

The Four Corners

The quarterly Alumni Association newsletter

Issue 35:

March 2016



EDITORIAL | **NEWS IN BRIEF** | **DIARY** | **EVENTS** | **PEOPLE** | **SPOTLIGHT**

EDITORIAL

Message from
the chairman



Welcome to the Spring edition of The Four Corners. I hope you enjoy the mix of personal and development news.

The development news is dominated again by the migration crisis and what can be done to provide more effective humanitarian help in the region, offering alternatives and hope to those stuck in limbo between their collapsed countries and an increasingly unwelcoming European Union.

Overseas corruption is never far from public debate and scrutiny. You will recall the seminar we organised in March 2015 on the subject of tackling corruption (Four Corners Issue 31). The lack of transparency in overseas financial centres was raised then and has now dramatically moved up the political agenda with the publication of the "Panama papers". This will make the Prime Minister's forthcoming anti-corruption summit more topical than ever. I am sure there will be strong interest in the continuing scrutiny by the International Development Committee. Do share your views.

We are still planning a seminar with DFID on the future role of the multilateral institutions in the delivery of the SDGs, but in view of the uncertainties surrounding the EU referendum on 23 June, we decided to delay it until after that date. We hope to come back with a new date and more details soon. The next items for your diaries are the AGM and summer party on 7 June. We will send out details on the AGM after the Alumni Committee meets next week. And we hope to be able to propose new events for the second half of the year.

Thanks to all those who have contributed to this edition. Please keep sending us your ideas and contributions for future editions. And thanks to Marc for putting the edition together.

Simon Ray

NEWS IN BRIEF

UN High Level Panel on Women's Economic Development

A new UN panel will help women around the world to get jobs, overcome discriminatory laws and reduce the burden of unpaid domestic work, Justine Greening said in New York on Tuesday 15 March. [The UN High Level Panel](#), which held its inaugural meeting at the UN Commission on the Status of Women, is a group of leading politicians, expert economists, charity heads and business leaders brought together to kick start a global movement that can help get millions of women into the workplace. Greening is a founding member of the panel, which also includes Christine Lagarde, Managing Director of the IMF, Jim Yong Kim, World Bank President, and Samia Suluhu Hassan, Tanzanian Vice-President. The panel is chaired by Luis Guillermo Solís, President of Costa Rica, and Simona Scarpaleggio, CEO of IKEA Switzerland.

DIARY

EVENTS AND MEETINGS

7 June: Annual General Meeting, at DFID HQ

7 June: Summer Party, at the Bbar, 43 Buckingham Palace Road,

Seminar on the role of the multilateral agencies, at DFID (date to be decided)

Humanitarian aid for Malawi

The UK is stepping up humanitarian support including food packages and medical supplies to help Malawi's most vulnerable families survive one of the country's worst food shortage crises in over a decade. The UK has been at the forefront of the response to Malawi's international appeal for emergency aid following widespread droughts and flooding due to El Nino weather effects.

An announcement in February brought the UK's humanitarian support in Malawi since October 2015 to £14.5m. The UK's support will ensure:

- The World Food Programme (WFP) can deliver emergency food packages including basic rations of maize and nutrient-rich cereals for over 800,000 people;
- UNICEF can undertake mass screening of up to 800,000 children to identify urgent nutritional support needs;
- A Save the Children-led consortium can provide small cash transfers to over 450,000 people to buy basic food supplies for their families at food markets, helping stimulate local maize and other food markets.
- WFP and UNICEF can provide specialist supplies for up to 140,000 people suffering from acute malnutrition, including children under five, pregnant women and people who are HIV-positive or suffering from tuberculosis;
- Vital protection support to vulnerable people, including women and girls, in displacement and refugee camps through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.
- Support to improve livelihoods for some of the most vulnerable households, including vaccinations for over 150,000 livestock through the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization.

DFID has a programme of ongoing support worth over £80m in Malawi this year in health, education, agriculture, water and sanitation, economic development, increasing access to justice for women and vulnerable groups, accountability and governance reforms.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM DFID IN JANUARY TO MARCH 2016

January

- Prime Minister met the Queen of Jordan
- Statement on besieged areas of Syria
- UK support for UNHCR and Syrian refugees
- UK called on EU to increase aid for Syrians
- WHO declared end of Ebola epidemic
- £30m UK aid for refugees arriving in EU
- £3 billion pledge to combat Malaria

February

- Baroness Anelay at international conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent
- Supporting Syria Conference
- Statement to Parliament on Syria
- Education for children with disabilities in Kenya
- Response to food crisis in Malawi
- Changes to official aid (ODA) rules
- Baroness Verma spoke at the UN Economic and Social Council

March

- UK deployment for NATO mission in Aegean Sea to tackle migrant crisis
- Secretary of State's speech on International Women's Day
- Commonwealth Day 2016
- Sport Relief 2016
- 10th Forest Governance Forum
- UK support to Nepal on World Water Day
- Nepal Girl Summit
- World Tuberculosis Day
- Burundi refugee crisis

Syria Conference 2016

In February the Prime Minister co-hosted a conference on Syria, when he announced that the UK will invest an extra £1.2bn international aid in Syria and the region to help fund education, create jobs and humanitarian protection.

The current funding of £1.12bn is to be more than doubled. The money is to be invested in the region over the next 4 years, to help fund education, jobs and humanitarian protection in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey

The pledge was made on 4 February when high-level representatives from 70 countries and international organisations around the world were due in London to debate support for the world's biggest humanitarian crisis. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales gave his support to the aims of the conference by attending a reception on 3 February at Lancaster House, attended by the Prime Minister. The announcement will see an extra £1.2bn plus being spent between 2016 and 2020, taking the UK's total aid to more than £2.3bn.

Prime Minister David Cameron said:

“With hundreds of thousands of people risking their lives crossing the Aegean or the Balkans, now is the time to take a new approach to the humanitarian disaster in Syria. Today's pledge of more than £2.3bn in UK aid sets the standard for the international community – more money is needed to tackle this crisis and it is needed now.

But the conference I am hosting today is about more than just money. Our new approach of using fundraising to build stability, create jobs and provide education can have a transformational effect in the region – and create a future model for humanitarian relief. And we can provide the sense of hope needed to stop people thinking they have no option but to risk their lives on a dangerous journey to Europe.”

The [Supporting Syria and the Region Conference](#) was co-hosted by the UK, alongside Germany, Norway, Kuwait and the United Nations. It aimed to raise billions of dollars in

international aid, with the current UN appeal standing at more than \$7bn.

