 World Bank report on Sustainable Development in a Dynamic World was a reminder of the challenges and political hurdles to achieving effective and sustainable change; the discussion was very timely, given the recent endorsement of the new sustainable development goals. And the discussion in September on agriculture in Kenya brought into focus the complex legacy and mixed results of the colonial experience in East Africa.

On the Association's own affairs, you will see my note of the Committee's latest meeting on 5 October and information on events coming up in the rest of the year. As always, your comments and contributions are requested, to make The Four Corners interesting and relevant.

Thanks as always to Marc for putting this newsletter together.

With best wishes

*Simon Ray*

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### SYRIA, IRAQ AND CARIBBEAN

The Spotlight in this quarter's newsletter falls on a series of announcements about aid for people displaced by conflict in Syria and Iraq. **The Back Pages** of this edition carry the full text of a statement which the Prime Minister made in Parliament on 7 September about humanitarian aid for Syrian refugees and counter-terrorism.

In September the UN General Assembly adopted the Global Goals for sustainable development, setting the international agenda for the coming 15 years.

The Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for International Development announced a new UK-Caribbean Infrastructure Partnership. UK press reporting highlighted plans to build a prison in Jamaica. The news item on the next page details the aims of the Partnership.

## DIARY

### EVENTS AND MEETINGS

15 November: service in memory of Bob Leverington – details on page 9

15 December: join Myles Wickstead at DFID to discuss his book – details on page 4

15 December: the Christmas Party will be held at the Rubens Hotel, London, from 18:00 – details on page 4



## Prime Minister and Secretary of State visit Caribbean

### £360 million of new funding announced

At the end of September, the Prime Minister and Secretary of State visited Jamaica and Grenada to signal a re-engagement by the UK in the Caribbean. There was a warm welcome in both countries, with the Prime Minister announcing £360 million of new DFID funding for the region over the next five years. This will quadruple the current plans and make us the biggest bilateral donor in the region. The visit included bilateral meetings with Prime Ministers and Cabinet of each country, a visit to a nutmeg processing centre, a collapsed bridge and a primary school. They also met the servicemen and women of RFA Lyme Bay that recently provided humanitarian aid to Dominica after tropical storm Erika in August.

Of the new funding, £300 million will set up a new UK-Caribbean Infrastructure Partnership to be implemented by the Caribbean Development Bank. This will enable countries to invest in infrastructure to promote economic growth. A further £30 million will expand the scope of a successful pilot programme, making health facilities more energy efficient and resilient to natural disasters. A final £30 million was announced for support to private sector development, improve public sector effectiveness and for a 'skills for growth' programme.

DFID works in eight, small and vulnerable ODA-eligible Caribbean countries. Hurricanes can knock back growth for decades - Grenada's economy was destroyed by Hurricane Ivan in 2004, causing damage worth 200% annual GDP, with 90% homes affected. Debt levels are high, constraining growth and investment. In Jamaica, which has the sixth highest murder rate in the world, we focus on anti-corruption and security programming.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM DFID IN JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2015

### July

- Alison Evans was appointed chair of the ICAI
- New nutrition initiative announced
- Baroness Verma visited the Caribbean
- DFID responded to ICAI report on multilaterals
- Desmond Swayne led delegation to WTO
- EU Development Commission Mimica visited DFID
- UN conference on Financing for Development
- Oslo Education Summit

### August

- Grant Shapps visited Somalia and Somaliland
- Desmond Swayne visited Pakistan
- World Humanitarian Day

### September

- Desmond Swayne visited India
- David Kennedy launched a business environment programme in the Democratic Republic of Congo
- Youth Summit
- Desmond Swayne visited the West Bank
- The Prime Minister visited Lebanon, announced aid for Syrian refugees
- UN General Assembly launched the Global Goals
- Secretary of State and Director-General of WHO launched a report on progress against malaria
- Mark Lowcock visited Kenya
- The Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for International Development visited Jamaica and Grenada

## UNGA 2015: launching the Global Goals

### Ending poverty and ensuring no one is left behind

On Friday 25 September, the Secretary of State for International Development Justine Greening joined 130 global leaders in adopting the new [Global Goals for sustainable development](#) at the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in New York.

UNGA this year was the largest ever gathering of world leaders. Heads of State and Government came together for the Global Goals Summit to take a once-in-a-generation opportunity to eradicate extreme poverty and achieve sustainable development.

The Secretary of State said: "These goals will set the agenda for development over the next 15 years. We have a unique opportunity to set this planet on a more prosperous, more sustainable path, so let's seize this chance and build the world we all want."

The world is watching us. The global campaign, Action 2015, has an ambition to make sure that everyone on this planet knows about the goals, what they mean and for them to be able to hold their governments to account to take action and finish the job of ending extreme poverty. They need your help to [Tell Everyone](#)."

At the Global Goals Summit, the UK:

- Celebrated the success of the Millennium Development Goals
- Positioned the UK as a Global Goals leader driving this agenda forward
- Focused global efforts on implementing the transformative aspects of this new agenda, including women and girls, and youth.

To shape the debate, the UK hosted two major side events:

- Leave No One Behind: The UK hosted an event committing to 'leave no one behind'.
- Women's Economic Empowerment: The Secretary of State and UN Women hosted an event on 25 September to generate momentum behind a shared vision for

transforming women and girls' economic opportunities.

