

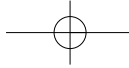
Capacity Building of East London Mosques



Building a Sustainable Base
for Mosques in the
London Borough of Tower Hamlets

COUNCIL OF ETHNIC MINORITY VOLUNTARY SECTOR ORGANISATIONS

cemvo



Project Origin

The Faith in Communities Fund was set up to support faith organisations in strengthening their capacity enabling them to play a fuller part in civil society. It also supported activities aiming to encourage faith groups to talk to and network with each other thus promoting learning and the exchange of knowledge.

Partnership work

The London Muslim Centre applied to the fund to develop mosques in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. London Muslim Centre chose CEMVO as their partner for this project because of its extensive experience in capacity building community groups of different faiths and ethnicities.

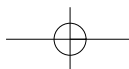
Objectives and how the project was delivered

Tower Hamlets has one of the largest concentrations of mosques (84) in Europe. Some mosques are large accommodating up to 15,000 worshippers while others are small accommodating less than 100. Smaller, under resourced and new mosques need more training and development support.

The project enabled CEMVO to work with 15 mosques across the borough. All of the mosques in the borough were invited to take part.

The programme aimed to help participant mosques to:

- Develop a constitution and become registered as a charity
- Improve their governance structure and processes
- Develop business and action plans
- Improve management systems
- Instigate better financial systems
- Increase sustainability and funding for community activities
- Develop a communication and marketing strategy
- Develop networking, partnership and collaboration



Project outputs

Many of the mosques started the programme from a very low base. The project marked a milestone in the development of the Mosques by achieving the following;

- 15 mosques completed the programme- their management systems were strengthened and policies and procedures put in place enabling them to deliver services effectively
- 11 mosques registered as Charities
- Mosques became more open and accepting of the need to operate in a business like way to become more sustainable and effective
- Young people became involved in the running of mosques. For example one mosque appointed a young barrister as secretary – mosques are usually run by elders
- A number of mosques acknowledged the need for greater involvement of and provision for women
- Network meetings of Imams and mosque committee members were held on a regular basis

Impact of the project?

- Mosque management committees gained a better understanding of charity and financial laws and regulations
- Enabled mosques to work with more organisations and agencies as a result of increased networking opportunities
- Mosques become open and receptive to more effective ways of working to engage and serve their communities better

In the long term, the project will raise the profile of these mosques and their communities and enable them to share cultural understanding with organisations of other faiths and ethnicities. The increased profile will help them attract funding for community activities and support from mainstream agencies.



CEMVO Offices and Contacts

CEMVO hopes shortly to set up an
Eastern Regional Office in Chelmsford

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