

Overseas Development Institute

ODI is Britain's leading independent think-tank on international development and humanitarian issues. Our mission is to inspire and inform policy and practice which lead to the reduction of poverty, the alleviation of suffering and the achievement of sustainable livelihoods in developing countries. We do this by locking together high-quality applied research, practical policy advice, and policy-focused dissemination and debate. We work with partners in the public and private sectors, in both developing and developed countries. ODI's work centres on its research and policy groups and programmes.

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- Humanitarian Policy
- Poverty and Public Policy
- Rural Policy and Governance
- International Economic Development

Research Programmes

- Research and Policy in Development
- Forest Policy and Environment
- Water Policy Programme
- Rights in Action
- Partnership Brokers Accreditation Scheme
- Development Performance of Business
- European Development Cooperation
- Centre for Aid and Public Expenditure

Journals

- *Development Policy Review*
- *Disasters: The Journal of Disaster Studies, Policy and Management*

International Networks

- Agricultural Research and Extension Network
- Rural Development Forestry Network
- Humanitarian Practice Network

Civil Society Partnerships Programme

Strengthening the capacity of civil society organisations to use research-based evidence to promote pro-poor development policies in the North and South.

Fellowship Scheme

ODI manages the ODI Fellowship Scheme, which places young economists on attachment to the governments of developing countries

ODI hosts

- the Secretariat of The Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance
- the Economic and Statistics Analysis Unit, established by the Department for International Development

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* Stood down this year

The reduction of poverty in developing countries is likely to happen, as many changes in the world, when three factors come together: first, political leadership, second, public pressure, and third, the irresistible attraction of a good idea. ODI specialises in the last of these, but contributes also to the first two. We remain very much a research-based organisation and one that believes in policy-making based on evidence – but we are also committed to making ideas work in practice to achieve poverty reduction. It is that combination of attributes that makes us not just a research institute but a think tank – indeed, Britain’s leading independent think-tank in its field.

This year, international development is especially prominent in public policy debates and ODI must make its points in an accessible and immediate way. The short policy briefs found in this Report are designed to help broaden and deepen discussion. Our public meetings serve the same function – there were over eighty last year. ODI meetings attract an extraordinary audience of specialists and policy-makers. They reach a wider audience very quickly by means of summaries and audio and video clips on our website. The website, by the way, now attracts 50,000 visitors a month: up 30 per cent on a year ago.

Of course, the principal arenas in which our ideas are transformed into policy are in developing countries. ODI has always given high priority to reaching audiences in Africa, Asia and Latin America, both informally and formally. Our output includes workshops overseas, translations, and practitioner networks. This year, we have begun to make use of resources provided by our Partnership Programme Agreement with DFID to build stronger alliances with civil society actors in developing countries. Workshops and discussion of new partnerships are happening as far apart as Argentina and Malawi, Cambodia and Ghana.

These different dimensions of our work are mutually reinforcing. Importantly, the resources of the PPA will enable us to make the necessary investments to expand and improve. We are at the beginning of an exciting period of change at ODI.

Particularly warm thanks are due to Simon Maxwell this year, for his leadership in creating the opportunities for change. As always, his dedicated and energetic team have driven ODI’s work forward very successfully.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the Council, who have had an especially active year. We have deliberately set out to recruit new members of Council, who bring additional development experience, but also skills in finance, human resources and business management. A group led by Baroness Janet Whitaker helped review the working of Council, suggesting new mandates and ways of working which will be implemented over the coming year. Other members advised on the management structures appropriate for a fast-growing institution. Still others oversaw the continued strengthening of ODI’s financial position.

The Deputy Chair, Dominic Bruynseels, has shouldered a heavy burden with great skill. He continues to be keenly involved in ODI’s affairs, despite spending a growing proportion of his time in Africa. ODI has benefited greatly from his professional expertise and personal commitment, as it has from the contribution of other Council members. A number of colleagues stood down at the end of their terms, or for other reasons. We said farewell to Earl Cairns, Martin Griffiths, Tess Kingham, Sir Michael McWilliam, Rupert Pennant-Rea and Sharon Persaud: our best wishes and gratitude go with them. New members were welcomed: Richard Dowden, Isobel Hunter, Richard Laing, Sue Unsworth, and Ngaire Woods.

Overall, the Council has played an important role in both the research work and the administration of ODI, and I look forward to another year of expanding interests and growth.

Margaret Jay



Working in a think-tank like ODI is like driving a car. Watch our eyes: they are constantly shifting from the road immediately in front to the more distant landscape and back again. An examination of the 2005 development agenda illustrates why.



'Our own research on the policy process has repeatedly emphasised the importance of long term planning, careful preparation, and timing'.

We were told that 2005 would be a year of destiny in international development. Domestically, that was because the UK held the chair of the G8 and the Presidency of the EU, and was determined to pursue development goals. Internationally, it was because 2005 was the year of the MDG Summit at the UN in New York and the resumption of trade talks at the WTO Ministerial in Hong Kong. There was to be much on the agenda in the short term. It was certainly necessary for ODI to keep its eye on the road.

However, most of the necessary work was completed months, often years, before. This was not a surprise. Our own research on the policy process has repeatedly emphasised the importance of long term planning, careful preparation, and timing. The more distant landscape also matters.

Our work on the 2005 agenda was solidly rooted in longer-term research. Let me give four examples.

First, more aid is emphatically a political objective in 2005, but alongside a major push also on quality. This agenda, known in the trade as harmonisation and alignment, is about fitting in better with recipient countries' plans and procedures, and about reducing the burden of multiple donor processes. ODI has made major contributions, through our long-standing work on public expenditure and budgets, and also on aid and aid architecture. Paolo de Renzio led on public expenditure in 2004-5. Andrew Rogerson led on aid, pushing the international community to think more strategically about the future of aid. He organised a conference on this for donors in January 2005, jointly with the OECD Development Centre.

Second, failed and fragile states have become a prominent issue, not least because these are countries where the harmonisation and alignment

agenda is most difficult to introduce. We made immediate contributions, by seconding Karin Christiansen to a review team in the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit. Longer term research included work on poorly performing countries led by Joanna Macrae and Andrew Shepherd. Our Humanitarian Policy Group also has a long-standing interest in relations between civil and military actors in conflict situations.

Third, trade liberalisation was a high profile campaigning 'ask' in 2005. It is not straightforward, however. There will be losers as well as gainers among developing countries, because of preference erosion – the loss experienced by countries which hitherto had preferential access to developed country markets, for example for textiles or sugar. Sheila Page has proposed the creation of a new fund worth \$500m p.a., to compensate losers like Bangladesh, Guyana or Malawi.

Finally, Laure-Hélène Piron leads another long-standing programme of research, on human rights. This has explored the relationship between rights-based approaches and the Millennium Development Goals. For example, there is an emerging debate about how to spend increased aid to Africa: a rights perspective reminds us that basic economic and social provision are core human rights and effectively 'trump' other spending priorities; but also that there is an apparatus of accountability to act as reference.

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Armed with our research, we are ready to participate in public debate. Here, too, however, timing is crucial. Sometimes, ODI needs to be ready to respond to events at short notice. The tsunami provided a sad illustration. In just a few frantic days, we produced half a dozen written pieces and gave more than 75 press, radio and tv interviews. Of course, this was a very small contribution: the tsunami is now known to have killed 300,000

people. ALNAP – the Active Learning Network on Accountability and Participation in humanitarian action, based in ODI, is helping to coordinate evaluation of the response.

More often, our public affairs programme can be planned in advance and timed to influence policy processes. Thus, our series of meetings on UN reform was held in the summer of 2004, in time to contribute to the Secretary-General's High Level Panel on Threats, Challenge and Change. In the autumn of 2004, with an eye on the Africa Commission, we turned to Africa. And in early 2005, this time looking forward to the MDG Summit in New York in September, we discussed the MDGs.

There is method in our meetings. First, the speakers include the key decision-makers. Second, the audience is equally well-informed and influential, drawn from the political, policy-making, academic, NGO, business and media communities. Third, we report quickly, with summaries, audio clips and video clips on the website within 48 hours. And fourth, we follow up with Briefing Papers or Opinion pieces. Often, our meetings are organised jointly with parliamentary groups: in 2004-5, with the All Party Groups on the UN, Africa and Overseas Development.

ODI is not an advocacy organisation. However, we are friends with many such. Cooperation will surely grow.

ODI is not an advocacy organisation. However, we are friends with many such. Cooperation will surely grow. The need for alliances between researchers and activists was a prominent theme at the annual conference of the Development Studies Association, organised jointly by ODI and DFID, on the theme of Bridging Research and Policy. Julius Court and I have edited a special issue of the Journal of International Development, containing the papers and discussions at that meeting.

The role of civil society in the policy

process is the major theme of our Partnership Programme Agreement with DFID. This was the first year of our seven year programme, and has seen us engaging with research-based NGOs and think-tanks in Africa, Asia and Latin America. John Young leads.

There are many other good things at ODI, including the Fellowship Scheme, now into its 42nd year. There were a record 67 Fellows in the field at the end of 2004-5, with programmes growing in new countries, including Nigeria.

For the future, important new research is starting, for example on agriculture. In the forest sector, work led by David Brown is examining the verification of legality in the tropical timber trade. This builds on established interest in tropical forestry as an entry point for governance reform.

Exciting synergies are also starting to appear between different areas of work. The contribution of business to poverty reduction is an example, through research carried out by Michael Warner in extractive industries, Caroline Ashley in tourism, and Dirk Willem te Velde in manufacturing.

ODI's success continues to rest on the quality of its staff. We have many extraordinary people at the Institute. Inevitably, there have been departures, including among the Research Fellows: Jo Macrae, Oliver Morrissey, Kate Schreckenber and Frances Stevenson. We welcomed Verena Fritz and Clare Lockhart. In addition, three Research Officers were promoted to Research Fellow, in conformity with our policy of offering career development to staff: Ruth Driscoll, Cecilia Luttrell and Tom Slaymaker are the new RFs.

Finally, we celebrate the award of an OBE to Sheila Page, well-merited recognition of her many contributions.

Simon Maxwell

'There is method in our meetings. First, the speakers include the key decision-makers. Second, the audience is equally well-informed and influential, . . . Third, we report quickly . . . And fourth, we follow up with Briefing Papers or Opinion pieces'.

Aid to Africa: More doesn't have to mean worse

David Booth

Why are we condemned to conduct the public debate about aid to Africa in such grossly simplified terms? The sound bites around this year's G8 seemed to be dominated by just two points of view. One used shocking statistics on unmet needs in Africa as a sufficient basis for urging substantially increased funding flows. The other scored telling points against an approach that worried so little about feasibility, but then failed to offer an alternative vision for aid.

Thus, the ping-pong ball is batted back and forth:

The needs of Africa are enormous and urgent, pleads one side. It is a moral outrage that we cannot meet them, even in the most basic ways. Therefore, a massive increase in aid resources and debt relief is the least we can do.

What matters is feasibility, counters the other. If aid were a way of meeting development objectives, it would have done so long ago. Aid is part of the problem, and more aid is certain to mean worse aid. Therefore, massively increasing aid is irrelevant or unwise.

It is hardly surprising if people subjected only to these limited points of view are confused. And yet, genuine understanding of the issues is not in short supply. We have a massive amount of relevant knowledge – quite a lot enshrined in well-known reports, books and declarations. We certainly know enough to keep the G8 realistically rooted.

Quantity versus quality

It is best to concede straight off that elements of the sceptics' case are well founded. Past experience suggests that aid flows are not what make the difference between successful developing countries and unsuccessful ones; aid has never done more than facilitate. Political scientists are also clear that aid can be part of the problem, because it takes pressure off political leaders who might otherwise be forced to perform better by market forces or their own taxpayers. Economists tend to find a positive statistical relationship between aid and economic growth, but don't agree about what it adds up to. Anyway, as aid-to-GDP ratios increase, diminishing returns set in.

So, past performance is fairly discouraging. But that should not be the end of the argument. Policy for the future should be informed by but not entirely based on past performance. We should draw on what else we know before taking far-reaching decisions.

We don't just know that aid can be ineffective. We know quite a bit about



Making aid effective (©EC/ F.Lefèbvre)

'2005 has presented the opportunity not just to revive aid volumes, but to turn around the past relationship between aid quantity and aid quality'

why this is so – about the precise factors that limit the positive and increase the negative impacts of external assistance. This understanding provides a solid enough basis for specifying what needs to change in order for a larger financial effort by rich countries to be useful.

So, more aid to Africa may well mean worse aid. But it doesn't have to; 2005 has presented the opportunity not just to revive aid volumes, but to turn around the past relationship between aid quantity and aid quality.

The factors influencing aid effectiveness affect both sides of the aid relationship. It is neither true that all faults lie with donors nor that the only significant obstacles are recipient failings. For quantitative improvements in aid to become associated with enhanced effectiveness, both types of limitation on quality need to be tackled simultaneously and with equal vigour.

On the donor side, quality means:

- better value for money – a vigorous assault on tied aid and on the promotion of narrow donor interests
- firmer commitments and predictable financial flows to enable better recipient country planning and implementation
- greater efforts to deliver aid in ways that strengthen country institutions and offer incentives to governments to make clear policies

- better understanding of countries' social, political and administrative systems, so that fewer mistakes are made in channeling support
- more selectivity in allocating aid to meet basic human needs while supporting the changes in institutions necessary for long-term development

On the recipient side, quality means:

- better value for money, again – an assault on waste and leakages of all kinds, using methods that work in the context
- more predictable funding flows to ministries and implementing agencies and commitment to good public financial management
- insistence on forms of aid that strengthen institutions and policies, and help defeat the vested interests that surround the usual free-for-all in project funding
- consistent, high-level support for unpopular but essential administrative reforms
- state-building and putting the satisfaction of citizens' basic needs at the centre of the long-term vision of national development.

We already know well that both sets of changes are essential if the increase in aid is to be matched with increased effectiveness. Yet we allow the public debate to be conducted as if matters were far simpler, in one sense or the other.

This alternative vision is, of course, a bit more complicated – as well as politically more challenging – than the ping-pong game. But it is both realistic and hopeful. It deserves at least a fraction of the hearing currently devoted to simplistic moral appeals and crude rebuttals.

www.odi.org.uk/publications/opinions/43.pdf

Africa Commission: 'The Big Push'

Simon Maxwell

The report of Tony Blair's Commission for Africa, published in March 2005, is both exhilarating and intriguing. Exhilarating because it attempts so much – no less than the 'Big Push' which will deliver a strong and prosperous Africa. Intriguing for the intellectual challenge posed by such a project.

The Commission casts its net wide: culture, faith, politics, governance, human development, social protection, agriculture, industry, rural and urban development and trade – all are covered. The ambition is great and so is the bill: \$US 75 billion a year.

But within such a comprehensive vision should we also look for priorities, either geographically or in terms of sectors? Is it even sensible to talk of Africa as a unit of analysis, rather than about individual countries or regions? Are some countries better bets for a 'big push' than others?

The latest thinking from the UN certainly lays down priorities. The Investing in Development report, drawn up for the United Nations in January this year by Harvard economist Dr Jeffrey Sachs as a practical plan for implementing the Millennium Development Goals, explicitly identifies countries that should be first on the list. It argues that the countries at the head of the queue should be those that meet minimum standards of governance and democracy. South Africa, Senegal or Tanzania might qualify under such criteria; DRC, Zimbabwe or Sudan would not.

Alternatively, the potential for growth of individual countries might be considered. Should the same priority be given to well-endowed and well-connected countries, for example on the coast, as to poorly endowed and poorly connected countries in the hinterland? To a certain extent, this question answers itself, with the draining of the West African population from the hinterland towards the coast, and from rural to urban areas. West Africa's urban population is projected to rise from 70m in 1990 to 270m in 2020, with 30 cities of a million or more. Should policy recognise and try to manage this form of natural selection?

An alternative approach might be to see some interventions as more urgent than others. Educate primary school children first, for example, then worry about scientific research capacity. Or, provide medicine for victims of HIV/AIDS, then spend money on roads and harbours. The Sachs Report famously identifies 'quick wins'. These include anti-malarial bednets, nutritional support for young children

and fertiliser for farmers. The Africa Commission has no headlines of this kind.

In fact, the Africa Commission report is strongly reminiscent of the 'big push' approach that characterised early debates about economic development in the 1940s. Some economists argued then that, before private investment took off, there had first to be heavy investment in a country's infrastructure. Include health and education along with infrastructure, and the argument of the Africa Commission begins to sound familiar. Invest in all sectors because that is the way to kick-start growth.

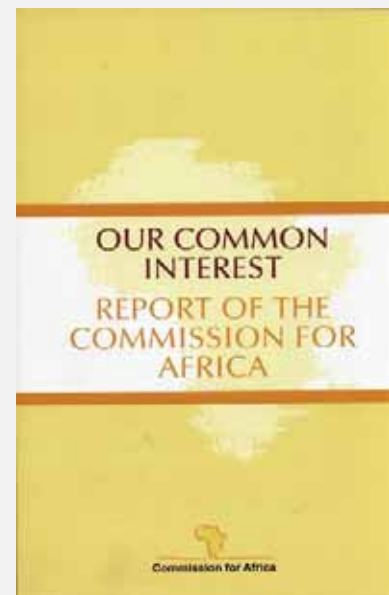
This sounds plausible, but economists have long argued that some sectors should be given priority. For example, many consider agricultural development is a pre-condition for long-term growth and diversification. Others argue that human development investments should come first, partly because people have rights to health and education, but also because human development is a pre-condition for investment and growth.

'there can be no compromise on basic human rights with respect to food, health and education. These sectors should have priority, and in all countries.'

More recent debates about macro-economic stabilisation and structural adjustment are also relevant. Putting institutions before market liberalisation is the best-known of these ideas, associated with former World Bank economist Joseph Stiglitz. His attempt to forge a post-Washington consensus was itself a reaction to earlier thinking on the desirability of big bang reform, as practised for example in Russia. Are there lessons here for the 'big push' approach?

Current research suggests three considerations on the efficacy of the big push.

First, there can be no compromise on basic human rights with respect to food, health and education. These sectors should have priority, and in all countries. Tackling malnutrition comes first, focusing on the best indicators, such as the level of stunting, or failure to grow. In Africa, more than a third of children are stunted. In Eastern Africa, including Ethiopia, the figure is more than 44 per cent. Half of all child deaths in Africa are associated with malnutrition. Yet less than \$US 20 per child per year would eradicate the problem. The Sachs Report rightly identifies better nutrition as a high priority



quick win. The Africa Commission could well have done the same.

Second, developed countries should not turn their backs on any country because of poor governance – though their actions and interventions may well be different in conflict situations or in fragile states. In this case, the Africa Commission is ahead of Sachs. A range of country-specific interventions is possible, from the military at one extreme (as in Sierra Leone) to subtle (sometimes not so subtle) nudges in domestic political space. These might include funding human rights commissions or parliamentary review processes. None the less, the provision of basic services has to be assured.

Third, a new generation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper process is needed – or, as Sachs recommends, a new – Millennium Development Goal plan which encourages a healthy business and investment climate. PRSPs have paid too little attention to the productive sectors, and to infrastructure. And Stiglitz is surely right about the dangers of big bang liberalisation with insufficient attention paid to fundamentals such as contract law and banking systems as pre-conditions for enterprise development. Perhaps the Africa Commission can encourage governments to rectify those omissions.

Most of Africa lags far behind most of Asia in the basic ability to produce and trade. For example, in most of East Asia, more than 30 per cent of children enter tertiary education. In sub-Saharan Africa, excluding South Africa, the figure is nearer five per cent. Statistics such as these remind us that the obstacles are immense. But they are not insurmountable.

www.odi.org.uk/publications/opinions/38.pdf

Agriculture: Africa's growing needs

Steve Wiggins

For most of Africa, economic growth is unlikely to happen without agricultural growth. There are simply no alternatives. Except for a few countries, short and medium term prospects for manufacturing are limited, while mining and tourism are possible in relatively few locations. Over the past fifty years, sustaining agricultural growth in Africa has proved difficult. There were export commodity booms in the 1950s and 1960s and expanded grain production based on improved varieties and fertiliser in the 1970s and early 1980s.

Now we are in a phase of relying on the market to provide stimulus and investment. All have had successes, and all have run up against limits.

The context for today's policy-makers is tough. Promises of additional aid and trade liberalisation must be set against a discouraging backcloth of obstacles. These include: stalled growth in other sectors; poor governance and doubts about the capacity of the state; falling international commodity prices and in some cases the pending loss of ACP trade preferences; competition in export markets from Asia; and the scourge of HIV/AIDS.

Furthermore, it is dangerous to assume that there is one simple solution. Africa is a diverse continent with countries of different natural, economic and social conditions. Different factors apply to each. None the less, some generalisations are possible.

First, macro-economic conditions do matter. If interest rates are sky high, agriculture will be starved of funds. If states cannot raise revenue there will be too little investment in roads, agricultural research, health services, education, etc. that is the necessary complement to private investment.

Second, demand for produce is paramount. Farmers respond energetically when there is clear demand, whether this comes from international markets or growing cities, or is created by state agencies that guarantee to buy crops. Markets for high-value produce capture the imagination, but both home and abroad these are small markets, and they impose exacting requirements of quality and timeliness. The most promising markets, still with much growth potential, are domestic.

The International Food Policy Research Institute estimates that the domestic market for African agricultural produce in the late 1990s was worth more than three times that of export markets. And prices to farmers can be boosted if the cost of getting goods to market (and back again with farm inputs and consumer



Female farmers in Hai, northern Tanzania: female farmer hoes an intensive field of maize and beans (©ODI)

goods) can be reduced by better road and rail links. African road freight rates can be several times unit costs in Asia.

