



Civil Society Partnership
Programme
E-Newsletter
August 2006 Issue



Dear Colleagues

Welcome to the second edition of the quarterly CSPP newsletter.

The highlight of last quarter was the participation of the CSPP team at the CIVICUS World Assembly in June 2006. The CIVICUS World Assembly is a forum for international civil society representatives to get together, exchange ideas and experiences, and build strategies for a just world. This event held in Glasgow, Scotland, 21st – 25th June, provided exciting new opportunities for sustained, in-depth exploration of issues crucial to civil society, and iterative, shared learning from community and voluntary efforts from around the world and the local context. The overall theme for the World Assembly this year was 'Acting Together for a Just World', which was explored through four sub-themes: Civic Justice, Economic Justice, Political Justice and Social Justice. You can find out more about the event via the CIVICUS website at: www.civicusassembly.org

The CSPP team facilitated two workshops during the Assembly with active participation of two of our southern partners: 'Enhancing CSO Influence on Development Policies' coordinated by Julius Court; and 'Working Together for Accountable Government: CSOs and Parliaments' coordinated by Alan Hudson. Vanesa Weyrauch from Centre for the Implementation of Public Policies for Equity and Growth (CIPPEC), Argentina, participated in both the events, with Jack Jones Zulu from Jubilee Zambia participating in the latter. Details of the workshops are available at: www.odi.org.uk/Rapid/Events/CIVICUS_2006.

Two items of particular importance from RAPID are included under the Announcements section of this newsletter – a request to complete our online survey and a Research Fellow vacancy. See items 15 and 16 for details.

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RESOURCES

1. Funding Opportunity

TrustAfrica seeks to strengthen African initiatives that address the most difficult challenges confronting the continent. TrustAfrica began in 2001 under the aegis of the Ford Foundation. In mid-2006 TrustAfrica, with the opening of its new headquarters in Dakar, Senegal, became an African think-tank independent from the Ford Foundation. It makes small and (infrequent) large grants for capacity building to promote participatory management, transparent governance, effective communication, and sustainable outcomes for CSOs in Africa. For more on the activities of TrustAfrica and how to apply for funds please see their website:

www.trustafrica.org. For summaries of this and other funding opportunities, with links to further details see: www.odi.org.uk/cspp/Resources/Funders.html

2. Fellowship Opportunity

Nile Basin Research Programme (NBRP) is a strategic, multidisciplinary programme for Nile Basin related research and education, which aims to give researchers from academic institutions in the ten Nile Basin countries an opportunity to work together in research groups in a multidisciplinary academic environment, in collaboration with researchers from outside the Nile Basin. Supported by the Norwegian Government, researchers can stay at the University of Bergen for a five month period (January-June 2007). The researchers will be given Norwegian standard salary. NBRP is open to applicants with PhD degrees or equivalent. Applicants should be scholars and/or researchers holding positions at research institutions in the Nile Basin Region. More information is at: www.nile.uib.no/theme2007.php or see the CSPP resources section www.odi.org.uk/cspp/Resources/Funders.html#FO

3. Information on Related Organisations

(see www.odi.org.uk/cspp/Resources/Related_orgs.html)

Communication for Social Change Practitioner Network

Initiated by the Communication for Social Change (CFSC) Consortium, the Practitioner Network is a semi-formal grouping of individuals committed to and expert in communication for social change, who can offer advice and support to organisations seeking to transform principle and theory into practice. The network's main activities include providing training and technical support to those in the network, as well as identifying and developing training materials for development agencies interested in using CFSC principles. For more information see: www.comminit.com/experiences/pds2006/experiences-3673.html

Arab NGO Network for Development

The Arab region has been highly affected by the various forms and expressions of globalisation. In many countries, civil society organisations, including political parties, trade unions, social movements, NGOs and others, do not exist. Where they do exist, they are highly repressed by the governing regime. The Arab NGO Network for Development is assisting in the active participation of Arab civil society organisations in global fora. The network aims to support the process through capacity building and awareness raising activities, as well as by exchanging experience and information on participatory policy analysis and advocacy. For more on civil society experience in the Arab world and how the network supports the members see: www.annd.org

