



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Global Opportunities Fund

Annual Report 2005-2006





Global Opportunities Fund

Annual Report 2005-2006

Presented to Parliament by the
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
By Command of Her Majesty
November 2006

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Foreword



Foreword by the Rt Hon Margaret Beckett MP

I am pleased to have seen the strong development of the FCO's Global Opportunities Fund (GOF) since its launch three years ago. In that time, it has become an increasingly important tool in the delivery of the UK's foreign policy helping our overseas missions to make targeted interventions to support our policy objectives.

Lobbying, negotiation and persuasion are still, of course, a key part of our diplomatic arsenal. But with GOF, we now have money to help fund projects to deliver systemic change in priority

areas such as climate change and energy security, human rights and counter-terrorism. Our global network and our extensive contacts give us unique access to decision-makers and policy formers enabling us to identify niche activities or policy experiments, which can help to transform a given debate or issue in priority countries.

These programmes address the key international challenges we are facing today. This Annual Report gives some excellent examples of the way we are achieving this. It is an impressive record on which we are keen to build.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Margaret Beckett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The name "Margaret" is on the left and "Beckett" is on the right, with a small gap between them. The signature is set against a light blue, slightly textured background.

Executive Summary

Introduction

The Global Opportunities Fund (GOF) was established in 2003. In 2005-6, there were six GOF programmes – Climate Change & Energy, Counter-Terrorism, Economic Governance, Engaging with the Islamic World, Reuniting Europe and Sustainable Development – funding some 450 projects costing almost £36 million. GOF thus accounted for about a quarter of all the FCO's discretionary programme spend in 2005-6. In 2006-7, the Drugs & Crime, Migration, Overseas Territories and the Afghan Counter Narcotics programmes will come under GOF's umbrella. The allocation for GOF in 2006-7 is £69 million, aimed at achieving the Government's international strategic priorities.

Climate Change and Energy

The Climate Change and Energy Programme works on climate change, renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy security projects focussed on eleven priority countries. The overarching goal is to promote change in the governance and use of international energy resources and systems to help secure the UK's medium-term global climate change and energy objectives.

The Programme supports and contributes to FCO Strategic Priorities and is underpinned by the International Energy Strategy of October 2004, which takes forward the international aspects of the 2003 Energy White Paper. Climate change and energy security continue to register very highly on the FCO's list of priorities, as the recent addition of a specific Strategic Priority on achieving climate security indicates.

The Climate Change & Energy Programme spent £4.4 million in 2005-6.

Counter-Terrorism

Terrorism remains at the top of the international agenda. Countering terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction are two of the most important strategic priorities for the FCO. Recent attacks show that the threat from international terrorism is persistent despite some law enforcement and military successes against terrorist groups. The Counter Terrorism Programme underpins the FCO's contribution to the delivery of the Government's comprehensive counter terrorist strategy.

The overall objective of the Programme is to develop the capacity of international partners to counter terrorism and other threats in support of UK bilateral and multilateral security objectives. Our Programme directly supports CONTEST, the Government's counter terrorism strategy. CONTEST focuses activity under four main themes:

- Prevent terrorism by tackling the factors which lead to radicalisation and recruitment
- Pursue terrorists and those who sponsor them
- Protect British people and British interests against terrorist attack
- Prepare for the consequences of terrorist attack so as to minimise its impact.

Under Prevent and Pursue we reduce the threat. Under Protect and Prepare we reduce our vulnerability. By reducing the threat and the vulnerability we reduce risk.

In 2005-6, the Counter Terrorism Programme spent £7.8 million.

Economic Governance

The Economic Governance Programme contributes to the achievement of FCO Strategic Priority 5: Supporting the UK economy and

business through an open and expanding global economy, science and innovation and secure energy supplies.

The Programme undertakes project based activity with Governments, NGOs and business in ten emerging markets, recognised by HMG as being amongst the most important to UK economic interests, presenting opportunities for co-operation with the UK as the partner of choice. The Programme works both in-country and regionally with multilateral organisations and institutions on global business and economic issues. In addition, the Programme also supports initiatives to promote UK scientific collaboration in key emerging markets such as Brazil, China, India and Russia, and expanded in 2005 to include collaboration with developed countries.

The Economic Governance Programme spent £4.3 million in 2005-6.

Engaging with the Islamic World

The Engaging with the Islamic World (EIW) Programme helps to deliver our policy objectives of increasing understanding and engagement with Muslim countries and communities. In particular, it helps to promote peaceful, political, economic and social reform, and to counter radicalisation and extremism in the UK and overseas.

The Programme has made a significant contribution to taking forward engagement with Muslim communities since the 7 July 2005 attacks in London. The projects funded by the programme have increasingly focussed on key issues such as supporting mainstream Islam, countering radicalization, developing vibrant civil society and education reform.

The Programme has supported projects in more than 20 Muslim countries, including key partner countries such as Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Egypt. The Programme works with a wide range of NGOs, Government institutions and

multilateral organisations. Through well-targeted initiatives, it helps to achieve both our security and governance aims under Strategic Priorities 1 and 7 respectively.

The EIW Programme spent £9.8 million in 2005-6.

Reuniting Europe

The Reuniting Europe Programme's purpose is to bolster and extend the success of enlargement by supporting countries through the EU integration process, particularly in the fields of improved governance and economic growth. It supports the FCO's Strategic Priority 4: "An effective EU in a secure neighbourhood."

The Programme's main objectives are:

- To promote political and economic transparency and accountability
- To promote social integration through education and public awareness
- To promote efficient and transparent policies and processes in justice and border management systems
- To support regional economic development
- To contribute to the creation of a pro-business environment
- To build administrative capacity for EU integration.

The Reuniting Europe Programme spent £5.1 million in 2005-6.

Sustainable Development

The Sustainable Development Programme was launched in April 2005 to provide targeted support for the UK's sustainable development priorities by promoting good governance, respect for human rights and democratic principles and sound management of natural resources. The programme is a key tool for delivering the FCO's Strategic Priority 7: "Promoting sustainable development and poverty reduction underpinned by human

rights, democracy, good governance and protection of the environment.”

The Sustainable Development Programme spent £4.5 million in 2005-6 as well as overseeing the £4.1 million grant in aid for the Westminster Foundation for Democracy and £0.75m for the Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP).

Introduction

The Global Opportunities Fund (GOF) was established in May 2003 and in 2005-6 accounted for about a quarter of Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) discretionary programme spending. GOF aims to support the delivery of the UK's international strategic priorities. Its six programmes run a portfolio of projects in priority countries aimed at delivering strategic change. In the financial year 2005-6, we worked with governments, civil society and businesses through over 450 projects in the UK's key partner countries, spending some £36m.

GOF Programmes

During the third year of GOF, projects were co-ordinated through six programmes with the following objectives:

- Climate Change and Energy (CCE) – to promote improvements in the governance of international energy resources to help secure UK climate change and energy security objectives.
- Counter Terrorism (CT) – to increase capacity of international partners to counter terrorism in support of UK security objectives.
- Re-Uniting Europe (RE) – to develop and support countries on the path to EU

membership in order to further the UK's EU policy objectives.

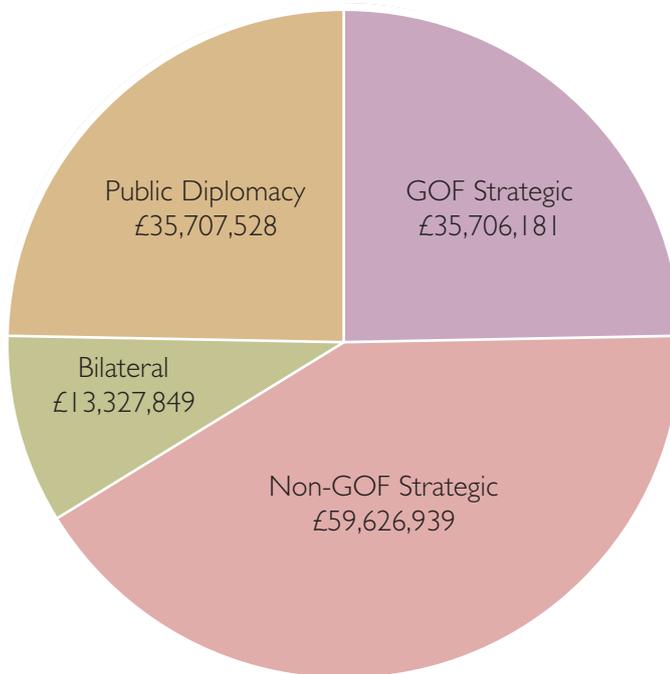
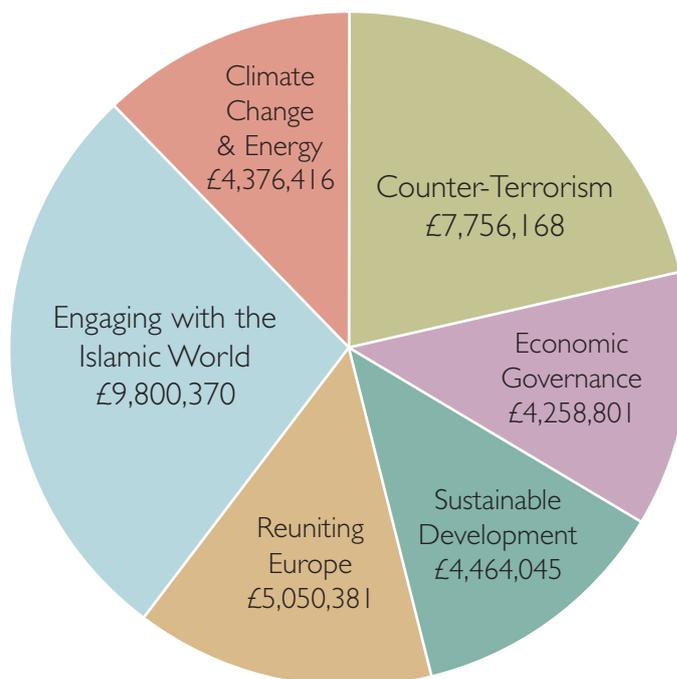
- Engaging with the Islamic World (EIW) – to tackle the causes of radicalisation and promote reform in the context of good relations.
- Sustainable Development (SD) – to promote more effective implementation of international environmental and human rights agreements.
- Economic Governance (EG) – to work in emerging markets in order to promote the UK as a trading partner of choice.

GOF Spending

In 2005-6, FCO discretionary programme spending stood at £144.4 million. GOF spending accounted for nearly a quarter of this (Chart A). Within GOF, money was allocated between programmes as shown in Chart B. Figures stated are for spending that excludes administration costs.

Looking Ahead

From 2006-7, the Drugs and Crime, Migration, Afghanistan Counter-Narcotics and Overseas Territories Programmes will come under GOF's umbrella.

