



What Next:

a toolkit for returned volunteers



Authors

Comhlámh (Irish for 'solidarity') is the Irish Association of development workers and volunteers. Our mission is to inspire and empower an active community to create a more equal world by addressing the root causes of global injustice and poverty. Comhlámh was set up in 1975 by returned development workers to 'enable persons who have rendered services overseas in developing countries upon their return to Ireland to bring to bear their own particular experience in order to further international development cooperation'. We are a membership organisation open to anyone interested in volunteering and global justice issues. Development education is core to the way we engage with our members and supporters.



finep is a nonprofit project and consulting organisation working in the area of sustainable development with a focus on the thematic fields of development policy, environmental policy and the promotion of local democracy. In collaboration with partner organisations in Europe and worldwide, we develop and implement projects in the aforementioned fields. In addition to its own project work, finep provides assistance and advice to local authorities and other nonprofit organisations in the areas of the acquisition of third-party funding, process consultation, facilitation, the provision of trainings as well as the elaboration of studies and educational concepts.



The Salesian Missionary Voluntary Service 'Youth for the World' is a non-governmental organization, which has worked in support of the Global South since 1997. Since it was founded the organisation has sent over 230 volunteers abroad, to bring aid to those in need throughout the world. These volunteers have helped to realise over 140 international projects in Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Bolivia, Peru, Russia, Lithuania and Ukraine. These Salesian missionary volunteers have worked as educators, teachers, doctors, nurses and engineers. They work with young people on the street, in social centres and youth halls. The organisation seeks to support social development in those countries where it sends its volunteers, which is achieved through their assistance in the education and upbringing of children and young people, so that in the future they can form the basis for a democratic society.



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Introduction

Dear Returnee,

Welcome to our toolkit! This toolkit is designed to guide you through a process of reflection and 'next steps' on your return to Ireland and continued engagement in development issues. The toolkit has been designed in a partnership between 3 organisations and has been informed by returned volunteers from across Europe: Ireland, Germany and Poland.

In particular, thanks goes to Doireann Cooney, Fiachra O'Luain, Sinead Clear, Elaine Mahon, Alfred M'Sichili and Fleachta Phelan for their valuable perspectives in putting it together.

The opportunity to live and work overseas is an chance to experience a completely different way of life. As returned development workers and volunteers, there is the potential to use these overseas experiences to continue your own learning as well as raise awareness and take informed actions from home. Through your work and experiences abroad, you will have developed a unique perspective on the effects and causes of global poverty and social injustice that many others may not have. However, your participation in development and global issues does not have to be limited to an overseas experience; rather there is the opportunity for this experience to be a stimulus and a resource for further learning. This toolkit intends to deepen your understanding of the complexities of some of the issues experienced while overseas and to integrate this learning into your life at home. This can be translated into the decisions and choices you make as an individual, as well as getting involved in collective actions, education and campaigns with other people.

The toolkit is made up of 4 main sections

- 1. Context:** the context of your overseas experience, including the importance of reflection and self-care, the value of the new perspectives you may have experienced and some of the challenges you may face on return to your home country.
- 2. Global issues:** this section highlights 3 global issues (poverty, climate change and world trade) as examples of some of the issues you may have experienced overseas which have connections with your local context. This section aims to delve more deeply into the root causes of some of these issues and find ways to get involved in action from Ireland.
- 3. Action:** finally, how to translate experience and learning into action?! This section will highlight some of the motivations for taking action locally and examples of returnees who have taken some interesting actions.
- 4. Further links:** you may wish to follow up on some further links with which to continue your learning on any of the topics highlighted throughout the toolkit, as well as signposting options for activities and organisations based locally with whom you may want to get involved.



What do you think?

As much as possible, we encourage you to activate your 'personal lens' to read the toolkit, to make the information as relevant and useful to you as possible.

Throughout the toolkit, there will be questions posed and we would invite you to pause at such moments and take some time for personal reflection.

It may help to write down ideas or reflections as you read through the toolkit, to make it most meaningful. Also, your ideas and thoughts may change over time, and this might be interesting to refer back to with hindsight.

We hope that you find this useful and that it helps you in your continued engagement and active participation in global development issues. The toolkit is designed to be a companion to the 'Be the Change' toolkit, also developed by Comhlámh, which has further information on campaigns, media skills and strategies for effective action.

Whatever you choose to go on to do, remember:

"If you think you are too small to make a difference, try going to bed with a mosquito in the room"

– Anita Roddick

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Stories

We have included snippets from the personal stories of 3 returned development workers, who have 3 very unique stories to tell. This will give you an idea of their personal journey back home, the issues they experienced while overseas, their motivations to stay involved in global justice issues locally and some of the ways they continued their engagement in development.

What's your story



1.

Context

Introduction

If you are a recently returned volunteer, and have decided to stay in Ireland on your return, and would like some ideas of how to continue your engagement in development, then this toolkit is for you! The following pages will outline a deeper understanding of some complex development issues, as well as how you can stay engaged in global justice issues from home.

As a returned volunteer, you can bring a critical, global perspective into your work, study and daily life and the lives of others. Working for development is not something that only happens overseas; rather the decisions, actions and choices made in your home country can have a significant and meaningful impact on the bigger picture of global development. Working for development from your home country can mean taking actions, big or small, that contribute towards achieving social justice and promoting solidarity with people all over the world. There are so many ways to get involved, you just need to decide when and where to start!

In order to become engaged it is good to first know yourself: what is your experience of being overseas? What learning do you want to share from your overseas experience? What changes are you interested to work towards? Which issues are you most interested in?

***'Another world is not only possible,
she is on her way. On a quiet day
I can hear her breathing'***

– Arundhati Roy

How can I have a smooth transition home?

Coming back home can be an exciting but also a busy and a challenging time: in the midst of catching up with family and friends there is often 'reverse culture shock' for many people. This can be a difficult time, often feeling like a 'square peg trying to fit into a round hole'. Self-care and strengthening personal resilience to overcome any difficulties in the coming home journey is crucial at this time. Identifying and accessing your support networks can ease this difficult transition. Consider what existing support networks are around you in terms of family, friends and other local supports you can access. Coming home can be a time to strengthen your personal resilience to transitions and changes which may involve accessing extra professional support at this time, such as counseling, if needed.

***"The individual whose vision
encompasses the whole world
often feels nowhere so hedged in
and out of touch with his surroundings
as in his native land"***

– Emma Goldman

If you went with a sending agency, accessing any support services they provide can be a good first-step in your transition home. Many sending agencies offer personal and operational debriefing services. It is good practice to receive both an operational debriefing and personal debriefing on your return. Personal debriefings are distinguishable from operational debriefings: operational debriefings are primarily concerned with the work done on assignment and are conducted by the 'sending agency'; a personal debriefing is concerned with how the whole overseas experience was for the individual and how they are finding the process of readjusting back home. The purpose is to help the individual to reflect on and process their overseas experiences and to bring about a sense of closure.

Comhlámh Supports

Comhlámh can provide you with support and guidance to facilitate your return to Ireland, to assist you in settling back in and to help you overcome the 'reverse culture shock' associated with coming home. The range of supports available includes access to counseling, debriefing services, careers guidance, information and assistance in protecting your wellbeing and social welfare rights, invitations to special events and social gatherings, courses and opportunities to get involved with development education from Ireland through campaigning and activist groups.

If you have been away for 3 months or more, you are entitled to free membership for 12 months and the invitation to participate in the Coming Home Weekends which are run twice a year.

This toolkit should be read alongside Comhlámh's 'Coming Home Book', which supports volunteers and development workers in settling back into life in Ireland. It has information on reverse culture shock, health issues, social welfare, the importance of 'time out', information about job hunting and further studies. Contact Comhlámh if you would like a copy of this book.

When should I get involved following an overseas experience?

There is no obligation to get involved as soon as you return home; you will get involved if and when you are ready. Adjusting to being back home can be challenging in itself and it may take years before your overseas experience manifests itself into further engagement. Knowing yourself, what keeps you motivated, as well as looking after yourself throughout will help you to identify what the next steps could involve.

Many returned volunteers and development workers feel they would like to stay involved in global justice issues, but simply cannot find the time, or do not know where to start looking. Finding opportunities that are easily accessible and relevant to ongoing activities at home can make it easier to get involved. Finding out what is going on within your local area, connecting with others and getting involved with activities you are interested in can mean that an engagement in global issues does not have to be an 'add on' or a complicated process.

For example, watching a film with friends on a global justice theme, starting a book club to read books by international writers, getting more informed on issues or choosing to cycle or walk instead of taking the car... it is a culmination of these simple, small but effective activities which can have a wider impact.

In chapter 3 and 4 you will also find many other options on how to become engaged on a very practical level.

How can I learn from my experience?

Your overseas experience was one part of a wider life experience; all the experiences in our lives (travel and otherwise) contribute to our continued learning journey through life. Creating a space for reflection on your time overseas is an opportunity to 'look back in order to spring forward'! Your norms, values and practices are enriched by the different experiences you have through your life, and can add to your way of seeing the world. Following an engagement with another culture and context different from what you have been used to (the 'norm') allows a unique opportunity to see the world through other eyes. These new perspectives are a way to challenge traditional ways of thinking and introduce new ideas and ways of thinking. If we want to engage local people in Ireland and motivate them to become involved in development issues it will be important to understand what has changed in ourselves and what we want to share with people who have not been abroad.

Think back to when you had just arrived in the new country: the initial period of transition and learning about the new culture and adjusting to a new way of life. Do you remember those initial days, weeks and months? How did it feel to be in a completely different environment and culture than what you were previously used to?

“Knowledge emerges only through invention and re-invention, through the restless, impatient, continuing, hopeful inquiry human beings pursue in the world, with the world, and with each other”

– Freire, 1970

Understanding the learning from an overseas volunteer experience is complex; sometimes the learning may not even manifest itself for many years. Paulo Freire (1970) in his work on pedagogy and education argued that learning should be relevant and linked to our lived experiences, adding to our knowledge and understanding of injustice.

What was your story before going overseas? Who were you? What roles did you play in your life from Ireland?

What's your story

What are some of the things since coming home to Ireland that you are noticing ‘through other eyes’? Some examples other returnees have identified are things like the constant and never ending communication technologies, people and life moving very fast, excessive consumerism, advertising, etc.

Who am I?

Being the ‘outsider within’ can present opportunities to look at our own culture and context through other eyes. Being exposed to different ways of living in other parts of the world can give us a new lens through which to view our own reality at home. This is particularly relevant when we are seeking to understand why social change is something that is happening, and needs to happen, both at home and abroad. Seeing and experiencing injustice overseas can help to identify injustice in your home country that you may not have noticed before. Added to this, the ways in which communities overseas have overcome injustice can be shared with communities in your home country, to add value and bring new perspectives to the ongoing struggles and changes experienced here.

In the context of the changing situation in Ireland, there is a need to more deeply understand the issues we are currently facing, and to make the connections more globally. The financial crisis has exposed how interconnected our economies are and the limitations of this for financial stability across Europe. The effects of climate change are likewise affecting communities through increased flooding and temperamental seasons. The dependence on other countries for our own food security has been threatened by events like the ash cloud in 2010 which stalled all aircraft, and the effects that drought in other countries might have on our own food availability. The issues which have been felt most strongly by people in countries in the Global South are now becoming more real for people in the countries of the Global North.

