DFID Alumni | Department for International Development

The Four Corners

The quarterly Alumni Association newsletter

Issue 43: March 2018

EDITORIAL

Message from the chairman

Welcome to our latest edition of Four Corners.

As always there is much to reflect on in the way in which thinking and practice on international development is being shaped by new political realities and the evolving challenges to peace and security around the world. The issues in delivering effective humanitarian aid have been a regular feature of past newsletters and I am pleased to confirm that a seminar will be held on 12 June at DFID to share experience and ideas (details below).

Significant uncertainties continue to surround the implications of Brexit for international development and the work of DFID. Simon Maxwell's recent article on this explores the many angles and issues involved; it is reproduced at the end of this newsletter.

One of the aims of the Alumni Association is to help those who continue to be involved directly with international development or who wish to stay in touch with the issues to remain engaged with DFID. I strongly welcome the message of support from the Matthew Rycroft in this newsletter and his openness to tap into the experience, expertise and ideas of alumni. It is up to us to take the opportunity. One way is through the series of joint lunchtime seminars which we have been organising. The recent seminar on agricultural development evoked some strong views about how past experience should be reflected in current policy and practice. If you have other ideas on ways you would like to be more involved with DFID or on themes you would like us to focus on, please let us know. I would welcome indications from those who would interested in a seminar on disability which I floated in the last newsletter.

I look forward to your feedback and to seeing some of you at the summer AGM and party in July.

Simon Ray

NEWS IN BRIEF

New Minister of State for Africa

On 8 January 2018, Harriett Baldwin MP replaced Rory Stewart MP as Minister of State for Africa at the FCO and DFID. Ms Baldwin had been Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Ministry of Defence since 2016. Mr Stewart moved to the Ministry of Justice. He had been a DFID Minister since 2016.

Permanent Secretary

Matthew Rycroft CBE joined DFID as its Permanent Secretary on 22 January 2018.

Sexual exploitation

In response to Oxfam's apology for the behaviour of its staff in Haiti and elsewhere, the Secretary of State for International Development made a statement on 12 February announcing a series of actions to tackle sexual exploitation in the development sector.

DIARY

EVENTS AND MEETINGS

12 June – Seminar on Humanitarian Aid at DFID's London Office, 22 Whitehall.

2 July – Annual General Meeting, 16:00 at DFID's London Office, 22 Whitehall.

2 July – Summer Gathering, 18:30 in Committee Room G, House of Lords

TBA – Seminar on disability and development

UK is stepping up efforts to help Rohingya men, women and children in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

This is ahead of the fast-approaching annual cyclone and monsoon season which has the potential to cause significant devastation and loss of life.

Almost a million persecuted Rohingya people, who have fled neighbouring Burma, live in the fragile and cramped camps. The UN estimates 102,000 of them are living in areas at risk of flooding and 12,000 people are at risk from landslides.

Alongside international aid organisations International Organisation for Migration and UNHCR, the UK has helped to ensure more than 158,000 people have received reinforced shelter and sandbags to protect them from winds and flood water.

Work has also begun on the reinforcement of pathways through camps needed to deliver supplies and services. Plans to cope with the aftermath of flooding and landslides are also being stepped up.

Water-borne diseases are common in the aftermath of a flood, and UK aid is ensuring that more than 250,000 people will continue to have access to safe drinking water throughout the rainy season.

More than 5,000 latrines have been constructed and have been strategically placed throughout the camps and plans to move more than 6,700 latrines to safe grounds have already begun.

UK-supported cholera, measles and diphtheria vaccination campaigns have also taken place in readiness for the monsoons. These will provide protection against some of the most common diseases in the camps, which can be more widespread during the rainy season.

So far, 391,000 children under the age of seven have been vaccinated, with a further 400,000 children due to receive the vaccinations planned by the end of March. Healthcare workers are also being trained to prevent, identify and treat common illnesses likely during the rainy season and to manage higher caseloads.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM DFID IN JANUARY TO MARCH 2018

January

- Harriett Baldwin MP became Minister of State for Africa at the FCO and DFID.
- The UK contributed to a vaccine programme for Rohingya child refugees in Bangladesh
- The UK allocated £50 million humanitarian aid in Africa countries alongside UK military support for French counter-terrorist action in Mali.
- The UK announced £90 million over three years for agricultural research as its contribution to the international research collaboration CGIAR.
- Penny Mordaunt MP visited the University of Edinburgh with Bill Gates.

February

- Penny Mordaunt MP attended a global education conference jointly hosted by France's President Macron and Senegal's President Sall.
- UK announced continuing aid to Lebanon to secure its border with Syria.
- Penny Mordaunt MP announced measures to tackle sexual exploitation in the aid sector and made an oral statement to Parliament.
- UK and USA launched a "Humanitarian Grand Challenge" fund for ideas to save lives in conflict zones.
- Penny Mordaunt MP represented the UK at the Sahel Conference
- Penny Mordaunt MP announced extra support to the UK's biggest group of international development charities to allow them to work more closely with the private sector

March

- Penny Mordaunt and Baroness Stowell of the Charity Commission led a safeguarding summit.
- DFID announced actions to tackle exploitation and abuse agreed with UK charities.
- Penny Mordaunt spoke on International Women's Day.
- UK and Saudi Arabia announced a partnership to on poor countries' economic development.
- UK increased humanitarian aid for Rohingya refugees ahead of the cyclone season.

Harriett Baldwin MP appointed Minister of State for Africa at DFID and the FCO

Harriett Baldwin was appointed as Minister of State for Africa on 9 January 2018. She was elected as the MP for West Worcestershire in May 2010, where she has lived since 2006.

Harriett was appointed to become the Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Russia before joining the government in February 2014 as Assistant Government Whip. She was promoted to Lord Commissioner in July 2014 and served in that post until May 2015. Harriett served as Economic Secretary to the Treasury (City Minister) from May 2015 until July 2016. She served as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Ministry of Defence from 2016 to January 2018. Her previous roles in government since 2014 were: Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and Minister for Defence Procurement, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, Government Whip, Lord Commissioner of HM Treasury and Assistant Whip.

Harriett enjoyed a successful 20 year career in finance, specialising in currency markets for pension funds. She was also on the National Council of Business for Sterling. She is married to Jim Baldwin, a businessman and television producer. They have 2 daughters and a son.

As Minister of State for Africa at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office her responsibilities include Africa consular policy and international crime. As Minister of State for International Development her responsibilities include Africa: emerging policy; innovation and capability; research; Ukraine; the Good Governance Fund, governance, open societies and anti- corruption; climate and environment; Children, education and youth.

Statement on 12 February 2018 from International Development Secretary on Oxfam and UK action to tackle sexual exploitation in the aid sector

"This morning I met with Mark Goldring, Chief Executive of Oxfam, and Caroline Thomson, Oxfam Chair of Trustees. Oxfam made a full and unqualified apology – to me, and to the people of Britain and Haiti - for the appalling behaviour of some of their staff in Haiti in 2011, and for the wider failings of their organisation's response to it.

"They spoke of the deep sense of disgrace and shame that they and their organisation feel about what has happened, and set out the actions they will now take to put things right and prevent such horrific abuses happening in future. They did not inform the Department for International Development at the time that this case involved sexual misconduct or beneficiaries.
"Oxfam assured me they are cooperating fully with the authorities in Haiti and will do so in any other country where abuse has been exposed. Because the perpetrators in Haiti were not British nationals, Oxfam has - at my request - also today committed to immediately provide full details of those involved to the governments of their home countries, so that appropriate legal processes can be taken forward.

"But assurances are not enough so I have asked them to confirm to DFID by the end of the week precisely how they will handle any forthcoming allegations around safeguarding - historic or live - in a way in which the public can have confidence. We expect this process to include an independent and external element of scrutiny. I told Oxfam they must now demonstrate the moral leadership necessary to address this scandal, rebuild the trust of the British public, their staff and the people they aim to help, and deliver progress on these assurances. It is on the basis of their actions going forward – rather than of their commitments in one meeting today - that I and others will judge them. I was clear that part of an

On 20 February 2018 the Secretary of State made an [oral statement to Parliament](#) on preventing sexual exploitation and abuse in the aid sector. She launched a [safeguarding summit](#) for the aid sector on 5 March which DFID and the Charity Commission co-hosted.

organisation's moral leadership comes from individuals taking responsibility for their actions.

"I have today also met with the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission for England and Wales, Helen Stephenson, who informed me that the Commission urgently requested full and frank disclosure of what happened in 2011 from Oxfam and they are considering their next regulatory steps. But the Charity Commission and I agree that it is not only Oxfam that must improve and reach the high standards of safeguarding we require. Right across the charitable sector, organisations need to show leadership, examine their systems, ensure they have clear whistle blowing policies and deal with historical allegations with confidence and trust.

