

CfD General Questionnaire

Understanding International Development

September 2005

Draft Report

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About Connections for Development (CfD)

CfD is a national Charity committed to the diverse segments of UK Black Minority Ethnic (BME) Civil Society and/or organisations. It is aimed at providing leadership, enabling debate, sharing learning and collaborating for action around international development issues and activities with respect to the BME groups.

Nature of CfD Membership

CfD membership is a network of BME organisations and individuals involved in international development; those wanting to take responsibility for change and those who know that they can make a positive difference.

Reasons for the Research

The CfD General Questionnaire of July 2005 was intended to determine how effective the promotion and or advertising of international development by governments, NGOs, businesses or individuals has been. The research aimed to:

- Find out the level of understanding by the members of terms used in International Development.
- Find out what modes of remittance the members and BME communities most commonly use in general and their reasons.
- Find out what skills CfD members have and how they could be used to facilitate international development.
- Explore the prospects of engaging members in volunteer work in the South.
- Establish whether members would commit to the BME development fund.

This research is a sequel to the January 2005 telephone survey commissioned by CfD to solicit evidence about the level of involvement by BME organisations and individuals in the field of international development.

For the purpose of this report, the research questions are reproduced in annex (i) and annex (ii) provides graphic illustrations of the findings. The research questionnaires were dispatched to members on the 15th July 2005, by CfD, Cotswold House, Meridian Gate, 219 Marsh Wall, London E14.

Summary

Out of the 250 questionnaires sent out, 61 members completed and returned their questionnaires. A response rate of 24 %. This report provides corresponding percentages showing the rate of responses to each of the questions asked.

There is clear evidence that, members are involved in international development, make charitable donations towards projects in developing countries in a variety of ways, and that they do have skills which could be transferred to poorer parts of the world to promote and or achieve human and social development.

Above all, most of the respondents showed that they are prepared to volunteer to work in other countries; quite a large number of them are already working either in partnership or collaboration with various organisations from poorer nations. Significantly, most members acknowledged that they participate in this line of work on a regular basis. Very few pointed that they were not involved merely because they did not wish to be, but the rest, were hindered by other more complex barriers.

Despite the optimism and regular rate of activities, a significant number of members, cited lack of funds as a major obstacle. They have the will, capacity, know-how and confidence to contribute to and participate in international development; however, they are incapacitated by their dependence on other sources of funding. The above aspects were reflected in the answers given by the members.

Most members commonly pursued the following fields of involvement:

- Community Development DE
- Education ED
- Business & Trade B&T
- Fair Trade FT
- Health H
- Human Rights HR
- Women & Children W/C
- Social Enterprise SE

The exercise explored the possibility of creating a 5% fund community fund. To give members a chance to support projects, which benefit the entire community through their regular remittances.

This report will discuss in depth, each of the core questions and provide qualitative figures and/or graphic illustrations of the findings.

1.0 Communicating International Development

Find out the level of understanding of International Development:(Understanding of terms and initials).

The research revealed that over all, the members have an understanding of some of the terms and or abbreviations commonly used in the field of international development. For instance, 74 % know what DFID means, 92 % know what G8 is and 82 % know what IMF stands for. However, MDGs, NEPAD, HIPC and IFF were the least understood of the abbreviations, hence fetching 77%, 74%, 75% and 75% no response respectively.

Judging by the level of the responses, it is fair to say that, there is a general understanding of what the acronyms mean. And possibly the members through further training and research, frequent exposures and activities relevant to the field could capitalise upon this existing knowledge base. This would as a result improve their communication and general understanding of the language use in international development. (See annex (ii) Table 1).

2.0 Modes of making Charitable Donations

How and through what were charitable donations made?

The research established that, 30% of the members made charitable donations towards projects in developing countries through church establishments. Most importantly the research showed that, there is a higher preference by the members of making donations through friends 21%, schools 21%, relatives 18%, letter request 28% and other means 20%. The least favoured modes of donations were, Trade Unions 3%, Universities 8 %, and Social clubs 8 % and Radio Phone-ins 3 %.

