



**SMIDOS - CYMRU**

## **SMIDOS EYE**



*A bi-monthly quick E-briefing*

Issue date:  
15<sup>th</sup> May 2010

## Contents

[Editorial](#)  
[Funding Opportunities](#)  
[Free Consultancy Advice](#)  
[Conferences & Events](#)  
[Learning Opportunities](#)  
[News from across Wales](#)  
[Consultations](#)  
[Research](#)  
[A good read](#)  
[Useful tip](#)  
[SMIDOS Eye next issue deadline](#)



**Feedback on SMIDOS EYE No 3 was very encouraging.... Please pass on to us your news that others will be interested to use.**

## Editorial

The international development community in Wales can be seen as divided into two quite separate but connected parts, 'lobes' if you find the analogy of the brain useful.

The first is comprised of all the active links and registered charities that are energised and activated to deliver their programmes in sub-Saharan Africa and here in Wales. The everyday concerns for these initiatives are to mobilise volunteers, raise funds, work effectively with southern partners, and deliver schemes that are of real practical help on the ground in Africa.

The second lobe is made up of a small number of individuals and groups that see it as equally critical that international development groups based in Wales get the information, acquire the knowledge to secure funding for their work, and ensure that it as effective as it can be . This means spending time talking with policy makers and funders, arranging websites and training, and producing circulars like SMIDOS EYE!

At the moment both 'lobes' are working 'flat out' but each needs to be connected to the other to enable both to succeed. Active groups need to say what they require to be successful. Those concerned to orchestrate support services and 'capacity building' must listen to what is required and deliver it.

The recent Summit was designed to make the links between both lobes stronger and to produce a mind-map for future joined up working. Will it work? If it does it will be because the benefits are very obvious and worth holding on to and strengthening in future years.

## General election and International Development

### **MPs BACK 0.7% TARGET FOR UK AID BUT WARN IT PUTS POVERTY FOCUS AT RISK**

A Report published by the International Development Select Committee argues that the UK's commitment to spend 0.7% of national income as Official Development Assistance (ODA) by 2013 must be met whichever party wins the General Election and whether or not legislation is taken forward to enshrine the target in law.

The MPs also warned that any diversion of aid spending to ministries other than the Department for International Development could undermine the UK's commitment to giving priority to reducing poverty in the poorest countries.

The Report examines the draft International Development (Official Development Assistance Target) Bill, published by the Government in January. If enacted, the Bill would make it a legislative requirement for the UK Government to allocate 0.7% of Gross National Income to aid expenditure from 2013 and in each subsequent year.

The UK made the commitment to meet this longstanding UN target in 2004, ahead of the EU, marking it out as a leader in international development. The Report argues that the UK must maintain and build on this reputation by ensuring it reaches 0.7% by 2013. However, it does not believe that making the target a legal obligation will necessarily be enough to galvanise other countries to honour their own commitments, especially those suffering the worst effects of the recession.

The Chairman of the Committee, **Rt Hon Malcolm Bruce MP, said:**

**The UK will provide at least 0.56% of national income as ODA this year. It has maintained its progress towards the 0.7% target in spite of the difficult economic situation. The forthcoming UN summit on progress towards the Millennium Development Goals in September 2010 is an important moment for donors to renew their aid commitments - some have already fallen short. We understand that countries often fail to meet their aid commitments because of political and economic circumstances unrelated to the acknowledged need for aid. The UK has made clear that, even in difficult economic times, aid promises must be kept.**

The Department for International Development (DFID) has tighter rules about what can be classified as aid expenditure than those applied internationally. The 2002 International Development Act requires spending by the Department to be devoted entirely to poverty reduction. However, not all funding classified as aid is spent by DFID. The Report warns that the requirement to meet the target for larger amounts of aid may create the temptation to spend more aid through other government departments on projects which do not have poverty reduction as their primary objective. **The Chairman said:**

**The draft Bill does not propose any changes to the 2002 International Development Act. However, there is a danger that, as aid levels increase over the next few years to meet the agreed 0.7% target, more ODA will be spent through other government**

departments, for example to respond to climate change or security threats. We are concerned that this will reduce the impact of UK aid on poverty reduction. The Government should make the process more transparent by providing more detail in its annual reports about which government departments spent aid money and what it was spent on. We also think the Government should explore the possibility of making all bilateral ODA subject to the 2002 International Development Act.