Chart A: FCO Discretionary Spending 2005-6**Chart B: GOF Programme Spending 2005-6**

GOF Governance

Programme Office

The Programme Office (formerly the GOF Central Management Team) provides guidance and support to the FCO's programme budget network. Its main responsibilities are:

- Promoting best practice in programme and project management;
- Analysing GOF's and other FCO policy programme's overall performance and making recommendations to the Finance Committee;
- Managing communications and publicity about GOF;
- Capacity building, including training, and exchange of lessons learnt;
- Provision of locally-engaged projects officers at post.

Programme Teams in London

Each GOF Programme has a dedicated management team. It also has a Programme Board. Boards approve recommendations for project approvals and give strategic direction. Board members are drawn from the FCO, other government departments and civil society. The Programme Team's role is to:

- Develop a programme strategy, working with the Programme Board and policy officers;
- Appraise projects submitted during bidding rounds and make recommendations to the Programme Board;
- Work with potential bidders and posts to advise on project proposals;

- Co-ordinate and monitor financial and progress reports from posts, then collate these into quarterly programme progress reports for discussion and identification of any actions with the Programme's Senior Responsible Owner (who has ultimate responsibility for the Programme).

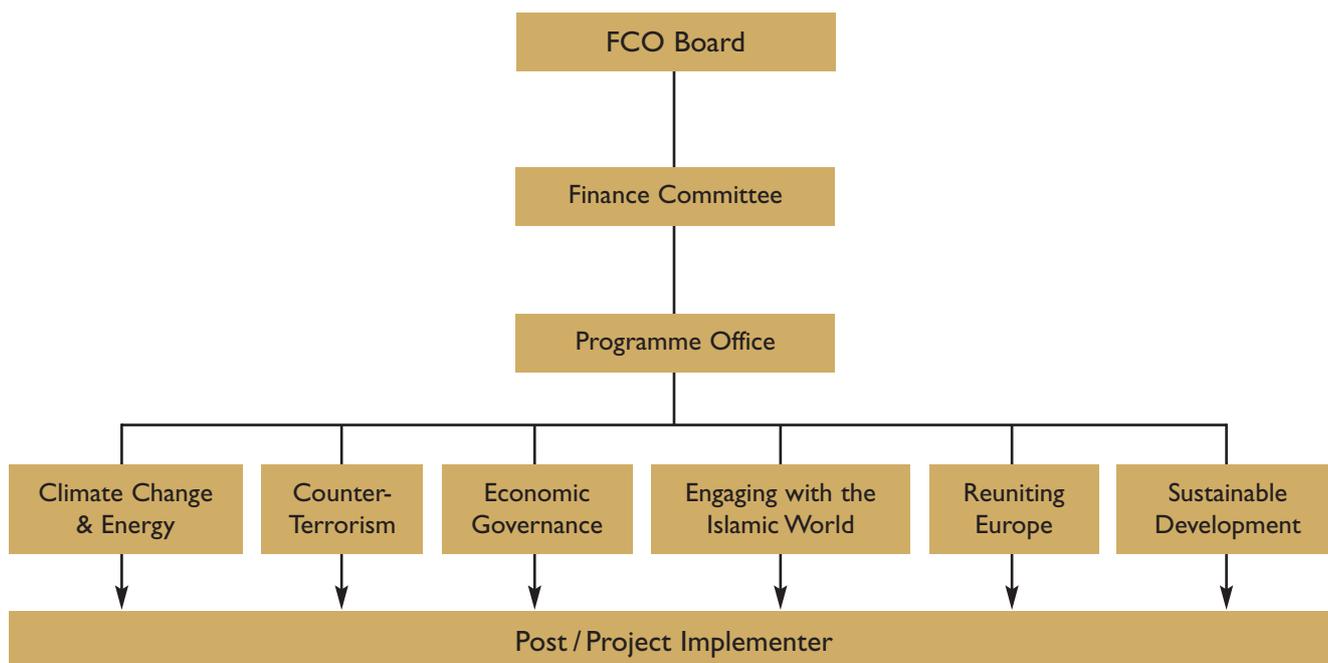
Project Teams at post

Programme activity abroad is co-ordinated through UK diplomatic missions. There is an extensive network of UK-based and locally engaged projects officers in GOF priority countries working on projects. Locally engaged projects officers have the relevant expertise to explore and develop partnerships in-country and regionally and work with project implementers, including on project design. They are responsible for monitoring and evaluating projects to help ensure success.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee takes a corporate view of all FCO finance matters, apart from investment (which is handled by the Investment Committee). It is responsible for preparing issues for discussion at the main FCO Board, making recommendations to the Board and ensuring implementation of Board decisions on finance issues. It therefore has a key role in overseeing GOF, ensuring risks are effectively managed.

GOF Governance Structure



Climate Change and Energy

Programme Summary

The Climate Change and Energy Programme delivers climate change, renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy security projects focussed on eleven priority countries. The overarching goal is to promote change in the governance and use of international energy resources and systems to help secure the UK's medium-term global climate change and energy objectives.

The Programme supports and contributes to FCO Strategic Priorities and is underpinned by the International Energy Strategy of October 2004, which takes forward the international aspects of the 2003 Energy White Paper. Climate change and energy security continue to register very highly on the FCO's list of priorities, as the recent addition of a specific Strategic Priority on achieving climate security indicates.

Geographical Priorities

The Programme focuses mainly on emerging economies with growing energy needs. The priority countries for 2005-6 were: Angola, Brazil, China, India, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa.

In order to ensure the Programme makes an impact, funding for other countries may also be approved for proposals that are designed to have a clear regional impact on climate change or energy policy, or have a global demonstration value.

Total Programme Funds

The Programme spent a total of £4.4m in financial year 2005-6. The Programme Strategy will be reviewed for 2006-7 onwards to reflect the

achievements of the UK's EU and G8 Presidencies in 2005.

Programme Focus

Strategy Area 1: Reinvigorating the international response to climate change under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change process.

The UK took advantage of the opportunity presented by its G8 and EU Presidencies in 2005 to push for increased international action to tackle climate change. 2005 was a significant milestone in the UN climate change negotiations. It was the deadline for starting formal negotiations on future actions after the period covered by the Kyoto Protocol (2008-2012). It was also the point by which the EU (along with other developed countries) had to show "demonstrable progress" towards meeting Kyoto commitments. The UK included its use of GOF funding in its submission to the United Nations Framework Convention (UNFCCC) as evidence of demonstrable progress. Projects helped highlight the impact of climate change in key developing countries, and helped build stronger relationships with these countries.

Some Strategy Area 1 outcomes to date:

- A project in Russia raised awareness amongst Russian decision makers, business and public on climate change and the opportunities for international co-operation offered by the Kyoto Protocol.
- A project in Mexico is increasing networking opportunities and the UK's access to key players through the provision of UK support for the Energy Ministry's Energy Sector Climate Change Committee.

Strategy Area 2: Promoting greater uptake of renewable energy and more efficient use of energy to help address climate change and enhance energy security.

In 2005-6, projects under this Strategy Area were mainly funded through a £1 million contribution from the Programme to the Renewable Energy and Efficiency Partnership (REEEP). The contribution was used by REEEP to fund projects focusing on finance initiatives, and policy and regulation.

Some Strategy Area 2 outcomes to date:

- The FCO financial contribution of £1 million during 2005-6 has been instrumental in leveraging £3.7 million as co-financing from project implementing organisations.
- REEEP membership has increased from 122 in April 2005 to 180 in March 2006.
- Support for REEEP was included in the G8 Gleneagles Plan of Action and the Partnership was invited to the G8+5 Energy Ministerial meeting as an observer.

Strategy Area 3: Improved investment regimes and energy sector management, through political and economic reform, and a robust, resilient international energy infrastructure.

The security of UK and global energy supplies is one of the four objectives of the Energy White Paper. The importance of this issue will continue to grow as the UK moves from being a net energy exporter to an importer of gas and oil. Our economic well being depends on secure energy supplies at affordable prices.

Some Strategy Area 3 outcomes to date:

- In Nigeria, an Oxfam-implemented project is supporting the development of a transparent and accountable oil revenue regime: wide media reporting of this project locally is broadening civil society engagement on the issues of transparency and accountability.
- Two projects are encouraging action by non-IEA countries to secure a better functioning global oil supply disruption emergency response process.

Further information and Contact Details

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or for REEEP www.reeep.org

Strategy area I: Reinvigorating the international response to climate change under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change process

Support of Energy Sector Climate Change Committee, Mexico

This project aims to support the Energy Ministry Climate Change Committee to strengthen the co-ordination among energy sector institutions. As an active member of the Inter-Ministerial Commission for Climate Change, the Energy Ministry is a lead participant in the design of Mexico's national policies on Climate Change, as well as in the granting of approvals for Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects.

The project has sponsored a series of seminars and workshops to develop a preliminary CDM project opportunities database. These meetings provided cross-governmental opportunities to exchange views and to identify future collaboration activities for technology transfer and CDM implementation in Mexico. As a result, a far-sighted CDM planning and implementation strategy and work plan has been produced, as well as a complementary strategy document for the "National Climate Change Action Strategy in the Energy Sector". This second document will identify cost-effective and

technologically feasible mitigation opportunities in energy production, generation and distribution processes, as well as demand-side activities.

The project has made a significant impact on climate change policy in both government and the commercial sector. The Ministry now has an increased capacity to promote, administer, and monitor CDM projects and policy in both the public and private sectors. The Inter-Energy Agency secretariat established by this project has enabled the Ministry to co-ordinate climate change and CDM policy closely within the energy sector, and to represent wider energy interests cohesively at the Inter-Ministerial Commission on Climate Change. The project has also enabled the shaping of a more consolidated and united Mexican position on national and international negotiations. This was most recently demonstrated at the G8 Gleneagles Climate Change meetings, where Mexico agreed to host the next set of workshops and ministerial meeting.



Renewable Energy and Climate Change Minister Alejandro Dieck addresses Inaugural event of the "Dialogue on Technology Transfer and CDM workshop" 23 March, 2006.

Strategy area 2: Promoting greater uptake of renewable energy and more efficient use of energy to help address climate change and enhance energy security

Extending the Fellowship Programme of the European Capacity Building Initiative

This three-year project is intended to extend the European Capacity Building Initiative (ECBI) to countries outside its traditional scope of Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia to permit participation of 'Advanced Developing Countries' such as Mexico and Brazil. The ECBI Programme focuses on sustained capacity building in support of international climate change negotiations. It reduces limitations and obstacles through a number of capacity and trust building activities, delivered through a Fellowship Programme, a Workshop Programme and a Policy Analysis Programme with a focus on enhancing negotiation skills for participants through capacity building, and the support of analytic capacity. Participants from Brazilian and Mexican Government agencies attended the fellowship programme during September 2005 in Oxford and further fellows are

expected to attend during 2006. Post-workshop mentoring and networking of participants has been maintained thanks to the establishment of an ECBI-net created for this purpose.

This project has enhanced networks for wider stakeholding in tackling global climate change issues. For example, the participation of key emerging market country scholars/climate change negotiators in programme activities is promoting links and shared experience with their European colleagues. The project has increased the understanding and capacity of key players working on climate change to build developing economy countries capacity to implement climate change policy domestically, and more actively and authoritatively participate in future rounds of international climate change negotiations.



