



Factsheet

Democratization, State and Civil Society

Partners, Programmatic, Way forward

The Democratization, State and Civil Society Programme (Good Governance) supports the effort of Zambia's civil society to advance governance reform and the poverty reduction processes. To enhance cooperation and coordination between the state and what is commonly referred to as "third sector"; it promotes the establishment of dialogue structures involving state and civil society at national, provincial and district level. The programme is commissioned by the Federal German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).



Objective: First Phase

The objective of the programme for its first phase from November 2005 to September 2009 is stated as: **"Civil society's contribution to the national poverty reduction and other governance reform processes is supported in an accountable manner"**.

Approach

The Good Governance Programme adds to a comprehensive societal consultation process. To achieve this objective the Good Governance Programme seeks close dialogue with its partner organizations; it regards itself as intrinsic part of the negotiation processes between state, civil society and the latter's constituencies. By consulting closely with its partners on critical policy questions, it is well aware of civil society discourse and able to take up vibrant initiatives in a timely manner.

Partners: Government and Civil Society

The official partner on the Zambian side is the **Ministry for Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS)**. Partners at working level are civil society organisations (CSO) and non-governmental organisations (NGO) in particular. During its first phase **core partners** have been five large civil society organisations which are being supported through combi financing arrangements with the **Department for International Development (DFID)** and **Irish Aid: Anti-Voter Apathy Project (AVAP)**, **Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR)**, **CARITAS Zambia**, **Foundation for Democratic Progress (FODEP)** and the **Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR)**.

During this first phase the programme has been engaged with other prominent NGOs on specific initiatives, e.g. National Youth Constitutional Assembly (NYCA), Law and Development Association (LADA), Southern Africa Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (SACCORD), Civil Society Trade Network (CSTNZ), Zambia Land Alliance (ZLA), Non Governmental Organisation Coordinating Council (NGOCC), Economics Association of Zambia (EAZ), Transparency International Zambia (TIZ), Young Women in Action (YWA) and Zambia National Women's Lobby (ZNWL),

Complementing partner is the **German Development Service (DED)** who cooperates with GTZ at the sub-national level. DED experts support the regional network of CSPR in the Western, Southern and North-Western Provinces.

Non-state Actors

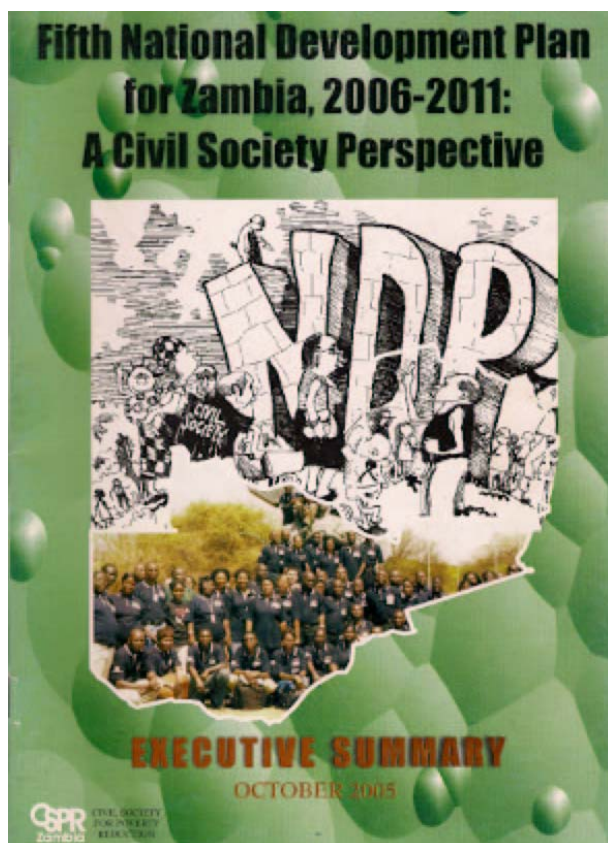
The cooperation with other bilateral partners is based on an information level, except for Irish Aid and DFID, with whom the programme has contractual relationships for combi financing agreements for CSO partners. The programme is engaged with the donor governance working group. The recently created Zambia Governance Fund (ZGF) is a platform where GTZ interacts with bilat-



eral agencies. The Non State Actor's Group, which has a focus on civil society, is jointly chaired by SIDA and GTZ. The programme interacts with the Department of Development Studies of the University of Zambia.

