



AFREPREN

Pump up the Volume: How can CSOs Promote Pro-Poor Policy and Practice

Workshop at 2004 CIVICUS World Assembly
25 March 2004



Julius Court and Steve Karekezi

Julius Court, ODI, UK. jcourt@odi.org.uk
web: www.odi.org.uk/rapid

Steve Karekezi, AFREPREN, Kenya. afrepren@africaonline.co.ke
web: www.afrepren.org



Contents

Background	1
Workshop Objectives	1
Agenda	1
Contact	1
Presentations	2
Summary of Main Discussion Issues	4
Summary of Workshop Evaluation Findings	5
Annex 1: Presentation Slides	6
Annex 2: Participants List	9
Annex 3: Workshop Evaluation Form Results	10

Pump up the Volume: How can CSOs Promote Pro-Poor Policy and Practice

Workshop at 2004 CIVICUS World Assembly, 25 March 2004

Background

There is widespread agreement on the vital role that Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) can play in influencing policies and practices to make them pro-poor. More and more CSOs are recognising the need to understand policy processes better and use evidence to engage with them more effectively. Sometimes, however, it seems that CSOs, policymakers and researchers live in parallel universes. This workshop focused on how CSOs can use evidence to promote pro-poor policies. Active participation was the cornerstone of the approach in the workshop, with emphasis placed on participants' own knowledge and experience.

Workshop Objectives

The workshop enabled participants to:

- (a) discuss the opportunities and challenges for CSOs to inform policy;
- (b) learn about relevant approaches in this area;
- (c) share experiences about ongoing activities and what works.

Agenda

- Introduction: CSOs, Research, Policy – Parallel Universes? (see Presentation – Annex 1)
- Introduction of Workshop Participants (see Annex 2)
- Energy policy in Ethiopia: What can CSOs do? (see Presentation – Annex 1)
- Discussion: Insights on CSOs and policy influence
- CSOs, Research and Policy: A Framework (see Presentation – Annex 1)
- Discussion: Experiences and Lessons?
- Evaluation (see Annex 3) and Close

For more information contact:

Julius Court, ODI, UK (jcourt@odi.org.uk); web: www.odi.org.uk/rapid

Steve Karekezi, AFREPREN, Kenya (afrepren@africaonline.co.ke); web: www.afrepren.org

Presentations

Introduction

The poor tend to benefit when civil society organisations (CSOs) are engaged in shaping policy, particularly when engagement is well-informed and leads to evidence-based policy. CSOs increasingly recognise the need to use evidence and engage with policy processes more effectively. All too often, however, it seems that researchers, civil society actors and policymakers live in parallel universes, and relations between government and civil society are strained. Researchers cannot understand why there is resistance to policy change despite clear and convincing evidence. Policymakers question the legitimacy of NGOs and bemoan the inability of many researchers to make their findings accessible, digestible and in time for policy discussions. Often, CSO's engagement in policy processes fails to do justice to the diversity of the issues and quality of the evidence.

The workshop objectives were to enable participants to:

- (a) discuss the opportunities and challenges for CSOs to inform policy;
- (b) learn about relevant approaches in this area;
- (c) share experiences about ongoing activities and what works.

How can CSOs promote pro-poor policy & practice in the African Energy Sector ? - Stephen Karekezi

Stephen Karekezi used Ethiopia as a case study to discuss key issues of energy policy in Africa and how CSOs can promote pro-poor policy.

Energy use in many African countries remains dominated by biomass (wood, charcoal, bio residues). There are very low levels of access to modern energy services. For example, many ordinary Ethiopians live in gross poverty because biomass is not only a form of energy but also a means of subsistence. The pressing need is for low-cost, small-scale, affordable and cleaner energy solutions for the poor. These might include small-scale investments in renewables such as solar, wind and biomass.

The bulk of funding, however, is going towards large scale investments that meet the needs of elites. These include large-scale hydro, oil and gas investments. They primarily benefit high income households, commercial/industrial sector and export to industrialized countries. This remains the focus of national energy policy in many African countries – and also in NEPAD (New Partnership for African Development).

In sum, the problem is that African energy policy is much more oriented towards elite uses rather than the majority of people, particularly the poor. The example of Ethiopia also indicates that policy is actually getting worse – the attention to small-scale and affordable energy solutions for the poor is decreasing in public expenditure.