The Report concluded that the measures in the draft Bill aimed at holding the Government to account on the 0.7% target were too weak. In particular, the Bill allows the Government to cite “economic, fiscal or external circumstances” as possible reasons for not meeting the target. The Committee believes that the Bill should not try to pre-empt or legitimise failure by including a list of acceptable reasons for missing the target. The words should be omitted from any future legislation. Instead, if the target were to be missed in one year, the Government should publish an action plan which clearly sets out how it will be met the following year.

DFID also needs to improve the way it informs taxpayers about the benefits which development expenditure brings to poor countries to help maintain public support for aid. However, the draft Bill made no attempt to set out the tangible improvements which increased aid expenditure might bring in areas such as health and education in developing countries. **The Chairman said:**

**Maintaining public support for aid is vital, especially during periods of economic downturn, when there are many pressures to reduce public expenditure. A detailed assessment of the likely impact of the aid target should have accompanied the draft Bill. This would have contributed to an informed public debate.**

**Committee Membership is as follows:** Malcolm Bruce MP (Chairman, Lib Dem), John Battle MP (Lab), Hugh Bayley MP (Lab), Richard Burden MP (Lab), Mr Nigel Evans MP (Con), Mr Mark Hendrick MP (Lab/Co-op), Daniel Kawczynski MP (Con), Mr Mark Lancaster MP (Con), Mr Virendra Sharma (Lab), Mr Marsha Singh MP (Lab), Andrew Stunell MP (Lib Dem).

## 2010 International Development Fair – Book your stall now



Just one way to raise income and to make contacts is to be at the SMIDOS annual Summer Fair. Attendance is free and the last Fair was on the hottest day of the year! Book you space NOW! [enquiries@smidos.com](mailto:enquiries@smidos.com)

SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup> July 2010 12 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
At 35 Plymouth Road, Penarth CF64 3DA

Refreshments – African Music – Stalls – Free Entrance

---

## Funding opportunities

### Overseas volunteering support

The Platform 2 'fully funded' overseas volunteering for young people programme enables young adults aged 18 – 25 from across the UK to have a 'once in a lifetime' opportunity to travel to a developing country with a 'fully funded' volunteering project. 2010 is the last year for this project. The deadline is June 14<sup>th</sup> for October.

### 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).

---

## 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).

---

## Conferences & Events through to July 2010

*Not including Training Courses*

May	
14 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup>	Dolen Cymru Lesotho week
17 <sup>th</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Wales Sustainability week
24 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup>	Wales Africa Community Links Network Roadshow Conferences
	24 <sup>th</sup> Rhyl
	25 <sup>th</sup> Newtown
	26 <sup>th</sup> Swansea
	27 <sup>th</sup> Pembroke
	28 <sup>th</sup> Newport
27 <sup>th</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Hay Festival
June	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Wales Africa Community Links event at Hay Festival

11<sup>th</sup> Wales Africa Community Links grant deadline

11<sup>th</sup> – July 11<sup>th</sup> World Cup in South Africa

July

6<sup>th</sup> Wales Africa Health Links Conference at SWALEC Stadium

11<sup>th</sup> SMIDOS International Fair – Penarth

---

## Learning opportunities

### SMIDOS 2010 - 2011 Training Programme

**Saturday June 19th** Project management & employing staff in Sub Saharan countries

**Saturday July 24th** Fundraising for international development organisations

**Saturday August 28th** DfiD funding programmes - the inside story

**Saturday September 25th** Easy and affective techniques to monitor and evaluate your project

All Training sessions are held at 9 Cathedral Road, Cardiff between 10.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. There is a maximum session size of 25 people so please book early. All sessions are free. A light lunch is provided.

Further details on all training sessions will be circulated to all SMIDOS contacts

### 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
-

## **INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT 2010**

**SMIDOS 'SUMMIT REPORT' is due out for consultation at the end of May. The international development sector will be asked to add further recommendations to those in the Summit Report.**

The Summit held in early March attracted over 350 delegates to the Mercure Holland House Hotel in Cardiff. Dialogues on ten key topics took place each with a panel of experts present to inform and guide the discussion.

