

Advisory Group Meeting at ODI 18th November 2005

In Attendance

Simon Maxwell (Chair)
David Kalete
Priyanthi Fernando
Nicolás Ducoté
Hadari Amani
Megan Lloyd Laney

John Young
Julius Court
Naved Chowdhury
Kirsty Cockburn
David Brown
Paul Harvey

Apologies

Stuart Wallis, NEF, UK
Merilee Grindle, Harvard
Diane Stone, Warwick, UK
David Mepham, IPPR, UK
Mike Battcock, DFID, UK

Introduction

Simon Maxwell welcomed participants and outlined the purpose of the meeting. John Young presented an overview of the programme, progress so far, and the results of the collaborators workshop (see Presentation 1 - Programme Overview). Key points of discussion included:

- Southern TTS and PRIs are increasingly involved in working with CSOs to maximise the impact of their research-based evidence
- There are some regional TTs, PRIs and networks, but they tend to be sectoral
- There are a number of other programmes/institutions providing support, eg GDN and the DSA network, which might provide vehicles or models for the programme
- ODI's networks (HPN, AgREN, FRN etc) are highly regarded but increasingly difficult to fund, and need to find new mechanisms in a changing world
- ODI's CSPP could play an important role in strengthening the impact of research-based evidence through CSOs.

Regional Opportunities / Collaborators Workshop Feedback

After coffee, participants from the Collaborators Workshop presented some ideas for programme activities in each region (see Appendix 1 – The Collaborators Workshop Report) for details). Points of discussion included:

- Strong support for the value of building a community of practice using a range of virtual and face-to-face mechanisms to share experience and expertise.
- That it should not be northern-dominated, and emphasise south-south and south-north exchange with ODI playing a facilitator role.
- The importance of personal contact, and seed funds to start things up.
- Clear demand from south for opportunity to work together with each other and ODI on global issues including Trade, HIV/AIDS etc.
- The emphasis of the programme should be on strengthening the interface between research and policy (through capacity development and collaborative work on specific policy projects) rather than on specific policy issues. There are many other organisations and networks doing that.
- The participants at the collaborators workshop and in the external advisory group are already the beginning of an impressive community of practice.

General Programme Issues

After lunch the advisory group discussed a number of issues about the programme in general:

- Language: The programme should endeavour to make key material available in Spanish and French as well as English. Southern collaborators could help with that.
- The sort of organisations should the programme work with: The emphasis should be on function (using research-based evidence to promote pro-poor policy in collaboration with CSOs) rather than type (CSO, University, TT etc)
- Providing funds to partners: The emphasis should be on partnerships and collaboration, though it may be necessary to provide funds to partners for collaborative work to develop ideas, then help them to obtain funds from donors.

Programme Activities

In this session CSPP Management Team members presented some of the work in each outcome area (see Presentation 2 – Programme Activities). Points of discussion included:

- The key research focus for the programme should be on how TTs work in developing countries & then providing practically useful information & support.
- The framework and other approaches will need to be “localised” in each contexts.
- The need for better methods to measure the impact of research.
- The community of practice should be the core of the programme, and run from the south eventually. In the meantime ODI must avoid becoming a “gatekeeper”.
- The programme will need to respond to different needs in different contexts and will need mechanisms to assess contexts and needs and to select what to do where.
- The importance of early work to establish equitable partnerships. New global projects will evolve out of these – probably only 3-4 issues at a time (ie 1 or 2 a year).
- The need to combine virtual, web-based and face-to-face support and exchange.
- The need for and high cost of providing hard-copy information in many countries.
- The CSPP should focus on producing information and tools on how to influence policy rather than the policies themselves and on communicating that with partners, and let them communicate with their own stakeholders.
- Since this is a 7 year programme, the emphasis should probably be on Outcomes 1 and 2 over the next 2 years, with more on 3 & 4 thereafter.

The Advisory Group

In the final session Simon asked how to maximise the value of the external advisory group. Suggestions included:

- Advisers should be encouraged to commit their support over several years and encouraged to participate in programme activities.
- Aim for a 1½ day face-to-face meeting once a year, ideally around a specific programme event and set this up well in advance with electronic communication in between.
- The advisory group should be a sounding board for, and source of new ideas rather than a governance mechanism.
- Should aim for c.15 advisers so can reasonably expect to get 10 at each meeting (to achieve a better balance at meetings with ODI staff).