It also aimed to build economic opportunities, creating job opportunities for refugees and host country citizens alike. And it will seek to put all refugee children in education by 2017 – along with vulnerable children in the 3 host countries. In addition, the conference aimed to make lives better for those still remaining in Syria, by funding food, shelter and healthcare, and rebuilding health facilities.

The commitment set out UK spending until 2020. The UK's 2015 pledge of £255m was doubled to £510m for 2016. The UK's £1.12bn aid so far has included supplying:

- 20m food rations
- Clean water to 1.6m people
- 2.5m medical consultations
- 4.6m relief packages
- Help with sanitation and hygiene to 7.2m people

International Development Secretary comments ahead of the 5th anniversary of the start of the conflict.

Speaking ahead of the 5th anniversary of the start of the conflict in Syria on 15 March, International Development Secretary Justine Greening said:

“For a whole generation of Syrian children, war and displacement is the only life they have ever known or can now remember. This is a conflict that has destroyed not only schools and hospitals, but childhoods as well.

“For hundreds of thousands of Syrians exhausted by five years of bloodshed, the current cessation of hostilities has offered some respite and at least a reduction in the number of attacks on civilians. Desperately needed deliveries of food, winter clothing and other essential aid are now getting through to besieged areas across Syria.

“This is a start, but we must do more. That means ensuring aid workers have a free hand to get help wherever it is needed, regardless of who holds the ground. It also means speeding up the process for agreeing access and making sure that medical supplies and surgical items are not blocked from being delivered.

“While sieges continue to starve families in towns and cities across Syria and arbitrary restrictions on the free movement of people and goods remain in place, Syria’s suffering will continue. These sieges must be lifted. Ultimately, only a resumption of peace talks and a negotiated political solution can bring about an end to this crisis.

“Since day one of this conflict, the UK has consistently led the way in getting help where it is needed and in galvanising the international response. Our support far exceeds any previous response to a humanitarian crisis and millions of people are receiving lifesaving water, food, shelter and medical care as a result.

“Last month, the UK co-hosted an international conference in London for Syria and the region, where the international community came together to promise in excess of \$11 billion - more than has ever been committed for a humanitarian crisis in a single day.

“We also pledged to provide an education for all children who have been robbed of the chance to go to school by the conflict. And we agreed commitments to create at least 1 million jobs in countries neighbouring Syria, so that refugees get the chance to make a life close to their home. These long-term promises provide the best support for Syria and the region and are also in our national interest.

“At the London Conference, the world spoke with one voice to offer the Syrian people and their children the promise of a better future. We pledged that we would stand alongside them now and when the time came to rebuild their country. To do anything less would be a betrayal of the people of Syria.”

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State Richard Harrington MP



Richard Harrington was appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State jointly at the Home Office, the Department for Communities and Local Government, and the Department for International Development on 14 September 2015.

The minister is responsible for co-ordinating work across government to resettle up to 20,000 Syrian refugees in the UK. He will advise the Home Secretary, Communities Secretary and Prime Minister on the implementation of the scheme.

He is to co-ordinate with local authorities, the devolved administrations and NGOs on the arrangements for housing and supporting resettled Syrian refugees in the UK. He also leads engagement with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to ensure the UK government supports and their resettlement work.

He was elected Conservative MP for Watford in May 2010, and re-elected in May 2015. He attended Leeds Grammar School and was awarded a scholarship to Oxford University, studying law at Keble College.

His business career started with the John Lewis Partnership and he eventually ran a business which at its peak had 2,000 employees in 7 countries.

UK Aid: allocation of resources

In [UK aid: allocation of resources: interim report](#), published on 22 March 2016, the International Development Committee urged the Government to maintain its focus on poverty reduction.

In November 2015, the Government released a new UK aid strategy called UK aid: tackling global challenges in the national interest, alongside the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR), with an increased focus on how international development benefits the national interest.

The strategy contains an increased focus on 'fragile' states and regions and encourages greater spending of Official Development Assistance (ODA) by other government departments. Among the strategy's four priorities, poverty reduction is in fourth place.

Stephen Twigg MP, Chair of the Committee, said:

"The new UK aid strategy shines a welcome light on the world's fragile states and regions. It shows the Government's willingness to work in difficult areas where levels of extreme poverty are high.

However, the new strategy risks creating an impression that poverty reduction is no longer the top priority. The most important principle of allocating UK aid should always be that it is allocated to areas where it can most effectively be used to reduce poverty, which is clearly in the UK's national interest.

The Committee is also concerned about the definition of 'fragile state'. We need to understand how this term is being defined and how it will inform decisions about who should receive development assistance. The UK has worked hard to establish a reputation for transparency and accountability in this area. With the increasing involvement of other Government departments, DFID needs to have an oversight of all ODA spending in order to ensure aid continues to be spent effectively. Finally, where other government departments become involved in UK aid, they need to stand up for the world's poorest people. Tackling extreme poverty and helping the world's most vulnerable must remain unequivocally the first priority of UK aid spending."

UK anti-corruption summit

The UK Government will host a [major anti-corruption summit later this year](#). The UK will invite G20 countries, the leading international organisations in this field including the UN, World Bank, OECD, and the IMF, and a wide range of other countries which are leading the fight against global corruption or have a pivotal role to play in strengthening the international response to corruption.

Announcing the corruption summit in November 2015, Prime Minister David Cameron said:

"The UK has been a world leader in the fight to tackle corruption, which is an evil in itself but which also exacerbates other global challenges such as poverty and extremism. Rooting out corruption is crucial to global prosperity and security."

Tackling Corruption Overseas

Ahead of the Prime Minister's Anti-Corruption Summit, to be held in London in May, the International Development Committee is inquiring into the direction and effectiveness of DFID's current anti-corruption efforts, the development impacts of UK Government policy on corruption and the coherence of the Government's approach as a whole. The International Development Committee is inquiring into

- whether DFID should have a zero tolerance policy towards corruption in the countries where it is working,
- how effective the 2013 DFID anti-corruption strategy has been and
- what the balance should be between seeking to tackle corruption top down at institutional level and bottom up at the grass roots.

[Tackling corruption overseas: terms of reference](#)

DFID Alumni seminar on aid to Ukraine

Garth Glentworth

On 9 February 2016 the DFID Alumni held a seminar to discuss the case of Western technical assistance to Ukraine in the 1990s and through the early 2000s, and touched on recent developments in Ukraine with the political instability and the current renewed DFID programme.

