

Fake Aid

How foreign aid is being used to support the self-serving political activities of NGOs

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Executive Summary

The Department for International Development (DfID) claims to be “leading the UK government’s fight against world poverty.”¹ However, increasing amounts of DfID funds are channelled through non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to fund lobbying activities, marketing, and the promotion of political ideology, often within the UK

In 2008–09 DfID² spent £140 million on “communications” activities by NGOs whose primary focus is often not the delivery of aid. Spending on such communications has rocketed in recent years: starting with an initial budget just under £38 million in 2000–01, the total cost of these programmes will reach £1.1 billion by 2010–11. (see Fig. 1, Table 1)

DfID funds various well-known NGOs – including Oxfam, VSO, and ActionAid – for vague-sounding activities such as “awareness”, “promotion”, and “advocacy.” The programme that funds these activities has spent over £600 million to date. Most of these grants are not provided by an open tendering system but are instead supplied to NGOs that have very close relationships with government. New applications are currently not allowed, so this elite band of NGOs has enjoyed sole access to the increasing funding. (See Section 1)

When representatives of NGOs engage in public debate they are typically represented as independent and altruistic. Yet, as we document, many are subject to political influence exerted by DfID through its funding schemes. (See Section 1.2)

Many DfID grants are blatantly self-serving. For example, it spends annually in excess of £13 million through the Development Awareness Fund, which finances UK-based activities to promote “awareness” of aid, with the aim of creating public support for DfID’s activities.

Rather than improving the lives of people in poor countries, these programmes smack of propaganda. Worryingly, most are targeted at school-age children. (See Section 3)

To put this in context, the World Health Organization estimates that every thirty seconds a child dies from malaria, mainly in Africa.³ It is possible to provide high quality malaria treatment to an African patient for just \$1 (about 60 pence). DfID’s publicity budget for this year alone is therefore equivalent to around 230 million malaria treatments.⁴

DfID has openly funded groups for which “international development is not their main focus.” (See Section 4)

Some DfID grant recipients have blatant domestic political agendas. For example:

- The Trades Union Congress (TUC) has received DfID grants worth over £1.2 million since 2003. Funding covered lobbying activities, new staff for their European Union and International Relations Department, and a party to celebrate “International Women’s Day”, featuring “Caribbean food and musical theme.” DfID also paid the TUC to hold lessons in how to apply for even more DfID funds. (See Section 4)
- Under one programme, DfID granted the maximum amount, £300,000, to the National Union of Teachers (NUT) to “enable them [teachers] to become global agents of change” through greater involvement with development issues. The project intends that teachers can then become involved in “central and local government department policy debates.” (See Section 3)

Many DfID grants are unrestricted, and accountability mechanisms and performance measurement have been

classed as poor by the National Audit Office.⁵ (See Section 1.3) For example:

- In 2003 DfID founded a registered charity named Connections for Development to “provide a forum for BME [black and ethnic minority] voluntary and community sector organisations and communities on issues relating to international development.” Over £600,000 was paid into the NGO in its first two years, although an independent audit concluded: “there is a lack of clarity over the purpose of the organisation.” (See Section 4.1)

When DfID funds are bundled together with money for aid work in the field, it is impossible to know precisely how the money is spent by recipient organisations or how much is spent on aid delivery rather than advocacy and public relations. We have documented many examples of publicly-funded aid work showing a strong ideological bias. (See Section 2.2)

The theory behind these programmes, known as the “rights-based approach” (See Introduction) underlies DfID’s entire budget of £6 billion. This report concentrates on just four DfID programmes but it is likely that the same arrant thinking about development, as well as other errors of judgement, are repeated throughout other activities and funding mechanisms.

Introduction

Foreign aid became a component of UK government in the 1960s, with the formation of the Ministry of Overseas Development. Responsibility for foreign aid has fluctuated as different governments have formed and scrapped ministerial departments. The latest incarnation is the Department for International Development (DfID), which was formed in 1997 by the incoming Labour administration. The Conservatives have promised to continue to support DfID should they come to power.⁶

Since the 1960s, more than \$1.8 trillion has been transferred from richer to poorer countries in the name of foreign aid.⁷

Pressure groups and celebrity campaigners argue that rich countries still give too little aid and demand that governments meet an arbitrary target of 0.7 per cent of GDP set by the United Nations in 1970.⁸ The Conservative Party in the UK has made a commitment to increase DfID's budget to match this target.⁹

The original justification for foreign aid was the “gap theory”, according to which poor countries lacked capital for investment, because of insufficient savings, and so could not grow. The idea was that this investment (or savings) “gap” would be filled with capital transfers from rich countries.

For several decades a fierce debate has raged over the effectiveness of aid. Without seeking to rehearse the arguments in that debate, it is clear that trends in thinking about aid have impacted on the way it is disbursed.

In the 1980s, the World Bank and IMF promoted “structural adjustment”, the objective of which was to encourage governments of poor countries to adopt sound monetary and fiscal policies. This was superseded in the 1990s by different kinds of “conditionality.” Then,

in the late 1990s, many aid organisations shifted to what they described as a “rights-based approach” to development. This approach has been explicitly adopted by DfID.

DfID's website states that its beginning marked a “turning point” at which the UK government's approach moved away from the original intention of foreign aid (to create economic development in poor countries).¹⁰ Instead, the department began emphasising the promotion of people's “rights” to demand services from governments.

By 2000, the “rights-based approach” was instituted and DfID began to argue that poverty is “about more than lack of income.”¹¹ At the same time, DfID began funding NGOs to disseminate such messages, to participate in

Figure 1 **Increase in DfID's communications budget since 2000¹³**

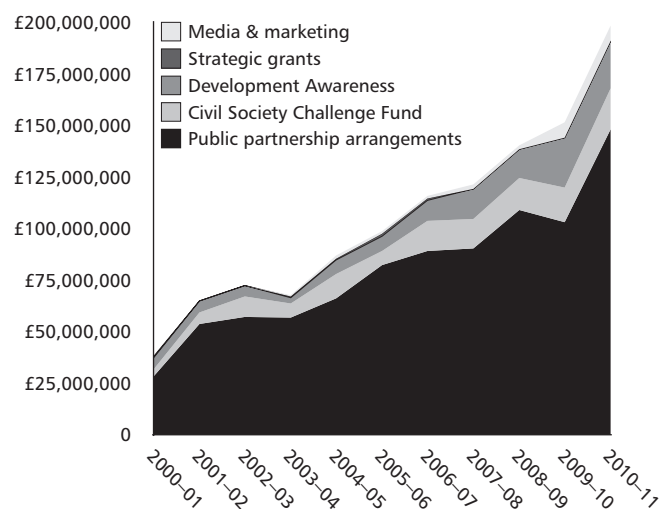


Table 1 DfID's "communications" programmes¹⁴

	<i>Taxpayer funding (£ millions)</i>			
	<i>2000–01</i>	<i>2008–09</i>	<i>2010–11 (planned)</i>	<i>2000–11 total</i>
Partnership Programme Arrangements (“unrestricted” funding for aid, policy making, lobbying)	28.25	108.91	148.00	883.63
Civil Society Challenge Fund (promoting rights and political activities abroad)	3.40	15.75	20.00	126.52
Development Awareness (promoting “awareness” of development in the UK)	5.58	13.71	23.00	117.97
Strategic Grants¹⁵ (funding of groups whose main activity is not development)	0.54	0.06 ¹⁶	0.00	3.96
Media & marketing	0.00	1.97	7.60	23.94
Total DFID “communications” budget	37.77	140.40	198.60	1,156.03
Percentage increase		271.72%	425.81%	

