

## NETWORK UPDATE

August 2004

### A message from the International Management Committee

The International Management Committee (IMC) is pleased to forward you this Network Update. We are at an important moment for the project — the completion and international launch of the 2004 Global Report and the initiation of plans for the 2006 Report.

The Reality of Aid Project is the pre-eminent North/South international network of more than 40 civil society organizations (CSOs) focusing on the goal of poverty eradication in the policies and practices in the international aid regime.

The project's IMC is governed by the following representatives:

- ❑ **Chair:** Tony Tujan, IBON Foundation Inc., Philippines ([atujan@info.com.ph](mailto:atujan@info.com.ph));
- ❑ **Vice-Chair:** Brian Tomlinson, Canadian Council for International Co-operation, representing non-Europe OECD country CSO partners ([btomlinson@ccic.ca](mailto:btomlinson@ccic.ca));
- ❑ Gopal Siwakoti, Nepal Policy Institute and the Asia-Pacific Research Network, representing Asian CSO partners ([npi@ntc.net.np](mailto:npi@ntc.net.np));
- ❑ Moreblessings Chidaushe, AFRODAD, representing African CSO partners ([moreblessings@afrodad.co.zw](mailto:moreblessings@afrodad.co.zw));
- ❑ Jorge Balbis, Asociación Latinoamericana de Organizaciones de Promoción (ALOP), representing Latin American partners ([jbalbis@alop.or.cr](mailto:jbalbis@alop.or.cr)); and
- ❑ Howard Mollett, BOND, representing European country CSO partners ([hmollett@bond.org.uk](mailto:hmollett@bond.org.uk))

Jaz Buncan is the Project Coordinator and is located in The Reality of Aid Secretariat at IBON. ([roasecretariat@ibon.org](mailto:roasecretariat@ibon.org)). Don't hesitate to get in touch with your representative or with Jaz. Project resources can be found at [www.realityofaid.org](http://www.realityofaid.org).

### *The Reality of Aid 2004 Report* published in June

The tenth edition of *The Reality of Aid Report* focusing on critical themes of governance, human rights and international cooperation, was published by IBON in June.

The *2004 Report* sets out an urgent call for donors and developing country partners to live up to binding obligations under international human rights law and implement their support for democratic governance within a rights-based approach.

Focusing on aid resources, the *Report* stresses that these resources must be treated as money held in trust for the billions of people who continue to live in poverty. The *Report* raises critical alarm at recent moves by donors to divert clearly insufficient resources for achieving the Millennium Development Goals to pay for donor's national and international security interests.

The *2004 Report* is now being shipped to network members at special prices according to the number of copies ordered. An order form, with pricing and shipping information, was circulated by the Project Coordinator earlier this year. If you didn't receive it, please contact The Reality of Aid Secretariat at IBON. Commercial distribution of the *2004 Report* is being handled by Zed Press. Network members have the right to distribute the *Report* to their constituencies.

**If you have not already done so, please order your copies of *The Reality of Aid 2004 Report* by contacting Jaz Buncan at [roasecretariat@ibon.org](mailto:roasecretariat@ibon.org).**

## **The Reality of Aid network and CCIC host an international conference to launch the *2004 Report***

The *2004 Report* was successfully launched at an international conference in Ottawa, at the end of May, hosted by the Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC) and the Reality of Aid International Management Committee, and was attended by more than 120 participants.

The Conference, entitled "Whose Security? Whose Rights? Governance and Rights in International Co-operation", brought together members of the network, CCIC member agencies and donor representatives to address rights-based approaches to international cooperation.

Key messages from the *2004 Report*, particularly network concerns that scarce aid resources are being diverted from poverty eradication to contribute to the "war on terror", received front-page attention from the Canadian print and radio media.

A Conference Report will be available at [www.realityofaid.org](http://www.realityofaid.org) and [www.ccic.ca](http://www.ccic.ca). A summary "Background" of the *2004 Report's* key messages and themes can be found on CCIC's web site ([www.ccic.ca](http://www.ccic.ca)) in the aid policy section (under the menu "what we do").

### **Reality of Aid, Africa 2004 Edition, published by AFRODAD**

At the beginning of May, AFRODAD published an African edition of Reality of Aid. The ROA *2004 Africa Edition* is the second in a series that gives Africans a chance to voice their concerns on development aid by critically analyzing its quality, quantity and effectiveness.

