



# Civil Society Partnership Programme E-Newsletter May 2006 Issue



Dear Colleagues

Welcome to the first edition of the quarterly Civil Society Partnerships Programme newsletter.

The purpose of CSPP is to ensure that Southern CSOs have the capacity to use research-based evidence to influence effectively the establishment of pro-poor policy. The emphasis in the first phase of the programme was to learn more about how CSOs use research-based evidence through research and action-research projects; to improve ODI's capacity to share useful knowledge with CSOs; and to undertake a small number of collaborative projects on global policy issues. For more on Phase 1 see:

[www.odi.org.uk/cspp/Overview/Phase\\_1.html](http://www.odi.org.uk/cspp/Overview/Phase_1.html)

The main focus of CSPP over the next two years (2006-2008) will be the establishment of a 'Knowledge and Practice Network' of organisations with a specific interest in the art and science of bridging research and policy. The network will facilitate the exchange of information, knowledge and expertise on the interface between research and policy to support researchers, development practitioners and policymakers to promote more evidence-based policy and practice. For more on Phase 2 see:

[www.odi.org.uk/cspp/Overview/Index.html](http://www.odi.org.uk/cspp/Overview/Index.html)

This newsletter is designed to provide a broad overview of recent and future events with links to more detailed information on the CSPP and RAPID websites ([www.odi.org.uk/cspp/](http://www.odi.org.uk/cspp/) and [www.odi.org.uk/rapid/](http://www.odi.org.uk/rapid/)).

## **In this issue**

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### **RESOURCES**

1. Funding Opportunities
2. Information on Related Organisations
3. Work by Partner Organisations
4. Relevant Lessons and Approaches
5. Forthcoming External Events
6. Talking Heads Video Interviews

### **CSPP ACTIVITIES & EVENTS**

7. The CSPP in Latin America
8. The Forum on the Future of Aid
9. UK-based NGOs Meeting on Progress so Far and Plans for Phase 2
10. Policy Entrepreneurship Workshops
11. International Forum on the Social Science–Policy Nexus, Argentina
12. CIVICUS World Assembly 2006

### **PUBLICATIONS**

13. Capacity Development for Policy Advocacy Working Paper

### **OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **RESOURCES**

### **1. Funding Opportunities**

A resource detailing organisations providing potential funding opportunities. Information is currently available on opportunities for UK-Africa Research Partnerships, Programmes in Commonwealth Countries, a Fellowship programme and grants supplied by the Southern Africa Trust. For summaries of these opportunities and links to further details see: [www.odi.org.uk/cspp/Resources/Funders.html](http://www.odi.org.uk/cspp/Resources/Funders.html)

### **2. Related Organisations**

A new section on the CSPP website outlining details of and providing links to other organisations that work directly or indirectly in the area of CSOs, Evidence and Policy Processes. These include organisations that do research, network, build capacity, provide funds and hold events: [www.odi.org.uk/cspp/Resources/](http://www.odi.org.uk/cspp/Resources/)

### **3. Work by partner organisations**

Partner organisations are keen to incorporate new approaches they learn from each other to improve the impact of their work. See information on work by AFREPREN, CIPPEC and Unnayan Onneshan: [www.odi.org.uk/cspp/Achievements/AFREPREN\\_cs.html](http://www.odi.org.uk/cspp/Achievements/AFREPREN_cs.html)  
[www.odi.org.uk/cspp/Achievements/CIPPEC\\_cs.html](http://www.odi.org.uk/cspp/Achievements/CIPPEC_cs.html)  
[www.odi.org.uk/cspp/Achievements/Unnayan\\_Onneshan\\_cs.html](http://www.odi.org.uk/cspp/Achievements/Unnayan_Onneshan_cs.html)

### **4. Relevant lessons and approaches from other programmes**

This section of the CSPP resources highlights relevant lessons and approaches from other programmes and organisations. This include details of and links to resources such as publications, toolkits, practical guides, facilitation courses and e-learning opportunities: [www.odi.org.uk/cspp/Resources/Lesson\\_approaches.html](http://www.odi.org.uk/cspp/Resources/Lesson_approaches.html)

### **5. External Events**

Information on forthcoming international events of interest to CSOs are listed as a useful resource. Forthcoming events include CIVICUS World Assembly, 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](http://www.odi.org.uk/cspp/Resources/External_events.html)

### **6. Talking Heads Video Interviews**

The programme has been experimenting with more accessible methods to share ideas. See and hear experts talking about how they think research-based evidence could achieve greater impact: [www.odi.org.uk/Rapid/Tools/talking\\_heads/Interview\\_list.html](http://www.odi.org.uk/Rapid/Tools/talking_heads/Interview_list.html)

## **CSPP ACTIVITIES & EVENTS**

### **7. The CSPP in Latin America**

Latin America is home to a rich and credible academic and research community, however, Latin American researchers and practitioner recognise that they have not been as successful in learning from experience. CSPP is working on various activities and research, including the formation of a network that would allow them to share their experiences, learn from others and link up with peers in other regions of the world, and enable CSPP to bring the lessons from Latin America to the rest of the world and vice versa. For a summary of activities see: [www.odi.org.uk/cspp/Activities/CSPP\\_LA.html](http://www.odi.org.uk/cspp/Activities/CSPP_LA.html)