There is a potential role for returned volunteers to bring new perspectives on these issues, deepening an understanding of the issues with people locally while making connections globally. Many developing countries have experienced similar issues and there is an opportunity at the moment to learn from such countries in terms of resilience, community based solutions and adaptation to a changing local and global context.

How can I use my skills?

You as an individual have valuable skills that can be used for change-making. The skills you have developed as a result of your overseas experience, as well as the other skills you have developed throughout your life to date, are all valuable assets and should be considered in relation to what you go on to do from Ireland. Every social change movement is made up of unique individuals with diverse skills, knowledge and perspectives. No two people are the same and thus for change-making, everyone brings their own flair and personality.

It's not easy to change the world. But with the right attitude, commitment and knowledge of your own skills, you could soon be making a real difference. If you have a passion for something, follow that passion. And get whatever additional skills or supports you need through those around you, or by making new connections and networks.

Take time to consider your position in relation to the other skills and resources which people have. How can you 'add value' to existing initiatives, movements and campaigns? What alternative perspective can you bring to the table?

It can be useful to create a space to reflect on the unique skills you have as an individual. Questions you might ask yourself:

What skills do I have?

What skills would I like to further develop (where can I go to do this)?

How can I create social change using the existing skills and resources within myself and my community?

Where do I go from here?

The rest of the toolkit will be a guide through which you can move your experience into further learning and action. The next section will explore some development topics in more depth, making connections between these 'global' issues and your local situation, and then Section 3 will go on to explore some ways you can stay engaged in development issues from Ireland.

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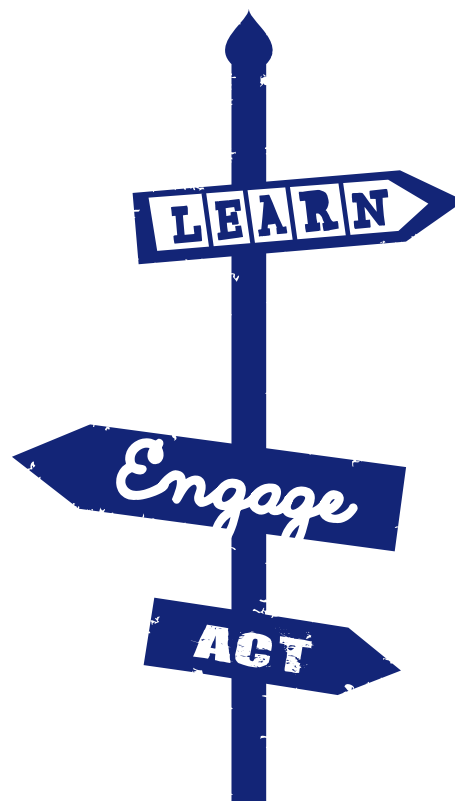
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2.

Issues

As a returned volunteer you may have seen or experienced poverty and injustice during your placement abroad in some way. It can be difficult to make sense of why there is such injustice in the world with grotesque wealth for some and the ongoing challenges of poverty for others. Often it is the bigger questions and a thirst for justice that is the motivation for many returnees to find out more and continue their engagement in development on return.

The following chapter aims to help you understand the various dimensions of poverty. Only by developing a deeper understanding of poverty are we able to begin to address it, and to identify the potential role of returned volunteers and development workers within this. This section will explore: What is poverty? Where does it appear and who is hit by poverty? To dig deeper into the topic we will take a closer look at two underlying causes of poverty (although there are many more causes): The first will be unfair terms of trade between the Global North and Global South. The second will be climate change.

Globalisation

Situating poverty within the wider context of globalisation can provide the basis from which to identify our role in these bigger issues. Whether you believe globalisation is a force for good or not, there is no doubt that the world is becoming more interconnected. We live in a fast moving, ever changing world: depleting resources, continued and new conflicts, new emerging ideas, increased and more accessible communication. The world is currently going through significant challenges and changes. Resilience, within ourselves and within our communities, is key in coping with the changes that are facing us.

‘Knowledge is power’

– Francis Bacon

Some would have us believe that everyone is benefiting from globalisation. In reality, while 80% of the world's people live in the global south, the richest 20% (who live in the global north) own more than 80% of the world's wealth and the gap between rich and poor is getting bigger. The underlying cause of such global injustice is the abuse of power. Global poverty and social injustice are not natural, nor are they the result of the ‘invisible hand’ of the global market. They are the results of structures of power created by people. At the highest level, globalization is dominated by networks of powerful interests and the institutions they control. Structures have been created that free up business and protect it from interference by the public. The result has been increasing inequality, poverty and vulnerability across the globe.

Our safety and wellbeing relies on the safety and well being of our global neighbours. Injustice locally exists just as injustice globally exists. Through globalisation, our lifestyles are, more than ever, affecting people far away to whom we cannot put a face, and in more recent years it has become clearer that the root causes of poverty and injustice are issues that affect us all. Through the choices we make in our own lives, we can have a positive or negative impact on such issues. Engaging more deeply with these issues means we can begin to understand and start to address them.

‘This country will not be a good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a good place for all of us to live in.’

– Teddy Roosevelt

Global Poverty

Often global poverty is something that is perceived to be 'out there', far away from our lives and realities. However, the interdependent nature of the structures of the world means that we are connected to the lives and issues of people across the globe, and many of the structures that have created and accentuated global poverty are situated in the global north. It is for this reason we have a responsibility to ask questions and make choices that will have a positive impact on the forces that affect people affected by poverty.

Particularly when returning to your home country, it can be difficult to readjust to the excessive consumption, wealth and waste in society at home, possibly compared with the more modest experience of the community you lived and worked in overseas. However, this discomfort can be a good thing, as often it is discomfort and anger which provide the motivation for asking questions and taking action. A deeper exploration of the reasons behind poverty, wealth and over-consumption can help to craft a better understanding of what can be done to challenge these issues from our home country.

Poverty is nothing new and has existed ever since humans have lived together in a community and property and income have been distributed unequally. It is a complex concept which affects communities across the globe, often manifesting itself in very different ways.

Nowadays we mostly relate poverty to countries in the global south and you may indeed have experienced poverty and injustice in your host country. However, structures that oppress people are also rooted at the local level and while poverty occurs more often in the global south, it also appears in different forms in the global north.

How did you experience the poverty in your host country? What were the major issues you could identify? What were the experiences of local people?

Defining poverty

Defining poverty is not easy and a generally accepted definition does not exist. So let us explore some measurements of poverty in order to get a clearer picture of its different aspects.

First of all poverty can be measured monetarily. The World Bank distinguishes between two main categories of poverty on the basis of a household's income:

a. Absolute poverty is the minimum requirements of income needed to survive, meaning a household has to survive on a living of \$2 a day or less. Extreme poverty is defined as a living on the equivalent of \$1.25 a day or less. This money often has to cover the basics of food, shelter and water. According to data from the World Bank in 2008, 2.5 Billion human beings - approximately 45 % of the world population - live on the little amount of \$2 a day.

b. Relative poverty defines itself in relation to the wealth of a certain country, based on an agreed minimum standard within that country. The poverty line of a country is calculated from a pre-determined percentage of the average middle-income rate. If a person has an income under this poverty line – then this person is defined as relatively poor in relation to his/ her fellow countrymen and women.

To use monetary categories for poverty makes households comparable to each other and therefore countries with regards to their wealth. But these numbers must be read carefully as they tell us nothing about the circumstances in which people live and why people are affected by poverty. These numbers just tell us that a household spends that certain amount. It is a very single dimensional point of view.

Data and statistics need to be treated with caution. Often the information we collect reflects our view of the world, and can miss out other elements. Many existing ways of measuring poverty are flawed. They rely on weak conceptual foundations, are difficult to compare over time and across context, and don't reflect the interests and perspectives of poor people. In addition to monetary categories, other measurements exist which take these elements into consideration and allow us to look at poverty in a much more diverse way.



Poverty is more than not having the money for material things. It can also mean that you don't have the money for social activities like going to the cinema or having a meal out with friends or to have a holiday. This can lead to people feeling cut off from the rest of society because they don't have the money to participate. According to the Development Programme of the United Nations (UNDP), poverty means that opportunities and choices most basic to human development are denied: a 'poverty of choices'.

The **Human Poverty Index (HPI)** includes this aspect into its measurements. Rather than measuring poverty by income, the HPI uses the data of life expectancy, education and access to public and private resources.

The **Human Development Index (HDI)** likewise evaluates human development by combining the monetary aspect with indicators of educational attainment and life expectancy (health) in order to create a more diverse picture of poverty, while at the same time visualizing the causes and providing answers on how to fight poverty.

The 'feminization of poverty' describes a phenomenon in which women represent disproportionate percentages of the world's poor. The **Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM)** is the UNDP's attempt to measure the extent of gender inequality across the globe, based on estimates of women's relative economic income, participation in high-paying positions with economic power, and access to professional and parliamentary positions.

Happiness economics is the quantitative study of happiness, well-being, quality of life, life satisfaction and related concepts, typically combining economics with other fields such as psychology and sociology. It typically treats happiness-related measures, rather than wealth, income or profit, as something to be maximized.

Working Poor: Poverty often exists among those who are unemployed; however there are many people who are employed yet still suffer from poverty due to their income not being able to match the cost of living in a particular society. Worldwide, one out of five workers is living in extreme poverty with less than \$1.25 of income a day. These 700 million people are called the "working poor".

Did you experience people as being 'working poor' in your host country? What are the issues faced by 'working poor' in your home country and how does this manifest itself?

During your time as a volunteer overseas you may have experienced people who are 'working poor', and in Ireland it is also common for people who are working still not able to afford a reasonable standard of living.

All of these add different perspectives on how to measure of poverty and offer some suggestions of where the causes of poverty may lie.

Perspectives of Poverty

You may have found that people you met overseas were materially less well-off compared to many people in Ireland. However, perceiving poverty through Western Eyes often results in a perception that communities are 'lacking in' material things. This viewpoint, however, often misses the many valuable assets a community has, including social relationships, informal economies and the positives of living in that culture. Taking the time to look deeper – seeing the richness of a place – can sometimes result in an assessment of your own country coming out as being poor in many other respects.



Gender Inequality

As you can see on the map below, absolute poverty mainly appears in countries of the global south. In the global north we experience more relative poverty and absolute poverty is the exception, while in some regions of the South absolute poverty tends to be rather the norm than the exception. Especially in the global south, poverty is omnipresent. In India, 40% of the population faces extreme poverty and in Sub Saharan-Africa every second person is affected by extreme poverty.



Territory size shows the relative degree of gender equality for the people living there (population multiplied by gender empowerment measure)

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Poverty has many faces. But if we want to give poverty a human face it could be a young female one. Women and children are at high risk of poverty not only in the global south. 70 % of the 1 billion poorest people are women. Discrimination of women is still high, in societal as well as in economical terms. School attendance is more often denied to girls in favour of their male family members. They get paid less and in many countries women often have no access to decent work and hence need to earn money in the informal sector which can put them in a vulnerable position. In many countries they are not allowed to own property and therefore are not in a position to borrow from banks. Often women and girls face malnutrition and suffer from bad health care especially maternal health care.