The premise for these discussions drew on the novel, 'The Road to Donetsk' (available through Amazon or book stores), by former DFID Ukraine Programme Manager, Diane Chandler (née Marshall) and Duncan Leitch's (former consultant on a range of DFID programmes in the east and west of Ukraine) continuing engagement with the country (his book 'International Assistance to Reform in Ukraine', is due to be published in April but is already available on Amazon to pre-order).

20 people attended, ranging from former Ukrainian DFID employees in the DFID office from 2003-2008, representatives from Crown Agents who provide assistance to Ukraine, a representative from the US Chamber of Commerce based in Ukraine, former DFID advisers who had worked on programmes in Eastern Europe, including Ukraine, and a former representative from the European Union who had been based in Ukraine. So the event allowed for some lively debate and renewing of past friendships.

Diane began by presenting her book, which was essentially a love story, but set against the background of an emerging development programme in eastern Ukraine sponsored by a wealthy Ukrainian philanthropist. The leading character Vanessa in the book she insisted was not herself. Issues that emerged from the book included:

- a strong belief in technical co-operation could make a difference;
- the variety of attitudes among foreign consultants ranging from arrogant and patronising to those who learnt the environment and formed real partnerships;
- exaggerated expectations;
- clashing donor expectations and objectives;
- strong buy-in by some of the Ukrainian counterparts to complete indifference from others;
- poor understanding of the political situation in the country by many donors;
- claims to alleviate poverty when the real objective was opening up Ukraine to western business; and
- projects that were far too short for their claimed objectives.

Duncan Leitch then made a presentation on his PhD. His case studies had these common characteristic problems:

- short-termism;
- over-reliance on standard models;
- lack of political understanding;
- changing priorities by donors

The reform of the country-wide Budget Code had been progressing well, but just when it was about to break through, donors switched their support to the regions and the whole reform unravelled; regional government reform had suffered from starting again after every three year phase with the result that nothing was produced except masses of paper; and constant changes of experts with "pre-cooked fast food strategies" was a major problem to move forward long-term plans.

John Stuppel, who had been Head of the DFID Ukraine office from 2003 to 2008, and continued to keep in touch with former colleagues and others in Ukraine, chaired the discussion and responses from the floor were mixed and varied and included the following reflections:

- the Know How Fund (the earlier late 80's early 90's aid programme to central and eastern Europe, jointly managed by the FCO and DFID (formerly ODA)) was too formulaic and rigid;
- DFID's poverty focus from 1997 onwards was the wrong model of development for former Soviet Union countries;
- not enough investment was made to change functioning organisations rather than resurrect collapsed ones;
- donor co-ordination was lacking;
- stronger messages should have been made about Ukraine's possible membership or closer links with the EU;
- better use should have been made to bring in internal expertise rather than relying on outside 'western' experts (it was noted that by the early 2000s this was happening more, and indeed the DFID office at the time was almost solely staffed by Ukrainians, including an Economic and a Governance Adviser, and 3 Deputy Programme Managers);
- continuing issues of corruption clouded results that could be achieved; and
- short-termism in the political system, particularly with continuing changes of economic ministers, was a major problem.

However, looking to the future, there was much optimism that, despite the annexation of Crimea and the on-going dispute of who governs the eastern regions of Donbass and Luhansk, there was a more secure future for Ukraine.

Continuing political instability and questions over on-going corruption issues also undermine any concrete reforms being introduced. But there is clearly a new younger generation, first emerging from the Orange Revolution, and continuing to be at the forefront of pressing for change, which is having a small influence, although it is recognised that they do not yet have enough power.

So it was clear from the meeting that those attending were supportive of continuing assistance from donors, but for it to be more focused and for it to be backed by longer term

political commitments of integrating Ukraine more with the EU.

Post meeting notes:

As this edition of The Four Corners went to press, the Prime Minister of Ukraine, Arseniy Yatsenyuk, announced his resignation.

For those who wish to continue to hear about issues relating to Ukraine may be interested in joining the British Ukrainian Society:

www.britishukraniansociety.org

secretariat@britishukraniansociety.org

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 June: c.marc.taylor@gmail.com.



1. Outside the new BBC

DFID Alumni visit to BBC

Kathy Marshall led a tour of BBC Broadcasting House:

On 10 March an enthusiastic group of 20 Alumni members (which included some first timers at an event) met at the BBC in Langham Place, London, to take a tour.



Having all gone through security and being issued with passes, we were met by two guides who gave us a very interesting and informative insight into the workings of the BBC, starting with a view of the huge News Room where news from all over the comes in to the many monitors, and decisions are made on what will be presented to the viewers.

The One Show studio was a shock to all – it is tiny with virtually a settee and a coffee table and just enough room for the cameras. The back drop is the pavement outside the BBC which at times affords an extension to the studio for guests such as music groups etc. who would not by any stretch of the imagination fit into the studio.



The One Show studio



On the sofa in the One Show studio



Liz reading the weather



The theatre

We were then taken over to the main and original building with its amazing architecture and various memorabilia.

An opportunity arose for some brave people to show their skills as presenters of the news and weather, and also to experience reading an excerpt from a play along with doing the sound effects.

Another interesting place was the theatre that the concerts are broadcast from.

In October 1940 the BBC suffered a direct hit from an enemy bomb but so as not to alarm listeners the programme continued as though nothing had happened. True British Grit!

This tour really was interesting and worthwhile but unfortunately the BBC have decided to discontinue them due to security fears so we were very lucky to have made it there before the 1 May deadline.



Rehearsing a play



The future role of multilateral development agencies

Seminar of DFID Alumni Association with DFID

At DFID HQ

Date to be announced

Aim

With agreement on the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015, debate has shifted to how these will be delivered, and the role of multilateral agencies.

DFID is currently conducting its own multilateral aid review, which will look at

- questions of effectiveness,
- cooperation between multilateral bodies and
- how and where HMG can best invest in the multilateral system to achieve the greatest impact on the SDGs.

It is hoped this will be published in time for the seminar.

As we look ahead, it will be valuable to draw on the experience and expertise of those who are still working, or have worked in the multilateral system in the past. The seminar will bring together alumni with DFID staff currently responsible for policy in this area.

Questions to be addressed:

- how have the original roles of multilaterals changed over time and in what evolving political context?
- What contribution have they made in delivering global development goals?
- What lessons can be drawn from experience for their future role in delivering the Sustainable Development Goals?

Agenda

1. Opening presentations
2. Presentation by DFID on the Multilateral Aid Review and issues for the future.
3. Discussion
4. Conclusions

We hope that many of the DFID alumni who have been closely involved with the multilateral aid system over the years will be able to attend. World Bank and FCO alumni will also be invited.