The UK's objectives for UNGA more broadly included:

- Tackling extremism and promoting stability
- Building momentum towards a binding climate change agreement in December
- Addressing the migration and refugee crisis.

## NEPAL

### The past informs the future: reflecting on our work in Nepal

In DFID we look forward more than we look back; staff turnover means that institution memory, past programmes, successes and lessons soon get forgotten. However, our past programmes are accrued assets that give us social and political capital that can be drawn on today and which influence how we are perceived in a country.

Would you know what programmes country offices worked on up to four or five decades ago? And the impacts? These are questions that the Nepal office are looking to answer. Next March will mark 200 years of Nepal / UK diplomatic relations, and to celebrate this anniversary they are holding an exhibition in Kathmandu to highlight the work undertaken in Nepal over each decade since UK aid started there in 1961.

### Our contributions in Nepal

Over the past few months they have been doing extensive research into the history of UK involvement in Nepal, speaking to the DFID Alumni and others involved in past projects.

It's been an exciting learning experience. We knew that forestry, agricultural and roads were the sectors where we have made significant impacts over the decades. However, we didn't realise our enormous impact in human development and the network of support that has created.

## Impacting human resource development

One of our most impactful programmes was with the two agricultural centres established around the late 1960s in Pakhribas and Lumle. These centres made enormous contributions in applied research and the production of agricultural technologies (including the Pakribas pig – a new adapted breed). This not only raised food production, more importantly it developed the human resources of Nepal.

In Pakhribas alone 300 people obtained a Masters degree from the UK whilst working at the centre and 150 completed PhDs. These people are now working in prominent positions, many heading NGOs or Government departments.

Dr Bimala Rai Paudyal, previously an agriculturalist at Pakhribas completed her Masters whilst there and is now a member of Nepal's National Planning Commission. As the fourth woman in 60 years to serve in this role she has become a figure for women's empowerment in Nepal and a role model for girls and women across the country.

**Were you involved in UK development cooperation with Nepal?**

**Have you had a part in helping Nepal recover from the earthquake this year?**

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

**Please also share your experiences with fellow alumni by writing about them for The Four Corners.**



## Christmas Party

**in London on 15 December**

**The DFID Alumni Association's Christmas Party will be held on Tuesday 15 December in the Palace Lounge at the Rubens Hotel on Buckingham Palace Road from 18.00 to 20.00.**

**As the event will be held at the Rubens Hotel numbers need not be so restricted as with other venues we have used, so partners are welcome. However, we will expect anyone attending to make a small contribution of £10 towards the cost of the party.**

**If you are interested in attending please contact the Secretary, John Stuppel by Friday 11 December:**

[john-stuppel@dfid.gov.uk](mailto:john-stuppel@dfid.gov.uk)

## Join Myles Wickstead on 15 December 2015 to discuss his new book

On Tuesday 15 December, from 14.00-17.00, there will be an Alumni meeting at DFID (Room K1.1, 22 Whitehall) when Myles Wickstead will talk about some of the issues raised

- in his recent book 'Aid and Development: A Brief Introduction', and
- in his ['Guardian' blog](#) in July.

Please let John Stuppel know by 11 December if you would like to take part:

[john-stuppel@dfid.gov.uk](mailto:john-stuppel@dfid.gov.uk)



## EVENTS

### DFID & DFID Alumni Association Seminar, Tuesday 15 September 2015

#### Are long-term or short-term inputs to agricultural development in East Africa the best solution?

*Objective: To explore the different approaches to agricultural development in East Africa, by drawing on Hilary Sunman's book 'A Very Different Land; Memories of Empire from the Farmlands of Kenya'.*

#### Speakers:

- [Hilary Sunman](#) introduced the main themes of the book
- [Professor Peter Hennessy](#) reflected on the relevance of the colonial period to current aid policy and development
- [Vincent Gainey](#) informed the participants of current thinking in DFID on approaches to rural livelihoods and agricultural development

The event was chaired by [Andrew Bennett](#), a former Chief Natural Resources Adviser at DFID. With a turn-out of around 30 people, including guests from the alumni groups of the British Council, World Bank, CDC, Crown Agents, The Tropical Agriculture Association and other interested parties, the seminar proved to be a lively affair.



Hilary Sunman set the scene by drawing on her parents' experience of working in Kenya in the 1920's through to the 50's. This was still a period of colonial rule by Britain. However, the dedication of her parents and members of Wye College, Kent (now sadly closed), working within the emerging Kenyan Department of Native Agriculture, and the construction of a railway line from Mombasa to Nairobi helped to shape the kind of development which mixed the skills needed to address subsistence farming and to embracing commercial farming techniques.

This helped to move Kenya away from subsistence farming and to establish a robust farming sector, which eventually enabled indigenous smallholders to benefit from increased income, and more independence. However, it was not without its problems as the period saw over-exploitation of land (increasing the likelihood of famine, negative impact on local wildlife, and concentration on cash crops only). All of which frustrates Kenya's ability to feed itself, and so leads to its continuing reliance on development assistance.

Peter Hennessy followed Hilary's presentation with an historical perspective on the changing development scene. The emergence of the Ministry of Overseas Development (ODM) in 1964 from the Department of Technical Co-operation (established in 1961) saw a dramatic change in the way the UK addressed delivering aid overseas. With countries emerging from colonial rule, a different approach had to be taken.