the formulation of public policy alongside civil servants and elected politicians, and to promote DfID's work among the British public, to which end it devoted part of its budget to “communications.”

The funds are dispersed through four main programmes:¹²

- Partnership Programme Arrangements
- Civil Society Challenge Fund
- Development Awareness
- Strategic Grants

The budget for these programmes currently stands at £140 million for 2008–09 and is projected to increase to over £150 million next year, and £198 million the year after that. The increases in these budgets are depicted in Figure 1 and Table 1.

This paper analyses these four DfID programmes and the grants they award NGOs.¹⁷ We question whether this is a sensible use of resources, and if the lives of the poor are enhanced by such projects.

Partnership Programme Arrangements

The Partnership Programme Arrangements (PPAs)¹⁸ provide unrestricted funding to large UK-based NGOs. The mechanism was started in 2000–01, with DfID handpicking the original set of 10 recipients. Only eight out of the 27 NGOs currently partaking in the programme have been assigned funding through accountable tendering procedures, while the majority were simply hand-picked by DfID.¹⁹

Since 2005, DfID has offered no new call for tenders and the programme has been closed to new applicants,²⁰ leaving the few admitted NGOs to benefit from considerable budget increases. However, even greater budget expansion is planned (the PPAs' budget is expected to increase by £40 million by 2011)²¹ with DfID looking for "at least five" new UK-based recipients.²²

The PPA has paid a total of £632.63 million to its small band of recipient NGOs since 2000. Table 2 below shows the organisations that currently have a PPA with DfID, how long it has been running, and its value for the current period. In bold are the original ten organisations that were hand-picked by DfID upon the founding of the PPA system in 2000–01.

DfID states that NGOs seeking funding must offer "significant engagement in DfID policy formulation."²³ This raises questions regarding the politicisation of aid funding, the autonomy of these supposedly nongovernmental organisations, and the prioritisation of aid delivery by these NGOs.

1.1 Advocacy and Politicisation

While the promotion of advocacy would appear to be a natural outcome of DfID's shift towards a 'rights-based approach' to development, DfID itself has become critical of some PPA recipients deemed to have made excessive moves towards advocacy and political activities, and away from humanitarian service delivery. One example concerns Oxfam, who is receiving £27.8 million as a result of its most recent PPA.²⁴ A DfID report on the PPA with Oxfam states:

"The majority of NGOs receiving money were simply handpicked by DfID."

*"There are however concerns that have recently emerged across DfID about their [Oxfam's] apparent prioritising of advocacy over humanitarian delivery, and a sense of compromised focus and performance in some of their operations... There has been specific criticism of Oxfam's management, budgeting and implementation of its humanitarian work."*²⁵

However, this outcome was perhaps inevitable given that Oxfam's PPA for 2002 commits the organisation to using "public policy development and advocacy" to achieve its aims.²⁶ Furthermore, other documents show DfID actively encouraging Oxfam's specialisation in these areas:

*"DfID fully endorses what Oxfam see as their strengths in working on trade policy / influencing."*²⁷

The politicisation of NGOs' work is even less surprising given the close relationships they have fostered with government as a consequence of the PPAs. All PPA recipients must provide DfID with "a significant working relationship, a common ethos and vision and a strong match in priority areas."²⁸

1.2 Losing Independence

PPAs state that the independence of NGOs should be respected, yet at the same time reveal interferences with NGOs' internal policies. The very first ActionAid PPA criticised child sponsorship schemes. DfID advised ActionAid that these schemes are "paternalistic" and "increasingly inappropriate in the current development policy environment."²⁹ DfID has even criticised an ActionAid campaign for the administrative burden its campaigns imposed on the government. Asking citizens to write to their MPs on global poverty was "not the most effective or constructive way to tackle this issue", DfID stated, as it "resulted in a huge amount

"The level of collusion between NGOs and government is a notable characteristic of PPAs."

of administration work for DfID."³⁰ As DfID was in control of £3.79 million worth of ActionAid's grant funding and further £5.32 million for specific projects (making it the NGO's largest donor, supplying 10.6 per cent of its income in 2004),³¹ the NGO would have faced some pressure to take DfID's recommendations on board.

The level of collusion between NGOs and government on matters of public policy is a notable characteristic of PPAs. Oxfam's PPA from as far back as 2002 boasts as follows:

Oxfam GB's Policy Department maintains regular informal contact with DfID and other UK Government

Table 2 DfID's current funding of NGOs through Partnership Programme Arrangements (PPAs)³²

Name	Since	Tender	Funding for 2008–2011
ActionAid	2000	No	13,820,000
Action on Disability in Development (ADD)	2002	Yes	3,030,000
Aga Khan Foundation (AKF)	2006	No	2,390,000
CAFOD	2001	No	13,180,000
CARE	2002	Yes	11,750,000
Christian Aid	2001	No	17,420,00
Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI)	2006	No	1,600,000
HelpAge	2002	Yes	5,390,000
International HIV/AIDS Alliance	2004	Yes	13,340,000
International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)	2006	No	3,180,000
International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)	n/a	No	42,999,990 ³³
International Service	2001	No	4,680,000
Islamic Relief	2006	No	2,390,000
One World Action	2006	No	3,180,000
Overseas Development Institute	2004	Yes	3,410,000
Oxfam	2001	No	27,830,000
Panos Institute	2004	Yes	5,710,000
Plan International UK	2006	No	7,130,000
Practical Action	2004	Yes	3,180,000
Progressio (formerly Catholic Institute for International Relations)	2001	No	10,310,000
Save the Children UK	2001	No	23,370,000
Skillshare International	2001	No	74,840,000
Transparency International	2006	No	3,180,000
Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO)	2001	No	89,010,000
WaterAid	2002	Yes	3,990,000
World Vision	2006	No	7,770,000
World Wildlife Fund – UK	2001	No	12,740,000
Total			£395,141,990