‘The exclusion of women from power in this country has never been clearer. Five out of six authors of the McCarthy Report were men, 16 out of 17 on the Oireachtas Committee on Finance and Public Service are men, there are 13 men and just five women on the Commission on Taxation..... and of course women make up just 13% of our TDs and Senators.’

– National Women’s Council (Ireland)

Gender inequality is not only a phenomenon in countries of the global south. Also in the global north women are structurally disadvantaged compared to men: poverty, unequal power relations between women and men, and unequal access to resources, are powerful barriers to women achieving and participating fully in society, leading for example to a pay gap between men and women, over-representation in the informal economy with limited benefits and security, unequal distribution of leading positions in the economy or politics.

Identifying the issues affecting women in your own country, and learning about the issues affecting women all over the world, you can begin to see similarities and also the ways women all over the world have begun to address gender inequality: through making changes in the law, electing more women into government, developing successful movements of women around particular gender issues, and recognition of the important role women play in society. Millennium Development Goal 3 sought to ‘Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women’:

“When we empower women, we empower communities, nations and the entire human family”

– UN Women

Bitter sweet world trade

The economic situation of people in countries of the global south has arguably worsened over the last number of decades. This is due in part to the structures that have been imposed on these countries by international financial institutions and economic policies dictated by the global north. Globalisation has brought many changes globally, some of which have been beneficial to people, but it has also brought changes which have benefited certain countries over others. The terms under which global trade operates are not equal for countries in the global north and global south. Economies are more connected than ever before and while this has resulted in many new opportunities, we also have to look at the consequences of this.

The insistence of rich countries on trade liberalisation has meant that countries in the global south have been encouraged to 'open up' their trade and their economic policies have been heavily influenced by structures which are more powerful than their country's governments. The key aspects of trade liberalisation include the following:

- reducing the taxes on goods entering the country;
- increasing the rights of investors (over the rights of workers in that country);
- privatisation of key industries and public services;
- reducing support for domestic producers;
- introducing business-friendly domestic reforms.

The impact of such policies on countries of the global south occurs at various levels. At the level of individual farmers and producers, there are serious implications on their ability to compete with heavily subsidised imports from other parts of the world; this has an effect on local employment and food production, which in turn leads to food security issues for local people. The over-extraction of minerals and materials to fuel rich countries' overconsumption and the demands of markets globally impacts on local agriculture and environmental degradation often takes place. The rights of corporations and businesses are usually valued and upheld above the rights of local workers and environmental rights.

At a national level, trade liberalisation policies undermine the capacity of governments to

determine their own economic policies and to industrialise and develop their economies further. Because their economies are less developed and they can't compete due to the negative impact of trade liberalisation, many countries end up locked in the role of exporters of raw materials and basic agricultural products. Countries of the South also lose significant government revenue as they reduce the taxes on trade. This impacts on their ability to prioritise sustainable development, food security and the protection and provision of public services to their citizens.

At a global level, the priorities of corporations and industries of the global north are favoured above the needs and interests of people globally, and multinationals have huge economic power and influence. While this could be perceived as a problem only experienced by countries of the global south, especially in recent years the implications of neoliberal policies are also seen in many countries of the global north. Ireland is unfortunately an example of this, currently undergoing huge austerity measures, public cutbacks and a loss of economic sovereignty due to the dictates of international financial institutions and the huge influence of banks on our economy.

In essence, the way in which existing trade structures and rules operate is to prioritise profit over people; not the other way about. Europe's trade agenda is one example of a policy which favours corporate interests and maintaining EU dominance in the world market, above the needs and priorities of development and poverty eradication. It is important not to forget the face of development, the actual people who have been significantly impacted by such policies and with whom we need to stand together in solidarity take action. While aid and international development work (including volunteering) is a key and crucial element in reducing global poverty, it is not enough and on its own won't bring long-lasting change. To truly move towards poverty eradication and sustainable development for all people on the planet, rich countries need to address key structural causes of poverty, including issues such as trade, debt, taxation, climate change, migration and others. It's crucial if we care about global justice to develop a deep understanding of the issues that perpetuate poverty and inequality.

Comhlámh has campaigned for many years in favour of trade justice. To learn more about our work on this issue and how you can take action for change check out <http://www.comhlamh.org/campaigns.html>



EFFECTS

Developing countries lose ownership of their own raw materials and do not get value of it. Deindustrialisation, Decisions about what to produce informed by outside agents, not meeting local needs or expertise.
 Developing countries not able to prioritise their own development needs, make own economic choices.
 Rights of investors over workers and producers. Local poverty issues. Loss of jobs.
 Growing gap between rich and poor



UNDERLYING CAUSES

Trade policy decisions. Demand for cheap goods.
 Western Overconsumption. Imbalance of power between global north and global south. Desire for access to natural resources.
 Insistence on Trade liberalization. Privatisation. Lowered taxes for companies from the global north. Free Trade agreements. History of colonialism and its impact on economies.

KUAPA KOKOO CASE STUDY

Throughout this debate, it is important to include the voices of people from communities in other parts of the world. Kuapa Kokoo is a cooperative of cacao farmers in Ghana established in 1993 when cacao farmers united to take up their own fight against poverty. The cooperative works at improving the social, economic and political wellbeing of its members. Kuapa Kokoo simply means 'Good Cocoa Farming' and 1300 villages have already joined the cooperative to follow this spirit.

The example of Kuapa Kokoo highlights some solutions the farmers found by bringing their workforce together and marketing their cocoa beans jointly. Through local self-administration they are able to fight together for their own rights – a decent living-wage, education for their children and also vocational training for themselves in order to enhance their marketing potential. Also women get the chance to participate in Kuapa Kokoo. In southern countries often women or farmers create cooperatives to unionise their workforce in order to build up more market power such as the Kuapa Kookoo cooperative in Ghana. Fatima Ali is the proud owner of a 5-acres cocoa farm. She says:

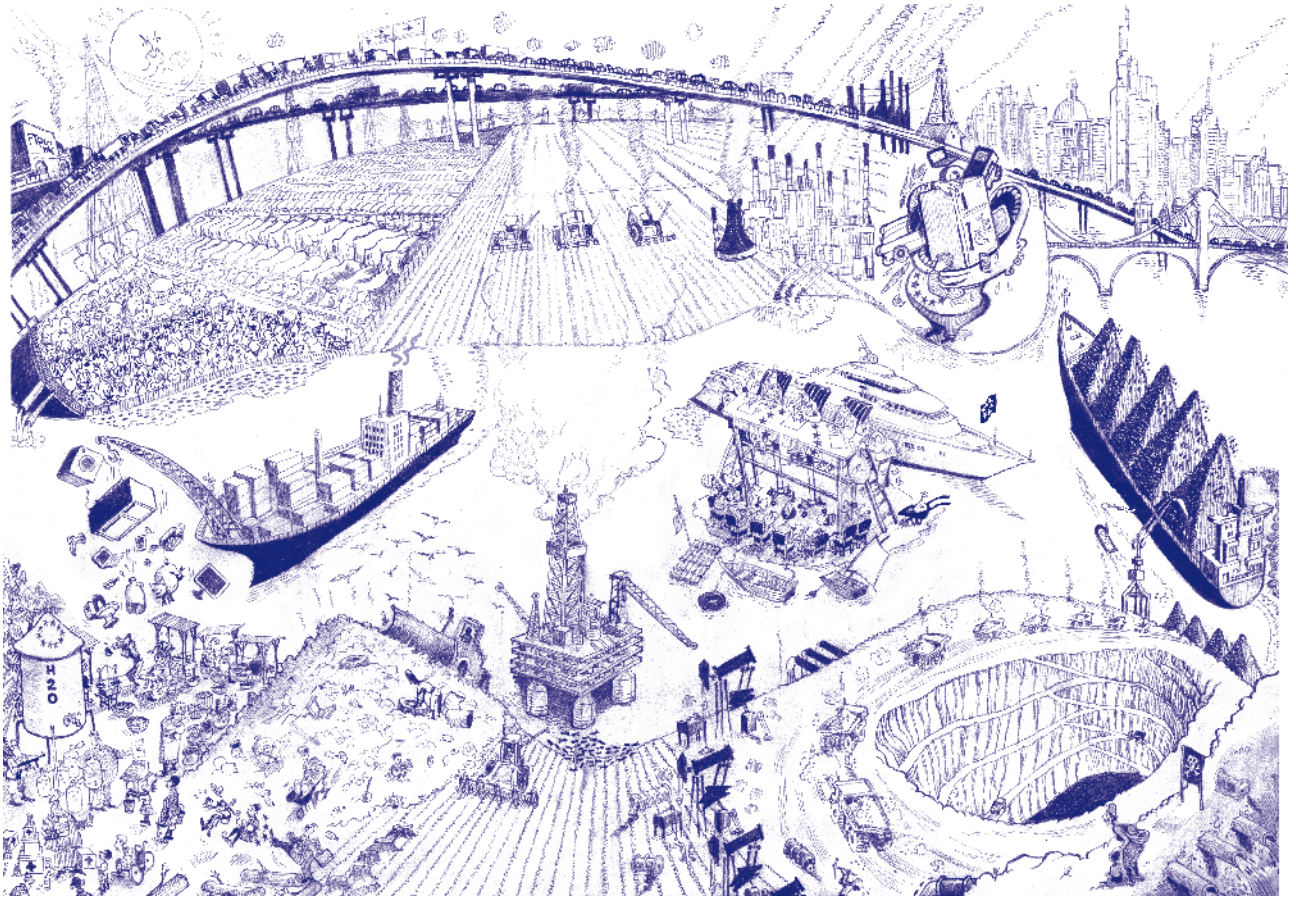
"[My father] told me about the fact that Kuapa was a cooperative and that members have a say in the way things are done. I must say that I was encouraged to join... The thought of farmers having a say in the way a company is managed actually intrigued me!"

Now she is the elected recorder of her society.

In the 19th century cacao became a mass product and to meet this demand production has increased ever since. Between 1980 and 2010 it has more than doubled, meaning that prices for cacao are decreasing and farmers in Ghana and elsewhere get less and less money for their harvest. Between 1980 and 2009 the price for cacao fell by half. If a producer of a developing country wants to export cacao to European Union countries it costs 0,5 % custom duty on it. If a producer wants to export chocolate to European Union it will cost 30%. African produced chocolate is thus very expensive on the global market. So it is not a surprise that most of the global chocolate production is based in western countries like Netherlands, Germany and the USA.

Cacao farmers in Ghana are just a small wheel in the global trade of cacao. However, unfair terms of trade are a major reason for their situation. And on a global level a major obstacle for development in the global south. But the example of the Kuapa Kokoo cooperative as a fair trade initiative means that all the farmers who are members get a guaranteed price for their cacao which is always above the average world market price. So even if the prices for cacao are decreasing the farmers can still pay fair wages for their workers and have a better life.