Third, state agencies used to take on

'The context for today's policy-makers is tough. Promises of additional aid and trade liberalisation must be set against a discouraging backcloth of obstacles'

responsibility for services and finance to agriculture. But the private sector has been reluctant to invest in processing and warehousing, or to offer farmers credit or stock fertiliser and seed. Do we need to resurrect the state agencies, avoiding the excessive costs they ran up in the past? Or will large corporations prime the pumps, perhaps with the assurance that they have some (temporary) monopoly privileges to safeguard their investments? Can farmer associations fill the gap and, if so, with what kind of support?

Fourth, in some areas land tenure is key. Longstanding customary rights to land typically exist in parallel with the provisions of national statutes, creating ambiguities that fuel conflicts and prevent land being pledged as collateral for credit. Surveying and titling is expensive, and outcomes threaten female farmers' rights and secondary and temporary rights to land important to the poor. Strengthening local adjudication to allow flexible responses to circumstances is a promising alternative.

Fifth, most agricultural development policies have to be responsive to local context: the general ideas sketched above will require tailoring to context.

Policy-makers need to allow for this, for example, by providing funds that farmer groups can apply for, in open competition, to undertake trials in marketing, supply of seed, fertiliser and other farm inputs, technology development, loans, etc. Such experiences need monitoring, with useful results disseminated.

There are many additional challenges. They include: ensuring that farming is sustainable within its natural environment; tackling the problems of the less-favoured areas; creating jobs for the chronically poor who have too little land to farm; countering the marked gender inequity found in access to land, credit, and public services where men get first shout and women come a distant second; and facing up to HIV/AIDS and the equally daunting malaria and tuberculosis.

Clearly these are important. But if agricultural growth can be restored, it will be easier to deal with these problems.

A final challenge is the political economy of many states, where leadership and ideals have given way to looting of the public treasury. At the same time, ministries of agriculture are required to adapt to new and unfamiliar mechanisms for disbursing aid such as Poverty Reduction Strategies and Medium-Term Expenditure Frameworks. These are undoubtedly steps forward from the days of structural adjustment and outright conditionality, but tend to favour the simple and predictable. Thus, resources are more likely to be channelled to primary education and child immunisation than to the less certain agricultural agenda, whose needs are for greater flexibility.

www.odi.org.uk/rpgg/

Water: Sharing works best

Alan Nicol

Recurrent food crises have added urgency to the focus on poverty reduction in Africa during 2005, which also saw the start of the UN 'Water for Life' decade. Rarely far from view has been the experience of Ethiopia. As recently as 2003, the failure of *belg* (short) rains triggered the delivery of 1.5m tons of international food aid to 11m people – the largest ever response in that country.

Averting such crises is now central to water policy debates. An increasing emphasis is on new infrastructure, both for water storage and irrigation. The Africa Commission Report calls for a doubling of land under irrigation in Africa by 2015, and an interim increase of 50 per cent by 2010. The World Bank too, is supporting increased storage infrastructure, citing a relationship between rainfall variability and GDP growth rates in selected African countries, including Ethiopia, as evidence that African countries are partly 'hostage to hydrology'.

Yet challenges to the assumed links between water storage, irrigation expansion and enhanced food security and poverty include new thinking on cross-border joint water management arising, inter alia, from World Bank support to the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI).

'Getting it right in Ethiopia, as elsewhere in Africa, requires an effective resource-management environment that goes beyond linear thinking of the "more water leads to higher agricultural production leads to greater food security" kind'

The nine (out of 10) riparian countries which make up the NBI cover roughly a third of Africa's population of 900m, half of whom live on less than a dollar a day. The guiding principle of the NBI is to look beyond national boundaries to ways of optimising and sharing equitably the benefits available to all through better water management, allocation and use.

This takes the debate about food-water linkages beyond the purely national level. In a water-scarce and rainfall-dependent region, national irrigation expansion may not be the best approach for each country. Greater irrigation expansion in one may generate greater benefits for all, and reduce associated costs.

This raises three key policy questions:

- Is irrigation the best use of water resources in a given country if expansion elsewhere can increase 'crop per drop' and reduce shared negative social and environmental costs?
- Do the mechanisms exist to set up



Blue Nile ('Abbay') valley in Ethiopia (©ODI)

regional benefit-sharing arrangements to enhance overall regional food security and channel benefits to the food-insecure parts of a basin, including across borders?

• In the context of longer-term climate change in water-scarce regions, is water for agriculture the best way to secure long-term poverty reduction, environmental protection and social development?

These regional issues pose a second set of questions surrounding resource management at a national level. Given the very high cost of irrigation in countries such as Ethiopia, what are the key opportunity costs of expansion? Have the involved agencies – governments, donors, NGOs – learnt from past irrigation scheme mistakes and do suitable management arrangements now exist for irrigation expansion in the new social and political environment? If not, problems can arise, as recent negative experience with small dam programmes in the Horn of Africa has shown. Here, poor management and regulation has exacerbated local disputes over rights to water and land while a lack of watershed protection has limited the lifespan of storage structures.

Finally, understanding the impact of irrigation on pastoral groups – in particular medium and large-scale schemes – in countries of the Horn of Africa has been insufficiently integrated within national decision-making in the water sector. Exclusion of these factors can increase substantially the externalities of irrigation expansion.

Such institutional and policy challenges are acute in Ethiopia, but exist elsewhere in Africa, suggesting that policy decisions about irrigation need to be made within a much broader socio-economic- and political-context. The danger

of a target-driven approach such as that outlined by the Africa Commission is that it short-circuits the necessary learning processes, instead pushing existing institutional arrangements to deliver 'more of the same', which, in the long term, may not serve the needs of the poor.

Firstly, decisions about irrigation need to be set within the PRSP processes. This would help integrate the water sector within broader poverty reduction processes including those related to land tenure, environmental protection and livelihood diversification. To small-scale, rain-fed farmers in highland Ethiopia, for instance, preventing land fragmentation and soil degradation are probably at least as important as providing irrigation, and possibly more so.

Secondly, irrigation choices must be made within 'smart' decision-making environments which are equipped to manage the complexities of storage development, low-flow years, flood management, environmental protection and competing demands for the resource by diverse user groups.

Getting it right in Ethiopia, as elsewhere in Africa, requires an effective resource-management environment that goes beyond linear thinking of the 'more water leads to higher agricultural production leads to greater food security' kind. As development practitioners, we need to look closely at local irrigation 'histories', but also more broadly to ways in which shared benefits can be optimised at a regional level. Under the NBI, Ethiopia has taken an important step forward regionally, but getting it right at a local level remains a major challenge, as it does in many Nile basin countries.

www.odi.org.uk/wpp/

Trade: How cotton subsidies harm Africa

Ian Gillson

Cotton trade and production are highly distorted by policy. In recent years, subsidies have accounted for as much as a fifth of producer earnings. Attempts by poor countries, including cotton-producing African states, to get the World Trade Organization to rule such producer support illegal have generally failed. But in April last year (2004), Brazil successfully challenged the legality of US subsidies. Our research suggests that the impact of lifting subsidies globally could be highly beneficial to some African countries, particularly if the EU drops its support to cotton producers in Greece and Spain.

The effect of subsidies has been to depress world cotton prices, damaging poorer countries that rely on exports of cotton for foreign exchange earnings. US support to its cotton producers, by virtue of its magnitude, is seen as particularly damaging and responsible for most of the reduction in earning potential of other cotton-producing countries. But European subsidies, though smaller, are disproportionately damaging, notably to West and Central African countries.

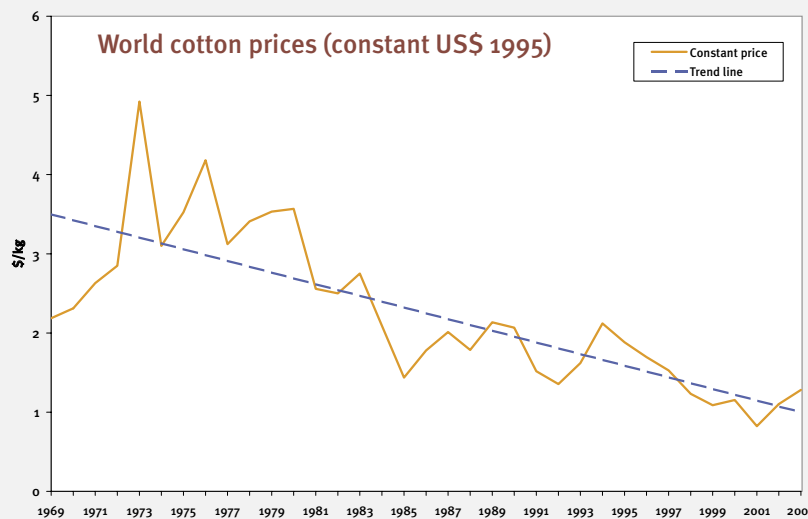
More than 70 countries produce and export cotton but eight are responsible for more than 80% of global output: China; the USA; India; Pakistan; Uzbekistan; Turkey; Brazil; and Australia.

For industrialised countries, cotton is a minor component of economic activity but its production plays a major role in some Least Developed Countries in West and Central Africa. In Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali and Togo, cotton accounts for 5–10% of GDP, more than one-third of total export receipts and over two-thirds of the value of all agricultural exports.

In a low-income economy where most of the poor live in rural areas, income from export crops is one of the best short-term measures to alleviate poverty. Smallholder cash-crop producers spend extra income on local goods and services, thus spreading the benefits to other poor households. Cotton is relatively labour intensive and may also generate employment. In African countries, cotton production is concentrated in poorer regions so higher cotton incomes contribute to poverty reduction.

Some of the largest cotton producers, such as China, India, Pakistan and Turkey, scarcely export since their production is almost entirely for domestic use. In 2001, five countries – the US, Uzbekistan, Australia, Greece and Brazil – accounted for 70% of all exports. West and Central African countries accounted for 10%.

Recently, for a number of reasons, world cotton prices have been unstable and falling. There have been unpredictable changes in production and exports



Source: Data from IACAC and World Bank Development Indicators, 2005.

from India, Pakistan and China; reductions in the costs of production and synthetic fibres continue to make inroads. But subsidies granted by key cotton-producing countries have a major impact, notably in the US, China and the EU.

‘US and EU subsidies deprive Least Developed Countries of income. Reducing subsidies would increase the foreign exchange earnings of poor people and help poor people’

In May 2003, Burkina Faso, on behalf of Benin, Mali and Chad, presented the WTO with a new cotton proposal which called for phased elimination of all support for cotton production and financial compensation to least developed cotton producers. Supported by 13 other West and Central African countries, they made it clear that the elimination of subsidies for cotton production and export was their ‘only specific interest’ in the Doha Round.

The proposal failed with the rest of the Cancún agenda but in May 2003 Brazil won a landmark victory at the WTO when it was ruled that the US had granted excessive subsidies to cotton growers between 1999 and 2002, depressing prices at the expense of Brazilian and other growers.

Brazil used the WTO dispute mechanism to complain about US subsidies, contending that they depressed world prices and harmed Brazilian cotton growers, while significantly increasing the US share of the global cotton market.

The interim decision determined that US direct payments to farmers, though not coupled specifically to cotton production, did provide an incentive for production, and thus were trade-distorting, thereby accepting that it is possible to calculate the damage from subsidies even if they are

formally decoupled. The ruling could affect agricultural support provided by other developed countries (such as within the EU) in cotton and other sectors (such as sugar).

The impact of cotton subsidies on prices can only be estimated, but some research suggests that their removal could result in a world price increase of 11% or more. Our own recent research predicts that price increases could be as high as 18–28% depending on assumptions regarding the structure of the cotton market. In cash terms, West and Central African countries could gain between \$94m and \$360m in cotton production earnings.

ODI’s study takes into account that the importance of national origin and quality is important in world cotton trade. In general, this would lead spinners to tolerate some price increases before switching sources. However, the impact of the removal of EU support might be particularly beneficial to particular poorer countries. European subsidies may account for as much as 38% of the loss of earnings in West and Central Africa.

Our study has important policy implications. Firstly, US and EU subsidies deprive Least Developed Countries of income. Reducing subsidies would increase the foreign exchange earnings of poor countries and help poor people. Second, EU subsidies may be particularly damaging to West and Central Africa. This is because cotton production in Greece and Spain actively competes with that of these countries and their subsidies are the highest in the world. Third, despite preferences for a particular country’s cotton, markets will respond eventually to higher prices. West and Central African countries would have much to gain from the removal of EU subsidies.

www.odi.org.uk/publications/briefing/bp_july04_cotton.pdf

Cash Transfers: Just give them the money

John Farrington, Rachel Slater and Paul Harvey

The notion of making cash payments to those unable to afford life's basic necessities is gaining ground rapidly. It seems such an obvious idea that one wonders why it had never been thought of before. In some contexts, of course, it had: cash transfers such as family allowances and old-age pensions have long been part of social assistance in developed economies. These have been targeted (for example, by age) or made conditional (for example, on attendance at health clinics) in much the same way as targeting and conditionality are currently discussed for developing countries.

There are many reasons why cash transfers have been neglected in developing countries: the preoccupation has been with economic growth – with increasing the supply of food and other essential items, or with creating jobs. And there is a fear that handing over cash represents a waste of resources that could otherwise be invested productively and may reduce the incentive to seek work.

A more recent preoccupation has been with health and education – again, largely to ensure adequate supply, although funding has recently been linked to targeted provision.

There have also been valid concerns that cash is less effective than in-kind transfers in providing particular goods to those in need (for example, specialist foods and medicines to HIV/AIDS sufferers; staple foods to women who will try to ensure their fair allocation within the household). There have been less valid concerns, for example, that poor people will be unable to spend cash wisely, or that in-kind transfers may be subject to less embezzlement (for which there is little evidence). And there have been concerns that have little to do with poverty reduction, such as the way subsidised food in India is driven by a buffer-stock system that benefits the large farmer lobby, and that food aid is driven by OECD surpluses.

The advantages of cash transfers over those in kind in terms of delivery costs have tended to be neglected, partly because some of the costs of the latter, for example those associated with delivering food aid, are covered by donors.

Evidence from the past five years or so shows that cash transfers can contribute to poverty reduction. Examples from emergency relief include: a recent cash grant distribution in Somalia; ongoing cash relief in Ethiopia; cash for work in DRC and Afghanistan; cash for flood relief in Mozambique; cash payments in Bam, Iran; the work of Catholic Relief Services in pioneering seed fairs and vouchers; cash for shelter in Ingushetia; and an urban voucher programme in the West Bank.

Most cash payments made in emergency relief are spent on immediate



Oxfam cash programme in Somalia (© Oxfam GB)

consumption, but more generous payments go partly to investment. An example has been cash projects implemented by Oxfam in Turkana and Save the Children in Ethiopia.

In the development context, the main challenges are to ensure that cash transfers are affordable and do not negatively affect

'cash transfers can also have broader impacts on markets: as well as providing safety nets and increasing demand, they reduce vulnerability to risk'

markets or incentives. Small, income-supplementing transfers to those unable to engage fully in the productive economy (widows, the elderly etc) meet all of these conditions. Evidence from India suggests, for instance, that social pensions are strongly poverty focused, and even if expanded in coverage and amount (currently under US\$2 per person per month) they would still cost well under 0.1 % of GDP.

Cash transfers in Zambia targeted to the poorest 10% of households in several villages stimulated local economic activity and opened up new options for farming. If scaled up nationwide, these would cost 0.5% of GDP. Cash transfers in Malawi allowed better access to farm inputs and, by having conditions placed on their use, stimulated access to health and education.

Where they replace food transfers, cash transfers can generate dual gains in isolated markets: they stimulate demand – and lack of demand may be constraining farm incomes – and they remove the potentially depressing effect of food transfers on local markets. These can be especially severe when such transfers are mis-timed in relation to local agricultural calendars.

But cash transfers can also have broader impacts on markets: as well as providing safety nets and increasing demand, they reduce vulnerability to risk and so facilitate engagement by the poor in more productive enterprises. They also reduce the dangers of capital being diverted from productive activities to meet domestic shocks and stresses.

None the less, we need to know much more about how cash schemes can be designed and implemented. For instance, how much of a risk of inflationary pressure do they pose? How can they be designed to work with in-kind transfers? Do cash transfers side-step existing constraints on the capacity to absorb aid, or merely shift the problem elsewhere? What kind of targeting and conditionality works best?

To get delivery functioning well, simple criteria are needed, especially important when administrative systems are weak. It is equally important for poor people to understand and exercise their rights.

Preconditions for success in cash schemes include simple, transparent targeting criteria, automatic and robust delivery mechanisms and transparency regarding entitlements. Conditionality may also help. With these conditions in place, cash transfers are likely to be less costly to administer and less prone to corruption than other types of transfer, and so more cost-effective overall in reducing poverty.

They are not a panacea, however: often they will complement rather than replace other measures, and interventions will still be needed to remove social, market and administrative discrimination against the poor if they are to engage more fully in growth processes.

www.odi.org.uk/nrp/97.pdf

Human Rights: Promoting accountable aid

Laure-Hélène Piron

Human rights remain an uncomfortable issue between aid agencies and their partners in developing countries. This need not always be the case. Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary General, recently put forward the notion of a larger freedom which ‘encapsulates the idea that development, security and human rights go hand in hand’. He is right. Yet human rights are strangely missing as a positive force in this year’s debate on international assistance.

The wider public in both developing and developed countries care about human rights. It is governments that are not living up to their commitments. A year ago, we saw outrage at the use of torture in the Abu Graib prison in Iraq; UN human rights investigators are still trying to get access to places of detention under US control, such as Guantanamo. We are still seeing a lack of effective international action to address the crisis in Darfur. Bob Geldof was recently ‘disgusted’ at the use of military might in Ethiopia to put an end to a student demonstration. Human rights have come onto the G8’s agenda in the form of condemning slum clearances in Zimbabwe.

These events are attention grabbing. Yet, the language of human rights is not only about condemning egregious abuses. It can be used to target aid so as to help the poor realise their basic rights. This means helping governments translate their legal commitments, as found in the range of international treaties they have signed, into policies, programmes and budget allocations resulting in concrete improvements. It is about a different relationship between populations and their rulers, based on equal respect, participation and accountability.

Human rights are thus also about supporting positive developments. Social movements in Brazil have been campaigning to put an end to gender and race discrimination in one of the world’s most unequal societies. The present government is responding to those pressures, and Afro-Brazilians are starting to benefit. In South Africa, the courts are taking tough decisions to ensure that the Constitution’s lofty ideals are put into practice; this has led to rulings in favour of access to basic shelter, education and even medicine.

Though Kofi Annan is correct, promoting human rights, development and

security together is not a straightforward matter. A recent series of meetings at the ODI took up the challenge, and examined the place of human rights arguments in humanitarian crises, peace processes, economic and human development and other aid efforts.

For example, in extreme emergencies, the language of rights does not make much sense where there is no state able

‘Human rights should not be considered simply as costly and anti-growth. They contribute to a different conception of growth, where equity and redistribution matter’

What they contribute to is a different way of analysing such choices, and assessing how governments are acting. They put the basic human dignity of every individual at the heart of such decisions, and demand governmental accountability.

Human rights need to be understood as a ‘corrective’ on difficult public policy trade-offs. In the case of HIV/AIDS, for example, human rights law both accepts that public health creates legitimate restrictions on individual freedoms, but such restrictions have to be ‘legitimate, necessary and proportionate, subjected to public oversight and judicial review’.

Human rights should not be considered simply as costly and anti-growth. They contribute to a different conception

of growth, where equity and redistribution matter. There is empirical evidence to show that respect for civil liberties and gender equality has positive developmental outcomes. High levels of inequality may actually undermine growth.

Even in humanitarian crises, states have human rights obligations. Relief agencies, too, need to respect human rights principles, such as non-discrimination. Civilian protection is at the core of both humanitarian action and human rights.

Analysing development through the lens of human rights changes the focus. The principles of universality and non-discrimination demand that

the rights of the most marginalised and poorest be respected. But development achievements will also be more sustainable if the state understands its obligations to respect and promote those rights.

Governments and aid agencies avoid explicit references to human rights because they fear it will constrain their freedom of action and prevent them from supporting the poor in countries with disreputable regimes. But human rights need to be seen positively. This agenda will make aid more accountable, and prevent it from being used simply to strengthen state capacity, regardless of how states treat their citizens.

We should not shy away from requiring aid agreements to put human rights standards and principles as the foundation for mutual accountability.

www.odi.org.uk/rights/



A displaced Sudanese woman carries her child on a donkey at Farchana refugee camp in eastern Chad (© REUTERS/Radu Sighet, courtesy www.alertnet.org)

or willing to act upon the obligations demanded by the international legal regime; humanitarian aid to meet basic needs is a more helpful framework in the short-term. And when compromise is needed to end conflict, the human rights call against impunity can be perceived as an unhelpful barrier to peace negotiations.

Human rights may also be seen as an obstacle to public health objectives. It may be harder to contain the HIV/AIDS pandemic if the individual rights of patients, such as for privacy, consent and non-discrimination, are paramount. The call for universal free primary education needs to be balanced against other objectives such as national security.

A human rights response recognises that these are difficult choices. Legal norms, standards and principles cannot provide answers to every policy debate.

Tsunami: Would we do better next time?