It is reasonable to conclude from the foregoing that, members favour churches as either their recipients or channels of supporting projects in poor countries. (See annex (ii) Table 2).

3.0 Having the skills that might benefit a developing nation.

Do you believe that you have the skills that might benefit a developing nation?

In response to this question, 80% of the members believe that they possess the skills that would benefit developing nations. Only 07% said they were not sure

whether their skills would be of any use in poorer countries. None admitted to having no skills. (See annex (ii) Table 3).

4.0 Volunteer Prospects

a) Preparedness to be a volunteer working in another country

The response to this question, showed that 59% of the members would be prepared to volunteer abroad, 13% did not wish to and 11% were not sure. The over all response here paints a very optimistic picture for future volunteer work by CfD members. Their willingness is evidence of their commitment to the ideals of international development. (See annex (ii) Table 4 a) for more details.

b) Involvement in work/projects in other countries

The exercise explored the following aspects as salient matters in the nature of members' involvement in any form of international development at whatever level:

- Reasons for either being involved or not
- Frequency of involvement
- Levels
- Countries (areas)
- Fields (areas)

The above aspects, as shown in the tables clearly explain why some members seem to be more committed and what affects their participation or compels others into passivity. (See annex (ii) Table 4 b).

Are you involved in work/projects in other countries?

Response	Response in %
Not Involved (Don't want to be)	07
Not involved (Barriers in way)	20
Occasionally	33
Regularly	10

c) Where involved

This part of the research prompted members to offer information about who they work with, where and in what fields. In response, members identified partners, named projects they participated in and those they are still facilitating. They also explained whom they collaborate with and the nature of their collaboration. Several countries were named, however, Nigeria was the most frequently mentioned country of involvement i.e. 10%, followed by India, 07%, Guyana and Zimbabwe 05%. The other countries fell below 3 %.

Of the fields of involvement, the most common were Education with 57% and Community Development 51%. The less favoured fields of involvement were Social enterprises, Human rights and Women and Children. (See annex (ii) Table 4 c(i) and 4c(ii)).

d) Barriers to involvement

Barriers	Response Rate (%)
Capacity	34
Funds	66
Know-how	16
Confidence	11

In their response, members cited funding as a factor and major constraint in their efforts towards promoting international development. Participation or collaboration on their part is measured according to how much they can contribute; yet unfortunately most BME organisations in the UK depend on goodwill donations and sometimes grants to support or finance their projects. They are rarely self-sustaining and cannot afford to support their counter-parts in the South. 66% thought that, funds were the biggest barriers to their involvement in developmental activities abroad.

Besides that, the survey revealed that 34% of members are willing to participate in some way but are hindered because they lack the capacity to engage themselves fully. This is in spite of rather than because of lack of education, confidence or know-how. Perhaps their response as represented above depicts that most members actually qualify both academically and experientially to be involved in international development and collaboration with their southern counter-parts at all levels and in every capacity, however, they are rather incapacitated because they lack the capacity to maintain a constant flow of funds. (See annex (ii) Table 4 d).

5.0 Creation of 5% Community Fund

Would you support the creation of a 5% Community Fund (CF) of the remittance you send home towards projects in another country?

In response to this question, 25% of the members said that they would support the creation of the 5 % Community Fund. However 11% of the members responded that they would not. Most of them thought that there should be transparency and that they should reserve the right to select topics, trustees, countries, and beneficiaries and allow room for independent auditing with regard to the CF. However, members thought that, it would be fair if they were given more details into how the programme would work before they could fully commit themselves. (*See annex (ii) Table 5*).

Asked whether they thought that businesses and Department for International Development (DFID) should contribute, 46% agreed with the former and 66% the latter respectively.

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 The 5 % Community Fund

The interest in CF is evident. This is the time for CfD to seize the opportunity to offer their members the foundation for managing their own finances and making informed decisions about where their money should be spent. From this research, it is obvious that the members are advocating for accountability, that is why they expressed the need to reserve the liberty to decide how their funds should be allocated.