Fair loans and working conditions are controlled by the labelling organization of fair trade FLO Cert on a regular basis. And Kuapa Kokoo is even a main shareholder of a chocolate company that sells in Europe. This way the cooperative also profits from the chocolate selling and is not only reliant on cacao production. The fair loans and good working standards of course mean that the fair trade chocolate with cacao of Kuapa Kokoo is a little more expensive than other non-fair trade chocolate, but many customers are willing to pay a fair price for fair chocolate. So we can see from this example that there is power to change and people willing to take their faith in their own hands.



The bigger picture of the Global Trade System Artist: *Khalil Bendib*

Cacao is just one example for these unfair trade regulations. The same goes for most other agrarian products like tropical fruits, vegetables, oil and also for many other raw materials that we all buy on a regular basis. And not only the EU but also most other countries follow this policy. Besides the custom duties there are many other obstacles for producers in countries of the global south to export to countries in the global north. For example for many finished products there is a limited quota. Rules of origin are an obstacle for developing country producers. A salesperson from a developing country may need to prove that more than at least 30-50% of the materials used in a finished product has originated from their own country, which is problematic in the manufacture of complex products with dozens or hundreds of parts. The intention of these trade rules is simple: global north countries are eager to import cheap raw materials and at the same time they want to protect their industries from developing country competitors. EU and other industrialized countries demand free access to developing country markets without high customs for their own products. Liberalisation of trade in this sense is a one-way-street from global north to global south. This is a huge advantage for the producers in Western countries but disadvantages producers in the global south.

For agricultural products from the industrialized world such as maize, milk etc. western states even pay high subsidies to their own farmers, each year more than \$300 billion. (For development aid only \$100 billion is paid.) For each cow a western farmer receives more than €2 per day from the state. That is more than a day's income for many people in the global south. With this help countries in the global north can sell cheap agricultural products on the world market. This poses a threat to farmers in the global south who, despite their low incomes, cannot compete with such state subsidized products. Farmers from the global south lose their income, local production breaks down and the country is even more dependent on products from the global north. Under these unfair terms of trade producers in developing countries are forced to focus on growing 'cash crops' which are demanded by industrialized countries such as cacao, coffee, sugar, soy etc. and sell them to the global market dominated by multinational companies. As the prices for these crops go down they can only survive with cheap production meaning lending unfair loans and imposing inhumane working conditions on workers in the global south. As workers rights are often denied it can be more difficult to organize and improve these situations.

Unfair terms of trade are not in place by accident but made by politicians and influential lobbying groups. On a global level, state leaders set the terms of trade within the **World trade organization (WTO)**. Besides WTO there are also many multi- and bilateral trade agreements between developing countries and industrialized countries such as **EPAs (Economic Partnership Agreements)** between the EU and developing countries. Terms of trade are a result of countries of the global north setting the international rules because of superior economic and military power. Within WTO and in other agreements as well developing countries have little influence. This way, unfair terms of trade are carried on.

Multinational companies are often and increasingly more powerful than governments themselves in relation to trade (even in the Global North). An example of this is the activity of Coca Cola in India:

India reportedly has the fastest-growing market, but the adverse environmental impacts of its operations there have subjected The Coca-Cola Co. and its local bottlers to a firestorm of criticism and protest. There has been a growing outcry against Coca-Cola's production practices throughout India, which are draining out vast amounts of public groundwater and turning farming communities into virtual deserts. Suicide rates among Indian farmers whose livelihoods are being destroyed are growing at an alarming rate. Every day for years there has been some form of protest, from large demonstrations to small vigils, against Coca-Cola's abuses in India.

The Environmental Law Research Centre issued a report in 2007 that stated, *"the activity of the Coca Cola Company has caused or contributed a great deal to these problems...The availability of good quality water for drinking purposes and agriculture has been affected dangerously due to the activity of the Company. Apart from that, the Company had also polluted the agricultural lands by depositing the hazardous wastes. All these point to the gross violation of the basic human rights, that is, the right to life, right to livelihood and the violation of the pollution control laws."*

'Water Shortage, the real thing', Issue 427, New Internationalist (2009)

The impact of global structures, the liberalization agenda and the unregulated activity of multinational companies means that the gap between rich and poor is increasing, both in the global south as well as in the global north. For example, the USA is one of the most unequal countries in the world- the gap between rich and poor is huge and still increasing. Likewise, India and other BRIC countries have increasing wealth, but this does not translate into improved conditions for the majority of people in those countries.

What needs to happen for the situation to change?

A recent policy report published by Comhlámh, WEED (World Economy, Ecology and Development), and AITEC (International Association of Technicians, Experts and Researchers), highlights southern proposals for alternative trade policies that best serve the needs of local populations and the environment. Some common principles that were identified which need to be at the heart of trade and development policies into the future include:

- Placing people before profits in trade policy;
- Supporting participatory democracy and citizen engagement;
- Challenging unequal power relations within countries and across regions;
- Ensuring human rights, labour and environmental standards are upheld;
- Sharing information freely and in transparent manner;
- For trade policies to protect the universal human rights and respecting the Earth's natural limit to protect her for future generations.

Climate change - It's getting hot in here!

What?

Global warming and climate change are pertinent issues affecting the planet, and have increasingly been brought more on to the agenda in recent years. A few decades ago scientists agreed on the reality of climate change occurring within our lifetime. The only question was how hard it would hit. Climate change is one of the biggest threats in the fight against poverty. Why? And what has it to do with us in the northern hemisphere?

We are now only beginning to come to terms with this reality and in particular the effect of climate change on development. Already millions of livelihoods have been destroyed through floods, droughts or weather catastrophes and millions remain homeless. Hurricanes or strong rains diminish or even devastate whole harvests and consign families who are forced to leave home or to send away their children in hope for a better life for them at some other place.

Why?

Global warming is a man-made phenomenon. During the past few decades "industrialized" countries have used a huge amount of fossil fuels (coal, natural gas or oil) to heat up their industry, and continue to do so. The consequences of global warming can already be sensed all over the planet. Polar caps and glaciers are melting. Sea levels are rising. Heavy rains, hurricanes and floods are the results on the one side; desertification and droughts are the outcome of rising temperatures which lead to decreasing crop yields or destruction of whole harvests. Extreme weather conditions have implications on an immediate level for local people in terms of losing arable land, famine, migration, limited access to clean water, the spread of diseases, etc. On a more global level, this manifests itself through increased food insecurity, displacement of people, fuelling conflicts, economic instability, etc.

'Climate Change is no longer a development issue – it is now a key context which will increasingly shape, if not determine, what can be achieved in terms of development... there is a need to continue to build political will to prevent further climate change. There is a sense that, at least in the North, the message on climate change is still not producing significant change in people's attitudes and behaviour... Ongoing education and advocacy are essential'.

– Leading Edge 20: 20, Trocaire (2011)

While the message is slowly becoming evident for many people and is beginning to appear on the agenda for many policy-makers, there is still a long way to go in order to convince many of the world's leaders, companies and industries to change their ways and consider alternative ways of working and prioritise sustainability in the decision that are made.

In addition to this, changing the mindsets and habits of ordinary people all over the world is another huge challenge. To date, increased education, policy changes at national and international levels and the use of media have resulted in more people having an awareness of the issues. While significant changes still need to take place at the level of governments, policy-makers and with businesses, it is also crucial to mobilise a critical mass of people locally within countries to develop a respect for the earth, knowledge of the limited resources on our planet and an awareness of the impact that local activity can have on a wider scale more globally. There is a lot that can be shared and learned from people all over the world, local reactions to the problems that are occurring in relation to the environment and development.

What were your experiences with the effects of climate change in your host country?

What were some of the locally developed solutions of ways of dealing with these effects? What are some of the related issues to climate change in terms of global poverty?

Who?

Today we find ourselves in the middle of these aforementioned developments. We – as citizens of the global north – mostly learn about climate change through media when it is reported about floods in Southeast-Asia, droughts in Sub-Saharan-Africa or devastating hurricanes in the Caribbean region. The consequences of global warming mainly affect people in the global south even though they hardly contributed to the causes of global warming in the first place, and certainly have not benefited from it. They pay the bill by getting hit the hardest, losing their livelihoods and homes of their ancestors and often facing the difficult process of migration. This calls for a 'Climate Justice' approach, to demand justice for those affected by climate change who are often forgotten or who do not have a voice, keeping the focus on the injustice of situation on the world's poorest, most vulnerable people and putting the lens on those who have caused most of the damage to the earth.



Territory size shows the carbon dioxide emissions in 2000 that were directly from there.

© Copyright SASI Group (University of Sheffield) and Mark Newman (University of Michigan). www.worldmapper.org

According to United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), countries of the global south are in a particularly vulnerable position mainly because of three reasons: geography; a stronger dependence on agriculture; and because of the lack of access to resources meaning that there is little chance to adjust to the climatic changes effectively. According to UNDP, if the average temperature increases to around three or four degrees during the next century, about 330 million people would have to leave home because of floods, droughts, food insecurity or because their homeland will vanish under water or sand. In Bangladesh alone, 70 million people would be affected; also inhabitants from small islands in the Pacific Ocean such as Tuvalu, Kiribati or the Solomon Islands would be forced to migrate – which is actually already a reality for many island states.

“The carbon footprint of the earth’s poorest 1 billion is around 3 percent of the world’s total carbon footprint”