The emphasis was on working in the countries and transferring skills at the grass root level. This built up a wide group of experts who were able to work alongside indigenous populations and mix and match commercial expertise with subsistence farming.

The role of government in delivering aid was mixed as ODM was absorbed into the Foreign Office in 1979 to become the Oversea Development Administration (ODA). A more regional approach was taken, so differing experiences from Kenya's neighbouring countries were now employed.

With the establishment of DFID in 1997, the aid agenda was to become more political, and whilst agricultural assistance is still seen as a key part of the UK government's development programme, other aspects such as human rights, private sector involvement, and broader commercial aspects had to be addressed.

Vincent Gainey concluded the seminar with an outline of DFID's approach to agriculture development today. The focus now is more on a wider economic growth agenda, and agricultural development has a key part to play by looking at introducing higher value and quality food stuffs, addressing alternative means of income for the rural poor, increasing yields, addressing food security issues, and supporting small holder producers to develop links with market outlets. So there remain links with the past, and there are lessons from past experience.

But it is important to recognise that countries such as Kenya are no longer classed as low income countries, and with their move to middle income status the approaches to agricultural development have to change. Climate change, poverty reduction, empowerment of women, use of new technologies, land security and tenure; all are important, and there is a new emphasis on drawing on national government resources, working more through multilateral organisations, linking with the private sector, and linking with NGOs when considering how to address agricultural development.

All the sessions gave rise to a range of questions and allowed for lively debate. In summing up Andrew Bennett concluded that looking back and putting things in an historical context is important. The colonial period left behind some very strong legacies, but equally it did not address all the needs of the rural and farming communities. So there remain many challenges to address today, but with varied approaches and lesson learning from the past will enable the agricultural sector to make a greater contribution to economic and social development and stability.

## Institutional Strategies for Sustainable Development



Linda Likar and Robert Clement-Jones have over 50 years of experience in international development between them. Ms Likar was Lead Economist for the 2003 World Development Report, "Sustainable Development in a Dynamic World", which led to the development of a

training program which was quite different from previous work on the subject of sustainable development.

They led a seminar in June hosted by the DFID Alumni Association, and organised by The 1818 Society British Chapter - The Association of World Bank Group Alumni. The Clement-Joneses discussed the elements essential for successful institutions and examined the role of inequality as a barrier to development. The presentation also explained how the training addressed the question of overcoming obstacles and impediments to achieving development goals.

The government of China embraced the program at a very senior level and it was used to train staff at the National Development and Reform Committee in China; leaders in the different provinces; and the faculty of public administration of the prestigious Tsinghua university, as well as several other countries.



### **DFID Alumni Visit to Brompton Cemetery on 14 July 2015**

Brompton Cemetery, consecrated by the Bishop of London in June 1840, is one of Britain's oldest and most distinguished garden cemeteries. It covers 39 acres which is a huge amount of land in the heart of London. It is Grade I Listed on the English Heritage Register of Historic Parks and Gardens.

It lies between Old Brompton Road and Fulham Road on the western border of the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea. The walled site has gates and lodges on Old Brompton Road to the north and Fulham Road to the south. It is managed by The Royal Parks, under contract from the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, and is thus Britain's only Crown Cemetery.





It is one of the “Magnificent Seven” historic cemeteries which form a ring around the edge of London. The cemetery was designed by Benjamin Baud in the style of the basilica of St. Peter in Rome and it does give the feel of a large open air cathedral.

We were met at the Chapel by our guide Robert Stephenson who gave us a very informative half hour introduction to the cemetery while we drank tea and ate delicious cakes and sandwiches.

He is a member of the “Friends of Brompton Cemetery” who work to preserve this remarkable site as a model of an historic cemetery with an active role in modern society.

“Friends” help restore and maintain the cemetery’s buildings, monuments and landscapes and encourage their full use by those sympathetic to the importance, beauty, heritage and fragility of this significant cemetery.

He told us visitors are more than welcome and are offered Sunday afternoon tours and guide books, postcards and maps are always available.

We were shown around the cemetery for more than an hour and saw the resting place of many famous people, including Samuel Cunard, founder of the Cunard Line, and Emmeline Pankhurst.

One of our number, Jeremy Berkoff, took us to the grave of his great grandfather and other relations, which a few years ago he had restored. With Robert’s assistance he later found the grave of his great-uncle who had quarrelled with his father, whereupon he had been banished from the family plot.

We were also shown where filming took place for one of the James Bond films. An episode of Sherlock Holmes was also filmed there. We were very lucky to be able to visit the catacombs: a rare treat as they are only opened a few times a year. It was a very interesting day and we were told there are spaces available – any offers??

Janet Grimshaw







It was held in the wardroom of HMS Belfast, the Second World War battle ship which is moored on the Thames near London Bridge.



The seminar covered planning for inheritance, for the costs of care, and related tax issues. About fifteen members of the Association attended, along with members of the British Council Association.

Following the seminar, members visited the ship and saw how the crew lived when it was on active service in the 1940s to 1960s. The ship is open as a museum every day.

## DFID ALUMNI FINANCIAL SEMINAR ON HMS BELFAST

On 1 October, the DFID Alumni Association's financial adviser Saint James's Place organised a seminar on financial planning.



### Bob Leverington

Bob Leverington, the head of DFID in Central Asia, died in Thailand on 24 August 2015. Members of the DFID Alumni remembered him with affection. Messages they posted on dgroups are below.

