



## Engineers for Overseas Development (EfOD): Inspiration and Development of Young Designers through Humanitarian Aid

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### Abstract

The inspiration and development of young engineers in the early stages of their career is crucial if the industry is to efficiently design and deliver sustainable schemes in the future. This paper introduces Engineers for Overseas Development Limited (EfOD), a UK Registered Charity which challenges newcomers to the engineering community to enhance their careers through engagement in humanitarian work. Details of past projects delivered and the benefits for those who have been involved are provided along with a reference to ongoing projects and future plans.

**Keywords:** structure; buildings; humanitarian aid; volunteering; sustainability; maintenance.

### 1 Introduction

Engineers for Overseas Development (EfOD) [1] started 17 years ago as a response to the need of sustainable sanitation and infrastructures in third world countries [2]. EfOD has 6 UK-based branches and aims to provide a unique opportunity for its volunteers. Whilst RedR [3] provides training in disaster relief and EWB [4] opportunities for individual university and college students to experience humanitarian aid, EfOD encourages recently qualified volunteers to join a team which is responsible for all aspects of design, construction and commissioning of sustainable projects in order to provide assistance and relief in rural areas in Africa. Some volunteers have worked on the design and construction of a single project others have been involved in several, and made a series of short overseas visits. This paper provides a summary of the work of EfOD followed by a brief mention of the most important projects

that have been delivered. Additionally, a description of one sample project is presented and future steps and goals are discussed.

### 2 Schemes

The projects EfOD delivers ensure volunteers enhance their technical, managerial and communicational skills by designing, constructing and commissioning sustainable schemes for some of the world's most needy.

#### 2.1 Sample schemes

Since the organisation was founded in 2000, more than 27 schemes have been completed with the total expenditure of almost £1m. Projects include medical buildings, latrines and hospital incinerators, mills and grain stores, water schemes, village centres, rural settlements and bridges amongst others.