"My absolute priority is to keep the world's poorest and most vulnerable people safe from harm. In the 21st century, it is utterly despicable that sexual exploitation and abuse continues to exist in the aid sector. I am determined that we do our utmost to prevent exploitation and abuse happening - and ensure that where it does happen it is identified and dealt with appropriately. We cannot wait for others to act – the UK must show leadership ourselves and that is why today I am taking action. At their best, UK charities do extraordinary work around the world, saving and transforming lives. It is vital now that the whole sector steps up and demonstrates the leadership that the public expects.

"Firstly, I have issued a letter to all UK charities working overseas – including Oxfam - to demand that they step up and do more, so that we have absolute assurance that the moral leadership, the systems, the culture and the transparency that are needed to fully protect vulnerable people are in place, all of the time, and wherever these charities work and with whichever partners they work with. I have also requested that they confirm they have referred any and all concerns they may have on specific safeguarding cases and individuals to the relevant authorities. In requesting this, we are using Charity Commission guidance and will continue to work closely with them. We will shortly commence a similar exercise with our non-UK partners. If anyone has specific allegations, I urge them to contact our Counter Fraud and Whistleblowing Unit.

"Secondly, my department has today created a new unit to urgently review safeguarding across all parts of the aid sector to ensure everything is being done to protect people from harm, including sexual exploitation and abuse. This unit will be wide-ranging and comprehensive in its remit, looking at safeguarding across UK and international charities, suppliers, and the UN and multilateral organisations so that together we can make progress.

This will look at how to guard against criminal and predatory individuals being re-employed by charities and abusing again, including the option of establishing a global register of development workers. I will bring in independent experts to advise myself and this unit on this work. This builds on the changes we have made to introduce tough sanctions for human rights abuses including sexual exploitation for all new contracts with suppliers and new training for DFID staff to identify and respond to any concerns. I have asked for a meeting with the NCA, the Foreign Office, the Ministry of Defence and others to discuss how to make further progress.

"Thirdly, I am going to step up our work to tackle sexual exploitation and abuse across the UN and other international organisations. Already, the UK is working with the UN Secretary-General Guterres to stop abuses under the UN flag and we have introduced specific clauses in our funding agreements with a number of UN agencies to take every action possible to prevent all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse and take robust and prompt action in response to any allegations.

"Fourthly, the Charity Commission and DFID will co-host a safeguarding summit before the end of the month with the aid sector and alongside UK counterparts, where we will agree a set of actions to strengthen safeguarding processes and mechanisms, including around staffing and recruitment, paving the way for a series of events throughout the year. We will also work with the Commission to provide technical assistance and support to other nations that wish to improve the standard and regulations of safeguarding.

"Lastly, I will take this tough message to the international community - and call for action from them. Later this week I will make a speech in Stockholm and firmly demand that all donors and development organisations show leadership and take action alongside the UK. Whatever the complications and pressures organisations face, the people we are here to serve must be the number one priority. I remain very clear: we will not work with any organisation that does not live up to the high standards on safeguarding and protection that we require."

UK aid provides healthcare and education to Palestinian refugees

The UK is supporting the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) to help educate 500,000 children and provide health services for 3 million Palestinian refugees, including those affected by the brutal conflict in Syria.

Speaking at the Extraordinary Ministerial Conference on UNRWA in Rome on 15 March, Middle East Minister Alistair Burt highlighted the UK's continuing commitment to supporting Palestinian refugees and called on other countries to do more to alleviate some of the pressures the agency is facing. He welcomed reform efforts to date and encouraged UNRWA to continue the pace of cost-efficiency reform.

Mr. Burt confirmed that the UK will deliver its next round of financial support earlier than originally planned, to help meet the growing needs of Palestinian refugees across the region.

Over the course of the 2017/2018 financial year, the UK has provided around £50 million to UNRWA to support the agency's delivery of food, education and healthcare to vulnerable Palestinians across the Middle East. This makes the UK one of the top five donors. The UK will provide at least £28 million to UNRWA next financial year, as previously outlined in its multi- year commitment to 2021.

CDC and China-Africa Development Fund sign cooperation agreement to boost investment in Africa

On 28 March, CDC and the China-Africa Development Fund ("CAD Fund"), the first Chinese equity investment fund focusing on investments in Africa, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to strengthen their relationship and establish a framework for future cooperation related to investing in Africa.

The MoU between the two organisations represents a commitment to share learning and to explore ways in which they can support each other through the exchange of information and data in areas of mutual interest, as well as future joint research and analysis into investment opportunities in Africa.

CAD Fund was set up by the Chinese government in 2007 and is operated by the China Development Bank. It has total capital of US$10 billion available for investment. It supports Chinese firms to invest in Africa and seeks Chinese partners for African projects. It has invested in sectors including agriculture, infrastructure, energy and manufacturing across 36 African countries.

CDC and CAD Fund have identified Universal Financial Access in Africa as a particular area of focus and the MoU commits the two organisations to work closely to explore innovative ways of supporting the provision of financial services to the millions of Africans who currently lack access to them.

DFID supplier events

The Department for International Development encouraged businesses from across London and the South East to make the most of new opportunities to deliver UK aid, at the latest of its supplier engagement events, on 22 March.

Addressing 100 representatives from over 85 organisations, the Minister of State for International Development Lord Bates demystified the application process and urged businesses to use their local expertise and skills to help the worlds' poorest people. By working with DFID, he said companies across London can play their part in supporting Global Britain and in turn, grow their own business, create jobs and help to boost the local economy.

This was the third and largest of DFID's regional events, which have been set up as a direct result of a review undertaken into DFID's work with suppliers. Delivering on recommendations made, the department is cutting red tape to boost competition and open up DFID's market to new businesses, including small enterprises in the UK and the world's poorest countries.

Joint DFID/Alumni Seminar: Humanitarian Reform next steps.
Location: DFID

12:30 to 14:00, 12 June 2018

Objective

To identify lessons from previous humanitarian reform efforts and ideas for next steps.

The new Secretary of State for International Development is interested in ideas for the next steps in strengthening the international humanitarian system following the World Humanitarian Summit and the government's 2017 Humanitarian Policy Paper. This leads to the following questions:

1) Previous humanitarian reform efforts, up to and including the Grand Bargain – what has worked, what has not; what issues have proven most intransigent and why? What has driven successes?

2) Are we clear on our ultimate reform vision: what does good look like? How do we measure progress, and set meaningful milestones? Should we push for fundamental changes or incremental improvements? What are the key 'next steps'?

3) How can DFID best leverage its financial, political, and intellectual capital within the humanitarian system to drive change. How can it harness Ministers' energy to best effect?

Participants

Speakers

Sara Pantuliano, Managing Director at ODI

Jo Macrae, former head of humanitarian policy at DFID and fellow at CGD

Owen Barder, Vice president at CGD

Mukesh Kapila, Professor of Humanitarian studies at Manchester University.

A chair to be identified.

DFID senior staff and those involved in the humanitarian agenda, alumni who wish to attend and a few other humanitarian experts.

Please let our Secretary John Stuppel know if you wish to attend.

WANTED: AN ASSISTANT EDITOR OF THE FOUR CORNERS

We are still looking for someone to help Marc Taylor as editor of the Four Corners.

Please can I therefore appeal to members who may have a little spare time available to step forward? They can discuss what is involved with Marc (c.marc.taylor@gmail.com) or other members of the Committee.

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

Simon Ray

On 5 April 2018, DFID published "Statistics on International Development: Provisional UK Aid Spend 2017" which includes high level statistics on provisional UK aid spend and the ODA: GNI ratio for 2017.

Alongside these statistics DFID published "Statistics on International Development: UK Gross Public Expenditure (GPEX)" and "Statistics on International Development 2016 to 2017: GPEX tables" which included DFID's Gross Public Expenditure (GPEX) statistics for the financial year 2016 to 2017.

DFID also published "Reports on departmental spending over £500".

EVENTS

Post Office Museum and Mail Rail

Alumni members gathered together on 23 March to visit the interesting London Postal Museum which is situated near the Mount Pleasant Sorting Office in Clerkenwell.

There was no tour guide but that really wasn't necessary as wandering round we were able to see many of the fascinating exhibits which included motor cycles, an old postal coach and the opportunity to dress up in uniforms (both male, and female) and several interactive displays.

We then proceeded on to the ride through the tunnels which was interspersed by interactive throw backs between taking postal workers of the time about what they were doing when we reached each platform.

There was also a pleasant cafe where food and drink was available as well as a well-stocked gift shop.

