



THIS WORKING PAPER ON POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH IS ONE OF A SERIES OF 10 PAPERS PUBLISHED ALONGSIDE DFID'S RESEARCH STRATEGY 2008-2013. IT PRESENTS THE CASE FOR DFID-FUNDED RESEARCH ON POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND RENEWABLE NATURAL RESOURCES – DRAWING ON THE RESPONSES GIVEN DURING A GLOBAL CONSULTATION THAT DFID CONVENED IN 2007 ABOUT ITS FUTURE RESEARCH.

The purpose of the Working Papers is two fold: to record the key issues raised during the consultation; and to spell out DFID's decisions on new directions, as informed by the consultation. As such, they constitute an important part of the feedback process, and provide an opportunity to clearly articulate DFID's strategic response to the consultations and to other global drivers of research. They also provide guidance to those implementing DFID's research strategy in the future.

Each Working Paper reviews the current state of DFID's research on a given theme, highlights the key questions asked during the consultation process, and documents the main feedback received. The Papers then tease out the implications of the consultation findings on DFID's work, and end by spelling out DFID's future directions on each priority theme. Where possible, each Paper makes clear how DFID has drawn upon the consultation responses to shape its plans.

Other titles in the series are: Economic Growth, including Infrastructure; Climate Change; Better Health: Education; Sustainable Agriculture and Renewable Natural Resources; Stimulating Demand for Research; Research Communication; Capacity Building; and Mainstreaming Gender in Research. Note that issues which are not directly addressed under this paper may appear in others (for example the impact of agriculture on climate change is largely addressed in the paper on Agriculture).

More information on DFID funded research can be found on the website www.Research4Development.info. This also offers the facility to sign up for e-mail alerts covering different sectors.

SUMMARY

Research into social development, governance and political science is about people, power and authority and relationships between citizens' social structures and the state. It is also about how people manage their own affairs as well as how organisations and institutions function. To date DFID's research in this area has focused on the multi-dimensional nature of poverty and the processes of institutional and social change, and in particular on what to do where states do not work in the interests of the poor, covering issues of citizenship, crisis states, state building and human insecurity.

This work is complemented by DFID's governance and social change research which investigates a range of cross country and cross-cultural themes where knowledge gaps about rights and inequalities exist. Most programmes are implemented through support to Development Research Centres and Research Programme Consortia. Spending on social development, governance and political science research amounted to £12 million in 2006/7 and this will rise to £15 million in 2007/8.

Better social policy can lead to higher standards of living and faster poverty reduction. However, while the quality of social policy has improved over the last two decades global standards have remained stagnant, highlighting the urgent need for more determined action. Key social policy challenges remain, among them poverty, child and maternal mortality; gender inequality and other forms of social exclusion; and changing population dynamics.

In response to these challenges, and informed by the consultation process, DFID's future research in this domain will seek to gain a fuller and deeper understanding about the complex and dynamic world of power, politics and poverty on the one hand, and people and participation on the other. It will focus on the most challenging environments where DFID works and the most intractable development problems that poor countries face.

Four broad research themes will be tackled: Conflict, state fragility and social cohesion – achieving effective and long-term improvements in the accountability of governments and states in fragile and post-conflict environments; Social exclusion, inequality and poverty reduction – including a better understanding of the role of social exclusion and inequality in determining the relationship between growth, employment and poverty; Building strong and effective states – cross-country policy research on different forms of state accountability, public financial management, power, politics and state society relations, and alternative, non-Western models of governance; and Hardest-to-reach MDGs – a new programme of multi-country research focusing specifically on the “hardest to reach” development questions: water, sanitation, education, health, hunger.

WHERE WE ARE NOW

1. Research into social and political science is about people, power and authority and relationships between citizens' social structures and the state. It is also about how people manage their own affairs as well as how organisations and institutions function. To date our research in this area has focused on improving our understanding of the multi-dimensional nature of poverty and the processes of institutional and social change which may help or hinder development efforts.
2. In particular, our research has focussed on what to do *where states do not work in the interests of the poor*. Research in this area covers issues of citizenship, crisis states, state building and human insecurity, with a focus on how to tackle conflict and instability, and how to address poverty reduction in the context of achieving the MDGs.
3. This work is complemented by our portfolio of governance and social change research which investigates a range of cross country and cross-cultural themes where there are significant gaps in international development knowledge about rights and inequalities. Programmes include longitudinal research exploring the nature of childhood poverty, migration, barriers to policy-makers tackling chronic poverty and effective strategies for women's empowerment.

4. The majority of DFID's social development, governance and political science research programmes are implemented through support to Development Research Centres (DRCs) and Research Programme Consortia (RPCs). These programmes typically run over 5 years, with an integrated approach to addressing demand and building capacity of southern partners. DFID currently supports 12 RPCs/DRCs with the aim of generating research programmes that will inform the international community as it acts to eradicate poverty. The following broad areas are covered:
 - Women's empowerment and rights
 - State building, accountability, citizenship and participation
 - Conflict, state collapse and reconstruction
 - Migration, globalisation and poverty
 - Inequalities, human security and ethnicity
 - Power, politics and the State
 - The Social impacts of Chronic poverty
 - The role of religion in development
 - The role of Citizenship, Participation and Accountability in State and non-State institutions
 - Climate Change Adaptation
 - Improving institutions for pro-poor growth
5. DFID is also funding a joint programme with the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). This £13 million joint research grants scheme has been important in supporting the role of inter-disciplinary research through international research collaborations related to economic development and quality of life in less developed countries with the potential for impact on policy and practice for poverty reduction. DFID also supports the UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) and the International Council on Human Rights Policy.
6. In addition, DFID is also supporting *Young Lives*, a longitudinal research project on childhood poverty that tracks the lives of children born in 2000 through to 2015 and investigates the changing nature of childhood poverty in four developing countries (Ethiopia, India, Vietnam and Peru).
7. Central research spending on social development, governance and political science research amounted to £12 million in 2006/7 and this will rise to £15 million in 2007/8.