The Indian Ocean tsunami, which wreaked havoc over an entire region on 26 December 2004, may have resulted in the deaths of up to 300,000 people and affected a further two million. Most became economic refugees in their own countries. Entire villages were rendered uninhabitable, water supplies polluted, fields left uncultivable and fishing boats lost. Worst affected were the Aceh region of Indonesia - where 500,000 were displaced - and (relative to its population) the Maldives, where everyone was affected. Overall the destruction and loss of life stretched across 13 countries around the Indian Ocean.

The relief effort was huge and the performance of the various agencies has been much debated, with claims that rapid reaction saved many lives countered by complaints that the proliferation of organisations contributed to confusion. Now key participants, such as the World Health Organization, are beginning to take stock and identify the lessons for future catastrophes.

Aid

The financial response was immediate and extraordinary. In the first weeks, official and private donors pledged US\$5bn (this has since risen to more than US\$11bn). Official aid pledges were mainly from existing aid budgets. They did not, therefore, represent new money. Most aid programmes have contingencies for emergencies (the UK, for example, allocates about 10 per cent of its £4bn annual aid budget to emergencies). Crudely, the costs of relief were met with money previously destined for the poorest people in the world. At some point donors will have to face this and increase aid budgets.

The level of response raises other questions. Early pledges added up to perhaps \$US1,000 for each of the five million people affected. Compare this with two appeals in 2003: Chechnya, considered highly effective, which raised \$US 40 per person, and flood relief in Mozambique which raised only \$0.40 per person. The Disasters Emergency Committee in the UK is studying how such a high level of response can be replicated in future.

Economy

The resilience of the economies affected helped mitigate the disaster. In India, for example, the impact is estimated to be 0.07 per cent of GDP. The figure will be higher in Sri Lanka and, especially, the Maldives, but costs will be offset by the boost to economic growth associated with reconstruction. A strong 'informal' sector

with extensive networks of small-scale producers puts the region in a better position to bounce back.

An ODI study identified several factors and interventions that favour rapid economic recovery. They include: civil peace and order, restoration of transport and communications, temporary income support for small-scale producers and swift revival of employment. Such workers, given initial support will rapidly piece together their livelihoods. But national and regional governments face huge, unbudgeted bills for relief and infrastructure repairs, adding to already large deficits. None the less, the transition from relief to rehabilitation can be eased by planning and suitably aligned foreign aid.

Tourism has contributed to the region's resilience. Ironically, six days before Boxing Day, the Maldives had graduated from being a 'Least Developed Country', mainly through tourism which accounts for 80 per cent of GDP. And it also accounts for the high public response. Western travellers who had visited the resorts empathised with those affected by the disaster.

Health

In the early days after the tsunami, the press issued dire warnings that the high death toll would be followed by deaths from disease. But it didn't happen. There were no major outbreaks. This can partly be attributed to the existing strong public health infrastructure, but was also helped by a rapid international response. Within

The Tsunami Evaluation Coalition (TEC) — a sector-wide, broad-based coalition of UN agencies, (I)NGOs, the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement and donors, supported by the ODI-hosted Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance (ALNAP) — has been developed to harmonize evaluation and to optimize learning across the sector. The TEC's initial focus is to report on multi-agency and individual agency evaluations providing insight into the impact of the response. For more information go to: www.alnap.org/tec



Clean-up operation in Ban Nam Khen (Thailand) (© REUTERS/Sukree Sukplang, courtesy of www.alertnet.org)

hours of the disaster, health teams from around the world had arrived in the worst affected areas. The British medical journal *Lancet* believed this response contributed to a low mortality rate of just 0.3 per cent among the more than 8,000 patients treated in hospitals.

WHO has acknowledged that the huge influx of aid helped stave off epidemics even if, in the words of Mukesh Kapila, WHO director for emergencies: "some [foreign medical teams] made demands on the already stretched local health infrastructures that actually did more harm than good." For example, there were reports that so many assessment teams were operating that people were being given the same health checks day after day, hampering the distribution of relief.

An important factor continuing to aid recovery is that, with the exception of Somalia, none of the countries affected is among the world's poorest. But the affected countries and international agencies will inevitably need to consider being better prepared for future disasters. Governments in the region, balancing costs against apparently low, catastrophic risks, had decided not to set up a tsunami warning system of the kind that exists for the Pacific. Now, unsurprisingly, most favour such a system.

A major lesson for aid agencies has been that prevention must be given greater emphasis.

www.odi.org.uk/tsunami/

Humanitarian Crises: Rethinking aid policy

Joanna Macrae and Adele Harmer

There has been a significant shift in thinking regarding the relationship between relief and development over the past decade. This has been driven by a number of factors, including an increased focus on linking aid and security. These new connections present both opportunities and challenges for humanitarian action. On the one hand, greater attention and resources may go towards countries which historically have not received a proportionate level of aid. On the other hand, the landscape in crisis countries has become increasingly crowded with a range of military and security interventions taking place alongside development and humanitarian interventions. This makes it increasingly difficult (particularly for belligerents) to distinguish between the different forms of assistance and protection being offered.

Given that these actors all work with differing mandates, reaching a common understanding of mutual roles and responsibilities within and between organisations responding to crises will be crucial.

During the 1990s, aid organisations examined ways to link relief and development assistance more effectively. Initially discussed around programming in response to natural disasters, these ideas were steadily adapted to the demands of conflict-related crises. The

shift assumed that aid (particularly development aid) could be used to prevent conflict, by addressing grievances and reducing economic instability. The premise was that conflict-related crises were transitory: short interruptions to an otherwise progressive, state-led process of development. While this was not a shared view – and some approaches to linking relief and development acknowledged

‘The events of 9/11 reinforced the links between aid and security. Policy shifts in the European Union, World Bank and US and other donor governments all highlighted that aid was now expected to contribute to counter-terrorism and security’

the reality that ‘crisis’ had in many cases become the norm - it did influence much of the policy formulation.

Problems around this ‘relief-development continuum’ were seen as primarily managerial. There was concern about creating dependency, and about how to make relief more developmental and sustainable. Much of this was driven by multi-mandated UN agencies and NGOs. Despite advances, there was not much progress, either in programming or in policy. There were four key obstacles:

- The debate was driven largely by

humanitarian agencies, who were relatively marginal on the international aid stage, both in volume of spending and in capacity to shape aid policy.

- Development and humanitarian responsibilities were quite distinct and there was little appetite for radical organisational change.
- The debate failed to keep pace with the changing form and intensity of protracted crises.
- The distinction between relief and development aid was political. In many protracted crises donor governments used relief aid to avoid engaging with states they perceived to be repressive or undemocratic.

From the late 1990s, a number of new factors arose and the focus switched from the links between relief and development to the broader dimensions of aid and security. There was a steady internationalisation of responsibility for human security and welfare, where necessary, conducted outside the framework of recipient states. A range of mechanisms for intervention were designed to assist in re-engaging with countries previously excluded from development assistance. Along with that was a growing convergence between the way in which both development and humanitarian aid were perceived.

The events of 9/11 reinforced the links between aid and security. Policy shifts in the European Union, World Bank and US and other donor governments all highlighted that aid was now expected to contribute to counter-terrorism and security. Aid ministers represented at the OECD Development Assistance Committee signalled changes in the definition of Official Development Assistance (ODA), to include activities in the field of security sector reform.

While the language of counter-terrorism was largely new, the precepts drew squarely on first-generation thinking regarding aid and conflict: a concern with the security of people, rather than states; an international and multi-disciplinary response; and a conditional, rather than absolute, respect for sovereignty.

Security and coherent governmental approaches to engaging in crises has increasingly become a driver for aid policy. In Canada, there has been an attempt to bring together diplomacy, defence and development policy. In the Netherlands, a Stability Fund promotes an integrated policy-driven approach to situations emerging from armed conflict. The UK’s Conflict Prevention



USAID aid in response to the Indian Ocean tsunami, Galle, Sri Lanka (©REUTERS/Yves Herman/courtesy www.alertnet.org)

Pools and the recent establishment of a Post-conflict Reconstruction Unit seek to develop common strategies across government in relation to conflicts. In the US, in a radical departure, the Office of Food for Peace has decided no longer to distinguish between development and emergency food assistance in fragile, failing and failed states. Organisationally, at least, many donor governments recognise that poverty reduction alone will not deliver conflict reduction, and that there is a need for more systematic linkage of investment in 'soft' and 'hard' security approaches.

'Organisationally, at least, many donor governments recognise that poverty reduction alone will not deliver conflict reduction, and that there is a need for more systematic linkage of investment in "soft" and "hard" security approaches'

Shifts in the policy environment are already resulting in increased spending in countries undergoing protracted crisis. However, optimism concerning potential increases should be tempered by the caveat that selectivity will persist, and strategic interest will remain a core priority.

While the development community is seeking better ways to dovetail its efforts with those of the humanitarian community, humanitarians are often seeking to distinguish themselves from at least some aspects of the developmental enterprise. The EU's Constitution has distinct chapters on development and humanitarian assistance, with the latter reaffirming a commitment to principles of impartiality and neutrality. The Good Humanitarian Donorship initiative established at Stockholm in 2003 also recognises the distinctive purposes, principles and operating conditions of humanitarian aid.

What remains weakly debated and understood is the extent to which the objectives, principles and standards of humanitarian action are necessarily distinct from those of development, and the basis on which competing priorities can be resolved. Nor is it clear how it might be possible to measure the contribution of different types of intervention (humanitarian, development, security, military) to humanitarian outcomes. There is growing recognition of the extent to which the achievement of humanitarian goals,



Lhok Kruet, Aceh, Indonesia, June 2005 (©REUTERS/Beawiharta/courtesy www.alertnet.org)

particularly the protection of civilians, is contingent upon political action in a variety of ways – from securing access for relief, to the deployment of protective military force, to the granting of asylum for those fleeing violence.

Economic growth and poverty eradication remain at the centre of the development agenda. These goals are not central to humanitarian action. None the less, there is considerable scope for exploring common ground between the two traditions. In doing this, both will need to decide how they position themselves politically in relation to national and international organisations, to what degree they are concerned with protecting and assisting populations at risk, and the most appropriate mechanisms to achieve this.

The authors' research briefing on which this article is based can be found at:

www.odi.org.uk/hpg/trendso3_04.html

Networks: More than the latest buzzword

Julius Court and Enrique Mendizabal

From the G8 to anti-globalisation protests to Al Qaeda, we hear that networks are the most effective organisational model. It is the latest buzzword. So, too, in the field of international development. Researchers on social capital, organisational management and globalisation all talk of networks. Practitioners are setting up numerous networks and showing that they can improve the use of information in policymaking.

Networks are structures that link individuals or organisations who share a common interest or set of values. They can be formal or informal. There is a considerable body of evidence suggesting that networks can help improve policy processes through better information use. They may, for example, help marshal evidence and increase the influence of good quality evidence in the policy process; they can foster links between researchers and policy-makers; bypass formal barriers to consensus; bring resources and expertise to policy-making; and broaden the pro-poor impact of a policy.

A good example is the Huairou Commission. Until the mid 1990s grassroots women's groups were kept out of discussions at global level. In less than ten years, the Huairou Commission has gone from an informal, loose coalition into a global network of more than 11,000 grassroots women's groups.

'In Ecuador, twice in the past five years, well-organised networks of indigenous peoples and peasants have played critical roles in removing governments from power'

But they don't always work. In Ecuador, twice in the past five years, well-organised networks of indigenous peoples and peasants have played critical roles in removing governments from power. In both cases, however, they failed to reverse the policies they opposed; the new governments maintained the status quo. Their organisation at the grassroots did not translate into the capacity to influence policy.

But networks can play a role in linking information to policy. Stephen Yeo, a leading thinker on networks, identifies the following six non-exclusive functions for networks. They can act as:

Filters which 'decide' what information is worth paying attention to and organise unmanageable amounts of information. For example, the Development Executive Group is an international forum which



Policy research center staff from Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union networking at a workshop in Moldova, June 2004 (©ODI)

provides and exchanges information on project and employment opportunities.

Amplifiers to help take little-known or little-understood ideas and make them more widely understood. Advocacy or campaigning NGOs such as the Jubilee Campaign are amplifying networks. The FairTrade Foundation, for instance, works through a network of those licensed to use the brand to amplify the fair trade message.

Convenors which bring together people or groups of people. For example, Coalition 2000 in Bulgaria brings together CSOs, government institutions, the private sector and donors in various coordinated initiatives to fight corruption.

Facilitators to help members carry out their activities more effectively. For example, the MediCam network in Cambodia gives members access to services and facilities such as meeting rooms, a specialised library, communication means, training opportunities and access to policymakers and donors.

Community builder networks, promoting and sustaining the values and standards of the individuals or organisations within them. The Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP) promotes best practice and minimum standards of learning accountability and performance among humanitarian agencies.

Investor/Provider networks, offering a means to give members the resources they need to carry out their main

activities. The African Capacity Building Foundation, for instance, provides technical assistance, skills and funding to its policy research partners.

'Influencing policy through networks is rarely straightforward but we know more and more about what works'

Networks can play more than one role. Indeed, they usually carry out several functions simultaneously in order to maximize their chances of influencing policy. The specific mix will vary.

However, different functions require different structures for maximum effectiveness. Networks designed for – and effective at – one role may not be good at others. Introducing new functions might compromise the original objectives. Specific networks will need to consider carefully how many and which functions they can carry out successfully.

Influencing policy through networks is rarely straightforward but we know more and more about what works. There are 10 commonly cited 'keys to success':

- Clear governance agreements which set objectives, identify functions, define

UN Reform: An eight step programme for more effective collective action

Simon Maxwell

membership structures, make decisions and resolve conflicts.

- Strength in numbers: the larger the numbers involved the greater the political weight.
- Representativeness is a key source of legitimacy and thereby influence.
- Quality of evidence affects both credibility and legitimacy.
- Packaging of evidence is crucial to effective communication.
- Persistence over a period of time is often required for policy influence.
- Key individuals can facilitate policy influence.
- Informal links can be critical in achieving objectives.
- Complementing official structures rather than duplicating them makes networks more valuable.
- ICT: New information and communication technologies are increasingly vital for networking.

In developing countries, the challenges of networking are significantly greater than in the North. Economic, social and political environments are more difficult. Capacity is more limited. Resources are scarcer. The right kind of network is therefore crucial. Different keys open different types of policy door.

Networks deserve some of the recent hype. But they don't change the basic rules of economics, politics or human nature.

Even so, we are not making enough use of networks. Many actors are operating in isolation and responses are often fragmented. There is scope – and need – to use networks more to influence policymaking in international development.

www.odi.org.uk/rapid/

The United Nations development system is the source of many norms and standards at global level, ranging from the Millennium Development Goals to technical standards in areas like health and food safety. It also delivers humanitarian aid, technical assistance and support to social sectors like health and education. Making the system work better is a constant preoccupation – in 2003, Kofi Annan observed that ‘... The system is not working as it should ... We need to take a hard look at our institutions themselves ... They may need radical reform.’ At present, the outlook for serious reform on the development side is not especially propitious – but it could be.

Unfortunately, the UN reform agenda has been dominated by security issues. These were the primary focus of the High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, which reported at the end of 2004; and of the proposals discussed up to and during the special UN summit of September 2005. The much-needed overhaul of the UN development system has seemed like a step too far.

The UN is a small player in the aid system: a corner shop, a fine and highly-regarded boutique perhaps, but still relatively small. It accounts for less than 10% of aid world-wide; and transfers only about \$3bn a year to developing countries. Partly, this is because the UN's

roles are limited. It is not a major provider of capital to the developing world. But why should this be so? The UN could be a source of large-scale development finance.

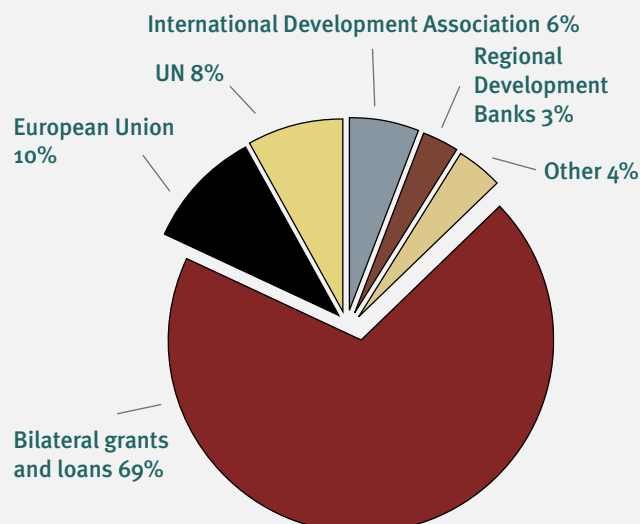
Despite its relatively small place, the UN is an extraordinarily complex structure. Its key distinguishing feature is the number of autonomous or quasi-autonomous specialised agencies, each with its own governance structure: there are fourteen funds and programmes, nominally under

‘The UN is a small player in the aid system: a corner shop, a fine and highly-regarded boutique perhaps, but still relatively small’

the authority of the Secretary General, and as many as thirteen other specialised agencies, excluding the World Bank Group and the IMF. It is not surprising that the system is difficult to manage.

In the past ten years, the emphasis has been on coordination at field level, through strengthening the role of UNDP Resident Coordinators, persuading UN agencies to collaborate in the preparation of a single UN Development Assistance Framework, and moving UN agencies into a single UN House. There has also been much better coordination of the funds and programmes (though not the specialised agencies) through the strengthening of the UN Development Group. Current reform proposals include:

Channelling aid to developing countries (2002)
(Total Official Development Assistance \$US58.3 bn)



UN Reform: An eight step programme for more effective collective action

(continued)

Lunchtime Meeting Report

UN Reform: Why? What? How?

29 April 2004

Speakers: Malcolm Harper, Director, UNA and Simon Maxwell, ODI
Chair: Rob Fielding, Treasurer, UNA





1) The first meeting in the series was held on Thursday 29 April 2004. The meeting was chaired by Rod Fielding. The two speakers were Malcolm Harper (Director of UNA) and Simon Maxwell (Director of ODI).

2) Malcolm Harper provided an overview of UN reform efforts. He said it has proved very difficult to re-write the UN Charter, so that reform efforts had taken place within a framework of interpretation and reinterpretation. There had been significant progress - for example, Kofi Annan's internal reforms - but some issues were intractable and there was much to do.

3) With regard to the Security Council, there were as many proposals as there were members of the General Assembly. Malcolm Harper said he was somewhat cynical about the membership aspirations of many countries.

Audio
Listen to the meeting
1. Introduction
2. Malcolm Harper
3. Simon Maxwell
4. Discussion part 1
5. Discussion part 2

You'll need Windows Media Player to listen to these clips. You can download the correct version [here](#).

- More focus and structure in the work of the General Assembly;
- Reform of the Security Council;
- The creation of a 'Peace-Building Commission', supported by a Peacebuilding Support Office, mainly to deal with failing states and post-conflict reconstruction;
- Strengthening the Economic and Social Council, by establishing a Committee on the Social and Economic Aspects of Security Threats, and by focusing its deliberations on development cooperation;
- Broadening the membership of the Commission on Human Rights;
- Creating a new post of Deputy Secretary General for peace and security;
- And strengthening the secretariat.

What could be added to this package? Radical reform proposals have included changes to the voting structures of the Bretton Woods Institutions, and better recruitment procedures for Directors General and similar posts.

In December 2004, the UK Secretary of State for International Development, Hilary Benn, made an important speech on reform of the humanitarian sector. He argued that the UN Secretary General should provide UN humanitarian coordinators with emergency powers to direct other UN agencies and that a substantial new humanitarian fund should be established, under the control of the UN Secretary General, into which donors would pay and from which humanitarian coordinators could

'Thinking about collective action provides a framework within which to understand why countries might or might not collaborate in particular reforms, and also actions and processes that might incentivise greater collaboration'

draw funds early on, when a crisis threatened or occurred. This idea of a new, simplified funding framework could be extended to cover all the funds, programmes and specialised agencies, through a single budget process in New York. A case can surely be made to provide a financial funding window through the UN.

Such specific proposals raise questions about political feasibility. Thinking about collective action provides a framework within which to understand why countries might or might not collaborate in particular reforms, and also actions and processes that might incentivise greater collaboration.

Theory suggests that successful cooperation requires a combination of an enabling social environment and a rational exercise of ruthless self-interest: a mutually reinforcing mix of culture and calculus. The great problem with international cooperation is that the mix is often missing.

An easy answer to failures of collective action is to use the language of selective incentives and jump straight to

sanctions. One country won't play? Punish them. That is a tempting answer, but an incomplete one, the last resort offered as the first. A better approach is to start with the easy things and build cooperation brick by brick, drawing on the lessons of collective action theory. This can be done in eight steps.

- Keep the core group small.
- Develop trust-building measures from the beginning.
- Use the same core group for as many issues as possible, in order to keep transactions costs down and benefit from what economists call economies of scope.
- Make it awkward or embarrassing not to cooperate. Leaders themselves can do this, but civil society plays an important role.
- Choose the right issues. These are the ones where all the players have something to gain and something to lose. Genuine global public goods look like a particularly good bet.
- Now start to think about positive incentives.
- Perhaps as a last resort, the lesson that collective action is often most successful when the costs of defection are high. More aid may be a carrot, less aid a less palatable but equally effective stick.
- Set up the institutions to manage these interactions and relationships.

As a first step to further reform, why not carry out a review of the capacity of the UN Development System? This was last done nearly forty years ago, by a team led by Sir Robert Jackson. A new Jackson Report has been proposed and should be commissioned.

www.odi.org.uk/publications/opinions/z8.html

For further information see:

Messner, M., Maxwell, S., Nuscheler, F., Siegle, J. (2005) 'Governance Reform of the Bretton Woods Institutions and the UN Development System', *Dialogue on Globalization Occasional Papers*, No. 18, May, Washington: Friedrich Ebert Stiftung.

