

PARTNERS FOR CHANGE

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# GOVERNANCE AND CIVIL SOCIETY

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA



# PARTNERS FOR CHANGE

The British Council is committed to building engagement and trust through the exchange of knowledge and ideas between people worldwide. As a trusted partner in Sub-Saharan Africa, we support government agencies, policy makers, non-governmental organisations and community leaders to collaborate locally and internationally and encourage the development of inclusive, cohesive and accountable societies.

## OUR WORK

### SUPPORTING CIVIL SOCIETY

We support communities and civil society organisations to work together in partnerships and coalitions, and to work constructively and co-operatively with government and other state institutions. We contribute to building the capacity of civil society to make a strong and valuable contribution to national development.

### STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Our work strengthens social and governance research and policy making and supports the capacity strengthening of institutions to promote more accountable, just and transparent service delivery.

### PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY

Our work supports equitable access to services and encourages equality in policy development and implementation by supporting research, policy advocacy, skills and empowerment projects, leadership development and institutional capacity strengthening.

## OUR APPROACH

### WORKING COLLABORATIVELY

We can only embed change by working with networks and partners on the ground. We work with government agencies at national and local levels, justice and security institutions, civil society organisations, community and faith leaders and youth in order to improve their capacity to work together and initiate change that is locally owned and sustainable.

### COMBINING LOCAL KNOWLEDGE AND GLOBAL EXPERTISE

We have a strong record of designing and implementing governance and civil society programmes in Sub-Saharan Africa. By listening to our partners and approaching issues from both local and international perspectives, we build lasting solutions based on unrivalled local knowledge and global expertise.

### DRAWING ON UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

Through our diverse areas of work, we have built trust and long-term relationships with key policy makers, stakeholders and professionals across Sub-Saharan Africa. We have gained a unique track record, which we draw upon as we work towards lasting change in the region.



## OUR TRACK RECORD: SUPPORTING CIVIL SOCIETY

# CIVIL SOCIETY SUPPORT PROGRAMME

**COUNTRY:** Ethiopia  
**CLIENT:** Multiple donors  
**VALUE:** €35 million  
**LIFECYCLE:** 2011–16

Through the Civil Society Support Programme we work collaboratively with organisations in Ethiopia to strengthen civil society's contribution to the government's goal of achieving national development and poverty reduction. The programme prioritises hard-to-reach civil society



The way the programme delivers its vision for civil society is seen as something that comes from the heart. This is very inspiring.

Civil society organisation in Ethiopia

organisations, marginalised people and under-resourced development challenges.

### Capacity development

Over the course of the programme, up to 500 organisations will benefit from capacity development services, in technical areas such as policy and issues-based research, communications and enhancing dialogue with government, and in the strengthening of organisational and management systems.

### Grant-making

In the first year, over €5 million of grants were awarded to nearly 90 civil society

organisations across Ethiopia, one third of which directly benefit women and girls. Over the life of the programme, more than ten million Ethiopian people will benefit directly or indirectly.

### Supporting coalitions for change

Support is being provided for coalitions of civil society organisations and smaller community-based organisations to work with local government and other state agencies on collaborative projects that will result in improved service delivery or social development outcomes for 'hard-to-reach' sectors of Ethiopian society.

## ACTIVE CITIZENS

**COUNTRIES:** Kenya, Sudan, South Sudan and Ethiopia  
**LIFECYCLE:** 2009–14

The British Council's global Active Citizens programme works in partnership with civil society organisations to build trust and understanding within and across communities. Focusing on civic engagement, sustainable social action and community cohesion, Active Citizens in Africa has made a valuable contribution to promoting peaceful coexistence in many communities.

### Kenya

In Kenya, over 7,500 participants have benefited directly or indirectly from Active Citizens training and other activities, and up to 100 social action projects have been designed and implemented. Community cohesion capacity building has taken place in 11 conflicted-affected states.

Our children went to Northern Ireland where they learned how to resolve conflicts. They taught us the need to use non-violent conflict resolution and today we interact together as Kalenjins and Kikuyus.

Kalenjin elder on the success of the Active Citizens programme in Ndeffo District, Kenya

### Ethiopia

In Ethiopia cross-faith youth groups are being supported to enable intercultural dialogue and community cohesion. Over 400 young people have directly benefited.

### Sudan and South Sudan

In Sudan, social action projects have been delivered in disadvantaged communities

in the border region with South Sudan, and with communities of internally displaced people living in the margins of Khartoum. In South Sudan, communities in five states will benefit from British Council-supported active citizenship.