Sue Unsworth

Sue died on 17 March 2016. Friends and colleagues sent the tributes which are reproduced here.

Anthony and I became very close to Sue when she was posted to Abercrombie House in the 1980s, sharing evenings at our house and visits to Scottish Opera. Our friendship continued when we returned to London and I remember her 40th birthday party, where we met her beloved identical twin, who sadly predeceased her.

Sue, like many newcomers to Scotland, found the Glaswegian accent difficult to understand and when, early in her posting, an unknown car damaged hers, she tried to get an estimate for the repair work from a local garage. After several attempts to understand what the garage was saying she had to ask for a written explanation!

We continued to exchange Christmas greetings after Sue went to Malawi and then India but rarely met. We heard about Peter some time before they married and were delighted eventually to meet him a few years ago at the house of Hazel and Barrie Hudson.

My condolences to Peter.

Janet Beattie

Also very sad to hear of Sue's death. She was my Principal when I was an HEO(A) in Investment and Crown Agents Department in 1977. She taught me a lot, and I had the greatest respect for her wisdom and her humour.

Robert Stone

Sue recruited me to ODA in 1995 and I was privileged to be part of her team when she opened the ODA office in India in 1996. Down the years and into her retirement we kept in touch, with Sue playing the role of mentor, and friend. She was a demanding but fair boss, enquiring and ambitious, and competitive to the core.

While several of us struggled to master the basics of Hindi, Sue grasped the language with ease and each

INVITATION TO THE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR SUE UNSWORTH

A memorial service to celebrate her life will be held at 11-00 on Friday April 22 at All Saints Church, Kingston on Thames (www.allsaintskingston.co.uk).

Bells will be rung before the service and at 14-30 in the afternoon there will be a quarter peal. The church is a short walk from Kingston train station. If you arrive early, the church has a pleasant cafe.

There will be a buffet lunch after the service at the Antoinette Hotel

(www.antoINETTEHOTEL.com/kingston/). Everyone attending the service is invited to come to lunch. The hotel is a good 20 minute walk from the church, but there is a taxi stand very near the church outside John Lewis.

It would be helpful if you could let me know if you are planning to come to the lunch, not later than April 18, so I can give numbers to the hotel.

Free parking is available at the hotel. It is also possible to leave a car there before the service.

Sue did not want flowers at her funeral, but should you wish to make a donation to a charity, her preference is for Peace Direct (www.peacedirect.org) or Medecins sans Frontiers (www.msf.org.uk/make-a-donation).

Thank you,

Peter Elborn

peterelborn@hotmail.co.uk

I am not sure I have contact details for all who may wish to come, so I would be grateful if you would pass this message on to anyone you know who might wish to attend.

week always came out "top of the class". As well as time spent learning from Sue at work, I have many happy memories of holidays spent together. These were as diverse as boating along the back waters in Kerala to a women's weekend away in Bangkok.

Sue was amazingly well read and I followed her second career as a researcher and author with great interest. Her contributions to IDS and at the Policy Practice have been widely appreciated, and I valued our debates about development issues.

I was saddened to hear of Sue's passing and would like to extend my most heartfelt condolences to Peter, who I know brought great joy to Sue's life.

Helen Mealins

I have many inspiring memories of an exemplary diplomat and leader who started and led ODA Delhi office in 1996 ---- may Sue move with the light, and rest in peace.

Anjali Raj

I must say this news comes somewhat of a shock. I first heard Sue during my first Governance Advisers' retreat in 2003 in Brighton. The food at dinner was rather lousy - all the salt and pepper could not redeem it. But Sue's short talk made that dinner well worth it. Today, I occasionally read her research papers - especially before important interviews to brush up on the big picture - the politics of governance work. What I liked most was her reminder that while realpolitik, in developing countries, could not be ignored, political backwardness in regards to poverty reduction should not be humoured. She also believed that chipping away bit by bit with technical governance reforms could shift political agendas in the long term.

We were all so fortunate to have such a good brain in our midst. I will continue to read her work. She will be missed!

Wamuyu Gatheru (ex DFID Tanzania and Kenya)

Very sorry to hear the news about Sue. She was incredibly supportive as we started the PFM team in the new Policy Division when she had just become Chief Governance Advisor. She balanced her support with challenge, spoke eloquently about Governance and its relevance and enabled us to make our own policy support relevant and appropriate to those in the field. She was somebody with a unique set of insights which blended a strong practical orientation, understanding of the organisation and its own set of incentives and constraints with a remarkable clarity of thought. Her more recent writings and research have also contributed hugely to renewed focus on being locally led and politically smart. She embodied both and will be hugely missed.

Simon Gill

I returned to London from overseas and was shocked and very sorry to learn the news, in the first email I opened on exiting Heathrow. There will be many of us who will miss Sue, while counting ourselves fortunate to have been her colleague and friend during some part of her distinguished career.

I worked for Sue Unsworth for several years, first in Malawi and Central Africa and later in India. Sue set high standards and inspired many of us to keep up with them. I learned a lot from her and much enjoyed the discussions we had on policy and development issues and dealing with the administrative machines (UK and overseas) with which we were engaged. I always found her very approachable and helpful.

Sue had a huge capacity for sheer hard work, invariably of consistent high quality. Sue managed for example the smooth transition of DFID's India programme from London to India with characteristic energy and an ability to go the extra mile. Later she made several key contributions to the intellectual and research content of the governance agenda.

Following retirement we stayed in touch, met occasionally and the conversations continued. Sue was good company, combining a dry sense of humour with an impressive command of policy and research. I was privileged to learn about her ideas on 'Upside Down Governance' as they were developing pre-publication.

I offer my sincere condolences to Peter Elborn.

Peter Owen

Very sad to hear about Sue ... I worked briefly with Sue on her ideas about governance when I was, with Peter, involved in forest governance. I very much appreciated her support for the painstaking work we were doing at the time giving resources and space to the many institutions that were budding and growing in common property resource management settings across the tropics. She will be sorely missed. My sincerest condolences to Peter Elborn.

Yvan Biot

I also was shocked to hear this news. I have very fond memories of Sue when she was Head of the DevDiv in Malawi. She was very supportive of me in my first country programme manager role and, as Peter says, set commendably high standards. Among her

successes, she deserves considerable credit for getting the Zimbabwe-Maputo railway line rebuilt within budget and ahead of schedule during the civil war in Mozambique. My condolences to Peter Elborn.