Maxwell, S. (2005) 'How to help reform multilateral institutions: an eight step programme for more effective collective action,' in *Global Governance*, Volume 11, No. 4, November

See also: www.odi.org.uk/speeches/un2004/

Tackling Illegal Logging: The Verifor project

David Brown

Illegal logging is currently the central policy preoccupation of development assistance to tropical forestry. It is easy to see why. Between 50 and 95% of tropical hardwoods are thought to be harvested illegally, with huge losses to national revenues, usually in countries where the income is most needed. Illegal logging is symptomatic of the often parlous state of forest governance, undermining the efforts of legitimate enterprises to behave responsibly. Its impact is felt globally, including by non-tropical wood producers – a recent study suggests that the losses to US industry from the unfair competition with illegal tropical timbers are of the order of half a billion US dollars a year.

A new ODI project, 'VERIFOR', focuses on the verification of legality in the tropical timber trade. But it also raises some important questions about public accountability in a global context, and the part that international aid might play in social transformation and the consolidation of democracy.

The 1990s saw numerous attempts to reform tropical forest governance using donor conditionalities linked to structural adjustment lending. But these can be judged as only a limited success. What aid conditionalities can't deliver is national ownership, and, without this, the effects tend to be superficial and short-term. An alternative way to approach the problem is through demand-side pressures. Here the European Union's 'Action Plan for Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade' is of particular interest. The EU is currently encouraging its tropical partners to sign up to 'voluntary partnership agreements', where the legality of the timber exported to EU markets will be attested by the producer government, and endorsed by important groups within the society.

Such trade pressures are not applicable universally. At present, only European and North American markets are notably 'green', and even there, consumers have been reluctant to pay the levels of price premium that have a major impact on production practices.

Implementing voluntary partnership agreements may not be easy, particularly in a pro-poor frame of reference. Illegality may well be a reflection of forest crime – but this is not always the case, and account also has to be taken of obstacles to legality. The legal and regulatory frameworks inherited from the colonial period are often complex and contradictory, for example, and do not necessarily lay out clear pathways for legal action, particularly for the poor. Mere application of the law (or at least, those aspects of it that appeal to political elites) is likely, in many cases, to prove profoundly anti-poor.

Timber is among the extractive industries that tend to be associated with



Important issues of public accountability are raised by current reforms in forest law enforcement (©ODI)

weak states, and it can be argued that improving its management will have a major influence on the overall quality of governance. The issue is not just the 'legality' of timber. It is also about how to create equitable frameworks for resource use and increase the responsiveness of governments to their citizens. Thus, issues that may appear specific to the forest sector raise bigger questions about political structures and transformations, and the pathways to enduring democratic reform.

'Between 50 and 95% of tropical hardwoods are thought to be harvested illegally, with huge losses to national revenues, usually in countries where the income is most needed'

VERIFOR is a four-year €2.4 million project co-funded by the European Commission and the Netherlands Government, in which ODI is working with partners in South America, Africa and Asia. Some important pointers are starting to emerge from the research that may help to build verification systems which take better account of national ownership and poverty impacts. These include:

- locating the drive to legality and verification firmly within national policy processes that have already gained broad support within the society;
- building in a pro-poor perspective from the start – both as regards research (poverty assessments) and remedial measures (for example, actions to compensate poor forest users for opportunities foregone, particularly where there are no easy alternative livelihoods strategies);
- ensuring that the development of verification systems runs in tandem with efforts to resolve the anti-poor dimensions of forest law, and finding ways to lower the excessive transaction costs for legal compliance by small-scale forest producers;

• adopting a perspective on verification which includes, but goes beyond, the high-publicity aspects (for example, the work of international environmental monitors);

- safeguarding the independence and integrity of the system of verification, in the face of the wide disparities in wealth and influence of the different actors involved.

Among the challenges that have to be confronted are the 'chicken and egg' aspects of governance reform. Some effective verification systems already exist, but these tend to be the product of particular, arguably unique, national circumstances and don't lend themselves readily to policy transfer. Two of the strongest models – the 'multisector forest protection committees' in the Philippines and Ecuador's 'outsourced monitoring system' – are arguably of this type. Particularly challenging are societies where the timber trade is integrated into the patronage circuits which underpin national politics. In such societies, poor economic governance is complemented by the absence of strong civil society structures with which donors can engage.

One of VERIFOR's main foci is scenarios of this type. Insights are being sought from both within the forest sector and beyond as to how governance can be strengthened without surrendering the national ownership on which future sustainability so crucially depends.

www.verifor.org

Migration: A long journey to work

Priya Deshingkar

Migration has been seen as a symptom of rural distress associated with many social and economic evils and a process that should be discouraged.

However, earlier this decade, ODI found – as part of a separate livelihoods project in India – that internal migration was increasingly being used as a temporary expedient for raising cash. Huge numbers of people were migrating for part of the year from agriculturally underdeveloped areas to towns and cities and also to other agriculturally prosperous regions. The point was positive: to earn money, rather than a more negative drought-coping mechanism.

This started a search for similar cases in India and elsewhere, which yielded evidence from many marginal areas showing that temporary internal migration is increasing. It also revealed that rural-urban migration is the fastest-growing type of temporary migration in countries such as Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia and Vietnam that are experiencing rapid urbanisation and manufacturing growth. The evidence comes mainly from village studies undertaken by universities, rural development agencies, labour research institutes and NGOs.

Official statistics tell a completely different story, often of a slowing in migration rates, because they cannot capture part-time and seasonal occupations.

A key finding of ODI's research is that rural livelihoods are more multi-locational than is commonly understood: even though people are supposedly earning most of their income through agriculture, many in fact are away for part of the year in different occupations. Most temporary migrants come from agriculturally underdeveloped areas, variously termed 'remote', 'difficult', 'weakly integrated', 'marginal' or 'less-endowed'. They travel to towns and industrial centres and find jobs in factories or prawn/fish processing plants or working as porters, domestic servants, bus conductors, rickshaw pullers, street hawkers, petty traders, and construction workers. The work is usually characterised as underpaid, dangerous and insecure but it is very attractive to those from marginal areas where wages are too low to make a living.

Evidence from South Asia, Southeast Asia and China shows that migrant households often have more disposable income and are better able to pay off debts and save money. Funding is being sought for work on migrant support in Vietnam, and comparative studies



Seasonal migrants: an invisible force driving economic development (©ODI)

between Asia and Africa are also being planned. ODI's current work also includes understanding the role of remittances in post-Tsunami recovery in Sri Lanka.

The way money sent home is used varies according to place and circumstance. Its use for straightforward consumption has been criticised but this, too, can have a positive impact, exerting a multiplier effect on the economy, in turn leading to a virtuous circle of poverty reduction and development in the countryside, thereby helping to reduce regional inequalities. Substantial remittances can also offset the

‘Temporary internal migration needs to be recognised in poverty reduction programmes and national plans’

effects on agriculture of the loss of labour that many analysts fear.

None the less, migrant labourers are highly vulnerable. Being a migrant is expensive and risky for the poor, especially women and children. Such workers often live in insecure, unsanitary conditions and rarely qualify for pro-poor schemes that are reserved for those legally resident in urban areas. Even though migrant labour is an important driving force behind economic growth (most construction activities, road-laying and peak season agricultural tasks in South Asia are performed by migrant workers), governments remain hostile to them, while employers routinely disregard laws designed to protect their rights and needs.

Such findings have policy implications. Temporary internal migration needs to be recognised in poverty reduction programmes and national plans. Many of these, instead, attempt to control or reverse migration, thus choking a major livelihood opportunity available to those in marginal areas. Demographic and employment

surveys need restructuring to ensure that they record incidences of part-time and seasonal occupations.

Ways need to be found to support migration and protect the rights of these workers. Priority areas include reforming pro-poor policies based on residence, skills enhancement and migrant-friendly insurance schemes. Those left behind could be better helped by programmes which make it easier to send money home and which take account of the special requirements of de facto female-headed households.

The link between migration and marginal areas raises important questions about the course of future poverty reduction efforts. The dominant approach to rural poverty reduction in such areas has aimed at increasing per capita earnings through increased agricultural investment. It has been argued that increased public investment in roads, agricultural research and education in these less-favoured areas may generate equal or greater agricultural growth than comparable investments in high-potential areas. But the reality on the ground is that agricultural growth remains low: less than two per cent a year on aggregate, which is too slow for poverty reduction in many rural areas. The connection, if any, and of what kind, between this and growing mobility needs to be better understood.

www.odi.org.uk/rpeg/research/migration/

The Civil Society Partnership Programme (CSPP) aims to strengthen the capacity of CSOs to use research-based evidence to promote improved pro-poor national and international development policies. The programme will ensure that i) CSOs understand better how evidence can contribute to pro-poor policy processes; ii) regional capacity to support Southern CSOs is established; iii) useful information on current development policy issues, and how this knowledge can contribute to pro-poor policy, is easily accessible to CSOs; and iv) CSOs collaborate in southern and northern policy networks to promote pro-poor policies.

Projects: How CSOs use evidence

- Background study on how southern CSOs and northern campaigning organisations use research-based evidence to promote pro-poor policies
- Networks and policy processes in international development
- CSO participation in health research and policy
- Case studies on how CSOs contribute to PRSPs, budget monitoring, chronic poverty alleviation and environmental protection

Regional capacity

- Consultative workshops and seminars with CSOs and other stakeholders in Eastern, Southern and West Africa
- A knowledge base of CSOs involved in research-based policy work
- A study of ethical principals and partnership
- Small scale collaborative projects with CSO partners on food



CSPP's regional consultation workshop on 'CSOs, Evidence and Policy Influence' in Ghana, March 2005 (©ODI)

security; knowledge management; water and PRSPs; agriculture in Somalia; forestry in Ghana; and partnership brokering

- Capacity-building workshops and seminars in UK and Africa

Improved information

- A survey of CSO information needs
- ODI Intranet and Website development to improve accessibility and usefulness to CSO users
- Meeting series on MDGs and Targets, Voice and Choice

Collaboration

- Southern Voices – a debate with CSO partners in Africa, Asia and Latin America on the desirable future structure, instruments and major processes of international aid
- The future for ACP-EU partnership – work with partners in sub-saharan Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific to review the implications of the Cotonou Agreement for EU-ACP partnership
- Look, listen and learn – a collaborative action research project with CSO partners in sub-Saharan Africa to promote the use of CSO evidence in policies for food security



www.odi.org.uk/cspp/

ODI's Research and Policy in Development (RAPID) Programme aims to improve the use of research and evidence in development policy and practice through research, advice and debate. The programme has four main themes: the use of evidence in policy processes; communication and information systems; knowledge management and learning; and institutional development for evidence-based policy. The programme matured during 2004/5, with a series of workshops and seminars, a book *Bridging Research and Policy in Development: Evidence and the Change Process* based on earlier research work, a growing portfolio of advisory and public affairs work, and the evolution of the Civil Society Partnerships Programme which is described in detail on page 21. Key activities and achievements under each of the themes are outlined below:

The role of research in policy processes

- Networks – focuses on how civil society organisations can communicate their evidence and experience into policy processes for international development.
- The 2005 Agenda and Japan's Aid to Africa – three initiatives focusing on the views of Japan and the UK on African development and how they can work together more effectively.
- Aid, PRSPs and Development – summarising the latest thinking

and practice in aid policy in the UK, aiming to increase interaction between Japanese and UK researchers.

- Advice to the Local Governance Institute Policy Fellowship Programme – aiming to stimulate creative policy recommendations for governance and public services in Eastern Europe.
- Bridging the Gap between Research and Policy in Combating HIV/AIDS in Developing Countries – initial research to improve understanding about

the key determinants of policy change.

- A policy impact assessment and country studies in India and Kenya for the DFID Engineering Knowledge and Research Programme evaluation.

Knowledge Management

- Development and implementation of a knowledge management strategy at ODI - improving integration and dialogue within the institute to enhance engagement with development policy-makers and partners in the North and South.

- Advice to African Humanitarian Action

- to develop a framework for improving knowledge management and learning across its 11 country offices.

Communications

- Research and editorial work for *With the Support of Multitudes: Using strategic communication to fight poverty through PRSPs*
- Advice on communication for rural livelihoods for the World Bank Rural Enterprise and Small-Scale Commercial Agriculture Development Project in Armenia.

Promotion and Capacity Building

- Training and advice for government and agency staff in IDRC/CIDA Small and Medium Enterprise Policy project in Egypt.
- Pro-poor Livestock Policy Research – a collaborative project with ILRI to develop mechanisms to improve the impact of their research.
- Advice to improve the impact of the DFID South Africa Forestry Project.

www.odi.org.uk/rapid/



Bridging Research and Policy: Development Studies Association (DSA) Conference

ODI helped organise the 2004 Annual Conference of the UK Development Studies Association (DSA) on the topic of policy entrepreneurship for poverty reduction. With four keynote speakers, 21 workshops and 500 participants, the conference added new perspectives and a host of lessons on the science and the art of bridging research and policy.

www.odi.org.uk/rapid/Meetings/DSA_BRP_2004/DSA_background.html

Research and Policy in Development

John Young	<i>Programme Manager</i>	Enrique Mendizabal	<i>Research Officer</i>	Ingie Hovland	<i>Research Associate</i>
Julius Court	<i>Research Fellow</i>	Amy Pollard*	<i>Research Officer</i>	Fiona Drysdale	<i>Information and Communications Officer</i>
Naved Chowdhury	<i>Research Officer</i>	Ben Ramalingam	<i>Research Officer</i>	Yvonne Thomas	<i>Project Administrator</i>
Cokro Leksmono	<i>Research Officer</i>	Debbie Warrenner	<i>Research Officer</i>		

* Left during the year

IEDG's activities extend beyond economic analysis to include policy advice to developing countries and to the UK Department for International Development, the European Commission and Parliament, the World Bank and the World Trade Organisation. We work with other economists in Europe and in developing countries. We have formal links with the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes and the African Economic Research Consortium, which supports policy-oriented economic research by African scholars. Projects range from multi-year multi-country comparative analysis to studies to answer immediate policy questions:

Trade and Trade Policy

- Africa trade and poverty programme
- The EU and WTO/GATS negotiations on the liberalisation of water services
- Evolution of special and differential treatment
- Linking local women producers with global markets
- Preference erosion: Tanzania
- Special and differential treatment in post-Cotonou services negotiations
- Sustainability impact assessments of WTO
- Understanding the impact of cotton subsidies on developing countries

International Institutions

- The evolving World Bank role in international development architecture
- Globalisation and education
- Overcoming market failures and providing public goods

Foreign Direct Investment

- Regional integration and poverty
- Structure and performance of investment incentives schemes in St Lucia and Belize
- Foreign direct investment by African countries

EU Policy

- ACP-EU trade relations
- EU-MERCOSUR negotiations
- The European constituency for

multilateral aid

- European development policy
- Forthcoming changes in the EU banana and sugar markets: options for an effective EU transitional package
- Human security – norms in the EU's external relations
- An overview of debates on aid policy to Africa in the UK, France, Germany and the European Union
- Poverty focus in EU support to middle income countries
- Special and differential treatment in CARIFORUM-EC EPA services negotiations
- Trade options offered by the EU to Zambia

Effectiveness of Aid

- 2004 ODI sourcebook on development-related trends
- Civilian perspectives or security strategy?
- DAC working party on aid effectiveness
- The future of aid and the international aid system
- Political conditionality in Africa
- Preserving multilateralism: user perspectives on reform of the international aid architecture
- The role of emerging donors in the humanitarian sector

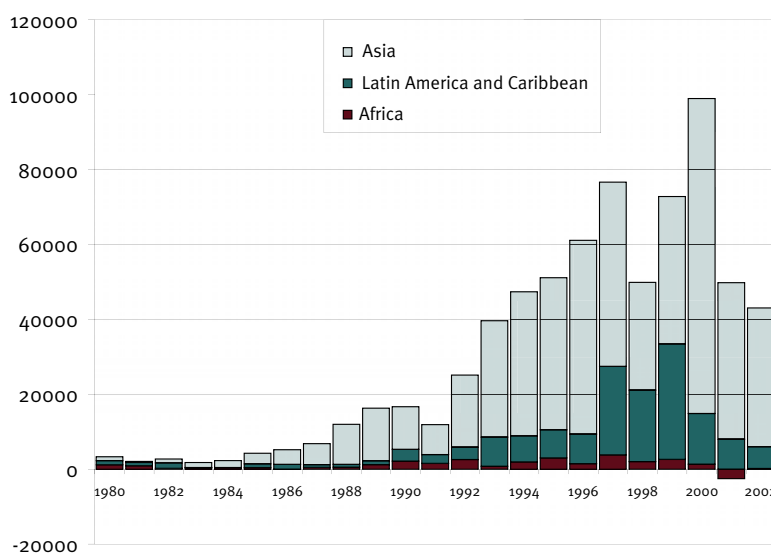
Natural Disasters

- An assessment of the developmental effectiveness of food aid and the effects of its tying status
- Economic and financial impacts of natural disasters



www.odi.org.uk/iedg/

Explaining trends in outward foreign direct investing by developing countries (US\$ million)



Source: www.unctad.org

International Economic Development Group

Sheila Page**	Group Coordinator	Andrew Rogerson*	Research Fellow	Genevieve Matthews	Group Administrator
Ian Gillson	Research Fellow	Dirk Willem te Velde~	Research Fellow	Peter Holmes	Research Associate
Sven Grimm	Research Fellow	Edward Clay	Senior Research Associate	Peter Kleen	Research Associate
Adrian Hewitt	Research Fellow	Tony Killick	Senior Research Associate	Oliver Morrissey	Research Associate
Oliver Morrissey*	Research Fellow	Roo Griffiths*	Group Administrator	Kunal Sen	Research Associate

* Left during the year **retired June 2005 ~Acting Group Coordinator from July 2005

PPPG undertakes research, advisory work and public affairs activities in three areas of international development: the understanding of poverty and the conditions for poverty reduction; the national policy process and its role in development; and poverty-focused aid and its successful delivery. The Group has a particular track record in studies and thinking about issues lying at the interfaces between these three spheres of work. The Group hosts the Centre for Aid and Public Expenditure (CAPE) and we contribute with other ODI researchers in the Chronic Poverty Research Centre (CPRC) and the Rights in Action (RiA) programme. Projects include:

Poverty, chronic poverty and exclusion

- ODI meeting series on the Millennium Development Goals
- Compilation, publication and launch of The Chronic Poverty Report
- Chronic Poverty Research Centre, Uganda and Kenya programme development
- Young Lives Project, mid-term review
- Assessment of economic growth and the poorest

- DFID's experience with Poverty and Social Impact Assessment
- Support to development of DFID strategy on exclusion
- Violence in non-conflict situations
- The power of categorisation

Gender

- Gender audit of DFID Malawi
- Methodology of gender audits

Human rights and development

- ODI meeting series on human rights and poverty reduction
- Right to development and development partnerships (for UNHCHR)
- Integrating human rights and sustainable development in Swiss cooperation
- Review of UNDP Rule of Law and Security Programme, Somalia
- Rights-based approach of Norwegian People's Aid
- Sector-wide approaches to justice and conflict sensitivity

Economic growth, inequality and poverty

- Pro-poor growth prospects in Ghana
- How inequality affects poverty reduction through growth
- Facility for regional institutions on inequality and the MDGs
- Linking social protection and pro-poor growth, Africa
- Impact of trade liberalisation on child well-being
- People, place and sub-national growth, Ghana
- What is pro-poor investment? (UNDP)



Making aid effective – Rice Production Plan Vietnam (©EC)

Poverty and Public Policy Group

David Booth	<i>Group Coordinator</i>	Laure-Hélène Piron	<i>Research Fellow</i>	Samantha Smith*	<i>Research Officer</i>
Kate Bird	<i>Research Fellow</i>	Andrew Rogerson	<i>Research Fellow</i>	Caroline Moser	<i>Senior Research Associate</i>
Karin Christiansen	<i>Research Fellow</i>	Michael Warner	<i>Research Fellow</i>	Alison Evans	<i>Research Associate</i>
Tim Conway*	<i>Research Fellow</i>	Edward Anderson	<i>Research Officer</i>	Tim Williamson	<i>Research Associate</i>
Paolo de Renzio	<i>Research Fellow</i>	Zaza Curran	<i>Research Officer</i>	Chris Taylor	<i>Group Administrator</i>
Ruth Driscoll	<i>Research Fellow</i>	Ursula Grant	<i>Research Officer</i>	Katarina Herneryd	<i>Project Administrator</i>
Verena Fritz	<i>Research Fellow</i>	Nambusi Kyegombe	<i>Research Officer</i>	Tammie O'Neil	<i>DPR Production Coordinator</i>
Clare Lockhart	<i>Research Fellow</i>	Joy Moncrieffe*	<i>Research Officer</i>		
Andy McKay	<i>Research Fellow</i>	Alina Rocha Menocal	<i>Research Officer</i>		

* Left during the year



Aid approaches that work in fragile states (©EC/Sogreah/F. Cerutti)

Centre for Aid and Public Expenditure (CAPE)

Aid policy and donor practices

- Joint Evaluation of budget support in Tanzania
- Joint Evaluation of budget support in Uganda
- Workshops on The New Aid Agenda
- Survey of aid alignment for SPA Budget Support Working Group
- Study of incentives for harmonisation in aid agencies
- Increasing the productive absorption of increased aid to Africa
- Development of an external aid policy for Kenya
- Donor self-reporting on harmonisation and alignment
- Country studies on macro-economic implications of scaling up aid
- Study of the minimum aid needed to reach MDGs