*Really sorry to hear this sad news. Bob was a friend and colleague, a lovely chap and regularly played football in Green Park with us and played in the early ODA rugby team which started in 1983 and still exists now as SODAM RFC. Thoughts go out to his family.*

*Ian Wells*

We are both deeply shocked by this tragic news. All of us who worked with Bob knew him for commitment, his integrity, resilient optimism and good humour and his general love of life.

I worked with Bob in the Caribbean many moons ago, and shared an office with him. There was never a dull moment. We stayed in touch over the years despite both of our peregrinations. We were very much looking forward to catching up with him and Nana again when they finished their tour in Dushanbe. Sadly this is not to be.

*David & Punnee Taylor*

*What an incredibly sad news - had some really swell times with Bob when working in South East Asia. Very committed to DFID's mission, a strong focus on getting things done and always time and space for his colleagues. He will be truly missed ... My deepest condolences to his family, colleagues in Central Asia and his many friends.*

*Yvan Biot*

Unexpected sad news about Bob. He was a good friend and always very supportive when help was needed during the period I worked with him in Lilongwe.

He enjoyed life to the full, and always entertained all his friends and colleagues with his guitar, playing 'heavy metal' music.

### Memorial service for Bob Leverington

In Loving Memory of Robert John Leverington

18th August 1955 to 24th August 2015

The honour of your presence is requested at a memorial service

Friday 13th November 2015

Twelve noon

Cromer Cemetery Chapel

No 2 Site Holt Road / East Runton Junction (A148),

Cromer,

Norfolk, NR27 9JJ

Please RSVP via email to  
mikeleverington@gmail.com

He will always be remembered fondly. Our thoughts go out to his wife and children.

*Joe Mumar, RIBA*

*I was very sad and shocked to hear that Bob had died. Like David Taylor I worked with Bob in the Caribbean - I remember once he made a trip to Grenada (prohibited for more senior staff as we weren't speaking to the Bishop regime). He had been stood up against a wall by police and frisked at one point - an uncomfortable experience.*

*That was before the US invasion of Grenada in 1983. The first any of us knew about it was the heavy aircraft flying in over Barbados. The UK had apparently been kept in the dark but the invasion was hugely popular in the east Caribbean - the local staff in the Development Division were in party mood all day, glued to their transistor radios as the news unfolded. Denis Healey was Foreign Secretary at the time and made critical noises in the Commons.*

*Shortly afterwards I visited Dominica with Dennis Healey who was First Secretary (Aid) at the time in the High Commission in Bridgetown. I had to keep explaining that he was spelt differently and definitely*

*not the same chap but he got roundly told off by Eugenia Charles, Dominica's splendid Prime Minister).*

*When Bob and his family moved up to East Kilbride they stayed with us for a few weeks whilst house hunting and his little boys played very happily with my lot. Usually in the rain.*

*I don't remember Bob being anything but good-natured, laughing and a lot of fun (though I imagine he made no jokes whilst being frisked by the Grenadian police, or border force, or whatever they were). He worked hard and played hard. A great colleague.*

*Pam Wilkinson*

*I read of Bob's passing with lots of sadness because of the happy memories I have of him and his family from when I first met him in Barbados and later from his stint in East Kilbride.*

*I have a memory of struggling to keep awake when Bob invited me over to a dinner party soon after my arrival in Barbados. (Jet lag.) I nearly fell asleep face down in the cracking curry that Pat had made. She was some cook by the way.*

*Another memory was of Bob playing his guitar under a hurricane lamp at a moonlight barbecue (roast pigs courtesy of Mike Edwards and the Barbados Hilton btw) at Cattlewash on Barbados east coast. It was a farewell bbq for your brave departure to East Kilbride and I remember Bob provided the musical entertainment and a good few beers.*

*Bob was nearly as keen on football as I was (NOBODY is as keen on football as I am) and we had good night's out at Wanderers or with Starsky at the Trade Winds hotel just outside Oistins.*

*I even abandoned my 2 kids with Bob and Pat for a weekend in darkest Darvel Ayrshire when I jaunted off to London to visit friends on Live Aid weekend. Bob had that knack of making you feel comfortable and at home wherever you were and he will be sadly missed by everyone lucky enough to have enjoyed his company.*

*Pat McVey*

*Like everyone else I'm shocked to hear the news of Bob's passing (apparently of a heart attack while training in a Bangkok gym). He and I worked together in Barbados in the late 70s (with Trevor Dines, Dave*

*Taylor, Pete Little, Brian Simpson and Martin Elliot among others). Those were very special days.*

*I also succeeded him as Head of DFID Malawi in 2001. It was a pleasure to be his colleague again, albeit briefly at that stage. I have always felt that Bob was, without question, the brightest guy among those of us who joined ODA at about the same time, as so-called 'rankers' (i.e. those who were not part of the iniquitous Fast Stream). He was so quick-witted in fact, grasping complex policy issues with apparent ease, and ably articulating these, that it surprised me he didn't reach the top rungs of his career ladder sooner. He was among that rare breed of DFID professionals who could be both brilliant at what he did, and outstandingly popular while doing it.*

*During our brief overlap in Malawi, Bob reinforced his presence as an entertainer as well. He was an amusing and skilled raconteur, and a guitarist with an expat band which rocked the High Commission Club in Lilongwe long into the night. He's going to be sorely missed by everyone whose path he crossed. How sad too that he should leave us just as he was on the point of retirement. Please pass on my condolences to Bob's brother Ian, his sister Anne, and of course to his wife.*

