

PARTNERS FOR CHANGE

GOVERNANCE AND CIVIL SOCIETY

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA





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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 governments, 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, credibility and legitimacy of civil society to make strong and valuable contributions to national development.

STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Our work supports efforts to develop more accountable institutions for the benefit of poor or marginalised citizens. Supporting collaborative working with and between civil society, government actors, academia, the media and the private sector, our work emphasises: transparent and accountable service delivery, particularly in education; strengthened accountability mechanisms between citizens and their elected representatives; and transparent, accountable, inclusive elections.

GENDER AND INCLUSION

Our work places special emphasis on equality and inclusion, enabling more equitable access and encouraging equality in policy development and implementation. Our work encompasses 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 actors 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 LEADING 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, trust 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.





HORN OF AFRICA LEADERSHIP AND LEARNING FOR ACTION

COUNTRIES: Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan
DONOR: European Commission
VALUE: €1 million
LIFECYCLE: 2014–16

Through the Horn of Africa Leadership and Learning for Action project, we support young people to become engaged in national and local development in Ethiopia, Sudan and South Sudan.

Youth and community members are encouraged to develop their skills and knowledge in leadership and community cohesion and to use creative ways of engaging their communities through social action projects.

Over 30 **youth leaders** have been trained in collaborative leadership and help to lead all aspects of the project. Over 700 young people will be trained to become role models in their communities to contribute to community cohesion.

Three national **youth coalitions** will be established to deliver a programme of youth-led initiatives in the areas of sports, arts and culture. A regional youth coalition will be formed to provide a platform for the voice of young people across the Horn of Africa and positively contribute to the region's future.

The project emphasises young women's participation and leadership in society, targeting a minimum of 40 per cent participation of young women leaders.

OUR TRACK RECORD

CIVIL SOCIETY SUPPORT PROGRAMME

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

Through the Civil Society Support Programme we help to develop the capacity of Ethiopia's civil society to strengthen its contribution to the country's national development, poverty reduction and good governance. By targeting hard-to-reach communities the programme tackles issues that can support millions of people who may otherwise be 'left behind'.

Hard to reach

The programme fills the gap left by mainstream civil society by responding to the needs of, and improving the quality of services for, hard-to-reach people and communities in Ethiopia. In particular, the programme targets people and organisations in remote and under-resourced areas, people affected by issues that the government struggles to adequately serve, and people and groups marginalised due to disability, gender, age and ethnicity.

Capacity development and grant support

Through capacity development and grant funding, the effectiveness, legitimacy and value of civil society in contributing to national development and poverty reduction is being supported. To date, capacity building and grant support has been provided to over 500 civil society partner organisations.

Innovation and creativity

Innovative programmes of support are empowering the hardest-to-reach people and organisations in society. Programme grants encourage innovation and creativity within civil society organisations to develop their capacity and foster collaboration with various stakeholders.

A focus on women and girls

Almost **70 per cent** of the grants awarded to date have direct benefits for women, including strengthening their livelihoods, supporting girls to remain in school, and supporting the rights of women prisoners and their children.

Key lessons

- Language is important. The term 'hard to reach' directly speaks to the government's agenda, and is less value-laden than other more commonly used language. This has enabled us to communicate on the government's level, while still addressing the chronic issues of exclusion and marginalisation that are present in Ethiopian society.
- An approach focusing on both innovation and targeted investments has enabled strategic impact.
- An emphasis on fiduciary management and accountability with partners has significantly contributed to building trust between civil society and government.
- A deep understanding of, and ability to navigate the political landscape through local leadership has significantly contributed to gaining the trust of government stakeholders.

DEEPENING DEMOCRACY IN NIGERIA

COUNTRY: Nigeria
DONOR: DFID
VALUE: £35 million
LIFECYCLE: 2014–18

Through the Deepening Democracy in Nigeria programme, we work to strengthen democratic governance in Nigeria. We support the management, co-ordination and monitoring of the

programme through a Programme Co-ordination Office.

Specific support was provided to the management, security and independent observation of Nigeria's 2015 elections. Longer term, the National Assembly will be improved by better holding the executive to account.

The engagement of the Nigerian electorate, particularly women, youth and people with disabilities, in the political process will be increased. Social media, and other forms of new media, will play an important role in this process by helping to promote accountability on a larger scale.

ZAMBIA ACCOUNTABILITY PROGRAMME

COUNTRY: Zambia
CLIENT: DFID
VALUE: £26 million
LIFECYCLE: 2014–18

Through the Zambia Accountability Programme, we encourage and support effective collaboration among elected leaders, government officials, civil society, media and the private sector around priority development problems.

Service delivery

By supporting multi-actor groups, mechanisms for citizens to influence local governance, service delivery and productive sector reform problems are being strengthened. In the programme's first year, over 3,300 girls have been helped to access secondary school education, and advocacy initiatives focusing on accountability, transparency and community participation in school governance have been supported. Accountability problems within the health and production sectors are also being examined.

Political participation and representation

Low levels of civic participation in the political space, the interaction between Zambia's elected representatives and their political parties and citizens throughout the electoral cycle is being addressed through a range of interventions that will stimulate greater youth and women's participation and representation, as both groups are significantly under-represented in the political space of Zambia.

A **public opinion research and party policy programme** has been commissioned to conduct public opinion poll surveys and to work with political parties to develop their policy platforms. This will be used to provide a better understanding of the opinions of different social groups across a range of accountability and service delivery issues and to inform new interventions in Zambia.

Electoral process

The programme is providing critical support to the electoral process in Zambia, which is one of DFID's most

significant thematic areas of engagement in the country. In 2015, the programme supported domestic monitoring of the presidential election, training was given to over 130 party poll watchers and 1,400 voter education facilitators, and voter education was conducted in all constituencies. Conflict management training was also delivered in over 70 regions. A parallel voter tabulation exercise was undertaken with the programme's technical support, which provided assurance to the public, political parties and the international observers of the credibility of the results announced by the Electoral Commission of Zambia.

Learning and dissemination

Recognising that the programme is a new way of engaging with governance challenges in Zambia, there is a focus on sharing lessons learned with stakeholder networks and local media. By widely disseminating learning, future governance and sector-based programming in Zambia can be positively influenced.

CITIZEN STATE ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME

COUNTRY: Sudan
CLIENT: DFID
VALUE: £7 million
LIFECYCLE: 2014–18

Through the Citizen State Engagement Programme in Sudan, we work with partners through a 'cultivating collaboration' approach to develop the capacities of people, groups of people and those who govern and influence their lives to promote and protect their interests and those they

represent. After a thorough contextual analysis, the programme will initially work in Gezira, Gedarif and River Nile States. The programme will work with a group of strategic partners to build their organisational capacity to work together to resolve issues that have been identified as important by local constituents.

The programme works to improve collaboration amongst all stakeholders in locally driven, decision-making

processes. This contributes to a climate of confidence in which all sides can analyse and share their experiences (positive and negative) on governance-related issues in an inclusive and representative way.

A focus on learning what works and transferring analytical and improved management capacities to Sudanese society will be a key contribution to future international engagement with Sudan.

The British Council creates opportunities for people worldwide by helping societies achieve change in education, skills, enterprise, civil society and justice. Working closely with governments, donors and businesses, we deliver value-for-money international development solutions that are both effective and sustainable.

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