Presentation 1 – Programme Overview

odi Civil Society Organisations Partnership Programme

Advisory Group Meeting

18th November 2005

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Programme

- 09.30-11.00: Progress briefing
- 11.00-11.30: Coffee
- 11.30-13.00: Feedback from workshop
- 13.00-14.00: Lunch
- 14.00-14.30: General discussion
- 14.30-16.00: Specific examples of programme work
- 16.00-16.30: Tea
- 16.30-17.00: Advisory Group role and programme governance issues
- 17.00-18.00: Any other issues
- 18.00-19.00: Drinks in ODI
- 19.00-22.00: Supper in Colo Restaurant

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An introduction to the CSPP

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Background

- ODI's work with government, non-government and private sector organisations in the north and south for the past 40 years
- Demand for long-term support from southern TTs and PRIs
- RAPID work on research-policy nexus
- DFID/ICSD call for PPA proposals

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Definitions, Acronyms & Facts

- CSOs = PRIs, TTs and Policy Depts. Of NGOs
- Policy: from Agenda setting to Implementation
- Research(-based evidence)
- 7-year programme:
 - £800k 1st Year
 - £1.07m p.a. for 3 years (to March 2008)
 - £? more p.a. for 3 years (to March 2011)

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Principles

- Builds on ODI competence:
 - Research-based evidence
 - (Northern) Policy influence
 - Established relationships
- Capacity-development for:
 - CSOs (TTs, PRIs, NGOs, Networks etc)... to use research-based evidence
 - ODI capacity... to learn, communicate with, and develop equitable partnerships with CSOs
- Collaborative action

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Aim & Outcomes

Aim:
Promote improved contribution by CSOs to pro-poor national and international development policies

Outcomes:

- Understanding how CSOs use research
- Regional capacity to support CSOs
- Improved information from ODI
- Global collaboration

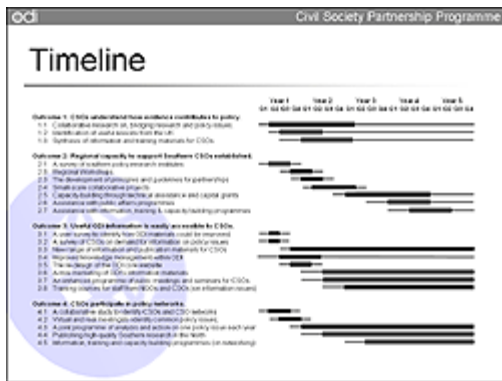
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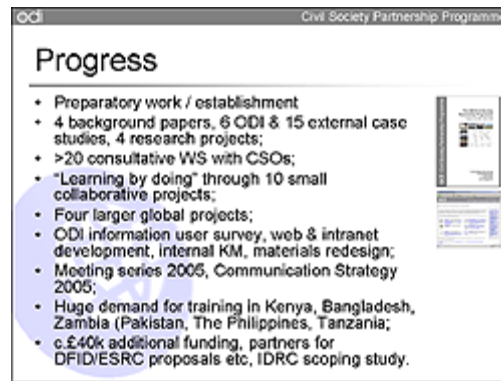
Approach

- Learn more about how CSOs use research-based evidence
 - Research
 - Small-scale projects
- Determine niche & demand
 - Mapping
 - Consultations
- Improve ODI's own information systems
- Identify long-term regional partners
- Collaborative partnerships to
 - Learn more
 - Develop capacity
 - Work together on global development policy issues

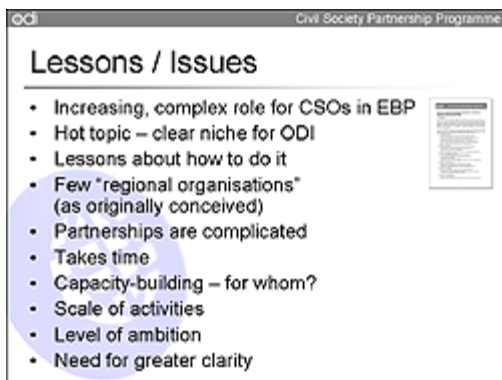
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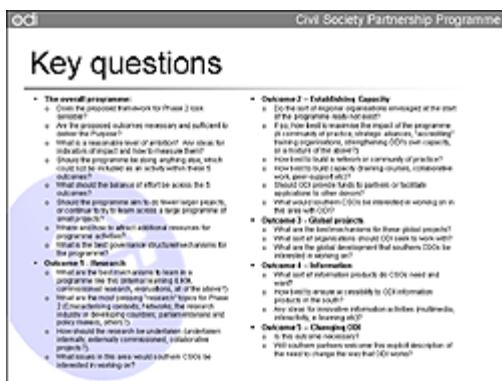
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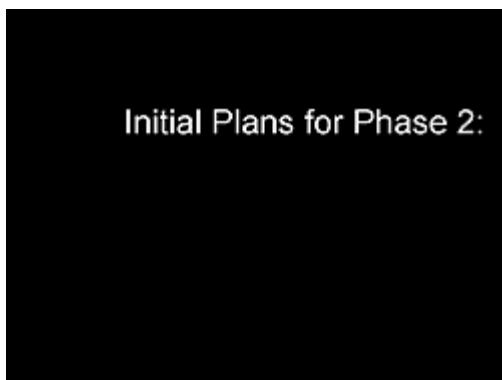
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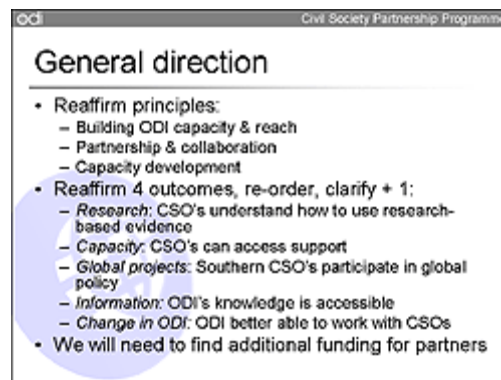
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Outcome 1: Research