*Mike Wood*

*This is indeed very sad and unexpected news. Like others I have great memories of working with Bob in the Caribbean, and much more recently of working with Srimeena in Bangkok on DFID's programme for Burmese refugees in Thailand. Bob was a good man, and many will miss him badly.*

*Ian Symons*

*This is sad news indeed. Bob and I both worked at DFID SE Asia around the time of the Millennium and afterwards. I recall his good humour and an ability to remain cheerful through episodes that many would have found more trying.*

*At one point he embarked on a fitness programme. The results were impressive enough to convince some of the rest of us to get down to the gym and get on with it ourselves. I bumped into him on the Bangkok Skytrain a couple of years ago and he seemed in good form then. I had hoped to see more of him post retirement in Bangkok.*

*Peter Owen*



I first met Bob in Malawi, then had the pleasure of working with him in Bangkok, with Peter Owen, Peter Balacs and many others. I also had the good fortune to meet Bob again when I visited Dushanbe few years ago.

He had that rare ability to be serious, professional and fun, always putting you at ease, happy to talk about work, his interests and always interested in yours. I once asked him about a piece of obscure music (not that obscure I guess but I couldn't find out what it was) the next day Bob turned up, gave me a disc with this music and a mix of other things he thought I might like. I have it on my iPhone to this day under 'Leverington Mix' listened to it today and remembered what a really decent man he was and that he will be missed by many.

Thoughts and best wishes go out to Nana and his whole family.

Simon Bland

***I wanted to reach out and thank you all for your kind messages, thoughts and prayers. It's been a very difficult time for us all and your messages have been incredibly touching and supportive.***

***Like so many of you have said Dad loved his work with ODA/DFID, music, guitars and old cars.***

***It's really touching that you've all mentioned the things he held so dear as what you best remember him for and the stories (particularly Grenada) bring a smile to our faces in this difficult time. He may have left us too soon but he certainly won't be forgotten.***

***Nana has asked me to thank you all personally, your messages mean the world to her. She would have liked to contact you all individually but is finding it too difficult to find the words at the moment.***

***I understand that I'm more than likely emailing all corners of the world tonight however if you are able to join us in remembering Bob and celebrating his life we would all be more than happy to see you for his funeral service.***

***Thank you once again for all of your support in this difficult time.***

***Best Wishes***

***Nana, Pat, Michael, James & Chris***

**What are they doing now?**

**Do you have a new role, interest or achievement?**

**Share it with fellow DFID Alumni.**

**Please send your news for the next edition of The Four Corners to Marc Taylor by the end of December:  
[c.marc.taylor@gmail.com](mailto:c.marc.taylor@gmail.com).**

## SPOTLIGHT

### DFID announcements on humanitarian aid for Syria, Iraq and Lebanon

**International Development Minister Desmond Swayne announced £20 million new UK aid funding during a visit to Iraq.**

The UK will provide new life-saving support to tens of thousands of Iraqis forced to flee their homes by the brutal rise of ISIL, International Development Minister Desmond Swayne announced on 29 September.

Speaking during a visit to Iraq, Mr Swayne set out how £20 million in new funding from the UK would provide medical care, clean water and improved sanitation, shelter, cash support and other essentials to displaced Iraqis. He also warned that the international community should not forget Iraq when responding to the wider instability affecting neighbouring Syria.

More than 8 million people require humanitarian assistance inside Iraq, with 3.2 million Iraqis internally displaced by ongoing conflict - an increase of 1.5 million people in a year. With reports of cholera inside Iraq, provision of clean drinking water and improved sanitation is particularly important to help prevent a wider outbreak.

Desmond Swayne said:

“We cannot separate out what is happening in Iraq from the instability gripping Syria and the wider region. The obscenities committed by ISIL show no respect for borders, just as they show no respect for creed or gender.

“These terrorists torture and kill Muslims, Yazidis and Christians alike and enslave and brutalise girls and women - in direct violation of the teachings of the religion they purport to represent.

“A year ago, the eyes of the world were fixed on the plight of thousands of people trapped on Mount Sinjar. A concerted, urgent international effort meant the difference between life and death for them. But as the number of displaced people in Iraq continues to grow daily, the world’s gaze appears to have wandered.

“The UN’s latest appeal is seriously underfunded and we do not want to see more Iraqis being forced to move because they cannot get the help they need where they are. Donors must step up to meet the shortfall now, to prevent Iraq’s problems spilling over its borders.”

Mr Swayne was in Iraq to meet government, UN and NGO representatives and to visit camps to understand the challenges displaced Iraqis are facing and how UK aid is helping. The new funding from the UK will go to the humanitarian community, through the UN and other trusted partners operating inside Iraq and is expected to deliver:

- cash assistance for over 50,000 vulnerable Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) so that they can pay for the things they need most, including food, rent and clothes
- food and essential household items such as kitchen kits to over 50,000 IDPs
- access to clean water for over 80,000 IDPs
- life-saving assistance for some of the most vulnerable groups in conflict-affected parts of Iraq through the Iraq Humanitarian Pooled Fund.



In September DFID updated its [fact sheet](#) on UK aid for Iraq.

