

CHRIS PIPER: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PRACTITIONER¹

Overview



Chris is a multi-skilled, cross-culturally adept, **Community Engagement Practitioner (CEP)**. This is in addition to his role as **Global Humanitarian Practitioner (GHP)**² and **Humanitarian Teacher, Trainer & Facilitator**³. He has worked extensively across the Asian-Pacific, Australian, Southern and Eastern African; European and Mediterranean regions, and speaks French, German and Bangla (Bengali) to varying degrees.

Examples of Successful Community Engagement Work

- Chris's first international development position was as a Field Director with a British NGO in Bangladesh. This was an integrated community development program including health, agricultural, and rural education initiatives. His role was later passed over to a Bangladeshi colleague, and, since then, these two have remained close friends. Whilst the project has long closed, ongoing contact and relationships between Bangladeshi staff and the village community has continued to flourish over the years, and the long-term benefits for the rural stakeholders have been widely recognised and acknowledged.
- In mid 2018, Chris worked with UNDP⁴ in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, on the extensive program supporting Rohingya refugees and Bangladeshi host communities. Part of this work was focused on community engagement, and Chris still edits an update of the 'What Matters?' humanitarian bulletin⁵, which reports on surveys carried out with both Rohingya and host communities highlighting their progress and concerns.
- For three months in 2012, Chris was interim Child and Family Leader (CFL) with the Northern Territory (NT) Department of Education and Training (DET) up in Yuendumu, NT. His main role there was to develop a Stakeholder Analysis of the key service providers there, and to continue and enhance good working relationships with all key stakeholders.
- Since 2002, Chris has carried out a series of over 110 Participatory Project Management (PPM) and Participatory Disaster Risk Management (PDRM) workshops across Australia and overseas. Two examples in particular reflect effective community engagement principles:
 - ✓ The TorqAid Project Management Cycle (PMC)⁶ lies at the heart of the PPM. A key aspect of this is



¹ This profile can also be accessed from www.torqaid.com/chris-piper-cep

² See www.torqaid.com/chris-piper-ghp

³ See www.torqaid.com/CP-teacher-trainer-facilitator

⁴ United Nations Development Program

⁵ See www.torqaid.com/rohingya-what-matters

⁶ See copy at the end of this document

Relationship Building/Community Interaction'⁷ which is essential throughout all three stages of the PMC.

- ✓ The Ten Seed Technique (TST) ranking tool also lies at the heart of both the PPM and PDRM workshops. This is a technique to effectively engage with communities to brainstorm and rank both community strengths and challenges
- Within Australia, in addition to the already-mentioned CFL position at Yuendumu, Chris has been involved in a number of community engagement initiatives:
 - ✓ He was the co-founder of the Torquay Food Bank
 - ✓ He was the co-founder of the Melbourne Development Circle (MDC) – see www.developmentcircle.org
 - ✓ Together with the President of the Syrian Expatriate Association of Victoria, he was the co-founder and co-Chair of the Syrian Community (SC)/Humanitarian Community (HC) Forum in Melbourne. This forum was designed to support both the Syrian diaspora here, and arriving Syrian and Iraqi refugees
 - ✓ Following the 2009 Victorian bushfires and 2011 floods, Chris was the field program coordinator planning out 11 church-organised community level recovery initiatives
- Finally, Chris edits a number of publications which provide a rich assortment of relevant information for the global development and humanitarian practitioner. The current main one is the TorqAid Toolkit⁸

Further Information

For further information on the role of Chris as a *Community Engagement Practitioner (CEP)*, please contact him as indicated below.