Donor approaches in fragile states

- Aid harmonisation and alignment in difficult partnerships
- Service delivery options in southern Sudan
- Policy development for aid harmonisation and alignment, Yemen
- Achieving the Health MDGs in fragile states
- Policy coherence in fragile states

Public financial management and service delivery

- Civil society organisations and budgets
- Service delivery and devolution in Punjab, Pakistan
- German support to Priority Area Rural Development, Mozambique
- Improving maternal and newborn health through health systems, Pakistan
- Tracking financial flows to Education for All, Uganda
- Review of fiscal decentralisation in Uganda
- Public financial management reform facilitation, Yemen

Corporate contributions to poverty reduction

- ODI/BP resource rents workshop
- Increasing community content in the construction industry
- Public-Private Partnerships in water, sanitation, health and education
- ODI/IBLF Partnership Brokers' Accreditation Scheme

Poverty reduction policy processes

- Workshops on Second Generation PRSPs
- Institutional arrangements for poverty monitoring, Uganda and Tanzania
- Support to Poverty and Inequality Reduction Strategy in Colombia
- PRSP annual progress reports and performance assessment (for JICA)
- Strategic communications in PRSPs

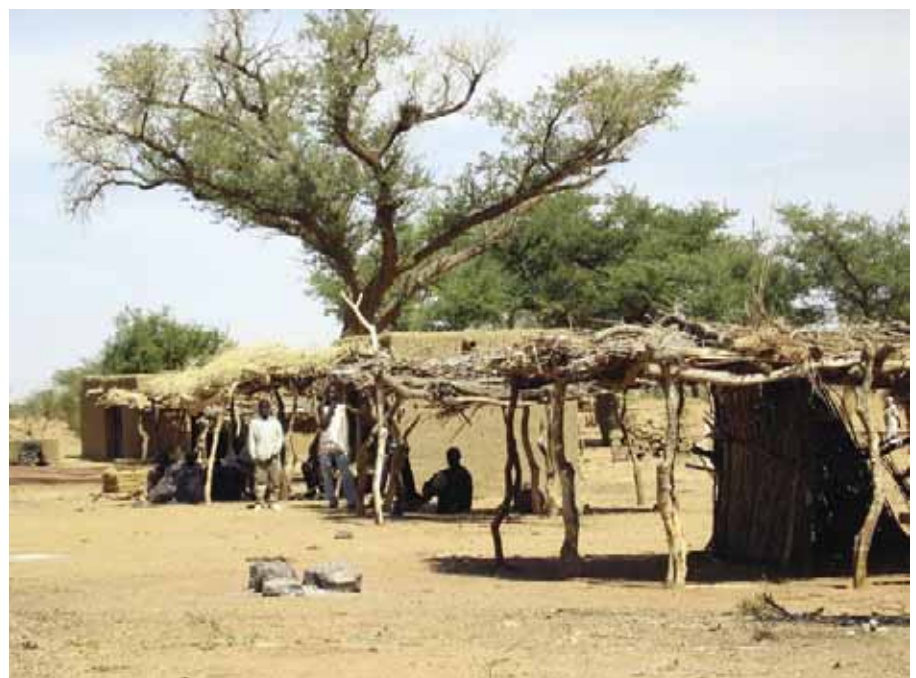
The politics of policy/drivers of change

- Studies of drivers of change in Ghana and Malawi
- Literature review on drivers of change in Malawi
- Desk review of drivers of change/

political economy, Uganda

- Tools for political-economy analysis of service sectors and policy arenas, Nigeria
- Literature review on institutions and organisations in development
- Study of political conditionality in Africa

www.odi.org.uk/pppg/



People, place and subnational growth (©EC/G.Barton)

The Rural Policy and Governance Group's goal is to inform and inspire debates on rural poverty reduction and natural resource management, raising their profile by drawing on new thinking and analysis of best practice. In order to achieve this, RPGG has developed a matrix of overarching themes and sectoral work. Three overarching themes encompass most of the group's work, allowing for significant synergies and learning across programmes: pro-poor growth; governance and implementation; and national policy processes in agriculture and the productive sectors.

Pro-poor growth

Comparison of the potential economic growth in different natural resource-based sectors, including tourism. Inclusion of poor people in commodity and other markets is key. Public investment, incentive and regulatory structures are needed to foster employment, migration and opportunities for informal sector operators. Technological options can have very varied impacts. The group also examines different modes of protection against risk which vulnerable people need, and the implications of these for protection against shocks and stresses, for the strengthening of local markets, and for the inclusion of vulnerable people in growth processes.

Governance and implementation

Key issues at a local level are voice and choice; at national level the role of government, including decentralised government;

the processes leading to choice of rural development priorities and instruments, and the implications of donor budget support for rural policy making. Themes which will feature in 2005/6 include developing downwards and national accountability systems and cultures; service delivery in difficult policy environments; and the role of the private sector in those environments. RPGG works closely with ODI's Poverty and Public Policy Group (PPPG) on this theme.

National policy processes, agriculture and the productive sectors

Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) have poverty reduction as their goal, and yet rarely have productive sector strategies which match up to that goal. The group is committed to investigating why this is and what can be done about it – how PRS processes can be improved so that more account can be taken of the poverty reducing potential of the productive sectors.

Sectoral programmes

Forest Policy and Environment Programme (FPEP)

FPEP seeks to inform policy change processes in tropical forestry to improve the livelihoods and wellbeing of the forest-dependent poor, whilst securing the long-term future of forest resources. FPEP's current work centres on issues of public accountability. Recent research activity includes:

- VERIFOR, a new 4-year programme exploring institutional mechanisms being developed in



Nile Gorge, Ethiopia (©ODI)

Rural Policy and Governance Group

Andrew Shepherd	<i>Group Coordinator</i>	Tom Slaymaker	<i>Research Fellow</i>	Gill Shepherd	<i>Senior Research Associate</i>
Caroline Ashley	<i>Research Fellow</i>	Robert Tripp	<i>Research Fellow</i>	Kate Schreckenber	<i>Research Associate</i>
Neil Bird	<i>Research Fellow</i>	Steve Wiggins	<i>Research Fellow</i>	Peter Newborne	<i>Research Associate</i>
David Brown	<i>Research Fellow</i>	Dirk Bezemer*	<i>Research Officer</i>	Alana Coyle	<i>Group Administrator/AgREN</i>
Elizabeth Cromwell	<i>Research Fellow</i>	Robert Chapman	<i>Research Officer</i>	Leah Goldberg*	<i>Project Administrator</i>
Priya Deshingkar	<i>Research Fellow</i>	Sophie Evitt*	<i>Research Officer</i>	Marialivia Iotti	<i>Project Administrator</i>
John Farrington	<i>Research Fellow</i>	Doug McNab	<i>Research Officer</i>	Christina Panagiotopoulos	<i>Project Administrator</i>
John Howell	<i>Research Fellow</i>	Dorothea Meyer*	<i>Research Officer</i>	Zoë Parr*	<i>Project Administrator</i>
Cecilia Luttrell	<i>Research Fellow</i>	Theodora Xenogiani*	<i>Research Officer</i>	Oliver Reichardt	<i>Project Administrator</i>
Alan Nicol	<i>Research Fellow</i>	Adrian Wells	<i>Research Officer</i>		
Rachel Slater	<i>Research Fellow</i>	Katharina Welle	<i>Research Officer</i>		

*left during the year

tropical countries to ensure that timber and forest products are legally harvested

- exploration of the impact of participatory forest management (PFM) approaches on the lives of the rural poor, suggesting ways such programmes can effectively contribute to poverty reduction
- exploring the link between forests and poverty in Indonesia and South Africa
- reviewing the treatment of forests in Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
- exploring issues around wildmeat, livelihood security and conservation in the tropics
- commercialisation of non-timber forest products

www.odifpep.org.uk

Water Policy Programme (WPP)

Research and consulting covers issues around pro-poor service delivery, governance and conflict and environmental management.

- Palestine water project
- developing civil society engagement and dialogue in the Nile Basin Initiative – Ethiopia.
- natural water resource management policy for South Sudan

www.odi.org.uk/wpp

Pro-Poor Tourism (PPT)

The PPT programme has four main current priorities:

- action-research in Southern



a new laundry supplier for a winelands hotel in South Africa – part of action research on how tourism companies can make local linkages (©ODI)

Africa piloting pro-poor tourism with the private sector, including production of corporate guidelines

- work with corporates in the Caribbean, and more widely on the development impact of PPT
- using the lessons from Southern Africa, and the Caribbean to inform strategies for pro-poor growth, the development impact of the private sector, facilitation of business linkages, and the role of public policy
- to position pro-poor tourism research more prominently in tourism decision-making

www.odi.org.uk/rpeg/research/pro-poor_tourism

Social protection and food security

- paper on social protection for DFID Policy Division (Reaching the Very Poorest Team) and background papers on social protection and: conflict, gender, services and rights
- the management of risk and vulnerability through agricultural policy, growth and social protection
- the Forum on Food Security in southern Africa, and other work on food security
- determinants of malnutrition, and policy responses

Agriculture

- inputs to DFID's policy team on agriculture especially into risk, vulnerability and agriculture
- the development of a three year Consortium on Agriculture and Pro-poor Growth with IDS and Imperial College, to focus particularly (but not exclusively) on Africa, and on pro-poor growth, institutional change, policy processes and technology
- improving rural livelihoods in North and East Uganda through client-led agricultural technology
- the performance of low external input agriculture
- the impact of intellectual property regimes on plant breeding in developing countries
- governance and implementation – locally and nationally – decentralisation, and budget support for rural policy making

The Agricultural Research and Extension Network (AgREN)

The Agricultural Research and Extension Network (AgREN) stimulates analysis and the exchange of views on pro-poor agricultural development. AgREN and its predecessor networks at ODI have supported the discussion and dissemination of innovative approaches to rural development for nearly thirty years. AgREN has approximately one thousand members and publishes full-length papers and a newsletter twice a year. The network is currently looking for new sources of support to enable it to continue.



www.odi.org.uk/agren/

- national policy processes on agriculture and the productive sectors – looking at shortcomings of productive sector strategies for Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs)
- agriculture and pro-poor growth
- food security
- advice to a major foundation on future strategy for funding agricultural research
- advice to a major bilateral donor on its strategy for agriculture and rural development in Asia

www.odi.org.uk/rpeg/research

Migration

Seasonal and circular migration is an important element in the livelihood strategies of the world's poor. Yet policy does little to recognise migration's importance in poverty reduction and regional development. Poor migrants, particularly women and children, face high risks and costs to health, education and safety. Current research has two components:

- advice on migrant support in South Asia
- comparative analysis on migration, land and agriculture across Asia

www.odi.org.uk/rpeg/research/migration

The Humanitarian Policy Group is one of the world's leading teams of policy researchers and information professionals working on humanitarian policy issues. It aims to inspire and inform effective and principled humanitarian action by conducting policy relevant research and by promoting informed debate on humanitarian issues.

The work of the Group encompasses a rolling programme of research and policy analysis under three thematic 'clusters'; policy analysis in response to new and developing situations; a range of publications, events and debates under the Humanitarian Practice Network; and production and editing of the journal *Disasters*. The Group also undertakes commissioned work in the humanitarian and related fields. Over the past year, the Group's work has included the following:

Law, principles and humanitarian protection

- exploration of the nature and scope of 'humanitarianism' in the light of debates about the erosion of humanitarian space
- work on the relationship between human rights and humanitarian agendas
- analysis of the range of interpretations of the concept of 'protection,' of factors determining the security of civilians, and the scope and limits of strategies to protect them.

The evolving architecture of human action

- Monitoring Trends 2004/5: Humanitarian Action and the Military reviews:
 - the evolution of military architecture and doctrine and its influence on civil military cooperation in complex crises
 - new and emerging models of integrated, military-led interventions to enhance security in crisis situations
 - the role of the military in the protection of civilians; and the role of private security forces in humanitarian assistance and protection
- examines the role of 'emerging' official donors in humanitarian action - a new body of non OECD-DAC donors which supports an increasingly diverse range of humanitarian crises.
- review of progress on the 'Good Humanitarian Donorship' initiative designed to foster a shift towards more principled responses to humanitarian crises with funding according to need.

Informing and inspiring operational strategies that save lives and alleviate suffering

- measuring the impact of humanitarian assistance
- what is meant by 'dependency'? - as applied to populations in receipt of humanitarian assistance
- cash relief - lessons from recent experience - reviews cases where cash or voucher-based relief interventions have been attempted, comparing the results to cases where food aid or other



Farshana, Sudanese refugees camp, Islot 3. ICRC delegates and Chadian Red Cross volunteers giving information on tracing activities (©CICR/HELLER, Yves)

Disasters:

the journal of disaster studies, policy and management

The journal continues to attract high quality submissions and subscriptions have continued to grow. Readership of online articles has also increased. As usual, the journal has covered a broad range of disaster-related issues, on both developed and developing world agendas, including: the Sphere Project; reproductive health and conflict; the causes and circumstances of flood disaster deaths; civil society development versus the peace dividend; oil wealth, misery and advocacy in Angola; security risks facing international humanitarian assistance (see page 40).

Humanitarian Policy Group

James Darcy	<i>Group Coordinator</i>	Kevin Savage	<i>Research Officer</i>
Adele Harmer	<i>Research Fellow</i>	Victoria Wheeler	<i>Research Officer</i>
Paul Harvey	<i>Research Fellow</i>	Joanna Macrae*	<i>Research Associate</i>
Catherine Longley	<i>Research Fellow</i>	Matthew Foley	<i>Publications Coordinator</i>
Frances Stevenson*	<i>HPN Coordinator</i>	Dina Hashem	<i>Group Administrator</i>
Jacqui Tong	<i>interim HPN Coordinator</i>	Carolina Kern	<i>Project Administrator</i>
Lin Cotterrell	<i>Research Officer</i>	Alison Prescott	<i>Events and Membership Administrator</i>
C-A Hofmann*	<i>Research Officer</i>	* Left during the year	

commodities have been provided to affected families.

- agricultural rehabilitation in Afghanistan and Sierra Leone- reviews the role of agricultural recovery strategies in situations of protracted insecurity.
- conflict and social protection – theory and practice in situations of conflict and their aftermath.

Rapid Reaction

providing information and analysis to inform decision-making in the humanitarian sector in the wake of major crises

- Two meetings (one public, one closed) convened to discuss the Darfur crisis in spring 2004
- Special advisory role to the UK International Development Committee's enquiries into Darfur
- Advisory input into the IDC's Iraq inquiry.
- Policy analysis and discussion forum in the wake of the Indian Ocean Tsunami in January 2005.

www.odi.org.uk/hpg/

Humanitarian Practice Network

HPN is a forum for people working in the humanitarian sector to share their knowledge and experience. The purpose is practical: to help practitioners, policy-makers and researchers to learn from one another's knowledge and experience and so improve humanitarian action. Through its distinctive and comprehensive range of publications, HPN enables the humanitarian community to follow key debates in humanitarian policy and practice, keep up to date on core technical issues and document emerging practice. In 2004/5, issues covered by HPN included the humanitarian crisis in the occupied Palestinian territory, famine relief, cash responses to crisis and community-based therapeutic care, as well as analyses of disaster preparedness programmes in India and food security interventions in the Great Lakes.

www.odihpn.org



Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance (ALNAP)

ALNAP aims to improve the accountability and performance of humanitarian assistance programmes by fostering a culture of learning in the humanitarian sector. The Network is hosted by ODI and currently consists of 50 Full Member organisations and individuals in the humanitarian sector (27 of whom contribute to funding ALNAP) and almost 500 Observer Members. Strategy is determined by an eight-member Steering Committee.

- **The ALNAP Review of Humanitarian Action** in 2003 featured a chapter on field level learning in addition to its usual evaluation synthesis and meta-evaluation sections. This year it was decided that the synthesis should focus on Afghanistan and southern Africa, so a reduced dataset of 29 evaluation reports was used. The meta-evaluation was based on 30 evaluative reports and rated against the continually evolving ALNAP Quality Proforma.

- **ALNAP Website:** the number of visitors to www.alnap.org continued to increase. The site has been considerably enhanced, and work has begun on moving the Evaluative Reports Database to a new and more effective database structure.
- **Biannual Meetings:** these provide a sector-wide standing forum for the identification and dissemination of good practice and allow key players in the humanitarian sector the chance to share experiences. The June 2004 meeting was held in Copenhagen and looked at changes in humanitarian practice since the Joint Evaluation of Emergency Assistance to Rwanda. The December 2004 meeting was hosted by World Vision at Milton Keynes, and reflected on the findings from the four Reviews of Humanitarian Action.
- **ALNAP's Study on Consultation and Participation of Disaster Affected Populations:** A sixth monograph, on Guinea, was published; piloting of the Practitioners' Handbook continued.



- **ALNAP Guides on Humanitarian Protection and Evaluating Humanitarian Action** have been updated following piloting and will be published in 2005/6.
- **Training modules on evaluation of humanitarian action** remain available from the website.
- **Response to Asian tsunami:** following the disaster in Asia in December 2004, ALNAP produced a lessons-learned synthesis of evaluation reports on previous emergency responses. Subsequently, a number of agencies have come together to form a Tsunami Evaluation Coalition, which will conduct a series of joint evaluations of relief work in the tsunami-hit area. ALNAP is providing coordination services to the Coalition

John Mitchell *Head of ALNAP*

John Lakeman *Communications & Information Manager*

Franziska Orphal *Communications & Administration Assistant*

Colin Hadkiss *Administrator*

www.alnap.org

ODI's Rights in Action Group is a multi-disciplinary team of researchers aiming to identify the practical contribution of rights to development and humanitarian assistance. Our aim is to better understand the impact of 'rights claims' on policy-making and livelihood struggles. Our framework, derived from ODI work on the relationship between human rights and livelihoods, is not limited to human rights.

The starting point is a number of 'rights regimes' (from the international human rights regime through to statutory, customary and even local 'living' laws), which link international standards and principles with the struggles of the poor and excluded. These different rights and entitlements can contribute to poverty reduction and ground the provision of humanitarian assistance – but not always. Those that advocate in favour of the adoption of 'rights-based approaches' need to reflect on both the strengths and limitations for poverty reduction and humanitarian protection, of rights conferred by citizenship and of locally developed norms, as well as of international and regional human rights standards.

Our work is clustered around three themes. It brings together existing initiatives across the Institute, as well as creating new opportunities for collaboration.

The Relevance of Human Rights for Aid and International Politics

- Synthesis study for the OECD DAC on human rights and development
- Reviews of DFID's work on human rights and social exclusion
- Training and advice for NGOs, such as Norwegian People's Aid and Save the Children in their adoption of a rights based approach
- Research on the application of political conditionality in general budget support countries in Africa

Claiming Rights at the National and Local Level

- Understanding legality and strengthening accountability in the forest sector
- Studies on social exclusion and rights-based approaches to social protection
- Research and advice on justice systems in Malawi, Somalia and the Balkans

Human rights and protection from abuse in humanitarian crises and fragile states

- The theoretical and practical relationship between human rights and humanitarian agendas
- The use of rights concepts in pursuing the protection of civilians in situations of violent conflict

www.odi.org.uk/rights/



Women voting in Pakistan (© 2002 EC/O.Lehner. www.europa.eu.int)

Human Rights and Poverty Reduction – Realities, controversies and strategies

A series of nine public meetings in January-March 2005.

Topics included:

- Human rights and the Millennium Development Goals; • Economic and social rights: legally enforceable rights? • Reconciling rights, growth and inequality
- Can human rights make aid agencies more accountable? • Why the human rights approach to HIV/AIDS makes all the difference • Rights and natural resources: contradictions in claiming rights • Protecting rights in conflict situations and fragile states
- Advocates or aid workers? Approaches to human rights in humanitarian crises
- Rights to water: strengthening the claims of poor people to improved access

(for full details see page 43)

The aim of the series was to create space for discussion on rights issues across existing disciplinary boundaries. Each meeting brought together speakers from different perspectives, such as lawyers, economists and civil society activists. Some sessions highlighted tensions at the level of fundamental values, such as between the provision of emergency aid on human rights or humanitarian grounds. Challenges to claiming forest or water rights so as to contribute to poverty reduction were identified. Rights were best understood as a check on public policy, not a constraint on growth. Participants raised the need for continued exchanges across disciplines so as to develop a 'community of practice', which ODI will continue to promote.

Transcripts and background papers can be found at www.odi.org.uk/rights/

Rights in Action

Laure-Hélène Piron *Programme Manager*

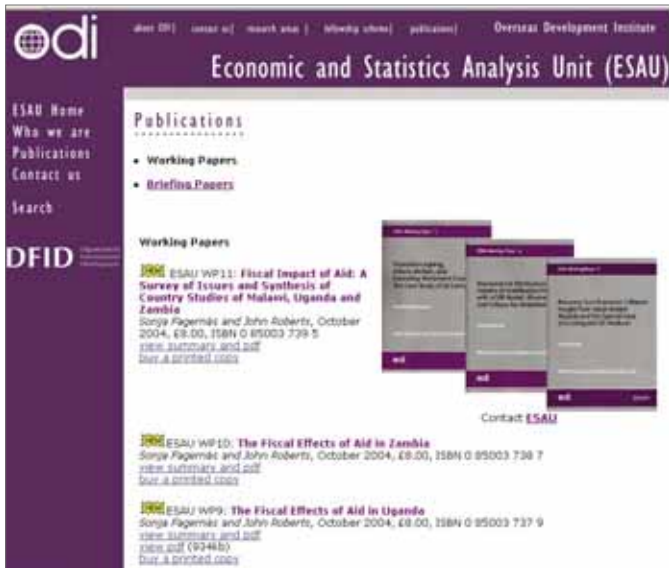
Tammie O'Neil *Research Officer*

This is a cross-cutting programme with involvement from several ODI researchers

ODI is contracted to run ESAU which gives DFID economists and statisticians a chance to undertake research sabbaticals on subjects relevant to DFID's objectives of poverty reduction and promoting pro-poor growth, and which carries out other relevant analysis and briefing.