Worryingly, there are similar patterns in other sectors:

- *Transport sector*: Focus on highways but not on low cost transport options;
- *Agriculture sector*: Large-scale farming approaches vs small-scale agricultural solutions;
- *Health sector*: Large urban hospitals vs small scale rural health centres;
- *Industry*: Large scale industry vs SMEs/informal sector.

The key question is: How can one push for the needs of the poor in existing energy policy and investment patterns in Africa?

AFREPREN is responding in a number of ways to influence energy policy and investments. These include:

- *Political context*: Flagship studies and projects in countries with strong pro-poor credentials (e.g. Mauritius experience with co-generation of electricity using sugar cane from small-holder farmers);
- *Evidence*: CBO participation/consultation, multiple country studies provide compelling evidence; policymakers are averse to the risk of being the first to try option;
- *CSOs*: Joint government/academia/civil society studies, strengthening links with CBOs/trade union umbrella agencies and networks;
- *External*: influencing international stakeholders via the Johannesburg WSSD Conference and MDGs processes.

CSOs, Research and Policy: A Framework for Action - Julius Court

Julius Court focused on how CSOs can engage with researchers and policymakers to improve development policy and practice.

Better links between researchers, policymakers and civil society groups can help save lives, reduce poverty and improve the quality of life. For example, the results of household disease surveys informed processes of health service reform which contributed to a 43 and 46 per cent reduction in infant mortality between 2000 and 2003 in two districts in rural Tanzania. The problem is that the link between research and policy is tenuous and difficult to understand because policy processes are complex and much research is not very policy relevant.

ODI's Context, Evidence and Links Framework is an analytical and practical tool. The aim is to simplify the complexity of how evidence contributes to the policy process so that policymakers and researchers can make decisions about how they do their work to maximise the chance that policies are evidence-based, and that research does have a positive impact on policy and practice. It is based on a thorough review of the literature and a wide range of case studies at international, regional and national level across the developing world.

Four broad groups of factors have been identified, the first of which we call **external influences**. These are the factors outside a particular country which affect policymakers and policy processes within the country. For example, in small, heavily indebted countries, World Bank and bilateral donor policies and practices can be very influential. At national level the factors fall into three main areas. The **political context** includes the people, institutions and processes involved in policymaking. The **evidence** arena is about the type and quality of research and how it is communicated. The third arena **links** is about the mechanisms affecting how evidence gets into the policy process or not.

For CSOs wishing to influence policy and practice, understanding the context, evidence and links is just the first part of the process. Our case studies also identify a number of practical things that researchers need to do to influence policy and practice, and how to do them.

- In the **political context** arena you need to get to know the policymakers, identify friends and foes, prepare for regular policy opportunities and look out for policy windows. One of the best ways is to work with them through commissions, and establish an approach that combines a strategic focus on current issues with the ability to respond rapidly to unexpected opportunities.
- Make sure your **evidence** is credible. This has much to do with your long term reputation. Provide practical solutions to policy problems in familiar language and concepts. Action-research using pilot projects to generate legitimacy seems to be particularly powerful.

- o Make the most of the existing **links** by getting to know the other actors, working through existing networks, and building coalitions and partnerships. Identify the key individuals who can help. You need people who can network with others, mavens to absorb and process information, and good salesmen who can convince the sceptics. You may also need to use informal “shadow networks” as well as more formal channels.

Influencing policy change is an art as much as a science, but there are a wide range of well known and often straightforward tools that can provide powerful insights and help to maximize your chances of impact on policy.

Summary of Main Discussion Issues: Insights on CSOs and Policy Influence

- Problem: Knowledge gap and lack of information provided on policy issues especially to citizens.
- Need: Better communication to wider society (e.g. on where funds are going).
Key step is public awareness/media (e.g. Bangladesh, Uganda).
- Key 1: CSOs must be very clear on their objectives.
(CSOs don't govern but influence)
- Key 2: CSOs must be prepared to see things through.
Do not just preach to converted.
- Key 3: CSOs must better understand the global policy context that affects their work.
- Key 4: Work with institutions is important for sustainability.
- Key 5: Involve local people is important for legitimacy.
Direct involvement helps with (i) information; (ii) ownership; (iii) priorities.
How to capture local views – testimony.
Participation: Yes but how? How you do it? Makes a difference.
- Key 6: Power dynamics important – mapping power and targetting is vital: who can change policy.
Go for weakest links.
Target bureaucrats not just high level policymakers.
Identify champions.
Influence process not just policy.
- Key 7: Use many keys / approaches.
Use different packaging for different audiences.
- Key 8: The approach is as important as message.
Be positive as well as negative.
Know what governments like.