- A systematic understanding of how CSOs use research-based evidence
 - Learning through on-going work, action-research, systematic reviews and evaluations;
 - Learn from other programmes
 - Learn through responsive consultancy work
 - A limited amount of new research
- Synthesised into useful lessons and recommendations

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Outcome 2: Capacity

- Direct capacity development with partners
 - Knowledge base
 - CSPP network
 - Collaborative work
 - Consultancy-mode work
 - M&E
- Establishing long-term support mechanisms
 - Developing a community of practice
 - Strategic alliances with others
 - "Accrediting" other organisations
 - Building ODI's own training capacity

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Outcome 3: Global projects

- Working with southern partners on global development policy issues
 - Continue existing projects
 - Develop partnerships through collaborative work
 - Identify mutually interesting topics
 - Develop collaborative projects

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Outcome 4: Information

- Improve availability & usefulness of ODI knowledge for CSOs
 - Enhanced communications capacity
 - Improved KM & learning in ODI
 - Intranet and website redesign
 - New information materials
 - Active marketing
 - ODI Communications strategy 2006 & beyond: meetings/seminars/workshops/publications etc.

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Outcome 5: Change in ODI

- Reposition and equip ODI to collaborate more effectively with CSOs
 - Outcome 4 stuff
 - Training for ODI staff
 - Emphasis on policy work and work with CSOs in new strategy
 - Incentives for staff
 - Integration of CSPP into ODI planning

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Workshop results:

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Challenge Questions

1. *There is little demand for research-based evidence in policy processes*
2. *Research-based evidence has little impact on policy processes*
3. *Think-tanks, research institutes and other CSOs have the right range of products and activities to maximize the policy impact of research*
4. *CSOs have many sources of support in the area of using research-based evidence, and do not need another...*

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Results

- There is demand, but complex & politics is the main factor
- Research-based evidence is sometimes a factor & approaches which can help
- TTs etc have products and skills but could do better
- There is support, but not enough

Need:

- To learn from ODI and each other
- Long term support
- Partnerships & collaboration
- Skills: engagement and communication

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Case Studies

- **Tony Dogbe, Ghana:** An on-going project to change the law on informal felling with chainsaws, working with communities to gather video evidence etc and work with other stakeholders.
- **Charles Lwanga Ntale, Uganda:** A six year programme including traditional academic research to raise the profile of chronic poverty. Not successful until identified what policy makers wanted and worked with others to deliver right evidence in the right format at the right time
- **Carlos Aramburu, Peru:** An aggressive campaign to provide evidence-based critique of policies and statements by candidates in the run up to the elections.
- **Rashed Titumir, Bangladesh:** On-going engagement with the government to influence papers in run up to WTO negotiations.

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CSPP "Issues"

- Much debate about detail, but overall agreement about general direction
- More work needed on demand side and on policy implementation
- Identify best strategies to engage with policy processes
- How to strengthen south-south learning
- There are some regional organisations, and networks, and national organisations
- Does ODI have the capacity for capacity-development?
- Need to localise toolkits
- Need to identify right issues for global projects with partners, and be aware of southern perspective
- Global projects will emerge through collaborative work.

