Think globally, act locally.

Reflect on the positive and negative consequences of charity for both sides in the short and longer terms.

Question:
Whether linking for charitable purposes can ever lead to real partnership?

Checklist:
- ✓ Do you allow your partners to speak and do you listen to them?
- ✓ What assumptions are you making on their behalf?
- ✓ Do you show that you value your partner's situation?
- ✓ Do you raise awareness of issues of global inequality within your link?
- ✓ Do you explore causes of inequality?
- ✓ Are you raising awareness of global interdependence?
- ✓ Do you reflect on changes which could be made within your own community?
- ✓ Is your link placing unnecessary pressures on your partner?
- ✓ Are you seeking to minimise waste and use appropriate technology?
- ✓ Is your link contributing to the digital dump?

Next steps
- Look at 'solidarity' activities currently undertaken locally.
- Consider the implications of unequal access to resources on the link.
- Look at ways of sharing experiences, outlooks and understanding.
- Consider whether the knowledge and experiences of partners with limited wealth is being valued.
- Look at issues of global interdependence and what can be learnt by both partners.
- Consider different interpretations and spheres of knowledge.
- Explore activities which can help to bring about change locally and globally.
- Strengthen participation in the link.

Toolkit for Linking leaflets

Introduction

Specialist sectors:
Community, Faith, Health, Local Authority, Schools, Women and Youth

2 Principles of linking

3 Partnership

3a Context

3b Engaging critically

3c Linking for advocacy & action

8 Problem solving

1 Why link?

4 Starting a link

4a Making a difference

7a Involving the wider community

7 Sustaining a link

7b Learning From linking

7c Visits and exchanges

6 Monitoring & Evaluation

5 Equality

4b Strategic planning

5a Communication & Language

5b Resourcing the link

Further information can be obtained on the UKOWLA website: www.ukowla.org.uk and BUILD website: www.build-online.org.uk .

Development
Across the world, 840 million people are chronically malnourished. Nearly 11 million children die before the age of five each year. Over 100 million (more than half of whom are girls) do not even have access to primary education.

These injustices can change with political will, but poverty will continue whilst people lack power and rights and are subject to inequalities in global trade, debt and ineffective aid.

"Poverty can also mean the denial of opportunities and choices most basic to human development to lead a long, healthy, creative life; to have a decent standard of living". *The State of Human Development, UN 1998*

Development is often equated with economic growth, but it must take account of the needs of people. There is a growing realisation that the current model of development is unsustainable. The increasing stress being placed on resources and the environment; on water, land and air cannot go on for ever.

Development is about creating a global society where everyone can have a say in how their community and the world are run. However differences in power structures mean that an ethical framework is needed to prevent exploitation. Solutions imposed with no regard for local economies and cultures bring misery to those who are pushed aside by such developments.

Charity sees the need not the cause. *German Proverb*

Differences in the access of individuals and communities to resources are key factors influencing many links. The resulting unequal relations of power reproduce ideas of cultural supremacy which need to be challenged if the link is to be successful.

It is not just the obvious ways in which partners are not equal as seen in access to financial and material resources, but also in the images that people in both communities have of themselves and one another. Many links are between former colonial nations and former colonies. The colonisers generally dominated the resources, labour and markets of the colonial territory and imposed socio-cultural, religious and linguistic structures on the conquered population. A legacy in these post-colonial times is that the superiority complex of one and the inferiority complex of the other still exist, with the 'westerners' ways being regarded as the better way and being held in higher esteem than the previous indigenous ways. This will take a long time to change.