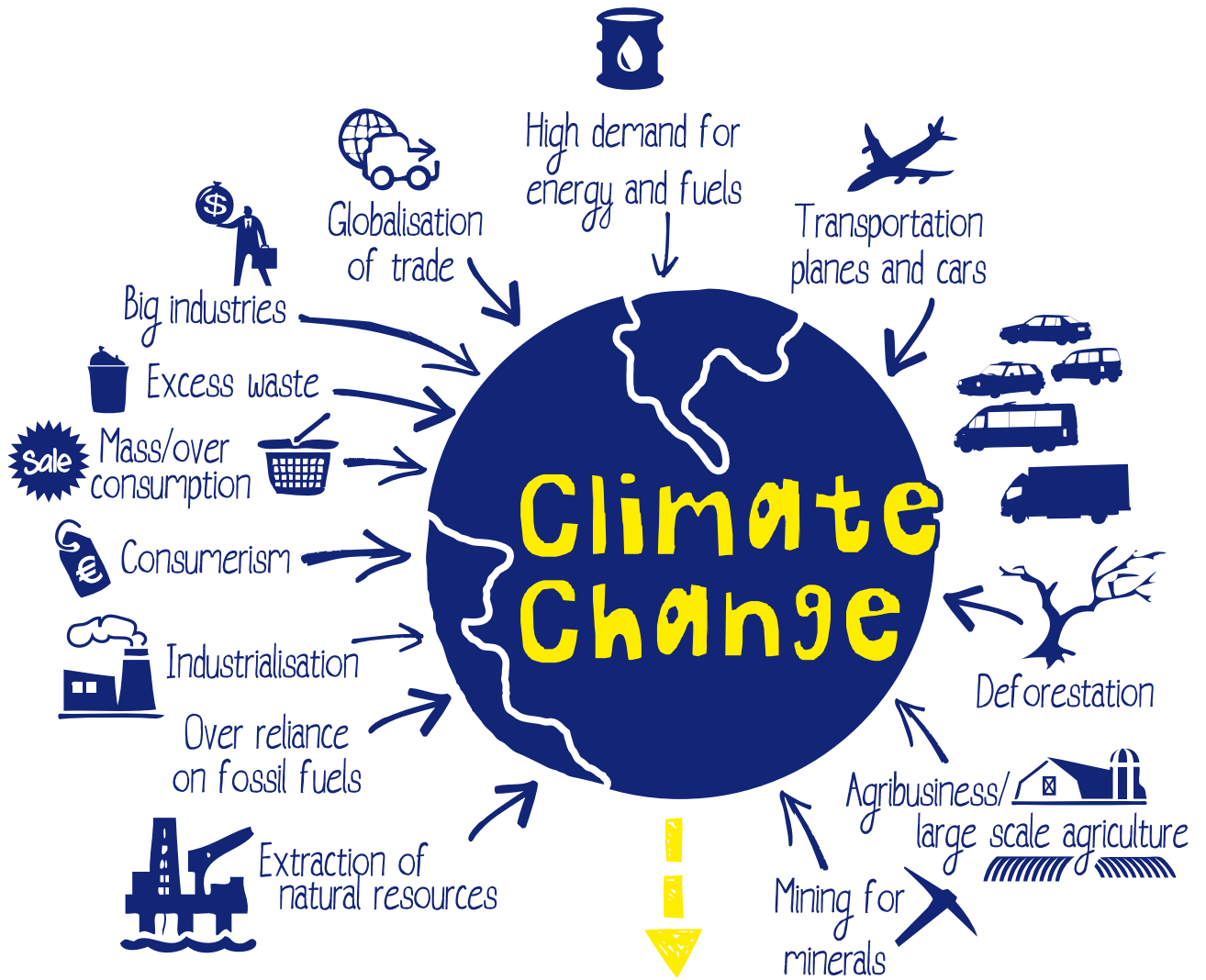
(HDR, 2008, S. 43).

While the effects of climate change are being felt most strongly in the countries of the global south, we are now also feeling the impact in countries of the global north as well, for example flash flooding and severe freezing across many countries in Europe. Even so, many ‘climate sceptics’ in the global north, including politicians, policy makers and even ordinary people, are in denial that climate change exists, or that it has anything to do with them. However, the evidence is there and we need to re-focus the debate on the injustice of the situation to motivate ourselves and others to action.

Who is responsible for Climate Change? What needs to change?

To answer this question, it is important to explore who has the power, and who makes the decisions in relation to this issue. Again, the role and responsibility of big business needs to be seriously considered- who makes a profit from the industry that is harming the earth? What is our role as consumers, as well as citizens of our countries and the planet to challenge these institutions? We need to see the bigger picture of the actors involved in climate change, particularly those contributing to this serious issue, and those who are dramatically affected by this issue and to get all these voices on board. A good place to start is to find out about the good work which has been done already in this area across the globe, shining a light on this work and applying some of the learning to our own local actions.

How can you use your overseas experiences to make the case for why climate change is important, and what actions can you and others take to contribute to a positive change?



What to do?

The world of today is facing some quite serious and urgent challenges. We have set the spotlight on global poverty, focusing on the consequences of climate change and the unfair trade system on countries of the global south. When dealing with these topics many other issues naturally emerge as they are connected to the immediate issues, such as financial markets, land grabbing, energy crisis, IT gap. The deeper you explore, the more you may find connections between issues and possible ways of connecting with others doing similar work.

So what can be done about it? What has already been done so far on these issues? Strategies to fight poverty, climate change or an unfair trade system already exist and appear on multidimensional levels. Where are you – as a single person – in relation to the various strategies already in motion?

At a local level there is the opportunity to completely rethink our attitudes and approaches to climate change. The need for critical education around these issues is urgent, and the way in which local communities respond to climate change will be significant in how we cope with the changes affecting us all, locally and globally, now and into the future. Rather than just 'bouncing back' from the shocks, communities can overcome these shocks by 'bouncing forward' with new ideas and initiatives grown from within.

Transition Towns are an example of locally based community initiatives, using the skills and knowledge from within communities to come up with new ideas and solutions to deal with the changes affecting them. Transition Towns are locally based, but within a global network to make connections across the globe.

Learning from communities in the Global South can be a good starting place for dialogue around how to overcome the challenges of poverty and climate change which are affecting communities locally as well as across the world. Learning from the ways in which communities all over the world have adapted to changes affecting their communities can help us to develop new and innovative ideas for communities at home.

So far we have spoken about many possible already existing structures and strategies on how global issues can be addressed. To work through those channels you can get involved with an organisation or get politically active.

It is important to acknowledge that change is needed at multiple levels and that transformational change often takes time and the commitment of all layers of society (individuals, policy makers, institutions, multinational corporations, governments and transnational companies).

Finding our role in all of these layers of change-making can help in becoming active on the issues we feel most passionate about!

Let us find out in section 3 what you can do yourself, between which activities you can choose according to your interests and how you are getting active and things started.

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3.

Actions

Vision without Action is but a dream. Action without vision just passes the time. Vision with Action can change the world'.

– Nelson Mandela

In the midst of all these challenges currently facing our world, all is not bleak. **The only thing we can be sure of is change.** The world has been continually changing, shaped by the different players, including many ordinary people as well as those leaders we read about in the history books. The world has changed dramatically in the past fifty years or so in particular. What is going to happen in the next fifty years? Who will be the ones to shape this, and where is the role for each of us as individuals?

In particular, as returned volunteers and development workers, where is our role in shaping the changing nature of the world, both locally and globally? How can we use the unique experiences, skills and knowledge we have gained as part of an overseas experience to inform and shape the ongoing movement of change we are currently experiencing?

Change is not easy. Being a change-maker is not easy. It is sometimes easier to ignore problems than to engage with some of these difficult and complex issues. How to overcome some of the difficulties and bring others on board is important at this time. It can help to find a space to tell your story, share what you had learned while overseas and the challenges you have experienced since coming home within a safe space. Linking in with people who have had similar experiences or people close to you who are able and willing to listen can normalise any frustrations you may experience at this time.

'You cannot plough a field by turning it over in your mind'

– Irish proverb

Change the world - start at home

As we wrote in Section 1, coming home can be as difficult and challenging as going abroad. You may experience your homeland, your community – once very familiar and “normal” – now through different eyes. Problems from your home society can often seem small compared to many of the problems people face in your host country – like food insecurity, unemployment, poverty, hunger, injustice and conflict as was described in Section 2. At the same time you may still feel close and attached to the culture, the people and the country where you were placed and where you participated in everyday life for some time. You may feel exhausted and overwhelmed by all these huge issues, and this is very understandable! So taking time and space to yourself is very important at this time. However, if and when you feel ready, you may feel inspired to start working towards a change for the better, working towards global justice from your home society.

Where do you start working towards effecting change from your home country? There are many factors in our everyday life which have a direct relation to living conditions on the other side of the world – such as our consumption of food, clothes, energy, water etc. A first step can be to reflect upon your own behaviour in terms of your way of thinking, your consumer choices, political participation or your direction in career and lifestyle.

A Day in the Life of a Global Citizen

Consider what a normal day in your life from Ireland looks like. What things do you do... what products do you buy... what resources do you use... that connect you with the rest of the world? Think of what you have for breakfast and where this comes from. Where does the fuel for the car or bus come from that transports you from A to B? How many people do you connect with in different countries through social media on a daily basis? Who made your clothes? Considering such questions can open up a deeper understanding of how, every day, we depend on resources which come from different places and which often can have harmful effects on people and the environment.

Through the lifestyles we live in Ireland, we may inadvertently be contributing to:

- Increasing the power of multinational corporations and financial institutions through the goods and services we buy;
- Causing drought and floods in countries of the global south by damaging the environment;
- Fuelling conflict in countries through our demand for natural resources.

In an interconnected globalized world, problems cannot only be situated and solved in the Global South alone. There is also a lot we can do from our home countries, in our homes and within wider society. We are part of the problem and we can become part of the solution as well. You will be surprised how strongly our behaviour here affects the situation of people all over the world in terms of the structures and systems which benefit some over others, and the effects on environmental sustainability of which we are all depend on. To learn more about your own individual impact on the rest of the world, these websites below are a good source of information:

www.slaveryfootprint.org

www.storyofstuff.org

www.worldometers.info

With the acknowledgement that we are intricately connected to people and places all over the world, it is worth considering what actions can be taken which can have a positive effect. With the rise of consumer society, our shopping receipt has become a kind of ballot paper. Making ethical choices about what to buy, how to live and how to raise awareness locally are some of the first steps in shifting the balance of power into the hands of people, forcing companies to sit up and listen. As a returned volunteer you can lead by example, inspiring others to take greater steps in challenging the root causes of global poverty and injustice.





What you buy

A great way to make ethical and informed choices which contribute to greater sustainability is to adjust our consumption habits. The consumption from the Global North is mainly responsible for the high production and usage of global resources which often fuels conflict, injustice and poverty for people in the Global South.

Buy Fair Trade goods

Buy Fair Trade and encourage others to do the same. Choosing fair trade coffee or cocoa rather than conventional coffee or chocolate can have a positive effect on the other side of the product chain for the producer and their families. The Fairtrade system offers us, as consumers in the global north, a powerful way to contribute to a more just world trade system and to challenge poverty on the other side of the production chain all through a choice made in the supermarket.

Buy Locally

More people are deciding to buy locally, sourcing food such as meat, fruit and vegetables at local markets across Ireland. This food usually comes without unnecessary packaging and polluting food miles that damage the environment. It can be great to hear where your food comes from, straight from the mouth of those who grew it for a renewed appreciation for the food you eat.

Grow it Yourself!

The GIY (Grow It Yourself) movement has really taken off, particularly in recent times when more people have time to grow and are reflecting on their relationship with the food they eat. Growing your own food is economical, enormously satisfying and a great way to learn more about various foodstuffs.

Positive Buying

'Positive buying' means to purchase ethically and environmentally sound products as much as possible. Refusing to buy products from companies known to abuse human rights, damage the environment or simply push their weight as a major global corporation. Companies may eventually take their business somewhere else if enough pressure is put on them. This puts power in the hands of shoppers to hold an entire market to account, not just individual companies.

Keep the environment in mind

The impact of consumption by people in the global north has had devastating effects for people in countries of the global south in relation to the environment. It is therefore an obvious place to start, to reconsider lifestyle and consumer choices and the positive effect this can have on the environment.

Reduce your consumption

Reduce the amount that you buy. We live in a consumer society where life is surrounded by images and advertising to get us to spend, encouraging shopping as a recreational activity. Buy Nothing Day takes place annually every November and is a change to have one day where people stop and think about the effects of what we buy. Celebrate this day by doing a creative action, only buying local or giving up your mobile phone for one day.