Mark Mallalieu

What a loss. DFID India would miss her for what she was to everyone who worked with her. I joined later, but her name figured every time we talked of good times in DFID India. May her soul rest in peace. She will be hugely missed.

Pran Kaul

Very sorry to hear the sad news about Sue. During my time as Departmental Trade Union Side Secretary we dealt with her regularly and extensively; we did not always see eye to eye but she always dealt with us courteously, fairly and professionally and kept us informed. RIP, and our sincere condolences to her family.

Graham Larkbey

I was shocked to hear this very sad news of the unexpected and premature death of Sue Unsworth. During her time at DFID she made a major contribution and I had the privilege to work with her in Governance Department.

I bumped into her only last year at the Whitechapel bell foundry on a tour. She told me she was very interested in bell ringing and had actually taken it up in her spare time and become quite an expert. She was in fine form that day and a nice way to remember her.

Jeremy Clarke

Like Jeremy I was delighted to bump into Sue last year after a long gap - in our case at the Wigmore Hall. I was very saddened to hear of her early death. I worked for Sue when she was Private Secretary to Neil Marten and I was APS - and again indirectly when she was Head of UN Dept and I was in New York.

Like others I have memories of someone who was a total professional, and also really enjoyable to work with - I have vague memories of her playing an April Fool's joke on the then Permanent Secretary, Peter Preston.

One element which others have perhaps not brought out is her awareness (in the early eighties) of being the most senior female official in ODA. There had been female Ministers, and possibly an AS who retired in the 60s. But Sue was keenly aware of the irony that in the Department promoting Women in Development to the rest of the world, we had no woman above the level of Principal, despite a good deal of talent. I believe that Sue was the first to become Assistant Secretary and later the first to Under Secretary - in both cases well after she had shown her ability and seen many of her male peers move up. Many have followed her, but Sue led the way in breaking through the glass ceiling, and so was an inspiration to those of us following behind.

My condolences to Peter.

Pam Hilton

From the IDS Bulletin

We very much regret the passing away on 17 March of Sue Unsworth, following a long illness. Sue retired from DFID as Chief Governance Advisor.

She was very much interested in research while at DFID, and became active in both research and advisory work after her retirement. She worked extensively with members of the IDS Governance Cluster.

She was the principal author of the very influential An Upside Down View of Governance (IDS, 2010).

Our condolences to Peter Elborn, who was a most supportive partner.

The Summer Party

will be held at the Bbar, 43 Buckingham Palace Road, London, SW1W 0PP on 7 June from 6pm to 8pm (although we have the room for longer if people wish to stay on and purchase drinks from the bar).

All Association members and partners are welcome so please let the Secretary, John Stuppel: john-stuppel@dfid.gov.uk know whether you wish to attend by 27 May 2016.

A small charge of £12 per person will be made, and this can be paid

- through a bank transfer : HSBC Bank Sort Code: 40-01-13 Account Number: 51705032
- by cheque made payable to the Alumni Association, sent to the Secretary c/o DFID 22 Whitehall, London SW1A 2EG or
- payment on the night

We encourage where possible everyone to make their payment through a bank transfer as this cuts down on the administration and makes it easier to keep tabs on who has paid.

something, having taken this role at the Methodist Church Youth Club for a good few years in my mid-teens), made contact with the Alumni Association to track down some members to invite along.

Unfortunately in the end no members could join the gathering, so Richard asked me to represent ex DFID/ODA/ODM colleagues. It was a lovely event and a good way to honour Iain's memory, who I had had the privilege to work with on a number of occasions, and shall never forget joining him on a Gay Pride march through the streets of London in the mid-80s. It was good too to meet with a number of his friends from the past, including leading lights in the Campaign for Homosexual Equality, the international Lesbian, Gay Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association, the National Association of Head Teachers and representatives from PLAN, the charity for which he was closely linked to after his retirement, along with his nephew and god-son.

John Stuppel

Memorial Dinner in Honour of Iain Buist

A small gathering of Iain's closest friends and some family members were invited to a dinner in his honour at the National Liberal Club on the evening of 30 March. I was privileged to be part of that gathering, more by chance than design.

The organiser of the event, the Revd. Richard Kirker, used to be the Chief Executive Officer of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement (LGCM), and in the early eighties I joined this organisation, often helping out in the LGCM office, then based in St. Botolph's Church in Aldgate, and eventually setting up the Young Lesbian and Gay Christian Group, becoming the Secretary for a number of years (it is in my blood to be a Secretary of

The Civil Service Retirement Fellowship (CSRF)

You will see details on page 12 about the Pilot Scheme to Support Older Carers organised by CSRF. This is an opportunity to publicise more widely the CSRF, which has its links to the old Civil Service Benevolent Fund. CSRF provides support on an informal basis to all retired civil servants, and can offer a number services through its network of associated organisations. Support can either be provided through on-line links, or through direct personal contact. To find out more go to their website: www.csrf.org.uk or contact them direct via their e-mail: info@csrf.org.uk or by phone on: [020 8691 7411](tel:02086917411).

PILOT SCHEME TO SUPPORT OLDER CARERS

The Civil Service Retirement Fellowship launched a pilot scheme in March 2016 providing free respite days for their older carers in London and the South East

Thanks to funding from **the Civil Service Insurance Society Charity Fund**, the CSRF is delighted to announce the launch of the **Carers Support Scheme**, a new pilot that will support its beneficiaries in London and the South East.

There are over 1.3 million older carers in the UK who do an amazing job of looking after a loved one but, sadly, they do not get all the support that they need and deserve. The pilot aims to make a small contribution to that by providing free respite days to any carer who is a CSRF beneficiary. The days might take the form of a trip to the theatre or an afternoon at a spa or just the prospect of some replacement care to give the carer some 'me time'!

The CSRF will be responsible for the administration and organisation of these days and has enlisted the support of the Carers Trust, a national charity dedicated to supporting the role and contribution of unpaid carers, to help with advice and guidance within the arena of third party care provision.

CSRF Chairman John Barker CB commented, "I'm delighted to see the launch of this pilot which will undoubtedly bring welcome support to any of our beneficiaries who might be a carer for a partner or loved one. Whilst it is a new step for the CSRF as a charity it does reinforce the important role the organisation plays in the provision of support and services to retired civil servants, their partners and dependants.

The Carers Support Scheme is the second service to be funded by the Civil Service Insurance Society Charity Fund. They also support the CSRF's befriending scheme for older people experiencing loneliness, the National Visitors Network.