Fiscal impact of aid in Malawi, Uganda and Zambia

Econometric studies of the impact of aid on recurrent and development



- Fungibility limited by institutionalised dual budgeting.
- The effect of aid on growth depends on the quality of the

expenditures it finances, their relevance to the needs of enterprises and producers in the private sector, and confidence-building policy factors.

Public works programmes in South Africa

Surveys in two programme areas showed that part-time but permanent employment

mainly for women household heads was more effective in reducing poverty than full-time temporary employment mainly for younger dependents.

Publications on these topics are at: www.odi.org.uk/esau/publications

Other completed research

- Privatisation in Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina post-2000. There have been successful trade sales in Serbia, but not in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Privatisation by tender to insiders may succeed in former Yugoslavia because of prior experience of self-managed enterprises operating in a decentralised economic system.
- Investment incentives in South African manufacturing. FDI in manufacturing has been low. South African tax incentives compare well with best practice, but have little effect on companies' marginal effective tax rates. The incentives do little to reduce unemployment.
- Future of garment exports from

Cambodia, after the suspension of Multifibre Agreement quotas. Cambodian firms should be able to withstand the stronger competition in export markets. There will, however, be a loss of quota rent for the Cambodian economy.

On-going research

- The influence of Russia on Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Ukraine since 1990: its comparative impact as a market for exports, an influence on the terms of trade, and a source of official financing and of remittance receipts; and thereby its effect on the countries' growth.
- Analysis of Sierra Leone's first post-war household budget survey, identifying the correlates of income poverty – rural and remote location, education, asset ownership, transport links – and using the data for policy impact assessment.
- The effect of scaling-up public expenditures on unit costs – in education, immunisation and road maintenance. Using country case studies the project tests the hypothesis that when expenditures increase sharply input costs rise and technical efficiency falls. The evidence points to case-specificity, but suggests that planning should always be based on incremental costs.

www.odi.org.uk/esau/

budgets, revenue and borrowing interpreted through analysis of economic and fiscal trends, policies and institutions, found some similarity in impacts – aid mainly increased development budget expenditure - but big differences in growth and macroeconomic stability outcomes. In the 1990s, large aid inflows helped to achieve strong and consistent growth in Uganda, but not in Malawi and Zambia. Some implications drawn were:

- The impact of aid is country-specific, in channel and effect.

Economic and Statistics Analysis Unit

John Roberts	Head of ESAU
Sonja Fagermäs	Research Officer
Melinda Robson	Visiting Fellow
Kate Bayliss	Visiting Fellow
Paul Barbour	Visiting Fellow
Omar Bargawi	Visiting Fellow
Lindsay Wallace	Visiting Fellow
Victoria Tongue	Project Administrator

As the various forms of development assistance are put under closer public scrutiny, one which passes the test is institution-strengthening. This is what ODI Fellows do as economists within their host governments. They work with their local civil service colleagues to build up capacity in economic analysis and devise new ways of working suited to the circumstances of that country. They are keenly sought by the employing governments in Africa and elsewhere – every year we have to select between the most deserving posts and the most needy government ministries, and match these to the qualifications and career ambitions of the Fellows themselves. We try not to disappoint too many governments, but it is a tight squeeze.

In 2004/05 the ODI Fellowship Scheme placed a record 34 Fellows in 16 countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific joining the 33 Fellows already in post. Of

the 34, there are 18 men and 16 women. In terms of nationality the new Fellows are British, Australian, Danish, Mauritian, French, German, Irish, Swedish, Portuguese, British/Nigerian, British/Brazilian, Italian/Eritrean, French/British and German/French.

This year the Scheme further consolidated its position in West Africa, with a placement in the Debt Management Office in Nigeria, potentially the first of many placements in that country, and by strengthening our support to the Government of Sierra Leone. Further new placements have been made in existing Scheme countries - the Uganda AIDS Commission, the Ministry of Private Sector Development (Ghana), the Ministry of Agriculture (Malawi), the Ministry of Health (Guyana), the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu and the Economic Development Division of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (Fiji), among others.

Activity of Fellows

Fellows play a significant role in policy development, formulation and implementation in their placement countries. Seven Fellows work in the health sector, two solely on HIV/AIDS (Swaziland and Uganda). We anticipate expanding this area further although trained health economists are a scarce resource much in demand.

International trade policy remains a high priority for placements - 14 Fellows work in the sector, 5 in the Pacific, 2 in the Caribbean and the remaining 7 in Africa. Demand for economic analysis of international trade policies

and in support of negotiating strategies continues to be very strong, and all these Fellows immediately notice that their work is making a difference.

Areas in which Fellows are currently, or have been recently working include:

- Budget strategy and preparation (all countries, including international collaborative work out of the South Africa National Treasury)
- Monitoring poverty reduction strategies including qualitative analysis and examining household consumption (Mozambique, Rwanda)
- Advising on trade policy and international trade agreements (Vanuatu, Mozambique, Tonga, Fiji, Malawi, Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Ghana)
- Analysing tax data to produce a harmonised forecast of government revenue (Lesotho, Malawi, Tanzania)
- Forecasting macroeconomic indicators (Zanzibar)
- Mainstreaming trade issues into poverty reduction strategy papers (Tanzania)
- Designing systems and procedures for aid co-ordination (Zanzibar)
- Analysing the impact of international trade relations on domestic trade (Guyana)
- Debt management (Nigeria, Guyana)
- Devising a strategic response to HIV/AIDS (Swaziland, Uganda)
- Background paper for a policy of support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) (Mozambique)

Funding

ODI was able last year to extend the funding provided by the Commonwealth Secretariat for international trade posts. Presently the Commonwealth Secretariat funds a total of eleven such posts: five in the Pacific (Fiji, PNG, Vanuatu, Tonga and one in the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat) and six in Africa (Malawi, Uganda, Sierra Leone, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia).

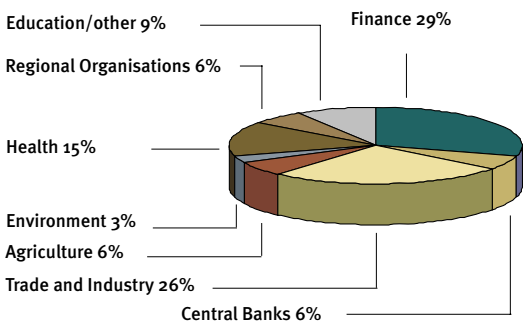
2004 also saw us enter into an agreement with AusAID to provide funding for three posts in the Pacific (Bank of Papua New Guinea, Reserve Bank of Vanuatu and Economic Development Division of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat) initially and with an option to provide further funding in future. This is additional to the core support we receive from DFID (which supports the remaining 52 posts) and from the governments themselves which pay local salaries to Fellows at civil service rates.

2005-07 recruitment

The 2005-07 recruitment round was completed in February. This was a record year with 463 applicants, of which 74 were interviewed. Formal offers of

'I thank the UK's Overseas Development Institute, which for many years has provided our Ministries with high quality economists.' (President Jagdeo of Guyana, 17 June 2005)

Fellowship categories by sector of posting for fellows recruited in 2004



John Grinyer, Fiscal Analysis and Policy Unit, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Lesotho

Fellowship Scheme

Adrian Hewitt	Head of Scheme
Susan Barron	Programme Officer
Angela O'Callaghan	Administrator

placements with governments were made in June 2005. The calibre of ODI Fellowship applicants remains extremely high, and more are applying from developing countries.

The demand for Fellows from developing country governments continues to outstrip both the supply and funding. Several new governments are interested in participating in the Fellowship Scheme in order to receive Fellows to strengthen their public sector economics cadre. Discussions to bring this into being have begun.

Post-Fellowship prospects for candidates are excellent with the majority of ex-Fellows continuing their careers in development. This year, for instance, three ex-Fellows have been accepted onto the prestigious World Bank Young Professionals Programme (Enrique

Blanco de Armas, Ian Gillson and Lars Møller). A full list of ex-Fellows can be found in our booklet and on our website. www.odi.org.uk/fellows/

Elise McAuley, ODI Fellow 2004–06, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Papua New Guinea



'I have been very lucky to land a posting that combines good exposure to a broad range of development issues with access at a high enough level to have some input in policy making to address them. Coming to work as a public servant in a part of the world and a government system that I previously knew very little about has had its challenges and has in many ways been very humbling. Every day brings something new and almost always totally unexpected both good and bad. If there is one impression which captures my fellowship experience to date it is that there is and hopefully never will be any excuse for boredom!'

ODI Fellows in Post (June 2005)

Africa

Burundi

Dominique Puthod, Ministry of Planning, Development and Reconstruction

Ghana

Rowena Dwyer, Planning, Budgeting Monitoring and Evaluation Department, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

Emily Larbi-Jones, Ministry of Trade and Industry
Kola Sofola, Policy Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Division, Ministry of Private Sector Development

Lesotho

John Grinyer, Fiscal Analysis and Policy Unit, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning

Haris Irshad, Privatisation Unit, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning

Bruce McAlpine, Lesotho Revenue Authority

Malawi

Alice Clarke, Ministry of Trade and Private Sector Development

Ben Essex, Projects Planning Section, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Food Security

Lucy Jones, Malawi Revenue Authority and Tax Policy Unit, Ministry of Finance

Polly LeGrand, Ministry of Education

Richard Record, Economic Planning Unit, Ministry of Trade and Private Sector Development

Paul Revill, Ministry of Health

Mozambique

Andrea Alfieri, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Xavier Cirera, Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Geoff Handley, Poverty Analysis Division, Ministry of Planning and Finance

Sam Jones, Macroeconomic Programming Division, Ministry of Planning and Finance

Simon McCoy, National Directorate of Tax and Audit, Ministry of Planning and Finance

Alexis Rawlinson, Technical Unit for Multilateral and Regional Trade Negotiations (UTCOM), Ministry of Trade and Industry

Amanda Tyrrell, Technical Planning Unit, Ministry of Health

Namibia

Fabian Bornhorst, Budget Management Division, Ministry of Finance–Treasury

Marie Karaisl, Namibia Nature Foundation/Directorate of Environmental Affairs, Ministry of Environment and Tourism

Zainab Kizilbash, Directorate of Planning and Development, Ministry of Education

Nigeria

Martin Alsop, Policy, Strategy and Risk Management Department, Debt Management Office

Rwanda

Rachel Ball, Macroeconomic Department, Financial Planning Unit, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning

Robert Cook, Strategic Planning and Poverty Monitoring Directorate, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning

Benjamin Cropper, Public Expenditure Management, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning

James Foster, Ministry of Trade (MINICOM), 2004-06

Anne-Louise Grinstead, Ministry of Local Government, Information and Social Affairs

Zöe Keeler, Macroeconomic Policy Department, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning

Nicolas Theopold, Directorate of Planning, Ministry of Health

Claire Wallis, Ministry of Local Government, Information and Social Affairs

Sierra Leone

Lauryn Johnston, Ministry of Development and Economic Planning

Matthew Lusty, Ministry of Trade and Industry

South Africa

Michelle Schoch, Budget Division, National Treasury

Swaziland

Anne Bolster, Budgets and Economic Affairs Section, Ministry of Finance

Edith Patouillard, National Emergency Response Committee on HIV/AIDS (NERCHA)

Amy Whalley, Public Policy Coordination Unit, Prime Minister's Office

Tanzania

James Bianco, Policy Analysis Department, Ministry of Finance

Doreen Broska, External Finance Division, Ministry of Finance

Luca Crudeli, President's Economic Policy Advisory Unit (PEPAU)

Kenny Lawson, Policy and Planning Department, Ministry of Health

Victoria Randell, Ministry of Industry and Trade

Uganda

Florianne Gaillardin, Uganda AIDS Commission (UAC)

Graeme Harrison, Macroeconomic Policy Department, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

Michael Obanubi, Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry

Gregory Smith, Budget Policy and Evaluation Department, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

Zambia

Philip Osafo-Kwaako, Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry

Zanzibar

Shireen Mahdi, Department of Budget and Economic Management, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

Claes Sandström, Tax Policy Unit, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

Caribbean

Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (CRNM)

Tania Wilson, Trade Analyst, CRNM

Guyana

Conor Fox, Environmental Protection Agency
Nicolas Godfrey, Commerce Department, Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

Ed Humphrey, Debt Management Division, Ministry of Finance

Sandra Lopes, Ministry of Health
Sean O'Leary, Agricultural Project Cycle Unit (APCU), Ministry of Agriculture

Pacific

Fiji

Anju Keetharuth, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade

Papua New Guinea

Mark Essex, Structural Policy and Investment Division, Department of Treasury

Elise McAuley, Trade Division, Department of Trade and Industry

Thomas Sampson, Research and Analysis Unit, Bank of PNG

Rachel Wilson, Policy and Research Division, Department of National Planning and Rural Development

Tonga

Jaya Choraria, Trade Policy Unit, Ministry of Labour, Commerce and Industries

Vanuatu

Chlöe Longmore, Reserve Bank of Vanuatu
Dan Lui, Department of Trade, Industry and Investment

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)

Laura Chappell, Economic Development Division, PIFS, Fiji

Judith Fessehaie, Trade and Investment Division, PIFS, Fiji

South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC)

Emily McKenzie, Resource Economist, SOPAC, Suva, Fiji

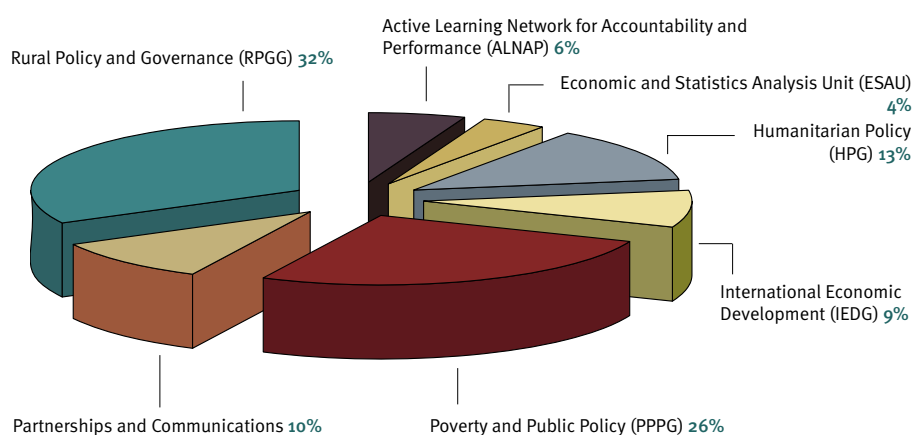
Balance sheet summary

	31 March 2005 £	31 March 2004 £
Fixed Assets		
Tangible assets	253,910	30,022
Investments (Market Value)	1,369,889	1,231,180
	1,623,799	1,261,202
Current Assets		
Stocks	13,907	16,437
Debtors and cash	3,095,276	2,465,825
	3,109,183	2,482,262
Current Liabilities		
Creditors and accruals	(2,013,748)	(1,546,832)
Net Current Assets	1,095,435	935,430
Net Assets	2,719,234	2,196,632
Designated Fund	466,985	296,345
General Fund	2,252,249	1,900,287
Unrestricted Reserves	2,719,234	2,196,632

Income and expenditure account summary

	2004/2005 £	2003/2004 £
Income		
Grants and project finance	8,498,007	7,143,647
Interest	1,662	499
Donations	6,506	97
Other operating income	150,376	93,555
Total income	8,656,551	7,237,798
Expenditure		
Staff costs and related expenses	3,653,840	3,297,035
Depreciation	66,435	32,493
Research Expenditure and other direct costs	2,094,559	1,564,705
Other operating expenses	732,934	738,298
Meetings, conferences and publications	368,512	112,848
Professional and audit fees	16,750	9,987
Fellowship supplements	1,339,628	1,201,170
Total expenditure	8,272,658	6,956,536
Designated fund transfer	(170,640)	(80,445)
Surplus on general fund	213,253	200,817

ODI Income by research group 2004/2005*



* excludes the Fellowship Scheme and Public Affairs activities

Statement by the Council

The members of the ODI Council confirm that the summarised financial statements on this page are a summary of the information extracted from the full annual financial statements which were approved on 14 July 2005.

The summarised financial statements may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the Institute.

For further information the full annual financial statements and the auditors' report and the Report of the members of the Council on those accounts should be consulted. Copies of the full annual accounts may be obtained free of charge from the Institute.

The summarised financial statements do not constitute full financial statements within the meaning of the Companies Act 1985 and the Charities Act 1993. A copy of the statutory financial statements of the Institute, upon which the auditors have reported without qualification, will be delivered to both Companies House and the Charity Commission.

Approved by the members of the Council and signed on their behalf by the Chair, Baroness Jay, 14 July 2005.

Statement by the Auditors

We have examined the summarised financial statements of the Overseas Development Institute. The members of the Council are responsible for preparing the summarised financial statements in accordance with the recommendations of the charities SORP.

Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summarised financial statements with the full financial statements and Council Report. We also read the other information contained in the summarised annual report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent mis-statements or material inconsistencies with the summarised financial statements.

We conducted our work in accordance with Bulletin 1999/6 'The Auditors' statement on the summary financial statement' issued by the Auditing Practices Board for use in the United Kingdom. In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements and the Council Report of the Overseas Development Institute for the year ended 31 March 2005.

Buzzacott, London, 14 July 2005.

ACP-EU Project Management Unit	Environmental Resources Management (ERM)	International Federation of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Plant Research International
Adam Smith International Ltd	ETC East Africa Ltd	International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)	Poverty, Food & Health in Welfare
AEA Technology Environment	Ethical Events	International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	PricewaterhouseCoopers
Aga Khan Foundation	EUACPEPA	International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)	Referat Entwicklungspolitik Afrika
AGRI South Africa	European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM)	International Lawyers and Economists Against Poverty (ILEAP)	Rockefeller Foundation
Arthritis Research Campaign (ARC)	European Commission	International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)	Saferworld
Asian Development Bank	European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO)	International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Save the Children
Australian Catholic University	Expert Group on Development Issues, Sweden (EGDI)	International Service for Natural Agriculture Research (ISNAR)	Shell International
BOND	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	International Water Institute	SNV Netherlands Development Organisation
BP plc	Ford Foundation	InWent – Internationale Weiterbildung und Entwicklung	Society for International Development
British Academy	Forestry Research Programme, Natural Resources International	Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)	Southern African Regional Poverty Network (SARPN)
British Council	Foundation for Development Cooperation (FDC)	Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)	Stanford University
British Geological Survey	Fritz Institute	Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) Entwicklungsbank	Swedish International Development and Cooperation Agency (Sida)
British Red Cross	Fundación General de la UCM	MacArthur Foundation	Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation (SDC)
Calibre Consultants	Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition	Maxwell Stamp Plc	Swiss Federal Section For Foreign Affairs (EDA)
Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)	Global Development Forum	MSF International	Technopolis
CARE Bolivia, France, International, UK and USA	Global Development Network	Merck Foundation	Tulane University
Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD)	Global Resources Development & Management Consult	Ministério da Agricultura e Desenvolvimento Rural, Mozambique	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) - Wales
Catholic Institute for International Relations (CIIR)	Governance Resource Centre	Namibia Nature Foundation	UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)
Centro Interfacoltà per la Cooperazione con i Paesi in Via di Sviluppo, dell'Università di Pavia	Harvest Help UK	National Audit Office	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
Christian Aid	HelpAge International	National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
ComMark Trust	HTSPE Limited	Natural Resources Institute (NRI)	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Commonwealth Secretariat	Imani Development International Ltd	Netherlands Development Finance Company	United Nations Environment Programme - World Conservation Monitoring Centre
Comms Consult	Independent Management Consulting Services Ltd (IMCS)	Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs	United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)
Concern Worldwide	Indiana University	New Economics Foundation	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)
CREDIT for the Commonwealth Secretariat	Industry of Finance & Planning, Jamaica	NORAD	United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA)	Institute of Development Policy and Management, University of Manchester (IDPM)	Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Unity Partners
DANSK FLYGTNINGE	Institute of Development Studies (IDS), University of Sussex	Norwegian People's Aid	University College London (UCL)
Deloitte & Touche (UK) Ltd	Instituto Complutense de Estudios Internacionales (ICEI)	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)	University of Barcelona
Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)	Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG)	Open Society Institute	University of Birmingham
Department for International Development (DFID)	International Alert	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	University of Bradford
Department of Blood Transfusion Safety, Switzerland	International Business Forum (IBF)	OXFAM	University of Newcastle
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH	International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD)	Panos	University of Wales, Swansea
Development Cooperation Ireland	International Committee of the Red Cross		US Department of State
Development Studies Association	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)		Valid International
Disasters Emergency Committee	International Development Committee		WaterAid
Earthlink	International Development Research Centre (IDRC)		World Bank
Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office			World Development
Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)			World Economic Forum
Economics Education and Research Consortium (EERC)			World Food Programme (WFP)
Embassy of Sweden, London			World Health Organisation (WHO)
Emerging Markets (UK) Ltd			World Vision International
Engineers Against Poverty			World Vision UK
ENRECA Health Research Network			World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