Taking up the theme of the 2004 Reality of Aid Global Report, the *African Report* analyses governance structures at international, regional and national levels and how different policies, interests and actions violate human rights in the name of globalization, personal and corporate interests, and the security agenda.

To present a truly African perspective of the issues, the *2004 Africa Report* is based on wide consultations and intense discussion across the continent in collaboration with affiliates and other organizations in Kenya, Zambia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

A new and exciting initiative taken by AFRODAD in 2003 was the expansion of Reality of Aid activities into West Africa. Material from a West African regional workshop, involving 10 countries and held in Lagos, Nigeria, in collaboration with ANEEJ/ECONDAD, is included in this Edition.

Africa-wide Reality of Aid consultations initiate a process in which we seek to articulate genuine African views and opinions on the performance and effectiveness of development aid and to ensure that it benefits all.

AFRODAD launched its *2004 Africa Report* at a regional workshop in Pretoria, South Africa, May 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>. Participants debated issues raised in the Report, including alternatives to aid to support African development.

The Africa 2004 Edition is accessible on the Reality of Aid web site or from AFRODAD at [www.afrodad.org/archive/Reality%20of%20AID%20Africa%20Edition.pdf](http://www.afrodad.org/archive/Reality%20of%20AID%20Africa%20Edition.pdf).

### **Regional reports planned from Asia and Latin America**

The Asia region will be producing a *Reality Check* on regional issues focusing on security and development cooperation by October 2004. ALOP is planning a Spanish edition highlighting some chapters and regional perspectives on the 2004 Global Report.

### **Launching the *2004 Report***

Members of the network will be launching and advocating the key messages of the *2004 Report* at country and regional events.

- New Zealand launch, August 2004.

- ❑ Nepal Reality of Aid launch conference, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, was well attended with good press coverage.
- ❑ Manila, c/o IBON and the Philippine ODA Network, August 30, 2004.
- ❑ European Union launch, sponsored by BOND and CONCORD, Brussels, will take place the week of October 18<sup>th</sup> (contact Howard Mollett, [hmollett@bond.org.uk](mailto:hmollett@bond.org.uk)).
- ❑ Reality of Aid Asia-Pacific Conference on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Japanese official development aid, October 5<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>, in Tokyo, Japan. The event is co-organized in Japan by JANIC and PARC (contact Jaz Buncan, [roasecretariat@ibon.org](mailto:roasecretariat@ibon.org)).

Please send any information and coverage of regional or country launches of the *2004 Report* to Jaz Buncan at the Secretariat ([roasecretariat@ibon.org](mailto:roasecretariat@ibon.org)).

## Theme for the 2006 Reality of Aid Report

**A**t its May meeting in Ottawa, the International Management Committee reviewed a number of proposals for the theme of the *2006 Report*.

The *2006 Reality of Aid Report* will explore a range of ethical, policy, and practical issues related to current donor and CSO strategies to address conflict, security and development. Building on a holistic, rights-based analysis of the *2004 Report*, the 2006 publication will present a critical civil society perspective on the security/development nexus.

Official development assistance has always reflected a web of geo-political, strategic imperatives on the part of donors. During the 1990s, these interests have increasingly involved efforts to mitigate, contain and resolve violent conflicts.

International focus on terrorism raises many new challenges for civil society organizations concerned with global inequality, rights and justice. The “war on terror” has been

used to justify practices that have undermined development goals and run contrary to international commitments on human rights.

The Management Committee will be encouraging the network to develop materials that raise issues related to security and development, humanitarian assistance and a rights-based approach to peacebuilding.

**An International Advisory Council meeting for Reality of Aid members is tentatively scheduled for May 2005 in Europe to debate North/South civil society perspectives on these issues. Plan to attend and contribute!!**

## Help raise funds to finance the process to produce and promote the messages of the *2006 Report*

**F**or 10 years the Reality of Aid network has benefited from generous grants from the Ford Foundation, as well as smaller contributions from a number of CSOs. Members of the network make substantial in-kind contributions. But the Ford Foundation has indicated that no further funding is possible.

In the fall of 2004 the International Management Committee will be seeking diversified funding from Northern CSOs and foundations for Southern processes and production costs for the *2006 Report*.

**If your agency can help with fundraising, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Jaz Buncan ([roasecretariat@ibon.org](mailto:roasecretariat@ibon.org)) or Brian Tomlinson ([btomlinson@ccic.ca](mailto:btomlinson@ccic.ca)). A detailed grant proposal is available on request.**