DFID Alumni Seminar on Agricultural Development, 19 March 2018

Agricultural Development: What Makes for Success?

The Beast from the East had done its best over the weekend of 17/18 March to cast doubt whether this seminar would take place on schedule. In the event, a good number of economists and agriculturalists with many years of experience in overseas development from working with DFID, CDC, the World Bank, and as private consultants, braved the cold weather, shed their overcoats, gloves and scarves, and participated in a lively discussion on Monday 19 March in one of DFID's larger conference rooms in Whitehall.

The session was chaired by former Chief Natural Resources Adviser (CNRA) and President of the Tropical Agriculture Association (TAA) Andrew Bennett. He was ably assisted in this task by Michael Scott, also a former CNRA. George Gwyer* introduced the topic by referring to A Golden Age of aid to agriculture in the 1970s, which through promoting the Green Revolution, put paid to the Neo-Malthusian prophets of doom of the 1950s. Donor agencies like ODA and the World Bank were able to finance highly successful projects in plant breeding, irrigation, agricultural extension and credit, especially in Asia. Following McNamara's speech in Nairobi in 1973, there had been a mushrooming of integrated rural development projects, notably in Africa.

Unfortunately many of these projects had failed to meet their objectives. The primary reason was that the good intentions of assisting smallholder farmers to improve productivity could not be realised for want of worthwhile innovations.

Tony Peers, ODA Agricultural Adviser, questions an IBFEF extension officer in Bihar, 1982

The Natural Resources Advisory Group at Wye College, circa 1984

Sound agricultural research has to precede extension efforts, and research takes time. Sadly, many research stations in Africa had become moribund following Independence. Noting that the share of DFID's bilateral aid assigned to agricultural development appeared to have declined over time, George proposed a new Agenda for Agriculture within DFID's economic development strategy.

- Prioritise SDGs 1 and 2 which address poverty and nutrition: the majority of poor people live in rural areas and derive their incomes from farming, as commercial or subsistence farmers.
- Highlight agriculture's potential for employment, exports, and economic growth.
- Validate and sustain the UK's comparative advantage in Renewable Natural Resources (TAA, CDC, and NRI).
- Post NR specialists to DFID's Country Offices.
- Strengthen CGIAR outcomes and impact for small farmers through rebuilding national and regional research capacities for cash export and food crops (and livestock), supported by linkages to UK based institutions (twinning).
- Use new technology (solar energy, satellites, internet, mobile phones) to revitalise traditional extension, advisory, information, and credit services to small farmers, including women.
- Foster partnerships between small farmers and commercial enterprises to exploit opportunities for cash export crop and domestic food crop marketing and processing.

In discussion, Gordon Bridger supported the idea of strengthening DFID's capacity to implement projects in the RNR sector, while expressing doubts about the accountability of British aid as long as the 0.7 per cent target was an over-riding objective.

Brian Thomson recalled the efforts that had been made by ODA and the EC to sustain the Windward Islands banana industry in the face of competition from Latin American producers. Keith Virgo (Chairman of TAA) noted the success of Khardep in making a positive impact on the livelihoods of those resident in this part of Nepal. He mentioned a new twinning initiative of considerable potential between agricultural scientists in the UK and India, known as TIGR2ESS. Brian Gray (ex-World Bank) referred to the success of the smallholder rubber project in North Sumatra, and the potential of nucleus estates for fostering commercial agriculture with smallholder participation.

Other participants raised issues relating to land tenure, the importance of working closely at grass roots level with small famers, the agility of smaller NGOs to facilitate development under changing circumstances like climate change, and the declining terms of trade for primary products.

The time available (90 minutes to occupy the DFID seminar room) proved insufficient for many, who continued conversations in neighbouring venues. Daily exchanges among participants have continued by email over the last month, during the course of which Gordon Bridger expressed appreciation to John Stuppel for organising a socially and intellectually interesting event.

** Author of Dilemmas in Development: Journeys of an Agricultural Economist, AuthorHouse, 2016*

Global Disability Summit, Olympic Park, London, July 2018

Penny Mordaunt has announced that the UK government's first Global Disability Summit will be held at the Olympic Park in London on 24 July 2018.

Speaking at a Humanity and Inclusion event, International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt set out how data, technology and collaboration are vital to making sure people with disabilities are consistently included in, and benefit from, the opportunities that are available to everyone in society.

UK aid is behind the world's first mobile phone app to identify innovative ways to help people with disabilities in the world's poorest countries to get jobs and contribute to their society. The UK's Department for International Development (DFID) and Humanity and Inclusion are collaborating to prototype a mobile phone app that will help employers in developing countries share information on how to adapt tools, including cutting-edge prosthetics, and working environments, to make sure that workplaces are accessible for employees and entrepreneurs with disabilities. For example, in Cambodia, farmers are using low-cost prosthetic legs made for unstable terrain, such as swampy fields. The app will share this adaptation with other farmers with similar disabilities in developing countries so they can adapt their own prosthetics and continue to work.

Ms Mordaunt announced that the UK government's first Global Disability Summit will be held at the Olympic Park in London on 24 July 2018. The Summit will be co-hosted with the Government of Kenya, building on the existing strong ties through the Commonwealth. Inclusion is a key theme of this year's Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

Ms Mordaunt met the World Bank in January to call on them to scale up their work on disability and development, and pushed for data collection to make the invisible visible. The Bank is expected to announce high level commitments on disability at the Global Disability Summit in London this year.

The Summit will bring the private sector, technology companies, international governments and charities together to secure ambitious commitments which will deliver a significant and tangible difference to the lives of millions of people with disabilities around the world. It will be held at the Olympic Park in London, home to the Global Disability Innovation Hub which finds innovative ways to unlock the potential of people with disabilities, to grow global prosperity.

UK aid already supports innovative technology to transform the lives of people with disabilities by collaborating with tech pioneer, D-Rev, which is supported by DFID's Amplify Programme. This project is developing low-cost, high performance prosthetic knee joints for amputees in developing countries.

International Development Committee

In March, the House of Commons International Development Committee launched an inquiry into DFID's Economic Development Strategy, which was published in January 2018.

The Committee has invited written evidence, to be submitted by 8 May.

SPOTLIGHT

Infrastructure – a lasting legacy

Peter Davies

Throughout my 14 years as energy adviser in DFID, the profile of infrastructure was in almost continuing decline as an arena for development activities. This was especially so for energy sector construction projects where we might once have provided direct funding or technical assistance.

Administrators and economists widely viewed these as old fashioned and ineffective ways of improving lives and promoting growth. I spent much of my time kicking a ball uphill, only to see it roll back down. Comments such as "those projects always end in failure" and "maintenance is neglected, until equipment breaks down". Well, I have some news to share.

Each winter since retiring in 2009, my wife and I have spent a few weeks in warmer climes, mostly to the Caribbean, a joy in November or February. This year we returned to St Kitts in the eastern Caribbean. Why St Kitts?

I had the great good fortune of living there as an ODA TCO for a little under 3 years in the late 1980s. My task was to rebuild the underground high voltage electricity distribution system in the narrow streets of the capital Basseterre, drawing on the resources of the government Electricity Department.

All materials, cables and equipment were provided through the EU Development Fund. This was achieved, and much more besides, without drawings, specifications or the use of external contractors but with a small selected 12-strong local Kittitian team. This project was the most satisfying period of my professional life but, after 30 years, is any remnant, any tiny scrap still in service? I needed to find out.

These pictures taken in 1988 show an open cable trench in Central Street, Basseterre, St Kitts. The new 11,000 volt ring main cable was laid at a depth of 1 metre – deeper than normal. I was determined to ensure it would be safe from future road repairers and excavators. For those in the know, the cable was a large section (240 sq.mm.) copper conductor, three core, steel armoured cable. It was so heavy, a 2 metre piece could barely be lifted manually (I didn't specify this material – it was pre-delivered and I had no choice but to get some 7 miles of this laid, jointed and terminated to 20 new substations around the town). However, the cable is capable of carrying around 8,000 kW and is still in service.

An email through the web site of the now corporatised St Kitts Electricity Company drew a response from my old counterpart. He's now a director of the company. We met one morning at a local hotel. What's happened to the project? He told me it's all still in service and "remains the back-bone of the electricity system" in Basseterre.

We toured around town. I was astonished and delighted to see transformers and switchgear installed in 1987, 88 and 89 still there and working. Sure, they looked sun-bleached and tired but they're still supplying electricity to shops, businesses and homes. He told me the high voltage cable system laid down so long ago had proved reliable, with no failures of the all-important joints and terminations.

We toured the much-expanded generating station and the refurbished offices. Some older staff – mostly the women, I noticed – remembered me (well, I was quite young then). He knocked on the door of the company CEO profession). She hosted us to lunch at a restaurant the following week, including my wife, a wonderful, kind gesture of appreciation.