Reasons for the imbalance of power and differing access to resources within such links need to be explored, examined and questioned. This is not only because such issues will affect the functioning of the link, but also that they will contribute to a means of greater understanding of the perspectives and realities of partners. If they are not examined then there are likely to be difficulties in the link.
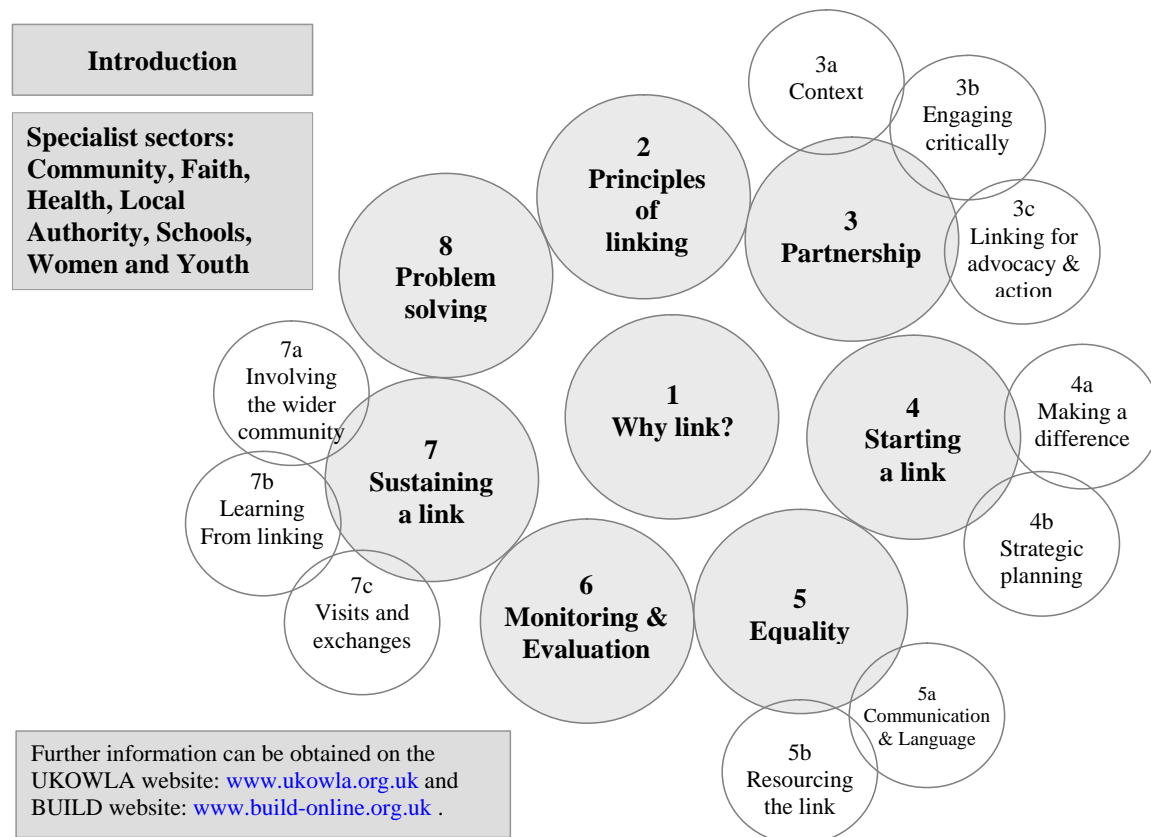
People have access to different kinds of education in communities across the world; however, formal education is not the only path to knowledge. Everyone has knowledge. Differences in approaches in teaching or limited access to resources may emphasise learning by rote rather than a more challenging and questioning methodology. This may affect groups working together.

Democratic structures within the community and within the national context can influence links. The role and involvement of local authorities and civil society needs to be considered in both communities. It is not unusual for interventions from outside to be viewed with suspicion.

On a practical level, differences in access to information, communications technology and transport can greatly affect links. The digital divide is narrowing with cell phones facilitating increased communications. But access to communications technologies such as telephones, computers, email and the Internet remains scarce and expensive in many parts of the world.

Linking can provide an insight into alternative perspectives and combat prejudice, racism and xenophobia, however without careful thought and consideration it can reinforce stereotypes.

What others say

You cannot develop people. You must allow people to develop themselves. *Julius Nyerere, President of Tanzania*

A woman from a very rich industrialised country once advised me: 'Tell your people to do as we have done: to use their heads, to work hard, to be honest and they will achieve what we have already achieved'. Her thinking contains three basic misunderstandings: first that we are unintelligent; second that we do not have the will to work hard; and third, that we are dishonest. *Dom Helder Camara, Brazil*

This legacy creates polarised attitudes in which people still think in terms of:
- Inferiority and superiority instead of equal partnership and mutual respect;
- South and North instead of One World;
- Analysis of problems of Third World rather than awareness of the complexity of life;
- Dependence and Independence rather than Interdependence.

Jane Knight, UK

It is important to value what it is to be Zambian. *Student, Zambia – UK link*

The way the world's cultures keep time reflects their priorities and even the way they view the world. Despite the near universal use of clocks and calendars, different societies march to different beats. In perceiving time, cultures emphasise the past, present and future differently. *Carol Ezzell, Scientific American 2006*

She told me about her land and her culture and her village and her family and the church and the school and all those things, and I said 'Thank you, now could you tell me a little just about yourself?' She looked at me, very surprised, and said 'But I just did'. *Mayan woman, Guatemala*

As the rich consume more and more, they are clearly not going to want to downgrade their own status. *Susan George, USA*

Whoever commands the trade of the world commands the riches of the world and hence the world itself. *Sir Walter Raleigh, UK*

It may be difficult to raise interest in a cultural link. You can't eat friendship.
The North should realise that linking is not a priority for us – but should not feel slighted. *Stroud Consultation report, 1988*

Where we live, how we live, who we are

Needs: Individuals and communities have a hierarchy of needs which will not be the same as other communities and which will be at different levels of attainment. Our needs motivate us. And the primary needs are for survival: food, clothing and shelter.