WHAT THE CONSULTATION ASKED

8. The consultation asked how DFID could improve research into good governance, including social and policy design areas. We noted that there is only patchy evidence about how development works in fragile and post-conflict states, that more understanding is needed of DFID partner countries' concerns in order to improve responses to demands for research, and that more emphasis on policy research would help partner countries to design and implement context specific policy solutions. We asked what key issues should be the focus of research under this area, what trends are most likely to affect this area in the future, and what the crucial aid effectiveness questions are that DFID research should consider.

WHAT WE HEARD

9. DFID's Research Strategy consultation process was extensive, and included 149 Research Strategy (RS) E-Consultation responses, significant levels of internal DFID staff consultation and country consultations in Bangladesh, India, Uganda, Ethiopia, Nigeria, South Africa and China (with an average of 100 participants in each country)ⁱ. In addition, a specific Euforicⁱⁱ E-Consultation for outreach in the South was launched in the form of a blog and d-group established to support contributions to the wider consultation.
10. In the RS E-Consultations (149 responses), four major categories of response emerged to this specific question: (i) the need for good governance (n=47); the management of decentralisation (n=49); service delivery (n=25) and social policy (n=13). With regard to the governance responses, there was an emphasis on researching lessons learned to inform development interventions, with a number of respondents also citing a need to define **governance** per se in order to enhance future work in this area. Those who cited the need for more research on managing **decentralisation** emphasised the need for grass-roots participation and to explore the interactions between central government and key stakeholders (development agencies, NGOs, the media, the private sector, regional government and so on). One respondent particularly emphasised the need for research on community courts and the roles and interactions between different ethnic, cultural, religious and tribal groups. Most responses regarding **service delivery** highlighted the need for good communication between the various levels of society and external agencies operating in various countries, with several pointing out the links between service delivery and capacity building. With regard to social policy the responses were extremely diverse but a common theme was the need to ensure the involvement of disenfranchised groups, including women, children, youth, culturally marginalised groups and disabled people.

ⁱ In addition to country reports, synthesis reports were also compiled for Africa and Asia

ⁱⁱ Europe's Forum on International Cooperation

11. In the Euforic E-Consultations a lot of emphasis was placed across the board on the local context and the involvement of local stakeholders in all areas of research – whether it be development of new technologies and the importance of indigenous practices, knowledge and technologies; the behaviour of beneficiaries, their incentives and belief systems with regard to health, agriculture, education and climate change; building local capacity to improve economic opportunities and growth; or generally to understand local perspectives and contexts to improve research.

It has become apparent that Africa's economic development will not happen without grass-root involvement of stakeholders in the research process owing to the enormous diversity of peoples, cultures and environments on the continent. Euforic E-Consultation Respondent.

12. Country workshop respondents also heavily emphasised the importance of the local context and the involvement of local stakeholders in research. Much emphasise was placed on the need to give voice to the poor in tackling poverty given that, in the words of a South Africa workshop participant "the poor do not have voice and their proxies have no power".
13. The Euforic E-Consultations responses on good governance and social research also centred on context and the need to improve governance models related to specific situations in specific contexts in order to build up from such experience. In addition, there was an emphasis on the need for developing criteria and indicators of good governance to measure effectiveness; to define the role of government vis-à-vis the private sector; to take on board the fact that land management and reform (highly contentious in many parts of the world) is a governance issue (also highlighted in the South Africa consultation); and to think about governance issues in relation to development partners and where their interventions might strengthen or weaken national governance structures.
14. Although social development and governance research was raised as a specific area of discussion in the consultation process, as noted in the previous paragraph, social development and governance issues permeated the whole range of consultation responses in both the RS E-consultations and the country consultations. This underlined the centrality and cross cutting nature of governance and social development to poverty reduction.
15. Many respondents felt that governance and social development issues need to be explored within sectors, as the following examples illustrate:

Agriculture: There are critical governance aspects in all four of DFID's major research foci. In agriculture the regimes governing international trade and Sanitary and Phylo-Sanitary regulations as well as the various national policies governing land and water rights, irrigation systems, etc. all are critical. Under-researched are the ways in which the international regimes could be made more effective for poor countries and the politics of the policy processes through which national reform can be achieved. E-Consultation respondents.

Health: In health the ways in which a country's private and public institutional structures combine determine the ability of the society to deliver quality services and meet public health priorities. The complex interactions between these structures differ substantially in Africa, China and South Asia in surprising and still imperfectly understood ways. E-Consultation respondents.

Agriculture: Most of the agricultural technologies are tested against biological factors such as yield and resistance but they are not tested on the social elements of farmer preference... Ultimately, it is the social factors that determine whether farmers adopt the technology or not. Uganda Consultation Workshop Participant.

16. Other respondents emphasised the need to ensure that our research should explicitly take on a multidisciplinary methodological approach:

What is/can be the role for interdisciplinary research, e.g. exploring the interconnection between economic growth, health, education, sustainable livelihoods and good governance... these things do not exist in separate boxes as Gordon Brown's speech to the UN in July recognises. Ensure that research on these themes [viz. DFID's research themes] sits within a multidisciplinary research context that enables it to benefit from a broad approach to the challenges / solutions E-Consultation respondent.