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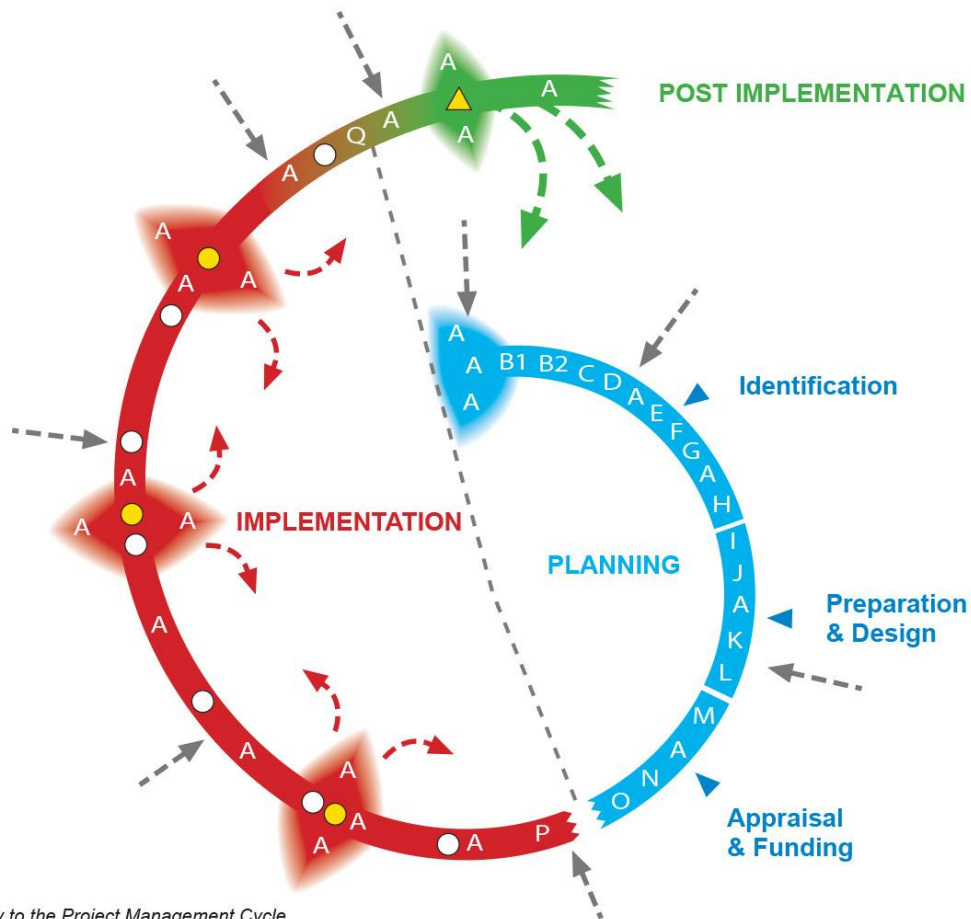
⁷ In Darwin an Aboriginal student suggested that 'Relationship Building' should be added to the earlier term of 'Community Interaction', as the latter term itself was 'too impersonal'

⁸ See www.torqaid.com/torqaid-toolkit

TORQAID PROJECT MANAGEMENT CYCLE (PMC) ILLUSTRATING IMPORTANCE OF RELATIONSHIP BUILDING/COMMUNITY INTERACTION ENGAGEMENT (A) AT ALL STAGES OF ENGAGEMENT



THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT CYCLE



Key to the Project Management Cycle

PLANNING STAGE

IDENTIFICATION

- A. Relationship Building/Community Interaction
- B1. Understanding the Background Context
- B2. Needs Analysis, Strengths, Challenges
- C. Identifying/Analysing Key Stakeholders
- D. Collecting Baseline Data/Setting Objectives
- E. Identifying Possible Solutions
- F. Identifying Potential Sources of Funding
- G. Feasibility Studies (if required)
- H. Commencing Risk Management Process

PREPARATION & DESIGN

- I. Preparing Initial Documentation
- J. Assessment of Initial Documentation
- K. Modifying the Project Documentation
- L. Preparing a Project Design Document (PDD)

APPRAISAL & FUNDING

- M. Appraising the PDD
- N. Final Project Documentation
- O. Preparing a Funding Proposal

IMPLEMENTATION STAGE

- Ongoing Monitoring, Reflection, Management & Administration
- A. Relationship Building / Community Interaction
- P. Reviewing Project Documentation
- Q. Final Project Reports
- Regular Reports
- Reviews
- Learning and Sharing Lessons

POST IMPLEMENTATION STAGE

- A. Relationship Building / Community Interaction
- Post Project Evaluation
- Learning and Sharing Lessons
- Field Visits

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