For more information about the CSRF email: press@csrf.org.uk or call 020 8691 7411

New Members of the Association

We welcome our new members, who joined the DFID Alumni in January to March 2016.

Jane Kabaki-Rubia	Lynne Nazer	Denver Brown	Caroline Pontefract
Natasha Mesko	Mark Wickstead	Peter Fortune	Jane Shute
Jonathan Tostevin	Neil Gregory	Christopher Leahy	Simon Jennings
Palakh Jain	Sajjad Mohammad	Phil Marker	Iain King
Eric Hanley	Mick Foster		

£3 billion pledge to help end Malaria deaths

Deaths from Malaria could be nearly eliminated in the next 15 years thanks in part to a landmark £3 billion funding commitment announced in January by the Chancellor and Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Speaking at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, George Osborne, Bill Gates and International Development Secretary, Justine Greening revealed a significant funding package to ramp up efforts to fight Malaria, centred on a £3 billion commitment over five years and a mission to support the World Health Organisation's goal of reducing malaria deaths by 90% by 2030, on a path to malaria free world.

The Chancellor George Osborne said:

"I am determined that our overseas aid budget is spent on the challenges people in Britain want to see addressed - and those that threaten global and national security. Across the globe over a billion people are infected with malaria and it's a cause of both untold misery and lost economic potential. That's why, working with Bill Gates, I'm determined that Britain leads the world in the fight against this disease.

"Already we've made great progress. Now, together with the Gates Foundation we are announcing £3bn over the next five years to start the work on eradicating malaria altogether. Some of that money will be spent here in the Northern Powerhouse, and the brilliant science we want to see here. The Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine is the oldest such institution in the world and is at the cutting edge of the war against malaria."

Co-Chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Bill Gates said:

"Britain is a global leader in the fight against deadly diseases like malaria – a disease that still claims the life of a child every minute. From the strength of its scientific community, to the bravery of the ordinary men and women who go out to fight these diseases, the UK's commitment to global health is building healthier futures for people living in the world's poorest places and making the world a safer place for all of us."

Secretary of State for International Development, Justine Greening said:

"We can be incredibly proud of Britain's contribution to the battle against malaria. Thanks to the efforts of the UK

and others over the past 15 years, more than six million lives have been saved.

However, malaria still causes one out of ten child deaths in Africa and costs Africa's economy billions every year. Our new commitment will save countless more lives and build a safer, healthier and more prosperous world for us all which is firmly in the UK's national interest."

Director of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), Professor Janet Hemingway CBE said:

"As the world's oldest Tropical Medical Institution dedicated to improving health, LSTM is delighted to see the growing partnership between the UK government and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, providing leadership and support to the fight against the global health challenges of malaria and NTDs.

"These diseases are indicators and drivers of poverty, and this partnership will help increase know-how, advocacy and funding, making a significant contribution to rapidly reduce the disease burden imposed by these infectious diseases and improve the quality of life for many of the world's poorest populations. The funding announced today will mean £500 million a year invested by the UK government for the next five years."

The Gates Foundation will spend \$200 million in 2016 to support R&D for malaria and to accelerate regional malaria elimination efforts, with a similar amount over each of the following four years. Together this amounts to a minimum £3 billion commitment from the two partners to support global efforts to fight malaria.

The announcement builds on the new £1 billion Ross Fund announced by the government and the Gates Foundation in November – named after Sir Ronald Ross, the first-ever British Nobel Laureate who was recognised for his discovery that mosquitoes transmit malaria. The Ross fund aims to develop, test and deliver a range of new products (including vaccines, drugs and diagnostics) to help combat the world's most serious infectious diseases in developing countries.

The Ross Fund will target drug resistant infections including malaria and TB, outbreak diseases such as Ebola, and neglected tropical diseases. The Gates Foundation has committed to a five year partnership with the Ross Fund, aligning efforts with the UK Government to fight infectious disease in developing countries.

The commitment delivers on the pledge, first made by George Osborne on a visit to Uganda in 2007, to spend £500 million a year battling malaria.

Bill Gates also announced that his foundation would partner and invest in the Global Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) Research Innovation Fund announced by the Prime Minister and President Xi of China in October 2015.

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)

Note from the Chair

The Alumni Committee will be meeting next on 19 April. We will be preparing for the AGM, on which a note will be sent out to members separately. We will also be looking at possible future events, our financial position and progress on steps to develop the website.

Simon Ray

Strengthening the Alumni presence in Scotland

The Secretary, John Stuppel, travelled to Glasgow on 7 March to meet with Alumni members based in Scotland to discuss how best the Association can serve its members north of the border.

Despite a small turn out (although quite a few more expressed their interest, but were unable to make the meeting), a lively discussion was had in the relaxing surroundings of the Committee Room Number 9 pub on John Street in the heart of the city of Glasgow.

It was clear that there was an appetite to organise more events in Scotland, but a recognition that many members were spread across the country and travel

links did not always make it easy to find a central location to hold such events – indeed one member due to come to the meeting was prevented from doing so because of recent adverse weather conditions had disrupted the rail service.

Given the spread of members it was felt that members should be encouraged to share details of informal get-togethers more frequently (such happenings already take place but are not widely advertised). In addition it was felt that some thought should be given to holding one of the Summer or Christmas parties in Scotland, or at least consideration given to holding a parallel event. It was recognised this would cost money but exploring specific sponsorship from a Scottish based company was a possibility.

Given there were a number of new members joining the Association from Abercrombie House there was scope to better share experiences post DFID, and keep in touch outside of the already close knit network of longer term Scottish members. This would require a key person to act as a focus point, as it was agreed this would not be best handled through existing Committee members (but scope to co-opt/elect a member from Scotland on to the Committee to be better linked-in). At this stage no-one attending the meeting was prepared to take on this role, but were happy to act as an informal link for the time being until plans became more detailed.

Finally one of the main points arising from the meeting was the lack of clear guidance on joining the Alumni Association from HR. It was not widely advertised, and many only found out by word of mouth. With no formal pre-retirement seminars the lack of exposure about the Association was putting it at a disadvantage to attract new members.

This is something that the Committee clearly needs to address, perhaps through obtaining details of those planning to move on or retire so that we can make direct contact (data protection issues aside). The Association has offered to do more advocacy in the past but with no central point of contact in HR anymore it makes it difficult to share details about the Association.

This is a small step forward, and John will continue to liaise with those in Scotland who have expressed an interest in taking things forward. So watch this space.