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Proposed activities

- **General:** agreement about need for work on all 5 Outcomes; strong emphasis on collaborative partnership approach.
- **Research/learning:** through programme activities and from others; emphasis on producing useful practical information.
- **Capacity development:** through CoP approach; ODI materials unique and useful; much useful experience of others to share.
- **Global projects:** to grow out of existing collaborations; consultation at start of end; focus on achieving policy change; ODI role to bring donors and international policymakers to the table.
- **Information:** much to share south-south; face-to-face + multiple formats; work with universities and journalists

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Presentation 2 – Programme Activities

Outcome 1: CSOs understand better how to use research-based evidence to influence policy

Slide 1

What we have done

- Literature reviews
- Four ODI case studies
- 15 External case studies
- External consultation
- Journal Special Issue (JID)
- Networks programme
- Four specific studies
- Survey (draft findings)
- CSPP operational studies
- CIVICUS: Context, Impact & Evidence
- Internal strategy development (Review, external scan, CM & SWOT)
- Context mapping toolkit (forthcoming)

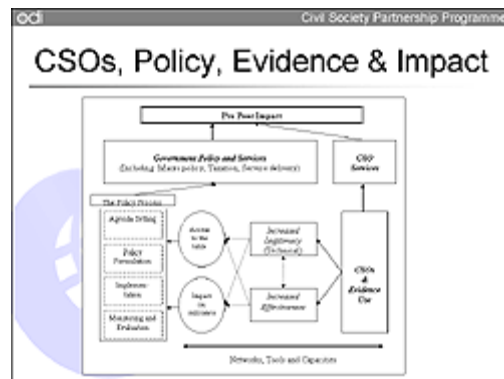


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7 Big Findings

- Context: increasing demand for CSO inputs.
- CSOs moving to get involved in policy processes (from focus on service delivery).
- CSOs not bringing enough to the table.
- Evidence does matter 1
 - For CSO effectiveness
 - For CSO legitimacy; accountability and legitimacy of CSO involvement is questioned
- Evidence does matter 2
 - Better evidence – Better policy – Better world
- Politics matters more.
- "How to do it" - some lessons emerging

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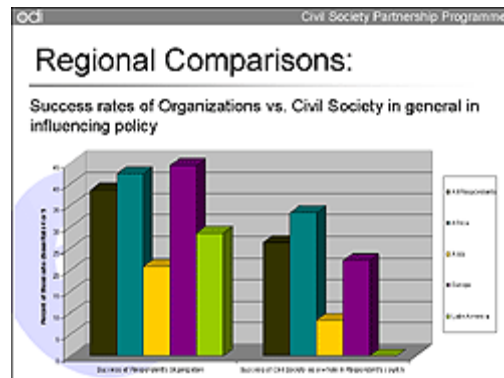


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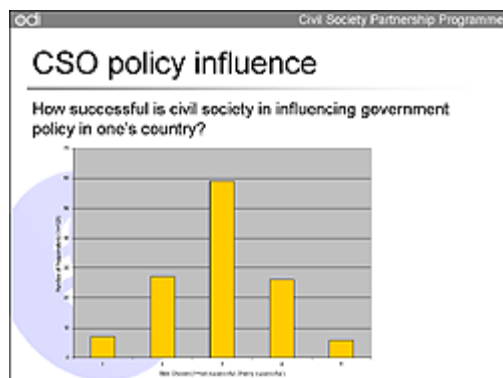
Survey Demographics

- In all, there were 130 respondents.
- Out of those 130 respondents, over 65% work in Africa.
- Over 47% of respondents defined themselves as an NGO.
- Out of the 17 respondents who chose 'Other', 6 of them considered themselves as FBOs.