Departments, such as the Treasury, across a broad range of policy issues...³⁴

Beyond Oxfam's regular contribution to DfID's White Papers and strategy papers, Oxfam's PPA mentions involvement in governmental meetings in the run-up to the World Trade Organization meeting in Seattle and other international political events.³⁵ These activities appear to contradict the NGO's claims from 2006: "Oxfam is an independent charity, and as such does not align itself to any governments."³⁶

ActionAid, similarly, has campaigned with DfID at the European Commission, "liaising with each other" while the NGO "discussed their approach with DfID and kept DfID closely informed."³⁷ "ActionAid staff have served on official UK delegations to the WTO, UNCTAD," they state, while sending staff on secondments to work in DfID's Aid Policy Department regarding the government's involvement in the G8.³⁸

1.3 Unaccountability

The PPAs offer NGOs unrestricted public funding, allowing them to spend funds on any projects within broadly agreed "areas of partnership", such as "women empowerment", "rights" and "equality and difference."³⁹ DfID does not require recipients to consult or notify the department in advance of the PPA funds being allocated to projects.

From 2000 to 2006 DfID relied entirely on NGOs' self-audits of their performance. The recipient NGO was only expected to file a non-standardised annual report, applying their own assessment measurements. This led to uncertainty over the effectiveness of millions of pounds worth of funds.

The reports filed by the Catholic Agency For Overseas Development (CAFOD) in this period show a protracted difficulty in measuring the impact and efficacy of the development interventions carried out by the NGO. In the evaluation of the 2001–2005 partnership with CAFOD, DfID found it "slightly disappointing" that the NGO had found it "difficult to provide more than an indication towards progress."⁴⁰ The report continued: "It

is unclear from the information available whether the monitoring and evaluation system ... currently in place can provide an overview of the progress and impact of the programme as a whole..."⁴¹

Similarly, the 2005–06 review of the partnership urged CAFOD to "identify some measurable indicators to illustrate increased engagement" on its programmes related to economic justice.

NGOs were also criticised for simply listing inputs rather than measurable outcomes. The 2005–06 DfID review highlighted "existing indicators" on HIV/AIDS campaigns that "mostly measure CAFOD's inputs" rather than results, and noted in relation to development awareness that "it would be useful to ensure that the indicators are measurable."⁴² Comparable sentiments appeared in a DfID report to Oxfam also in 2006, in which the department called for "more information on how their [Oxfam's] activities have contributed to specific outcomes."⁴³

CAFOD's 2005–06 statements also raise doubts about the suitability of "interfaith collaborations" as an object of public funding, given the difficulties inherent in measuring their progress and their oblique relation to economic development.

However, in spite of CAFOD's protracted inability to quantify and measure the services it had provided in exchange for £12.4 million of funding,⁴⁴ the partnership was renewed for 2008–10 with a further £13.18 million.⁴⁵

Unsurprisingly, this accountability system – or lack thereof – was criticised by a report of the National Audit Office (NAO) which found that "this arrangement does not provide DfID with assurance that it targets the most effective agencies to maximise the development benefits of its funding."⁴⁶ The NAO found that "large grants were awarded to organisations with relatively less efficient results measurement."⁴⁷

Following this damning report, DfID belatedly purported to introduce an accountability framework with "specific, measurable performance indicators."⁴⁸ Since 2008, two years after the NAO report, DfID have included new

"DfID relied entirely on NGOs' self-audits, leading to uncertainty over the effectiveness of millions of pounds worth of funds."

measures to “demonstrate impact, accountability and value for money” of partnerships with NGOs.⁴⁹ However, at the time of writing the evaluation of NGOs is still not carried out by independent external evaluations but instead left to annual self-audits of NGOs and the publication of a series of case studies to showcase the achievements of selected projects.

“The NAO found that “large grants were awarded to organisations with relatively less efficient results measurement.””

The projects run by NGOs with public funds are not evaluated individually and only the overall impact of the areas of partnerships is assessed by “a set of strategic level indicators” reflecting the priorities of the department.⁵⁰

Until 2006 NGOs were not required to publicise what projects had been funded with public money received under the partnership. A list of publicly-funded projects still cannot be found on most NGOs’ websites, nor a breakdown specifying which areas of work the funds have been directed towards.

In August 2009 DfID launched a new feature on their website aimed at increasing transparency to taxpayers, claiming “information about our projects is at your fingertips.”⁵¹ Unfortunately this fails to list individual projects funded through PPAs, and still does not recognise the existence of Strategic Grant Agreements.⁵²

1.4 Debatable policies

The funding of political campaigns by NGOs through loose, unrestricted grants with limited measurement and oversight can result in activities that are politically extreme and/or detrimental to development. The author of a recent article on public advocacy observes:

“The trouble is that ‘public advocacy’ is used to signify a broad sweep of practices, ranging from public relations, market research, and report-writing to lobbying, public interest litigation, and civil disobedience.”⁵³

For example, PPA recipient Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) campaigned for the government of Gambia to ban companies running all-inclusive package holidays.⁵⁴ It was successful, but it is unclear that this is good for the people of Gambia. Such a ban might simply redirect tourists towards all-inclusive deals in countries where

they are not outlawed, thereby depriving Gambian locals of the opportunities to earn a livelihood by working for all-inclusive hotels. This perhaps explains why the ban was lifted a year after its implementation.⁵⁵

VSO received nearly £22 million in PPA funds in 2001⁵⁶ – the year it lobbied the Gambian government. It subsequently secured a further £71.5 million in funding from DfID

for the three-year period 2001–04.⁵⁷ Moreover, its anti-tourism campaign was listed in the text of the PPA agreement as one of VSO’s achievements – in spite of its obviously perverse effect.⁵⁸

The VSO actions seem to contradict Secretary of State Douglas Alexander’s following statement on UK policy on trade and development:

“The Government continues to believe that economic development, which is impossible without a thriving private sector, is amongst the most important drivers of poverty reduction. It is private businesses that will create the bulk of the new jobs, income and taxes that the poorest countries need to generate for their people.”⁵⁹

But VSO is far from the only PPA recipient to engage in activities that seem to contradict the stated policy of the UK government regarding development. ActionAid is set to receive £13.8 million from DfID in 2008–11 period⁶⁰ to engage in “dialogue, consultation and collaboration on strategic and policy issues” with the department.⁶¹ ActionAid’s website details “campaigns and lobbying targeted at national governments against free trade... This includes the UK Government, the EU Government, WTO, World Bank and the IMF.”⁶² ActionAid’s rhetorical armoury includes such dubious assertions as: “no country has ever developed by following a free-trade model from the outset.”⁶³

1.5 The future of PPAs

DfID plans to expand the PPAs considerably, with a projected budget of £148 million for the year 2010–11, equivalent to a 36 per cent increase on the current funding level.⁶⁴

The relationship between recipient NGOs and

government goes far beyond what is common in competitive public tenders. While the measurement of actual outcomes takes a back seat, DfID seems intent on increasing the transfer of funds to the large NGOs to which it grants Partnership Programme Arrangements.