17. This view was echoed particularly in country level consultations. For example, Bangladesh and Uganda highlighted the need to research the cross-cutting dimensions of health and agriculture, health and the environment, agriculture and governance and so on.
18. Overall, the consultation responses emphasised that DFID is largely working on issues of fundamental importance to poverty reduction and development through our work on **where states don't work for the poor**. South Africa workshop respondents cautioned however that 'making governance work for the poor' is an objective that needs to be grounded in the cycle and processes of public resource management, indicating research issues across the legislative arena, implementation processes and social auditing. Most consultation responses emphasised that whilst all the areas are considered pertinent to our development agenda, we need more research to improve our understanding of the underlying reasons for state failure and state fragility and to improve the effectiveness of working on improving governance in fragile states. A number of respondents emphasised the importance of better understanding the role of young people living in fragile areas and the dynamics of young people's involvement in governance and conflict issues; as well as in the labour market with links to economic growth as well as social inclusion. Overall, there was a broad-based emphasis on the need for research to be located in the local context to ground research issues and improve research integrity; and also on wide-spread stakeholder participation to respond to perceived needs, build capacity and improve research into use potential.

GLOBAL RESEARCH

19. At a global level, there was a strong view that governance and social development research could provide opportunities for shared learning across different countries, with some placing emphasis on the need for DFID's research focus to expand beyond national borders given that a great many of the determinants of the developmental behaviour of poor countries are international. However, whereas Euforic E-Consultation respondents specifically highlighted regional cross-learning in research through regional networks, citing the benefit of regional research to address regional/global problems, and increasing the potential for getting research into use, others were more cautious. For example, in South Africa whilst some workshop respondents felt that it was important to undertake research at the regional level others were more sceptical about the role and competence of sub-regional bodies to deliver; and yet others believed that DFID is not good at regional approaches despite evidence cited by participants achieving economies of scale through regional research. Across Nigeria, Uganda, Ethiopia and South Africa there was a clear emphasis and interest in the importance of national research agendas and the need for donors to support demand-led research.
20. A number of respondents specifically suggested the need for DFID to approach research from more regional and global analytical perspectives. In particular, numerous respondents highlighted the increased economic power of China and India, especially regarding their political ambitions and the consequent implications for global development, including the effects of trade on poverty, the potential inclusion of China and India and the G8 with regard to the climate change agenda, and the social and political implications for the South overall.

There is continued spread of globalisation into all reaches of life, with increased concentration of power held by centres of global capital – as yet unmatched by effective global institutions to balance financial against broader social and environmental returns. Rapid urbanisation also presents new political challenges. The world is undergoing a shift in geo-politics in front of our eyes, with the enormous economic growth of India and China starting to be matched by political interests and strategies which will generate a much more multi-polar system, and a shift in development models and assumptions.

If DFID wants its research to deliver change, then it needs a clearer sense of how and why change happens, how more change can be pro-poor, what limited contribution research can make to such processes, and what other factors can help construct a more progressive way forward E-Consultation respondent.

21. In China workshop participants specifically noted the need for research into China's impact on African agriculture and rural development. They noted the numerous programmes in China that seek to transfer Chinese research outputs to Africa, raising the need for more research on if and how such research is put into use.

22. Respondents also saw the need for social development and governance research at various levels ranging from community grass roots to global architecture. For example, one respondent called for research at grass roots level in order to examine how poor people, particularly the marginalised rural poor, perceive, respond to and use government, and how different actors in government view their roles.

FRAGILE STATES AND CONFLICT

23. There were many responses on the issue of fragile states, given the current Research Strategy focus on this area. These responses reflected both internal and external consultation respondents' concerns with the need to carry out more research to improve understanding of the causes, impacts and cures of state fragility.

Research also already has begun on rebuilding fragile and collapsed states. But it is new and needs to be expanded. E-Consultation respondent.

24. Some respondents wanted more research on the links between conflict and state fragility. In referring to work across governance, social and policy research one respondent emphasised the need for understanding what has worked and what has not:

In each of these areas, there is a need for careful empirical work on what has been successful and what has not - including on governance in fragile states and decentralisation. This includes the need for a careful empirical assessment of recent post-conflict policies and their contribution to conflict prevention as well as recovery, learning from failures as well as successes. Critical issues are ensuring fair distribution of political power and economic resources among groups. E-Consultation respondent.

25. Emphasis was also placed on the need to research resource scarcity and resource richness as a driver of state fragility, social exclusion, social cohesion and conflict, with the need to better understand the socio-economic, political and governance issues associated with these factors:

Resource scarcity and resource riches are both likely to contribute to increasing fragility. Resource scarcity - associated with climate change and problems of access to water and rain-fed agricultural land will increase pressure on such resources, and is likely to lead to group conflict - as is already evident, e.g., in Darfur. At the same time, as countries discover new oil reserves and as the value rises, this will contribute to new sources of horizontal inequality and may lead to conflict. Consequently, research on how to prevent both these eventualities will be needed. E-Consultation respondent.

26. DFID internal consultations highlighted the need for research on better ways to support the strengthening of state institutions, the role of the private sector, civil society, public administration, service delivery, state-society relations and the social contract, public financial management systems, public institutions etc. This was echoed in country consultation responses, especially by a participant from Uganda, commenting on democracy:

What is clear is that elections in themselves cannot guarantee democracy in the absence of responsible leadership, demonstrated respect of and for constitutionalism and the presence of a vibrant civil society that can mobilise masses on issues of appreciating and demanding accountability from the state, and the wider public, private and not for profit sectors.
Uganda Consultation Workshop Participant.

27. Some respondents wanted to see links made with how social protection could be delivered in the context of fragile states, whilst others wanted research to more explicitly explore the links between social exclusion and inequality within fragile states, drawing out implications for appropriate interventions. (Internal respondents, Social Development cadre).
28. There were also demands from parts of DFID that CRD should explore options for a research programme that examines the long-term factors and responses that have contributed to stabilising and rebuilding fragile states. (Internal respondents, Governance cadre).
29. There was a clear demand for a better understanding of the post conflict states, particularly in assessing options for reconstruction. One respondent emphasised the importance of ensuring effective support for change towards good governance and greater understanding of the fundamental and underlying reasons for state failure/ fragility and cultures of self-interested governance.