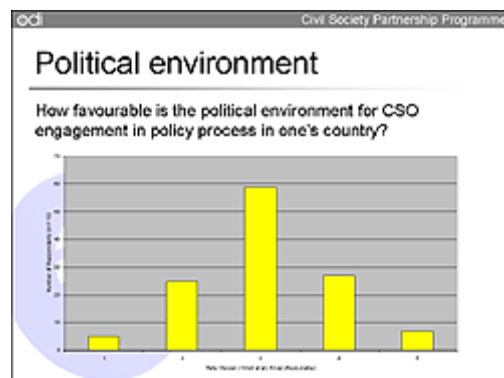
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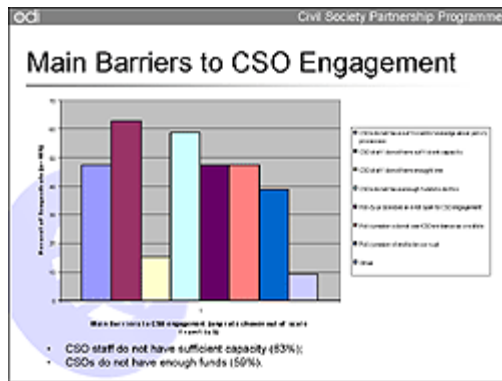
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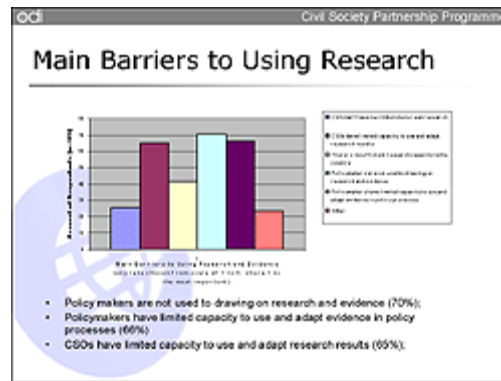
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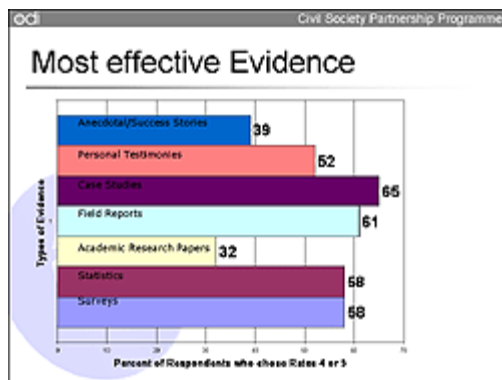
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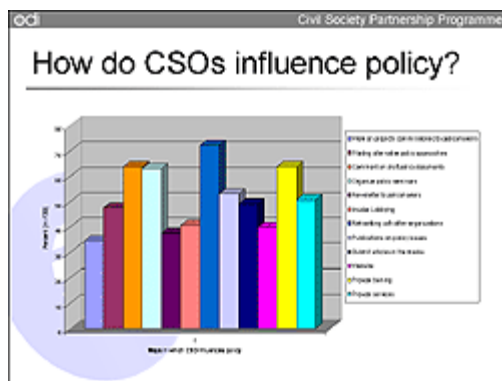


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Comments on Success

- 'I believe there is still need for improvement. We should be able to do better than the present situation. I want a situation where all major government policies will be influenced by CSOs.' - (CASSAD, Nigeria)
- 'Measuring influence is difficult, as there are many groups contributing to influence on government. Government is unresponsive, change is slow, and outputs are not always visible' - (The NGO Forum on Cambodia, Cambodia)
- 'We have been moderately successful in influencing economic and monetary policies given continuity and professionalism of civil servants in these sectors. Less so in social sectors given volatility of staff and more ideological varied approaches (ex. In Reproductive Health)' - (CIES, Peru)
- 'Bosnia and Herzegovina is specific country in which the international community has the highest influence on policy making since Peace Agreement enabled the international community to have strong influence on public policy making process. For that reason, NGOs were excluded from that process for many years. Presently, due to EU Association Process the role of NGOs is being increasing but it is not yet at the level that could be rated as very successful. That is why we rated our role in this process with rate 3.' - (ALDI, Bosnia and Herzegovina)

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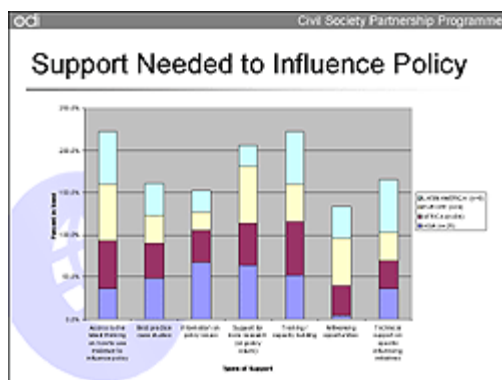


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Comments on Evidence Use

- 'The evidence to use is dictated by the kind of programme you want to implement, and the objectives for the programme.' - (BRIDGE Africa, Kenya)
- 'Depends on the audience (target) and the stage in the policy process cycle.' - (CARPA, Kenya)
- 'In a largely corrupt political environment, evidence is still useful but reduced in effectiveness, as the motives of those with political responsibility are not always determined by evidence-based advocacy' - (The NGO Forum on Cambodia, Cambodia)
- 'Surveys and statistics are very effective in influencing policy as facts and concrete figures are easily accepted and provide accurate information. Most often in our work we like to use case studies as they provide facts but also give more extensive knowledge on the issues concerned.' - (Animus Association Foundation, Bulgaria)
- 'Academic studies have impact, but only if they are made for the purpose of influencing public policies.' (FES-ILDIS, Bolivia)

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Support to improve impact

- More financial support
- Creation of space for civic engagement in policy discussions/public dialogue/dissemination bodies
- Cooperation of legislative bodies
- Monitoring and evaluation of policies and policymakers
- Build capacities/train professionals:
 - in research and policy development/advocacy;
 - of staff to influence policy;
 - for credible evidence-based policy influence;
 - on policy entrepreneurship;
 - for lobbying;
 - for research unit within CSO

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Niche & Next Steps

- What do we know so far?
- What are the needs / demands?
- What are others doing?
- ODI capacities (& SWOT)
- What is our niche?

