



About us

UK Local Government Alliance for International Development

The LG Alliance provides a single voice for UK local government on international development issues.

Who are we:

We bring together five local government organisations, committed to increasing understanding of how UK local government can help reduce poverty internationally. They are:

Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF)
Improvement & Development Agency (IDeA)
Local Government Association (LGA)
National Association of Local Councils (NALC)
Society of Local Authority Chief Executives & Senior Managers (SOLACE)

What do we do:

- raise awareness in councils of international development issues and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
- increase understanding about how local government can help to reduce global poverty
- provide support to councils who want to get involved.

What do we mean by international development:

Although there is no simple definition, in 2000 the international community signed up to eight global priorities to reduce poverty in the poorest countries of the world: the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); with a target date of 2015.

Why is local government important to international development:

As the level of government closest to the people, local government must be involved if the MDGs are to be achieved.

- Councils are at the front line in delivering basic local services such as health, education & sanitation: all services that are essential to reducing poverty.
- Councils build communities: they bring together public, private and voluntary sector organisations, stimulating the local economy; promoting equality; and responding to the needs of marginalised groups: again, all vital to reducing poverty.

“ a key opportunity exists for UK local government expertise to be shared on a more systematic basis with municipal authorities in developing countries ”

What can UK councils do:

As exemplars of good practice in public sector management & service delivery, UK councils are widely respected by local government overseas. Councils can contribute to international development in the following ways:

Overseas

- offer first-class, practitioner knowledge and skills
- foster local economic growth – stimulating commercial activity; assisting training & employment; and supporting SMEs and marginalised groups
- improve local data collection and analysis – vital to assessing needs at the local level to ensure more relevant policy and action.

At home

- provide legitimacy and support to participation - as the democratically-elected body within the community
- support Fairtrade and ethical procurement – councils have huge procurement power which can be used to support and develop Fairtrade initiatives
- promote global learning – building development awareness and active citizenship.

How UK councils benefit

International development is a two-way street and the benefits to UK councils can include:

- Improving services – the challenges to local government are the same everywhere, it's the solutions that are different. Sharing and learning from innovative practices can bring improvement and savings.
- Developing and motivating staff – both personal and professional development, giving new perspectives and ideas.
- Improving local partnerships – working together on development issues with local partners from the public, private and voluntary sectors can increase networking and relationships within the UK community.
- Building cohesion locally – development work increases understanding of other cultures and can improve relationships with existing diaspora communities.

Every action counts

Many councils are already active in this field and you can make a difference by even the smallest action. If you want to find out more, visit our website and...

[register for our quarterly newsletter](#) – with the latest news affecting councils; updates on UK activity; and details of the latest opportunities and events.

[join our online Community of Practice](#) – the International Development and Local Government Community of Practice is live! Share your views and ideas with like-minded people on how councils can make a difference.

www.lg-alliance.org



For further information please contact the
LG Alliance at: lgalliance@lga.gov.uk or
visit www.lg-alliance.org

Local Government House
Smith Square,
London SW1P 3HZ

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