The day before departing St Kitts, I went looking for a member of that 12-person team who was especially helpful and positive all those years ago. I eventually found him at the generating station, now aged 60 but still working. He greeted me in the station yard like a long-lost brother. Appreciation for any work done is rare enough, but for such dividends still to flow after 30 years astounded and moved me, it was so unexpected.

There is a wider message to past and present infrastructure colleagues and sceptical DFID administrators. Infrastructure projects can have tangible and permanent benefits.
Basseterre is now a thriving, prosperous town of shops, offices and small businesses, with an impressive new cruise ship terminal. Without a durable electricity service this would not have been possible. Don't let anyone talk down the importance of infrastructure for improving lives and underpinning economic growth.

Terence Byron, my counterpart, on the far left, is now a director of St Kitts Electricity Company. Pearl Williams, CEO, is standing between me and my wife.

PEOPLE

Permanent Secretary

Matthew Rycroft CBE joined DFID on 22 January 2018 as its new Permanent Secretary. He was the British Permanent Representative to the United Nations from 2015 to 2017.

Matthew replaced Sir Mark Lowcock, who has been Emergency Relief Coordinator and head of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs at the United Nations since 1 September 2017. On 23 March 2018 Mark gave the Casement lecture: "Towards a Better System for Humanitarian Financing".

Message from Matthew Rycroft, DFID's Permanent Secretary

I've been DFID's Permanent Secretary since January. It is a huge honour and privilege to take on the role. I have always admired the work of DFID - most recently from New York where I was the UK's Ambassador to the UN but also in previous roles in the FCO and No10.

I recently met Simon Ray and John Stuppel, the Chair and Secretary of the Alumni Association, as part of their regular series of catch-ups with DFID staff. Simon and I first came across each other when I was British Ambassador in Sarajevo, and he was leading DFID's great work on the Western Balkans. Each month I will visit our joint HQ in Abercrombie House in East Kilbride, plus a country office.

On my recent visit to South Sudan a few weeks ago, I tweeted about the importance of stability and security and the part they play in determining a country's future. (You can follow me at @matthewrycroft1.) We are now committed to spending at least 50% of DFID's budget in conflict-ridden and fragile states. More than 20 years on from the Balkans crisis, there are still many lessons we can learn about how countries can flourish, especially after they have overcome years and sometimes decades of conflict.

I hope that members of the Alumni Association will maintain your links with DFID. You bring a wealth of experience that we can learn from. This is part of what I mean about DFID being a genuinely inclusive organisation. We do not have all the answers ourselves, and we should carry on tapping in to those of you who have ideas and expertise. Please let us know how best to do that.

Ending extreme poverty was DFID's mission when you worked here, and it still is. To that end, I look forward to working with the Alumni Association and continuing to learn from your collective experience.

The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children has appointed Howard Taylor as Executive Director

In January The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children announced the appointment of DFID Alumni member Dr. Howard Taylor as Executive Director. Howard will carry forward End Violence's vision of a world in which every child grows up free from violence.

Most recently the Managing Director of Girl Effect, and Vice President and Managing Director of the Nike Foundation, Howard has held senior roles in government, corporate foundation and non-profit environments in Africa, Asia, Europe and the US. Howard succeeds the founding director of the Global Partnership, Susan Bissell.

Howard took up his role as Partnership Executive Director in March 2018.

Memorial for Rebecca Dykes

In a statement issued after a memorial service on 5 February, Becky's family said:

In the weeks and months since Rebecca's death, we have been deluged with supportive messages from her friends and colleagues, which have brought us a great deal of comfort. The incredible attendance at her memorial service today is testament to Rebecca's passion, energy and enthusiasm, which touched everyone she encountered.

Rebecca loved her work, and we want to ensure that it continues in her name. We are raising funds to establish the Rebecca Dykes Foundation, which will focus on humanitarian and stabilisation work for refugees and other vulnerable communities, with a particular emphasis on female empowerment and the prevention of violence against women.

We are planning a series of fundraising events, and have secured a large number of places at the Great North Run, in September, for people to run for Rebecca. She loved running, and had completed two marathons in under four hours, with very little training. Help us to ensure that Rebecca's legacy lives on. Please donate at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rebecca-j-dykes

Sad news: John Kerby

John Vyvyan Kerby passed away suddenly on the 27th February 2018, aged 75.

John Kerby joined ODM as Assistant Principal in 1967. In his later career he was Head of the British Development Division in Southern Africa 1983-86, Principal Establishment Officer 1986-93, Director Asia & Pacific 1993-97, Director Eastern Europe & Western Hemisphere 1997-2001, and finally UK Director of the EBRD 2001-03.

Martin Dinham comments: "John was the complete public servant. Organised, efficient, concise, knowledgeable about his subject, ever courteous, but also firmly holding to his view when he knew it to be right. He understood perfectly the dynamic with Ministers: they were in charge, but it was his job to give them the advice which would enable them to make the right decision. I never met a better drafter; but his were not just bureaucratic skills: wherever he worked he developed an extraordinary well of knowledge on the subject at hand. He had an exceptional memory, always able to recall fascinating facts, details and insights when briefing Ministers or visitors."

Paul Ackroyd remembers their time in BDDSA: "John and I both started in BDDSA in 1983, he as head of office and I as economic adviser. Development Divisions were very different to their successors, the country offices, since they were primarily staffed by advisers with the administrative functions retained in London.

CDC Group plc appointed Tenbite Ermias as Head of Africa and Chris Coles as Chief Investment Officer.

Tenbite joined CDC on 26 February 2018 and will be responsible for leading the development of CDC's business in Africa. CDC invests in over 650 African companies, providing long-term capital and support to help them grow and create jobs.

Tenbite is an experienced management consultant having worked in global roles from South Africa to the US, and the UAE to Kenya. He joins CDC from McKinsey where he has been a Partner for three years, prior to which he was with the Boston Consulting Group for over thirteen years. He is originally from Ethiopia and has engineering degrees from Stanford University. From late summer 2018, Tenbite will be based in Nairobi, from where he will lead CDC's Africa operations. He will sit on CDC's Executive Committee.

Chris's role as CIO will focus on overseeing CDC's overall investment strategy, the financial performance of its portfolio and the allocation of capital across CDC's target geographies of Africa and South Asia. He will chair CDC's Investment Committees and will sit on CDC's Executive Committee.

Chris has over 25 years of investment experience and joins CDC from Actis, where his previous roles included Chairman of the Executive Committee, Chief Operating Officer and a Board Director of Actis LLP.

Chris replaces Frances Reid at CDC. She takes on a new role at CDC as Managing Director, covering Investment Risk, Policy, and Analytics.

John had the task of managing a diverse and often entrepreneurial team of advisers and ensuring that our wilder ideas did not offend the arcane rules of public administration. He always had time, listened attentively, was full of wise words and was happy to give his advisory team plenty of scope. I remember BDDSA as a very happy place to work and I think much of that was attributable to John's leadership style. I have memories of John and his wife Shirley joining in the weekend walks in the Malawi countryside. John was always bringing up the rear indulging in his passion for butterfly collecting, dashing into the bushes with his butterfly net!"

As PEO, he oversaw introduction of performance related pay accompanying the new open performance reports; the move from Eland House to Palace Street with all the staff negotiations on introducing open plan offices; negotiations with Treasury to put overseas office costs onto the TC budget to reduce running cost constraints; and the move to establish the first independent country offices.

Geoff Williams says: "What distinguished John from most other bosses was the speed with which he dealt with a variety of issues: paper simply flew across his desk. His strong public service ethos ensured that the rules were always rigidly observed, and merit was the prime consideration. I cannot add to what others have said about his integrity and courtesy: he had universal respect."

When John took over responsibility for Central and Eastern Europe, it signalled a new regional focus to his career that also saw him appointed as UK Executive Director on the Board of the EBRD. *Michael McCullough comments: "Among the Board decisions when he both shaped and represented the UK position with his usual perception and clarity were policy towards the eight Bank clients about to accede to the EU; the country strategies, requiring a fine balance between Bank engagement and insistence on both economic and political reform; and introduction of a new Public Information Policy and Independent Recourse Mechanism for local communities affected by Bank projects."*

John had lived near Tunbridge Wells for most of his life, moving finally to Groombridge after his wife Shirley died in 2012. In his retirement John took on a wide range of voluntary work, including as Parish Councillor, and Chief Executive of National Talking Newspapers and Magazines. He was a keen village cricketer, gardener and walker. Martin Dinham again: 'Perhaps it was that in everyday life in the office John was such a private person, so it was all the more startling to discover exotic things about him at his funeral. The butterflies were one. Another was that he was an accomplished pianist and accordion player; and an expert fast bowler. And that the traits that had so characterised his time in DFID, not least his modesty, integrity and his purposefulness, had engendered such respect and affection from all those around him in his life away from the office."