David Hallam visited Jordan to follow up on the Syria Conference

From 15 to 16 March David Hallam visited Jordan to follow up on commitments made at the Syria Conference last month. The conference was a game changer for Jordan and the international community. The Jordan Compact presented a package of measures to benefit Syrian refugees, host communities and the Jordanian economy.

In Amman, David met the Jordanian Minister of Planning, Imad Fakhoury, to discuss the coordination of donor pledges made at the Syria conference, and the establishment of a Programme Management Unit to oversee the implementation of Compact commitments.

As part of the Compact, the Government of Jordan has agreed to help create economic opportunities and jobs for Syrian refugees in return for concessional finance, investment and opening up the EU market to Jordanian producers with simplified rules of origin. David heard how barriers to Syrian refugees applying for work permits are already being removed, and was briefed on how the Jordanian Government is gearing up for business and private sector reforms to support investment.

During a visit to Azraq refugee camp, David met with shop owners who have been able to start up small businesses since camp trading regulations were relaxed as a result of the Syria Conference. He stopped to speak with a group of Azraq's residents who were shopping for food in one of the newly opened shops. He also visited a garment factory and the Al Duleil economic zone in Irbid to see the types of manufacturing businesses that are set to benefit from changes to EU rules of origin. Finally, he met the Jordanian Minister of Education to discuss the plans to get every child in Jordan in education in the 2016/17 school year.

UK works with Gurkhas to increase support to Nepal on World Water Day

On World Water Day (22 March) the UK announced an extra £4.5m to fund water and sanitation in earthquake-affected parts of Nepal.



Picture: Jessica Lea/DFID

The UK is boosting its support to earthquake-affected districts in Nepal by providing an extra £4.5m to fund water sanitation work carried out by Gurkhas, International Development Secretary Justine Greening announced. The funds, allocated to the Gurkha Welfare Trust's Rural Water and Sanitation Programme, will ensure clean, safe water reaches 22,500 people in remote, poor, ex-Gurkha communities in Nepal.

Almost one year on from the devastating earthquakes many of the country's existing water supplies are still damaged, with the central region of Nepal particularly affected. It is estimated that 5.5 million people in Nepal do not have access to adequate and improved water services and 16 million lack acceptable sanitation facilities. The money announced on World Water Day will help to build 120 new water supply systems and deliver 2,850 household and 35 school latrines.

UK funding has helped 46,295 households and 306,495 people from 42 districts to benefit from the provision of safe drinking water, improved hygiene and better sanitation practices. An additional 364 school latrines have been built with full water supply facilities and hygiene-sanitation education has also been delivered in those schools. This increase in funding brings the total provided by the UK (2012-2020) to £18.7m.

Humanitarian principles and law

DFID is updating the UK Humanitarian Policy. The new version will supersede the previous policy, *Saving lives, preventing suffering and building resilience*, published in 2011. There will be similarities between the two policies. For instance, they will retain and reinforce the commitment to rapid, large scale and flexible response to sudden-onset disasters. But DFID will also consider how the world is changing. DFID said:

“Currently there are 125 million people in need of humanitarian aid. Needs are driven by natural and conflict-related events (often a combination of the 2). The occurrence of natural disasters is also increasing, from a global total of 9 in 1902 to 153 in 2015. Conflicts are increasingly protracted, as indicated by aid flows: In 2015 89% of humanitarian funds went to places that had needed aid for more than 3 years. 85% of the DFID’s country- or region-specific humanitarian funding is spent on protracted crises.

“Migration is an increasingly relevant factor, reaching far beyond the immediately affected areas, as the surge of migrants arriving in Europe attests. In 2014, over 60m million people were displaced by conflict while 19.3 million were displaced by natural disasters. In this interconnected world, health crises that in the past, would have affected relatively small, isolated communities, can spread rapidly over great distances and with devastating impact; as demonstrated by the West African Ebola outbreak of 2014-15.

“The aid environment is becoming increasingly complex. In the past, humanitarian assistance was often perceived as a simple flow from rich donor governments to suffering people. We are now seeing an increased involvement of the governments of affected countries, the affected people themselves, and the private sector. This change is broadly welcome but comes with difficulties, particularly in war zones in which the government may be a party to the conflict.

“It has long been recognised that the people affected by crisis must be at the heart of planning, implementation and monitoring. Across the world we see an inspiring growth of local-level civil society, private sector and government partnerships committed to humanitarian action. Yet in 2014 only 0.2% of international humanitarian assistance was channelled directly to local organisations.

“In a complex operating environment and a globally connected world, harmonisation of the efforts of multiple actors is important. Initiatives such as Agenda 2030 and the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016 present opportunities for action that we must embrace.

“What will be the future drivers of humanitarian action and how might we best position ourselves to meet the challenges? The UK’s goal is to remain an influential, innovative and positive agent of change.”

Consultation

In March 2016, DFID consulted on its future humanitarian policy. The consultation is closed. DFID is analysing the responses.

DFID asked:

1. What are the main challenges associated with implementing humanitarian operations on the basis of humanitarian principles and international law? How can the UK best support global efforts to strengthen protection of civilians and increase access to timely and effective humanitarian assistance in situations of armed conflict?
2. International Humanitarian architecture: What are the main reforms that are needed in the organisation, governance and financing of the international humanitarian system? What changes are needed in order to deliver bespoke approaches, driven by the needs of affected people?
3. Risk and resilience: How can the UK further increase its support for efforts to build resilience?

4. Protracted crises: What are the key measures that could be taken to strengthen UK and international approaches to protracted, conflict related crises, including situations of protracted displacement? What is the scope/limitations of efforts to better link humanitarian and developmental approaches in these contexts?

5. UK Humanitarian Response: Does the UK have the correct capabilities to respond to humanitarian emergencies and does it currently provide the right balance between multi-lateral and bilateral support?

6. Other suggestions: Do you have further suggestions for how the UK Government and its partners should respond to humanitarian crisis?

Global humanitarian system:

[Inquiry by the House of Commons International Development Committee](#)

The UK has reacted to the increasing scale of humanitarian needs, more than doubling its bilateral humanitarian aid to £1.1 billion in 2014. However, global requirements remain unmet. Humanitarian agencies have estimated requirements of US\$20.1 billion in 2016 to meet the needs of over 87 million people in 37 countries, an increase on the 2015 requirement which has only been approximately half met.

The International Development Committee is [inquiring into priorities for the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit](#), in particular, focusing on what DFID's priorities should be for next year's Summit, the shortcomings of the global humanitarian assistance funding model and whether responses are sufficiently tailored to vulnerable groups and children.