Inaugural Meeting of the ECBI Fellows and team at Oxford, summer 2005

Strategy area 2: Promoting greater uptake of renewable energy and more efficient use of energy to help address climate change and enhance energy security

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP)

REEEP is supporting the implementation of eighteen GOF projects focussing on financing, policy and regulatory issues that promote the greater use of renewable energy and adoption of energy efficiency practices. The funds are split between REEEP's two main areas of focus: the creation of new sources of finance and ensuring that regulatory structures encourage the integration of clean and efficient energy. Sixteen of the eighteen projects supported by REEEP have a geographic focus in one or more of CCE's priority countries – Brazil, India, China, Mexico, Russia and South Africa.

One REEEP supported project involves the establishment of an energy efficiency and renewable energy fund in Brazil that will support hydro, biomass and energy efficiency investments. Another example is a project in India that addresses the regulatory barriers to renewable energy and supports capacity building of regulators in the state of Andhra Pradesh. REEEP is also supporting a project which aims to develop a roadmap for achieving 4000 MW of wind power in China by 2010. These examples illustrate how REEEP

activities can catalyse the greater uptake of renewable energy and energy efficiency, enhancing energy security and mitigating climate change.

In 2005-6, REEEP increased its membership with the number of partners increasing from 122 to 180. New partners include several key public and private stakeholders and the Governments of Chile, France and Switzerland. Its political relevance within the renewable energy and energy efficiency debate has also increased. Support for REEEP was included in the G8 Gleneagles Plan of Action, and the Partnership was invited to the G8+5 Energy Ministerial meeting as an observer. The US White House and State Department also mentioned REEEP in their press releases and speeches. The Partnership has also had success in attracting and leveraging further resources, and achieving a balanced portfolio of projects. The GOF CCE contribution of £1 million has leveraged about £3.7 million as co-financing from project implementing organisations. GOF support to REEEP programmes has also encouraged other key stakeholders such as DEFRA and the Governments of Ireland and Italy to pledge additional support to REEEP programmes.



A REEEP supported project in South Africa developing financial models to support energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy use in urban low-income housing in Cape Town (Picture Courtesy: SouthSouthNorth)

Strategy Area 3: Improved investment regimes and energy sector management, through political and economic reform, and a robust, resilient international energy infrastructure

Improving governance and transparency in natural resource use and management, Niger Delta

Instability in the Niger Delta has a direct impact on the price of petrol at the pumps in the UK. Despite huge revenues being produced from oil since it was discovered in Nigeria over 40 years ago, the Niger Delta region where most of the oil originates remains underdeveloped. The problems are threefold: security, poor governance and development. Communities are turning to violence to demand change, whilst criminal elements are involved in international trade in stolen oil.

This ambitious project aims to mitigate the negative impact of oil extraction on poor communities in the Niger Delta by demanding increased accountability and transparency by government and oil companies.

Oxfam GB is implementing the project in Nigeria through local associations, national development organisations and civil societies in the Niger Delta, many of whom have been active in this area for years. Oxfam's international NGO status is having a positive influence in the region forging a network of civil society organisations and breaking down years of mistrust between groups and oil companies. Oxfam's approach is multi-faceted: civil society engagement, community training and mobilization, working with federal, state and local government and working with oil companies.

The project was timed to link with Nigeria's publication of the first ever Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Report in January and Oxfam supported the Publish What You Pay Campaign to organise a successful roundtable meeting for civil society. Over 52 organisations attended the meeting to articulate their views on the report. Further

reports are being published and civil society is taking the lead on the dissemination of the results to the grassroots. The roundtable was followed by a successful workshop that formalised a Civil Society Alliance, advocating the speedy passage of legislation on transparency and accountability.

As a result of these activities, communities can raise their concerns about developments in the region in a constructive manner on issues such as the West African Gas Pipeline, replacement of ageing pipelines that cross the Delta, and environmental pollution. 150 leaders from 70 oil-bearing communities in the Niger Delta participated in a programme on community governance, while a similar number attended a second workshop on environmental monitoring. Participants in the meeting welcomed the opportunity to consider new governance structures that would improve engagement with government and oil companies.

The involvement of significant numbers of community leaders at events organised under the Oxfam project has shown that people are keen to find peaceful means of solving the problems of the region. More activities of this nature will go a long way to achieve the aim of improved governance and transparency in the region, translating into a more peaceful Niger Delta. A more secure Niger Delta will in turn feed into the overall strategy of securing the UK's medium term energy objectives.

Counter-Terrorism

Programme Summary

“One of the most encouraging developments in the international response [to Al Qaeda] has been the un-dramatic but vital work of capacity building in the developing countries, for example the assistance programme of the FCO in disseminating expertise in anti-terrorism law, policing and intelligence work...”

Professor Paul Wilkinson, Chairman of the Advisory Board on the Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence at the University of St Andrews giving evidence to the FAC in October 2005.

Terrorism remains at the top of the international agenda. Countering terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction are two of the most important strategic priorities for the FCO. The recent attacks in Jordan, Syria and Thailand, as well as the attacks in London in July 2005, show that the threat from international terrorism is persistent despite some law enforcement and military successes against terrorist groups. The Counter Terrorism Programme of the Global Opportunities Fund underpins the FCO's contribution to the delivery of the Government's comprehensive counter terrorist strategy.

The overall objective of the Programme is to develop the capacity of international partners to counter terrorism and other threats in support of UK bilateral and multilateral security objectives. Our Programme directly supports CONTEST, the Government's counter terrorism strategy. CONTEST focuses activity under four main themes:

- **Prevent** terrorism by tackling the factors which lead to radicalisation and recruitment
- **Pursue** terrorists and those who sponsor them
- **Protect** British people and British interests against terrorist attack
- **Prepare** for the consequences of terrorist attack so as to minimise its impact.

Under Prevent and Pursue we reduce the threat. Under Protect and Prepare we reduce our vulnerability. By reducing the threat and the vulnerability we reduce risk.

Geographical Priorities

Our counter terrorism work continues to be focussed in 4 regions: the Middle East and North Africa, East and Horn of Africa, South-East Asia and South Asia.

Total Programme Funds

In the financial year 2005-6, £7.8 million was spent.

Programme Focus

Given the nature of counter terrorism work, a number of successes must remain confidential for operational reasons. However, some of the achievements of the Programme during 2005-6 are listed below and this list should be read in conjunction with the successes of the Engaging with the Islamic World programme.

- Enhanced aviation security standards through training delivered by Transec (part of the Department of Transport dealing with security) to a number of aviation security personnel in the Middle East and East Africa.
- Increased political commitment in the Asia Pacific Region to implement the global Anti-

Money Laundering/Combating Terrorist Financing standards.

- The development of anti terrorist legislation in Afghanistan.
- The successful resolution of a kidnapping incident in Yemen, partly attributable to UK training.
- Malaysian willingness to talk openly to a UK delegation visit in December 2005 on counter radicalisation.
- International Maritime Organisation (IMO) regional workshops/seminars have identified weaknesses in International Shipping & Port Security (ISPS) Code Implementation and has sought and gained commitment from the states in question to address and improve their security standards and to agree to work more closely on a regional basis. Red Sea training events also produced a commitment and draft MOU for setting up a regional maritime information centre to share and exchange security related information with the aim of achieving quicker and improved regional responses to security issues.
- Willingness by the Lebanese authorities at the highest level to co-operate with the UK on CT issues as a result of niche areas of capacity building with the police on aviation security.
- Improved quality searches being carried out at bomb scenes in the Philippines and Indonesia.
- The adoption of a training module into mainstream Royal Thai Police training centres on “Policing in a Multi-cultural society”, following training delivered in Southern Thailand.

Forward look

The Programme will continue to focus its efforts where UK support can make a real contribution to the reduction of the threat from international terrorism and build on the successes of the last three years. We will continue to shift activity and expenditure to top priority countries, and maintain a balance of activity and expenditure across the four Ps.

Under Prevent, we will ensure that our efforts to tackle the factors leading to radicalisation are closely co-ordinated and compliment project activity currently funded by the Engaging with the Islamic World group. In particular, we will be supporting a research project to analyse the drivers of radicalisation and counter strategies in each of our priority regions, and examining the relative importance of the various drivers in each country.

Under Pursue, we will maintain our work on police capacity building in areas such as forensics, bomb scene management, hostage negotiation training, strategic leadership training, and crime scene preservation. We will consolidate our efforts on the work already in hand by the Charities Commission and National Terrorist Financing Investigations Unit (NTFIU) to enhance the capacity of states to combat terrorist financing through the deployment of Terrorist Financing Liaison Officers (TFLOs) to Jordan and Abu Dhabi. Their role in the long-term will be to develop a regional approach to combating terrorist financing. We will also support the Home Office expansion of the Counter Terrorism Extremism Liaison Officer (CTELO) network through the funding of a dedicated CTELO post in both Pakistan and Turkey.

Under Protect, our activity will continue to support improvements in aviation and maritime security, and in VIP protection. We shall also pay greater attention to building capacity to protect key installations, especially where British interests are concerned.

Under Prepare, we will maintain our programmes to help countries develop their crisis management response capability based on the UK's model.

One new area of work that will be central to the CT programme will be to support the Government's policy on facilitating deportation of terrorist suspects in a manner consistent with

our ECHR obligations. To this end we will help to enhance the effectiveness of selected monitoring bodies in the relevant countries with human rights related capacity building and by working to improve overall human rights standards.

Furthermore, we will ring-fence a modest amount of funding to take forward initiatives on counter proliferation.

Further Information and Contact Details

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Aviation security capacity building work to support counter terrorism efforts, Africa, the Middle East and Asia

The CT Programme has funded an extensive series of activities co-ordinated by the UK Department for Transport, focussing on regional and UK based training courses, inward visits to the UK and advice on counter MANPADS (Man Portable Air Defences Systems) techniques. Officials from the UK Department for Transport, the FCO and the Metropolitan Police Service worked with airlines and other aviation security experts to deliver training and tailored advice to the national authorities in a number of countries in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. The work programme was developed and progressed by the full-time project manager financed by GOF, working within the DfT. Further activities are planned for 2006-7.

Regional Aviation Security Seminar, Dubai

Aviation security managers from a range of countries in the Middle East were brought together in a seminar conducted by UK specialists in co-operation with local security organisations. Discussions focused on the latest developments in countering the terrorist threat to civil aviation. The seminar provided an invaluable opportunity for relationship-building between security officials from different countries.

Visits to UK by key aviation security partners

As part of GOF-funded capacity building effort, government officials from Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Kuwait, Bahrain, Turkey, Lebanon, Algeria and Jordan visited the UK to gain an insight into the UK approach to protective security, security practices and procedures and enabled the UK to gain a more thorough understanding of, and learn from, the approach of other governments.

Training of compliance regulators

A number of countries are introducing compliance regimes to enhance their aviation security standards and ensure consistency of application. To assist, GOF has supported the training by the DfT of aviation compliance officials from Tanzania, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Djibouti in aviation security management in country and in the UK to gain direct insight into UK aviation security practice.