David May, Chairman of SMIDOS, said "*It was a wonderful illustration of the level of interest and involvement in international development in Wales and the extensive opportunities that still exist for wider joint working and the strengthening of the quality of effort. The value of the Summit will depend not just on the great success of the day but what fruits emerge as a result.*"

The areas covered by the Summit were:

- The Contribution of Welsh Diaspora Groups
- Understanding the impact of climate change
- Resource Regeneration in Hard Times
- Good practice, poor practice, and knowing the difference
- The role of women in international development
- Involving communities
- Building support for development through education and awareness training.
- Improving health care in Africa
- Fairtrade – progress & challenges

## **SMIDOS requests bi-annual meetings with DfID**

SMIDOS has written formally to DfID requesting bi-annual meetings to ensure that the interests of Welsh international development organizations is appreciated and to agree a way of monitoring the success of Welsh bids to DfID funding programmes. No discussions will take place until after the General election.

## **'Wales for Africa' 2010/2011 grants programme yet to be finalised**

The Wales for Africa grants programme has yet to be finalized for 2010 / 2011 following extended discussions on the attainment targets for some beneficiaries. When the complete list is available it will be published in SMIDOS EYE.

## **PONT secure climate change funds**

**PONT & Umbale in Uganda secure £225,000 climate change funding. (DFID £100,000 / Wales for Africa £75,000 / Waterloo Foundation £50,000)**

At Copenhagen Welsh First Minister Carwyn Jones announced a new deal between the Welsh Assembly Government and the Mbale region of Uganda to help prepare the area for the impacts of climate change.

The Mbale Territorial Approach to Climate Change project is a three-year partnership between Wales, the Mbale region of Uganda and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The UNDP runs the UN's global development work across 166 countries. The Wales/Mbale partnership is one of five pilot projects which link regions in the developed world with those in the developing world.

The project will help Mbale both understand what Climate Change means for them and help them plan the actions to enable them to cope.

## **COP OUT at COPENHAGEN leads to very little**

Few will now remember the shambles of negotiations on Climate Change at Copenhagen just a few months ago. The weakest of deals emerged and everyone returned home to lick their wounds. It was agreed that countries would submit new proposals to the UN but there is no prospect whatever that a united approach will be in place by November when everyone reconvenes in Mexico.

Most importantly, nothing has moved forward in support of the inhabitants of Sub Saharan countries where the impact of climate change is plain to see. In effect those on the 'front line' are again being failed.

In Wales the impact has been to strand work with the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD) which the Welsh Assembly Government Chairs and has been driving forward. The future is unclear for any international development organizations wishing to address climate change with southern partners.

## **Wales / England / Scotland and Northern Ireland international umbrella group to meet**

A number of key international development 'umbrella groups' in the UK have met in the past to discuss matters of mutual interest. These are BOND (England), CADA (Northern Ireland), NIDOS (Scotland) and now they are joined by SMIDOS from Wales.

None of these bodies is 'representative' of the international development sectors in their respective regions, although some may be claimed to be more so than others. Although SMIDOS is explicitly not a representative body in Wales it is attending meetings in order to disseminate valuable information through SMIDOS EYE and on its website. When SMIDOS cannot attend an OXFAM Cymru representative will do so in its place. The next meeting is planned for early May in Belfast.

WCVA will provide an annual grant of £4,000 to SMIDOS to undertake this responsibility and to represent the international development sector on the Third Sector Partnership Council which meets four times a year.

## Greening Europe's Economy

The themes of energy, the economy and climate change are brought together in a new report from **Eurofound**, *Greening the European economy: Responses and initiatives by Member States and social partners*. The findings of the report reflect the extent to which environmental concerns have become a key element of policymaking and illustrate the consensus that exists between trade unions, employers and governments regarding the importance of the 'green agenda'.

The report shows that across Europe, national governments and the social partners are keen to maximise the job creation potential of this new area, and stimulate economic recovery, reduce carbon dioxide emissions as well as develop alternative energy sources. However, the report goes on to point out that the 'green economy' is not a short-term, quick-fix solution that will help countries emerge rapidly from the economic crisis. Changing Europe's energy infrastructure and limiting carbon emissions while simultaneously maintaining competitiveness and ensuring that workers skills remain up to date will need careful long-term planning.