This might include, for example, research on the relationships (causal or otherwise) between governance and conflicts over natural resources, or between governance and the predominance of non-viable livelihoods in resource-poor regions. The issues set out in the consultation paper are all pertinent. But as well as an understanding of context and policy options, research is necessary to improve the effectiveness of working in situations of poor governance or fragile states. Which approaches and tools work best in these circumstances? At the same time, DFID needs to guard against devoting too much attention to the specific conditions of Iraq and Afghanistan. The role of young people living in fragile areas is often overlooked, and their involvement (or otherwise) in local governance and conflict issues. Another over-looked area is governance in resource-rich countries (oil, other commodities) and how the interaction between government, development agencies and the private sector can be fostered to bring about pro-poor development. E-Consultation respondent.

30. DFID internal consultations raised a number of issues around research on conflict. More research was requested on the causes of violence, conflict and fragility; and the factors contributing to improvement or deterioration in the rule of law and access to justice where DFID is not funding any significant research in this field. Meanwhile, Euforic E-Consultation respondents highlighted faith differences and major conflicts surrounding faith, which illustrate the need to “understand better how faith interacts with the development curriculum”.

GROWTH, POVERTY REDUCTION AND GOVERNANCE

31. Specific emphasis was placed by Governance cadre internal respondents on the need to better understand the importance of governance to growth

We need a better understanding of what governance conditions are essential for growth in different country contexts and how these are generated through political processes. Hitherto development agencies have assumed that the transfer of OECD models of governance will bring about growth in poor countries. However experience has shown that not only do institutions ‘not travel well’ but also that that improvements in governance may be a result as well as a cause of economic development. Historical and comparative work is needed to identify what encourages the political and economic elites to seek sustained economic growth in developing country contexts. Internal Respondent, Governance cadre.

32. External respondents were also concerned about how growth relates to poverty reduction and governance.

Distributional issues are critical. I would add how different strategies affect distribution across groups, across income classes and across gender. E-Consultation respondent.

33. Bangladesh workshop participants highlighted the cross-dimensional research required on growth, for example, the relationship between governance and growth, migration and growth, agriculture and growth. Euforic E-Consultation respondents noted the acute need for research on alternative energies as the exhaustion of fossil fuels increases the impact of negative impact on growth in poor countries. South Africa workshop participants highlighted the need for DFID to maintain in-depth research into the complex nature of poverty as a priority in order to better influence policy.

34. Broader analysis of the RS E-Consultation responses highlighted the need for bottom-up approaches to ensure farmers' participation in research, and subsequent benefit; and the use of different research approaches such as economic, action and social research to improve the returns on research, with one respondent emphasising the need for research on the determinants of poverty so that collective action and social organisation could be better tailored. South Africa workshop respondents were concerned about the need to understand Aid for Trade and World Trade Organisation processes in relation to growth; and also cautioned against assuming that growth leads to poverty reduction:

An important aspect to keep sight of is that growth per se does not lead to poverty reduction. The poor must become productive forces of growth. Issues of inequality must be addressed in the first stages of growth. South Africa workshop respondent.

35. Agriculture was specified as a key sector for growth by RS and Euforic E-Consultation respondents and in the country consultation workshops. Bangladesh, Nigeria, Ethiopia and South Africa specifically cited agriculture as a sector for research to improve growth. One RS E-Consultation respondent thought it critical to the future of Africa:

The interconnectedness of agriculture and other sectors is not always appreciated by analysts and policy-makers who take an 'agriculture sector' view rather than a 'livelihoods' view of rural Africa, but these relationships are fundamental. Is agriculture to be the source of economic opportunity and growth, or does the pathway out of African poverty lie in strengthening the linkages between farming and other livelihood activities? In other words, will poverty reduction be achieved through substantial improvements in agricultural yields and returns to labour, or through diversifying into more lucrative sectors so that agriculture becomes a residual sector? Or is a two-pronged strategy more appropriate? E-Consultation respondent.

36. In Bangladesh, Nigeria, and Ethiopia there was concern about the need to better understand mechanisms and interventions to tackle problems of corruption.

SOCIAL EXCLUSION

37. *Social exclusion* was explicitly raised as a cross-cutting issue by DFID's social development cadre, and implicitly in the country consultations and RS E-Consultation responses. Whilst social development advisers specified the need for more data on the interface between equity, social exclusion and growth in order to improve interventions aimed at reducing poverty and inequality, RS E-Consultation respondents raised issues of (i) how to undertake capacity building to ensure that young and disenfranchised groups were provided with labour opportunities; (ii) how to support the inclusion of disenfranchised groups (women, youth, ethnic minorities, disabled people) in policy development; (iii) how to take account of local knowledge and belief systems in health systems development; and (iv) how to address cultural beliefs and norms in climate adaptation strategies. The Euforic E-Consultation also alluded to the frustration of trained professionals in the South perturbed by donor policies that have the unintended effect of overemphasising reliance on foreign technical experts at the expense of trained nationals; as did the South Africa workshop respondents who called for the 'democratisation' of research processes to foster *"real empowerment of and participation by research partners and the wider stakeholders from the South"*. However, the same respondents did note the fundamental importance of North/South partnerships.
38. In addition to the above, several of DFID's social development advisers raised the need for more research on the issue of social stigma, discrimination and HIV/AIDS with reference to the factors that influence people's behaviour and (lack of) choices; and on the dynamics between disability and poverty, especially with regard to how disability can be integrated as a cross-cutting issue in poverty analyses to foster and support evidence based policy. Concerns with better understanding the socio-cultural influences on the spread of HIV/AIDS and on the social impacts upon people living with HIV/AIDS was also highlighted by Uganda and by Euforic E-Consultation respondents. The latter highlighted the need for participatory community oriented interventions as crucial to address the spread of HIV/AIDS; and also the need to address equity and access to healthcare for people with disabilities. South Africa workshop participants specified research needs around the intersection of gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS.
39. At the country level South Africa, Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Uganda called for research on gender and power relations to improve the ways in which societies can be empowered to pursue their rights and demand accountability from state actors. In Bangladesh participants were specifically concerned about why people's organisations have all but disappeared; and how to increase the number of women in decision-making processes with one participant specifically asking for research on the costs of gender discrimination. In India participants emphasised the need for research on growth and poverty reduction. In Nigeria education and mobilisation of civil society (including the media) and the private sector was raised as a potential driver to engage more with the public sphere in so far as public policy, governance, democracy and development are concerned as a way to combat the exclusion of sectors of the population. Overall, there is a pressing need for more data on the interface between equity, social exclusion and growth.