Aviation security capacity building support, Egypt

Considerable effort has been made to support the Egyptian Ministry of Civil Aviation in the enhancement of the Egyptian aviation security regime. A GOF-funded scoping visit to identify how the UK could assist led to a request by Egyptian officials for aviation security training. This activity has provided a significant opportunity to develop our working relationship with the Egyptians.

Counter-MANPADS advice and training

The Department for Transport's work to protect civil aviation from the threat of MANPADS funded through the GOF CT programme has also delivered some notable successes. Presentations by the UK Metropolitan Police (MPS) during country inward visits has resulted in a number of countries seeking further assistance. In country, counter MANPADS advisory visits by the MPS have been undertaken across Africa and the Middle East. The detailed reports from these visits help identify possible vulnerabilities and options to resolve them.

Charity Commission Project

Through the CT Programme we have funded the Charity Commission to set up an International Programme to provide advice to international partners on minimising the risk of charities and other NGOs being used for terrorist financing. The programme began in 2004 and is still ongoing. Funding over the last two years has been around £650 000.

The main beneficiaries of this programme are Governments and NGO sector stakeholders in countries across Africa, the Middle East, South Asia and South East Asia. We work closely with other international organisations involved with charity regulation throughout the world.

The focus of activity has been to:

- Identify current regulatory practice, its strengths and weaknesses.
- Provide advice on how to improve regulation through visits, workshops and best practice documents (translated where appropriate).
- Create an eTool and other instruments to improve regulation in resource-poor countries.

Achievements have included:

- The project has provided baseline studies on fifteen countries, and identified the priorities for follow-up work.

- Kenya and Pakistan are among countries which have created or improved their systems for registering and monitoring NGOs as a result of Charity Commission advice.
- In several countries there is now a better understanding of the uses of IT based solutions as part of the improvement of regulation. In Pakistan, for example, the Ministry of Social Welfare has devised and funded a database of NGOs that incorporates the eTool.
- Saudi Arabia is considering several models for regulating charities, including a UK suggestion of a unitary regulatory body.
- In the Philippines, Thailand and Indonesia the different agencies involved in regulation have met for the first time nationally to discuss regulation, compare best practice and develop co-ordinated regulation.
- The Charity Commission has provided input to the guidance on charity regulation adopted by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and its regional bodies.
- Regional co-operation on NGO regulation has been encouraged by bringing together the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Sub-Saharan countries for regional seminars. ASEAN has been asked to create an NGO Regulators Forum. Following a Sub Sahara seminar, delegates are pushing their governments for the development of a Code of Conduct for NGO regulation in Africa.

Capacity building for counter-terrorism for police training, the Philippines

The purpose of this two year project (which finishes in June 2006) is to develop a comprehensive training package designed to raise the CT policing standards of the Philippines National Police (PNP) and strengthen their capacity to respond to the terrorist threat. This has been delivered through the deployment of a UK police trainer to the Philippines National Police service. The trainer is based in Manila, however, this two-year project has supported police capacity building throughout the Philippines. The main recipients of the training are the PNP and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI). Funding over the last two years has been approximately £250,000.

The focus of activities has been to:

- Provide places for the PNP on the Strategic Leadership and International Commander's Courses at Centrex.
- Deliver Senior and Junior Investigating Courses.
- Delivery Interviewing Skills courses.
- Establish a core team of Filipino trainers to undergo "training of trainers" courses to spread best practice throughout the PNP.
- Develop the capability of the PNP to respond effectively to hostage negotiations.
- Design and introduce a Murder & Major Incident Manual which can be used by Senior Investigators in the investigation of crimes.
- Increase the capability of the PNP to secure and manage bomb and major crime scenes and to deal with pathology and forensic issues.
- Assist in establishing an Anti-Terrorist Task Force in Metro Manila and within the NBI.

Achievements have included:

- The project has directly strengthened Philippine-UK police links and thereby improved better operational co-operation and information exchange.

- The PNP has reported that some of the officers who have received training in interviewing techniques have gone on to obtain significant evidence leading to the recovery of firearms.
- There has been an improvement in the quality of searches being carried out at bomb scenes in the Philippines and a significant improvement in the securing and preservation of crime scenes as a result of the UK training. In one incident, the SIM card of the mobile phone used in an explosive device was recovered three days after the explosion following the effective securing of the crime scene. This could help lead to the arrest of the terrorists responsible for the attack.
- The PNP has created an Incident Room at its main headquarters and adopted a command structure, based on the UK model of best practice in policing standards, which should enable them to respond in a more co-ordinated way in the event of a major terrorist incident.

Filipino police examining bomb fragments



Economic Governance

Programme Summary

The Economic Governance Programme contributes to the achievement of FCO Strategic Priority 5: Supporting the UK economy and business through an open and expanding global economy, science and innovation and secure energy supplies.

The Programme undertakes project based activity with Governments, NGOs and business in ten emerging markets, recognised by HMG as being amongst the most important to UK economic interests, presenting opportunities for co-operation with the UK as the partner of choice. The Programme works both in-country and regionally with multilateral organisations and institutions on global business and economic issues. In addition, the Programme also supports initiatives to promote UK scientific collaboration in key emerging markets such as Brazil, China, India and Russia, and expanded in 2005 to include collaboration with developed countries.

The programme complements the governance programmes of the Department for International Development and the British Council. It is further supported by Chevening Fellowship courses in Government Economic Reform & Regulation, and Responsible Business. There are also links to the Sustainable Development and the Climate Change & Energy Programmes, and with the economic reform elements of the Engaging with the Islamic World Programme.

Programme Focus

The Programme has four central objectives:

- To promote higher standards of economic governance, including transparency and

accountability, to ensure sustainable economic growth and stability. Expected outcomes include: stronger institutions, including checks to prevent corruption; fiscal reform.

- To promote efforts to secure a better global environment for freer trade and investment. Expected outcomes include: improved market regulation; protection of intellectual property rights; reduction of trade barriers.
- To promote responsible business practice in the interests of sustainable wealth creation. Expected outcomes include: adoption of the UN Convention against Corruption, voluntary principles and other international standards
- To promote science and innovation collaboration, for the benefit of the UK's knowledge economy and of S&I capacity in the global economy. Expected outcomes: researcher exchanges and development of high-tech clusters.

Total Programme Funds

In FY 2005-6, £4.3 million was spent.

Geographical Priorities

- 80% of funds allocated to projects in ten emerging markets - Argentina, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, Philippines, Russia, South Africa.
- 10% allocated for multilateral economic and business activities, mainly through multilateral organisations.
- 10% allocated for science and innovation collaboration with developed countries including Singapore, South Korea, Japan, North America and Europe.

Forward Look

The Programme is building on its firm foundations, evaluating its impact and creating synergies for sustaining and replicating its successes, not only in the key emerging markets, but also through more regional and global activity. A new Programme Strategy will be launched in autumn 2006 in time for the main bidding round (October – 31 December) for projects beginning in the next financial year (April). A second bidding round will take place in May-June 2007.

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Strengthening the value of public spending, Argentina

Forming part of the transparency strand of the Economic Governance Programme in Argentina, two projects have focused on strengthening congressional oversight of the national budget, and building the capacity for external control of the Administration by the Auditoría General de la Nación (AGN – equivalent of the National Audit Office).

The first project delivered a political consensus for draft legislation to establish an office within Congress to analyse the national budget. The office will provide independent technical advice to congressmen from all parties. One of the proponents of the legislation, the head of the congressional budget committee, recognised the office as absolutely necessary to strengthen public spending and improve parliamentary oversight of the budget.

The second project strengthened the AGN's internal management, creating an environment in which its audit recommendations could be implemented by state agencies, and understood by the media and civil organisations. The AGN has introduced institutional changes, for example involving civil society organisations in the selection of agencies for auditing. Audit information sent to the Supreme Court has

formed the basis of some landmark rulings by that institution. In 2007, the UK National Audit Office will provide further training for AGN officials.

Anti-corruption, Brazil

In advancing our partnership with Brazil to tackle corruption, a joint project between the UK (including the Crown Prosecution Service and Serious Fraud Office) and the Brazilian Office of the Controller General (CGU) was developed. Over 200 auditors from across Brazil were trained, improving their capabilities to detect fraudulent practices and the misuse of public funds. In parallel to this, and as a means to more effectively tackle corruption, a new National Anti-Corruption Agency was also established. Through GOF funds, the UK will continue to support the work of this new agency, including in developing its first two-year strategy. The shared long-term goal is to reduce corruption through improved effectiveness of auditing investigations in Brazil. (Expenditure: £195,000)

UK trade in services, Brazil

The Service Sector accounts for 60% of Brazil's GDP. Under the title of "Dialogo Servicos", this £29,176 project established the first high level forum in Brazil in which key aspects of the trade in services could be debated by a broad base of stakeholders. The project helped create a



Minister Ian Pearson speaking at the "Dialogo Servicos" in February 2006. From left to right: Mário Marconini, Diretor, MM Associados and consultant in charge of the GOF project "Diálogo Servicos"; Ian Pearson; Abram Szajman, Presidente, FECOMERCIO (association of business engaged on commerce in the São Paulo State); Peter Collecott, HMA for Brazil; Andrew Henderson, Consul-General in São Paulo and Director for Trade and Investment for Brazil

discussion forum that supported Brazilian negotiations during and after the Hong Kong Ministerial of the World Trade Organisation. Welcomed by the Brazilian Government, service industry associations, private companies and academia, the future of the forum has been guaranteed with the support of a major trade association in Sao Paulo State.

Developing and piloting a labour arbitration court system, China

As China has taken great strides to transform itself from a planned economy to a socialist market economy, and economic growth has accelerated, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of businesses and workers. This has placed considerable strain on the labour dispute resolution system. The GB China Council and Chinese Academy of Labour and Social Security assisted by the UK's Arbitration & Conciliation Advisory Service and Warwick University, and working in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, has developed practical, professional and low cost mechanisms for the arbitration of labour disputes in Shenzhen City (Pearl River Delta region). And this dispute resolution model is being adopted and put into practice by other Chinese provinces. The Chinese Vice-Minister for Labour & Social Security has applauded this project's achievements and welcomed proposals to reform the official arbitration committee and court network. Also the Legal Affairs Committee of the National People's Congress is considering the introduction of new laws for labour dispute resolution, based on continuing advice on ILO standards from the UK partners.

Liberalising domestic agricultural market, India

While India's economy booms, with overall growth averaging 8%, agriculture is still on the

same 2.5 - 3% growth path it has trodden since the 1950s. Its share of GDP has fallen to around 20%. It is the one sector that has been virtually untouched by the post-1991 reform process. Yet it still accounts for 58% of India's labour force, and around 650 million Indians depend on agriculture - a key reason for India's defensive position on agriculture in the WTO. However, the Indian Government is now beginning to realise the vast potential of Indian agriculture, and some less contentious policy reforms are being introduced. This £75,000 project builds on this by aiming to increase awareness among policy makers and key stakeholders of the benefits of both domestic and international trade liberalisation in agriculture and of greater integration with liberalised world markets. Working together with British and Indian academic experts and representatives from key Indian Government Departments, the National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER), a highly respected economic think tank, investigated domestic market distortions in major agricultural sectors and demonstrated the impact removal of these distortions might have on India's trade in agricultural produce. The project's objective was to develop a set of policy recommendations that could improve the productivity and competitiveness of the agricultural sector and bring gains for farmers and consumers. In turn, these policies should inform India's negotiating position in the WTO.