John Vereker: 'John Kerby was a fine public servant who contributed enormously to the work of the Department throughout his career. The keen intelligence which he brought to every issue made him a pleasure to work with. He had the rare gift of total objectivity, never imposing his personal views at the expense of evidence, always ready to listen to advice. He brought distinction to every post he held. I am greatly saddened that he is no longer with us.'

Tim Lankester: John was an exceptionally effective head of HR when I was perm sec: wise, fair, efficient, lucid, reliable, strong on big picture and on detail, self-confident yet undemonstrative - a model civil servant.

Roger Iredale: I am truly sorry to hear of John's death. I always held him in the highest regard for his straightforward and obviously genuine care for people and for his great integrity. It was a pleasure simply to know that he was there.

Graham Stegmann: I took over from John in Malawi, he was widely respected in the region. I then worked for him as Head of Establishment when he was PEO: he had high integrity, was meticulous, thoughtful and impeccably ordered, whatever the pressures.

Richard Manning: Perhaps I should just record that I and others attended John's funeral at St Thomas' Church, Groombridge. There were moving tributes to John from his elder brother (who produced a cricket ball with which John once took 9 wickets for 2 runs) and from a fellow member of the talking books for the blind charity of which John had been a leader during his retirement. The vicar added how much she had appreciated John as a member of the congregation – even including correcting her Greek! The tributes echoed John's many qualities mentioned by so many DFID Alumni. The church *was full, and by the porch was a particularly beautiful border of Spring flowers that was one of John's regular projects for the church. It was a poignant but uplifting celebration of a life cut short too soon.*

John was Head of BDDSA when I joined the department, to work on Mozambique and Lesotho. He made an early, positive, impression on me in writing with a well-crafted missive to Michael Cahill, Head of Central and Southern Africa Department, on wafer thin airmail paper. The letter was about potential commodity support to Mozambique, which is how it landed on my desk. The first sentence stood proud and alone, under the salutations: "Dear Michael, May I bowl you a googly?". JVK demonstrated that this was the place for me, with room for a bit of eccentricity.

Much later, John was my Director covering Eastern and Central Europe, an entertaining expert on all the despots and the fire water that hailed from the locations for James Bond films.

John proffered especially valuable advice before a dinner at the Russian Ambassador's with Clare Short, ahead of her visit to Russia. "Don't try to keep up with the vodka toasts, pour them in your water glass". Thus did John and I remain relative sober whilst the Ambassador -a big chap from central casting - went glass to glass with Clare, and lost badly!

Chris Austin

David Bell

David could be said to be one of the old school in DFID in the sense that he joined from Customs and Excise and worked on countries over large parts of the aid receiving world. I do not know if this describes his career completely, but from Abercrombie House in the late 'seventies to ODA in London and then to EADD in Nairobi, a stint as ODA Representative in Juba, back again to London for the Know How Fund, back again to Nairobi to look after Tanzania which was followed by staying in Nairobi to be in charge of the Somalia Programme.

He retired in Nairobi and made his home there. I knew him over some postings in this career. He was an excellent Desk Officer who treated his consultants with consideration and his advisers with respect (as indeed they always should be!). He also had a wonderful sense of humour and was very good company. I feel very sad to hear of his death.

Garth Glentworth

David I knew a little, but learned a lot from when he was in Tanzania and Kenya. Sometimes hard to keep up with his pace of speaking and a riotous guffaw, but hugely generous with his time, his hospitality and his wisdom. A very Good Man in Africa.

Chris Austin

Annual General Meeting, 2 July 2018

The DFID Alumni Association will be holding its AGM on Monday 2 July from 16.00 to 17.00 at DFID's London Office (22 Whitehall London SW1A 2EG).

The AGM will be followed by our Summer Gathering at 18.30 through to 21.30 in Committee Room G at the House of Lords.

The cost for attending will be £15, and if you are intending to attend (partners are welcome, but note numbers will be limited) please make a transfer to the DFID Alumni Account: Sort Code: 40-01-13 Account Number: 51705032. Payments in cash will be accepted on the day, but we encourage you to make a bank transfer if at all possible.

More details and papers relating to the AGM will be issued nearer the time. Likewise further information relating to security etc. for the Summer Gathering will also be sent at a later date.

Can you let our Secretary John Stuppel know (john-stuppel@dfid.gov.uk also copy to john_stuppel@yahoo.co.uk) by Friday 22 June if you wish to attend the AGM and/or the Summer Gathering (we are slightly restricted on numbers for security reasons so it will be on a first come first served basis). **If you have already advised John you are attending no need to let him know again, but it would be helpful if you could advise him when the payment has been made.**

Your Committee

The members of the Committee are:

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

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DFID Rep: Jaz Bennie

Our web site is www.dfid-alumni.org

Follow us on Twitter: @DFID_Alumni

New Members of the Association

We welcome our new members who joined the DFID Alumni in January to March 2018.

Andrew MacLean
Alexis Turrall
Roy Trivedy
Leslie Smith
John Leigh
Tarig Elhassan
Hilary Brooks
Hester Coutanche
Tony Gardner
Toby Sexton
Mark Swindell
Andy Inglis
Elena Schmidt
Shamas Bajua
Neha Bausal
Alan Winters

Committee meetings

The Committee met in January. We welcomed Jan Ketelaar to the Committee as a seconded member until the elections at the AGM later in the year. In addition we agreed a timetable of events throughout the year.

The Committee will meet next on 24 May 2018.

Celebrating the UK's flourishing economic relationship with Kenya.

Penny Mordaunt MP's speech at the Kenyan Chamber of Commerce on 19 January 2018

"Principal Secretary, Professor Low, Mr Chairman, members of the Chamber.

I am delighted to be here today to contribute to your discussions on the future of Global Britain and to celebrate the UK's flourishing economic relationship with Kenya.

I want to begin by thanking the Chairman and members of the British Chamber of Commerce Kenya for hosting us here today; for the enormous contribution you make to the economies of Kenya and the UK; and the inspiring example that you are setting here in East Africa. As members of the British business community here in Kenya, you have a unique understanding of the strong economic ties between our countries. You see the potential for these ties to grow and develop.

You understand that the UK must move away from a relationship with Africa that is dominated by aid, and towards one that embraces the power of economic growth and delivers mutual prosperity. And you understand that sustained, job-creating growth will play a vital role in lifting people out of poverty, and allow Kenya to realise its ambition of economic independence. You know that great changes are underway, both here in Kenya and at home.

This is a really exciting moment for the UK's partnership in Africa and around the world. As we prepare to leave the EU and enter a new phase of international engagement, we will renew our focus on our African relationships. There are abundant opportunities across the continent, and nowhere more than in Sub-Saharan Africa. These opportunities will only grow over the next twenty years.

We want to ensure complete coherence on our approach, and we are determined to ensure that our efforts across the continent become more than the sum of their individual parts. We are also determined to ensure that our renewed focus on Africa's economic development delivers jobs, investment and trade. For both the UK and Kenya, this presents a tremendous opportunity.

When we talk of growth in Africa, we risk limiting our outlook to the large economies at either end of the continent. But Kenya should not be overlooked. In recent years, it has dramatically improved its 'ease of doing business' rankings, rising 30 places in the last three years on the World Bank's global index. The country has an impressive growth rate – greater than most of its neighbours and many developing countries.

It has an immense appetite for economic expansion and diversification. It acts as a critical regional hub, providing trade access to 200 million people across seven countries. And Kenya's reputation for innovation spreads across the continent. It is leading the charge in sectors, such as mobile money, and transforming lives across Africa.

As with all growing economies, we know that there are still hurdles to jump. But no one can deny that Kenya is a profound success story – the largest and most diverse economy in East Africa. Throughout this journey, the UK has stood beside Kenya every step of the way. The British government's support has driven essential policy and regulatory changes that have helped Kenya and its neighbours power ahead in recent years.

We have delivered transformational reforms to the country's ports, borders and infrastructure; to facilitate trade across the region; and have helped harness the use of technology to improve services and help businesses to reach their customers, including those who might otherwise have been left behind. Our commercial impact in Kenya is without equal.

The UK is the largest cumulative investor in Kenya, and the fourth exporter of goods. British companies, both local and global, rank among Kenya's most successful and respected firms. We contribute an enormous proportion of tax revenue to Kenya; seven of the top ten corporate tax payers in this country are British companies, and the revenue they generate delivers investment across the breadth of the Kenyan government's priorities, changing the lives of Kenyans as their country grows.