Includes secondary donors, who channel funds to ODI from other contributors

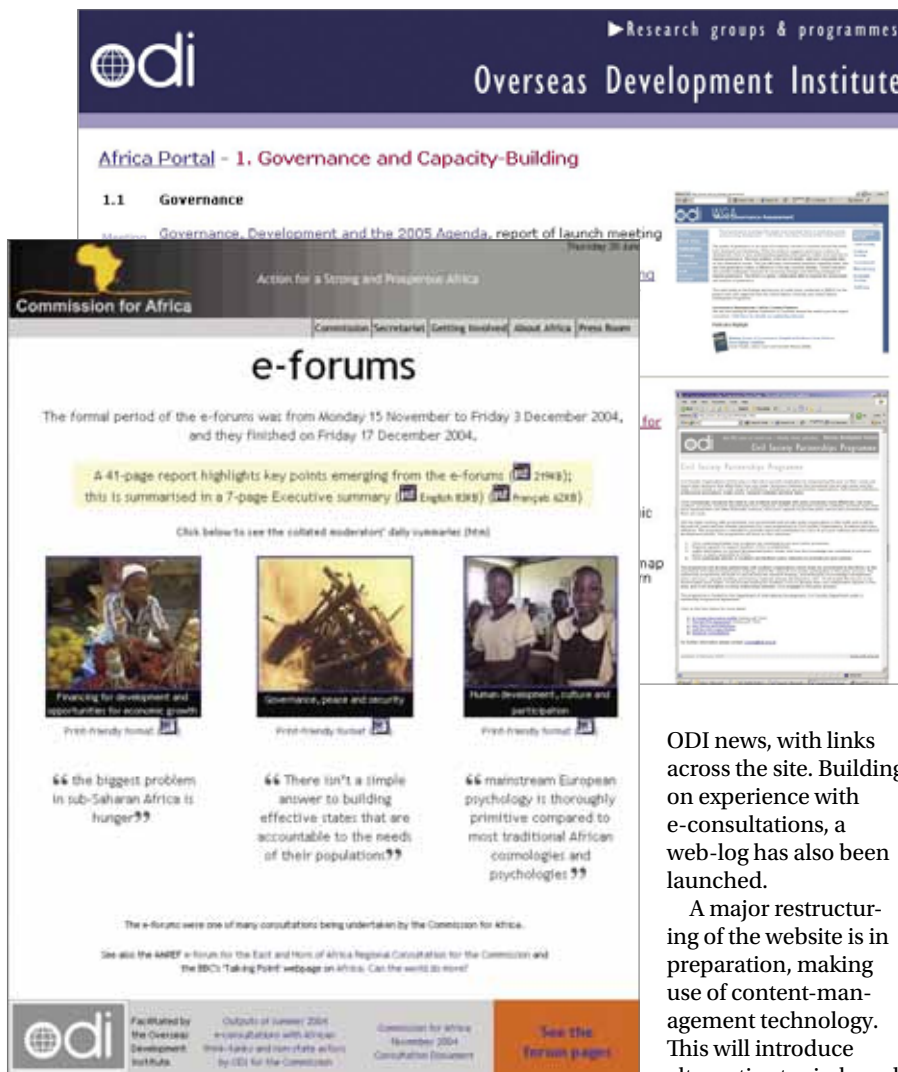
Central services staff

P.J. Greeves	Head of Finance and Administration	Richard Kongwa	Finance Officer
Charlotte McDouall	Human Resources Manager	Josephine Olugbekan	Senior Project Accountant
Adrienne Watson	Human Resources Officer	Mark Wilson	Assistant Project Accountant
Patsy de Souza	Human Resources Assistant	Paul Crow	Assistant Finance Officer
Anna Tublin	Executive Assistant to the Director	Cara O'Connor	Assistant Finance Officer
Natalie Kannemeyer*	PA to the Director	Siobhan Cosgrave	Assistant Finance Officer
Michelle Knorr	Receptionist	Karlene Bowley	Assistant Finance Officer

* left during the year

ODI's communication programme works through different media to reach policymakers and to contribute to wider public debate on development and humanitarian policy in the UK and internationally.

The website is ODI's most widely accessed communications platform. Visitor numbers continue to grow steadily, reaching more than 5,500 per day by April 2005



ODI news, with links across the site. Building on experience with e-consultations, a web-log has also been launched.

A major restructuring of the website is in preparation, making use of content-management technology. This will introduce alternative topic-based navigation routes, enable us to post new material quickly and efficiently and ensure that the website conforms to the latest accessibility standards.

In addition to the main website, ODI also hosts several other sites in association with other organisations, including www.keysheets.org, www.livelihoods.info, www.verifor.org and www.propoortourism.org.uk.

Publications
Printed publications underpin ODI's communications output. Although we continue to publish full-length books in hardback and paperback editions (seven new titles this year), the greater part of the publications programme is now published in shorter formats, also available on-line from our website. This year, we issued thirty new ODI Opinions, signed opinion pieces by ODI researchers on current development and humanitarian topics, and produced ten new Working Papers, presenting research results in detail. Six new ODI Briefing Papers were published, together with another 24 Briefings from ODI research groups and programmes, seven Natural Resource Perspectives, and 20 network papers and newsletters.

ODI Website

The website is ODI's most widely accessed communications platform. Visitor numbers continue to grow steadily, reaching more than 5,500 per day by April 2005, while total monthly hits now exceed 2.7 million, and page views have increased by 100,000 during the year.

Well-visited areas of the site have included: the E-consultations for the Commission for Africa in July and November-December, attracting 27,500 visits; coverage of the Indian Ocean Tsunami disaster in January, 6,000 visits; and ODI's Africa portal, launched to coincide with the publication of the

Commission for Africa report in March 2005, receiving over 10,000 visits per month. More than 69,000 copies of Working Papers, Briefing Papers, Natural Resource Perspectives and other documents are downloaded each month by visitors from across the world.

The home page is updated several times a week, featuring details of current meetings and events, the latest publications, and other

Communications

Peter Gee	<i>Head of Public Affairs and IT</i>
Anna Brown	<i>Publications Sales Administrator</i>
Daniel Demie	<i>IT Officer</i>
Diana Evans*	<i>Meetings and Media Officer</i>
Pippa Leask	<i>Publications and Website Officer</i>
Derrick Madir	<i>Assistant IT Officer</i>
Paul Matthews	<i>Knowledge Management IT Officer</i>
Terry McGarvey	<i>Information Centre Officer</i>
	<i>*left during the year</i>

New Developments

After extensive preparation and consultation, a new ODI logo was introduced in summer 2004, and this is being progressively applied to all ODI outputs. As part of plans for a major development of ODI's communication programme, in association with the new DFID Partnership Programme Agreement, we have commissioned a wide-ranging survey of all our information outputs. Questionnaires have been sent out to all Briefing Paper recipients and many other users and potential users of ODI information have been interviewed. Building on the review findings, ODI's communications staff team will be expanded and restructured, and key publications will be redesigned. In the interim, to provide additional capacity to respond to the crowded 2005 development agenda, a short-term communications consultant was recruited. ODI has developed and begun to implement a knowledge management strategy which will enable us to share and communicate research much more effectively in all areas of our work. As part of this process an enhanced intranet is to be introduced.

ODI's two journals - *Development Policy Review* and *Disasters* - are central to our publishing programme. Published in association with Blackwell Publishing, both journals have had another successful year, with significant increases in circulation. Thematic issues included 'The Rapid Rise of Supermarkets in Former State-controlled economies'; 'Analysing Macro-Poverty Linkages' (May 2005) in *Development Policy Review* and 'Reproductive Health and Conflict: Experiences from the Field' in *Disasters*. The publishers are promoting the journals world-wide with a particular focus on electronic subscription access for libraries and development agencies, as well as additional individual subscriptions.

Meetings and seminars

Meetings, seminars and workshops occupy a key role in ODI's communications programme, addressing both policymakers and the wider development constituency. During the year there have been five major series of meetings attended by a diverse range of participants encompassing civil servants, journalists, researchers and NGO representatives: *UN Reform: Why? What? How?* (April-June) jointly organised by the United Nations All-Party Parliamentary Group and the United Nations Association, *Targets, Voice and Choice: Options for Improving Public Service Delivery* (Autumn); *Africa and the Developed World: Taking Responsibility for Our Actions* (Autumn), organised in partnership with the Africa All Party

Parliamentary Group and the Royal African Society; *Human Rights and Poverty Reduction: Realities, controversies and strategies* (January to March); and *The Millennium Development Goals: The 2005 Agenda* (January to March), with the All Party Parliamentary Group on Overseas Development. There were also more than 40 other seminars, workshops and book launches (listed in full on page 43) including a keynote speech given at ODI in December by the Secretary of State for International Development, Hilary Benn on Reform of the International Humanitarian System. The reports published on the ODI website after each meeting, with pictures and audio 'clips' open up debates to a much wider audience - web visits to meetings pages exceeded 14,700 in February.

Media

Development and humanitarian issues have been high on the agenda of the printed and broadcast media during the past year, with the tsunami disaster, the Commission for Africa Report and the run-up to the 2005 G8 summit. As a result, ODI researchers have been in great demand for advice, opinions and interviews on many issues including debt relief, aid, relief and reconstruction, the EU and UN's contribution to achieving the MDGs. ODI has contributed to many articles and stories covered by leading media within the UK including *The Guardian*, the *Sunday Times*, *Daily Telegraph* and *Financial Times*, BBC News, BBC Radios 4 and 5 and local radio stations. Building international recognition, ODI research has also been covered in overseas broadsheets such as *LA Times*, *Kristeligt Dagblad* - the Danish daily, - the Swedish *Dagens Nyheter*,

The Times of India and the Japanese newspaper *Asahi Shimbun* - but also from broadcasting companies such as Radio Deutsche Welle, CNN, World in Progress programme, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation - Newsworld Today and Reuters (South Africa).

Parliament

ODI, located just across Westminster Bridge, is well-placed to work closely with parliament. In particular, ODI researchers provide advice to parliamentary committees, many ODI meetings are held there, and we provide support for the All Party Parliamentary Group on Overseas Development (APGOOD). The Group held a record number of meetings this year, many jointly with other all-party groups (see page 44). With the election on 5 May 2005, we had to say good-bye (through retirement from the House of Commons) to not only the APGOOD Chair, Tony Worthington, but also Peter Pike, the Secretary, and a former Treasurer but later executive committee member, Dr Jenny Tonge. We thank them all for their dedication to the Group and to the cause of development.

Information Centre

ODI's internal information centre supports our research programmes. It contains a core collection of key journals, books and statistical publications and its intranet site acts as a portal to key online journals, databases and other relevant web information sources. The centre is central to the ODI's knowledge management programme which seeks to increase efficiency and effectiveness through the use of knowledge sharing tools.



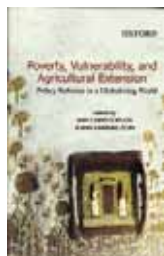
meetings at ODI and in Parliament

Books

Court, J., Hovland, I. and Young, J. (eds) (2005) *Bridging Research and Policy in Development: Evidence and the Change Process*, Rugby: ITDG Publishing



Christoplos, I. and Farrington, J. (eds) (2004) *Agricultural Extension, Poverty and Vulnerability*, New Delhi and Oxford: OUP



Hyden, G., Court, J. and Mease, K. (2004) *Making Sense of Governance: Empirical Evidence from Sixteen Developing Countries*, Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers

Maxwell, S. and Stone, D. (2005) *Global Knowledge Networks and International Development*, Oxford: Routledge



Warner, M. and Sullivan, R. (eds) (2004) *Putting Partnerships to Work: Strategic Alliances for Development between Government, the Private Sector and Civil Society*, Sheffield: Greenleaf

Working Papers

ODI Working Papers

247: Poverty Monitoring Systems: An Analysis of Institutional Arrangements in Tanzania, *David Booth*, March 2005

246: Poverty Monitoring Systems: An Analysis of Institutional Arrangements in Uganda, *David Booth and Xavier Nsabagasani*, March 2005

245: Change, Violence and Insecurity in Non-Conflict Situations, *Caroline Moser and Dennis Rodgers*, March 2005



243: The Washington Consensus is dead! Long live the meta-narrative! *Simon Maxwell*, January 2005

242: Fracture Points in Social Policies for Chronic Poverty Reduction, *Kate Bird and Nicola Pratt with Tammie O'Neil and Vincent J. Bolt*, November 2004

241: Politics and the PRSP Approach

- Vietnam Case Study, *Tim Conway*, June 2004
- 240: Politics and the PRSP Approach – Uganda Case Study, *Laure-Hélène Piron with Andy Norton*, June 2004
- 239: Politics and the PRSP Approach – Georgia Case Study, *Kate Hamilton*, June 2004
- 238: Politics and the PRSP Approach – Bolivia Case Study, *David Booth with Laure-Hélène Piron*, June 2004
- 237: Politics and the PRSP Approach – Synthesis Paper, *Laure-Hélène Piron with Alison Evans*, June 2004

Economic and Statistics Analysis Unit (ESAU) Working Papers

- 11: Fiscal Impact of Aid: A Survey of Issues and Synthesis of Country Studies of Malawi, Uganda and Zambia, *Sonja Fagernäs and John Roberts*, October 2004
- 10: The Fiscal Effects of Aid in Zambia, *Sonja Fagernäs and John Roberts*, October 2004
- 9: The Fiscal Effects of Aid in Uganda, *Sonja Fagernäs and John Roberts*, October 2004
- 8: Policy Expectations and Programme Reality: The Poverty Reduction and Labour Market Impact of Two Public Works Programmes in South Africa, *Anna McCord*, August 2004
- 7: The Fiscal Effects of Aid in Malawi, *Sonja Fagernäs and Cedrik Schurich*, September 2004



ODI Opinions

- 37: The Millennium Project: A Sound Strategy for Reaching the MDGs? *John Roberts*, February 2005
- 36: The Seven Habits of Effective Aid: Best Practices, Challenges and Open Questions, *Andrew Rogerson and Paolo de Renzio*, February 2005
- 35: A Preference Erosion Compensation Fund: A new proposal to protect countries from the negative effects of trade liberalization, *Sheila Page*, January 2005
- 34: The Indian Ocean Tsunami: How can the region recover economically? *John Roberts*, January 2005
- 33: The Indian Ocean Tsunami and Tourism, *Caroline Ashley*, January 2005
- 32: The Asian Tsunami: Economic Impacts and Implications for Aid and Aid Architecture, *Simon Maxwell and Edward Clay*, January 2005
- 31: Learning from the Indian Ocean Disaster, *Edward Clay*, January 2005

- 30: Can more aid be spent in Africa? *Paolo de Renzio*, January 2005
- 29: Giving, Forgiving, and Taking Back: Why Continue to Make Soft Loans to Very Poor Countries? *Andrew Rogerson*, January 2005
- 28: UN Reform: How? *Simon Maxwell*, October 2004
- 27: Aid: What's Next? *Andrew Rogerson and Simon Maxwell*, September 2004
- 26: Illegal Logging: Who Gains from Tighter Controls? *Adrian Wells and David Brown*, July 2004
- 25: How Humanitarianism is Changing, *Joanna Macrae*, July 2004
- 24: Food Security: What Have we Learned from the Southern Africa Crisis? *Elizabeth Cromwell*, July 2004
- 23: Offshoring: Opportunities and Threats as Services Go Global, *Dirk Willem te Velde*, July 2004
- 22: Bridging Research and Policy: the RAPID Approach, *John Young*, July 2004
- 21: Chronic Poverty: A Way Out of the Trap, *Ursula Grant*, July 2004
- 20: Bridges Across Boundaries: Linking Research and Policy in International Development, *Simon Maxwell*, July 2004
- 19: Behind the Rhetoric: the Relevance of Human Rights for Development and Humanitarian Action, *Laure-Hélène Piron*, July 2004
- 18: Rural India Learns New Ways of Earning its Living, *John Farrington and Priya Deshingkar*, July 2004
- 17: A Malaria Vaccine – What If? *Samantha Smith*, July 2004
- 16: The EU and the Poor: Unfinished Business, *Simon Maxwell*, May 2004
- 3: More aid? Yes – And Use it to Reshape Aid Architecture, *Simon Maxwell*, 2002 revised October 2004



ODI Briefings

ODI Briefing Papers

- Regional Integration and Poverty, March 2005
- Inequality in Middle Income Countries, December 2004
- Right to Water: legal forms, political channels, July 2004
- Developed Country Cotton Subsidies and Developing Countries: Unravelling the Impacts on Africa, July 2004
- Why Budgets Matter: The New Agenda of



Public Expenditure Management, May 2004

Doha Briefings

- 1: Trade liberalisation and poverty
- 2: Principal issues in the Doha negotiations
- 3: How developing countries can negotiate
- 4: South-South trade
- 5: Preference erosion: helping countries to adjust
- 6: Doha and poverty: preliminary assessment
- 7: Poverty impact of Doha: Brazil
- 8: Poverty impact of Doha: India
- 9: Poverty impact of Doha: Vietnam
- 10: Poverty impact of Doha: Zambia



ESAU Briefings

- 4: What can the Fiscal Impact of Aid tell us about Aid Effectiveness? January 2005
- 3: Why Bangladesh has Outperformed Kenya, January 2005
- 2: Public Works as a Solution to Unemployment in South Africa? Two Different Models of Public Works Programme Compared, January 2005
- 1: Ageing in a Low-Income Country: Is an Old Age Pension Necessary and Affordable? Case Study of Sri Lanka, January 2005



Water Policy Briefings

- 5: Towards Better Integration of Water and Sanitation in PRSPs in Sub-Saharan Africa, November 2004

Wildlife Policy Briefs

- 11: How Important is Bushmeat Consumption in South America: Now and in the Future? February 2005
- 10: Forest Product Sale as Financial Insurance: Evidence from Honduran Smallholders, January 2005
- 9: Captive Breeding of wild species: a sceptical view of the prospects, December 2004
- 8: Bushmeat Hunters and Secondary Traders: making the distinction for livelihood improvement, August 2004
- 7: The Bushmeat Commodity Chain:



patterns of trade and sustainability in a mature urban market in West Africa, June 2004

- 6: Wild Meat Harvest and Trade in Liberia: managing biodiversity, economic and social impacts, April 2004
- 5: Barren Ground Caribou Co-Management in the Eastern Canadian Arctic: Lessons for Bushmeat management, April 2004

Forestry Briefings

- 7: Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers: making the case for forestry, March 2005
- 6: A Review of the Multi-Sectoral Forest Protection Committees in the Philippines, February 2005
- 5: Forest Law Enforcement and Governance: The role of independent monitors in the control of forest crime, June 2004

Humanitarian Policy Group (HPG) Research Briefings

- 18: From Stockholm to Ottawa: a progress review of the Good Humanitarian Donorship initiative, *Adele Harmer and Lin Cotterrell*, October 2004
- 17: The changing role of the UN in protracted crises, *Bruce D. Jones*, July 2004
- 16: Beyond the continuum: the changing role of aid policy in protracted crises, *Adele Harmer and Joanna Macrae* (eds), July 2004
- 15: Measuring the impact of humanitarian aid, *Charles-Antoine Hofmann*, June 2004



Natural Resource Perspectives

- 98: Responding to HIV/AIDS in agriculture and related activities, *Rachel Slater and Steve Wiggins*, March 2005
- 97: Cash transfers - mere 'Gadafi Syndrome', or serious potential for rural rehabilitation and development? *Paul Harvey, Rachel Slater and John Farrington*, March 2005
- 96: Conflict in the Great Lakes region – how is it linked with land and migration? *Chris Huggins et al*, March 2005
- 95: Food security, social protection, growth and poverty reduction synergies: the starter pack programme in



Malawi, *Sarah Levy et al*, September 2004

- 94: Rethinking agricultural policies for pro-poor growth, *Andrew Dorward et al*, September 2004
- 93: Reform of forestry advisory services: Learning from practice in Uganda, *Mike Harrison et al*, August 2004
- 92: People on the move: new policy challenges for increasingly mobile populations, *Priya Deshingkar and Edward Anderson*, June 2004

PRSP Briefing Note

PRSP Annual Progress Reports and Joint Staff Assessments – a review of progress, *Ruth Driscoll with Alison Evans*, September 2004

Business and Development Performance Briefing Notes

Enhancing Social Performance in the Engineering Services Sector

5: Infrastructure in Africa: The UK Commission for Africa Report and a Role for Private Engineering Contractors, *Michael Warner*, April 2005

3: Levers and Pulleys: Extractive Industries and Local Economic Development – Incentivising Innovation by Lead Contractors through Contract Tendering, *Michael Warner*, February 2004

2: Involving Large Contractors in Enhancing Social Performance During Construction, *Michael Warner et al*, July 2004

1: Modifying Project Opportunities and Risk Analysis for Enhanced Social Performance, *Michael Warner and Petter Matthews*, Engineers Against Poverty, June 2004

Guidance for the Extractive Industries Sector

4: Meeting the Social and Local Economic Performance Standards of International Project Finance Institutions, *Michael Warner*, March 2005

Network Papers

Humanitarian Exchange

Editors: Frances Stevenson, Jacqui Tong and Matthew Foley

Special features:

Number 29, March 2005, Good Humanitarian Donorship

Number 28, November 2004, The occupied Palestinian territory

Number 27, July 2004, Famine response



Humanitarian Practice Network (HPN) Papers

50: Cash relief in a contested area: lessons from Somalia, *Degan Ali, Fanta Toure and Tilleke Kiewied*, March 2005