See 'Buy Nothing Day' poster:

<http://www.buynothingday.co.uk/download/BND-consumer-sticker.pdf>

Keep calm and don't shop

<http://www.buynothingday.co.uk/posters/keep-calm-and-dont-shop-blue.pdf>



Pack It In!

Buying eco friendly products, avoiding chemicals for growing food and plants, and reducing the use of plastic are all good ways to preserve the environment locally and consider the effects that oil consumption has had on the world in terms of environmental destruction and conflict.

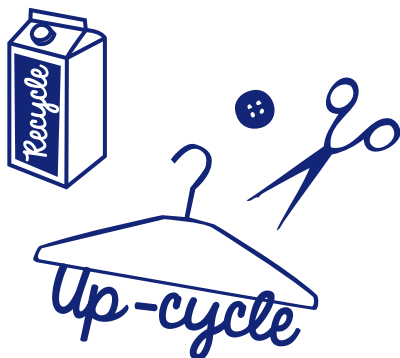
An idea for a demonstration against plastic packaging: invite a group of people to go to do their weekly shopping in the supermarket en masse. When everyone reaches the checkout, get them to remove all the unnecessary outer plastic and packaging from the food products and leave it all behind at the till. This collective demonstration against plastic packaging can be a really good way to get the attention of the supermarkets to notice how much packaging is on the food they sell and they might even influence the packaging companies as a result!

Eco fashion

The range of eco-fair products has been extended by clothes, shoes as well as flowers and even sustainable journeys are possible today. Especially in more recent years the supply of eco-social fashion has highly increased. Organic and fair trade clothing helps to save resources like water and reduce pesticide usage. Conventional cotton production is highly water and pesticide intensive which can harm producers as well as nature and finally the consumer, who buys heavily chemical-loaded clothes.

Second Hand and Up-Cycling

Also buying second hand clothing or having clothes swap parties with your friends, relatives and neighbours can be fun and provide you with new clothes in a very sustainable way. "Up-cycling" clothing has also emerged as a trendy way to make old clothes new again by combining it with other clothes and accessories.

**Sustainable Living**

Sustainable living means a lifestyle which aims to save earth's natural resources by reducing one's own usage or consumption of energy, water or other natural resources. At the same time you will be surprised how easy it can be to make a change by adjusting our old habits in our everyday life. To change your behaviour is up to you and a wonderful way to feel powerful.

Not only what you buy counts, but also the decisions you make in everyday-life contribute to a more sustainable way of living. For example you could decide to go to work by bicycle or public transport rather than by car or invent a car sharing with your colleagues. You could choose a green energy supplier or to plug out your Stereo or TV-station after usage.

Weekday Vegetarianism

You could have a meat-free day in the week with your family, flatmates, friends or even think about becoming a vegetarian. A weekday vegetarian is someone who only eats meat on the weekends, drastically cutting their food carbon footprint without totally giving up BBQs and beef stews. We can curb climate change by as much as 70%, just by returning to a diet light on meat like we once enjoyed. theweekdayvegetarian.blogspot.com

Ethical Tourism

Where to go on holidays, and how to get there, can and does impact the planet. Cheap air travel has led to an increase in greenhouse gases, and tourism can affect local communities in the global south in both positive and negative ways. If you need to fly to your destination, you could offset your carbon emissions by contributing to carbon offsetting schemes. Or you can experience the pleasures of 'slow travel' by hopping on a train, ferry, bicycle, to some beautiful places in Europe and beyond. On the other hand, it is easy to enjoy the beauty of the Irish culture and countryside by holidaying locally.

Ethical Investment

Many banks and building societies in Ireland are now offering ethical investment funds for the conscientious saver. Through these funds, you can be assured that your savings are not invested by banks in ways that undermine sustainable development and human rights. If you already have your money invested in a fund, you could look into how ethical your investments may be. As a starting point, why not ask your bank which companies your fund invests in. If there is reason for concern, you may wish to move your money to another fund with your bank.

How to relax

Find pleasure in creative and non-commercial pursuits. With all the changes Ireland has experienced in recent years, many people have become disengaged with consumer culture in favour of engaging more with meaningful activities. Outdoor activities are a great way to keep fit, spend time in nature and to have experience nature in the company of friends or family, or by yourself. There is a plethora of museums, galleries, festivals, performances and surprising bits and pieces to discover about your own part of the country. The arts is a key form of expression which has therapeutic as well as aesthetic benefits. You may even find performances and exhibitions related to where you worked overseas.

'Slow Dublin' is an inspirational lifestyle guide for Dubliners who want to live more and fret less. It celebrates all that is unique, local, natural, traditional and sensory in the city. Become a tourist in your own country! www.slowguides.com/dublin

Random Acts of Volunteering

A Random Act of Volunteering is a simple act that is done to benefit others. It doesn't have to cost any money; it is simply an act of kindness which can make the Random 'actor' feel good as well as the person they are benefiting. Here are some ideas of what you can do:

1. Pick up a piece of litter – or several!
2. Donate blood
3. Help someone who can't reach something on a supermarket shelf
4. Offer to share your umbrella with someone
5. Plant a tree or flower in your community
6. Offer a few hours of your time to babysit for busy parents
7. Pack an extra lunch and give it to someone who needs it
8. Conduct some stealth gardening in your area, ridding it of weeds
9. Let someone in a hurry cut ahead of you in the queue
10. Make a cup of tea for someone working on your road
11. Tell someone about a random act of volunteering and encourage them to pass it on!

(www.volunteer.ie 'Random Acts of Volunteering' National Volunteering Week 2012, Volunteer Ireland).

Getting to work

We spend roughly one third of our lives at work, and it makes sense that how we get to work, and what we do in the workplace can contribute greatly to promoting a fairer world. Change how you get to work – walk, cycle or take public transport, start a car pool, or if possible work from home one day a week.

Start a discussion at work

Education about justice issues and encouraging others to make a change can start at work.

There are many engaging ways to do this, through lunch time or after-work discussion groups where you could watch a film with a development theme, invite in speakers, or just have regular discussion groups to help to build momentum for change within companies, such as ethical or environmental behaviour.

Take your time

Many people are now finding themselves either working too much, or not having the chance to work at all. Rethinking how we work could be revolutionary in terms of working hours, mental health and unemployment issues. There have been calls for the 37 working week to be slashed so that more people could have more time and also increasing the number of people who are able to work.

'More time outdoors, more time to play musical instruments and rediscover our creativity, more time with our kids, fitter bodies, reading more, cleaner air, less worrying about the fate of the planet – what's not to like? Throw in less disparity between the rich and the poor, a more affordable standard of living and less corporate control over our time, and we approach what some might be tempted to label utopia.'

Zoe Cormier, *Workers of the world, relax*, Issue 434 *New Internationalist*' (2010)



Finding work in the development sector

Having returned home, you may decide to continue your engagement in development with a locally based NGO or in local community work in Ireland. Whatever you decide, it is important to learn about the sector and its requirements. It can be helpful to make contacts and network. Another great way is to start volunteering or an internship with an organization that appeals to you. Not only will you gain a better understanding of the sector, you will make friends and meet potential employers along the way as well. There are opportunities to work in the development sector, but it takes planning, patience and passion!

*See the Careers and Courses guide by Comhlámh

Embedding a global dimension into your future career

There are a wide range of opportunities for you as a returned volunteer to embed your experiences into the work that you do, paid or voluntary, in your working role from Ireland. Bringing a global and justice perspective to your work can be a great way to share learning and continue your engagement from Ireland in your own work context.

Some ideas of career paths into which you can embed a global dimension:

- Teacher
- Development education practitioner
- Youth or Community worker
- Campaigner and/or fund raiser for a non-governmental organisation
- Consultant for companies on environmental practices
- Journalist
- Politician

With any kind of career you choose which interest you the most, like teacher, doctor, carpenter, tailor, engineer and so on, you could possibly contribute to knowledge transfer and exchange overseas or locally at home by linking with an organization which places development workers in countries of the South or by having discussions within your workplace and sensitizing people in your direct environment.



These are small contributions to achieving greater sustainability in your everyday life. But these small steps will only make a big difference if many people join. You can spread the word or be a good example to those you live with, those at work or in college, in your neighbourhood or within your network of family and friends. As a returned volunteer, you have been witness to global and social injustice and those who live it. Through your experiences, you have the power to make people sit up, listen and demand change by telling your stories and by amplifying the voices of people in the global south.

As a returned volunteer you have experienced something which others have not, which may have changed your perspective of looking at the world and looking at yourself. What is important to you now in life? How can you lead your life at home with the knowledge gained through your stay abroad? How can you share the experiences of life in other countries with people locally at home? What would you like to share from your time overseas with people locally at home? What ways can you do this most effectively?

The final Chapter of our toolkit will deal with this topic.

Change the world - share your experiences

Finding opportunities to share the skills, perspectives and knowledge you gained while overseas can benefit both people at home, so they can learn more about global issues and how they relate locally, but also the people you were working with overseas, to bring the perspectives and knowledge learned from them to audiences at home. Not everyone has an opportunity to go overseas and experience another way of life. The possibilities for awareness-raising on return from an overseas experience can have a significant impact for a deeper understanding of development issues and local action for local and global change.

There are different ways to raise awareness about global poverty and injustice. While on your overseas placement, you may have seen and experienced unique things and you may have been confronted with a different reality than what you have known before your departure. Many perceptions of the global south and developing countries from people at home are often negative, because of the information available from the Global North, informed by a one-dimensional and Euro-centric way of seeing the world. Challenging negative perceptions, informing people locally of global issues and encouraging positive actions for change are just some of the roles that returned volunteers can offer on return from an overseas experience.

Development Education is an educational response and process aimed at increasing awareness and understanding of the shared development of our world. By engaging people critically in and with our increasingly interdependent world, development education aims to challenge global inequalities, and works towards creating a more just and sustainable future for our planet. (IDEA, the Irish Development Education Association).

Education and awareness-raising locally can help to discover and explore the complexity of issues by broadening peoples' knowledge, helping to develop competences, making them critically reflect and – as a consequence – changing attitudes. Returned volunteers have a unique role to play in development education, based on the unique knowledge, skills and perspectives gained from overseas experiences. Adding to this with spaces for critical reflection, a deeper understanding of the issues experienced while overseas, and tools to support awareness-raising and strategies for action can maximize the potential for development education on return.

There is an assumption that if enough people knew there was poverty and injustice in the world, that they would do something about it. This is not completely true. For real transformation to happen, people need to connect to issues and to feel empowered that they can do something about these issues. What makes this happen is unique to each individual. In terms of encouraging transformational change locally following an overseas experience, it is important to make the issues accessible for people so that they can understand, connect, feel empowered to act, and that **change is possible**.

Development education as a process with people locally is an opportunity to make global connections with peoples' lived experiences locally. Strategies for engaging people locally in development education depends on the group with whom you intend to work. Starting where people are at and the knowledge they have already, using participative and interactive methodologies to share and exchange information, developing a critical understanding, bringing in important perspectives from the global south and agreeing on actions to take... this is the space for development education, and you can be the multiplier for these conversations to take place!

“People do not respond in a sustainable way if they do not participate in their own future, in their own destiny.”