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Some ideas?

- Synthesis:
 - Big Report (of work so far)
 - "How to" (eg Run Types of Research-Policy Network)
 - Briefing Papers & Toolkits
- Learning
 - From our work and that of others
- Research:
 - Action Research on Evidence-Implementation
 - Others (eg Research Industry; Policymakers & evidence).
- Inspiring
 - Development Think Tank of the Year Award

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Outcome 2:
Strengthening
regional capacity to
support CSOs

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Establishing Capacity

- Use research-based evidence to influence policy
- Learning by doing process for tackling challenges
- Long term
- Demand Driven
- Sustainable and Cost effective
- How best to build capacity?

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Partnership and Capacity Development

- Capacity Development is the Objective of partnership in CSPP or is it?
- Two-way relationship (Southern CSOs and ODI)
- Mutually beneficial
- Support sought include: trainings, research collaborations, strengthening existing networks, funds for research, advocacy, dissemination, institutional development

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Stories

- CWA, Trocaire and CEF
- Commonwealth Education Fund (CEF)
 - CEF objectives are:
 1. To strengthen broad-based and democratically-run national education coalitions
 2. To ensure that government budgets are effectively targeted and reach where they are most needed.
 To support evidence-based influencing of policy rooted in innovative work

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CEF Story

- Awareness about CSPP through ODI website
- Initial dialogue regarding possible collaboration
- Joint development of Training module for policy entrepreneurship
- ZANEC- Zambia National Education Coalition(25 CSOs)
- Policy advocacy identified as one of the priority areas
- Policy entrepreneurship Training provided (Lusaka -8,9 November 2005)
- Demand for more!!

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Lessons Learnt

- Capacity development for what?
- Training vs Research Focussed CD!!
- Addressing Diversity of capacity
- Varied Activities: Training (CEF, CWA), Research (AFREPREN), Networking and Documentation (Latin America)
- Collaborative projects could be one of the appropriate way..... but

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Lessons Learnt 2

- Focus..... Focus (Too much with Too little)
- Indicators for monitoring
- Multiplier effect
- Multidimensional
- All partnerships may not be for development of capacity
- How to monitor ODIs capacity to engage with Southern CSOs?

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Outcome 3:
Useful information
easily accessible to
CSOs

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Survey results

- User survey shows people unaware of the range of outputs and find it hard to access the information.
- Southern partners want access to materials through places that have good connectivity such as British Council offices; or local branches of international NGOs.
- For many, paper documentation is still the main information currency and ODI needs to make paper copies (or CD-Roms) available in local repositories of information.
- Identify information intermediaries such as electronic delivery services such as the GDN/BLOS document delivery service and the Eldis CD-Roms
- Make website suitable for low bandwidth, including making publication download sizes smaller.

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Identified needs

- Newsletters and publications – hard copies required.
- The 'think trunk'
- Training requested – how to work with the media, how to talk to parliamentarians, training for journalists and editors about development issues
- Local languages
- Journals – free or subsidised subscriptions
- To reach civil society in the south – drop the jargon, use accessible English for those who don't have English as their first language.

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Outcome 4:
Doing it!

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FFA

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Appendix 1 – CSPP Collaborators Workshop 16th-18th Nov 2005

Introduction

ODI's seven year Civil Society Partnership Programme (CSPP) which is funded through a Partnership Programme Agreement with the UK Department for International Development (DFID), aims to strengthen the capacity of civil society organisations (CSOs) to use research-based evidence to promote pro-poor development policy. Full details of the programme, as originally conceived are described in the original Partnership Programme Agreement¹.

The emphasis of the work over the first 18 months was to learn more about how CSOs use research-based evidence, explore the niche and demand for this sort of programme, identify potential collaborators in the South, initiate a small number of pilot projects, and improve ODI's internal knowledge management and communication systems. More information about the programme and progress over the first 18 months is available in the Annual Report² and on the website³.

Work so far has identified a clear niche and demand for the programme from southern CSOs, for help to improve the use of research-based evidence in policy processes. The CSPP has already produced a range of training and information material, and has run a number of training courses for staff in CSOs in Africa, Asia. Lessons from the work so far highlight a number of issues and options for the next phase of work. These are described in detail in the paper: The Civil Society Partnership Programme: Issues and Options for the Second Phase⁴. A list of the key questions is attached as Appendix 1.

This workshop was one of a series of meetings seminars and workshops with programme stakeholders to review progress and develop plans for the next phase (April 06 to March 08). The workshop brought together 17 participants from Think Tanks (TTs), Policy Research Institutes (PRIs) and Non Government Organisations (NGOs) in Asia, Africa and Latin America with whom the programme has worked during the first phase to explore these questions. Their names and information about their organisations is provided in Appendix 2.