6.2 Involvement of DFID and Businesses

It is apparent that the membership feels that DFID more than any other institution should be a major benefactor in the CF programme. Hence it is CfD's obligation to communicate the wishes of its members as per this report to DFID, with the aim to solicit their contribution to the programme.

6.3 Barriers to involvement

As expressed in the January 2005 telephone survey report produced by CfD, the same barriers identified by the membership are still restraining them from participating in international development. Lack of or inadequate funds are still the major obstacles. CfD should therefore probe the matter further, find out why the funding criteria is less friendly to BME organisations and perhaps make an initiative to create criteria that takes into account the fact that BME organisations always reach where big agencies that are favoured by the system hardly ever reach. Due to the perpetual lack of funds, BME groups are under-utilised in this field. Their skills, know-how or confidence thus remains under-utilised.

6.4 Volunteer Prospects

It is important not to lose sight of the human resource base within the membership. It would be worthwhile to create a niche group to initiate a network of volunteers from the CfD membership to set the pace for future overseas work programmes. This is definitely a potential method of engaging members considering their fields of involvement, experiences and the skills that they accumulated over the years. However, the onus is on CfD to devise a means of facilitating their volunteers while on mission abroad.

6.5 Way Forward

Basing on the research findings, it is prudent to conclude that CfD is still duty-bound to facilitate members in promoting and understanding international development. Over all, members have shown informed and clear understanding of development discourses. However, a considerable number still need to be exposed, either by way of training or other educational campaigns to better their understanding and appreciation of international development as a discipline and a field of work.

Communicating International Development

1. Do you know what the following initials or terms stand for?

DFID	WTO	NGO
MDGs	IMF	HIPC
G8	G7	Remittances
NEPAD	WHO	AFRICAN UNIO (AU)

International Finance Facility (IFF)

2. Have you made a charitable donation towards projects in developing countries, if so how? Was it through:

Religious Establishment	Social Club	Trade Union
Work Collection	TV Phone-in	Radio Phone-in
School	University	Newspaper
Letter Request	Friend	Relative

Other (Please explain)

3. Do you believe that you have skills that might benefit a developing nation?

Yes No Don't Know

4. a) Would you be prepared to be a volunteer working in another country?

Yes No Don't know

b) Are you involved in work/projects in other countries?

Not involved (Don't want to be)	Not involved (Barriers in way)	Occasionally	Regularly
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c) If involved do you have a local partner in other countries

Name country (ies)

Name of Partner(s)

How do you collaborate with partners?

Indicate field(s) of involvement

Community Development Education Business & Trade Fair Trade

Health Human Rights Women & Children Social Enterprise

d) What are the barriers that are stopping you from being more involved?

Capacity Funds Know-how Confidence

5. Would you support the creation of a 5% Community Fund of the remittance you send home towards projects in another country?

Yes No Need more detail

What is important to you about the administration of such a fund? Tick boxes

Transparency Selecting Trustees Independent
Auditing
(How money managed) (Who manages money) (Who checks management)

What conditions would you put on the use of your donation, would want to?

Select beneficiaries
(Such as women)

Select Countries
(Such as Uganda)

Select Topics
(Such as Health)

Annex (i)

Should businesses be asked to contribute to the funds?

Yes

No

Don't Know

Should the Dept for International Development (DFID) be asked to contribute to the Fund?

Yes

No

Don't Know

Question 1

Do you know what the following initials or terms stand for?

Total number of members interviewed = 61

Table 1

Initials/ Terms	Number of Responses	Response in %	No Responses	No Response in %
DFID	45	74	16	26
MDGs	14	23	47	77
G8	56	92	5	8
NEPAD	16	26	45	74
HIPC	15	25	46	75
WTO	44	72	17	28
IMF	52	85	09	15
G7	40	66	21	34
WHO	36	59	25	41
NGO	48	79	13	21
Remittances	38	62	23	38
African Union (AU)	36	59	25	41
International Finance Facility (IFF)	15	25	46	75

According to this table, the “no responses” represents those members that gave no answer to that particular term or initial referred to in the questionnaire.