British companies directly employ a quarter of a million Kenyans and are growing the job market. Just recently, Chamber member East African Breweries Ltd / Diageo announced a new site that will bring over 100,000 jobs to the Kenyan economy and shows that British investment is not limited to the major cities.

Our investment travels through Kenyan society more than other countries, because our firms reinvest significant revenues in their local communities and value chains. Unilever, which was recently rated Kenya's top employer for the fourth time in a row – an incredible achievement that demonstrates the company's commitment to its workforce. And GSK, which has reinvested 20% of profits from its African interests to train community healthcare workers and combat childhood mortality.

These are just two examples of the tremendous work of members of this Chamber. These companies represent the best of British investment. They set a gold standard with their business practices, and in doing so they send a powerful message about British standards and our commitment. They demonstrate the real impact of British commercial engagement on the country's economic and social progress.

Across the UK government, we are determined to ensure that we support British companies abroad in every way possible, to boost the economies of both countries and the lives of Kenyan people. On the way here from the airport this morning, I was delighted to visit the Hela garment factory. Opened just 18 months ago it already employs over 4,000 people. It has invested heavily in corporate social responsibility, introducing a safe water programme, child care facilities and free lunches for its staff. Other companies in the export zone now follow their example, and Hela's team already provides training and support for its fellow companies to deliver their own CSR programmes.

Hela is a world leader in responsible manufacturing and sets the standard for others in East Africa to follow. They are working in partnership with the British government to advise Kenya on how it can grow the manufacturing sector to deliver the best conditions, not just for businesses like theirs, but for the Kenyans who work for them. To ensure that this ripple effect is also felt beyond the manufacturing sector, UK aid is also partnering with the government to create more comprehensive Special Economic Zones, allowing companies – not only those who export – to flourish and grow, bringing jobs and wealth to Kenya.

We want British commercial and government expertise to play its part in preparing Kenya's economy for its next phase of growth.

We will continue to invest and scale up our trade initiatives like Trade Mark East Africa, to tackle barriers and to increase the potential for trade success across the region. And we will continue to grow CDC. We will increase our infrastructure development funds, building the crucial pathways for trade and investment and removing obstacles to the economic expansion we all want to see.

We will launch our five-year urban programme to unlock both development and commercial opportunities at the sub-national level, responding to the opportunities that Kenya's devolution brings. And we will enhance our modern partnership with the Government of Kenya to strengthen the bilateral economic relationship and long term prosperity of both countries.

We are building a great team to do this work, including experts on trade policy, export finance and investment. I am delighted that many government colleagues and implementing partners are here with us today, demonstrating our commitment to a whole of government approach on this important issue. I hope you will take the opportunity to talk to them about opportunities to partner in your areas of expertise. You are part of the team too. We cannot do this without you.

The support of the British business community will be crucial to the success of a new, modern UK-Kenya partnership. We need you to keep doing all that you are doing. Keep growing the economy, keep creating jobs, keep setting world class standards.

Please share your success stories. The British are famously bad at 'blowing our own trumpets' – but I ask you to promote your successes. This will build confidence in Kenya's potential and show others what can be achieved. And tell us what you need. If there are changes that need to be made or areas where you need support, talk to our team. They are there to help. We have a huge opportunity to shape the health, wealth and prosperity of the nation in a way that grows and protects the economy of the UK too.

Our development, diplomatic and commercial investment here has helped to create a self-sufficient economy and a powerful trading partner for the future. The UK should be enormously proud of that. Kenya now stands strong and we must transition our relationship to a new, modern footing, for the mutual prosperity of our two great nations. Thank you for the part that you are playing in that and the part you will play in the future."

A Brexit update: why the development sector needs to mobilise

Simon Maxwell

You can find this, and further commentary on [Simon Maxwell's blog]

You need to concentrate to keep on top of the Brexit negotiations. This is true even on a topic as circumscribed as international development- though I shall argue shortly that that throws the net pretty wide. The development sector is not fully engaged, I would say, and needs to work better together. Part of that means asking the right questions, including about the non-negligible possibility that we might not leave at all. There are seven priorities, for the Government and for the sector:

a. Map the political landscape, including both the remain and leave sides of the argument, and in the rest of the EU as well as in the UK;
b. Create and analyse scenarios up to and beyond the meaningful vote, so as to be ready for all eventualities;
c. Stay engaged in planning for the period after Brexit, not just during the transition period, but beyond 1 January 2021;
d. Understand better the implications of channelling money through the EU after Brexit;
e. Develop strong, eye-catching proposals for collaboration with the EU after Brexit;
f. Extend the aid analysis to other sectors, especially security, migration and climate change; and
g. Assess the extent to which Brexit proposals affect the EU's future plans, especially for the next Multi-Annual Financial Framework.

This is not a trivial project and will require many hands to complete. The British cabinet has a war cabinet on Brexit to lead key decisions, as well, of course, as a new Government Department specifically tasked with managing Brexit. Should the non-governmental sector have a similar structure? Will BOND (British Overseas NGOs for Development) lead? Or the think-tanks?

Mapping the landscape

To catch up with the negotiations, start with Theresa May's agenda-setting speeches at Lancaster House in London in January 2017, in Florence in September 2017, at the Munich Security Conference in February 2018, and at the Mansion House in London in March 2018. Check the Road to Brexit contributions by the Trade Secretary, Liam Fox, and the Foreign Secretary, Boris Johnson. Read the latest negotiating guidelines agreed by the EU Council in December 2017. Trawl through the various versions of the Draft Withdrawal Agreement, most recently the colour-coded version published in March 2018 - all available in the EU repository of Brexit documents. Don't forget to keep up-to-date with the work of the Brexit Committee in the UK Parliament. Track the work of the think-tanks, including ODI, CER, UKTPO and CGD. And finally, keep an eye on the press, for example a recent article in The Times, reporting that the UK is offering to continue contributing to EU aid programmes after Brexit, as *quid pro quo* for a deal on security.

Two points before diving in.

First, the obvious point that development is about much more than aid – and also about more than policy specifically labelled 'external'. Trade, climate, security, and migration are all intrinsic to development. And when the EU takes apparently inward-looking decisions on agriculture or industrial policy, or action on CO2, these all impact on developing countries. So the issue is not that tightly circumscribed after all.

Second, it is necessary to stand back from the minutiae and survey the entire political landscape, both in the UK and the EU. Some think – and many hope – that the UK may revoke Article 50, and decide to stay in the EU, perhaps if a 'meaningful vote' in Parliament in October triggers a political crisis. Others disagree, and think the legal routes are blocked. Meanwhile, the EU itself is progressing its own political agenda, responding *inter alia* to the ambitious agenda for reform laid out in Emmanuel Macron's Versailles speech in 2017; and, actually, does not necessarily see Brexit as its most urgent priority.

The question, then, is not just what a Brexit deal might look like, but rather about a range of scenarios. There are five questions to examine, with actions relating to each. They are:

1. Will the UK leave? And what will the end game look like?
2. What will it be like if the UK stays? And what preparations need to be made for that eventuality?
3. What will the UK do wrt development if it leaves?
4. What will happen to the EU wrt development if the UK leaves?
5. What needs to happen now to prepare for the UK leaving?

In considering all these, I have found it helpful to think about possible applications of second best theory. Crudely, this says that if one of the conditions of the first best option is not available, the right way forward may not be the one that meets all the conditions save the missing one. The Free Exchange blog for the Economist has a nice example:

‘Consider a frivolous analogy to cookie-baking. If the optimal cookie contains chocolate chips and coconut flakes, but you have no chocolate chips, chances are you don't need the coconut either. The second-best cookie may be the gingersnap. If ingredients (or logical conditions) do their work through a certain combination or complementarity, you may have to aim for something completely different even if you're missing just one of them.’

Where do things stand at present?

So, where are we now?

