



## The British Council's work in Society: partnerships for development

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The changing context in the UK

The perspective of donors

Examples of our work

- DFID Civil Society Fund, Iraq
- DFID Political Participation Fund, Iraq
- DFID Security, Justice and Growth, Nigeria
- DFID Managing at the top, Bangladesh

## The changing context

- UK policy development
- Current government programme for the Big Society

## UK policy development

- Citizen charters
- Evidence based policy development

## Big Society

“the thread that runs consistently through our whole policy programme”.

“society where people come together to solve problems for themselves and their communities; a society where the leading force for social responsibility is not state control”

## The Donors' perspective

Governance describes the way countries and societies manage their affairs politically and the way power and authority are exercised.

This makes a big difference to all our lives, as it determines:

- the security of our families from conflict, disease and destitution;
- our freedom to actively participate in our societies and to have a say in the way we are governed;
- our opportunities to educate ourselves and to be economically productive, securing a better future for ourselves and our communities.

Citizen engagement in development is very important, delivering better service delivery and in building effective, accountable states.

## The Donors' perspective

Donors vary in their approach to development cooperation and voice and accountability interventions.

- some donors take a more top-down or statist approach,
- and others – particularly those for whom democracy and human rights are central to their mandate – take a more bottom-up approach.

Donors strengthen voice and accountability by attempting to create or strengthen the preconditions for their exercise.

This means seeking to influence the:

1. Enabling environment;
2. Channels for citizens to express their voice or hold government to account;
3. Institutional framework required for voice and accountability;
4. Individual state agencies required for voice and accountability.

## Some examples of our work

- [DFID Civil Society Fund, Iraq](#)

Responsible for **governance of the fund, promotion of the fund, appraisal of projects, disbursement of funds, technical and financial monitoring and evaluation of projects and capacity building to individual project partners.**

Outcomes: increased public and government awareness of social exclusion, gender equality and child rights; relevant legal/draft constitutional changes; new partnerships improving service delivery (social care, access to utilities); development of community based networks.

- [DFID Political Participation Fund, Iraq](#)

Outcomes: £3.5m disbursed to CSOs through 100 individual projects; contributed to 60% (2004) and 70% (2005) turnout in Iraqi elections and to 20% participation of women on Transitional National Assembly; PPF electoral monitoring groups continue to positively influence electoral law; PPF supported media programmes continue to be replicated.

## Some examples of our work

- [DFID Security, Justice and Growth, Nigeria](#)

British Council managed programme to support an integrated and sector wide approach for the development of Nigerian-led justice sector reform so that pro-poor policies are implemented. The three overriding outputs of the programme are to contribute to the elimination of poverty and achievement of MDGs by: improving service delivery in the policing sector and public expenditure management across the justice sector; working with **justice sector organisations, faith based organisations, civil society**, private sector, media and traditional authorities to improve access to justice, transparency, accountability and reduce corruption and conflict; creating an enabling environment for growth in the non-oil sector.

- [DFID Managing at the top, Bangladesh](#)

The British Council is working on the delivery of a major **transformational change and development programme in the Bangladeshi Civil Service**. The programme is tasked with building the momentum for change by developing the skills and change capacity of over 2,000 middle and senior Bangladeshi civil servants.