Oxfam published an [analysis of donors' responses](#) to the Syrian refugee crisis:

See The Back Pages for the Prime Minister's statement to Parliament of 7 September on Syrian refugees and counter-terrorism.

DFID published a [fact sheet](#) on the UK's humanitarian aid response to the Syrian refugees

## Prime Minister visited Lebanon

### £100 million package to help Syrian refugees

The Prime Minister was in Lebanon on Monday 14 September, where he [outlined the details](#) of an extra £100 million package to help Syrian refugees in the region, bringing the UK's [humanitarian response](#) to the crisis in Syria to £1 billion. The visit came as the UN warned another million Syrians could flee their homes before the end of the year.

The Prime Minister said:

"As the second largest bilateral donor to the humanitarian crisis in Syria our aid effort is supporting thousands of people to rebuild their lives, providing protection, counselling and schooling, alongside the provision of basic food and water. Investment in health, education, jobs and stability is the most effective way to help people overseas, and it is clearly in Britain's interests.

Our goal remains to support the development of a secure, stable and peaceful Syria. Without our investment in international development, the numbers of people seeking to embark on a perilous journey to Europe would be far greater".

Up to £29 million will go to Lebanon - host to 1.1 million Syrian refugees - to provide:

- Food packages or vouchers for over 250,000 refugees living in Lebanon and the most vulnerable in communities hosting refugees
- Relief packages for thousands of refugees, with items such as thermal blankets, mattresses, kitchen sets, fuel and stoves
- Psychosocial consultations for children and counselling for adults
- Child-friendly spaces offering a safe place for children to play, study and spend the day
- Support for agencies working to reduce the incidence and impact of sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls
- Food, water, relief packages, health and protection assistance for over 21,000 Palestinian refugees
- Support to help Lebanese municipalities cope with the increased populations in villages and towns.

During his visit, the Prime Minister also announced DFID funding for 59,000 more [school places for Syrian refugees and vulnerable children](#) in Lebanon while providing classes and support for thousands more who are out of school.

Up to £6 million will help Jordan to meet essential needs while up to £5 million will support the most vulnerable refugees in Turkey, providing food and healthcare for those situated outside of the camps.

Nearly 12 million people have been displaced by violence in Syria. Most remain in the country, including many tens of thousands in informal camps near the Turkish border.

Millions more have yet to leave their homes and also need assistance. In Syria itself, £60 million will be spent to provide thousands of internally displaced people with a range of support.





## School for Palestinians in Lebanon

In August, International Development Minister Desmond Swayne announced additional funding of £3 million (\$4.69 million) to the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) so that every Palestinian child is able to go to school. This funding is helping UNRWA to bridge its \$101 million (£65 million) deficit and open its 685 schools on time. UNRWA provides basic education for half a million Palestinian refugee children in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Gaza and the West Bank. DFID is the third largest donor to UNRWA's General Fund and emergency appeals, providing over £43m to UNRWA this financial year.

Desmond Swayne said:

"The UK is committed to supporting Palestinian refugees through UNRWA and we see education as a top priority. UNRWA plays a crucial role in an unstable region, delivering basic services and humanitarian assistance. It provides a safe place for children to learn and play, broadens their world view through lessons on human rights and tolerance, and gives them the skills to earn an income."

"I am pleased that DFID is supporting this work – our £3 million contribution will ensure Palestinian children can continue to go to school. This is in addition to our existing funding of more than £40 million to UNRWA this year."

"I welcome the joint effort of donors, including those in the region, to bridge this year's shortfall. However, the deficit is a chronic one that cannot be addressed by fundraising alone. UNRWA will need to pursue further cost saving reforms to address its deficit, to focus on providing essential services to Palestinian refugees and to bring down operating costs."

## New Members of the Association

Welcome our new members, who joined the DFID Alumni in July to September 2015.

Ray Allen

Susan Pieri

Sudipta Mondal

Peter Rood

Louisa Hrabowy

Desmond Curran

Mike Green

Alan Harding

Sandra Pepera

Ian Shapiro

Ben Dickinson

Sheila Macrae

Pran Kaul

Caroline Mackray

Rosamund Ebdon

Hue Nguyen Thi

Alistair Fernie

## YOUR COMMITTEE

The members of the Committee are:

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

John Stuppel is meeting with members in East Kilbride to explore ideas for strengthened cooperation and local activity.

For events in 2016, we are exploring with DFID the possibility of a seminar on multilateral aid and, later in the year, on ebola; also a meeting/book launch on Ukraine. Details will follow.

Simon Ray

## Note from Chair

The Committee met on 5 October.

We noted a number of successful events since the summer party. Reports are included in this latest edition of Four Corners.

Further to my note to members in July about our plans to raise additional funds for the Alumni Association, we are now ready to launch the 100 Club scheme. John Stuppel will send a note on how you can buy tickets. The first draw will be at the Christmas party on 15 December.

I am pleased to say we have also secured additional sponsorship from Cardno and the good turnout at the recent event on HMS Belfast will ensure further support from St James Place Wealth Management.

We are starting work to consolidate what is on offer in dgroups and the website into a single new website that provides news, information on events and a password-protected area for jobs, debate and discussion. We are hoping this can be done at low cost using existing systems that are available. We will report on progress in the New Year.

