

Notes of the round table meeting between Ms Gilruth, Minister for Europe and International Development and Rwandan Civil Society - 18 November 11:00 – 12:30 (GMT)

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Session 1 – Themes

Question 1: What themes would you prioritise for the next few years for Rwanda, especially in light of COVID-19?

- Main priorities for communities: work, include livelihood strengthening and economic development around business development, financing models, education (Women and Girls and digital learning). Child protection and STD prevention are high priorities.
- Agriculture is the mainstay look particularly at diversified food sources and value chains remain important. Focus of SG on Climate Change is closely linked to Agriculture, and trying to ensure that they respond to emerging shocks and Climate Change resilience in rural communities remains important.
- Important are Job creation, and opportunities for young people.
- Areas impacted by Covid - these include increase in Gender Based Violence, increase in food insecurity and increase teenage pregnancies.
- Issue with sustainability of businesses particularly SMEs.
- BLM, for us the language that we are talking about is localisation.

Question 2: Thinking about the Scottish Government announcement of a £2M covid fund for its partner countries this year, what do you consider to be the immediate priorities in light of the COVID-19 Pandemic? How can the Scottish Government best support Rwanda in response to the pandemic?

- Supporting school preparedness on Covid-19 e.g. training for teachers and school management on Covid related measures. Psychological support for children and families effected by Covid-19 and the negative effects of the Pandemic.
- Livelihood recovery is another area and would include issues like cash grants and savings groups.
- CSOs have lost a lot of unrestricted funding due to the pandemic so would be important to broaden the pot of unrestricted funding to cover core costs.

Question 3: How should the Scottish Government fund projects in Rwanda? Do we need to shift the balance of spend, and if so how do we do that?

- CS capacity strengthening and institutional capacity building for organisations.
- Being all things to all people is maybe not effective all the time. Whereas streamlining project funding in the sectors they focus on might increase effectiveness or may just create a more coherent set of results.
- There is an opportunity for governmental funding to leverage into some of the larger retailers here in the UK and particularly to amplify some match funding from retailers

- Can there be a balance for local CS for them to have a stake in the conversation and be able to play a meaningful role in terms of the funding models that are rolled out through FCDO.
- The SG have been very proactive even in the way they approach their funding to CSOs, Therefore we would like to request that SG does try to influence the changing policy approaches and to see that it also reflects the ethics of the SG as well.

Session 2 - Principles

Question 1: A recent academic from one of the Scottish Government's partner countries said the following: 'Black lives matters in America is not the same as in Africa. But if you come to my country and you put a white person in charge of a programme – when I could do that job, when I know my local community – that's what Black lives matters means to me. That is white privilege'

With reference to draft Principle 4, what does 'Black Lives Matter' mean to you in a Rwandan context?

- There is an issue with people being hired on short term contracts in country, where others could be hired. There is an impact on the ex-pat culture on some of these things. This it is fantastic it's being discussed in this forum. Not sure that this would be brought up in such a candid was in other organisations. Kudos for doing so.
- BLM in an American context is different to what it would be here in Rwanda. BLM in the US is related to inequalities and racial issues. In this context here in Rwanda, white people or Europeans of whatever comes from the West to work here, I think it's a different thing because when they come here they are qualified and the recruitment is done in a proper manner. If there are those who are here and work and are not qualified, then that is another issue. But that has nothing to do with BLM here.
- Localisation is the most important thing to note here in the field of development. Is there capacity, have we gauged the capacity that is available, and are we actually responding to the capacity gaps in the countries that we are working in?
- How can we ensure that there is more diversity in the management and support structures of an organisation and that there is the resonance of that diversity in terms of how we actually implement our programme.
- The whole area of skill transfer. When very skilled people coming to the country and how can we ensure that the sustainability of the skills transfer model when they leave the country.
- African context is how do we then close the gender gap? If you look to our organisations, if you look at the development sector, sometimes we're in the NGO meetings and what you see are more males sitting around the room, and making decisions, than women.
- It is difficult to approach this from a BLM angle, but it is easier to approach it from diversity and inclusion angle. Things begin to get bad when its privilege
- The whole issue of capacity is a development issue.

- It is important for the SG to ensure that their funding promotes local capacity and supports local participation, more than just delivering a development project.

Question 2: in relation to draft principle 5, on supporting Collaboration and partnerships - How do we better create and support peer-peer collaborations in thematic areas which are identified as priorities? These can be peer-peer collaborations between Rwanda and Scotland, or collaborations between Rwanda and its neighbouring countries / our other partner countries.