Question 2

Have you made a charitable donation towards projects in developing countries, if so how? Was it through?

Table 2

Modes of Donations	Number of Response	Response in %	No Response	No Response %
Religious Establishment	18	30	43	70
Work Collection	10	16	51	84
School	13	21	48	79
Letter Request	17	28	44	72
Social Club	05	8	56	92
TV Phone-in	06	10	55	90
University	05	8	56	92
Friend	13	21	48	79
Trade Union	02	3	59	97
Radio Phone-in	02	3	59	97
Newspaper	07	11	54	89
Relative	11	18	50	82
Other	12	20	49	80

Question 3

Do you believe that you have the skills that might benefit a developing nation?

Table 3

Response	Number of Response	Response in %	No Response	No Response in %
Yes	49	80	12	20
No	00			
Don't Know	04	07	57	93

Question 4

a) *Would you be prepared to be a volunteer working in another country?*

Table 4a

Response	Number of Response	Response in %	No Response	No Response in %
Yes	36	59	25	41
No	08	13	53	87
Don't Know	07	11	54	89

b) *Are you involved in work/projects in other countries?*

Table 4b

Response	Number of Response	Response in %	No Response	No Response in %
Not Involved (Don't want to be)	04	07	57	93
Not involved (Barriers in way)	12	20	49	80
Occasionally	20	33	41	67
Regularly	06	10	55	90

c) Where involved

Countries of Involvement

Table 4c (i)

Countries	Response	Response in %	No Response	No Response %
DR- Congo	01	02	60	98
Ethiopia	02	3	59	97
Ghana	03	05	58	95
Grenada	02	3	59	97
Guyana	03	05	58	95
India	04	07	57	93
Ivory Coast	01	02	60	98
Jamaica	02	3	59	97
Japan	01	02	60	98
Kenya	02	3	59	97
Malawi	01	02	60	98
Mali	01	02	60	98
Mongolia	01	02	60	98
Nepal	02	3	59	97
Nigeria	06	10	55	90
Pakistan	02	3	59	97
Sierra Leone	01	02	60	98
South Africa	02	3	59	97
Sri-Lanka	01	02	60	98
St. Vincent	01	02	60	98
The Grenadines	01	02	60	98
Uganda	02	3	59	97
Zambia	02	3	59	97
Zimbabwe	03	05	58	95

Fields of Involvement

Table 4c (ii)

<i>Fields of Involvement</i>	Response	Response in %	No Response	No Response in %
Community Development -CD	31	51	30	49
Education- ED	35	57	26	43
Business & Trade – B&T	07	11	54	89
Fair Trade -FT	06	10	55	90
Health-H	24	39	37	61
Human Rights- HR	16	26	45	74
Women & Children –W/C	16	26	45	74
Social Enterprise - SE	15	25	46	75

d) Barriers to involvement

Table 4d

Barriers	Response	Response in %	No Response	No Response in %
Capacity	21	34	40	66
Funds	40	66	21	34
Know-how	10	16	51	84
Confidence	07	11	54	89

Question 5

5.0 Creation of 5 % Community Fund

a) Would you support the creation of a 5% Community Fund (CF) of the remittance you send home towards projects in another country?

Table 5

Support CF and Conditions for Creating the CF	Response	Response in %	No Response	No Response in %
Yes	15	25	46	75
No	07	11	54	89
Need More Detail	29	48	32	52
Transparency	41	67	20	33
Selecting Trustees	30	49	31	51
Independent Auditing	39	64	22	36
Selecting Beneficiaries	21	34	40	66
Select Countries	18	30	43	70
Select Topics	29	48	32	52
<i>Should Businesses be asked to contribute?</i>				
Yes	28	46	33	54
No	02	3.2	59	97
Don't Know	08	13	53	87
<i>Should DFID be asked to contribute?</i>				
Yes	40	66	21	34
No	00			
Don't Know	09	15	52	85