

Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG) is an international NGO, who together with their consulting arm, **Intermediate Technology Consultants (ITC)** have a strong international presence, with country or regional offices in the Third World. ITDG and ITC's experience is considerable, combining participatory methods with poverty-focused development and practical technological applications – and includes: construction, housing, planning, standards and legislation, infrastructure, disasters, community development, small enterprise development and poverty alleviation.

Building Advisory Service and Information Network (BASIN) is a coalition of nine NGO's, based in the North and South. The network offers architectural, construction and information services on technologies appropriate for solving the needs of low-income housing and community facilities in the Third World.

Cambridge Architectural Research Ltd (CAR) is an independent consultancy with particular strengths in disaster-mitigation, local building methods, GIS mapping and the design and production of best practice guides. It also offers advice in architecture, structural engineering and physical planning.

The Centre for Architectural Research and Development Overseas (CARDO) is part of Newcastle University and has expertise, in understanding how dwelling environments are produced and consumed. It has an holistic approach to the urban agenda, with particular expertise in home-based enterprises, homelessness, social exclusion and urban governance.

The Centre for Development and Emergency Practice (CENDEP) is part of Oxford Brookes University and has been at the forefront in the development of community planning methods and the integration of risks into urban planning. The Centre also has expertise in housing and urban policy, upgrading, and planning for emergencies and refugees.

TRADA Technology is an independent organisation providing research, development, consultancy and training in building in wood and bamboo. Areas of expertise include design of housing, bridges and other structures, together with materials evaluation, product development and testing.

So how can YOU use the Consortium?

The consortium has a Framework Agreement with DFID. This Framework can be used to:

- Call down a specific consultant from the consortium to undertake work
- Ask the Project Manager (ITC) to source a consultant to undertake a specific piece of work

But also, members of the consortium can:

- Raise profile of Framework within DFID
- Attend regular meetings to give strategic advice and policy support to DFID
- Answer enquiries from DFID and others
- Disseminate Information
- Represent DFID
- Organise events for DFID



itc consortium

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consortium

Disaster mitigation



Landslide engulfing poor area of San Salvador following 2001 earthquake. Photo from BEST Grenoble

Natural disasters frequently destroy decades of development achievement at a stroke; and on a local scale floods, fires and landslides can be devastating. The poorest are always worst affected. Disaster mitigation planning needs to be integral with all aspects of development. The consortium has extensive experience of disaster mitigation planning and action worldwide, and can offer specialist advice not only on principles and techniques of protection from the key natural hazards, but also how to help communities understand the risks they face and develop their own protection.

Development of decentralised services

Poor people are often excluded from essential services such as water, sanitation, energy, waste collection or lack of adequate shelter. In many cases, locally managed, sustainable and decentralised services offer low-income communities the best hope of satisfying their need. The consortium have worked on the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of infrastructure services working with communities, larger service providers and the private sector in all the sectors mentioned.



Decentralised services in Nakuru, Kenya, ITDG/ Morris Keyonzo

Appropriate building technologies



Timber pole framework for school building in Malawi. Photo by TRADA

The construction of dwellings and facilities in the South requires technologies that are culturally acceptable, affordable, and sustainable. Such technologies generally make ample use of local materials and skills, thus reducing the need for foreign exchange and expertise, and generating more added value locally. The consortium has vast experience with the development, application, standardisation, testing and dissemination of appropriate technologies for housing, building and infrastructure. This includes managing projects where technologies are being developed and tested, often with the participation of residents or producers, and they and others are involved in capacity building and dissemination. There is also experience of running an enquiry service, giving specific advice, running courses and producing publications in this area.

Planning methodologies

Much planning efforts are wasted because they are being overtaken by events on the ground. Planning tends to be more effective when low-income communities can be involved, when it addresses their concerns and not only those of the planners, and when planning exercises lead to clearly identified actions. The consortium can offer expertise in participatory methodologies to analyse the situation, and plan, manage and evaluate projects with the affected communities including planning and urban issues for excluded groups. They also have experience with incorporating other factors such as disaster mitigation, environmental impact analysis, and sub-sector analysis.



Classifying household vulnerability in the Philippines, ITDG/ Nick Hall

Satellite interpretation and mapping



Change detection in Ahmedabad using IKONOS satellite images, K Seito

Effective development planning requires an understanding of change processes. Often existing maps and censuses on which decisions are based may be incomplete. Satellite imagery is increasingly available which can provide information on change processes at a regional or local scale. Maps incorporating such images provide a vivid contemporary view of any area for planning purposes. Satellite imagery can permit monitoring of change processes such as urbanisation, infrastructure development, deforestation and drainage changes. The consortium has expertise in the acquisition and interpretation of images in many areas of the world, and the production of GIS maps with these images.

Analysis and promotion of income generation



Moulded brick from block press machine, ITDG/ Zul

Investments in construction and infrastructure can generate jobs and income, provided more labour-intensive technologies and local resources are used. Similarly, economic development, be it in the formal or informal sector can generate the income and savings required for individuals or government to invest in housing and services. The consortium has expertise in analysing the backward and forward linkages between construction and livelihoods, integrating approaches to income generation and infrastructure and promoting labour intensive technologies.