40. India consultation workshop participants stressed the need for research that addresses inequality, with more emphasis on better understanding what works and what does not to reduce inequalities, especially related to tribal peoples, marginalised groups (including landless and informal workers), People Living with HIV/AIDS, disabled people, and so on. Participants were also particularly keen for research to address processes and policies that lead to greater inequality including globalisation, special economic zones, industrialisation and forestry legislation.
41. One particular consortium of RS E-Consultation respondents also highlighted the need for research on youth and children's rights issues to empower them and to facilitate pathways out of poverty. In Nigeria, Euforic E-Consultation respondents specifically focussed on the need to attract youth into agriculture as a way of providing opportunities for employment and enhancing prospects for sustainable agricultural development. In general youth and children's issues were seen as cutting across the development spectrum, with an emphasis on access to rights.

Research is needed to help formulate and implement national policies and action plans on youth empowerment and to mainstream a youth perspective in all relevant policy areas.

Although research and communication on child rights and child-led research is acknowledged as having a vital role to play in eradicating child poverty, improving children's status and protecting children's rights, it remains under funded internationally. E-Consultation Respondents.

Euforic E-Consultation respondents specifically cited gender as an important development issue for countries in the South in general whilst highlighting maternal mortality and human trafficking as two key problem areas. South Africa and Bangladesh also cited maternal mortality as a priority area for research, especially with regard to getting existing research into use.

SOCIAL PROTECTION

42. *Social protection* was another key thematic research area raised by respondents commenting across the range of DFID's current research portfolio. Social protection mechanisms were cited as options to help poor and especially vulnerable people increase their immediate social development prospects through interventions to help them both cope with and reduce vulnerability to shocks whether macro-economic, agricultural, environmental or health-related. South Africa specified the need for research into rural safety-nets that assist the poorest, looking at how such safety-nets work at the community level and how best to target and promote them in future. Social protection interventions were also considered as potential mechanisms to support equitable growth through facilitating social development and economic opportunities (income, livelihood options, education and health).

The annual 'hungry season' that confronts millions of smallholder families across Africa and South Asia every year is an under-reported food, livelihoods and health crisis that receives too little policy attention. How can agricultural policies and social protection interventions in rural areas be better focused on addressing the specific vulnerabilities that are presented by seasonality in agricultural production, household income and consumption, and disease vectors? E-Consultant respondent.

43. Overall, respondents saw a need for more evidence to improve understanding of what works and what doesn't in different socio-economic circumstances so that lessons can be applied to future social protection interventions.

CLIMATE CHANGE

44. Climate change was overwhelmingly cited in the country consultations and by DFID Social Development and Governance Advisors as a cross cutting issue relevant, in terms of impact, to all of our current research topics; and as an area where more research on social development and governance factors is needed in order to better analyse aspects of both climate adaptation and mitigation vis-à-vis poverty reduction and equity issues.

Climate change has enormous implications for equity, vulnerability, power and relationships between different social groups. There are important intergenerational and wealth dimensions to the equity issues involved (climate change is triggered by rich countries now; but the main costs will be inflicted on yet-to-be-born generations in poor countries). While the economic impact has been studied (the Stern Report), to date there has been little research which helps us to frame the social policy implications. Internal Consultation Respondent, Social Development cadre.

45. Country respondents repeatedly cited the cross-cutting dimensions of climate change viz. impacts upon health, education, agriculture and livelihoods, bio-diversity and ecosystems, migration and demographic changes, growth, social inequality, and national and international governance frameworks. South Africa specifically raised the spectre of climate change driving the increased scarcity of water resources and the need to improve water security through local innovations. A common theme was the need to better understand the impacts of climate change on poverty, with one Bangladeshi NGO (BRAC) citing the need to better understand how climate change will impact upon development interventions, whilst Nigeria highlighted the need for research into indigenous adaptation methods.

46. We also heard concerns that climate change modelling was a global instrument that needed to be extended to national and local modelling in order to better prepare context specific risk and adaptation strategies. Several respondents linked the need to improve our understanding of and response to climate change impacts upon poor people to existing work on disaster risk reduction (DRR), researching local responses and knowledge to better understand how poor people are currently adapting to adverse weather events and synthesising that knowledge to scale up potential responses (Bangladesh workshop participants and Euforic E-Consultation Respondents).
47. Some respondents also referred to the global governance issues surrounding climate change, especially with regard to weak property rights, the role of conflict as cause and effect of deforestation, desertification and forced migration. Internal respondents (DFID Sustainable Development Group) also specified the need to better understand international regimes for environmental governance and how these impact at national and local levels and specifically to consider what the governance incentives are to protect the environment and listen to the voices of the poor.

To deal with the challenge of climate change, new governance structures will have to be created. To date the focus of climate advocacy has been on striking a new 'global deal' but just how societies set about the task of reforming their policies and implementing them in the end will be even more critical. The politics of policy reform and implementation on climate in developing countries is only beginning to be researched E-Consultation respondents.