In a report on their PPA with Oxfam, DfID states: “we feel that Oxfam could use the PPA more. It would be useful in future reports for Oxfam to identify how the existing strong connections could be built on and suggestions on how this could be achieved through the PPA. DfID will meet with Oxfam to discuss potential ideas and suggestions.”⁶⁵

The Conservatives have stated that, should they come to power, they will retain the PPA system. They have also pledged that increased funding will be linked to “evidence of effectiveness and results, rewarding good performance and ensuring our aid achieves the most it possibly can.”⁶⁶ However, they have yet to specify how they might achieve this (for example through eligibility criteria and efficiency measurements for projects).

Civil Society Challenge Fund

The Civil Society Challenge Fund (CSCF) allocated £15.75 million to UK-based, non-profit organisations in 2008–09, with its budget expected to increase to £20million for the financial year 2010–2011.⁶⁷

2.1 Rights-based advocacy

DfID explicitly uses the CSCF to promote the ideological rights-based approach that it introduced in 2000.

Applicants to the fund are obliged to endorse this contentious approach: Figure 2, from a DfID Powerpoint presentation, states twice in bold lettering that all projects must be rights-based.

“Service delivery appears to be of only secondary importance to “advocacy and empowerment”.”

DfID’s “requirements for evaluations of CSCF projects” makes clear in the first sentence that it supports NGOs (or in DfID’s terminology “civil society organisations”) “in their role of helping poor and excluded people to get their voice heard and demand access to better services”

Figure 2 **What projects does the Civil Society Challenge Fund support?**⁷¹

Very basically ...

RIGHTS BASED PROJECTS

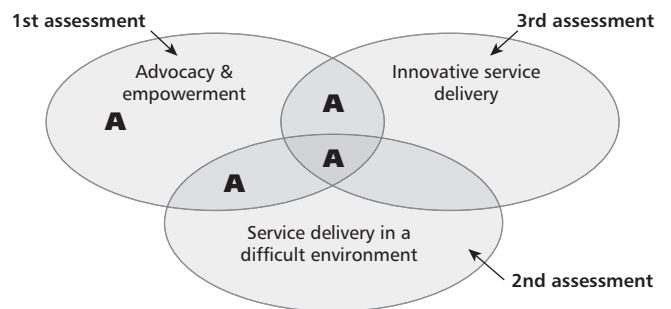
- ... That may be innovative service delivery.
- ... That may be service delivery in a difficult environment
- ... That may be innovative service delivery in a difficult environment.
- ... but overall the project **must be rights based.**

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from their government.⁶⁸ The delivery of services falls, again, under political lobbying and advocacy, with the CSCF stating that projects “must lead to a change in government policy and practice.”⁶⁹

The CSCF purports to be a means of funding innovative approaches to service delivery, yet it inherently stifles innovation by insisting that applicants follow one dominant ideology. Life-changing programmes run by NGOs with different views on development would be excluded on an ideological basis. Furthermore, service delivery appears to be of only secondary importance to the CSCF. Figure 3 shows that “advocacy and empowerment” take precedent over any service delivery concerns when selecting which NGOs receive funds.⁷⁰

Figure 3 **Venn diagram**⁷²



A = accept

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2.2 Advocacy in the UK

As well as promoting a rights-based approach abroad, applicants are obliged to devote up to 5 per cent of their grants to “building support for development in the UK.”⁷³ For each grant, up to £25,000 of public money can be diverted from international development work towards domestic media and political campaigning in support of DfID’s rights-based ideology.⁷⁴

DfID stresses the need to spread the ideas to the UK public. The CSCF conditions state: “

All proposals are required to have a component of building support for development in the UK... It is essential that they are more than just disseminating information to supporters who are already convinced about the importance of development. They should aim to reach new audiences.”⁷⁵

As with the examples outlined in Section 1.4, some of the advocacy work of funded NGOs is dubious to say the least. The NGO War on Want, for example, was granted £970,119 by DfID via the CSCF in 2007 and 2008.⁷⁶ On several occasions there were rumours of Charity Commission investigations into political activities related to the Israeli state and conflict in the Middle East; British MP Teresa Villiers complained to the Charity Commission about War on Want’s conduct.⁷⁷ It is debateable whether or not their views on that fractious situation are appropriate, but at the very least this is an example of political campaigning which could breach rules on the conduct of registered charities.⁷⁸

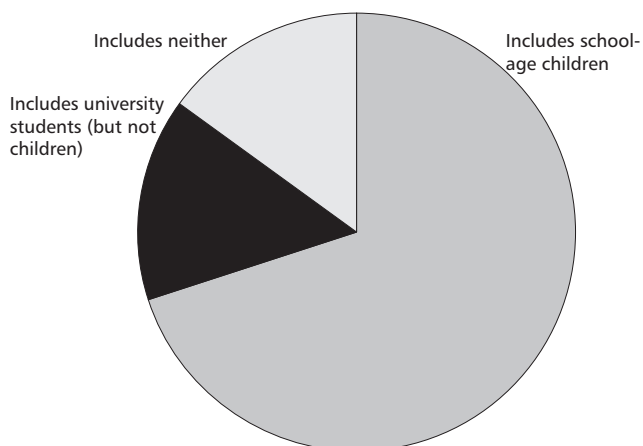
War on Want’s ideological agenda is evident even in its relationship with government, accusing the CDC⁷⁹ group (a state-owned international development fund) of using “private equity-type policies” and a “western capitalist” mentality in helping the poor.⁸⁰ This is in spite of the CDC seemingly engaging in projects that help the poor. Secretary of State Douglas Alexander lauded the CDC for “encouraging local businessmen [in LDCs] to keep their money working locally and... attracting interest from international investors” through “investment that is both decent and profitable.”⁸¹

Development Awareness Fund

In addition to the UK-based advocacy undertaken by organisations receiving funding from the CSCF, DfID has created a separate programme singularly devoted to “raising awareness” in the UK. In 2008–09 DfID’s Development Awareness Fund (DAF) granted just over £6 million to UK-based organisations that promote its favoured perspectives on international development, primarily to people in Britain. Since 1999, DfID has spent almost £50 million through the DAF.⁸²

DAF-funded projects seek to change the way people think about international development issues and to influence lifestyle choices such as the products that people buy. For example, projects can encourage children to purchase certain brands such as Fairtrade and Traidcraft.⁸³ In the 2007–08 budget, one grant paid for a project intended to create ‘a network of young people as “Fairtrade Ambassadors”’.⁸⁴

Figure 4 **DAF Projects’ Target Groups 2009–10⁸⁵**



“It is unclear how these projects improve the lives of people in poor countries. They smack of propaganda.”