Supporting criminal justice reform, Mexico

The British Embassy and British Council joined the Mexican President's Office, local State governments and USAID to promote a criminal justice reform package, which introduces oral trials, restorative justice and community policing in two key states (Aguascalientes and Chihuahua). It has provided a role model and draft legislation for several other States. The project also enabled visits by groups of

influential policymakers, senior law officers and the media to study court procedures in the UK and to meet the Crown Prosecution Services, Home Office, the Metropolitan Police and other relevant institutions.

An “oral trials roadshow” with British judges and barristers simulating a court scenario in England toured four Mexican states. This received wide media coverage and generated much discussion of the benefits, if an oral system were adopted in Mexico. An information pack on the English criminal justice system was also distributed amongst universities, Congress, and other key stakeholders.

The UK has been publicly recognised by local and federal governments as their partner of choice for the reform of Mexico’s criminal justice system. The governor of Chihuahua subsequently put forward legislative proposals for debate in the state Congress. The Tecnológico de Monterrey, a top ranked university and organisers of the oral trial roadshow, recently introduced the subject into its syllabus and has established a mock up of a court-room. The initiatives at local and federal levels placed criminal justice reform at the centre of every Presidential candidate’s agenda in the 2006 election.

Combating corruption, Nigeria

Most efforts to address corruption in Nigeria are top-down, focused primarily on government institutions. But a broader approach is needed to tackle corruption in society as a whole. This three-year £89,000 project by LEAP Africa, an international young business leaders’ organisation, is influencing more than 1,000 young leaders across five major cities in Nigeria. A training curriculum for annual “Integrity Institutes” has been implemented in Abuja, Enugu, Kano, Lagos and Port Harcourt. Participants consider the root causes of corruption, and its economic and cultural impact as well as taking part in role-play scenarios of ethical dilemmas that typically confront young people. Participants have set up an online network and a magazine called ‘Rise’ to combat corruption and promote business ethics in the school curriculum. Feedback has been positive. A participant in Abuja commented that “The Institute was insightful, educating, thrilling, challenging, motivating, empowering, and above all, relevant.” While a participant in Port Harcourt noted that “The Integrity Institute succeeded in creating an informal and interesting avenue for young people to discuss corruption. The task of fighting it now seems easier.”



Young leaders at a LEAP event

A corporate governance development program for key government-owned and controlled corporations & government financial institutions, the Philippines

It has been widely recognised that the weak financial position of the Government-Owned and Controlled Corporations (GOCCs) and Government Financial Institutions (GFIs), has been a significant drain on limited government resources. Reform of these GOCCs/GFIs is needed to enhance investor confidence and sustain economic development. There is a broad consensus that the management and governance of these institutions has to improve.

Using £45,578 of GOF funding, the Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD) in association with the Office of the President and Philippine Department of Finance (DOF), has developed specific performance and corporate governance standards, which can be benchmarked against the OECD Guidelines on Corporate Governance for State-Owned Enterprises. The ICD presented its guidance at the Asian Roundtable on Corporate Governance Networks in Singapore in May 2006. It has helped enterprises to improve transparency and accountability and lower their financial dependence on government. The Institute of Internal Auditors-Philippines assessed 31 enterprises with an average score of 60%. This highlighted a number of areas in which enterprises could improve their performance or may require strategic intervention by Government. In the long term, the use of the “scorecard” will become an established annual process for improving governance in the public sector and assisting sustained economic development. The “scorecard” has also attracted interest from both the OECD and other countries in the region.

Analysis of Duma laws, Russia

Many laws in Russia are drafted in ways that make them prone to corruption. With sufficient analysis of how to spot these “corruption elements”, however, laws can be amended to make them corruption-proof. In a one-year £11,111 project, GOF supported the anti-corruption analysis of four laws by experts.

The work of the experts proved highly successful – the vast majority of their recommendations were adopted by the Anti-Corruption Committee of the Duma (Russian Parliament) and the laws were then adopted by the Duma. As well as the immediate benefit of having four corruption-proof laws, the project could also help stimulate wider moves to spread the practice of anti-corruption analysis. At present the Anti-Corruption Committee of the Duma only analyses a small subset of laws on an ad hoc basis. By demonstrating the effectiveness of anti-corruption analysis, the four laws help to make the case for making such analysis more commonplace.

Interpreting and disseminating the codes of good practice on Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) for a BEE Investment Guide website, South Africa

The aim of this £20,000 project implemented by the Business Map Foundation, was to provide information to international and local investors, who need to understand the effect of Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) on their investments. Policy documentation on BEE contains a lot of technical language which can be difficult to understand. This project has created a user-friendly guide to BEE to help overcome this. A FAQs website has also been set up (<http://www.businessmap.org.za/BEEInvestmentGuide>). These should enable foreign business

investors to gain a better understanding of BEE and ensure they are in compliance with it. It should thus facilitate further foreign investment.

Maritime trade security - West African regional coast guard initiative

In 2003, the Maritime Organisation of West and Central Africa (MOWCA) agreed in principle to establish an integrated coastguard for West & Central Africa to improve the region's capacity: for search and rescue, prevention of pollution and protection of the marine environment, maritime security, countering piracy and armed robbery against ships, illegal migration and trafficking drugs, weapons and people. The project enabled the development of an implementation strategy and action plan, which will be sustained through a formal inter-governmental agreement. (Expenditure initially over two years: £132,318)

Together with the Transport Security & Contingencies Directorate of the UK Department for Transport, IMO has also undertaken regional governance initiatives funded by the Economic Governance Programme to improve maritime security in the Caribbean (including Overseas Territories) and Latin America. These have been in addition to similar IMO training and regional events supported by the FCO's Counter Terrorism fund in other parts of the world.

UK alliances in new and emerging technologies: promoting R&D collaboration, Japan

There is substantial global interest in establishing the structure of proteins to inform our understanding of human aging, disease and drug design. Japan and the UK are both strong in research in this area with complementary

approaches. The Embassy's S&I team has brought UK and Japanese partners together, through a number of workshops and missions. £60,000 from the Economic Governance programme supported a series of researcher exchanges in FY2005. Leading on from this initiative, the Japan Science and Technology Agency launched a new partnership programme to support UK-Japan collaborations in structural genomics and proteomics in FY2006. This funding stream will be worth up to £1 million over the next five years.

Regional Science Collaboration Development Awards, Singapore

Following a series of workshops in September 2005, twenty-nine researchers from Singapore and Malaysia have visited the UK, with Collaboration Development Awards (CDA) funded by the Economic Governance Programme. The visits initiated fourteen collaborative programmes with British universities and companies, including the production of new lightweight composite materials for aerospace applications, and fuel cells for clean energy production. CDAs have proved to be a powerful stimulus for collaboration. More new proposals are being prepared for submission to funding bodies, including in bio-electronics and immunology.

Engaging with the Islamic World Programme

Programme Summary

The Engaging with the Islamic World (EIW) Programme helps to deliver our policy objectives of increasing understanding and engagement with Muslim countries and communities. In particular, it helps to promote peaceful, political, economic and social reform, and to counter radicalisation and extremism in the UK and overseas. The Programme has made a significant contribution to taking forward engagement with Muslim communities since the 7 July 2005 attacks in London. The projects funded by the Programme have increasingly focussed on key issues such as supporting mainstream Islam, countering radicalization, developing vibrant civil society and education reform.

Geographical Priorities

Afghanistan	Kenya	Philippines
Bahrain	Lebanon	Saudi Arabia
Egypt	Libya	Sudan
Indonesia	Morocco	Yemen
Iran	Nigeria	
Jordan	Pakistan	

In addition, regional projects covered a number of other countries in the Islamic World.

Total Programme Funds

For the financial year 2005-6, the programme spent £9.8 million.

Programme Focus

The Programme is now three years old and has become an established policy implementation tool with project partners in each priority country. The Programme aims to support changes that will be sustained beyond the life of

each specific project. It has succeeded in encouraging reforms and real changes on a range of issues including promoting good governance, the rule of law and women's participation in decision-making.

The pace of change is different in each country but the need for change is now much more widely accepted than three years ago. The EIW Programme has helped to sustain that process through direct project support but also by assisting regional multilateral initiatives through the OECD and United Nations Arab Reform Programme. This is however a long-term agenda and will require continued support over many years.

The media is at the forefront of the dynamic change processes underway across the Middle East. The media is reforming its own processes and responding to demand from audiences for improved reporting and analysis from domestic news gatherers on the political, social and economic reforms of the day. We are seeing evidence of change in the development of a more professional and accountable media, particularly when reporting elections held in 2005 and 2006. Such activities have included supporting capacity building for journalists during elections in Palestine and Yemen. We are also working with the BBC World Service Trust in several other countries in the MENA region to build a better awareness of journalism best practice in selected media organisations.

In the year since the tragic July 2005 bombings in London, the Programme has responded to a more direct need to address causes of radicalisation. The Programme has helped to develop the UK and international debate around the potential causes of radicalisation and to counter the misrepresentation of mainstream

Islam. This is sensitive but important territory.

The FCO has worked with an increasingly wide range of British Muslims (academics, UK and overseas scholars, as well as traditional community leaders) to encourage dialogue within communities. There is a particular focus on working with youth groups. A Scholars Roadshow in the UK has supported Muslim organisations leading debate on mainstream Islam.

The Programme also supported a series of visits overseas by respected British Muslims to speak with authority about their own experiences of living in the UK and being British. This approach has helped to dispel some of the myths sometimes propagated overseas that Muslims in Britain do not have equal rights in the UK.

The projecting British Islam work has enabled the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to engage directly with British Muslims on a range of policies in a constructive environment. The impact overseas has been striking. Britain is seen as a good example of a multiracial, open and tolerant society. The Programme has shown the value of creating space for engagement on a range of issues, to improve understanding and knowledge, while accepting that it is not a prerequisite that all participants have to be in agreement during meetings.

Occasionally projects deliver unexpected benefits to the partners involved.

One of the project implementers in Jordan currently runs a project on raising civic awareness amongst young people and women. As a result of the project she has since been consulted frequently by the Government of Jordan and a Royal affiliated NGO on women's affairs and young people. She has also been appointed as a Senator in the Jordanian Parliament.

Forward Look

We shall continue to dedicate programme resources towards improving our understanding of Muslim countries and communities in order to achieve Foreign and Commonwealth Office objectives. The benefits achieved so far indicate that longer-term relationships and cooperation can be advanced by working on shared objectives with Muslim countries and communities, and building shared values. We shall continue to sharpen our programme focus to ensure we help to deliver sustainable changes.

