UK Aid Direct Network Group: user guide

At UK Aid Direct, we are committed to improving the interventions of our grant holders to deliver better solutions for sustained poverty reduction for the best value for money.

Feedback from grant holders has told us that more opportunity to network within the UK Aid Direct community would aid the sharing of knowledge, resulting in the development of stronger, more effective grant holders who are able to deliver better outcomes.

With this in mind, we have decided to establish a private Facebook group, providing a dedicated space for grant holders to share and discuss their experience, ideas, ambitions and challenges. UK Aid Direct would also like to use some of the experiences shared in the group to develop learning materials.

This will be run on a trial basis for six months. At the end of the six months, the group will be reviewed.

What are the aims of the group?

• To strengthen technical expertise through the sharing of knowledge amongst UK Aid Direct grant holders
• To encourage and create networking opportunities for UK Aid Direct grant holders
• Find out which topics grant holders would like further guidance on and to use grant holder experience to develop guidance materials.

Why a Facebook group?

• It’s free and reliable
• Accessible on a desktop or mobile
• Facebook is a popular platform already used by many grant holders
• Easy to share documents, photos and videos
• Easy to create and manage discussion threads
• It’s a secure space.

Using the group

What can you do on a Facebook group?

Within the Facebook group, members will be able to contribute to discussions, ask questions and share their views using the comment function.
Members can share advice, lessons learned, successes and challenges. Members will also be able to share videos, photos and links.

You can control your own participation within the group and have the right to leave at any time. It is up to you to decide if and how much you would like to contribute to the conversation.

**How will the group be moderated?**

MannionDaniels will act as the group administrator and fulfill the following tasks:

- Add users to the community
- Create discussion threads through questions and polls
- Collect data to help create future learning guides
- Ensure the community rules are being followed by all members.

**All sounds great. How can I get started?**

First of all, complete this consent form. If you don’t complete the form, you will not be invited to the group. **Please note**: you have the right to withdraw consent at any point.

Once you have signed the consent form, you will receive an invitation to the group via email. Find out how to use Facebook here.

Make sure you have familiarised yourself with the community rules. Those who break them, may be asked to leave the community.

**Community rules**

Be kind, courteous, open and honest. This should be a safe space for all to share knowledge.

The community is not an additional channel to contact the UK Aid Direct team. It is a platform specifically for sharing learning amongst grant holders.

On the next page, we have provided a few examples of what grant holders could share. This list is not exhaustive but should provide an idea of what is expected.

**If you don’t think a member of the community is following these rules, report them to the administrator by emailing ukaiddirect@manniondaniels.com**
Example posts - what could be shared

Lessons learned post

We realised that doing a baseline survey at the beginning of our project with law enforcers and health providers not only created data, it changed their perception of disability. They realised how big the stigma around disability is, despite the fact that people living with disabilities are the most at risk. They were then so eager to learn sign language that we exceeded our goals.

This is a great example of how an organisation could share learning. The key is to tell other users exactly how and what was achieved without providing an extensive report.

It generates discussion and provides good guidance for an organisation who might be starting to undertake a similar project.

Resource sharing

Have you seen that the international journal on sexual health and reproductive rights ‘Reproductive Health Matters’ has a specific issue on people living with disability this month? Here is a link to the publication for those interested: http://tandfonline.com/toc/zrhm20/current

This is a great example of how an organisation could share a resource. Make sure when sharing a resource you tell people what they can expect to learn and where they can find it.

News

We just opened a new school in Rwanda!

The Facebook group provides an opportunity to share your successes, provoke discussion and inspire your fellow grant holders.

Let’s keep the good vibes flowing!

What shouldn’t be shared

We want to ensure the group is supportive and informative, yet fun and informal for all users. With this in mind, you should not use the group to discuss financial or administrative issues relating to your grant.

If you are having any financial or administrative issues with your grant, please contact your Performance and Risk Manager.

One more thing . . .

This group is not replacing our UK Aid Direct Twitter account and Facebook page, so if you think you have a story worth sharing, get in contact with our communications team here: ukaiddirect@manniondaniels.com