MIGRATION

48. The fact that both internal and external migration is taking place globally on unprecedented scales, driven by globalisation and likely to be further fuelled by climate change impacts, was emphasised by many respondents. This was a particularly important issue amongst Bangladeshi respondents where coastal erosion is resulting in internal migration whilst economic factors are seen to be related to both internal and international migration. Migration was brought up as a key issue in all the Bangladesh country consultation workshops (agriculture, health, climate change, social and governance issues, cross-cutting and senior stakeholders). Both research capacity building and socio-economic development were seen to be severely challenged by the continual brain drain of the best and brightest minds (also highlighted in the Euforic E-Consultation). There is a need to understand the drivers that make poor people migrate, what the benefits of migration are and how these relate to adaptive responses to shocks of various kinds, and also what the social and economic costs and benefits might be to both host communities and source communities. The need to better understand the gender dimensions of migration was specifically raised by several RS E-Consultation respondents.

49. Internal respondents (DFID Migration Team and Social Development cadre) highlighted the need for research on the poverty dynamics of internal, external and circular migration on poor communities, understanding the impacts of Diaspora on host and source countries, and understanding the drivers of migration, as well as understanding the links between climate change and migration.

EDUCATION

50. Education was highlighted as a cross-cutting research issue, and interestingly in both Bangladesh and Nigeria, and in a number of RS E-Consultation responses, the need to better understand education as a factor of good governance and prevalence of corruption was raised. Education was also seen as critical to economic growth. For example, Nigeria and Uganda stressed the importance of education as a key driver of growth whereas Ethiopia saw education for women as crucial to combat gender-based exclusion from labour market participation.

Any society that is educated will have an impact on the economy as it provides a knowledgeable society that can manage its resources. Uganda Consultation Workshop Participant.

AID EFFECTIVENESS

51. A number of RS and Euforic E-Consultation respondents, as well as those at the country level (Bangladesh and Nigeria), perceived a need to address a mismatch between donor and government priorities. In Nigeria participants felt that donor funding for research was donor-driven, reflecting donor interests in global trends that are then imposed at the country level. In South Africa respondents emphasised the need for DFID and other research funders to align research priorities with the National Strategic Plan and to national research programmes and policy.

In terms of aid effectiveness, research needs to be done on the attempts by donors to harmonize with each other, and align with country processes. For example, what are the barriers for donors to create pooled funding mechanisms and to support national health policies? How successful are various health system strengthening initiatives in terms of alignment with country policies? How does the transitional funding gap (which occurs when donors shift from humanitarian to developmental aid) affect health system development and health outcomes? And finally, how can the problem of aid orphans and aid darlings be overcome, so that aid is better matched to need? E-Consultation respondent.

52. Others went on to call for more research on some of the current donor practices and mechanisms for providing aid.

There is an increasing worry that ODA in its present form is distorting incentives in many poor countries in an anti-developmental manner. The need for ODA at its present volume is unlikely to diminish in the near term, but more research is urgently needed on methods for its delivery that would undo these negative effects. E-Consultation respondent.

NEW THEMES SUGGESTED

53. A number of new themes were suggested for social development and governance research, beyond those noted above: These include (i) trans-national social identities and global development (looking at the transformative impacts of Diaspora communities on social, economic and political development); (ii) international trade, economic growth and poverty reduction; looking beyond income-based definitions of poverty to capture wider dimensions of poverty; (iii) the challenges of increasing urbanisation and population dynamics, including implications for health and disease, growth, labour markets and pollution.

IMPLICATIONS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

54. Political and social science research will remain a central feature of CRD's research programme in two ways: (i) systematically, through ensuring that these areas are addressed across DFID's research portfolio – for example in health, education, environment and agriculture where social science perspectives are central to understanding why and how social and political systems and behaviours work; and (ii) specifically through discrete research programmes that deepen our understanding of the drivers of social, political and economic development and the implications for poverty reduction. We will build on our current portfolio of RPCs, extending their unique programme management partnerships of southern and northern partners to foster more southern-led research capacity and to increase the likelihood of getting research into use and embedding the results in policy-making processes.
55. DFID will continue to **promote the production and use of research to contribute to poverty reduction and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals**. In the area of the social and political sciences we will design a new programme of work on **Good Governance and Social Inclusion**. Within this programme the following areas are proposed for future work.

(I) BUILDING STRONG AND EFFECTIVE STATES

56. We recognise that governance is crucial to economic and social development and affects all levels of society from the state to the household and the individual. We propose to build on the current governance research areas in an effort to deepen understanding of power, politics and state society relations and how these shape the conditions that promote or hinder positive development outcomes.
57. Some of these issues will be technical, such as the role of sub-national units and the private sector in developing service delivery and the importance of effective public financial management (including taxation and budgeting) in maintaining the social contract between the state and populace. Constitutional issues such as the role of electoral systems, parliaments, media freedom are under-researched; as is the nature of the private sector and issues of national and international private sector governance and accountability.

GLOBAL DRIVERS OF GOVERNANCE

58. How much do we know about what drives good and bad governance processes and what have we learned from many years of development? This is a question that requires further research in order to influence inclusive development processes and especially to inform international and national players working on social, economic and political development at global, national and local levels. The notion of drivers of governance (good and bad) raises a number of issues that cut across the research strategy programme in general but could specifically include questions such as:
- What do we know about perceptions of corruption across the globe and how does corruption augment or detract from economic growth, political processes and social exclusion?
 - What are the factors contributing to improvement or deterioration in the rule of law and access to justice?
 - Why have many of our initiatives to tackle corruption been unsuccessful and how much of this is related to cultural differentiation in concepts of corruption?
 - To what extent does organised crime permeate public and political institutions and what effect does it have on attempts to tackle perceived global problems (e.g. human trafficking and slavery, migration, drug trafficking and so on) and how does organised crime contribute to or detract from growth rates?
 - To what extent are the misuse of primary products and minerals drivers of bad governance, especially corruption, and what are the key challenges in tackling these?
 - Are there any examples of local and indigenous systems surviving and adapting to resist the drivers of bad governance?