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Projecting British Islam: British Muslim delegations overseas

This two-year project shares a £600,000 budget with the Empowering Voices of Mainstream Islam Project (below). £250,000 of this was spent in the financial year 2005-6. The project aims to challenge and change perceptions of the UK, Muslims in the West and issues of modernity. This is done through engagement with Muslim communities in the UK and overseas. Successful visits to Bahrain, Egypt, India, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Sudan were arranged. These presented Britain as modern, multicultural and tolerant.

Delegation members spoke freely with opinion formers and made clear when they disagreed with the government position on important policy points. Those disagreements did not mean they were ostracised or prevented from airing their views. Delegates rejected extremist views often declared in the name of Islam as not being representative of most Muslims, British or elsewhere. Attacks on Britain are also attacks on

Muslims who live here. The delegates found the visits a useful way to explore and exchange how Islam is practiced in the countries visited. Further visits are planned to other Muslim majority countries such as Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Government leaders, scholars and the media overseas were pleasantly surprised at how the British government successfully seeks out a range of opinions from the British Muslim and other faith communities. British Muslim delegates have commented how valuable they found the visits.



British Muslim Delegation engages in public debate

Empowering voices of mainstream Islam: the radical middle way roadshows

The aim of this project is to counter extremist voices by lending support to independent Muslim organizations that give voice to mainstream Muslim opinion. The project has taken internationally respected scholars on a series of roadshows around Britain. Scholars have tackled the theological arguments and misinterpretations of Islam used by extremists. As a result, 20,000 young British Muslims were engaged in a dialogue about being British and Muslim.

“The topic was perfect - very appropriate and desperately needed here today. It’s nice

to hear people speak forcefully and unapologetically about the middle-way and really bring home the meaning of what that exactly is. Too often the mainstream majority is too quiet. It struck the heart beautifully, and I believe the younger members of the audience would have benefited especially. People talk of ‘the middle-way’ without really understanding its meanings in terms of its inner as well as practical dimensions. Lets have some more like it!”

Feedback quote from website:
www.radicalmiddleway.com

Education and governance in the Nahdlatul Ulama and Muhammadiyah organisations, Indonesia

Expenditure on these two projects is £650k over 3 years. The aim is to improve the administrative and educational structures of pesantrens (Islamic boarding schools) in Indonesia. The pesantrens involved report significant achievements in terms of improved school governance, lesson planning and quality assurance. Also undertaken was the training of more than 100 Deputy Heads of the two major Islamic education organisations. Nahdlatul Ulama and Muhammadiyah have a combined membership of around 70 million. Feedback shows the training is leading to changes decided upon by each institution in each locality and is helping to set the systems for improved

governance and education reform. The FCO works closely with the British Council to deliver these projects.

When Prime Minister Tony Blair went to Indonesia in March 2006, he visited a modern pesantren where students received education that would help them to be employed. The visit helped to break the myth that religious schools are or need to focus only on religious education. A related programme is being developed with the Islamic University of Jakarta focused on mainstreaming a gender perspective in the training of Imams.



Prime Minister Tony Blair visiting a pesantren in 2006

Two kingdoms: friendship and partnership between Britain and Saudi Arabia

We allocated £50,000 to this project in 2005-6 with the aim of enhancing UK relations with Saudi Arabia around a shared reform agenda. The project provides a forum for discussion between high-level decision makers. Since the ground breaking first Two Kingdoms conference, held in the UK in 2005, a follow-up in Riyadh has since confirmed the value of the dialogue. Difficult shared policy issues, from national security and terrorism to employment, and education reforms have all been advanced by providing a forum to bring people together. The symbolism of the two Kingdoms of the UK and Saudi Arabia sharing the same challenges is powerful in these times of misunderstanding.

The UK has also worked to offer improved management of English Language Training in Saudi Arabia. The project is aimed at helping to build the capacity of the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training Institute to deliver English language training more effectively throughout the Kingdom. The British Minister

for Education has followed-up with his own visits to develop the linkages even further. There are around 3000 full time Saudi students in the UK, a figure which is expected to rise rapidly due to improved education links.

Former Foreign Secretary Jack Straw in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



Middle East reform: media dialogues

In the second phase of this project, £1.4million has been allocated over two years in order to sustain improvements in the capacity of media organisations to implement reforms and offer their publics a high quality of reporting and analysis.

The project has noticeably improved dialogue in the media sector around the need to speed up media reforms and offer content that is of a high quality. Systems are starting to be strengthened in key media organisations that will outlive the project lifetime. The BBC is offering on the ground training in the work environment of the journalists and online remote assistance and skills development through a specially developed

English and Arabic website called I-Learn. This process of blended learning allows journalists to develop at their own pace in their own environment. More information is available from www.bbcdialogue.co.uk

Shorter-term projects on specific issues are also supported, usually in advance of specific events such as national or local elections, delivered by the London Middle East Institute. The Thomson Foundation has helped to promote investigative reporting through its annual Inquirer Award, funded by the FCO in 2005-6. The feedback on media development has been highly positive.

Re-uniting Europe

Programme Summary

The Reuniting Europe Programme's purpose is to bolster and extend the success of enlargement by supporting countries through the EU integration process, particularly in the fields of improved governance and economic growth. It supports the FCO's Strategic Priority 4: "An effective EU in a secure neighbourhood."

The Programme's main objectives are:

- To promote political and economic transparency and accountability
- To promote social integration through education and public awareness
- To promote efficient and transparent policies and processes in justice and border management systems
- To support regional economic development
- To contribute to the creation of a pro-business environment
- To build administrative capacity for EU integration

Geographical Priorities

Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Croatia, Serbia & Montenegro (including Kosovo), Ukraine, northern Cyprus.

Other countries eligible for funding were Macedonia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Albania, Moldova, Belarus, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia.

2005-6 was the final year in which the ten new member states of the European Union were eligible for funding from the Programme,

Total Programme Funds

In the financial year 2005-6, the Programme spent £5.1 million.

Programme Focus

New Member States – new partners in Europe

Supporting the creation of a pro-business environment was the single biggest cluster of activity in new Member States in this final year of funding. Projects focused on the labour market, innovation, building the capacity of legal systems to support businesses more effectively, and creating conditions for stronger economic growth. Project work in the field of social integration, including the protection of minority rights through training the judiciary on anti-discrimination law, was completed. The Programme developed its portfolio of 'trilateral projects' – working with new Member states as partners, sharing with others their experience of reform and adaptation to EU standards. The Programme will continue to harness New Member State expertise to assist other countries on the path to EU integration.

Candidate countries – practical assistance in meeting accession requirements

With the target date for entry to the EU of 1st January 2007, membership was within grasping distance for Romania and Bulgaria. The biggest tests in meeting standards for EU membership were in the fields of Justice and Home Affairs (JHA), creating conditions for strong economic development, and building administrative capacity. Corruption was seen as a threat to the success of reform process and projects in this field took centre stage. Other JHA projects worked to relieve the burdens on courts and prisons, and safeguard the rights of vulnerable groups. Economic projects focused on building

capacity to make best use of EU structural funds after accession and improving the climate for business. Work on building administrative capacity intensified. Advisers were appointed to support the reform efforts and worked closely with host governments in the areas of EU policy, anti-corruption, and state aid, producing useful results. In the year ahead the focus will remain on areas highlighted as requiring particular attention to meet EU standards.

2005-6 was a watershed year for Croatia with the opening of negotiations for EU accession. The Programme changed its focus from social integration – including the reintegration of people displaced by conflict to building administrative capacity for EU integration and supporting JHA reform. This will continue in the coming year.

In October 2005, the EU also decided to open accession negotiations with Turkey. Turkey is required to effect wide-ranging human rights reforms. The bulk of the Programme's activity in Turkey in 2005-6 was in the area of JHA. Building on work initiated in 2004-5, projects worked with authorities and front-line institutions in protecting rights of vulnerable groups. Efforts continued to support training of the judiciary and local human rights boards. Work also began to help build Turkey's capacity to handle EU business through training for officials at the EU Secretariat General and in the EU Departments of various Ministries. Over the next year the Programme will seek to maintain the momentum in JHA reform. It will also support the creation of a pro-business environment, and enhanced administrative capacity for EU integration.

Northern Cyprus – supporting public administration reform

Projects in northern Cyprus are supporting the reform and modernisation of public administration and training for the judiciary. This focus will continue in the year ahead.

Western Balkans – underpinning democracy

The main focus of work in 2005-6 for Macedonia, Serbia & Montenegro, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Albania was social integration, for example supporting the rights of people with disabilities in Macedonia, and an inclusive education model for children of all ethnicities in the region. In Serbia & Montenegro, there was a particular focus on promoting the integration of minorities through public awareness, working with the media.

European Neighbourhood – avoiding a new dividing line

In Ukraine, the Programme built on its 2004-5 work in supporting free and fair elections and creating media capacity for more effective democratic reform. It contributed to building administrative capacity through training Ukrainian officials in EU Affairs. Work in the upcoming year will include preparations for an EU Co-ordination Unit to support the development of Ukraine's relationship with the EU.

In Moldova, the focus was on building administrative capacity. Projects included developing understanding of the EU and capacity to harmonise legislation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Parliament, and other Ministries. Projects for the upcoming year continue support for the EU Action Plan. For Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan, work continued in the field of transparency and accountability through support for election monitoring capacity in Armenia, facilitating communications between MPs and citizens in Georgia, and community participation for local municipalities and business ethics in Azerbaijan. This year the principal focus will be on harnessing the media for more effective democratic reform. In Belarus, the Programme continued to build the capacity of candidates and councillors to interact with the electorate and to train lawyers in human rights. In the coming year, the Programme will also work with civil society and youth to support the development of democracy.

Forward Look

After a pivotal year for the enlargement of the European Union, with the opening of negotiations with Turkey and Croatia and the granting of candidate status to Macedonia, there are many challenges in the year ahead. Romania and Bulgaria are expected to join the EU on 1 January 2007 and need to maintain the pace of reform to meet the standards required.

Sustained reform efforts will also be needed in Croatia and Turkey. Developments in Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo this year will determine the outlook there for EU integration. The Programme aims to continue to support reform across its target region.

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Inter-party parliamentary lobby group (IPPLG) on rights of the disabled, Macedonia

‘This project has shown a dimension almost forgotten in our society: the power of a civic initiative to state loud and clear what people of this country need’

(Project report by Zvonko Shavreski, Project Manager, Polio Plus Movement against Disability, Macedonia, April 2006)

This three-year £110,000 project, co-funded by Handicap International and others and implemented by the Polio Plus Movement against Disability, began in 2004. Its aim was, through an inter-party parliamentary lobby group, to secure the enactment of a ‘Systemic Law’ – the equivalent of the Disability Discrimination Act – through campaigning, awareness-raising and lobbying.

Two years into the project, a draft law has been drawn up, and presented to parliament through an unprecedented civic initiative. Amendments to other draft laws proposed by the lobby group, to improve employment perspectives and accessibility of buildings for people with disabilities, have been accepted.