Africa Governance, Monitoring and Advocacy Project (AfriMAP)

AfriMAP works with national civil society organisations in Africa to conduct systematic audits of government performance in three areas: the justice sector and the rule of law; political participation and democracy; and effective delivery of public services. It also works with organisations and the Open Society Institute's African foundations to research and publish reports on themes related to governance in individual African countries. For more on AfriMAP and how to participate and collaborate please see: www.afriMAP.org/ourmission.php

International Budget Project – Impact of Civil Society Budget Work: Case Studies on Brazil, Croatia, India, Mexico, South Africa, and Uganda

Over the past year, the International Budget project and the Institute for Development Studies (IDS) at the University of Sussex have been working together to produce in-depth case studies to learn specifically about the impact of sustained budget work on good governance and poverty reduction. The research draws on case studies of independent budget organisations in Brazil, Croatia, India, Mexico, South Africa and Uganda who have been engaged in budget analysis and budget advocacy. For full case studies and the executive summaries in Spanish and English see: www.internationalbudget.org/casestudies.htm

4. Work by partner organisations – Unnayan Onneshan at the United Nations

Rashed Titumir from Unnayan Onneshan – a member of the CSPP network – was recently invited to speak at the United Nations General Assembly's Informal Interactive Hearings on the Implementation of the Programme of Action on market access and export opportunities for the Least Developed Countries, held in

New York on 22nd June 2006. Rashed spoke on how globalisation is failing to enhance productive capacities of LDC countries and what steps should be urgently undertaken to make globalisation work for the global poor. For more on Rashed's speech and to view the materials Unnayan Onneshan produced for the event see their website: www.unnayan.org and more information on their recent work is available at: www.odi.org.uk/cspp/Achievements/Unnayan_Onneshan_cs.html

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 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 Latin America

CSPP Latin America organises regular debates on the challenges and opportunities for influencing development policies in Latin America. The recent electronic debate saw the participation of CSO members from Peru, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Argentina. The discussion revealed several cross cutting impediments hindering the successful uptake of research in Latin America. For more on the debate see: www.odi.org.uk/cspp/Activities/CSPP_LA.html.

8. CSPP workshop on Policy Advocacy in Zambia

Established in 2000, the objective of CSPP (www.cspp.org.zm) is to ensure that civil society effectively and meaningfully participates in the design, formulation and implementation of the Poverty Reduction and Strategy Paper (PRSP). In order to enhance the capacity of CSOs to participate in policy debate in Zambia CSPP is planning to host a one week training session for local and national civil society actors in pro-poor policy research and policy analysis. The workshop will be held in Lusaka during the last week of August. Vivian Kazi from ESRF, Tanzania – a member of CSPP network – is expected to attend. For more information on the course and how to participate please contact: Besinati Phiri Mpepo (besimpepo@cspp.org.zm) or Savior Mwambwa (smwambwa@cspp.org.zm).

9. Participation in a scoping study for IDRC, Canada

CSPP participated in the scoping study on 'Productive strategies and empowerment of poor rural families to participate successfully in global markets' for the Rural Poverty and Environment (RPE) Programme of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada. RPE aims at strengthening poor communities' capacity to respond to and benefit from integration within wider social and economic systems. The report made recommendations on several research themes through which IDRC intends to focus its research agenda in the future. For more on this study please see: www.idrc.ca/en/ev-91960-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html

PUBLICATIONS

10. Tools for Knowledge and Learning: A Guide for Development and Humanitarian Organisations

This toolkit presents a summary of current thinking in application of knowledge and learning as a means to improve development and humanitarian work among the range of agencies involved in such work, including donor agencies, multilaterals, NGOs, research institutes, and the plethora of institutions based in the South, including national governments, regional organisations, and indigenous NGOs. It provides references to the wide range of tools and methods that have been used to facilitate improved knowledge and learning in the development and humanitarian sectors. 30 tools and techniques are presented, divided into five categories: Strategy Development; Management Techniques; Collaboration Mechanisms; Knowledge Sharing and Learning Processes; and Knowledge Capture and Storage. To view a summary, download an electronic version or order printed copies of this toolkit visit the RAPID website: www.odi.org.uk/Rapid/Publications/Tools_KM.html