- How can the roles of the private sector, civil society and the media strengthen good governance, have an impact upon public administration and management of resources for service deliver?
- What is the impact of the rule of law on empowerment, economic growth and political stability and what are the constraints to accessing the benefits of rules of existing laws (e.g. property rights, land tenure, citizenship rights)?
- What is the role of international pressure groups and the media, including the Internet?

(II) CONFLICT, STATE FRAGILITY AND SOCIAL COHESION

59. We recognise that the nature of evidence on fragile and post conflict states, and the drivers of social cohesion or lack of it, is only patchy and we propose to do more research on how to achieve effective and long-term improvements in the accountability of governments and states in fragile and post-conflict environments. Whilst conflict is a key cause of state fragility, there are a number of other factors which contribute to fragility, requiring evidence-based research that collects the evidence (on for example fragility/poverty linkages) which can strengthen the international responses to fragile and conflict (including pre and post conflict) states. We propose to build on the research we have supported through the Centre for Research on Inequality, Human Security and Ethnicity (CRISE) to help developing countries answer questions such as:

- Why some states remain peaceful whilst others descend into conflict; and what are the foundations of durable peace?
- What are the factors contributing to improvement or deterioration in the rule of law and access to justice?
- What is the role of the security sector in state building and how do governments respond to peoples' demands for improved human security?
- What has and has not worked to strengthen the delivery and sustainability of public services, including the justice and security sectors, together with how this impacts upon wider incentives for social cohesion and political transition?
- The effectiveness of the international architecture (finance, instruments, and organisations) for addressing fragility and implications for reform and programming, with particular reference to achieving greater continuity between humanitarian and development interventions.
- Why do high levels of social exclusion and inequality only lead to conflict and unrest in certain contexts; what role does male identity and unemployment play; and what are the roles of religious identities and cultural values?

- What can we learn by working with Diaspora communities on links between radicalisation, exclusion and development in their countries of origin?
- Are refugees/Internally Displaced Peoples (IDPs) potential agents of change in terms of supporting interventions to develop civil society institutions?
- How can Disaster Risk Reduction be used to prevent conflict, especially taking into account resource scarcity and conservation as a potential DRR and conflict reduction measure and focusing research right to the household level?
- The role of the private sector and/or public-private partnerships in delivering services in fragile/collapsed states, the role of multinationals, and how the challenges in the legal and investment climate in fragile states impinge upon these relationships.

(III) SOCIAL EXCLUSION, INEQUALITY AND POVERTY REDUCTION

60. We recognise the need to better understand the relationship between social exclusion, inequality and growth, and especially to better understand the conditions essential for growth that is inclusive. We need to know what equitable growth would look like especially with regard to potential impacts on poverty reduction. This would include understanding (i) governance conditions essential to equitable and sustainable growth in different contexts and the social and political processes that shape these at national and international levels (e.g. international governance models, national/local voice, politics and social movements, etc); (ii) the relationship between social exclusion, inequality and growth. We will assess our research programmes on chronic poverty and improving institutions for pro-poor growth to determine how to build on our efforts to date and to facilitate understanding of issues such as:

- The economic impact of social exclusionⁱⁱⁱ and inequality, the barriers to economic participation, and how economic empowerment can be achieved.
- Addressing knowledge gaps, for example, the phenomenon of jobless growth.
- How far inequality and social exclusion can explain the relationship between growth, employment and poverty reduction, and why employment returns to growth are diminishing.
- The consequences of macro policies and the circumstances in which they can impinge upon micro approaches to poverty reduction and group equity.

ⁱⁱⁱ Social exclusion describes a process by which certain groups are systematically disadvantaged because they are discriminated against on the basis of their ethnicity, race, religion, sexual orientation, caste, descent, gender, age, disability, HIV status, migrant status or where they live. Discrimination occurs in public institutions, such as the legal system or education and health services, as well as social institutions like the household. DFID, 2005. Reducing Poverty by Tackling Social Exclusion. A DFID Policy Paper.

- Assessment of governance issues (public and private) in resource-rich countries and (i) how these impact upon inclusive development in developing countries; and (ii) how the interaction between government, development agencies and the private sector can be fostered to bring about inclusive development.
- How to include marginalised groups in decision-making processes and how to address the challenges of social inclusion for marginalised and disenfranchised groups.
- How the lack of formal identity (e.g. through birth registration) can impinge upon access to rights and entrench social exclusion.

(See also Economic Growth Working Paper)

SOCIAL PROTECTION

61. We will work with Policy Division to undertake scoping work on social protection to explore the need for comparative analyses of social protection mechanisms on poverty impacts, and links to growth and cost effectiveness vis-à-vis alternative approaches, with a view to expanding our research agenda to cover social protection as a specific research area. This scoping work will also facilitate a consideration of the potential to consider research on social protection within existing thematic research areas such as agriculture, health, education, migration, chronic poverty and so on. Potential areas for future research include:

- The effectiveness of social transfers in breaking inter-generational cycles of chronic poverty.
- The rates of return, impact and affordability of investing in social transfers as compared with other investments; the costs, impact and feasibility of conditional cash transfers compared with unconditional transfers; and the comparative pay-off from other approaches, such as redistribution of land and assets to poor people.
- The impacts of 'demand side' financing initiatives to improve access to basic services, such as health and education through voucher and other payment schemes, and whether these are effective in improving targeted outcomes such as improvements in maternal health and educational attainment.
- The impact of agriculture-linked social protection interventions such as free input distribution, input subsidies and inputs for work.
- Emerging evidence on the effects of social protection mechanisms in particularly vulnerable groups e.g. 0-18 months babies, under fives, the elderly and People Living with HIV/AIDS.

