



**SMIDOS - CYMRU**

## **SMIDOS EYE**



*A bi-monthly quick E-briefing*

Issue date:  
5<sup>th</sup> November 2009

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**FEATURED IN THIS  
EDITION**

**NEW £20million  
funding  
opportunity**

**Feedback on SMIDOS EYE No 2 was very encouraging....  
Please pass on to us your news that others will be interested  
to use.**

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## Funding opportunities

### Common Ground Initiative (DFID with Comic Relief)

A new major UK funding opportunity for SMIDO's and diaspora groups was launched in Wales by the Department for International Development (DfID) and Comic Relief on 29<sup>th</sup> October.

The £20 million fund will be administered by Comic Relief over the next three years, through to 2012.

#### **BE AWARE THAT....**

- Guidance notes on how to apply are not yet available on the Comic Relief website but will be available immediately on the SMIDOS website - [www.smidos.com](http://www.smidos.com) under 'Funding' as soon as they have been received from Comic Relief.
- The application form will not be on the Comic Relief website until 14<sup>th</sup> November but ALL THE QUESTIONS THAT WILL BE ON THE FORM will be on the SMIDOS website [www.smidos.com](http://www.smidos.com) under 'Funding' as soon as they have been received from Comic Relief.
- The first grant cycle open to Welsh Groups has a deadline of **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November** ....just a matter of days! The second deadline is **5<sup>th</sup> March 2010**
- Comic Relief is releasing further papers on the programme soon and these have not yet been forensically examined by SMIDOS and may raise other matters on the grants programme. Please ring SMIDOS for any updates. So far we can answer two questions:

***Q: Will the fund cover capital costs?***

*A: (Received from Comic Relief) ...Capital funding will be approved as long as it is part of a wider a project and does not comprise the majority of the funders requested .....(?)*

***Q Can an organisation apply for a project grant and a level 2 organisational grant?***

*A: (Received from Comic Relief) Yes, an organisation apply for a project and a level 2 organisational development grant in parallel, However the organisation development will not be open for applications until cycle 3 (deadline March 2010).*

## **Purpose of the grant**

Quite simply this is to support small & medium sized International Development Organisations (SMIDO's) and diaspora groups.

## **Criteria to apply**

You must be a registered charity BUT if you wish to apply for a 'enterprise and employment' grant you can be any 'UK registered organisation (however, for-profit organisations must be able to demonstrate how all profits generated from the project are reinvested in the project').

You must have a turnover of less than £1million (However, there is current ambiguity about whether this is over one or two years!)

Diaspora groups can be of any size.

## **Areas of funding**

Comic Relief is inviting all comers to consider applying to one of their existing six grant programmes (see the Comic Relief website) BUT the Common Ground Initiative relates to three additional programmes:

- Primary Health Care
- Primary and Secondary Education
- Enterprise and employment

The six existing Comic Relief Programmes cover: Trade / People affected by HIV & AIDS / People affected by conflict / Street and working children and young people / People living in urban slums / and Women & Girls. Information on all six is currently on the Comic Relief website.

## **Types of grant**

There are three types of grant offered:

- Research, consultation and planning (up to £25,000)
- Projects (Likely to be less than £200k over three years)
- Organisational Development (See below)

## **Organisational Grant added criteria**

These are only available to applicants who are 'seeking or already in receipt of a project grant'.

An organisational grant can be made 'alongside' or as a 'stand alone' application for a group in receipt of a project grant.

It seems that these grants are a 'top up' grants offering '...a package of support to strengthen small and Diaspora organisations in the UK'.

### **Organisational Development Grant 'levels'**

If you apply for an organisational grant it will need to be on one of two 'levels':

Level 1. This will cover a) 'organisational mentoring' or support consultancy, and/or b) organisational development training.

Total available is £7,000 over 18 months.

Level 2. For those 'already in receipt of a comic relief grant' with a clear organisational development plan - organisational mentors valued at up to £40,000 over 3 years. (There are numerous caveats and exclusions here). **NOT OPEN UNTIL MARCH 2010 (CYCLE 3).**

### **What will NOT be funded**

The fund will not fund .."*work which is the primary responsibility of government, namely building and resourcing schools, and paying salaries and other related costs for key workers such as health workers and teachers*".

### **Funding Process**

The funding process for the Common Ground Initiative is the same as that for the usual six existing Comic Relief Programme. Regrettably the first stage is VERY DETAILED and COMPLEX and requires considerable ability to craft responses. SMIDOS will provide support as best it can given the tight deadlines. In addition, the decision process is LONG (up to 9 months).

### **SMIDOS ADVICE**

1. Apply sooner rather than later. There is a General Election in May 2010 and strategies and budgets may change.
2. The ' thematic focus' of the grants programme makes it quite difficult to identify what sort of application might be successful given what will not be funded. Craft your bid very carefully to meet the criteria before starting to write your application.
3. Watch out for the fact that the target groups for each ' thematic focus' are:

Primary health care: Children under five and pregnant women.