– Gil Brenson-Lazan

Development education can take place anywhere and with anyone! Some examples of spaces where development education can add to existing knowledge and empowers people to take action include:

- In **schools**, bringing a global dimension to formal education; embedding a global justice dimension into the curricula subjects and using participative methodologies in the classroom;
- In **Universities**, participating in modules related to subject areas which explore a global and justice perspective for the future professionals, for example a geo politics module as part of a social science degree;
- In **business**, integrating ethical and environmental approaches to business, for example the procurement of sustainable products in the company, or reducing the energy consumption of computers in the office;
- In **youth and community groups**, making links with the lived local issues of injustice and poverty, for example exploring women's issues in your local community and learning about the issues affecting women in a community in another country;
- With the **general public**, raising public awareness of global issues and encouraging people to make informed choices, for example through a public campaign or demonstration around a significant global event like the G8 Summit or public awareness raising around International Women's Day.

The list could go on; what is important for you to find your space, and identify what further supports you need to move forward in your journey in development education.

Spread the word – engaging people at home

When talking about an overseas experience, particularly in relation to global issues or the injustice of the world, often you may feel like a stuck record.

Things
more so
fast in our
society

Why do
people consume
so much !?

I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW MUCH
WE WASTE AND THROW AWAY
IN THIS COUNTRY

It can be easy for people to 'switch off' when hearing about the issues. The reasons for this are dependent on the individual: they may feel overwhelmed by the hugeness of the issues; they may not feel that these issues are relevant to their own lives; they may feel powerless to do anything about the issues. It can be easy to feel overwhelmed by the huge issues that we are currently facing. However, it can help to motivate people by exploring existing approaches that are working, and supporting people to create their own strategies for change. Making the links with their own situation and what people know already can be a useful way to add to their existing knowledge and understanding, e.g. when shopping, making ethical choices about what to buy based on where the items come from.

For example, if you are dealing with a group of football players you could make global connections and get their attention by centering your message on child labour in the production of footballs in developing countries and what they can do about it (e.g. buy fair trade or certified footballs for their club). Like in this case, always making the connections between your target group and the topic of development education will make it most meaningful for those with whom you will work with.

What motivates people to feel angry enough to get involved? How can we use this anger constructively? How can we understand the forces behind injustice, inequality and poverty, and the powerful influence of governments, institutions and multinational organizations in maintaining these forces? How can we recognize our own power as individuals and collectively as groups and social movements to challenge inequality and injustice in the choices we make and the actions we take?

'A good conversation can change the world'

When it comes to changing our lives or changing the world, it all begins with a conversation. Alone, humans can feel weak, disempowered or that the issues are too huge. But when many people with good ideas come together, there can be extraordinary results. Every great environmental campaign, revolution or gradual social change started with a conversation between a few people. From a simple conversation, people decided to move the ideas forward and work together on issues they feel passionate about. And this is how great things can happen.

Below are some examples of when returnees have engaged with development education or campaigning or some other form of action for social change. The following examples may give you some ideas on how to become active yourself. They have been developed and implemented by other returnees that have been in the same position as you, returning home and wondering what are the possible next steps and ways to get involved. They came up with some really unique ideas that reflect both actions they like and topics they thought are important for other people to know about.



You can ... **Become active on facebook!** Want to get people interested in development topics in social networks? Here is an idea of how to do it. Two returnees developed an app for Facebook users. It gives daily changing very practical tips for supporting global development in every day lifestyle. Once you have subscribed to this app, each day you will get some inspiration on how to contribute to sustainable global development. Here it says that reducing personal meat consumption helps to fight global climate change. Other tips are on how to save water, why it is a good idea to buy fair trade products and many more tips are to be found.



You can ... **Create a game on development topics!** No matter what age people are, most people like games. This is an interactive way of getting people to think about global topics. Three returnees invented a game in the form of a paper placemat for cafes and restaurants – to be played by regular guests at their tables. The idea: You travel with a coffee bean from harvest to your cup, from South America to Europe. At each station you can collect points depending how much you know about coffee production. With this game returnees sensitized customers to think about labour rights in coffee production and promoted fair trade coffee.



You can ... **Organize a workshop to give new life to old T-Shirts!** Want to show people that there are other ways than buying cheap clothes that are produced around the globe under bad working conditions and then throw them away? Let them be creative. A returnee gathered a group of girls and conducted a workshop with them on how to redesign worn out T-Shirts to stylish tops. In addition the girls got informed on how T-Shirts of many big companies are produced with dumping loans for workers in Asia and how we can contribute with thankful consumption of textile.



You can ... **Create an exhibition** from your beautiful photos from your time abroad and make people aware of the situation in these countries. Pictures sometimes tell more than a thousand words. Two returnees gathered photos from their visit in developing countries and made an exhibition out of it that deals with the global problem of waste. They added information on global waste disposal and effects on life of people in developing countries and environment. The exhibition was shown in schools around town with great interest.



You can ... **Set up your own fashion show event on Fair Trade clothes.** An interesting event will gather a lot of people for your topic. Two returnees wanted to make a statement that also Fair trade Fashion can be modern and that there is plenty of option if you want to "dress to impress". They borrowed the clothes for free from Fair trade fashion labels. They hired models and put them on the catwalk at their University. Information material on standards in textile production and certified fashion labels were given to more than 90 guests at that event.

Campaigning and Advocacy

Even though strategies on a national level mainly get implemented and decided by state-actors and policy makers and therefore seem far away for you to participate in and it seems very hard to contribute to shape policies, don't forget we have a democracy! Policy makers are elected by you and you could use your vote to make a statement and express what you want.

Nowadays the increasing importance of non-state actors can be felt strongly. They use their corporate voice to make statements on certain non-acceptable conditions like climate change, increasing injustice and poverty or diminishing bio diversity. This voice-raising for the benefit of some social, cultural, ecological concerns in the Global South is called **development advocacy**. Advocacy can be achieved through a group, for example activists groups like the Clean Clothes Campaign which speaks for the worker's rights in the textile industry; but also individually, for example as a multiplier for development education. Advocacy is an overall term for a wide range of actions:

- Awareness-raising
- Mobilization
- Campaigning
- Lobbying

Particularly you, as a returned volunteer, are very valuable for this kind of work as you can share what you experienced of the human impact of many of the policies that have been shaped and had an effect on the global south.

*For more information on campaigning and advocacy you can refer to the Comhlámh resource, 'Be the Change' toolkit which goes through these topics in greater detail.

Further Links and References:

www.treehugger.com

(check out the Graham Hill video)

<http://makeitfair.org/en>

<http://www.ethicalconsumer.org/>

<http://www.sustainable-lifestyles.eu/>

www.buynothingday.co.uk

Grow It Yourself (GIY movement) www.giyireland.com

New Internationalist, Issue 434, 2010

Slow Dublin, Anto Howard, 2009, Affirm Press (www.slowguides.com)

Volunteering Ireland 'Acts of Random Volunteering' www.volunteer.ie



CAMPAIGNING
advocacy

Stories

Now let us hear from three returnees who have their own story to tell about their time overseas and what they went on to do in terms of continued engagement on return. They had their own unique experiences and developed perspectives which informed their decisions and actions from their home countries.

**I TOOK OFF TO CALCUTTA
HOPING TO CHANGE THE
WORLD AT LEAST A LITTLE
BIT I ACCOMPLISHED A LOT
DURING THAT YEAR BUT
I LEARNED EVEN MORE
FOR MYSELF**

When I was back from Ghana for the first time, I was full of energy. Only then was I able to fully understand the sense of our work as volunteers in Poland.

Integrating my experiences and sharing the learning and resilience of communities in Bangladesh has provided inspiration, insights and new ways of thinking for my work in Ireland.

Carmel (Ireland)



My name is Carmel, born and bred in Co. Tyrone, Ireland. In 1973 a friend and I were travelling around Europe when it was announced that the war in Vietnam was over and we both felt that we wanted to give some time to supporting the refugees. While we didn't get to Vietnam, an organization called Concern sent volunteers to a number of countries in both Asia and Africa and they were in Dublin that Christmas, fundraising and hosting a Volunteer Awareness Day for potential volunteers. They offered both of us work in Bangladesh. I was seconded to Bangladesh Women's Rehabilitation and Welfare Foundation – this was a training centre providing women with new skills so that they could be employable since many of the women using this centre had lost husbands, brothers, uncles in the war and therefore the 'breadwinner' in the family.

My first impressions of Bangladesh was from the air – lush green fields, the heat, the number of people, the poverty, the rickshaws, the car horns blowing, the faces of the children, the ramshackle homes. Concern had a large team of volunteers mainly from Ireland working in the city and in the rural areas supporting the people in camps who were displaced as a result of the war.

Bangladesh Women's Rehabilitation and Welfare Foundation was established by women and men from Bangladesh to support women affected by the war. The director had recently returned from USA with her Masters in Community Development. She was also very interested in reviving the craft industry which had virtually disappeared. My colleagues and I developed accredited training, including on-the-job training. This training was then rolled out for women in the wider geographical area. My role was to engage with businesses both local and international so that women could put their training into practice with support from a mentor. For some organisations this meant having to make changes to their premises to include a space where women could work and to provide a rest room for them.

Some of the women were eventually employed by the organisation they were placed with. I soon learned that the women were not only resilient but cared deeply for one another especially people who were financially poorer. They worked hard and were determined to support not only their immediate family but other members of their family who had needs. I learned about arranged marriages and shocked that it could happen so quickly and some of the cultural and practical reasons behind this.

All of the women I worked with were involved in their communities, organising support for women especially the most marginalised and encouraged them to develop their skills so that they could support their families.

When I returned to Ireland in 1975 I was initially shocked by the British army presence, especially around the border area where I lived. I also felt isolated as many of the volunteers in Bangladesh were from the South of Ireland; I was from the north and I missed our shared experience of living and working so close together. I moved to Dublin within 2 weeks of returning home. I wanted or needed to be able to meet other volunteers and to eat Indian food. In 1975 there were many volunteers returning to Ireland – people who had worked with VSO, UN Volunteers and other organisations and many gatherings were held, leading to the formation of Comhlamh.

There was a recession then and jobs were difficult to find. I wasn't sure what I wanted to do. Then I saw a job looking for a Youth Worker to work with young people not using the traditional youth service and the advertisement included being "innovative, creative and enthusiastic". These qualities I believe were heightened by my experience in Bangladesh and gave me the opportunity to put my learning from Bangladesh into practice – helping people to help themselves. I continued in youth work until 1983, when I got married and became active in community development, particularly health and women's projects, as a paid worker as well as a volunteer.

I have always brought a global dimension to the community development work I have been involved with; integrating my experiences and sharing the learning and resilience of communities in Bangladesh has provided inspiration, insights and new ways of thinking for my work in Ireland. I have now "gone global" once again, working in the area of global education and intercultural learning exchanges.

Sebastian (Germany)



I am Sebastian, 22, student of computer science in Karlsruhe, Germany. But actually I define myself more through other things - especially the experiences of my year as a volunteer in India ... Eager to get to know a very foreign country in depth and also happy about the adventure I took off to Calcutta – hoping to change the world, at least a little bit. I accomplished a lot during that year but I learned even more for myself. Like the fact that “changing the world” is somewhat tedious work including some difficult decisions.

