



Civil Society Partnerships Programme E-Newsletter

December 2006 Issue



Dear Colleagues

Welcome to the third edition of the quarterly CSPP newsletter.

The highlight of last quarter was the [programme's partners' meeting](#) organised in London at ODI in November 2006. Partners were invited to London to discuss the lessons learned so far and the way forward for the network. 20 individuals attended, from a range of types of organisations from think tanks to NGOs, from Africa, Asia and South America. The meeting was timed to coincide with another relevant event – the [ODI/INASP Research-Policy Symposium](#).

There was a general feeling at the partners meeting that the network is now becoming more cohesive and the discussions also revealed diverse opinions regarding how to take the network forward intellectually and practically. It was felt that some of the key attractions of the network to members are the opportunities for gaining knowledge and learning lessons to improve practice, and therefore a space for critical reflection and lesson-sharing on practice, tools and approaches should be ensured. The strengths of the network, therefore, lie in the diversity of members and their capacity, the value of being an approach-based network, and that it can facilitate South-South lesson sharing and collaboration. You can find out more about the partners meeting at www.odi.org.uk/Rapid/Events/CCPP_Partners_2006 and the report on ODI/INASP symposium at www.odi.org.uk/Rapid/Events/INASP.

Two items of particular interest in this newsletter are:

- Working Paper 'CSO Capacity for Policy Engagement: Lessons Learned from the CSPP Consultations in Africa, Asia and Latin America' (see item 9)
- DFID Governance and Transparency Fund (see item 12)

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RESOURCES

1. Funding opportunities

Commonwealth Foundation

The Commonwealth Foundation provides grants to enable people from the Commonwealth to participate in activities such as short training courses, workshops, seminars, conferences, exchanges and study visits in other Commonwealth countries. In particular, the Foundation targets activities that strengthen the capacity of civil society organisations in areas of work that overlap with the Foundation's three programme areas: Governance and Democracy; Sustainable Development; and Culture and Diversity. All grant applications must relate to the Foundation's mission and priority areas of interest. Further information about funding criteria is available in [Information for Grant Seekers guidelines](#), which set out what activities the Foundation does and does not support, what the current priority areas of the responsive grants programme are and how to apply for a grant. More information is available at: www.commonwealthfoundation.com/about/grantseekers.

Ford Foundation

The Ford Foundation invites proposals for its grants programme in Southern, Western and Eastern Africa. It awards funding to organisations for projects in the following areas: asset building, community development, economic development, resource development; peace, and social justice – human rights, governance and civil society; knowledge, creativity and freedom – education, sexuality, religion, media, arts and culture. Activities supported by grants must be charitable, educational or scientific. The majority of grants is given to organisations, both public and private, that propose to undertake creative and innovative work. For more details see the website of the foundation at www.fordfound.org/global/office or Contact Alice L Brown for Southern Africa (ford-johannesburg@fordfound.org) Adhiambo Podaga for West Africa (ford-lagos@fordfound.org) and Omotade Aina for Eastern Africa (ford-nairobi@fordfound.org) Applications may be submitted throughout the year and are expected to be processed within eight weeks.

Department for International Development Cooperation, Finland (Finnida)

The main objectives of Finnida are reducing poverty; assisting developing countries in solving their environmental problems; and promoting equality, democracy and human rights. Finnish development priorities emphasise the need for sustained economic growth, equitable income distribution and special arrangements for supporting the poor and enabling them to participate in productive activities. In an effort to achieve practical results in the alleviation of poverty, Finnida's aid is concentrated on basic education and health services. The focus of Finnida's assistance is on 10 countries known as primary partners, which include Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, Viet Nam, and Zambia. Funding is also provided to CSOs in order for them to engage with the governments. For more see <http://global.finland.fi/english>.

UK-Africa Academic Partnerships

In an initiative developed by the British Academy's Africa Panel, two awards of up to £10,000 a year for up to three years are available to support the development of ongoing links between UK and African research centres or institutions, within the humanities and social sciences. The link will be built around a specific research theme of mutual interest. This could be carried forward through visits in both directions; workshops; seminars and lectures; collaborative research; and joint publications. The scheme is intended to foster UK-Africa links, with an emphasis on helping scholars in the UK and Africa to develop research skills and to produce a joint research outcome. Priority will be given to projects with a training element, such as the support and development of staff or postgraduate students (in the UK and in Africa). Visits might be undertaken for staff exchange, supplying teaching elements to courses and developing joint curricula. It is expected that each programme should produce papers or some other joint research outcome designed for publication. Closing date for applications is 5th February 2007. For more details and an application form please see www.britac.ac.uk/funding/guide/intl/africaap.html.

APORDE call for applications

The African Programme on Rethinking Development Economics (APORDE) will allow a select group of 20 fully-funded participants to take part in a 12-day high-level training in development economics. They are looking for applications from policy makers, academics and civil society organisations from the South. APORDE will have a Southern African spin so most participants will be drawn from SADC countries, while candidates from the rest of the developing world with an interest in Africa are also invited to apply. The deadline for applications is 20 December 2006. The programme will be held from the 13th to 25th of May 2007. More details on the [programme](#) and [call for applications](#).