Primary & Secondary Education: Girls, disabled children, children affected by HIV Aids, and other marginalised groups.

Enterprise and Employment: Entrepreneurs, small businesses, and producer organisations.

Please let SMIDOS know if you are applying to Common Ground so that we can share information and keep track of information coming from DFID and Comic Relief and ensure that it is widely available.

## **SMIDOS and USA funding**

Following a suggestion from Bees for Development SMIDOS is seeking funding to take out membership with a large US database giving information on funding opportunities for work in sub Saharan Africa..

## **WCVA Grant finder**

If you are looking for funding for your organisation or project, WCVA can carry out a funding search for its members on Grantfinder. Contact the Helpdesk on 0800 2888 329, [help@wcva.org.uk](mailto:help@wcva.org.uk).

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## **Free consultancy advice**

SMIDOS provides direct consultancy advice on operational and governance matters. This can be short term or working over an extended period. To request this free service, contact SMIDOS at [enquiries@smidos.com](mailto:enquiries@smidos.com).

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## **Conferences**

### **Network of Development researchers & Women4Resources**

## **Women & Development in Sub-Saharan Africa**

Thursday November 26<sup>th</sup> 2009

10.30 am to 4.30 p.m.

**Swansea Grant Theatre, Singleton St.,**

To book contact [women4resources@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:women4resources@hotmail.co.uk) or ring 07974 652176

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## **SMIDOS DIALOGUE DAY 2010**

# Improving the quality and impact of international development

Saturday February 20th

10.30 am to 4.30 p.m.

**Venue to be announced**

The first SMIDOS Dialogue Day in 2010 will be the biggest so far. It will cover a number of themes, including;

- The role and contribution to international development of diaspora groups in Wales.
- The role and contribution women to development in Sib Saharan Africa.
- The future for enhanced civil society in Wales to contribute to international development
- Income generation in hard times

**BOOK NOW.....BOOK NOW.....BOOK NOW**

## WCVA Annual Conference & AGM

# The first step in the hardest – climate change for non-greens

3<sup>rd</sup> December

10.30 am to 4.30 p.m.

**Venue Cymru, Llandudno**

This year's annual conference is on the theme of Climate Change. It is aimed at all kinds of third sector organisations, particularly those who have not yet engaged with the climate change agenda, as a successful response to climate change requires action by everyone. The conference programme and booking form is now available; if you are a WCVA member you may have received this information direct, information can also be found on WCVA's website and from the Helpdesk.

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[Learning opportunities](#)

## Training sessions just for your Board

Any day, any place, any where!

SMIDOS provides free sessions for your Board, wherever it meets, on:

- Good governance
- Charity Registration
- Devising a fundraising strategy
- Applying to Trusts
- Getting to know the International Development Sector in Wales

## Community Action for Climate Change Networks

The Community Action for Climate Change Networks, which are a Welsh Assembly Government initiative, are running a second series of FREE events during November 2009. In order to meet your local need to take action on climate change the events will offer an opportunity to:

- Network with others from community groups, from small businesses, from local authorities and others;
- build on the learning gained at the Sustainable Behaviour change workshop that many of you attended on 15 September in Gregynog, Newtown;
- develop local action plans; and
- identify future training and development requirements.

Each event will have a slightly different focus for developing action plans and you are welcomed to come along to your local Network and /or whichever location suits your needs best.

**Newport - November 12** - will explore action planning on a large scale

**Llangollen - November 18** - will focus on a joint understanding of good practice for small and medium enterprises and community action

**Aberystwyth - November 26** - will use live examples from three different community groups that are currently planning local action

For more information and an event booking form contact: [scishop2@glam.ac.uk](mailto:scishop2@glam.ac.uk)

## Oxfam Climate Hearings

*Bringing the voices of those most affected by climate change direct to decision makers around the world*

**Aberystwyth:** 11 Nov, 7pm, Council Chamber of National Library  
*Speakers include: **George Monbiot***

**Cardiff:** 16 Nov, 7pm - Ferrier Hall, Cardiff City Hall  
*Speakers include: **Charles Abani**, Oxfam Regional Director for Southern Africa*

**Anglesey/Ynys Mon:** 19 Nov, 7pm - Oriel Ynys Mon, Llangefni  
*Speakers include: **Martha Musonza Holman**, Zimbabwe*

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## News from across Wales and the world!



### Congratulations to Hilary!

Hilary Thomas of PONT is one of 52 ‘Green Heroes’ revealed by Cynnal Cymru – Sustain Wales. She is a leading member of PONT which has trained over 500 health workers and distributed over 10,000 mosquito nets, raised funds to supply a community with water, repaired hospital equipment, distributed 450 goats and directly twinned 46 schools in Uganda to schools in Wales.