### **8. The Forum on the Future of Aid (FFA)**

The CSPP supports the Forum on the Future of Aid ([www.futureofaid.net/](http://www.futureofaid.net/)), an online community dedicated to research and opinions about how the international aid system currently works and where it should go next. The forum is part of global project on ways to facilitate a southern involvement on international debate on aid architecture. Outputs so far include a working paper on 'Which Way the Future of Aid?' which evolved from the Southern Voices for Change project: [www.odi.org.uk/cspp/Activities/Aid\\_architecture.html](http://www.odi.org.uk/cspp/Activities/Aid_architecture.html)

### **9. UK-based NGOs meeting on progress so far and plans for Phase 2**

The purpose of this half-day meeting was to share the results of the Civil Society Partnership Programme so far, discuss what we plan to do next and explore opportunities for collaboration and / or synergy with other UK-based organisations involved in similar activities. For a meeting summary see: [www.odi.org.uk/cspp/Activities/Events/UK\\_NGOs/](http://www.odi.org.uk/cspp/Activities/Events/UK_NGOs/)

## 10. Policy Entrepreneurship Workshops

CSPP facilitated two training workshops on Policy Entrepreneurship, held in Zambia for Zambia National Education Coalition (ZANEC) and Bangladesh for Child Workers in Asia (CWA). The workshops aimed to expose participants to current theory and practice of evidence-based policymaking and enhance their knowledge and skills in advocacy, lobbying and policy entrepreneurship. For details and summaries of workshops see:

[www.odi.org.uk/Rapid/Events/Policy\\_Entrp\\_Zambia/](http://www.odi.org.uk/Rapid/Events/Policy_Entrp_Zambia/)  
[www.odi.org.uk/Rapid/Events/Policy\\_Entrp\\_Bangladesh/](http://www.odi.org.uk/Rapid/Events/Policy_Entrp_Bangladesh/)

## 11. International Forum on the Social Science–Policy Nexus, Buenos Aires, Argentina

RAPID, in conjunction with CIPPEC, Argentina, held a half day workshop on bridging research and policy at the four-day forum in February 2006 in Argentina and Uruguay by UNESCO's Management of Social Transformations Programme. The forum broke new ground in connecting social science research to policy and was an opportunity for ODI to strengthen links to regional institutions and practitioners as well as to share its work and efforts to inform and inspire pro-poor policy processes around the world. For more information on the forum and the workshop see: [www.odi.org.uk/Rapid/Events/IFSP\\_Argentina/](http://www.odi.org.uk/Rapid/Events/IFSP_Argentina/)

## 12. CIVICUS World Assembly 2006

The forthcoming CIVICUS World Assembly, being held in Glasgow, Scotland in June 2006, follows the overall theme of 'Acting Together for a Just World'. The RAPID team will be facilitating two workshops during the Assembly, 'Enhancing CSO Influence on Development Policies' and 'Working Together for Accountable Government: CSOs and parliaments'. For more information on the conference and the workshops see: [www.odi.org.uk/Rapid/Events/CIVICUS\\_2006/](http://www.odi.org.uk/Rapid/Events/CIVICUS_2006/)

## PUBLICATIONS

### Capacity Development for Policy Advocacy Working Paper

This ODI Working Paper (WP260) presents a summary of current thinking on issues of capacity building for Northern and Southern organisations involved in using research-based evidence in policy processes, and provides some examples of current practice among organisations involved in work similar to that of the CSPP. For more on CSPP publications and annotated bibliographies see: [www.odi.org.uk/cspp/Publications/](http://www.odi.org.uk/cspp/Publications/)  
For a summary of this Working Paper see: [www.odi.org.uk/Rapid/Publications/RAPID\\_WP\\_260.html](http://www.odi.org.uk/Rapid/Publications/RAPID_WP_260.html)

## OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Launch of new think tank – Institute of Public Policy Analysis, Sierra Leone (IPPA-SL)

With the end of civil conflict in Sierra Leone, the process of social transformation is leading to the growth of democratic institutions and a vibrant civil society. Furthermore, there is a huge internal and external interest in state reconstruction, institutional reform and capacity building. The role of think tanks and other civil society actors in this process is, invaluable. The Institute of Public Policy Analysis–Sierra Leone is a newly launched independent think tank with the specific objective of undertaking policy relevant research while also advising policymakers and other interested bodies on matters of public policy issues. For more information see their website at [www.ippa-sl.org/](http://www.ippa-sl.org/) or email [info@ippa-sl.org](mailto:info@ippa-sl.org).

### Get involved – NGOs and Direct Budget Support (DBS)

DBS is a trend that could have significant implications for funding to CSOs and for the space in which these organisations can engage with donor agencies and governments. Action Aid International and CARE International would like to hear from anyone, especially southern CSOs, interested in the impact of Budget Support on local and international NGOs. For more information about the project and how to get actively involved contact Melissa Hall at Action Aid International ([Melissa.Hall@actionaid.org](mailto:Melissa.Hall@actionaid.org)) or Zaza Curran at CARE UK ([curran@careinternational.org](mailto:curran@careinternational.org)). More information on DBS is available on the FFA website: [www.futureofaid.net/node/63](http://www.futureofaid.net/node/63)

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If you wish to receive any of the web pages or documents recommended within this update by email, please contact [cspp@odi.org.uk](mailto:cspp@odi.org.uk).

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