- Collaboration is fundamental to learning and best practices that can be taken forward in programming, planning and implementing our initiatives.
- Collaboration would be the best thing to do but you should start first in the region, we need to learn from one another. And then Scotland would join us also to learn together to exchange ideas and so on. The best ways to support the three countries.

Question 3: Open up for feedback on the draft set of Principles as a whole. Are there any draft Principles that people would like to discuss further?

No comments made.

Close

Chair: The emerging themes were on ECD, agriculture and youth and job creation. And talked about Covid, suggestions related to supporting schools, especially in investing in WASH, leveraging civil society funding. Then funding, talking about not thinking that the SG can do everything. Minister made clear that the majority of the funding came from the UKG, and that their funding was additional.

In the second session we spoke about collaboration and another theme was localisation. And the Minister spoke about learning and how we capture and share learning across all the supported projects.

Zoom Chat

11:12:48 From Scottish Government : Please feel free to comment in the chat as we go along

11:13:29 Apologies, I had not received any documentation earlier today

11:13:34 is it possible to share here?

11:26:27 : here are the questions <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/x/128855750017/>

11:35:14 Scottish Government : we currently fund a project through Oxfam which supports girls and women who have been victims of Sexual and gender based violence. Part of that a project is about supporting mental health through counselling services.

11:35:39 : I do propose To stimulate economic recovery and support WASH initiatives (access potable water both in schools and communities)

11:35:49 : I don't have specific areas, but it would seem like the health situation is supported by many actors and is under relative control here. The issues may well be greater economically speaking, than health (although mental health is a concern)

11:38:15 :

<http://www.ruralfinanceandinvestment.org/sites/default/files/The%20Impact%20of%20COVID-19%20to%20the%20Microfinance%20Sector%20in%20Rwanda.pdf>

11:40:27 : thank you for the invitation, I work with a mummunity school I would suggest that some funds go to support Education as re start up capital especially for community and private schools which have been so much affected financially and emotionally.

11:47:22 From, Scottish Fair Trade Forum : Your idea sounds great. The Scottish Fair Trade Forum would be very keen to support this initiative however you see fit

11:49:32 From: Thanks.

11:52:24 From: I Am, from living church, we have They school and as. we have ngo work on healing and reconciliation, in Rwanda. regarding covid-19, I think funds at schools ,there should be helping school for recruit covid- 19 volunteers . to help school and kid to comply with Covid prevention.

Also many people has lost their job, there should , away make these find something to do

11:53:14 From : what about putting some funds to support community schools towards the knowledge of how to us internet and computers in support of remote learning and also help them with internet access ?

12:03:30 From Scottish Government : my email address is

12:04:23 From: hello every body

12:04:41 From: thank you

12:10:19 From: I thank someone who brought that issue of Blacklight matter, he is right.

thanks about missionariesz from Western countries who come to Africa, many time to tell them that to do, and may be the local people have priority and they have no chance to implement, becuase missionary has ask to do the way he want.

12:17:23 From: Also this issue that brought tension. between Western funders and local, sometimes respected results from funder , it's not easy for local people to meet it, and they decide to obligate to do it.

12:20:25 From: Establishment f Learning Lab would be better

12:24:36 From Scottish Government : could I ask what a f Learning Lab is?

12:25:05 From: Collaboration between two countries, I think first you need to understand each other, Scotland has to make survey or enquiry what real Rwanda need in line with Scottish priorities

12:25:21 From: my name is from Rwanda,i'm director of inclusive school called GS HVP GATAGARA.I'm very happy to join this meeting

12:28:21 From Scottish Government : my email is if your colleague wishes to send comments on the Principles.

12:28:33 From To Scottish Government(privately) : Learning Lab refer to online platform where people share success stories, case studies, best practices (articles, videos etc) to inform other people know what works better, what doesn't work and what needs more attention within specific context for duplication or drop off

12:28:56 From Scottish Government To (privately) : Thanks, wasn't sure if that was a typo.

12:29:14 From: Great. Thanka

12:29:24 From To Government(privately) : Thanks

12:29:52 From: Apologies I will need to sign off due to another commitment at 1230, thanks for the opportunity to participate in the session.

12:30:03 From To Scottish Government(privately) : I found it helpful and this was used by Mastercard Foundation and was succesful

12:30:33 From To Scottish Government(privately) : In some cases regional meetings are held for presentations and all that

12:30:34 From: Thanks Minister