The DAF appears to fall under a wider DfID aim of encouraging “development awareness.” DfID is planning to increase the amount spent on “development awareness” at a considerably greater rate than the other programmes examined in this paper, with its total projected budget for 2009–10 and 2010–11 standing at £47 million.⁸⁶ Using its own projections, the total for 2000–2010 spent on “development awareness” will be £95 million⁸⁷ including £13.71 million in 2008–2009.⁸⁸

Most of the projects are aimed at school-age children; 21 of the 31 largest funded projects for 2009–10 fall into this category; 87 per cent are aimed at children or university students; only 4 of the 31 are aimed at neither children nor students. For 2009–10, DAF lists 31 funded projects, each of which have been awarded up to £300,000.⁸⁹ In addition, DAF provides “Mini Grants” of up to £30,000. For 2009–10, DAF is funding 43 new projects with Mini Grants. A sample of both types of grants follows:

- Global Education Derby: £209,455 to teach school children in Derbyshire that “unequal development fosters poverty and conflict, which undermines community cohesion in communities in the South and which in turn, through population migration or the destabilising effects of failed states, raises tensions and threatens local community cohesion in the UK.”⁹⁰
- The National Union of Teachers (NUT): £300,000 to “enable them [teachers] to become global agents of change” through greater involvement with development issues. The project intends that teachers can then become involved in “central and

local government department policy debates.”
Development Education Centre (South Yorkshire):
£122,559 for a project in which school-age pupils are
to “review carbon trading, and the new Climate
Investment Funds”, among other activities.⁹¹

- One World Broadcasting Trust: £270,380 to “foster a new generation of UK media professionals” with a more positive approach to development. This is intended to change UK media coverage of development issues which the project feels is “dominated by negative images, which can leave audiences feeling powerless about their role in reducing poverty.” Among the beneficiaries listed for the project are “the UK public”.⁹²
- The Northern College: £100,000 to provide an “understanding among its target audiences of issues such as global poverty and HIV / AIDS.”⁹³

It is unclear how these projects improve the lives of people in poor countries, or contribute to development. They smack of propaganda. To the extent that the target audience is school children, this is particularly disturbing.⁹⁴

Strategic Grant Agreements

Strategic Grant Agreements (SGAs) – described as Strategic Grants in DfID’s annual reports⁹⁵ – are made with organisations “for whom international development is not their main focus...”⁹⁶ Recipients include domestic trade unions and other groups with overt domestic political agendas.

The Trades Union Congress (TUC), for example, has received over £1.2 million in grants from DfID in recent years.⁹⁷ Not a single project listed under these grants was exclusively or even primarily targeted at people in poor countries.⁹⁸ Indeed, the only activity involving individuals from poor countries consisted of 16 trade unionists from LDCs being flown to the UK.⁹⁹ About £27,000¹⁰⁰ of the DfID grant to the TUC was spent on this project, 6 per cent of the total 2003–06 grant. The SGA with the TUC includes “advocacy/lobbying” and “lobbying/influencing strategies” within its key outcomes to be funded by the grants.¹⁰¹

DfID asserts that SGA grants should enable recipients to “work constructively and strategically with DfID in helping to reduce poverty.”¹⁰² Yet the TUC spent the vast majority of its DfID grant on internal activities benefitting its members. Grant expenditures included funding the TUC’s activities at the European Union and International Relations Department,¹⁰³ and free seminars for TUC affiliates on how to apply to DfID for additional grants.¹⁰⁴ Also covered by the grant was a “Women and Globalisation Conference” with no declared guests from poor countries, and a celebration in London’s West End of “International Women’s Day” at which guests enjoyed Caribbean food and live music.¹⁰⁵

After three years of funding a review was carried out of its effectiveness – yet this was only a desk impact study”

based exclusively on the evidence that the TUC voluntarily decided to submit.¹⁰⁶ This limited review predictably deemed the strategic grant a “highly successful project” and the TUC itself ruled that a “full evaluation by an independent consultant was not required.”¹⁰⁷ Funds to pay for a fully independent review

had originally been safeguarded, but were axed following an overrun of £23,720 (or 19.8 per cent of the total grant) on staff costs due to salary increases.¹⁰⁸

DfID was clearly happy with this outcome, since it renewed the

TUC’s SGA for a further period of three years and even increased it by 66 per cent.¹⁰⁹ Furthermore, DfID has now agreed to grant another £2.4 million to the TUC as it looks to “expand work with trade unions.”¹¹⁰

“The TUC has received over £1.2 million from DfID yet not a single project targeted people in poor countries.”

4.1 DfID’s GONGOS

Perhaps frustrated with the limited influence it has been able to achieve over some of the larger and more independent-minded NGOs, DfID has created its own “NGOs”, which it then funds via SGAs. Meanwhile, several other so-called NGOs are almost entirely dependent on DfID.

In 2003, DfID founded the group “Connections for Development” (CfD)¹¹¹ whose first objective was to “provide a forum for BME [black and ethnic minority] voluntary and community sector organisations and communities on issues relating to international development.”¹¹²

This government organised non-governmental organisation (GONGO¹¹³) was intended to be a centralised uniform body representing different

minorities¹¹⁴ – thereby presumably doing away with the messy situation of having many independent groups each with different views, which could be awkward for an organisation seeking to promote a single ideological approach to development. Some members of CfD have complained that “events must be organised with members, not ‘them’ telling ‘us’ what we need or what is ‘best’ for us!”¹¹⁵

An independent audit challenged the effectiveness of CfD and the confusion around its function. The audit noted that, suspiciously, “nearly 40% of members either have an email address that is out of service or no email address listed”.¹¹⁶ It also shed doubt on CfD’s claim that its membership “shares a common interest in international development”.¹¹⁷

The independent review strongly criticised the way in which CfD was set up and run for the first three years, noting “lack of demonstrable experience in international development” and the confusion dominating this DfID initiative.¹¹⁸ The review concluded:

“Overall, there is a lack of clarity over the purpose of the organisation and how it should meet the needs of both its membership and its engagement with DfID.”¹¹⁹

