

IMPACT REPORT

2022

SOUTH WEST
INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
NETWORK

SWIDN

South West International
Development Network

590

EVENT
REGISTRATIONS

34

EVENTS

122

MEMBERS

5300

ONLINE COMMUNITY
MEMBERS

14

MENTORING HOURS

2

PART TIME WORKERS

Message from the Co-Chairs

This last year has seen accelerated growth for SWIDN as we benefited from the second year of UK Government funding to resource and improve our sustainability and capacity. We are grateful to UK Aid for their recognition of SWIDN as an active and mutually supportive community of practice in the South West, as well as their focus on our small civil society organisational members to build their resilience and capacity through membership of the SWIDN network.

As we begin 2023, we are entering a period of innovation and change to secure sustainable funding, build resiliency in our sector and increase our partnerships across the South West to better deliver the Sustainable Development Goals. We are committed to continuing our vital work on facilitating meaningful connections that result in collaborative, effective partnerships; on bringing people and ideas together for transformational learning; and facilitating growth and reflection amongst those in our sector to improve our practice towards an anti-racist sector.

We are grateful to all our members for their support for SWIDN and their commitment to collaboration, learning and growth. We are excited to see this work continue in 2023.

'I'm just absolutely inspired by the fact that you have this network, it's growing strong and you're taking time out of your lives to do the work that you're doing. Thank you so much for everything you're doing.'

Preet Kaur Gill,
Shadow Secretary of State
for International Development



'SWIDN CONFERENCE 2022: 'FROM DEVELOPMENT TO SOLIDARITY'

In response to feedback from across our membership, we focused our 3-day online conference on discussions around the relevance of traditional 'development' and the extent to which it is an outdated focus and should be replaced with an approach towards 'global solidarity'.

'I think SWIDN is really punching above its weight – creating dialogue and discussion about global issues and ensuring people practicing in development do so with self-reflection and a broad view. I've got no doubt that the work you've done this week will have resulted in improved practices, which will have a positive impact on lives across the world. You're doing brilliant things and I'm really grateful to be part of this amazing network.'

(SWIDN Member feedback on Conference 2022)

204

REGISTERED
PARTICIPANTS

85%

SOUTH WEST
REGISTRATIONS

13

EVENTS

77%

OF EVENTS FACILITATED CONNECTIONS
BETWEEN PEERS

69%

FELT CHALLENGED TO REFLECT, INNOVATE & IMPROVE
HOW THEY WORK

88%

AGREED PANELISTS, TRAINERS & SPEAKERS
REPRESENTED A WIDE RANGE OF EXPERIENCE &
BACKGROUND



RESOURCING ANTI-RACISM

A critical and transformative part of our work is in providing resources and opportunities to support the decolonisation of aid and the meaningful progress towards anti-racism in our sector.

"Its a delicate issue, and we are often intimidated by the jargon the big NGOs use. On the other hand, we recognise that each of us has a prominent role to play. We need to challenge norms and improve ourselves, and SWIDN gave us the confidence to be bold."

SWIDN Member - Small Organisation

In 2021, SWIDN was invited to contribute evidence to the UK Parliament's International Development Committee inquiry into Racism in Aid. You can read SWIDN's submission of evidence here. We welcomed the 2022 publication of the IDC report on Racism in Aid as an act of anti-racism in the UK's 'international development' sector.

SWIDN are committed to resourcing and engaging our members on their journeys towards becoming anti-racist. We welcome feedback and input from our members about how we can do this better and in more inclusive and effective ways.





FACILITATING COLLABORATION IN THE 'INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT' SECTOR IN THE SOUTH WEST

SWIDN believe working together means working better. We believe Sustainable Development Goal 17 is critical to the success of the rest. We strengthen, support and connect those working towards the SDGs in the South West. A key part of every event we host is to facilitate connections and we do this around key themes, shared challenges and the exchange of knowledge and ideas.

After a SWIDN event, the NGOs, consultants and staff told us:

- 89% made a **positive change to their practice** as a result of connections made or knowledge gained
- 94% made at least one new connection which **positively impacted their work**
- 89% felt **better connected to the sector** in the South West

'Being able to connect with other, similar organisations has been of great value. The support and access to training and mentoring are fantastic resources.'
SWIDN Member - Small Organisation



In 2022 we saw several new, collaborative partnerships for SWIDN. One that had a significant impact was co-facilitating an innovative Fundraising Working Group with The FSI and the Small International Development Charities Network (SIDCN) specifically for UK-based international charities with an income of less than £250K.

- 120 people registered to attend 3 open access, online sessions providing free support to 67 small charities over 6 months
- 100% agreed the Working Groups provided them with new knowledge and skills
- 96% said the Working Groups increased their confidence in fundraising
- 89% agreed the groups were useful places to connect and network with peers
- 63% made a new connection with another organisation as a result of attending a SWIDN event

We were also proud to join Chance for Childhood as a Pledge Partner to create better practices and policies around child-centred imagery and storytelling. How we tell stories about 'international development' is a critical part of our approach to decolonising aid.



THE SWIDN PLATFORM IN 2022

122 MEMBERS

89 ORGANISATIONS

9300 INDIVIDUALS

5300 ONLINE COMMUNITY

1418 DIRECT REACH FROM SWIDN ACTIVITIES

183,000 INDIRECT REACH FROM SWIDN ACTIVITIES

19 MILLION GLOBAL REACH OF MEMBER ORGANISATIONS



BRINGING PEOPLE AND IDEAS TOGETHER FOR TRANSFORMATIONAL LEARNING

We are committed to supporting our members on a continuous process of shared learning. We see that, when radical ideas and bold energies meet, real change happens. Our thematic Working Groups are free for our members and their partners to attend.

- 17 working groups across **5 thematic areas** including Safeguarding, Fundraising and Global Solidarity
- 289 people registered for our Working Groups, telling us that a further **37,281 people** would benefit from the knowledge they gained
- 98% increased their knowledge, skills and confidence

We know that access to professional development opportunities attracts greater talent to organisations; it resources our members to stay relevant to the shifts in our sector as we learn, adapt and improve; and it supports our members to grow their capacity and resilience.

- 80% of organisations report a significant improvement in their financial situation after 12 months of support from SWIDN
- 100% of responding organisations have benefitted from engaging with SWIDN and feel more resilient as a result
- 56% Between March 2021 - December 2022, we saw an increase from 30% - 56% in confidence amongst our organisational members in their capacity to deliver on their goals in the current context.

CONTACT US

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OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Frances Hill - Director, Partnerships for International Development
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Stuart Davis - Director, Stuart Davis Consulting
Tigist Grieve - Lecturer, University of Bristol
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Terry Brown - Destinations Programme Manager,
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OUR FINANCES	2022
Unrestricted Income	12,500
Restricted Income	56,911
Total Income	69,411
Total Expenditure	69,730
Unrestricted Reserves	17,569

ABOUT US

SWIDN are a unique charity. We were registered in 2017 and are the only membership network which brings together people and organisations working towards the UN Global Goals (SDGs) from across the South West of England.

We know we can achieve more when we work together. SWIDN brings local people, organisations and ideas together, to have a truly global impact at a critical time for the world's poor.

We support the international development sector in the South West to learn, grow and connect, knowing we can achieve more when we work together.