After a general introduction to ODI and the CSPP, a Challenge Session provided an opportunity for participants to explore the basic assumptions underpinning the programme as a whole. Four participants then presented brief Case Studies of their own work. This was followed by sessions on the Lessons So Far and Proposals for Phase 2. In the final session participants divided into groups to discuss specific Regional Issues and Options. The workshop programme is attached as Appendix 3, a full record of participants feedback and discussions during each session is provided in Appendix 4, and the presentation slides in Appendix 5.

Programme logic and niche

The key conclusions of the challenge session confirmed the assumptions underpinning the programme:

- There is a growing demand for research-based-evidence to inform development policy processes, but this varies in different contexts and the credibility of local CSOs is often questioned.

¹ http://www.odi.org.uk/cspp/docs/ODI_PPA_final.pdf (Adobe Pdf 73kb).

² http://www.odi.org.uk/cspp/docs/CSPP_AR_01_2004_5.pdf (Adobe Pdf 330kb)

³ <http://www.odi.org.uk/cspp>

⁴ <http://www.odi.org.uk/cspp/docs/Issues&Options.pdf> (Adobe Pdf 124kb).

- Understanding the political context is crucial, but impact can be enhanced through better engagement with policy makers and communities, strategic alliances with international actors, better communication and networking, an emphasis on providing solutions rather than just presenting problems, and long-term capacity building.
- TTs, PRIs, NGOs and other CSOs have some capacity, skills and products to use research-based evidence to influence policy, but need more of all of them. Policy makers in developing countries also need help to make better use of research-based evidence.
- TTs, PRIs, NGOs and other CSOs can access some support, but could use more, especially long term, support for research and policy influence activities.

Participants were generally enthusiastic about the programme, especially about the opportunity to learn from each other's practical experience, and for long-term support with how to use research-based evidence to influence policy. There are few other programmes offering this kind of support.

Discussion of key issues

The main conclusions of discussions about programme lessons and issues were:

- General agreement with the lessons learned by the programme so far. Additional points made and issues raised included the following:
 - It often takes a long time for new TTs and PRIs to be seen as credible by policy makers.
 - There is little incentive for successful TTs to want to help emerging TTS which may then become direct competitors for scarce funding.
 - While there is a definite trend towards more involvement of CSOs in policy making in many developing countries, often promoted by donors, they still have very limited influence.
 - Political factors are often more important than evidence, and corruption undermines many policy processes.
 - There is need to better understand how to use research-based evidence to influence policy implementation rather than policy formulation (which is increasingly well known).
 - The programme also needs to work with policy makers to strengthen the demand for research-based evidence.
 - Does ODI really want to become a capacity-building organisation?
 - ODI toolkits need to be "localised". ODI's partners could help with this.
 - Paper and CDROM-based information materials remain more important and popular in many developing countries than internet-based information systems.
- ODI's conclusion that there are few suitable regional organisations may not be correct. There are many sectoral organisations and networks with a regional role, though they may not be interested in working closely with CSOs and capacity-building. There are also a number of national organisation that developing a regional role. The project should not "write off" the "regional organisation" model just yet, although it will be less simple than envisaged.
- ODI's approach to developing the global projects has over-emphasised ODI's northern agenda. While ODI's engagement with northern policy processes is an important asset for the global projects, more dialogue with southern partners is needed to identify mutually interesting topics.
- General support for the proposed outcome areas and activities for Phase 2. Specific comments and recommendations under each outcome included the following:
- Outcome 1: CSOs understand how to use research-based evidence to influence policy:

- The initial emphasis should be on making existing knowledge accessible and practically useful through a synthesis of the work so far;
- There is a need to develop “how to” guidelines in key areas;
- new research should focus on understanding how to better link research to policy implementation (via action research) and why policymakers do not find CSO evidence credible;
- There should also be a focus on horizontal learning and learning more from the south.
- Outcome 2: CSOs can access support:
 - The programme should provide long term support through eg funds, exposure visits (south-south), exchange visits North-south), fundraising support, and electronic networking etc.
 - Should ODI do the training/capacity-building directly, or find other organisations to collaborate with?
 - While donors are keen to support southern TTs etc, much of the money is for specific bits of work. There are few donors providing institutional support, without which it is difficult to establish long term programmes. A little core funding from ODI could help organisations find additional funding.
 - Need to balance need to provide regional support with the reality that there are far more national-level organisations. A “network” of national-level organisations could support other in the region.
 - Should focus on developing trust through partnerships rather than “accreditation” schemes.
 - Could scale up impact through eg organising a ToT WS in one country with participants from neighbouring countries who then run training WS in their own country.
- Outcome 3: Global Projects:
 - Participants identified an ideal process to develop these projects: a group of organisations get together to identify a topic of mutual interest, identify who will do what (and how each organisation’s work will contribute to the project), who will lead, look for funds and then do the work (see Figure 2).
 - Global projects should focus on issues that people are already working on a lead
- Outcome 4: Improved information:
 - Participants identified a number of additional mechanisms the programme could use to improve information availability including partnerships with local media, attending global events, and working with universities etc (see Figure 3).
 - Ideally the programme would make information available in English, French and Spanish. Partners in Latin America and Francophone Africa could help with that.
 - ODI’s role in the programme should be to facilitate access to information rather than as the main provider of information.