## OUR TRACK RECORD: GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

# PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICAN SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE RESEARCH

**COUNTRIES:** Africa-wide

**CLIENT:** DFID

**VALUE:** £8.5 million

**LIFECYCLE:** 2009–14

Through the Partnership for African Social and Governance Research we are helping to increase the capacity of African universities and researchers to conduct research that directly contributes to social and public policy in Africa. We supported the establishment of an independent African organisation to deliver the initiative, which focuses on three areas.

### Research

African researchers are being supported to conduct critical, policy-relevant research in areas such as social protection, gender and service delivery. Nine research teams in six countries have received research grants of US\$60,000 to research non-state social protection. A further six national teams have been supported to conduct research into effective public-service delivery, resulting in journal publications.

### Higher education

Sixteen universities across nine African countries are working in formal partnership to establish a master's degree in public



**The transition from project to independent organisation happened two years ahead of schedule, thanks to the involvement of the British Council.**

DFID Annual Review

policy. A possible doctoral-level programme focused on social-science research for public policy is being appraised.

### Policy, outreach and training

The programme is supporting the wider African research community through

outreach and training, and is helping researchers to generate demand for policy-relevant research. Over 80 researchers, from 21 countries, have already completed an innovative professional development course in multi-methods research developed by the programme.

## ETHIOPIA AND TANZANIA Parliamentary strengthening

In Ethiopia, our work supported strengthening the effectiveness of women elected to the federal and regional parliaments. This involved providing training in the skills and knowledge necessary to make effective contributions to legislative and policy formation and establishing a mentoring scheme to improve confidence in debating and public speaking.

In Tanzania, we supported the establishment of a technical advisory group to serve as a parliamentary

task force. Tackling issues identified through the Speaker's Office, the group worked to strengthen internal systems and procedures and to improve the operational environment of Parliament.

## SIERRA LEONE AND NIGERIA Anti-corruption

In Sierra Leone, we managed the Justice Sector Development Programme, which supported the Anti-Corruption Commission. The programme resulted in one of the most advanced anti-corruption legislations in Africa and the successful prosecution of many high-profile cases.

In Nigeria, where we have over ten years' experience of working in the justice sector, we are helping to build the capacity of Nigerian anti-corruption agencies, enabling them to work together to prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute corruption cases across the country.





## OUR TRACK RECORD: PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY

# GENDER IN NIGERIA REPORT 2012

**COUNTRY:** Nigeria  
**CLIENT:** DFID

Our study *Gender in Nigeria Report 2012: Improving the lives of girls and women in Nigeria* presented an evidence base on the status of women and adolescent girls in the country. It was developed to influence key decision makers and policy makers in the federal and state governments and the National Assembly, as well as religious leaders, the banking sector, the private sector and civil society.

### Influencing change

The report is helping development partners design appropriate programmes to address the significant challenge of gender equality and female empowerment, especially in northern Nigeria. The ultimate goal of the project is to bring about changes in policies and attitudes that result in more equitable outcomes for girls and women in Nigeria.



No doubt women are Nigeria's hidden resource. Investing in women and girls now will increase productivity in this generation and will promote sustainable growth, peace and better health for the next generation.

Foreword from *Gender in Nigeria Report 2012: Improving the lives of girls and women in Nigeria*

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

#### Institutional capacity development

Through the Gender Equality Support Project we provided strategic technical support to the Ministry of Gender, Families and Children to help improve its capacity to fulfil domestic and international commitments in terms of gender equality. Through the programme, the government gained a greater conceptual understanding of the challenges of gender equality and improved capacity to co-ordinate gender planning and programming. Co-ordination mechanisms between government and non-governmental organisations were also strengthened.

### ETHIOPIA AND SOUTH SUDAN

#### Empowerment through partnership

Through the Civil Society Support Programme we work in partnership with Raising Voices to support women's groups across Ethiopia through the innovative and transformative SASA! – Start-Awareness-Support-Action – approach. SASA! is an innovative approach to tackling violence against women and girls by focusing on an exploration of power.

In South Sudan we are partnering with The Springboard Consultancy to provide women's empowerment and development training. Our partnership supports women through a highly empowering and participatory training approach to take

more control over their own lives by identifying the steps they want to take and developing the skills and confidence to do so. We are piloting the approach with women working in security and justice and will deliver training to wider stakeholder groups across the country.

### MALAWI

#### Advocacy and policy

In Malawi, we supported a women's rights and advocacy project to raise awareness of women's rights and to promote gender equality policies in support of Malawi's Growth and Development Strategy. We established two advice centres with outreach clinics in rural areas and provided training to volunteers to help rural women become better informed of their rights.

The British Council creates international opportunities for the people of the UK and other countries and builds trust between them worldwide. We call this cultural relations.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, we help societies achieve change in the areas of justice, governance and education. Working closely with governments, donors and civil society, we deliver value for money solutions that are both effective and sustainable.

### **Find out more:**

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