The Macedonian constitution allows for draft laws to be presented to parliament through a civic initiative, but it had never been done before. 10,000 signatures are required. The group took the bold decision to use this route for the Systemic Law, in order to raise awareness and secure wider public participation.

It helped create the climate for legislative change through a series of high-profile campaigns and initiatives. It organised a ‘Caravan’ to encourage citizens to sign in support of the draft law. Mile Stojkoski, who gained fame by travelling from Prilep to Athens

(704km) in his wheelchair for the 2004 Olympics, travelled more than 1,500km around Macedonia to spread the word. A total of almost 19,000 signatures were collected. Another campaign entitled ‘A Parking Space Named Desire’ promoted the right to mobility. As a result of the group’s lobbying, the Macedonian parliament building now boasts designated parking spaces for people with disabilities, an access ramp to the main entrance and 7 elevating platforms inside the building – as well as commitment to seeing them used. In January, the President of the Parliament was observed to summon a tow truck to remove a vehicle illegally parked in one of the spaces, and to stand over it until the truck arrived.

The group has succeeded in increasing political support through presenting the issue as part of the human rights agenda that Macedonia has to address as it prepares for EU accession.

The draft law was presented to Parliament on 3 March 2006. The 66 MPs present voted unanimously in favour. The draft law has now entered the second phase of the parliamentary procedure. It has already had some impact in the region. The Law for Professional Rehabilitation recently enacted by the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina, used the same approach and mechanisms. In Serbia and Montenegro, many of its provisions related to employment have been incorporated in a draft law now before parliament. Albania is considering using the model of a comprehensive law on disability rights.

Two new parliamentary lobby groups have been established in Macedonia following the IPPLG model: a Women’s Lobby, and a Lobby group for Zupa, a poor area in western Macedonia.

Honour crimes: campaigning to prevent non-judicial punishments and executions, Turkey

‘Every year dozens of women fall victim. Don’t be part of this shame; don’t turn a blind eye to murders committed in the name of honour’ – TV spot aired as part of the campaign.

Turkey is working to modernise its criminal justice system and bring its human rights standards into line with those of the European Union. The new penal code, ratified in September 2004, eliminates ‘protection of family honour’ as a mitigating circumstance in murder trials and introduces heavier penalties in honour killing convictions. But surveys showed that there was still startlingly widespread support in the country for punishing or even killing women who were seen to dishonour their families.

The idea for this £71,000, 15 month project arose from an earlier one (2002-3) to support the effective participation of women in society in southeastern Turkey. Participants called for the implementation of campaigns to prevent executions committed in the name of honour. This project took this forward, aiming to mobilise society in the south east of Turkey to fight against killings carried out in the name of family honour.

The campaign funded by the project, which involved governmental, non-governmental organisations and clerics in a joint effort, targeted two principal areas: Diyarbakir and Mardin. In both, it had the support of Governors and municipalities. The messages of the campaign were carefully crafted after thorough research into public attitudes and consultation of local stakeholders. 10,000 posters were put up and there were spots on television and radio. The campaign gained extensive local, national

and international media coverage. In Mardin, all 1484 religious leaders put posters in every mosque and ensured a prepared sermon on the subject was given across the region.

The campaign achieved a small but significant 2% shift in public opinion. More than 50% of those questioned at the conclusion of the project remembered the campaign. It also strengthened the resolve of the authorities to demonstrate progress on the issue. In Diyarbakir a shelter was set up as well as a hotline. The governor of Mardin spoke out publicly on the issue. That it has so far proved impossible to identify a safe site for a shelter there is a measure of the difficulty of changing attitudes. Some stakeholders considered the links the project forged between key professionals its most significant outcome. One lawyer said that the posters had caused debate, but having sympathetic professionals around had really helped her casework. She had called the police at various times of the night to help clients. Knowing she had the police with her had made a real difference in protecting women – although more could be done to ensure prosecutors were less tolerant of violence against women.

The challenge now is to keep up the momentum achieved through improving inter-agency support for women at risk as well as through initiatives at the national level.

Establishment and development of the Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) sector, Bulgaria

The effective absorption and use of EU Structural Funds is one of the major challenges faced by countries joining the European Union. Bulgaria is no exception. There is an acute lack of capacity across all sectors in working with the funds, and thus a risk that Bulgaria on accession may not be able to get the full benefit of the funds to support its regional development. This two-year, £160,000 project, co-funded 50/50 with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) who are the implementers, aims to boost regional development in Bulgaria by building local capacity in municipalities, businesses and NGOs to establish effective partnerships in preparation for absorption of EU SMEs Structural Funds.

Now half way through, the project has trained as trainers 40 people from key sectors across the country. They are being supported to train a further 1,800 people to understand the funds, to build partnerships and to apply for and manage funds in compliance with the relevant regulations. It is also raising awareness of the funds to increase the potential of municipalities to develop appropriate projects that support plans for regional development. In its second year the project will help increase capacity to manage funds, particularly in public private partnerships, and help develop flagship projects in each target municipality. It will train 90 mayors and other decision makers to enhance their understanding of the potential of EU structural funds, and work with central government in finalising their broader plans for absorption of EU structural funds.

The ultimate test will be how successful Bulgaria is on accession in attracting EU structural funds. There are a number of projects ongoing to assist

in this area. What makes this project different – and has gained it strong support from Bulgarian central government and other stakeholders - is that it is very practical: one of its outputs is a pipeline of fully-fledged project proposals emanating from 90 municipalities across the country, large and small. It also aims to bring about a change of thinking in the regions, enhancing capacity to generate project ideas and contribute bottom-up to the development of Bulgaria's policies on the use of EU Structural Funds.

State aid advice to the Competition Council of Romania

This £44,000 project funded a UK adviser for the Competition Council for nine months to assist Romania to fulfil EU commitments related to state aid enforcement.

The European Commission regularly monitors the progress of candidate countries towards implementation of the *acquis communautaire* - meeting the standards required for membership of the European Union. When this project started in mid 2005, Romania's performance in the area of state aid enforcement was 'red-flagged' in the Commission's monitoring report, indicating that substantial progress was needed to meet the standard required. In the next monitoring report, a few months later, this had been downgraded to amber. The May 2006 monitoring report noted that the quality of the Competition Council's assessment and analysis of aid measures had noticeably improved. The adviser's role in this has been generally recognised.

The adviser worked very closely with the staff of the Competition Council, first coaching on casework, and later advising on strategy and managerial improvements. Besides the improvement in performance noted by the

Commission monitoring reports, including the resolution of a number of high profile cases, there have been marked improvements in the morale and confidence of caseworkers.

The adviser will build on these achievements in a twinning project with the Competition Council funded by the EU.

Capacity building for the Polish Public Employment Service in the Podkarpackie region, Poland

New Deal is a UK Government programme that aims to give unemployed people the help and support they need to get into work. The aim of this two-year, £45,000 project was to help the Polish employment service adapt the UK New Deal model to support their labour market objectives, initially in one region of the country.

Despite sustained economic growth since the early 1990's unemployment has remained very high in Poland, especially in the poorer rural regions of the country. This project aimed to help tackle the structural problems with the labour market in one such region, by helping to train Polish Job Advisers in the methods used in Job Centres in the UK. Podkarpackie was chosen to pilot this scheme because it was one of the poorest areas of the country with very high youth unemployment. The project built on earlier work on "Active Labour Market measures". Project partners were the Ministry of Labour and Job Centre Plus in Newcastle.

The Pilot programme started on 1 March 2005 with over 100 long-term unemployed people from the so-called risk group invited on to the programme. After four months 54 of those had taken up employment. During the second phase [the remaining] 46 also gained employment – a tremendous success for the project that earned

it good positive publicity in the regional media. Altogether between 1 March 2005 and 31 March 2006, 209 long term unemployed took up employment. The programme will now be rolled out across the country and it is hoped that the methodology adopted in Rzeszow, the regional capital of Podkarpackie, will become standard in all Labour Offices in Poland. The scheme could also be exported to neighbouring countries such as Ukraine.

Assistance to municipalities and their communities, Azerbaijan

Under this £58,000, one-year project, the British Council in partnership with IFES Azerbaijan aimed to increase the capacity of the government, municipal councils and NGOs to enhance the financial accountability and transparency of councils to their local communities. It created and rolled out in two communities an officially recognised training programme in strategic planning, financial management and community participation.

One of the main issues preventing Azerbaijan from developing an effective and democratic system of local governance in accordance with the European Charter of Local Self-Governance is the lack of capacity of municipal councils. A needs assessment undertaken by donors before the project began identified particular capacity deficits in planning, financial management and community involvement. Through the project, central and local government and civil society worked together to build capacity in these areas in two communities. A training programme was drawn up, trainers trained, and training delivered to councillors and council officials. The two municipalities drew up long-term plans and held consultations with local communities before approving the plans by vote. One of the municipalities published its budget. There was a gradual change in relations between

councils and communities. One chairman remarked that having met several communities during the project and explained the role of the municipality to them, now many people recognised him and his team as people trying to bring positive changes into the communities. There is a high level of female participation amongst councillors and officials and the community members taking part in consultations.

Other donors in Azerbaijan have shown an interest in the project and plan to replicate its approach in their own programmes.

Sustainable Development

Programme Summary

The Sustainable Development Programme was launched in April 2005 to provide targeted support for the UK's sustainable development priorities by promoting good governance, respect for human rights and democratic principles and sound management of natural resources. The Programme is a key tool for delivering the FCO's Strategic Priority 7: "Promoting sustainable development and poverty reduction underpinned by human rights, democracy, good governance and protection of the environment."

Programme Objectives

- To promote greater respect for human rights, democracy and governance particularly on priority themes through support to priority countries in their adherence to international human rights standards and norms especially UN Human Rights treaties
- To promote sustainable management of natural resources in priority countries through improved environmental governance

and more effective implementation and enforcement of international and national agreements and legislation

Geographical Priorities

80% of our funds are focused on project work in 17 countries and one region:

Argentina, Brazil, Burma, Cameroon, Caribbean Region (Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago), China, Colombia, Ethiopia, Guatemala, India, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, South Africa, Thailand and Vietnam.

The remainder is used to support non-country specific work that promotes particular thematic or multilateral priorities. We also make voluntary contributions to the work of international organisations such as the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the UN Environment Programme.



Launch of the FCO's manual on Medical Investigation and Documentation of Torture funded by the Sustainable Development Programme

Total Programme Funds

The Sustainable Development Programme spent £4.5 million in 2005-6 as well as overseeing the £4.1 million grant in aid for the Westminster Foundation for Democracy and £0.75m for the Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP).

Programme Focus

Transparency, information, participation and access to justice

The programme supports environmental democracy through Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration (PP10). We funded PP10 projects in Africa, Latin America and Asia with 31 projects in 14 countries promoting environmental democracy through capacity building of local authorities and civil society groups. In Ecuador, our project on consolidating citizen participation on environmental issues has led to a draft regulation to ensure that citizens can participate in environmental decision making. In Chile, the success of our project on access to environmental information has resulted in the Chilean government seeing the UK as a good practice partner. Chilean officials will be visiting the UK to learn more about environmental information regulations with the aim of implementing a similar model.