Partners must recognise that the priorities within their partner's community may shape the engagement in the link.

Environment: The natural world is rapidly changing. Extreme weather events are predicted to become more frequent because of climate change. Intensive agriculture and genetically modified crops challenge biodiversity nationally and internationally and unregulated industries pollute water and air. Over-fishing, mining and deforestation affect many of the poorest people. Key resources are often in private ownership with an estimated 1.1 billion people lacking access to safe water and almost 2.5 billion people lacking access to adequate sanitation.

Economic conditions: The international economic system creates damaging inequalities between rich and poor, and fuels climate change and environmental degradation. Around a fifth of the world's population live in absolute poverty. They cannot obtain even their minimum needs - access to food and clean water, basic health services, primary education, shelter. Economic, social and political processes often make their efforts ineffective and block ways out of poverty. Policies putting profits before the needs of people and the planet are being challenged worldwide.

Health: Poverty, lack of access to health care, antibiotic resistance, migration and changing environmental and development activities all contribute to the expanding impact of infectious diseases. More than 90 percent of the deaths from infectious diseases worldwide are caused by only a handful of diseases. Respiratory infections, HIV/AIDS, diarrhoeal diseases, tuberculosis, malaria and measles are also the leading cause of death in sub-Saharan Africa. Whilst other less studied infectious diseases cause chronic disability and stigma for millions.

INCOME DISTRIBUTION AROUND THE WORLD

RICHEST FIFTH	**82.7 %**	of the world's wealth
	11.7 %	Each horizontal band represents an equal fifth of the global population arranged in order of income.
	2.3 %	
	1.9 %	
POOREST FIFTH	**1.4 %**	

Security: Security is a fundamental prerequisite for development. In areas of conflict, development depends on the facilitation of sustainable reconstruction, disarmament, demobilisation, reintegration and rehabilitation alongside the promotion of democracy, good governance and respect for human rights. Political inclusion, conflict management, economic development, human security and poverty, inequality and conflict are all linked.

Education: The UN Millennium Development Goal set for 2005 to achieve gender parity in primary and secondary education was missed in over 90 countries and at current rates of progress, 86 countries are off track to reach the target of giving all children a complete primary education by 2015. Fees, charges and lack of education infrastructure keep large numbers of children out of school. The teaching profession is over-stretched and under-valued; HIV/AIDS compounds this, killing more teachers in some African countries each year than can be trained.

Technology: Information and Communications Technology (ICTs) development is driven by technological push and commercial pull rather than public policy and long-term planning. Countries lacking access to ICTs are poorly represented when international agendas are set and decisions made, although such decisions have major implications for their countries. Technological innovation and globalisation make it imperative that policy and technical capacity are improved through increased training, education and access to resources.

Human rights for human dignity:
Gross economic and social inequality is an enduring reality in countries of all political colours, and all levels of development. In the midst of plenty, many are still unable to access even minimum levels of food, water, education, health care and housing. This is not only the result of a lack of resources, but also unwillingness, negligence and discrimination by governments and others. Many groups are specifically targeted because of who they are; those on the margins of society are often overlooked altogether.

Economic, social and cultural rights are an integral part of the human rights agenda. Promoting and defending economic, social and cultural rights should be an urgent priority, not just for individual governments, but for the international community and the human rights movement and civil society as a whole.
Human rights for human dignity, Amnesty International: www.amnesty.org

Toxic Trade:
Trade in toxic wastes, toxic products and toxic technologies is increasingly having a devastating impact on global environmental justice. A disproportionate burden of toxic waste, dangerous products and polluting technologies are currently being exported from rich industrialised countries to poorer developing countries. These countries are being asked to perpetuate some of the world's most toxic industries and products and are even asked to become the global dumping ground for much of the world's toxic wastes.

Digital Dump:
A large proportion of the old computers exported from advanced nations to developing countries can no longer be used and end up on informal rubbish dumps in poor countries, in spite of being harmful to people and the environment. Each month, some 400,000 old computers and monitors arrive in Nigeria, where BAN conducted research. According to the Nigerian Computer Dealers' Association, up to 75% of these computers can no longer be used and are beyond repair. Instead of closing the 'digital divide' between rich and poor countries, a 'digital dump' has been created instead.
BAN: Basel Action Network: www.ban.org