CfD is solely funded by DfID who granted in excess of £600,000 in the NGO’s first two years. Its latest accounts are not available as the NGO (at the time of publication) is a month late in submitting their accounts to the Charity Commission.¹²⁰ CfD’s latest public report is for the year ending 30th September 2007 and lists all their expenditure as “Governance Costs”, while expenditure other than staff wages is simply reported as “Other costs” (totalling £161,825). £7,980 was paid to the trustees of the NGO, listed as travelling expenses.¹²¹ According to Charity Commission data, CfD consists of just five members of staff.¹²²

Another example is Panos London, a UK-based NGO (part of an international network based in the Netherlands) which works to promote the “participation of poor and marginalised people in national and international development debates through media and communication projects.”¹²³ Since 2004, Panos London

has received funding from DfID under a “strategic partnership”. Starting with an initial grant of £1.1 million in 2004–05, Panos currently receives £1.9 million per annum from DfID – and the total value of its grant from DfID is £12.2 million.¹²⁴

In 2007–08 Panos only received 7 donations from private individuals for a total value of £21,772, equivalent to 0.59 per cent of its income. Meanwhile, only 5.1 per cent of its income came from individuals and private foundations combined. Most of the rest came from various government and intergovernmental organisations – which together accounted for 93.1 per cent of its income. Grants from DfID alone accounted for at least 60 per cent of its 2007–08 income.¹²⁵

The paucity of private donations to Panos London calls into question the independence of its activities and raises the spectre of DfID and other government funders essentially using Panos London to do their bidding. Indeed, with such a high proportion of DfID funding, is Panos London really a GONGO?

Another DfID GONGO is a website named Platform 2.¹²⁶ This is a £10 million scheme run in coordination with Christian Aid and BUNAC, “aimed at raising awareness of global development among young British adults from less advantaged backgrounds.”¹²⁷ Platform 2 pays for British young individuals from “underprivileged” backgrounds to volunteer abroad at the taxpayer’s expense.

“DfID has spent millions of pounds sending less well off Britons to witness poverty abroad.”

It seems bizarre that a government department supposedly devoted to reducing poverty in other countries should spend millions of pounds sending less well off Britons to witness poverty abroad. This costly scheme exemplifies the perversity of DfID programmes focused on “raising awareness”, “public advocacy” or lobbying. Do these programmes reduce poverty or otherwise aid development? Or are DfID’s GONGOs merely promoting propaganda that serves DfID’s own ideological and bureaucratic agenda?

4.2 Lack of transparency

No explanation of the rationale for this series of

Strategic Grant Agreements is published on DfID's website. Grants are assigned by DfID, with no open tender or competition between organisations, thus increasing the risk of political favours, influence and corruption. No full list of beneficiaries is published by DfID, but a partial list of groups in receipt of SGA funds appears to show partisan political bias, with funding of traditional Labour groups such as trade unions, and groups such as the UK Local Government Alliance for International Development, a Labour-dominated coalition of local authorities interested in overseas development.¹²⁸

Conclusion

DfID's "rights-based approach" to international development, with its emphasis on advocacy, has resulted in substantial and increasing amounts being spent on communications programmes of the kinds analysed in this report.

As the total amount spent on these programmes reaches the £1 billion mark, it is reasonable to ask whether they have improved the lives of people in poor countries. The value of DfID's ideological rights-based approach for alleviating poverty is unclear. In 2002 DfID itself admitted that this approach was abstract and had little practical content:

*"Rights-based concepts... have grown out of discourse largely at the level of theory and international policy. ... field practitioners identify a shortage of practical methods and approaches to use in the implementation of rights-based approaches at a programme level."*¹²⁹

By 2005, five years after the adoption of its rights-based approach, DfID was reiterating to NGOs working in the field the request to "develop, test, collate and disseminate" practical experiences and real case studies in order to "enable staff of operational development agencies to promote rights-based approaches in projects, programmes, and policy implementation."¹³⁰ The clear implication is that evidence of a beneficial effect of its rights-based approach was thin on the ground.

According to Andrea Cornwall, fellow of the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex, rights based approaches to development are "the latest development buzzword" revealing little attention "to the underlying causes and power effects of poverty and inequity."¹³¹

Even if DfID's communications programmes succeed in spreading the view that people are entitled to certain services, there is scant evidence that declaring such rights actually improves conditions for the poor. The "right to adequate housing" is cited in the Brazilian constitution, with human rights ambassadors congratulating Brazil for having "among the best" constitutional articles on this right.¹³² However, 20 million people in Brazil are homeless.¹³³ Similarly, access to safe water is a human right according to the United Nations, yet waterborne pathogens cause around 4 billion cases of diarrhoeal disease every year, resulting in 1.7 million deaths.¹³⁴

Some of these rights were introduced over half a century ago, such as the right to "enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health" – introduced in 1946 by the World Health Organization.¹³⁵ But even today a child dies every thirty seconds of malaria (mainly in Africa),¹³⁶ and over 16,000 people die every day from respiratory and diarrhoeal illnesses.¹³⁷

Proponents of the rights-based approach argue that entitlement ensues from the legal formalisation of such rights. But it is often not clear against whom these entitlements are to be claimed. Moreover, the people who currently have the worst access to clean water, nutritious food, good healthcare, and such necessities are also typically the people least able to enforce any rights through courts of law.

DfID's Civil Society Challenge Fund seeks to create a "flow of information to poor people about their rights as citizens, and the factors which perpetuate poverty" as a primary method of alleviating poverty.¹³⁸

"UK NGOs... take strong positions on issues that bear no relation to the views of the people – DfID"

However, a National Audit Office inquiry found that nine out of 16 DfID-funded NGOs had no least developed country (LDC) representation on their boards at all, and three of the remainder's LDC representatives were only small minorities on the boards.¹³⁹

Commenting on Oxfam's record on advocacy work, which cost £9.5 million in 2006 alone,¹⁴⁰ DfID noted the "relatively little mention of how southern civil society was actually involved in either the design or implementation of these", adding that "national governments complain that UK NGOs (not specifically Oxfam) take strong positions on issues that bear no relation to the views of the people."¹⁴¹

By insisting on ill-defined rights-based practices through its partnerships with other organisations (NGOs, public-private initiatives, and foreign governments), DfID risks stifling innovative methods of aiding development by imposing a uniform, unproven standard across the sector.

The research presented in this paper has questioned the wisdom of DfID's rights-based approach to international development. We have argued, largely on the basis of DfID's own research and documents, that the approach does not appear to have resulted in an improvement of the condition of the poor. Furthermore, substantial amounts of funding predicated on the rights-based approach appear to have been spent on projects that have little if any connection even to the promotion of the "rights" of people in poor countries, but have instead been spent on domestic propaganda and lobbying.