2. Fellowship opportunity

The African Economic Research Consortium invites applications for its PhD fellowships. These fellowships

provide financial support for African postgraduate students intending to pursue a career in economic management, research or teaching at a public institution in sub-Saharan Africa. Applicants need to be African citizens and attached to or sponsored by an institution in sub-Saharan Africa. For more details see www.aercafrica.org/programmes. Deadline for the next round of applications is 31 January 2007.

3. Information on related organisations

Trócaire

Trócaire is the official overseas development agency of the Catholic Church in Ireland. Trócaire has a dual mandate: to support long-term development projects overseas and to provide relief during emergencies; and at home to inform the Irish public about the root causes of poverty and injustice and mobilise the public to bring about global change. The agency strives to promote human development and social justice in line with gospel values. Its work is also influenced by the experiences and the hopes of the poor and oppressed. Trócaire supports communities in their efforts to improve their lives, meet their basic needs and ensure their human dignity. For more on Trócaire see www.trocaire.org.

INSTRAW

The International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) is dedicated to the advancement of women. Created in 1976 INSTRAW is based in the Dominican Republic, and is the only United Nations Institute devoted to serving as a vehicle at the international level to promote and undertake research and training programmes to contribute to the advancement of women and gender equality worldwide. In collaboration with governments and civil society it has carried out research and training activities on different topics related to women at national, regional and international levels. INSTRAW highlights the gender perspective as being the essential element in the analysis and implementation of programmes and projects aimed at achieving sustainable development. By stimulating and assisting the efforts of intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental organisations, INSTRAW plays a critical role in advancing the global agenda of gender equality, development and peace. More information on INSTRAW is available at: www.un-instraw.org/.

4. Work by partner organisations

Centre for Poverty Analysis, Sri Lanka

The Centre for Poverty Analysis is a professional service provider promoting a better understanding of poverty related issues in Sri Lanka. CEPA offers advisory and training services, based on applied empirical research, to organisations and professionals working towards poverty reduction. CEPA produces a wealth of materials in many different formats analysing various dimensions of poverty, via reports, working papers, website etc. One highlight of the year for CEPA is the Annual Symposium on Poverty Research. Since the first Symposium held in 2000, the event has gained substantial recognition as an important platform bringing together national and international scholars and practitioners from different disciplines to discuss new concepts and recent empirical findings on poverty. Papers and proceedings of previous symposia have been brought together in publications for international dissemination and further stimulation of research in this field. The 7th Annual Symposium on Poverty Research in Sri Lanka was held in Colombo on 6th/7th December 2006 with the thematic focus on poverty and inequality. For more on CEPA and the materials produced by it see www.cepa.lk.

Seminar on Interest of World Bank and IMF: Agriculture, Trade and Services Unnayan Onneshan, Bangladesh

Speakers at a seminar in Dhaka, Bangladesh urged donors not to interfere in any country's governance issue. They suggested that the donors should ensure transparency, accountability and local participation in their own projects without interfering with the governance of the aid-receiving countries. The seminar on 'Interest of World Bank and IMF: Agriculture, Trade and Services' was organised by the Alliance for Economic Justice, Bangladesh (AEJB) at the National Press Club in the city prior to the 50th summit of WB and IMF held in Singapore recently. Rashed Al Titumir from Unnayan Onneshan facilitated the discussions. Favouring unconditional aid from donors, the speakers asked for formulating a domestic policy in the interest of utilising aid without making any burden on the economy of any country. For more on the seminar see www.thedailystar.net/2006/09/05/d60905050367.htm.

5. Relevant lessons and approaches from other programmes

This resources section on the CSPP website highlights relevant lessons and approaches from other programmes and organisations. This includes details of and links to resources such as publications, toolkits, practical guides, facilitation courses and e-learning opportunities. www.odi.org.uk/cspp/Resources/Lessson_approaches.html

6. External Events

Information on forthcoming international events of interest to CSOs are listed as a useful resource on the CSPP website. Forthcoming events include: The World Congress on 'The International Conference 'Living on the Margins Vulnerability, social exclusion and the state in the informal economy'; Communication and Development; International Dialogue on Science and Practice in Sustainable Development; INTRAC's Conference on Civil Society and Capacity Building; International Studies Association International Conference on Politics, Policy and Responsible Scholarship. For more information and links to organisers' websites see: www.odi.org.uk/cspp/Resources/External_events.html

CSPP ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

7. The CSPP in ACEVO conference

A team from CSPP participated in the International Conference organised by ACEVO – Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations, in London, on 13 October 2006. The conference was entitled 'Different Stories, Shared Future: leaders and leadership around the world'. Naved Chowdhury facilitated a workshop with Inga Pagava from Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) Russia, in which strategic engagement by civil societies with governments in the north and the south was discussed, while John Young spoke at a workshop on the role of northern NGOs in international development in the future. For more on the workshop report and also on ACEVO see www.acevo.org.uk or www.3rdsectorleaders.org. For more on CAF see www.cafonline.org.