### CONTACT

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#### Syria: refugees and counter-terrorism - Prime Minister's statement to Parliament on 7 September 2015

Mr Speaker, before making a statement on counter-terrorism, let me update the House about what we are doing to help address the migration crisis in Europe and, in particular, to help the thousands of refugees who are fleeing from Syria.

This issue is clearly the biggest challenge facing countries across Europe today. More than 300,000 people have crossed the Mediterranean to Europe so far this year. These people came from different countries under different circumstances. Some are economic migrants in search of a better life in Europe. Many are refugees fleeing conflict. And it is vital to distinguish between the two.

In recent weeks we have seen a vast increase in the numbers arriving across the Eastern Mediterranean from Turkey – more than 150,000 people have attempted that route since January. The majority of these are Syrian refugees – fleeing the terror of Assad and ISIL, which has seen more than 11 million people driven from their homes.

Mr Speaker, the whole country has been deeply moved by the heart-breaking images we have seen over the past few days. And it is absolutely right that Britain should fulfil its moral responsibility to help those refugees just as we have done so proudly throughout our history.

But in doing so we must use our head and our heart by pursuing a comprehensive approach that tackles the causes of the problem as well as the consequences.

That means helping to stabilise countries where the refugees are coming from; seeking a solution

to the crisis in Syria; pushing for the formation of a new unity government in Libya; busting the criminal gangs who are profiting from this human tragedy and playing our part in saving lives in the Mediterranean, where our Royal Navy has now rescued over 6,700 people.

Mr Speaker, Britain is doing and will continue to do all of these things.

- We are using our aid budget to alleviate poverty and suffering in the countries where these people are coming.
- We are the only major country in the world that has kept our promise to spend 0.7% of our GDP on aid.
- We are already the second largest bilateral donor of aid to the Syrian conflict, including providing over 18 million food rations, giving 1.6 million access to clean water and providing education to a quarter of a million children.

And last week we announced a further £100 million, taking our total contribution to over £1 billion – that is the UK's largest ever response to a humanitarian crisis. Sixty million pounds of this additional funding will go to help Syrians still in Syria.

The rest will go to neighbouring countries – to Turkey, to Jordan, to Lebanon where Syrian refugees now account for one-quarter of the population. And over half of this new funding will support children, with a particular priority on those who have been orphaned or separated from their families.

Mr Speaker, no other European country has come close to this level of support. Without Britain's aid to these camps, the numbers attempting the dangerous journey to Europe would be very much higher. And as my Rt Hon Friend the Chancellor said yesterday, we will now go much further in the spending review, significantly reshaping the way we use our aid budget to serve our national interest. We will invest even more in tackling the causes of the crisis in the Middle East and North Africa. And we will hold much larger



sums in reserve to respond to acute humanitarian crises as they happen.

Turning to the question of refugees, Britain already works with the UN to deliver resettlement programmes and we will accept thousands more under these existing schemes. We have already provided sanctuary to more than 5,000 Syrians in Britain and have introduced a specific resettlement scheme, alongside those we already have, to help those Syrian refugees particularly at risk.

But given the scale of the crisis and the suffering of the Syrian people it is right that we should do much more. So Mr Speaker, we are proposing that Britain should resettle up to 20,000 Syrian refugees over the rest of this Parliament. In doing so we will continue to show the world that this is a country of extraordinary compassion always standing up for our values and helping those in need.

So Mr Speaker, Britain will play its part alongside our other European partners. But because we are not part of the EU's borderless Schengen agreement or its relocation initiative, Britain is able to decide its own approach. So we will continue with our approach of taking refugees from the camps and from elsewhere in Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon. This provides refugees with a more direct and safe route to the UK, rather than risking the hazardous journey to Europe which has tragically cost so many lives.

We will continue to use the established UNHCR process for identifying and resettling refugees and when they arrive here we will grant them a 5 year humanitarian protection visa. And we will significantly expand the criteria we use for our existing Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme.

As we do so we will recognise that children have been particularly badly affected by the crisis in Syria. Mr Speaker, in most cases the interests of children are best met in the region where they can remain close to surviving family members. But in cases where the advice of the UNHCR is that their needs should be met by resettlement

here in the UK, we will ensure that vulnerable children, including orphans, will be a priority.

Mr Speaker, over recent days we have seen councils and our devolved administrations coming forward to express their willingness to do more to take Syrian refugees. This has reflected a wider generosity from families and communities across our country and I commend in particular the Archbishop of Canterbury for the offer made by the Church of England.

My Rt Hon Friends, the Home Secretary and the Communities Secretary, will now work intensively with local authorities and the devolved administrations to put in place the necessary arrangements to house and support the refugees that we resettle. And the Home Secretary will update the House on these plans next week.

Finally, on this part of the statement, and in full accordance with internationally agreed rules, we will also ensure that the full cost of supporting thousands of Syrian refugees in the UK will be met through our aid spending for the first year, easing the burden on local communities.

Mr Speaker, this will be a truly national effort and I know the whole House will come together in supporting these refugees in their hour of need.

### Counter-terrorism

Mr Speaker, turning to our national security: I would like to update the House on action taken this summer to protect our country from a terrorist attack.

Mr Speaker, with the rise of ISIL, we know the terrorist threats to our country are growing. In 2014 there were 15 ISIL-related attacks around the world. This year there have already been 150 such attacks, including the appalling tragedies in Tunisia in which 31 Britons lost their lives. And I can tell the House that our police and security services have stopped at least 6 different attempts to attack the UK in the last 12 months alone.