Thematic Priorities

The programme provides support at two levels: i) Advisory and technical as well as financial input on thematic priorities and institutional capacity development and, ii) disseminating experience and good practices in the context of promoting knowledge and use of CSO expertise for national governance reform.



The partnership with civil society organisations focuses on **core governance themes and initiatives**. Support is provided among others for strategic planning, capacity development, management and outreach, training of staff and communities.

Workshops, conferences and position papers address: **Poverty reduction processes; Sector Advisory Groups** in the context of the Joint Assistance Strategy for Zambia; the **parliamentary reform** discourse; education and awareness on **civic rights and obligations; NGO Bill** and regulatory mechanism for CSOs; **debt relief**; debate on the economic association with the European Union; **APRM** process; **HIV/Aids** workplace policy for NGOs; **budget tracking** and monitoring in relation to contributing to and **reviewing and monitoring the Fifth National Development Plan** from its inception 2005 to its mid-term review 2009. Furthermore, **specific initiatives** have been supported such as "legal aid clinics" carried out by the Justice for Widows and Orphans Project or a consultative process for the Paralegal Network (PAN).

Methods

The programme encourages the use of innovative tools to lobby and **advocate for a higher degree of civil society participation** in decision making processes as well as safeguarding civil society's responsibility as watchdog to hold the state accountable. Therefore the programme supports institutional capacity through training, advisory services and counselling processes. The capacity development initiatives may also include institutions outside civil society, such as the parliament for enhanced communication with civil society.

Civil Society Code of Conduct

The INSAKA ("place to meet" in Bemba language) initiative of major Zambian umbrella, network and sector civil society organizations aims at developing a strong and robust civil society response to the NGO Bill, which will be presented to parliament by mid 2009. The initiative will come up with an independent formal CSO position and hence be able to advocate in a united manner for a legal framework, which allows CSOs to work in an enabling environment.

As an alternative to a restrictive NGO legislation, the INSAKA initiative will propose a **code of conduct** for civil society organizations, which takes existing regulations into account and proposes an own regulatory mechanism. The code of conduct will be developed and adhered to by all INSAKA members and hence, represent a convincing alternative to external regulation through the state. The Good Governance Programme counsels this initiative.

Addressing Gender, HIV/Aids and Anti-corruption through Civil Society

In a situation, in which the misappropriation of public funds, the accelerated spread of HIV/Aids and unequal gender relations are regarded as pressing social problems, the Good Governance Programme encourages innovative civil society responses. Mobile legal aid clinics, a campaign for enhanced political participation of women or training for key government partners and donor representatives on the National Anti-Corruption Policy represent examples, which illustrate the mainstreaming approach of the programme.



Consultations: The National Anti-corruption Policy - U4 Anti-Corruption Training Course, June 2009

Supporting Civil Society Participation in the National Poverty Reduction Processes