### World Bank seeks out good practice

The World Bank is preparing a study focusing on **African success stories** to promote replication and learn the lessons of projects that work. We have put together a preliminary list of development successes and need your opinion of what should be added, modified, or deleted.

The link to the preliminary list of successful initiatives is below. Please, tell SMIDOS what you think.

<http://blogs.worldbank.org/african/african-successes>

### Another Reason why aid to Africa must increase

Given its massive development deficits and the effects of the global economic crisis, many observers are calling for increased aid to Africa. Most of these appeals are based on Africa’s need for more resources. But there is a different argument.

***Aid to Africa is today as productive as it has ever been.***

Craig Burnside and David Dollar identified a group of policies (including fiscal stability and low trade barriers) that strengthened the link between foreign aid and per capita income growth. These are the very policies that African governments have been improving over the past decade.

Even after the onset of the global economic crisis, and despite the fears that these policies may be reversed, African governments have by and large been continuing to pursue prudent economic policies and, in some cases, even accelerating reforms.

In short, the policy environment to make aid productive in Africa has never been better.

To be sure, the Burnside-Dollar paper, like most seminal papers, has come under some criticism, mainly for its neglect of factors other than policy that make aid productive. One of those factors, championed by Hansen and Tarp, and elaborated on by Guillaumont and Chauvet, points out that, independently of the policy environment, aid is productive when countries have suffered a negative shock.

But this is what African countries have suffered in the recent past. So whether it' s because the policy environment has continued to improve, or because of adverse external shocks, there is a strong case that aid to Africa should increase because it is productive.

Shanta Devarajan, the Chief Economist of the Africa Region at the World Bank.

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## Research

### **Regeneration Skills Collective, Wales (rscw4africa) produces a *Wales for Africa* Initiative and Action Plan.**

This interesting report is based on 73 responses to an electronic questionnaire and produces a variety of recommendations for year one of an action plan - see below. Well worth a read. Further information and a copy of the report can be secured from Roisin Willmot ([roisinwillmott@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:roisinwillmott@rtpi.org.uk))

- Set up *rscw4africa* committee, at least four committee meetings planned
- Support RTPi Cymru international workshop
- Design website, ask institute support to set up website, publicise through RSCW institutes/institutions
- Publicise *rscw4africa* to Gold Star Communities, and other community partnerships
- Meet with Dolen Cymru to agree potential *rscw4africa* input to design of training and conference centre
- Meeting with NDR Committee to agree Seminar in Feb/March 2009
- Run NDR seminar Feb/March 2009
- Develop links with Commonwealth Association of Planners, Africa-UK Engineering Partnership for Development
- Explore potential for extending ILO programme to institutions in Wales
- Identify potential funding streams; preparation of ideas for grant submissions

## Money Transfer & Container Freight

SMIDOS is undertaking research into the costs of Money transfers and Container freight. An initial questionnaire is to be followed up by a more extensive one which was found to be necessary.

## Anti-malaria drugs

SMIDOS is seeking information on the costs attached to anti-malaria drugs required by those travelling to sub-Saharan Africa. The breadth of cost is considerable, and SMIDOS aims to publish where these drugs can be most cheaply acquired.

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## A good read

**"Aid and other Dirty Business."** by Giles Bolton, published by Ebury Press.

Giles Bolton is a former DfID employee who has worked in London, Kenya and Rwanda. His book is an interesting account of how he became involved in Africa and his views on the problems and future of Aid. The majority of his views I suspect we would all agree with. However, there is a major disquieting flaw in his thinking and he expresses in Chapter 5. He writes: *"The ideal, for what it's worth, would probably be a small number of much bigger charities that use their expertise to fund smaller African organisations for specific projects - which is the approach some of the best, more established charities already take."* Over the page he gives advice to those thinking of donating to a charity; *"Is it a large, well-established charity? If it is - like the Red Cross, Oxfam, Save the Children and many others - there is a pretty good chance they have sound expertise and implement reasonable lesson - learning, monitoring and evaluation processes. (There are several excellent smaller charities out there, but unless you have time to research them, you are better off giving your cash to established names.)"*

Views such as these are ill informed, at best patronising and at worst dismissive of small and medium sized international development organisations, and represent a mindset that SMIDOS is campaigning to change.

Review by Gerald Rowden for SMIDOS

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## SMIDOS *EYE*

The third edition of SMIDOS EYE will be circulated on November 10<sup>th</sup> 2009. Deadline for event information and comments is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2010

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If you would like information on events or activities included in this regular briefing then please send us copy in good time to SMIDOS at [enquiries@smidos.com](mailto:enquiries@smidos.com)

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