## Sub Sahara Advisory Panel (SSAP) launched

SAPP was established in late 2009 as a result of a growing belief that diaspora individuals and groups from Sub Sahara Africa have a great deal of insight and knowledge on living and working in Africa which would be helpful to Welsh international development initiatives.

The Sub Sahara perspective is often absent in policy making, the crafting of grants programmes, and the practical delivery of initiatives. As a result many problems are encountered that might otherwise be avoided or easily solved, and the quality and impact of schemes are less than they might otherwise be.

SAPP has adopted clear objectives:

- To provide insight, knowledge and experience on Sub Sahara Africa to international development groups.
- To add value to international development monitoring and evaluation principles and practices.
- To encourage the adoption of strategies and actions that deliver real; and measurable benefits in Sub Saharan Africa.
- To recommend and comment upon government and civil society policies and practices.
- To critique and improve the funding focus, criteria and processes of funding bodies.
- To provide a 'reality check' on all aspects of intended and delivered programmes of work in Sub Sahara Africa.
- To address matter of injustice, poor governance and corruption that compromise effective international development
- To support the establishment and growth of strong community cohesion among diaspora groups in Wales.
- To provide information and intelligence to diaspora groups.

SAPP is not a representative group and is not designed to represent diaspora communities. It is comprised of likeminded individuals from Sub Sahara countries who are interested in international development. Membership of the Panel is by invitation.

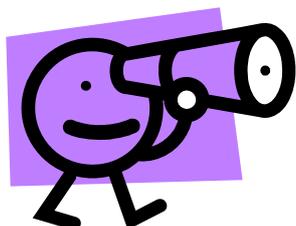
At present the Panel is undertaking a skills audit among its members in order to appreciate the knowledge and skills it commands. Subsequently SAPP will be offering up collective views and appointing members to undertake SAPP assignments and to respond to requests for help. SAPP will consider all such requests carefully and agree the parameters of SAPP involvement and in so doing guarantee the quality and relevance of its contribution.

Although originating in Wales and based in Wales SAPP has already attracted members from all UK Regions and intends to work across the UK if invited.

## Health Centre in Tanzania seeks partners

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Annecy in Morogoro Tanzania are seeking to work with interested clinicians in the provision of health care. For further information contact Victoria Evans at Public Health Wales (Victoria.Evans2@wales.nhs.uk).

## SMIDOS OBSERVATORY launched



SMIDOS is very concerned that Wales should apply for and secure its 'fair share' of funding from UK funding programmes. However, this relies on knowing about submitted bids and what has been approved or rejected. **Please inform SMIDOS of your applications.**

In addition, it is worthless for SMIDOS to argue for a more equitable distribution of funds to Wales if the quality of applications from Wales is really poor. Accordingly, **please use SMIDOS to provide you with a critique of your bid before you submit it** – if you would find this helpful, and/or **copy your bid to SMIDOS** so that we can better understand the quality of bids and what needs to be in place to improve them.

SMIDOS aims to analyse the pattern of grant giving to Welsh international development organizations on a regular basis.

## Former NHS Wales Medical Uniforms available

International Development organisations in Wales with the capacity to efficiently distribute former NHS Wales medical uniforms to recognised medical institutions and projects in Sub Saharan Africa are invited to contact SMIDOS. Shipments to any one location will consist of not less than 12,000 uniforms in a 20foot container. Shipments will commence in May 2010. No

freight costs will be incurred. Costs of distribution from the point of container delivery will be the responsibility of the distributing organisation.

---

## Research

### **Money Transfer & Container Freight**

SMIDOS is undertaking research into the costs of Money transfers and Container freight. An initial questionnaire circulated in 2009 is to be followed up by a more extensive one in early June 2010.

### **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. Information on best-buys are requested.

---

## SMIDOS *EYE*

The fifth 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> May 2010](#)

---

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)

### Disclaimer

Inclusion of third party information in this briefing does not constitute an endorsement by SMIDOS. SMIDOS takes no responsibility for the quality of third party events, products or services featured in this briefing. Whilst every care is taken to provide accurate information, neither SMIDOS nor the editor undertakes any liability for any error or omission. SMIDOS is not responsible for the content of external internet sites. If you wish to be deleted from this mailing list, please email [enquiries@smidos.com](mailto:enquiries@smidos.com).