Key 9: Provide solutions and be practical!
Do pilots / highlight good cases.

Key 10 Networks and coalitions matter – can help enhance impact.

Note: There are often tensions between policies. CSOs may need to be aware of the range of issues beyond their specific area of focus.

Note: It is not just about pushing pro-poor policies – a first step is to stop anti-poor policies.

Note: A strategy should depend on context:
if enabling context → negotiation is preferable
if not an enabling context → pressure may be necessary

Note: CSOs can be very important as intermediaries.

Note: Data is important but expensive. CSOs (especially independent research institutes) should try to cultivate strong links with statistical agencies (or key personnel within those agencies) to access high-value data that would be costly to gather or analyze.

Use existing work – so much is not used.
Involve policymakers at start (enhances research impact).

For the Ethiopia case, it looks like a campaign is needed – focusing on the budget and making it pro-poor.

Summary of Workshop Evaluation Findings

There are three main conclusions arising from the workshop evaluation (see Annex 3 for details). First, participants were, in general, very interested in the issue under discussion and happy with the approach used. Secondly, most participants were particularly pleased by the use of a few practical cases which allowed the contextualization and easier understanding of the more theoretical / abstract elements of the presentations and follow-up discussion. Thirdly, many participants would have preferred more time for more detailed discussion - an important reason for undertaking follow-up workshops of a longer duration.

Annex 1: Presentation Slides

Slide 1

Slide 2

Slide 3

Slide 4

Slide 5

Slide 6

Slide 7


Solar	5-6 kWh/m ²
Wind	3-5 m/s (higher in south & north coastal areas)
Modern Biomass	Extensive
Geothermal	9000MW
Hydro (Small)	Extensive

Slide 8

Civic engagement to promote pro-poor policy & practice

Current Energy Policy Focus on Conventional Large Scale Energy Investments

- Large-scale hydro and oil & gas investments
- Primarily benefit high income households, commercial/ industrial sector & for export to industrialized countries
- Focus of national energy policy of many African countries including NEPAD (New Partnership for African Development)
- Few benefits flow to the poor in Africa



AFREPREN | odi | Energy Development

Slide 9

Civic engagement to promote pro-poor policy & practice

Energy sector capital budget shares % for Ethiopia, 1990-2000



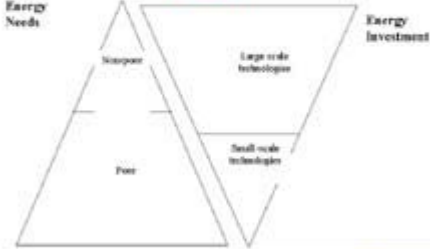
Year	Large scale hydro	Small scale hydro	Gas
1990	10.0	0.0	0.0
1991	10.0	0.0	0.0
1992	10.0	0.0	0.0
1993	10.0	0.0	0.0
1994	10.0	0.0	0.0
1995	10.0	0.0	0.0
1996	10.0	0.0	0.0
1997	10.0	0.0	0.0
1998	10.0	0.0	0.0
1999	10.0	0.0	0.0
2000	10.0	0.0	0.0

AFREPREN | odi | Energy Development

Slide 10

Civic engagement to promote pro-poor policy & practice

Current Energy Policy Promotes Inverse Energy Investment Pattern



AFREPREN | odi | Energy Development

Slide 11

Civic engagement to promote pro-poor policy & practice

What Can CSOs Do To Influence Energy Policy/Investment Trends ?

- How can one push for the needs of the poor in existing energy policy and investment patterns in Africa ?
- Energy policy perceived as technical issue undertaken by small group of "experts" - how can the voice of the poor be raised ?
- Similar pattern in:
 - Transport sector: Focus on highways but not on low cost transport options
 - Agriculture sector: Large-scale farming approaches vs small-scale agricultural solutions
 - Health sector: Large urban hospitals vs small scale rural health centres
 - Industry: Large scale industry vs SMEs/informal sector



AFREPREN | odi | Energy Development

Slide 12

Civic engagement to promote pro-poor policy & practice

Insights / Examples

- What advice to you have for the Energy Sector case?
- What do you do to promote pro-poor policy?
- What is your *insight* on how CSOs can help promote pro-poor policies?