Mr Speaker, the threat picture facing Britain in terms of Islamist extremist violence is more acute today than ever before. In stepping up our response to meet this threat, we have developed a comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy that seeks to prevent and disrupt plots against this country at every stage.

It includes new powers to stop suspects travelling. It includes powers to enable our police and our security services to apply for stronger locational constraints on those in the UK who pose a risk. It addresses the root cause of the threat – the poisonous ideology of Islamist extremism – by taking on all forms of extremism, not just violent extremism.

We have pursued Islamist terrorists through the courts and the criminal justice system. Since 2010 over 800 people have been arrested and over 140 successfully prosecuted. And our approach includes acting overseas to tackle the threat at source with British aircraft delivering nearly 300 air strikes over Iraq and our airborne intelligence and surveillance assets have assisted our coalition partners with their operations over Syria.

As part of this counter-terrorism strategy, as I have said before, if there is a direct threat to the British people and we are able to stop it by taking immediate action, then as Prime Minister, I will always be prepared to take that action and that's the case whether the threat is emanating from Libya, Syria or from anywhere else.

Mr Speaker, in recent weeks it has been reported that 2 ISIL fighters of British nationality who had been plotting attacks against the UK and other countries have been killed in airstrikes. Both Junaid Hussain and Reyaad Khan, were British nationals based in Syria who were involved in actively recruiting ISIL sympathisers and seeking to orchestrate specific and barbaric attacks against the West, including directing a number of planned terrorist attacks right here in Britain, such as plots to attack high profile public commemorations, including those taking place this summer.

We should be under no illusion. Their intention was the murder of British citizens. So on this occasion we ourselves took action. Today I can inform the House that in an act of self-defence and after meticulous planning Reyaad Khan was killed in a precision air strike carried out on 21 August by an RAF remotely piloted aircraft while he was travelling in a vehicle in the area of Raqqah in Syria.

In addition to Reyaad Khan who was the target of the strike, 2 ISIL associates were also killed, 1 of whom – Ruhul Amin, has been identified as a UK national. They were ISIL fighters and I can confirm there were no civilian casualties.

Mr Speaker, we took this action because there was no alternative. In this area, there is no government we can work with. We have no military on the ground to detain those preparing plots. And there was nothing to suggest that Reyaad Khan would ever leave Syria or desist from his desire to murder us at home. So we had no way of preventing his planned attacks on our country without taking direct action.

The US administration has also confirmed that Junaid Hussain was killed in an American airstrike on 24 August in Raqqah.

With these issues of national security and with current prosecutions ongoing, the House will appreciate that there are limits on the details I can provide.

However, Mr Speaker, let me set out for the House the legal basis for the action we took the processes we followed and the implications of this action on our wider strategy in countering the threat of ISIL.

### Legal basis for action

First, I am clear that the action we took was entirely lawful. The Attorney General was consulted and was clear there would be a clear legal basis for action in international law. We were exercising the UK's inherent right to self-defence. There was clear evidence of the individuals in question planning and directing

armed attacks against the UK. These were part of a series of actual and foiled attempts to attack the UK and our allies.

And in the prevailing circumstances in Syria, the airstrike was the only feasible means of effectively disrupting the attacks planned and directed by this individual. So it was necessary and proportionate for the individual self-defence of the UK.

The United Nations Charter requires members to inform the President of the Security Council of activity conducted in self-defence. And today the UK Permanent Representative to the United Nations is writing to the President of the Security Council to do just that.

### Process

Turning to the process, as I said to the House in September last year: “it is important to reserve the right that if there were a critical British national interest at stake or there were the need to act to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe, you could act immediately and explain to the House of Commons afterwards.”

Mr Speaker, our intelligence agencies identified the direct threat to the UK from this individual. They informed me and other senior ministers of this threat. At a meeting of the most senior members of the National Security Council, we agreed that should the right opportunity arise, then the military should take action. The Attorney General attended the meeting and confirmed there was a legal basis for action. And on that basis, the Defence Secretary authorised the operation.

The strike was conducted according to specific military rules of engagement which always comply with international law and the principles of proportionality and military necessity. The military assessed the target location and chose the optimum time to minimise the risk of civilian casualties. This was a sensitive operation to prevent a very real threat to our country. And I have come to the House today to explain in detail

what has happened and to answer questions about it.

### ISIL in Syria

Mr Speaker, I want to be clear that this strike was not part of coalition military action against ISIL in Syria – it was a targeted strike to deal with a clear, credible and specific terrorist threats to our country at home.

The position with regard to the wider conflict with ISIL in Syria has not changed.

As the House knows, I believe there is a strong case for the UK taking part in air strikes as part of the international coalition to target ISIL in Syria as well as Iraq. And I believe that case only grows stronger with the growing number of terrorist plots being directed or inspired by ISIL’s core leadership in Raqqa.

But I have been absolutely clear that the government will return to this House for a separate vote if we propose to join coalition strikes in Syria.

### Conclusion

Mr Speaker, my first duty as Prime Minister is to keep the British people safe. That is what I will always do. There was a terrorist directing murder on our streets and no other means to stop him.

This government does not for one moment take these decisions lightly.

But I am not prepared to stand here in the aftermath of a terrorist attack on our streets and have to explain to the House why I did not take the chance to prevent it, when I could have done.

That is why I believe our approach is right.

And I commend this statement to the House.