In Russia, we supported capacity building for Roma civil society groups to challenge racism and discrimination in the media. Monitoring by NGOs has shown a marked decrease in hate speech articles – in fact they have seen a number of more positive media articles - since journalists attended project seminars. In Colombia, we contributed to the protection of journalists at risk from attack from the civil conflict, strengthening our efforts to support human rights defenders.

Major police and prison reform projects in Mexico and Brazil are delivering real improvements in systems. These high profile

changes have attracted interest from other state governments and the federal authorities.

Core human rights priorities

In Colombia, we have strengthened the capacity of the police, judicial and prison systems as well as welfare organisations to give greater protection to children from abuse, especially street children.

We supported the Association for the Prevention against Torture, a global advocacy project which has been instrumental in securing ratification of the Optional Protocol on the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT) by a further 11 countries. A Colombian project to build the capacity of public prosecutors to bring to justice torture perpetrators is being considered as a model for a regional project.

Our projects on the abolition of the death penalty aim to persuade leaders and opinion-formers to promote laws that narrow the present wide application of the death penalty. We support legal challenges to the application of the death penalty, building on a project in Uganda that saw the Constitutional Court declare the death penalty process unlawful resulting in a reprieve for over 400 individuals on death row. We also help to provide technical training to public defenders so that those facing the death penalty receive more effective legal representation.

Natural resource management

Supporting sustainable forest management and tackling illegal logging is an important element of the sustainable development dialogues with emerging economies. In Brazil, we are helping to combat deforestation by developing and implementing an independent certification scheme for forest-friendly soya.

In South Africa, we support a network of environment management officers, the first 26 of which were appointed in June 2005. By the end of the project there will be 800 inspectors.

Our willingness to provide this support has made tackling environmental offences a priority for the criminal justice system.

We funded a project by the Travel Foundation which aims to educate UK travel industry staff on the importance and impact of sustainable tourism. We have contributed to the recovery programme of the Sri Lankan tourist industry following the Asian tsunami. We are helping to identify and prioritise 5 pilot destinations in the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) which form part of the development of a Sustainable Tourism Zone of the Greater Caribbean.

Forward Look

By 31 March 2006 all funds for 2006-7 had been committed. The main focus for 2006-07 will be on monitoring and evaluating the project portfolio and implementing the recommendations of an independent review of the programme carried out in March 2006.

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www.fco.gov.uk/humanrights

www.fco.gov.uk/sustainabledevelopment

www.wfd.org – Westminster Foundation for Democracy

Transparency, Information, Participation and Access to Justice

Vietnam

Media training for government spokespersons

Implemented by the Thomson Foundation, this £30,000 project promoted greater government transparency through media training for Vietnam's ministerial spokespersons. Jim Campbell (formerly of 10 Downing Street Press Office) gave training on news presentation. Avian influenza was used as an example of the benefit of increased government transparency - Vietnam's openness on the issue had calmed international fears.

In total 2 training courses for 45 spokespersons from 39 different government offices were held in Hanoi in December 2005. The project received high level political support with the notable attendance of Deputy Prime Minister Vu Khoan at the opening session. Government buy-in was impressive for a country routinely criticised internationally for lack of transparency and media freedom.

Vietnam's state-controlled media environment is slowly beginning to open up and the government is showing increasing willingness to engage on sensitive issues publicly. Official

statements and media reports regarding a recent corruption scandal involving the Transport Ministry have been unprecedented in their openness. There is still much to do but this project undoubtedly made a contribution and taught government spokespersons that the media can be an ally rather than a threat.

India

Promoting effective implementation and use of right to information legislation

In June 2005 India's Right to Information (RTI) Act came into force. Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh described the RTI Act as "the dawn of a new era in processes of governance, an era of performance and efficiency, an era which will ensure that benefits of growth flow to all sections of our people, an era which will eliminate the scourge of corruption, an era which will bring the common man's concern to the heart of all processes of governance".

Led by the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) the Programme has funded a £231,751 3-year project to assist the Indian government in implementing the new legislation. It provides support through training and technical assistance and works with civil



Opening ceremony from left to right: Mac Mclachlan, former DHM BE Hanoi; Vu Khoan, Deputy Prime Minister; Jim Campbell, Thomson Foundation



Workshop on Right to Information

society organisations to encourage the public to use the powers contained in the Act. This is being done in a number of different ways:

- Developing guidance notes to interpret the Act's key provisions;
- Advising the newly set up Information Commissions in matters relating to interpretation of the Act;
- Providing materials to government administrative training institutions; and
- Monitoring the implementation record of public authorities.

CHRI have trained more than 3,000 government officers, senior executives of public sector enterprises and staff of Information Commissions and their training materials are being used by many public sector institutions. Posters, pamphlets, user guides and radio programmes in local languages have also been developed to increase public awareness of the Act and how to use it.

Successful challenges to state level implementation procedures have brought about reductions in fees charged for information requests to ensure that the mechanisms provided by the legislation are available to all. CHRI maintains a database on successful RTI cases and

best practice in India and the Commonwealth. CHRI have convinced some of India's large public sector enterprises who were previously under the impression that RTI did not apply to them that they too are covered by the legislation. These enterprises have now requested CHRI training on implementation.

Successful implementation of RTI legislation is a key tool in delivering greater transparency and accountability thereby improving governance and tackling corruption. The RTI Act is in line with the mandate of the UN Convention against Corruption to which India became a signatory in December 2005. India's strong RTI legislation could provide an excellent model for other countries in the Commonwealth looking to introduce or to strengthen similar legislation and CHRI's work in India is feeding into their regional RTI efforts notably in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

China

Promoting judicial justice by reforming criminal trial procedure

The construction of a fair trial system is essential to promoting the rule of law and would remove one of the obstacles to China ratifying the International Covenant on Civil and Political

Rights. This two-year £101,400 project administered by the British Council and co-funded by the local courts explores ways of reforming China's criminal trial procedures. It is considering innovative, effective proposals to promote the right to a fair trial and will put forward recommendations to the National People's Congress (NPC) for a revised criminal procedure law.

In autumn 2005, 2 municipal level courts ran a pilot scheme supported by UK and Chinese academics, focusing on 6 key issues:

- promoting court appearances by witnesses;
- providing protection for defence lawyers, enabling them to carry out their role fully;
- limiting the role of judges in collecting evidence outside the court;
- promoting the role of judges in court hearings;
- improving the quality of verdicts; and
- reforming judiciary committees.

The result of the scheme was a series of practical steps to tackle procedural flaws in these areas. One court attracted national media attention and was recognised by the Supreme People's Court as an outstanding organisation for its initiative to promote reform. In 2006 Chinese academics will conduct a wider study and cascade the pilot scheme. Building on this they will submit recommendations for revised criminal trial procedures to the NPC.



Discussion between local judges and UK experts on new trial techniques, Dongying Intermediate Court of Shandong

Core Human Rights Priorities

Thailand

Highland birth and citizenship registration project

“As I have no Thai nationality, my son got the birth certificate that said he was not a Thai national. So when I asked for the health care card ... (they) refused to issue him one. When he goes to hospital, he has to pay”. Villager in Chiang Rai

Research by UNESCO has shown that the single greatest risk factor for hill tribe girls in Thailand to be trafficked or exploited is lack of citizenship. Without legal status they are often vulnerable to economic and social exploitation including trafficking for sex work and forced labour. We are funding a £170,236 two-year project with UNESCO and the Thai Department of Social Development and Welfare to promote birth and citizenship registration in the

Highlands. This will help ethnic minorities gain access to basic rights including education, health services and land ownership. The project will conduct the most extensive study ever undertaken in Thailand of the relationship between birth registration, legal status and access to social services. The study includes 12,916 highland households in 188 villages in the northern region of Thailand – Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai and Ma Hong-Son provinces. This survey will enable the government and UNESCO to understand better the problems of registering births in these often remote communities and more effectively develop and target their interventions. Follow up activities will include promoting the importance of birth and citizenship registration through the production and broadcast of 80 short radio programmes in 8 ethnic minority languages.



Akha baby ceremony

Natural Resource Management

Brazil

Amazon Sustainable Development Reserve of Cujubim

“I dream of the forest being preserved, because it is forest that gives us rubber and food.” Pedro Mulato, Cujubim resident

The Cujubim Reserve is the world’s largest protected area for sustainable development covering 5.9 million acres of the Brazilian state of Amazonas. Conservation International (CI) is running this £27,460 project with support from both the Amazonas State Government and the Municipality of Jutai. It is helping to empower the local community by providing technical skills for environmental management and sustainable

use of forest and freshwater resources. This will lead to a rise in living standards and in turn reduce the damage to the reserve’s rich fauna and flora caused by indiscriminate logging. Support from CI-Brasil has enabled the legalisation of the Association of Extractivists of the Reserve of Cujubim, an important step towards establishing sustainable business practices. A local community education programme covers issues such as environmental conservation, public health, sustainable use of forest resources and the development of viable small businesses, all of which will ensure long-term impact. This project will serve as a model for other protected areas in the region.



Small communities engaged in managing their own resources

South East Asia

Regional CITES collaboration: ASEAN regional action plan

This £16,426 project was run by TRAFFIC South-East Asia to promote regional collaboration between ASEAN member countries on implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). It facilitated the development of the ASEAN Regional Action Plan on Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora for 2005-10, which was endorsed at the meeting of ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry in September 2005. The action plan catalysed the establishment of the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network, which has brought a new consensus between CITES, customs and police jurisdictions on combating illegal and unsustainable wildlife trade among ASEAN countries. It has also linked this effort with the major consumer regions of the world including east Asia, the USA and the EU. The Programme is now funding a 2-year £96,600 project focusing on increased research, monitoring and information exchange on CITES-related issues under objective 3 of the action plan.

in northern Vietnam, Cat Ba Island is the largest of the 366-island Cat Ba archipelago. Dotted with innumerable beaches and grottoes the island boasts the 16,000-hectare Cat Ba National Park recognised by UNESCO as a World Biosphere Reserve. The £22,823 two-year project is being run by Fauna and Flora International to pilot an eco-certification scheme with hotels in Cat Ba town. This will raise awareness of the opportunities provided by sustainable tourism and demonstrate that sustainable tourism practices can provide higher-yield, lower-impact benefits. Hotel owners in Cat Ba have begun to realise the benefits of eco-certification standards from reduced water and electricity use to new marketing opportunities. Villagers and leaders have come to understand that lower-impact, community-based tourism is more beneficial when the revenue generated goes to residents. The success of the pilot will serve as a model for alternative, more sustainable development on Cat Ba Island and across Vietnam.

Vietnam

Sustainable tourism certification on Cat Ba Island

Vietnam is in the midst of a tourism boom and while this brings economic growth to coastal communities many of the negative impacts, both environmental and cultural, can be seen on Cat Ba Island. Around 60km east of Hai Phong City

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