- Phase 1 of the Brexit talks covered the rights of UK citizens in the EU and EU citizens in the UK, Northern Ireland, and the financial settlement. The outcome was summarised in a Joint Report in December 2017. It included the important financial commitment that the UK would continue to contribute to the EU budget, and to off-budget instruments like the European Development Fund, until the end of 2020, and would ‘contribute its share of the financing of the budgetary commitments outstanding at 31 December 2020’.
- The European Council agreed in December 2017 to transition to Phase 2 of the talks, covering the transition period and the framework for the future relationship. The text of the decision is here. Note especially that the UK becomes a third country on Brexit day in April 2019, and that it ‘will no longer participate in or nominate or elect members of the institutions, nor participate in the decision-making of the Union bodies, offices and agencies’, including during the transition period. Nevertheless, ‘all existing Union regulatory, budgetary, supervisory, judiciary and enforcement instruments and structures will . . . apply, including the competence of the Court of Justice of the European Union’. Further ‘as the United Kingdom will continue to participate in the Customs Union and the Single Market (with all four freedoms) during the transition, it will have to continue to comply with EU trade policy, to apply EU customs tariff and collect EU customs duties, and to ensure all EU checks are being performed on the border vis-à-vis other third countries’.
- The Council then agreed in March 2018 that the transition period should last until December 2020 and adopted new Guidelines, endorsing the commitment to a close trading relationship, but warning against ‘cherry-picking’, for example on regulatory alignment. The Council emphasised that the UK’s decision to leave both the Customs Union and the Single Market would necessarily add friction to trading relationships. The Guidelines also note that ‘the future partnership should address global challenges, in particular in the areas of climate change and sustainable development, as well as cross-border pollution, where the Union and the UK should continue close cooperation.’ And they say that ‘in view of our shared values and common challenges, there should be a strong EU-UK cooperation in the fields of foreign, security and defence policy.’
- There is much more detail on all of this in the draft Withdrawal Treaty, including chapters on the European Investment Bank and the European Development Fund, and on Trust Funds.
- Meanwhile, the UK position on future cooperation with respect to development, principally aid, has been set out in a ‘non-paper’, reproduced for ease of reference in Annex 1. This focuses on the design of aid instruments for the period after 2020, and argues that they should be designed so as to enable the UK to participate. Thus, the UK suggests that ‘new instruments are designed so that they are open to external partners . . . Partners should be invited to participate at a strategic level, with a seat at the table, where they are able to contribute expertise or resources (funding or in kind).’ Participation would be on a case-by-case basis, and would apply to development aid and humanitarian instruments, as well as to Trust Funds, the European Investment Bank, and a peace-keeping facility. A preference is expressed for off-budget options.
- Theresa May touched on this issue in her Munich speech when she said that ‘while the UK will decide how we spend the entirety of our foreign aid development programmes and instruments can best deliver our mutual interests, we should both be open to that. But if we are to choose to work together . . ., the UK must be able to play an appropriate role in shaping our collective actions in these areas’.
- Further clarification was offered by a UK Minister, Harriett Baldwin, in a parliamentary debate (in Westminster Hall) in March 2018. Specifically, she said ‘if we opt into EU programmes when that is the most effective way to deliver our mutual objectives, we work at a strategic level on programme

> direction and would need to be assured of adequate governance arrangements to allow us to track and account for our spending and the results we deliver.'

Let us then turn to the five questions, and the implications for people working on and in development.

Will we leave? And what happens if we do not?

First, will the UK actually leave? That is hard to predict, but there are certainly many campaign groups lobbying either for remain, or for variants of a 'soft Brexit' (for example, retaining membership of the single market and the customs union). Groups include : Remain in EU: (@remainineu); Open Britain); Britain for Europe; Vote for Europe; I'm still in; European Movement; Britain Stays; Pro Europa; UK to Stay; 16 Million Rising; People's March for Europe; and Best for Britain. Key players include Tony Blair, Nick Clegg, Andrew Adonis, Chuka Umunna, Anna Soubry, Vince Cable, and Mark Malloch-Brown, among many others. At the very least, development practitioners need to keep track of the debates, and think about what the end game might look like. For example, what happens if the 'meaningful vote' promised for October rejects the framework deal agreed with the EU? Will there be another referendum? Or an election? Note that a petition to the UK Parliament calling for the vote to include the option of a second referendum will be debated on 30 April.

Second, if Article 50 is revoked and the UK stays, there will be a scramble. The Multi-Annual Financial Framework covering the period 2021 to 2027 will either be agreed or close to. Within a few months, in June 2019, there will be elections to the European Parliament, with lead candidates ('spitzenkandidaten') identified for each party group before that. A decision will be pending on the future of the ACP, the EU's partnership framework with countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. Probably, there will be action on many other issues (new migration rules? Syria rehabilitation?). The EU will (hopefully) have moved forward on reform, for example with respect to the euro.

It is hard to imagine the UK back at the table, trying to catch up. It follows that the Government needs to stay engaged as far as possible, and that development people need to stay on top of the agenda, maintaining close links for the purpose with counterparts in the rest of the EU. For example, the European Think Tanks Group is a member, is tracking the evolution of proposals about the new EU budget framework, contributing to the debate, and expecting to respond to the Commission's specific proposals, when they are published in May.

Relations with the EU if we leave

Third, and concentrating on development finance rather than the single market or the customs union, the non-paper and associated discussion offer one answer to the question of what the UK will do with respect to development if it leaves, viz continue to contribute to EU activity on a case-by-case basis. There has even been a suggestion, as in The Times article cited earlier, that the UK will use the development and humanitarian aid budget and institutions. At present, the UK contributes about £1.5bn a year to EU aid programmes, just over 10% of total ODA. Over the seven year period of the next MFF, assuming no change in the overall size of the EU development budget, the total UK contribution could amount to over £10bn (at current prices).

I have no idea whether this is a serious proposition as the Secretary of State, has already suggested. It is worth noting three points, however. First, there is a very good case for collaboration with the EU in one way or another, as Theresa May made clear in her Munich speech, and as the non-paper also argues. Second, however, the emphasis on a case-by-case approach is reminiscent of 'cherry-picking', or what Tony Blair has described as 'cakeism' (as in having one's cake and eating it), which conflicts with the E Council guidelines. Third, the devil is in the detail. At first sight, UK participation in EU aid instruments, would involve a Council and Commission leadership, oversight by the European Parliament, implementation according to EU Regulations, financial control by the European Court of Auditors, and final adjudication of disputes by the European Court of Justice. Following Brexit, the UK would not be a member of any of these bodies, and the latest negotiating guidelines from the EU are clear that Brexit precludes 'participation of the United Kingdom as a third-country in the Union Institutions and participation in the decision-making of the Union bodies, offices and agencies'.

These arrangements, by the way, would kick in from Brexit-day in 2019 and apply throughout the transition period, even though the financial obligations of the UK would continue. The relevant paras of the Withdrawal Agreement, coloured green and therefore agreed, read as follows:

'during the transition period, representatives or experts of the United Kingdom, or experts designated by the United Kingdom, may, upon invitation, exceptionally attend meetings or parts of meetings of the committees referred to in Article 3(2) of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011, of Commission expert groups, of other similar entities, or of bodies, offices or agencies where and when representatives or experts of the Member States or experts designated by Member States take part, provided that one the following conditions is fulfilled: (a) the discussion concerns individual acts to be addressed during the transition period to the United Kingdom or to natural or legal persons residing or established in the United Kingdom; (b) the presence of the United Kingdom is necessary and in the interest of the Union, in particular for the effective implementation of Union law during the transition period. During such meetings or parts of meetings, the representatives or experts of the United Kingdom or experts designated by it shall have no voting rights and their presence shall be limited to the specific agenda items that fulfil the conditions set out in point (a) or (b).'

If the instrument of choice were Trust Funds, or if off-budget instruments were created, the role of the EP might be reduced, but other arrangements would apply. Is that why Harriett Baldwin emphasised not just 'strategic programme direction' but also 'arrangements to allow us to track and account for our spending and the results we deliver'?

An important element in all of this is access to EU funds by UK institutions, especially NGOs, which may well become harder after Brexit. That needs action now, as per the recommendations I made a year ago: full untying of EU aid ought to be an objective, for intrinsic reasons (because untying is a good thing), as well as to protect the interests of UK NGOs and research institutes. Harriett Baldwin said she was on the case of NGO access, but some have described the UK NGOs as hostages in the negotiations.

My own view on the financial settlement has been shaped by the trade debate, where single market access and customs union membership after Brexit has been described by Prof. Alan Winters as 'Pay, Obey, No Say', to which I add 'No way'. Instead, a better option, which I laid out in August 2017, is for new initiatives, for example on fragile states, jointly strategized and led by the UK and the EU, but independently implemented, respecting each sides' different institutions. This is the ginger biscuit option, rather than the 'coconut and chocolate chip cookie but without chocolate chips' option.

On fragile states, for example, this could be a new and large scale facility, jointly owned, and bringing together the best of both sides' aid and non-aid resources. From the UK side, the expertise of the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund, currently run by the Foreign Office, as well as the resources of DFID, CDC, and the full panoply of the UK's renowned military and intelligence capability. From the EU side, the aid resources of the EU, but also the European Investment Bank, and the expertise of the European External Action Service, for example in running military and civil missions in fragile states. This could to be big and ambitious, with joint funding from existing resources running into the billions not the millions.