AFREPREN | odi | Energy Development

Slide 13

Civic engagement to promote pro-poor policy & practice

What Did AFREPREN Do To Influence Energy Policy/Investment Trend?

- **Political context:** Flagship studies and projects in countries with strong pro-poor credentials (e.g. Mauritius experience with co-generation of electricity using sugar cane from small-holder farmers)
- **Evidence:** CBO participation/consultation, multiple country studies provide compelling evidence - policy makers averse to risk of being the first to try option (plan to try using evidence of early experience of South-East Asian NICs)
- **Links:** Joint government/academia/civil society studies, strengthening links with CBOs/trade union umbrella agencies and networks
- **External:** Johannesburg WSSD Conference, MDGs

AFREPREN | odi | Energy Development

Slide 14

Civic engagement to promote pro-poor policy & practice

Policy: a "purposive course of action followed by an actor or set of actors"

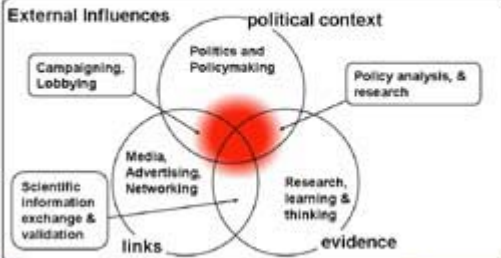


AFREPREN | odi | Energy Development

Slide 15

Civic engagement to promote pro-poor policy & practice

A Practical Framework



AFREPREN | odi | Energy Development

Slide 16

Using the framework

- **The external environment:** Who are the key actors? What is their agenda? How do they influence the political context?
- **The political context:** Is there political interest in change? Is there room for manoeuvre? How do they perceive the problem?
- **The evidence:** Is it there? Is it relevant? Is it practically useful? Are the concepts familiar or new? Does it need re-packaging?
- **Links:** Who are the key individuals? Are there existing networks to use? How best to transfer the information? The media? Campaigns?

Slide 17

Putting it into practice

What CSOs need to know	What CSOs need to do	How to do it
Political Context: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Who are the policymakers? - Is there demand for ideas? - What is the policy process? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Get to know the policymakers - Identify friends and foes - Prepare for policy opportunities - Look out for policy windows 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with them – seek common ground - Strategic opportunities – prepare for them - Resources for others
Evidence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the current theory? - What are the narratives? - How divergent is it? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish credibility - Provide practical solutions - Establish legitimacy - Present clear options - Use familiar narratives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build a reputation - Action research - Pilot projects to generate legitimacy - Good communication
Links <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Who are the stakeholders? - What networks exist? - Who are the connectors, messengers and salesmen? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Get to know the others - Work through existing networks - Build relations - Build new policy networks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build partnerships - Identify key networks, messengers and salesmen - Use informal contacts

Slide 18

Specific Tools

Overarching Tools

- The RAPID Framework
- Using the Framework
- The Entrepreneurship Questionnaire

Context Assessment Tools

- Stakeholder Analysis
- Forcefield Analysis
- Writeshops
- Policy Mapping
- Political Context Mapping

Communication Tools

- Communications Strategy
- SWOT analysis
- Message Design
- Making use of the media

Policy Influence Tools

- Influence Mapping & Power Mapping
- Lobbying and Advocacy
- Campaigning: A Simple Guide
- Competency self-assessment

Research Tools

- Case Studies
- Episode Studies
- Surveys
- Bibliometric Analysis
- Focus Group Discussion

Slide 19

Discussion

- What would help you do more to influence policy?
 - Would research help?
 - What capacity building efforts would help?
 - Would networking initiatives help?
 - What else?

Slide 20

GDN : Bridging Research and Policy

Purpose:

- Improved understanding of the research-policy nexus & practical advice to both researchers and policy makers.

Outputs:

- Increased awareness among policy makers of the value of research
- An international coalition collaborating to improve linkages between research and policy.
- Enhanced understanding of how to improve research-policy links
- Lessons, recommendations and practical tools.
- A "learning platform" for researchers and policy makers.

Slide 21

RAPID Partnership Programme

Purpose: Enhanced CSO capacity to use evidence to promote pro-poor policy

- CSOs understand how research → policy
- CSOs actively participate & link N & S Networks
- Regional capacity to support CSOs is established
- Knowledge on pro-poor policy issues is accessible

Do you know of good cases, networks, partners?