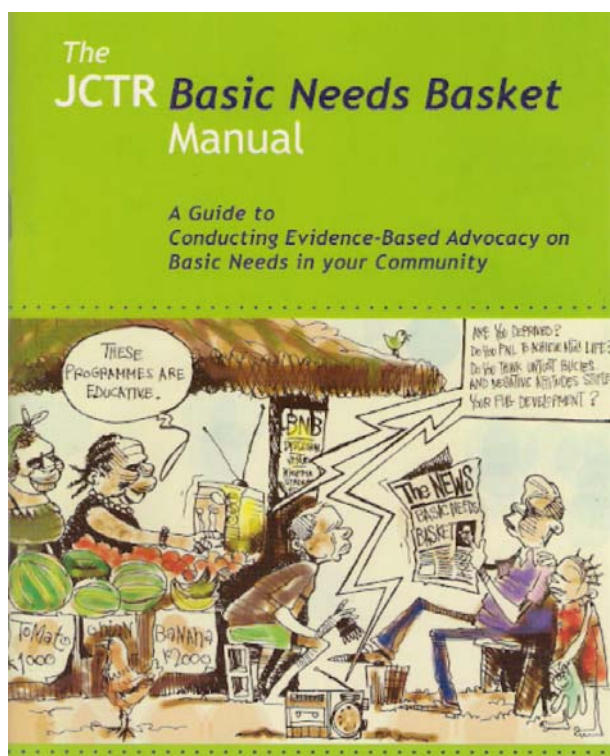
In order to ensure that civil society perspectives are included in national processes, the programme encourages informed exchange and a better representation of

the interests of different population groups in decision making processes, such as in the Sector Advisory Groups (SAGs) or in the review of the Fifth National Development Plan (FNDP).

The Basic Needs Basket

The “Basic Needs Basket”, which is produced by the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection is an example for successful evidence based advocacy. It includes both essential food and non-food items required for an average family of six to acquire a minimum standard of living. **The “Basic Needs Basket” makes poverty measurable.** It provides a tool to address increasing food prices against the average income pattern. It gives evidence about the high prevalence of malnutrition among children and women.

The “Basic Needs Basket” which is updated and issued on a monthly base is widely accepted as a reference and is used by members of parliament in debates on the national budget.



CSOs and Networks Effectively Monitor Governance Reform Processes

Good Governance partner organizations advocate for the **inclusion of cultural, economic and social rights in the constitution.** Though the majority of civil society organizations do not participate in the National Constitutional Conference (NCC), they monitor the processes and take a stand on the discussions in the conference.

By providing capacity development support to networks and encouraging dialogue with the state, the Good Governance Programme promotes Zambian civil society’s contribution to governance reform processes.

In cooperation with the GTZ “Support to Pan African Institutions Programme”, the Good Governance Programme Zambia supports the **Civil Society APRM Se-**

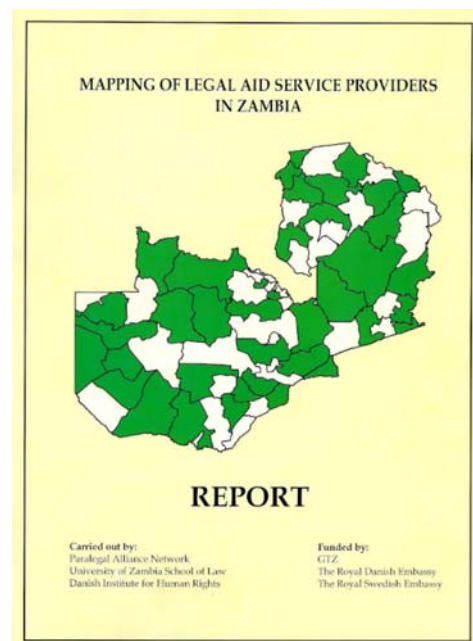
cretariat. The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) is an African initiative developed by the member states of the African Union as an instrument for self-evaluation aimed at national governance systems to identify strengths, weaknesses and proposed remedies. It provides African civil society organizations an opportunity to foster the adoption of policies that lead to democratic practices, economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated sub-regional and continental economic integration.

2011 Elections

Civil society initiatives supported by the Good Governance Programme Zambia address the 2011 elections and advocate for the implementation of the Electoral Act, for a participation of civil society organizations in voter education and for a better representation of women in the political sphere. Civil society organizations aim at playing an active role in educating voters and raising the awareness of the public on the importance of democratic elections. The **initiatives for the 2011 election** build on the experiences gained during the general elections and presidential elections 2006 and the presidential by-elections 2008.