Bargaining chip or not, it is obviously important to think through aid relations with the EU after Brexit. Strong and eye-catching proposals are needed: another topic for development practitioners.

The previous paragraphs deal with aid, where the 0.7% legislation in a sense protects developing country interests in the negotiations. The same does not apply to trade, climate, security or migration, four other key pillars of the UK's relationship with developing countries. There is good analysis on trade, not least by ODI. Has there been similar material on other topics? I would be interested to have references. And shouldn't someone be commissioning a systematic overview? For example, a Global Compact for Migration is currently being negotiated in New York, but it is not clear how Brexit might affect the EU's already problematic diplomacy. And does Brexit encourage or discourage the EU from ramping up climate ambition in time for the 2020 review and 2025 Global Stocktake by the Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC?

In this connection, it seems a pity that the proposed full enquiry on this subject by the International Development Select Committee in the UK House of Commons appears to have fallen off the agenda, at least for the time being.

How will the EU adjust without us?

The fourth question is what happens to the EU with respect to development if and when the UK leaves. The main immediate question relates to the Multi Annual Financial Framework, on which proposals are expected in May. A paper from the European Parliament discusses the approval process in detail, and notes that the Commission would like to finalise the exercise before the elections to the European Parliament. Personally, I think it would be desirable to tie the final decision to the European Parliament electoral cycle, so that fiscal issues become visible in the democratic process next year – but that seems unlikely to happen. On the substance, there has been a series of papers setting up the formal proposals, including a White Paper published by Jean-Claude Juncker in March 2017, and a 'Reflection Paper' on the budget published by the European Commission in June 2017. The main issues are about the value-added of the EU, the overall size and sources of the budget, and the allocation of funding between different uses. The European Think Tanks Group has usefully reviewed the external aspects, which need to be rooted in a vision of Europe 2030. . But how do the vision and the comparative advantage change if the UK is not a member? That has been little discussed.

From the perspective of Brexit, it remains to be seen whether the shortfall created by the UK's withdrawal will be made up by Member States and what the impact will be on the distribution of the budget as between its main purposes. That may become clear in May, and thereafter as negotiations begin. A related issue is what might happen if the UK commits to making contributions to EU aid instruments outside the framework of the MFF. Might the EU be tempted to allocated money elsewhere if it knew the UK would make up the shortfall? Something else for the development community to watch.

Next steps for the development community

Finally, then, what needs to happen now to prepare for the UK leaving, or not leaving? The next six months are key, from now until the meaningful vote in October. It follows from the points made earlier, that the development community as a whole, including the UK Government, but also the NGO and research communities, need to:

a. Map the political landscape, including both the remain and leave sides of the argument, and in the rest of the EU as well as the in the UK;
b. Create and analyse scenarios up to and beyond the meaningful vote, so as to be ready for all eventualities;
c. Stay engaged in planning for the period after Brexit, not just during the transition period, but beyond 1 January 2021; after Brexit;
d. Develop strong and eye-catching proposals for collaboration with the EU after Brexit;
e. Extend the aid analysis to other sectors, especially security, migration and climate change; and
f. Assess the extent to which Brexit proposals affect the plans for the next MFF.

This is not a trivial project and will require many hands to complete. The British cabinet has a war cabinet on Brexit to lead key decisions, as well, of course, as a new Government Department specifically tasked with managing Brexit. Should the non-governmental sector have a similar structure? Will BOND lead? Or the think-tanks?

Annex 1

Beyond 2020

Future Development Instruments: A UK Perspective

We stand at a key point in the future of EU development architecture. Debate on the shape of the post-Cotonou political framework for the EU's strategic engagement with African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states and Overseas Countries and Territories is underway, and discussions are also taking place on the future financial frameworks for all EU development assistance from 2021.

A flexible, open and responsive EU is in everyone's interests. We have seen how creating new, open, instruments, such as the migration Trust Funds, has enabled us to respond swiftly and effectively to large scale crises, working with the right partners in the right places. The flexibility shown by the European Community Humanitarian Office in opening up to externally assigned revenues (EAR) from third parties to participate in specific programmes, such as in the Sahel, where the EU is the lead humanitarian donor and has a strong field presence, has allowed key partners to boost the collective effort, and coalesce around a flexible but coordinated approach.

We are all clear that the development challenges facing us are only likely to increase in the coming years: reaching the SDGs, security, peace and stability, governance, human rights and the rule of law, migration management, investment worldwide, Africa, humanitarian aid and crisis response and conflict prevention. The $2.5 trillion funding gap to achieve the SDGs alone is well known. But it is also the complexity of the challenges that will require new and innovative approaches. We need therefore to collectively match this growing challenge with an increased level of ambition and creativity. Reaching out to a wide variety of partners which can offer technical expertise, geographical knowledge or presence, resources and/or funding, will increase the ability of the EU to develop new, joint approaches and increase our collective impact.

The EU has the opportunity now to design a set of future instruments which builds on the positive examples of the last few years, and creates an open and flexible enabling framework, within which the EU and its partners can work together to tackle these global challenges and help to build a secure, stable and prosperous world. The EU will remain one of the largest development actors in the world, and the UK wants to retain a close partnership with the EU in the future.

We share the same concerns, the same values and the same commitment to the SDGs, to the Paris climate change agenda and the Addis Ababa agreement on financing for development. We share a commitment to 0.7% and to testing new and innovative approaches.

We suggest that the new instruments are designed so that they are open to external partners that share these values and commitments, to enable this free-flow of ideas, pooling of technical expertise and resources, and joint approaches. Partners should be invited to participate at a strategic level, with a seat at the table, where they are able to contribute expertise or resources (funding or in kind). Partners should be able to earmark funding within the geographical funds for Africa, the Caribbean and the Overseas Countries and Territories, and the Pacific, as well as to the neighbourhood.

The EU plays a global role in funding and responding to humanitarian crises, working with a wide variety of partners. The existing flexibility demonstrated by the European Community Humanitarian Office should be preserved, and further maximised by allowing key partners to contribute core, unearmarked, funding, in return for a close, strategic partnership in tackling the world's humanitarian crises.

We welcome that the Commission's proposal for new Post-Cotonou Agreement is open to external partners. This should be on an opt-in basis at a strategic level, with clear governance arrangements. We agree that political steering and activity takes place within the regional pillars, to ensure each region is given specific attention taking into account its particular challenges and needs, rather than at an ACP-wide level.

We suggest a coherent approach to migration, focussed on a "whole of route" approach. The trust funds have worked well, and their principles of flexibility and openness should be retained within any new instrument. A migration specific instrument could support joint European efforts, together with third countries and international partners, to better manage irregular flows, address their root causes, respond to humanitarian needs and maximise the development potential of migration.

The flexibility of the EDF to support peace keeping activities has worked well. We can see benefits in the proposal for a separate instrument to support global peace and security activities (including peacekeeping) but would like to continue to engage with discussions about the right structure. Given the global and regional nature of peace and security issues, the EU will need to preserve the ability to work with partners who have the relevant capacity and expertise. Any instrument should therefore be open to external partners to contribute on a case-by-case basis where priorities and objectives are shared, and governance mechanisms must ensure that partners have a strategic voice over activities to which they contribute.

We note the discussion on the EU's investment instruments, and the proposal from the EIB for a new development subsidiary. We believe that here the same principles of open partnership and sharing of expertise should apply. In the future architecture for external investment, we would like to see particular attention paid to the importance of crowding-in private sector investment, facilitating the long-term development of local capital markets, and leveraging limited ODA budgets for maximising impact. We need to find clever and more efficient and innovative ways of doing this in order to meet the challenge of financing the SDGs.

Priority should be given to the investment needs of least-developed countries and fragile and conflict-affected states, particularly in the areas of critical infrastructure and sustainable economic development. We would also stress the importance of using the EU's investment architecture to promote collaboration between EU institutions and other regional and multilateral development banks, for example the EBRD and African Development Bank.

The call for budgetisation of all EU expenditure is well understood on the grounds of transparency and accountability. But we believe that such transparency and accountability can be achieved with some creative thinking, even if some parts of the EU's development programmes remain off budget. Specific funding streams could still be "ring-fenced" to guard against funds being diverted to other priorities without due process. Having an off budget development programme further enables closer, more strategic partnerships, and thus increases the chances of additional financial contributions. In a world where development resources are increasingly squeezed, the opportunity for such additional contributions should be encouraged.

We welcome these consultations on the EU's future development architecture. As a current and future development partner, the UK has a clear interest in ensuring these discussions result in a flexible and modern development architecture, promoting collaborative partnerships, value for money and development results for partner countries, which is fit for the challenges of the 21st century. We look forward to discussing specific proposals over the coming months.