The Conservatives have pledged to "ensure the impartial and objective analysis of the effectiveness of British aid" should they win the next General Election.¹⁴² If that is the case, a reconsideration of DfID's "rights-based approach" in general and its funding of "communications" in particular would seem to be the first order of the day. It is time to stop this fake aid.

Notes

1. DfID website homepage. www.dfid.gov.uk/
2. DfID financial year “is based on a 12 month duration from April to March the following calendar year.” Dates in the paper are referred to accordingly.
http://projects.dfid.gov.uk/Glossary.asp#DFID_Financial_Year
3. WHO. 2009. Malaria.
4. March of Washingtons. <http://www.marchofwashingtons.org/?p=250>
5. The National Audit Office’s report on the efficacy of DfID’s funding of civil society noted: “Formal monitoring arrangements provide few insights to value for money... Scrutiny of project or Agreement costs should be proportionate to their value. For the majority of projects and all Agreements we reviewed, however, there were no indicators which provided measures of economy or efficiency, using, for example, benchmarking of procurement activity, or unit costs for service delivery... Indeed, the project completion reports note that objectives are rarely fully achieved.”
National Audit Office. 2006. Department for International Development: Working with Non-Governmental and other Civil Society Organisations to promote development. London: The Stationery Office: page 33.
http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/0506/dfid_working_with_non-governm.aspx
6. The Conservative Party. “One World Conservatism – A Conservative Agenda for International Development.” Page 12.
<http://www.conservatives.com/~media/Files/Green%20Papers/OneWorldConservatism.ashx?dl=true>
7. Official Development Assistance in current US dollars, OECD Query Wizard for International Development Statistics. Calculations yield \$1.8 trillion for total donors, and \$1.7 trillion for DAC countries. Both are measured in current US dollars.
<http://stats.oecd.org/qwids/>
8. “Each economically advanced country will progressively increase its official development assistance to the developing countries and will exert its best efforts to reach a minimum net amount of 0.7 per cent of its gross national product at market prices by the middle of the Decade.”
UN General Assembly. 1970. International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, UN General Assembly Resolution 2626 (XXV), October 24, 1970, para. 43.
www.un.org/documents/ga/res/25/ares25.htm
9. The Conservative Party. “Where We Stand.”
http://www.conservatives.com/Policy/Where_we_stand/International_Development.aspx
10. DfID. “History – How DfID began”
<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-DFID/History1/>

11. "Poverty is about more than lack of income... the failure of politicians and bureaucrats to hear and respond to their concerns, their lack of access to services, their vulnerability to violence."
DfID. 2000. *Realising Human Rights for Poor People*, Target Strategy Paper, London.
www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/tsphumansummary.pdf
12. DfID's annual budgets from 2000 up to and including 2008 listed "Development Awareness", "Strategic Grants", "Partnership Programme Agreements" and "Civil Society Challenge Fund" under "Communications." In its 2009 budget, the two latter programmes were moved to the "Policy" expenditure list. See DfID. 2009. *Department for International Development Annual Report and Resource Accounts 2008–09. Volume I of II*. London: The Stationery Office: page 67.
<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/departmental-report/2009/volume1.pdf>
13. Figures compiled from the Annual Report 2008–09 and the Annual Report 2003–04.
DfID. 2009. *Department for International Development Annual Report and Resource Accounts 2008–09. Volume I of II*. London: The Stationery Office: page 68.
Department for International Development *Departmental Report 2004. Annexes*. London: The Stationery Office: page 172.
<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/departmental-report/2004/departreport04annexes.pdf>
14. Figures compiled from the Annual Report 2008–09 and the Annual Report 2003–04, rounded to the second decimal unit.
DfID. 2009. *Department for International Development Annual Report and Resource Accounts 2008–09. Volume I of II*. London: The Stationery Office: page 68.
www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/departmental-report/2009/volume1.pdf
DfID. 2004. *Department for International Development Departmental Report 2004. Annexes*. London: The Stationery Office: page 172.
www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/departmental-report/2004/departreport04annexes.pdf
15. DfID's published Strategic Grant spending seems unreliable. Total cost for Strategic Agreements in 2008–09 is listed as £60,000, while the TUC's Strategic Framework Partnership Arrangement alone amounts to £252,000 for that year.
("Commencing on 1 July 2006, the three-year Strategic Framework Partnership Arrangement (SFPA) provides £756,000 to the TUC").
TUC. 2009. "The TUC and the Department for International Development," Trade Union Congress.
www.tuc.org.uk/international/TUC_DFID.cfm
16. Table on page 68 gives the figure of -63 for DfID allocation to the Strategic Grant programme in 2008–09. This is assumed to be an error, as an independent review of DfID's work also assumed by employing a positive value.
DfID. 2009. *Department for International Development Annual Report and Resource Accounts 2008–09. Volume I of II*. London: The Stationery Office: page 68.
www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/departmental-report/2009/volume1.pdf
Thornton, Paul; Thornton, Hilary; Hext, Shaun. 2009. *Review of DFID's Building Support for Development Strategy: Impact of Strategy, Expenditure and Activities. Department for International Development*. Page 33.
<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/consultations/Building-support-for-development-synthesis-report.pdf>
17. This report will focus on "The Development Awareness Fund" – which appears to be a subset of DfID's development awareness spending. Despite DfID's interchanging use of the terms, Strategic Grant Agreements and Strategic Grants should be considered to be the same thing.
18. Sometimes referred to as "Partnership Programme Agreement."