11. Policy Engagement: How civil society can be more effective

Civil society organisations (CSOs) could have a greater impact on policy processes in developing countries. This report explains why and how better use of evidence by CSOs is part of the solution to increasing the policy influence and pro-poor impact of their work. The report includes strategic guidance and practical approaches regarding how CSOs can ensure that their policy engagement is more effective, influential and sustained. For a summary or to download the full report see:

www.odi.org.uk/Rapid/Publications/Policy_engagement.html or view the ODI Briefing Paper *Policy Engagement for Poverty Reduction* based on the report:
www.odi.org.uk/RAPID/Publications/Documents/CSPP_BP.pdf

12. Aid for the Poor, Not for the Consultants

No less than a quarter of annual development aid – about 20 billion dollars – is being used by donor countries to fund technical assistance of sometimes dubious worth, says Action Aid International in a new report. The study, titled 'Real Aid 2', was launched by the Johannesburg-based non-governmental organisation. As with last year's 'Real Aid', it examines how development funding is spent. For more information, see the Inter Press Service News Agency report: www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=33878 or view the full report on the ActionAid International website: www.actionaid.org/index.asp?page_id=1120

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

13. Annual Awards for Development Research

Submissions are being accepted for the forthcoming Annual Awards and Medals Competition from GDN – Global Development Network, which carries prizes in cash and travel of over US\$200,000. Submissions can be for a new research proposal or for a completed research paper from all branches of social science, with multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary entries particularly encouraged. The finalists will present their papers and proposals at GDN's Annual Global Development Conference in Beijing, China, in January 2007. The deadline for submissions is 17th September 2006. For more information on the competition, including full descriptions of the categories, visit: www.gdnet.org/middle.php?oid=992

14. Drivers of Change Award

The Southern Africa Trust, in partnership with The Mail & Guardian Online newspaper, has announced the establishment of the Drivers of Change Award. This award has been established to hold up living examples of innovative practices, inclusive attitudes, and effective processes that build social trust and create the best conditions to make a real and lasting difference in the lives of people living in poverty. It will be awarded to recognise individuals or organisations from across the southern Africa region that are making a real impact, especially in developing effective public policies and strategies. Nominations will be accepted from individuals or from organisations. Nominees should be individuals in government, business organisations or civil society organisations. Closing date for entries is 25th August 2006. For more information on the criteria for nomination and how to nominate please see: www.southernafricatrust.org or www.mg.co.za/investing.

15. RAPID Survey

The Research and Policy in Development (RAPID) Group at ODI – www.odi.org.uk/rapid – is conducting a review of what it does within and beyond ODI, in order to ensure that it continues to play an effective role in contributing to ODI's overall mission, and that it continues to provide a service and produce outputs which are useful to its external stakeholders. The review is intended to lead to the development of a revised strategy for RAPID, which will inform both what RAPID does, and how RAPID is organised. As part of this review, we have designed an on-line survey to collect the views of external stakeholders about what RAPID has done so far, and about the direction which RAPID might take in the future. We would be extremely grateful if you could complete this anonymous on-line survey. It will take no more than 10 minutes to complete. The survey can be accessed at: <http://apps.odi.org.uk/survey/survey.aspx?surveyid=10>. Thanks in advance for helping us to review and revise our strategy.

16. RAPID Research Fellow vacancy

We're also looking for a Research Fellow to join the programme. S/he should have both an intellectual interest in and practical experience of work to improve the interface between research and policy, especially by civil society organisations and/or by policy makers and donors. A brief summary of the post, full details and an application pack can be downloaded from the [jobs section](#) of the ODI website: www.odi.org.uk/jobs/2006/Research%20Fellow%20RAPID/J_D_Research_Fellow_RAPID.doc. Please could you pass this information on to anyone who you think might be interested. The closing date is the 21st August.

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

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