“My” project supported former child labor workers to get education – providing school fees and tuitions. I stayed next door in the poor neighborhood of an Indian megacity. Part teacher, part social worker, I assisted the project staff in their classes and home visits to the families. And I was a big brother to the boys living in the project’s hostel. Gaining fascinating insights into the workings of the NGO I also started working with the local staff on new ideas for improvement.

I don’t remember any single experience that made the vast contrast between that life at the poverty line and our seemingly spoiled existence in Germany crystal clear to me. But many small pieces coming together.

There was the garbage hill on which a lot of kids spend their whole day searching for recyclables they can sell in order to help their families make ends meet – and therefore lose any chance of education and a good job in the future.

And there were the families of our project – children that I visited in their huts at the roadside. These visits fascinated me from the first moment.


Maybe because of the almost unbelievable circumstances – living in one small room with a family of eight. Definitely because of the warm-hearted hospitality we received even from the poorest families. It was clear for me then: I want to continue helping people, return to India sometime but also change my everyday life in Germany in a way to support global justice.

Back in Germany I enjoyed the first weeks lazing around but then I was longing for action.

My beliefs should get through to everyday life. But getting further along the road than buying fairtrade chocolate turned out to be hard work. Slowly I quit the subconscious greed for the highest interest rate and transferred my savings to an ethical bank. It took me over a year to buy my first fairtrade pullover. But I am definitely getting there.

One of my commitments was to I contact our town council to introduce fair procurement, buying only goods produced without exploitation. One party already had the topic on their agenda and it still took a lot of patience – but one year later indeed the decision was made.

Now I am very active for “Studieren Ohne Grenzen” (Studies Without Borders), an organization run by students that is supporting students in war-torn regions. The goal is not so much to bring in help but to enable the young people to improve their home countries themselves. Recently I was elected on the board of directors – but the position is not important, important is that I have found a great concept to continue working on global justice and a lot of like-minded people working on that topic as well.



One of my commitments was to I contact our town council to introduce fair procurement, buying only goods produced without exploitation.

Ania (Poland)



Photo by
Agnieszka Mazur

Hi, I'm Ania Łozynska, I come from Poznan in Poland, where I'm studying law. It was at the beginning of my University years, 4 years ago, when I decided to get involved with Salesian Missions. Africa was always attracting me, and my interest in Human Rights was an additional motivation. It was my religious belief which gave me faith and strength to reach out towards people and I knew it was the path I wanted to take. In 2008 I left for 2 months to Sunyani in Ghana, where as an international group of trainers we led leadership workshops for youth. We've been working with young Ghanaians on Human Rights, team work, civil society and Millennium Development Goals, to encourage the young people to develop their own initiatives and actions that can bring a better future in their country.


Later, in 2012, I found myself in Ghana again. This time it was a Boys Home for street Children in Sunyani. For one year I was being an educator, teacher, nurse, mother and a friend to the children there.

Ghana changed my life completely. When I was there for the first time, my eyes were wide open with surprise: young, energetic people, full of ideas. They were joyful all the time, despite the difficulties they faced, although their lives were more modest than my own, working after attending classes and limited prospects for the future. My eyes were opened and I knew I could not close them anymore. Upon return I engaged more in local initiatives with SWM, and after 2 years I developed the idea to give more of my time to the people of Ghana.

The year I spent in Ghana was a real school of life to me. Cultural differences made my life a misery at the beginning, and Don Bosco Boys were more than demanding. But it was them who taught me how to live. They had been suffering, hurt and rejected by their loved ones, so I understood that the only thing I could give them was love. Leaving Ghana I knew it was not the end of my missionary path; that I had to take actions back home, in a neighboring continent.

When I was back from Ghana for the first time, I was full of energy. Only then was I able to fully understand the sense of our work as volunteers in Poland. I got deeply involved in developing a local branch of SWM in Poznan. I became volunteer manager, sharing with others my knowledge and experiences. I have run presentations and speeches at schools, parishes or coffee shops, promoting missionary volunteering and talking about development in Ghana. I also took part in training for trainers on global issues, because I knew how much more I had to learn. I organize events on missions in schools and hospitals, and I work with our local volunteers in Poznan, preparing them for challenges they can face while on placement.

After a year in Ghana I am still continuing my involvement. Now I'm more aware, as I am more confident to talk about the issues I experienced in Ghana as well as about cultural differences. What I experienced in Ghana impacted all I do now. I've learned precious things: my faith is stronger, and I'm now reassured that none of us is a lonely Island!



My eyes were opened
and I knew I could not
close them any more

Now it's over to you!

Many returned volunteers say that the most important part of their overseas experience is what they do upon returning home. We hope this toolkit has given you deeper insight into the different possibilities for continuing your engagement in development from your home country. The stories, ideas and information in this toolkit will hopefully be an added 'tool' in your continued journey in development.

Remember that you have unique experiences which are very valuable to learn from and share with people back at home. Returning to your home country is not always easy, but if you do decide to stay and get engaged in life back here, there are many ways you can continue your engagement in global justice issues: through lifestyle changes, awareness raising, campaigning and creative actions. Small actions and lifestyle changes can often seem insignificant in the bigger picture, but by taking small actions followed by bigger actions... and by continuing to learn and create debates about global issues with people locally... can in fact result in bigger change.

Everyone has their own roadmap for social change and it is about crafting this roadmap to your own unique skills, knowledge and interests that will make it most meaningful and most sustainable.

Regardless of what you go on to do, maintain the belief that people can make a difference. Change starts with you; you have the power to challenge perceptions and the potential to bring a valuable perspective on important justice issues at home. Throughout your continued journey in development, remember to keep yourself healthy and happy – as changing the world is not an easy task – and find likeminded people for support and ideas.

– Margaret Mead



Signposting

Organisations campaigning for change

Afri (Action from Ireland) www.afri.ie

Avaaz: www.avaaz.org

Debt and Development Coalition: www.debtireland.org

Stop Climate Chaos: www.stopclimatechaos.ie

War on Want: www.waronwant.org

World Development Movement: www.wdm.org.uk

Tips for taking action

Guidelines for Campaign Strategy: www.campaignstrategy.org

Do It Yourself: a handbook for changing the world: www.trapeze.org

Tactics for Turning Information into Activism: www.informationactivism.org

Taking it Global: www.tigweb.org

The Change Agency: www.thechangeagency.org

Getting Informed

Guardian Global Development section: www.guardian.co.uk/global-development

Indymedia: www.indymedia.org

New Internationalist magazine: www.newint.org

One World: www.oneworld.net

World Bank Resource on Poverty Reduction: www.worldbank.org/poverty

Development Education organizations in Ireland

Centre for Global Education www.centreforglobaleducation.com

Children in Crossfire www.childrenincrossfire.org

Galway One World Centre www.galwayowc.org

IDEA (Irish Development Education Association) www.ideaonline.ie

KADE (Kerry Action for Development Education) www.kade.ie

LASC (Latin American Solidarity Centre) www.lasc.ie

Mayfield Community Arts www.mayfieldarts.org

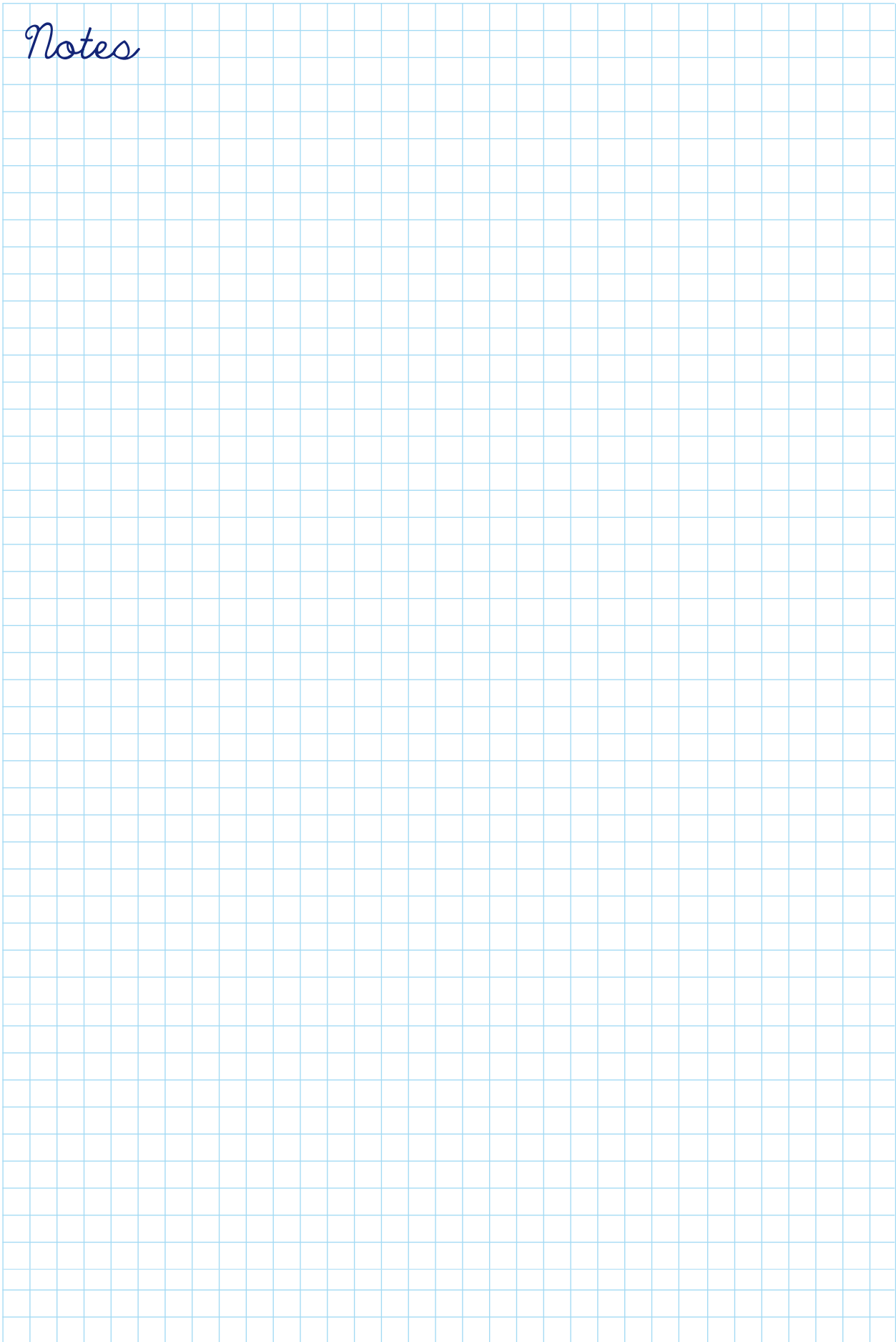
National Youth Council of Ireland www.youthdeved.ie

Trocaire www.trocaire.org

Waterford One World Center www.worlddevelopmentcentre.com



Notes



www.comhlámh.org

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