

Project summary

1. GENERAL INFORMATION	
Name of the project: Safeguarding for Development conference	
National platform(s): Bond UK	
Acronym(s): Bond UK	Number of members: 449
Intervention country/ies: United Kingdom	
Start and end dates: 01/11/2019 – 31/03/2020	Project duration: 5 months
Total amount of the project in euro: €18,997	Total amount of the project funded by Forus: €15,198
2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT	
Presentation of the project: Since February 2018, Bond and its members have been working together to improve safeguarding practices and capacity in the aid sector. Bond has also facilitated exchanges with national sector platforms working on safeguarding worldwide. Bond proposed building on this work by holding a one-day sector-wide event on safeguarding with the aim to bring together Bond members, national sector platforms and others to encourage collaboration and share knowledge, expertise and learning on safeguarding issues in the aid sector.	
Main achievements during the project: Bond gave Forus members and other sector platforms an opportunity to attend in-person a day-long conference on “Safeguarding for Development” in December 2019 in London. This gave an opportunity to hear from organisations working towards better safeguarding practice. One session focussed specifically on the role of sector platforms in safeguarding. Following the conference, Bond produced a one-pager on key challenges and successes of sector platforms working with members on safeguarding practice. Bond organised a follow-up webinar which gave platforms an overview of conference discussions and how they can support members. The Forus safeguarding working group agreed plans for future work including further webinars.	
Who are the stakeholders targeted by the project and which were the mechanisms for their participation? The main stakeholders for the activity were: (1) Forus members, (2) other national sector platforms, (3) Bond members, and (4) members of other national sector platforms.	
3. IMPACT OF THE PROJET	
Please describe the impact of the project in terms of capacity building Forus members and other sector platforms working on safeguarding heard from organisations in sessions on working towards better safeguarding practice. They were invited to contribute to, and came together for, the “Sector platforms' role in safeguarding” session. Six sector platforms attended the conference having received funding. The event’s discussions supported the Forus contracted consultant in writing their guide. Sector platforms, whether they joined the event or not, were helped in having a better understanding of safeguarding through the follow-up webinar and best practice bullet point one pager. After the follow-up webinar, the Forus safeguarding steering committee agreed plans for a webinar on feminist approaches to safeguarding.	
Did the project have a concrete impact on public policies? There was no direct impact on public policy. However, Peter Taylor, Head of DFID Safeguarding Unit, spoke at the conference. DFID saw a safeguarding conference for NGOs as a priority, in order to see progress and remaining challenges on safeguarding. Stephen Twigg, former chair of the International Development Committee (IDC), spoke to the conference and referred to progress that he saw organisations and the wider sector making with regards to safeguarding. The IDC scrutinises the spending, administration and policies of the DFID.	

What are the potential long-term impacts of the project? What continuity will be given to the project?

Bond will remain an active member of the Forus safeguarding working group, promoting and sharing safeguarding best practice amongst platforms. In-person meetings between attendees at the conference reinforced positive working relationships between platforms. The close relationships developed by Bond with other sector platforms, the webinar co-hosted with VENRO for members working with partners, and the delivery of the Forus safeguarding guide are examples of the long-term impacts and continuity of the project.

4. RELATION WITH FORUS

To what extent has the project contributed to strengthening the Forus' network?

The conference allowed staff from platforms to meet each other in-person for the first time, rather than just by teleconference or by email, which helped building effective working relationships. It has also brought a closer involvement of non-members into Forus' network, for example AwazCDS. The attendance of Bond members (i.e. non-sector platforms) at the conference session has also increased their awareness of Forus' work and the network that exists at an international level.

What was the added value of Forus' support to this project?

Forus' support and funding meant that platforms could afford to attend the conference who would not have been able to otherwise due to financial reasons, which gave the benefits explained directly above. Forus' own attendance at the conference allowed them to promote their safeguarding working group and safeguarding guide in-person and take questions on them too.

Have you produced a deliverable that could be useful for other Forus members?

Bond produced a best practice bullet point one-page summary of the session for sector platforms, and a summary blog of the conference as a whole. Both resources are useful for Forus members as they summarise ongoing challenges of NGOs in safeguarding and give some practical suggestions on how to address those.

What are your recommendations for platforms wishing to implement a similar project in the future?

The conference was an excellent opportunity for the Forus network to come together on a thematic area that many members work on. While it wasn't possible for our timing, allowing a little extra time for similar projects in the future could be beneficial, as it may allow a larger number of platforms to take part. While it was beneficial to incorporate a session for platforms at the conference, we could have spent more time as a network of platforms, so considering holding a separate side event with more time could be a consideration also. It is also recommended to seek further engagement opportunities with other platforms involved in similar work e.g. the webinar with VENRO, as this type of collaboration leads to greater efficiency and reaching a wider audience at the same time.