8. Civil society as a development partner: lessons learned and ways forward for donor engagement

An 'effective state' is one that is not only capable of delivering services to its citizens, but also in remaining accountable and responsive to them. It has long been recognised that citizens have been essential in building institutions, in demanding fairer rules of the game and in ensuring that the State continues to deliver. A focus on effective bureaucracies therefore challenges donors to also take stock of how they might better work with civil society in delivering that goal. A round table was hosted by the DFID Policy and Asia Divisions, and the ODI Civil Society Partnership Programme on 29 June 2006 which brought together practitioners working to strengthen civic engagement in Latin America, Africa, Asia and the Pacific. Discussants tabled and compared alternative instruments for support to civic engagement with the state, including small grants facilities as opposed to providing direct support to grassroots organisations and CSO activists through bilateral and multi-donor instruments for civil society support. The roundtable identified a number of lessons essential to the design and delivery of civil society support. For more on the discussion please see: www.odi.org.uk/Rapid/Events/DFID_CS

PUBLICATIONS

9. CSO Capacity for Policy Engagement: Lessons Learned from the CSPP Consultations in Africa, Asia and Latin America

The nature of CSOs in development work is changing, but how successfully – and leading where? While there is still a strong demand for CSOs to 'sustain the good work' in terms of direct service delivery, there is also a growing need for civil society to participate in policy processes, in order to bring about sustained long-term change. Surprisingly, there is very little systematic research on how CSOs all over the world are influencing policy processes, especially from the point of view of those actually involved in the policymaking process in the South. This paper aims to compare and contrast the lessons that emerged from the CSPP Southern consultations regarding the use of evidence-based policy-engagement, and for ODI to learn what role it may take in aiding CSO involvement in policy processes in the future, especially through the CSPP. A summary and the full paper are available at : www.odi.org.uk/Rapid/Publications/RAPID_WP_272.html.

10. Building Effective Research Policy Networks: Linking Function and Form

This paper looks at the factors that affect the key structural characteristics of research policy networks in an attempt to develop a methodology for studying and understanding what networks do and how. It builds on previous work on the roles and functions that networks carry out and focuses on their structural characteristics. The literature on networks is explored to identify the main and most common factors affecting their structure, and then the paper considers the possible effects of these structural factors on a network's ability to perform one or more of these functions based on some of the lessons learned from a study of seven research policy networks in Peru. The paper provides a menu of factors and characteristics worth considering when intending to build effective networks. For the full document see: www.odi.org.uk/Rapid/Publications/Documents/WP276.pdf.

11. Bringing Community-learned Knowledge into the Policy Debate: The Case of Legal Aid Centres

This paper looks at the potentially pivotal role that elites can play as conduits of experiential knowledge into policy processes, communicating community-learned knowledge of the situation of the poor into national-level pro-poor policies. The key question we seek to address is: How and under what circumstances can elites bring experiential knowledge about the situation of the poor to bear on policy debates? Two cases are examined and compared: the Legal Resources Centre (LRC) in South Africa and the Uganda Association of Women Lawyers (FIDA U) in Uganda. The paper also reviews the relevant bodies of literature on policy processes, the role of national elites in poverty reduction and policy processes, and legal aid centres and their influence on policy processes and content. A summary and the full paper are available at www.odi.org.uk/Rapid/Publications/Documents/WP277.pdf.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

12. DFID Governance and Transparency Fund

The ability of citizens to make their voices heard and hold their governments to account is fundamental to good government. Its absence fosters an environment in which corruption can flourish, and citizens are unable to assess the decisions of their leaders, or make informed choices about who they elect to serve as their representatives. Civil society, the media, and others have a key role in promoting accountable governance and transparency. To help address some of these issues, DFID has created a new £100 million Governance and Transparency Fund (GTF). It is designed to help citizens hold their governments to account, through strengthening the wide range of groups that can empower and support them. Any not for profit/charity based anywhere in the world can apply for this fund and this includes NGOs, faith based groups, trade unions, co-operatives and media groups etc. For more see: www.dfid.gov.uk/consultations/gtf-guidelines.pdf.

13. Launch of ICCDA networks

Inter-regional Coordinating Committee of Development Associations (ICCDA) is an informal umbrella institution made up of six sister organisations, each one representing the current development research of its regional focus: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East. ICCDA aims at encouraging and facilitating international cooperation in the fields of research, education and communication by creating concrete inter-regional cooperation between institutes and working groups discussing issues of interest to all member associations. ICCDA is planning to launch networks of development research institutes in Europe and similar institutes in developing countries within the ICCDA umbrella which will focus on Europe's relations with those regions. More information is available at: www.iccda.net.

14. Call for papers

Articles are requested for submission for the July 2007 issue of *Gender and Development* journal, which will look at the role gender research methodologies can play in the design and implementation of development policies and programmes that are effective in promoting gender equality. Articles could address: Using qualitative and quantitative research methods in gender-sensitive research; Researching on sensitive issues, e.g. violence within the family, labour relations; Using feminist research methodologies in development; Participant observation: is it possible to be a neutral observer? For more on the journal and how to contribute to this issue see www.oxfam.org.uk/what_wedo/issues/gender/gad/index.htm or contact Joanna Hoare at jhoare@oxfam.org.uk.

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