Specific opportunities for Phase 2

Regional groups identified a number of specific activities for Phase 2. A summary of these is provided below (see Appendix 4 for more detail):

Latin America

1. A regional workshop for senior researchers and policy makers on chronic poverty, inequality and social exclusion to set a research agenda and create a community of practice
2. A regional training programme on linking research and policy including a regional training of trainers workshop who will then organise follow-up national workshops

3. Promotion of South-South collaboration through 1) and 2), and sharing and dissemination of materials and databases, institutional exchange and support with fundraising
4. Identification and development of regional projects on eg debt, trade and internal migration etc.

South and South East Asia

1. Regional work to develop the analytical framework, and develop a regional policy influencing training program
2. Capacity-building through 1) and South-South, South-North and North-South exchanges.
3. Involvement in regional/global projects on Trade and Development and Reform of Aid system and the economics of emergencies (focusing on key national, regional and global events and training/working with journalists/media)
4. Improved information sharing through networking and alliance building (APPRN), clustering of issue-wise research material and linkages of websites
5. Improved access to information materials through free or subsidized access to journals
6. Financial support for program based research funding and help to develop a donor consortium (resources and feedback).

West Africa

1. A mapping process to identify CSOs for networking and partnerships.
2. A programme to develop stronger linkages among CSOs across West Africa through networks and partnerships, engaging with regional bodies on policy issues, south-south partnerships, networking and training of trainers courses on policy research and advocacy
3. Research on improving policy engagements with regional institutions, e.g. ECOWAS, African Commission on Human Rights, Banjul, etc
4. Regional research on budget analysis and monitoring initiatives and involvement in global projects on Trade, Access to Markets, & Debt cancellation.
5. Exchange visits to SA region: food security issues in Sahelian areas.
6. Help to access in-country challenge funds by donors, e.g. DFID, DANIDA, CIDA, the Ford Foundation etc
7. Improved information availability through CDRoms, policy briefs, policy meetings and an easily accessible website

Eastern Africa

1. Agenda setting workshop for civil society in policy in East Africa -linked to the establishment of an East Africa civil society policy forum.
2. Research on what prevents policy makers from taking on board CSO research findings.
3. Regional training of trainers and capacity building programme on policy analysis and engagement.
4. Breakfast meetings for top policy makers.
5. Engagement with the East Africa Community Civil Society Programme on policy issues.
6. In country meetings to bring CSO issues in policy engagement.
7. Case studies on policy related activities and south-south visits etc.
8. Involvement in global projects on eg trade, debt, aid, environment and climate change, PRSPs and MDGs and HIV/AIDS
9. Improved information through basic information products on eg Aid, Trade and Poverty (simple and straight forward), Policy briefs, CDs and E-discussions

Southern Africa

1. Overall principle should be 'partnership' rather than 'funder' ie MOU vs contract
2. Poverty policy training linked to SARPN's training on poverty
3. Intense training of trainers in the policy cycle and civic engagement (about 15 people)

4. Research on:
 - policy makers' expectations of civil society evidence;
 - the level of commitment to SADC agreement on 10% budgets for agriculture followed by policy dialogue, a common position and advocacy
 - second generation PRSPs - their emergence, and principals
5. Strengthen the capacity of civil society to identify and access important materials
6. Series of dialogue on the impact of food aid on traditional long term development
7. Involvement in global projects on eg trade, debt, aid, environment and climate change, PRSPs and MDGs and HIV/AIDS
8. Improved information through basic information products on eg Aid, Trade and Poverty (simple and straight forward), Policy briefs, CDs and E-discussions

Next Steps

Further steps in the preparation of plans for Phase 2 will include meetings and seminars with DFD and other UK-based organisations involved in similar work, electronic discussions with other organisations involved in similar work in other parts of the world, and a final electronic discussion with people who have been involved in the project so far, including the participants of this workshop. The aim is to have the final programme prepared by the end of March 2006.