Zambia Governance Fund

The Good Governance Programme actively contributes to the shaping of a management concept for a pooled fund, which has the objective to strengthen civil society in Zambia. The “Zambia Governance Fund” was established by Denmark and includes the UK, Ireland, Sweden and Germany. Since the support for civil society requires close monitoring of a range of small organizations, many donor agencies hope that the Zambia Governance Fund represents a sound alternative to uncoordinated, separate approaches of various agencies, which produce high overhead costs. It is therefore likely that the Netherlands and Finland will join the initiative in the near future.



Enhanced Cooperation between Civil Society and the Justice Sector

In 2007 the Good Governance Programme supported the preparation of a legal aid mapping study by the Paralegal Alliance Network (PAN). The assessment gives an overview about paralegal services provided in the entire nation and hence, elucidates the significant contribution of civil society in holding the justice system accountable.

In rural areas, “paralegals” in most cases are the only

source for legal advice that provides assistance for litigations. In particular poor and marginalized population groups - and among them in most cases women and children - benefit from the services of paralegals. The study illustrates the scope of paralegals that in some cases are professional lawyers and in others received a five days introductory training.

The mapping study provides a **strong tool to argue for a paralegal policy**, which considers different needs for legal advice among different groups in the population, as well as the requirement to provide high quality legal advice to poor and marginalized population groups.

Access to Justice Programme

The programme appreciates the important role of civil society in complementing the government's "Access to Justice Programme" (AJP), which aims at **ensuring easier access to justice for all**, including the poor and vulnerable, women and children. The purpose of the programme is to support the development of an effective and accountable Justice Sector that is capable of meeting the needs and interests of the Zambian people. The AJP is a key reform element under the FNDP.

The Good Governance Programme in cooperation with the Delegation of the European Commission in Zambia and the Danish Embassy is committed to support the AJP and is currently undertaking a **capacity assessment** of the Governance Secretariat and the five criminal justice institutions (Prison Service, Police, Judiciary, Legal Aid Board and the Public Prosecutor's Office). The findings of the assessment will highlight the capacity needs of the AJP institutions. It will also provide the necessary information to decide on an adequate funding modality. Furthermore, it will accentuate the interface for civil society engagement in the AJP.

Looking back - Way forward

The **evaluation** of the first phase of February 2008 confirmed the goal and the then two components of i) promoting network capacity of civil CSOs vis-à-vis the FNDP performance and ii) holding government accountable in its efforts to implementing the national reform agenda. The evaluation team commended the programme for its achievements. **Planning for the second phase** which is expected to start in October 2009 for a three year period was done in February and March 2009. The programme undertook an internal review and held intensive consultations with partners from civil society, MCDSS and cooperating partners. The programme reflected its performance against **five success factors**: strategic orientation, cooperation, processes, steering structure all of which show satisfactory rating.

The fifth factor, learning which refers to knowledge management in particular needs to be improved vis-à-vis GTZ's internal learning and that of partner organisations.

A workshop, in fact a **round table consultation held on 26 March concluded the future orientation for the second phase** with two questions forwarded to all partners: i) How best the programme could focus on the changed governance reform agenda through civil society engagement? ii) What are the future programmatic priorities to take on?



Planning for phase 2 of the Good Governance Programme

The orientation for the second phase is based on a revised goal and indicator system for the goal and the three components of the programme:

The objective for the second phase reads as: **"Civil society organisations and networks contribute to national governance reform and poverty reduction in an accountable manner"**.

The three goal components are:

- i) Promoting civil society in their networking capacities to contribute to and influence the implementation of national development plans.
- ii) Supporting civil society in their efforts to contribute to transparent and accountable governance reform processes.
- iii) The capacity of legal state institutions and paralegal networks is enhanced for better legal aid provision to the Zambian people.

The Good Governance Programme uses the **transitional period** between the planning for phase two and the start of the new phase in October 2009 as follows: Consultations with partners, review of their strategic planning, counselling on the forthcoming reading of the NGO Bill in parliament, contribution to the intended code of conduct for civil society organisations and specific counselling and advisory support for initiatives relevant for 2010 and beyond.

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Factsheet 1

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