Slide 22

Other sources of information

- www.afrepren.org
- www.odi.org.uk/rapid/
- www.gdnet.org/rapnet/

Slide 23

Annex 2

Participants List

	Name	Organisation	Contact email
1	Melaku Jemaneh	CSOs Capacity Building	Meja88@yahoo.com
2	Nomzamo Dlamini	Save the Children Swaziland	zdlamini@savethechildren.org.sz
3	Aliwena Mologo	Care International, Malawi	aliwena@caremalawi.org
4	Robert E Mtonga	ICBL/IPPNW	zambia@icbl.org
5	Milton Ayoki	IPRA	Milton.ayoki@ipra.org
6	Stephen Karekezi	AFREPREN	afrepren@africaonline.co.ke
7	Julius Court	ODI	j.court@odi.org.uk
8	Charles Mugasa	Solace Uganda	solaceuganda@yahoo.com
9	H/Mariam H/Meskel	Agri Service Ethiopia	ase@telecom.net.et
10	Sally Rowbottom	Governance Resource Centre	s.a.rowbottom@bham.ac.uk
11	Roselyn Nakirya	International Council on Social Welfare	icsw@infocom.co.ug
12	Luckson Chipare	MISA	director@misa.org
13	Maseyo Ramalgath	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation	M????@gov.bw Maseyo_77@yahoo.com
14	Ansah Edem	Child Survival Aid Ghana	Child-aid@yahoo.com
15	Sakhue Dlamini	Women and Law – Swaziland	wlsascd@africaonline.sz
16	Segameisi Mooisaolsile	Emang Basadi Association	ebasadi@global.bw
17	Mahbubul Karim	Proshika	mkarim@proshika.bdonline.com
18	Keabonye Ntsabane	Womens NGO Coalition (Botswana Media Women Association)	Womens_ngo_coa@info.bw
19	Katie Fry Hester	SustainAbility	fry@sustainability.com
20	Khulgni Qomg	Institute for Security Studies	khulgni@iss.org.za
21	Philile Mlotshwa	Misa – Swaziland	misa_advocacy@africaonline.co.sz
22	Dikgang Phillip Makgalemele		Dmakgalemele@?????????.bw
23	I E Mbaiwe	UB	imbaiwe@orch??????
24	T I Kgosiemang	UB	tikgosiemang@yahoo.co.uk
25	E L Motshubi	UB	Lizlotshubi@yahoo.co.uk
26	Ellen Bajenja	ACORD	Ellen_bajenja@hotmail.com
27	Grace Rubiro	AFREPREN	afrepren@africaonline.co.ke

Annex 3

CIVICUS Workshop Evaluation Form – Results

To assist us in monitoring our performance and to plan ahead, please complete this confidential questionnaire and hand it to the session’s appointed coordinator before you leave. Thank you.

Workshop Title:	<u>Increasing the Influence of Civil Society Organisations in the Policy Process</u>
Speakers:	<u>Julius Court and Stephen Karekezi</u>
Date:	<u>25th March 2004</u>
Time:	<u>9.00 am – 10.30 am</u>
	(10 respondents)

SESSION EVALUATION

Please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements:
(Please circle one number only)

6 = strongly agree, 1 = strongly disagree	6	5	4	3	2	1
This session contained ideas I can apply in my work	8	2				
The presenter(s) was (were) knowledgeable about the topic	8	2				
Relevant and helpful visual aids / materials were used	8	2				
The session met my expectations	6	4				

What did you find most useful in this session?

- The practical example of energy in Ethiopia
- The practical tools
- How to work around policy issues
- Approach to policy issues
- Community involvement
- Research
- Dissemination of information
- Support mechanisms
- Great combination of presentation and audience participation
- Mode of presentation, language used and vibrant participation
- How to influence policy towards pro poor society in energy development
- Process of influencing decisions
- Practicality
- Strategies that could be used to influence pro-poor policy such as understanding the political context, external influences etc.

How could the session be improved?

- Provide more time for dialogue and sharing
- Well, time is what binds us, but it has been a very good workshop. I gained a lot.
- If it was longer!
- More time to discuss poor areas
- More time

What is your area of work?	International	5	National	2	Subnational	
Type of organisation?	Advocacy	4	Human rights	2	Network organisation	1
	Community service	1	Research	3	Capacity building	3
	Development or humanitarian aid		Other:	CSR		
Country:	Malawi	1				
	Swaziland	2				
	Botswana	3				
	USA	1				
	Uganda	2				
	Zambia	1				