19. National Audit Office. 2006. Department for International Development: Working with Non- Governmental and other Civil Society Organisations to promote development. London: The Stationery Office: page 19, paragraph 2.6. http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/0506/dfid_working_with_non-governm.aspx
20. This webpage previously listed the programme as being closed:
www.dfid.gov.uk/Working-with-DfID/Funding-Schemes/Funding-for-not-for-profit-organisations/PPAs/.
However, DfID removed the information. A phone call to DfID in August 2009 informed us that the programme is currently closed but that recipients should look out for its reopening at an undefined point in the future.
21. DFID. 2009. Department for International Development Annual Report and Resource Accounts 2008–09. London: The Stationery Office: Table 14, page 67. www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/departmental-report/2009/volume1.pdf
22. DfID. 2009. Eliminating World Poverty: Building our Common Future. Page 133. www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/whitepaper/building-our-common-future-print.pdf
23. DfID PPA. 2009. “Partnership Programme Arrangements,” Department for International Development. www.dfid.gov.uk/Working-with-DFID/Funding-Schemes/Funding-for-not-for-profit-organisations/PPAs/
24. DfID. “Oxfam – Partnership Programme Arrangement”
<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Working-with-DFID/Funding-Schemes/Funding-for-not-for-profit-organisations/PPAs/O/>
25. Battcock, Mike. 2006. “Oxfam GB Partnership Programme Arrangement (PPA): 2001 – 2005 Final Report DfID Response,” Department for International Development: Pages 1, 4.
26. Oxfam PPA. 2002. *Department for International Development*. Page 5.
<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/Oxfam-ppa.pdf>
27. Battcock, Mike. 2006. “Oxfam GB Partnership Programme Arrangement (PPA): 2001 – 2005 Final Report DfID Response,” Department for International Development: Page 6.
28. DfID PPA. 2009. “Partnership Programme Arrangements,” Department for International Development. www.dfid.gov.uk/Working-with-DFID/Funding-Schemes/Funding-for-not-for-profit-organisations/PPAs/
29. Action Aid PPA. 2001. “Action-Aid Partnership Arrangements,” Department for International Development: page 6. <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/ppa/actionaid-ppa.pdf>
30. ActionAid PPA. 2004. “Programme Partnership Agreement Annual Review 2003/2004,” Department for International Development: page 6.
www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/actionaid-ppa-review-response.pdf
31. ActionAid. 2004. “Report and Accounts 2004,” Charity Commission: page 29.
www.charitycommission.gov.uk/registeredcharities/ScannedAccounts/Ends67/0000274467_AC_20041231_E_C.pdf
32. Compiled with data from (National Audit Office 2006) and (DfID PPA 2009). The information published by the National Audit Office and by DfID differ as to the number of competitions run and the start date of some PPAs. In cases of disagreements between the two, this table relies on NAO’s data – which has been independently compiled and scrutinised in parliament by the Committee of Public Accounts.
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House of Commons Committee of Public Accounts. 2007. DFID: Working with Non-Governmental Organisations and Other Civil Society Organisations to promote Development. London: The Stationery Office.
www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmselect/cmpubacc/64/64.pdf; National Audit Office. 2006.

- Department for International Development: Working with Non-Governmental and other Civil Society Organisations to promote development. London: The Stationery Office: page 19.
www.nao.org.uk/publications/0506/dfid_working_with_non-governm.aspx
33. IPPF funding is for the 2009–2013 period.
 34. Oxfam. 2006. "DfID-Oxfam GB Partnership Programme Arrangement 2001/02–2004/05. Final Report." Page 4.
<http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/downloads/reports/dfidppa0105.pdf>
 35. Oxfam PPA. 2002. *Department for International Development*. Page 5. <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/Oxfam-ppa.pdf>
 36. Stocking, Barbara. 2006. "Statement of legitimacy and accountability" Oxfam.
www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/accounts/legitimacy.html
 37. Action Aid PPA. 2001. "Action-Aid Partnership Arrangements," Department for International Development: page 7.
<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/ppa/actionaid-ppa.pdf>
 38. *Ibid.*
 39. The Panos PPA, for example, lists amongst its main goals: "More inclusive public debate", "Improved communication channels" and "Policy dialogue."
 Panos PPA. 2006. "Panos Programme Partnership Agreement (PPA) Annual Review 2005–06: DFID Response," Department for International Development: Page 1. www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/pdf_misc/panos-response-ppa-rprt-0506.pdf
 Oxfam's PPA lists "The right to be heard" as one its main objective. Oxfam PPA. 2006. "OXFAM GB Partnership Programme Arrangement (PPA) 2005/06 Annual Report: DFID Response," Department for International Development: Page 1.
<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/oxfam-ppa-response-0506.pdf>
 40. CAFOD PPA. 2006. Evaluation of the DFID/CAFOD PPA (2001–2005): DFID's Response. *Department for International Development*. Page 2. <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20071001202521/http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/response-evaluation-cafod-ppa-0105.pdf>
 41. *Ibid*
 42. CAFOD PPA. 2007. "DfID Response to Partnership Programme Arrangement (PPA) annual report: 2005–06," Department for International Development: Pages 4, 6 and 7.
<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20090118230434/http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/response-cafod-ppa-report-0506.pdf>
 43. Battcock, Mike. 2006. "Oxfam GB Partnership Programme Arrangement (PPA): 2001 – 2005 Final Report DfID Response," Department for International Development: Page 9.
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 CAFOD PPA. 2006. "Evaluation of the DfID/CAFOD PPA (2001–2005): DFID Response" Department for International Development: page 1.
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 Charity Commission. 2006. "CAFOD Financial Statements 2006," Charity Commission: page 20.
<http://www.cafod.org.uk/content/download/7268/74120/version/5/file/CAFOD+Financial+Statements+for+200506.pdf>

45. CAFOD PPA. 2009. "CAFOD – Partnership Programme Arrangement," Department for International Development. www.dfid.gov.uk/Working-with-DFID/Funding-Schemes/Funding-for-not-for-profit-organisations/PPAs/CAFOD/
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49. *Ibid*
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56. VSO PPA. 2001. "Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO): Partnership Programme Arrangement," *Department for International Development*. Page 14. <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20070101084356/http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/vso-ppa.pdf>
57. *Ibid*. page 8.
58. *Ibid*. page 8.
59. Alexander, Douglas. 2008. "New Investment Policy for CDC Group plc," Department for International Development. www.dfid.gov.uk/Media-Room/Press-releases/2008/New-Investment-Policy-for-CDC-Group-plc/
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61. Action Aid PPA. 2005. "DfID – Actionaid Partnership Programme Arrangement 2005–2011," Department for International Development. Page 3.
62. ActionAid. Questions & Answers. "What is ActionAid doing to make global trade rules fairer?" www.actionaid.org.uk/100676/questions__answers.html
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For 2005–2006, Mini-Grants not included and full grants available at: <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.dfid.gov.uk/aboutdfid/intheuk/dafapprovedprojects0506.asp>
For 2004–2005, Mini-Grants not included and full grants available at: <http://collections.europarchive.org/tna/20060227084049/http://dfid.gov.uk/funding/dafapprovedprojects0405.asp>
For 2003–2004, Mini-Grants not included and full grants available at: http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.dfid.gov.uk/DFIDInUK/files/daf_projects_2003.htm
For 2002–2003, Mini-Grants not included and full grants available at: http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.dfid.gov.uk/DFIDInUK/files/daf_projects_2002.htm
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For 2000–2001, Mini-Grants not included and full grants available at: http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.dfid.gov.uk/DFIDInUK/files/daf_projects_2000.htm
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<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications/departmental-report/2004/departreport04annexes.pdf>.
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