The Committee began taking oral evidence in March, with sessions including previous secretaries of state and a range of experts.

FCO Human Rights and Democracy Fund

The Foreign Office announced that the Magna Carta Fund for Human Rights and Democracy 2016/17 has doubled to £10.6million - its highest ever level. The Fund (known last year as the Human Rights and Democracy Programme) is the FCO's strategic programme dedicated to the UK's global human rights and democracy work. Through targeted projects overseas it supports the promotion and protection of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. It aims to further British interests by supporting high-impact projects which promote institution-building, target universal issues and the underlying causes of human rights problems.

The increased size of the fund reflects the Government's strong commitment to human rights and will enable the FCO to achieve greater impact across its three core human rights themes:

- Democratic Values and the Rule of Law
- Strengthening the Rules-Based International Order
- Human Rights for a Stable World

These allow British Embassies and High Commissions around the world the flexibility to address the issues that matter most in the local context and to respond to developments.

Welcoming the increase in funding for the Magna Carta Fund for Human Rights and Democracy, Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond said:

"This fund is an important tool for our diplomacy; helping to prevent conflict, strengthening the rule-based international system, and promoting human rights, good governance and the rule of law. Its impact in a wide variety of countries and contexts supports our case that human rights are in the interest of all. Doubling our spending in this area is a clear demonstration of this government's strong commitment to human rights."

Human Rights Minister Baroness Anelay said:

"This programme has a proven track record of delivering real change. It has the potential to be

transformational and I am immensely proud that the funding available to support important human rights projects is more than ever before. By delivering these projects we can show that, without a doubt, human rights work offers solutions to many of the world's worst crises, and can be fundamental to preventing them.

Since 2011 our human rights programme has funded over 300 projects in more than sixty countries worldwide to a value in excess of £20 million. The significant financial uplift to this fund will empower the FCO's global network to work with project implementers to deliver more projects of greater ambition, changing lives and making a real difference.

Over the course of this Parliament the programme aims to amass evidence that human rights provide practical solutions to a wide variety of real-world problems, and are integral to the security and prosperity of all."

The programme strategy and bidding documents are available [here](#).

New official aid rules

An agreement reached on 19 February 2016 means that the rules governing how Official Development Assistance (ODA) can be spent will be updated.

The UK has been at the forefront of work to reform the ODA system which was originally established over 40 years ago. The rule changes will ensure the international community is best placed to fight the underlying causes of poverty and instability in today's world, in line with the UK's Aid Strategy. The changes were agreed at a High Level Meeting of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC), which concluded a 4-year process to update the rules on ODA.

The updates to the ODA rules both recognise the detrimental impact that conflict, fragility and insecurity have on efforts to tackle poverty and reflect the importance of private sector investment for development. The changes mean that:

- official aid can be used to support the military in fragile countries on issues that promote development, such as human rights and the prevention of sexual violence; this means the international community is better equipped to meet Global Goal 16 which calls for the stronger governance in developing countries to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime
- tackling violent extremism is now formally recognised as a development activity; more than 90% of terrorist attacks occur in states with weak governance and poor human rights records
- donors are incentivised to work more with the private sector to boost economic development and create jobs in some of the world's poorest countries.

The core principle of the ODA system remains unchanged. To count as ODA, an activity must support the economic development and welfare of a developing country as its main objective. Full details of the agreement to update the rules are available in the [High Level Meeting communique](#).

UN Statistical Commission agreed indicators for the Global Goals

On Friday 11 March the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) agreed a global indicator framework for the Global Goals. The framework has 241 indicators, which will be used to monitor global progress towards the 17 goals and 169 targets. It includes placeholders for 9 indicators which are still being developed for the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. The framework now needs to be adopted by ECOSOC and the General Assembly. Annex IV of the [IAEG-SDG report](#) lists the global indicators.

Transparency International praised DFID

Backing 'global standard' on transparency

Robert Barrington, Executive Director of Transparency International UK, has written a comment article on the Telegraph's website defending DFID's investment overseas.

'Global standard-setter'

In his article [a corrupt government shouldn't stop us sending aid: it should be our reason for doing so](#), he set out a three point plan to help developing countries escape endemic corruption by becoming more transparent.

Speaking about DFID's commitment to transparency, he wrote:

"Giving people access to easily comparable, understandable and accessible data allows both them and the donors to hold those in power to account. As it happens, the UK's Department for International Development is the global standard-setter in such transparency."

Robert Barrington summed up:

"When people are desperately in need of our help, the answer should never be that because they suffer under a corrupt government, we should fail to help them. And let us remember it is not just altruism. As more and more countries disintegrate and refugees flood into Europe, we are beginning to see the fall-out of propping up corrupt governments and failing to help citizens within their own countries. We need to direct our aid wisely, not to stop it."

Zika: international response

Zika is a mosquito-borne disease transmitted by the daytime biting Aedes mosquito. In most cases Zika causes mild illness, often with no symptoms. In February DFID said that reports of significant numbers of Zika cases in Brazil had coincided with an increase in the number of babies born with microcephaly, a rare condition where a baby is born with a small head. If this combines with poor brain growth, it can lead to physical or developmental disabilities. The World Health

Organisation (WHO) declared the spike in cases of microcephaly and other neurologic disorders a public health emergency of international concern. A causal link between Zika and microcephaly is strongly suspected but not scientifically proven.

36 countries and territories have reported active transmission of the Zika virus. Most are in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the likely patterns of spread to other countries and regions are not yet fully understood. A priority for the international Zika response is to step up surveillance of Zika, microcephaly and other neurological syndromes.

The WHO set up a global response unit and its response strategy addresses:

- Disease surveillance
- Response activities (such as mosquito control, public health messaging, pregnancy guidance and care, and ensuring access to family planning)
- Research and development, especially for vaccines and diagnostics.

The Department of Health is leading the UK Government's response. DFID's response is being led by Beverly Warmington and CHASE, with support from across the department.

The UK is the second largest donor to the WHO and is at the forefront of global efforts to ensure they have the funding, expertise and systems to respond effectively to emerging disease threats. DFID also provided £1m through the Medical Research Council to fund work on Zika epidemiology and diagnostics, and a £400k Newton Fund grant to the University of Glasgow to develop a vaccine. DFID is adapting programmes to focus on Zika where appropriate, including regional disease preparedness programmes with the WHO and the START NGO humanitarian network in Africa, and health sector support in the Caribbean. Activities to support prevention of spread of Zika include strengthening national alert systems, establishing emergency procedures, training health workers, and designing effective communication campaigns.