GEO-POLITICS

62. We recognise the importance of Geo-Politics in a rapidly changing economic and political global environment and the uncertain impacts upon poverty reduction and exclusion. We will ensure that such factors are included in our research programmes to deepen our understanding of Geo-Political processes. This will include better understanding the roles of donors, both traditional and non-traditional (e.g Global funds, Arab funds, China); international agencies and multi-national companies; the impact of non-aid international influences; the impact of the BRICS countries; the international regulatory environment^{iv} ; the effectiveness and accountability of regional bodies; aid instruments and development agendas; the impact of global shocks on development; the governance of global public goods; and the international rights agenda.

GENDER

63. We recognise that gender is an essential dynamic that must be factored into research questions and methodology to improve our understanding of the differentiated impacts of development policy and practice upon men and women in order to improve future policy and practice for equitable growth, rights-based development and poverty reduction strategies. We will mainstream gender into all of our research programmes and encourage and build the capacity of our partners to do likewise. **(See Gender Working Paper.)**

DISABILITY

64. We will expand our work on disability through financing a new Disability Programme that will address the opportunities and constraints of mainstreaming disability in development interventions, providing evidence on the dynamics of disability and poverty, and building the research capacity of southern Disabled People's Organisations to undertake effective research in this area.

^{iv} E.g. the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and the Kimberly Process Certification Scheme for rough diamonds

CLIMATE CHANGE

65. Our expanded climate change research will deepen global, regional and national understanding about the social impacts of climate change and facilitate increased choices for our partner governments in responding to adaptation and mitigation possibilities. Future research on climate change is likely to focus on (i) the poverty dimensions of adaptation and mitigation, especially focusing on the causes and consequences of vulnerability and how a rights based framework could facilitate development interventions in these areas; and (ii) understanding optimal governance levels to support both adaptation and mitigation processes at the national level; and understanding the political-economy and international governance of adaptation and mitigation issues at the global level. (See **Climate Change Working Paper.**)

MIGRATION

66. We will assess our current work on migration to determine what else we need to consider in order to better understand the drivers of migration for poor people, and the social and economic costs and benefits of migration. For example, do the benefits gained by highly skilled workers who gain experience working in industrialised developed countries outweigh the loss of such skills for a temporary period in the home countries? What is the contribution to development made by remittances, and can this be enhanced? Potential areas for future research include:

- The drivers that make poor people migrate, e.g. climate change, access to natural resources, increased socio-economic disparities etc., how they contribute to livelihood options, and what the effects of migration are on receiving and exporting local communities.
- The impacts of migration on the countryside (which will be heavily populated for decades to come) in the context of the impacts of rural people's increasing links with the urban economy on agricultural livelihoods and poverty; and the impacts of migration on the social fabric of rural communities.
- The extent of internal migration and its impact on poverty reduction and growth in different country contexts.
- Understanding circular migration and the impact upon the source country to which migrants periodically return (economic and social).
- The impact of migration remittances on investment in rural areas.
- The gender dimensions of migration.
- The impact of Diaspora – whether through remittances, political and economic influence, philanthropic actions and so on.

URBANISATION

67. Urbanisation is a key issue for developing countries and will continue to impact on development efforts for decades to come as urbanisation continues to increase on a global level. Urbanisation is a complex issue that has far reaching implications for social cohesion, state-building, poverty and social exclusion. Research on this issue will take a multi-disciplinary approach given the economic, governance, social and environmental aspects that need to be understood in an increasingly urban world. Potential areas for future research include:

- Understanding the urbanisation process and the implications for economic growth, inequality and poverty, and state building and governance;
- Understanding how key stakeholders can maximise the benefits of urbanisation for growth and poverty reduction, address the challenges of urbanisation and attempt to reduce the costs of urbanisation.
- Understanding the likely impacts of rapid urbanisation on the sustainability of exploitation of natural resources and the implications for both rural and urban livelihoods, and especially with regard to food security.
- Informing spatial planning through local knowledge and participatory development.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND SOUTHERN-LED DEMAND FOR RESEARCH

68. We will establish a programme of capacity building with southern partners, specifically in Africa, providing technical assistance to build research capacity in social and political science areas. We will also use this programme to facilitate southern-led demand for research. (See Capacity Building and Demand Working Papers.)

(IV) HARDEST-TO-REACH MDGS

69. As we move towards 2015 there will be renewed focus on the MDGs and the progress and shortfalls to be expected. We recognise that slow progress towards the MDGs in water, education, health and hunger is often about unrecognised and unresolved governance and social development challenges. We will establish a new programme of cross-country research focusing specifically on the “hardest-to-reach” development questions, adding to the evidence generated from work in more stable environments. In doing so, we will train a social and political science lens on key questions to find new, pragmatic solutions. This research will focus on such questions as education delivery in difficult environments; reaching the most excluded children, in particular girls; and the barriers to achieving the MDGs in water and sanitation and food security and better nutrition.

The Department for International Development (DFID) will spend up to £1 billion on research between 2008-2013. DFID's Research Strategy describes how the money will be used for maximum impact on reducing poverty in developing countries.

This paper is one of ten Working Papers which were produced to accompany the Strategy. Their purpose was twofold: first to record the key issues raised during a global consultation that DFID convened in 2007 about its future research; and second to spell out DFID's decisions on new directions, as informed by the consultation.

Each Working Paper reviews the current state of DFID's research on a given theme, highlights the key questions asked during the consultation process, and documents the main feedback received. The Papers then tease out the implications of the consultation findings on DFID's work, and end by spelling out DFID's future directions on each priority theme. Where possible, each Paper makes clear how DFID has drawn upon the consultation responses to shape its plans.

The full series of Working Papers are: Inclusive Growth, including Infrastructure; Health; Sustainable Agriculture; Climate Change; Education; Political and Social Science Research; Stimulating Demand for Research; Research Communication; Capacity Building; and Mainstreaming Gender in Research.

More information on DFID funded research can be found on the website www.research4development.info. This also offers the facility to sign up for e-mail alerts covering different sectors.

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