49: Disaster preparedness programmes in India: a cost-benefit analysis, *Courtenay Cabot Venton and Paul Venton*, November 2004



48: Community-based therapeutic care: a new paradigm for selective feeding in nutritional crises, *Steve Collins*, November 2004

47: Missing the point: an analysis of food security interventions in the Great Lakes, *Simon Levine and Claire Chastre et al.*, July 2004

46: Humanitarian futures: practical policy perspectives, *Randolph Kent*, May 2004

45: Reproductive health for conflict-affected people: policies, research and programmes, *Therese McGinn, Sara Casey, Susan Purdin and Mendy Marsh*, May 2004

Agricultural Research and Extension Network (AgREN) Papers

144: Introducing a farmers' livestock school training approach into the national extension system in Vietnam, *Jens Peter Tang Dalsgaard et al.*, January 2005

143: Participatory assessment of farmers' experiences of termite problems in agroforestry in Tororo District, Uganda, *Philip Nyeko and Florence M. Olubayo*, January 2005

142: Linking small farmers to the formal research sector: lessons from a participatory bean breeding programme in Honduras, *Sally Humphries Omar Gallardo et al.*, January 2005

141: Effectiveness of private-sector extension in India and lessons for the new extension policy agenda, *Rasheed Sulaiman V, Andy Hall and N. Suresh*, January 2005

140: Farmers' experiences in the management and utilisation of Calliandra calothyrsus, a fodder shrub, in Uganda, *Philip Nyeko et al.*



- July 2004
- 139: Evaluating training projects on low external input agriculture: lessons from Guatemala, *Jos Vaessen and Jan de Groot*, July 2004
- 138: Cinderella's slipper: Sondeo surveys and technology fairs for gauging demand, *Jeffery Bentley et al.*, July 2004
- 137: Implementing land reform in South Africa's Northern Cape Province, *Alastair Bradstock*, July 2004
- 136: Communication strategies in the age of decentralisation and privatisation of rural services: lessons from two African experiences, *Ricardo Ramirez and Wendy Quarry*, July 2004

Humanitarian Policy Group (HPG) Reports

- 18: Beyond the continuum: the changing role of aid policy in protracted crises, *Adele Harmer and Joanna Macrae (eds)*, July 2004
- 17: Measuring the impact of humanitarian aid, *Charles-Antoine Hofmann*, June 2004



Water Research Reports

- 4: SecureWater – Whither Poverty? Livelihoods in the DRA: a case study of the Water Supply Programme in India, *Deepa Joshi*, November 2004
- 3: SecureWater Through Demand Responsive Approaches: The Sri Lanka Experience, *Rajindra De S. Ariyabandu and M.M.M. Aheeyar*, October 2004
- 2: Implementation of Water Supply and Sanitation Programmes under PRSPs, *Tom Slaymaker and Peter Newborne*, April 2004



The Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP)

ALNAP Review of Humanitarian Action in 2003: Field level learning: The case of Guinea (2004)

Published Research Reports

- Meeting the Social Performance Standards of International Project Finance Institutions: Guidance for Energy Companies, *Michael Warner*, March 2005
- Learning from AMEC's Oil and Gas Asset Support Operations in the Asia-Pacific

Region with case-study on the Shell 'Malampaya' Gas-to-Power Project: An Interim Report, *Micheal Warner and Petter Matthews*, *Engineers Against Poverty*, November 2004



- Does Evidence Matter: an ODI Meeting Series, October 2004
- Tools for Policy Impact: A Handbook for Researchers, *Daniel Start and Ingie Hovland*, October 2004
- Bridging the Economic Benefits Gap: A Management Framework for Improved Economic and Socio-Economic Performance Reporting by Energy Companies, *Michael Warner*, October 2004
- Aid to 'Poorly Performing' Countries: A Critical Review of Debates and Issues, *Macrae, J., Shepherd, A., Morrissey, O., Harmer, A., Anderson, E., Piron, L.H., McKay, A., Cammack, D. and Kyegombe, N.*, August 2004
- Special and Differential Treatment in post-Cotonou Negotiations, *Page, S., Gillson, I. and Velde, D.W. te*, February 2004

ODI Journals

Development Policy Review

Editor: David Booth
Co-editors: John Farrington, Adrian P. Hewitt, Oliver Morrissey, Caroline O. N. Moser and Tony Killick

Associate Editor: Margaret Cornell

Production

Coordinator: Tammie O'Neil



Disasters: The Journal of Disaster Studies, Policy and Management

Editors: Paul Harvey, Helen Young and David Alexander
Assistant Editor: Corwen McCutcheon/ Richard Jones

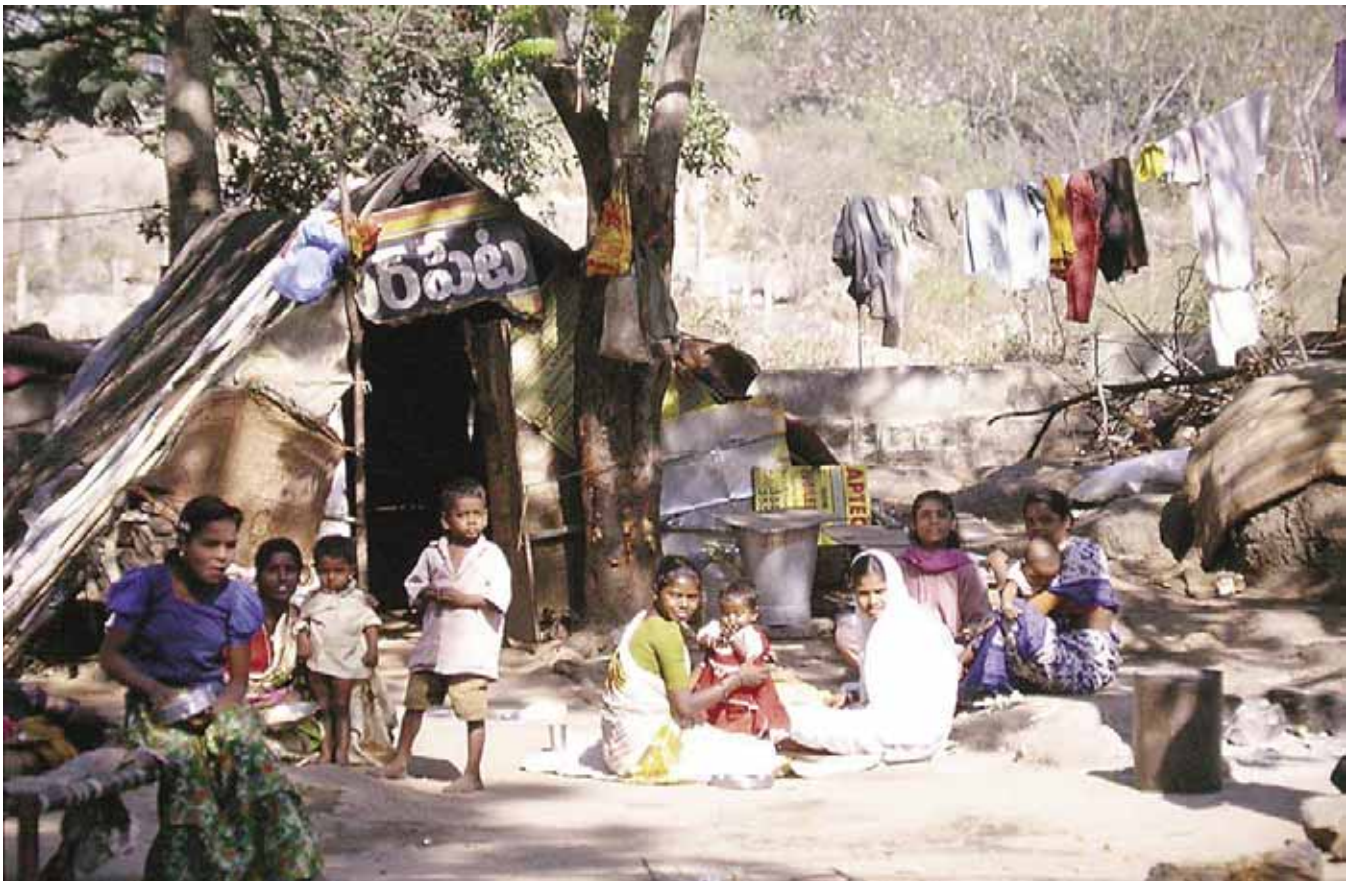


A selection of other significant publications by ODI authors

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- Anderson, E., Grimm, S. and Montes, C. (2004) 'Poverty Focus in EU Support to Middle-Income Countries', London & The Hague: European Community Poverty Reduction Effectiveness Programme (EC-PREP).
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'A precarious existence but better prospects than rainfed farming?' (© ODI)

UN Reform: Why? What? How? with the United Nations Association and the UN All-Party Parliamentary Group (April–June 2004)

UN reform: Why? What? How? Simon Maxwell, Director, ODI; Malcolm Harper, Director, UNA (29 April)

UN reform in the humanitarian sector, Randolph Kent, Centre for Defence Studies, King's College London; Adele Harmer, Research Fellow, ODI (6 May)

The High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, Lord David Hannay, House of Lords (13 May)

Financing the UN Development System (cancelled) Percy Mistry, Oxford International Associates; Andrew Rogerson, Research Fellow, ODI (19 May)

Ahead of the Curve: Why the UN needs the capacity to think, Professor Sir Richard Jolly, Institute of Development Studies; Professor John Toye, Director, Centre for the Study of African Economies, Oxford (26 May)

Reforming the UN, Gareth Thomas MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (3 June)

The Helsinki Process: will it achieve a change? Nitin Desai, Centre for Global Governance, LSE; Simon Burall, Executive Director, One World Trust (9 June)

Current UN reform initiatives and the politics of change, HE Julian Hunte, current President of the UN General Assembly (17 June)

Targets, Voice and Choice: Options for Improving Public Service Delivery (Autumn 2004)

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria: Where are we now? Professor Richard Feachem, Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (19 October)

Targets, Voice or Choice: What do we mean? Warren Hatter, Head, Research Unit, New Local Government Network; Paolo de Renzio, Research Fellow, ODI (27 October)

Targets and Benchmarks in Public Sector Management, Professor Jake Chapman, Demos and author of 'System failure;' John Roberts, Research Fellow, ODI (3 November)

Options for Voice in Public Sector Management, Marian Barnes, University of Birmingham; Andrea Cornwall, Research Fellow, Participation and Development, Institute of Development Studies (10 November)

Options for Choice in Public Service Delivery, Adam Lent, author of 'Making Choices: how can choice improve local public services?' Professor Richard Batley, International Development Department, School of Public Policy, University of Birmingham (17 November)

Targets, Voice or Choice: Options for the Health Sector, Professor Julian le Grand, LSE and Policy Strategy Adviser to the Prime Minister; Professor Anne Mills, Health Economics and Policy at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (24 November)

Targets, Voice or Choice: Options for the Education Sector, Professor Philip Collins, Director, Social Market Foundation; Professor Chris Colclough, Professorial Fellow, Institute of Development Studies (1 December)

Targets, Voice AND Choice: Participatory Budgeting, Dr Graham Smith, School of Social Sciences, University of Southampton; Aaron Schneider, Fellow, Institute of Development Studies (8 December)

Africa and the Developed World: Taking Responsibility for Our Actions, with the Africa All Party Parliamentary Group and the Royal African Society (Autumn 2004)

Africa's Development: Past Present and Future Roles of the West, Myles Wickstead, Head of the Secretariat to the Commission for Africa; Dapo Oyewole, Executive Director of the African Policy and Peace Studies (12 October)

Making Trade Work for Africa, Ian Gillson, Research Fellow, ODI; Charlotte Berger, The Day Chocolate Company (20 October)

Profit and Development Impact: Business Partnerships for African Development, Dirk Willem te Velde, Research Fellow, ODI; Nkosana Moyo, ACTIS (26 October)

Doubling Aid? Absorptive Capacity, Impacts and the Donor Response in Africa, Tony Killick, Senior Research Associate, ODI; Alex de Waal, Fellow at the Global Equity Initiative, Harvard University and Director, Justice Africa (2 November)

External Attempts at Peace and Nation Building Lessons for and from Africa, Tidjane Thiam, Commissioner; Dave Fish, Director for Africa, DFID (9 November)

Harnessing the Power of the African Diaspora, Titi Banjoko, Director, Africarecruit, Philip Alikor, Barrister (16 November)

Will Northern Environmentalism Stop Africa Growing? Akin Fayomi presents the views of HE Dr Christopher Kolade, High Commissioner for the Federal Republic of Nigeria; Dr Philip Bradley, Senior Lecturer, University of Hull (25 November)

Africa's Seat at the Table: Global Governance in a Changing International Context, Adotey Bing, Director of Africa Centre; Adaora Ikenze of the Commonwealth Secretariat (30 November)

Human Rights and Poverty Reduction: Realities, controversies and strategies (January–March 2005)

Human rights and the Millennium Development Goals: contradictory frameworks? Robert Archer, International Council on Human Rights policy; Simon Maxwell, Director, ODI (10 January)

Economic and social rights: legally enforceable rights? Katarina Tomasevski, Lund University; John Mackinnon, Freelance Economic Consultant (17 January)

Reconciling rights, growth and inequality, Lord Brett, ILO; Andy McKay, ODI (25 January)

Can human rights make aid agencies more

accountable? Peter Uvin, Fletcher School, Tufts University; Owen Davies QC, Two Garden Court Chambers (31 January)

Why the human rights approach to HIV/AIDS makes all the difference, Marianne Haslegrave, Commonwealth Medical Trust; Mandeep Dhaliwal, AIDS Alliance (7 February)

Rights and natural resources: contradictions in claiming rights, Mac Chapin, Native Lands Centre; David Brown, ODI (14 February)

Protecting rights in conflict situations and fragile states, Andy Carl, Conciliation Resources; Christine Chinkin, LSE (28 February)

Advocates or aid workers? Approaches to human rights in humanitarian crises, Andrew Bonwick, Oxfam; Anneka van Woudenberg, Human Rights Watch (7 March)

Rights to water: strengthening the claims of poor people to improved access, Lyla Mehta, IDS; Bruce Lankford, University of East Anglia (22 March)

The Millennium Development Goals:

The 2005 Agenda with the All Party Parliamentary Group on Overseas Development (January–March 2005)

Demography, HIV/AIDS and Reproductive Health: Implications for the achievement of the MDGs, Thoraya Obaid, Executive Director UNFPA; John Cleland, Professor of Medical Demography, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (2 February)

Building a constituency for poverty reduction, Barbara Stocking, Director of Oxfam; Paul Dornan, Child Poverty Action Group (9 February)

The EU's contribution to achieving the MDGs, Gareth Thomas MP, DFID; Louis Michel, European Commissioner in charge of Development and Humanitarian Aid (24 February)

Failed and fragile states: How can the MDGs be achieved in difficult environments? Karin Christiansen, Research Fellow, ODI; Ameen Jan, Team leader of Prime Minister's Strategy Unit, Cabinet Office; David Mepham, Associate Director of IPPR (2 March)

UN Reform: Working for Children, Carol Bellamy, Executive Director, UNICEF (9 March)

What are the prospects for more and more effective aid in support the MDGs? Richard Manning, Chair of OECD's DAC; Paolo de Renzio, Research Fellow, ODI (11 March)

The Commission for Africa Report and the UK Response to It, Hilary Benn MP, Secretary of State for International Development (17 March)

Other meetings, workshops, seminars, launches, press conferences

HIV/AIDS Presentation, Paul Harvey, ODI at Copenhagen University, Nairobi and World Vision Humanitarian Forum, Berlin (April 2,6,13)

Darfur Round Table, Mukesh Kapila and Jamie Balfour, held at ODI (13 April)

HIV/AIDS Humanitarian Action and New

Variant Famine PH, Alex de Waal, held at ODI (20 April)

Darfur Public Meeting, Mukesh Kapila, Peter Hawkins, held at ODI (5 May)

Beyond the damage: probing the economic and financial consequences of natural disasters, Edward Clay, Senior Research Associate, ODI; Tom Crowards, Economic Adviser, DFID; J.M Albala-Bertrand, Queen Mary, University of London (11 May)

Resource Rents and Development workshop jointly sponsored by ODI and BP, (18 May)

Current issues and debates in Aid & Public Expenditure Management – workshop Centre for Aid & Public Expenditure (CAPE), ODI, (13–14 May)

Maximising pro-poor growth: regenerating the socio-economic database, Simon Maxwell, Director, ODI; HE Dr Christopher Kolade, Nigeria High Commissioner; Kaye Whiteman, former editor, West Africa; Roger Blench (16–17 June)

Policy Entrepreneurship Workshop, RAPID workshop for OSI Public Policy Centers, Moldova (17 June)

Needs Assessment, James Darcy, ODI; Tufts University (June)

Disaster Risk Reduction - Mitigation and preparedness in development and emergency programming, Launch of Good Practice Review 9, John Twigg, Evan von Oelrich, Peter Billing held at ODI; (21 June)

Bridging Research and Policy, EADN Workshop in Jakarta, run by RAPID (10 July)

HIV/AIDS, Paul Harvey, ODI; Washington (30 July)

Needs Assessment and Decision Making, James Darcy, ODI; AusAid (August)

Food Security Interventions in the Great Lakes, Claire Chastre and Jane MacAskill, ICRISAT, Nairobi

Special and Differential Treatment of Developing Countries in the World Trade Organization, Sheila Page (IEDG), meetings organised by the Swedish Foreign Ministry, with the purpose of presenting the ODI paper on SDT: Stockholm; Geneva, Stockholm (27 August, 7 December, 11 January)

Regional Integration and Poverty, Dirk Willem te Velde (IEDG). Seminar, funded by DFID, with Sheila Page (IEDG); Simon Maxwell; Oliver Morrissey, University of Nottingham; Walter Kennes, European Commission; Josaphat Kweka, Economic and Social Research Foundation, Tanzania; and Osvaldo Nina, Grupo Integral, Bolivia. (3 September).

Bushmeat and livelihoods, Zoological Society of London, (23–24 September)

European Development Cooperation: Towards Policy Renewal and a New Commitment (with EADI and Euforic), rapporteur: Sven Grimm (IEDG).

How should Europe handle its relations with the UN and the BWI?, workshop, Andrew Rogerson (IEDG) and Sven Grimm; *What should the EU do to promote a successful outcome of the Doha negotiations for developing countries?*, workshop, Sheila Page (IEDG) (September 27–28).

Needs Assessment, James Darcy, ODI, Turlane University (October)

Partnership Brokers Accreditation Scheme, ODI & IBLF, (October – residential week followed by 6 months professional practice)

Protecting Civilians: Challenges for the Humanitarian Sector, James Darcy, ODI, Turlane University (21 October)

Good Humanitarian Donorship, Adele Harmer, ODI; Ottawa and Nairobi (October and November)

Promoting Evidence-based Development Policy, RAPID Workshop at DSA Annual Conference (6 November)

Conflict and Livelihoods, held at ODI (12 November)

EC Somalia Workshop, Adele Harmer, ODI; Nairobi (21–24 November)

Protecting Civilians : Theory, Practice and Politics, James Darcy, ODI; SOAS (24 November)

Counting the Dead in Iraq, Richard Garfield; ODI (30 November)

CSOs, Evidence and Policy Influence, RAPID Workshop, Nairobi, Kenya, (2 December)

Reform of the International Humanitarian System, Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP, Secretary of State for International Development (15 December)

Realising the Promise and Potential of African Agriculture: Science and Technology Strategies for Improving Agricultural Productivity and Food Security in Africa, Professor Rudy Rabbinge, Inter-Academy Council & Wageningen University, Netherlands (14 January)

Policy Influencing and Media Engagement Workshop, ODI/CPRC Event, ODI (17–18 January). Organisers: Ursula Grant and Kate Bird.

Bridging Research and Policy, RAPID Workshop at GDN Annual Conference, Dakar, Senegal (21–23 January)

Civil Society Partnerships Programme Regional Consultations, regional workshops and national seminars held in Southern, Eastern and West Africa (February–March)

Protection in Darfur, Victoria Wheeler, ODI at King's College London (16 February)

Process and Partnership for Pro-Poor Policy Change, Project Initiation Workshops in Kenya, run by RAPID (21–25 February)

Evidence-based Policy Making in the Small and Medium Enterprise Sector, RAPID Workshop, Cairo, Egypt (27 February–1 March)

CSOs, Evidence and Pro-poor Policy, RAPID workshop at CIVICUS World Assembly (March)

Globalisation and Education: Friend or Foe? Dirk Willem te Velde, ODI; Simon Grath, University of Nottingham (30 March)

All Party Parliamentary Group on Overseas Development

Priorities for Development ahead of the World Bank and IMF Spring Meetings, Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP; Sir Bob Geldof (19th April)

Revenue Transparency in Oil, Gas and Mining,

Global Witness: Dr Gavin Hayman, Lead Campaigner; Dr Sarah Wykes, Campaigner; Diarmid O'Sullivan, Campaigner (6 May)

Muslims in the Modern World, Nigel Chapman, Acting Director, BBC World Service; Roger Hardy, BBC World Service; Tariq Ramadan, College de Genève; Firdevs Robinson, BBC World Service; Mona Siddiqui, University of Glasgow (12 May)

Towards 2005: the Challenge of Trade Justice, Rt. Hon. Hilary Benn MP, Secretary of State, DFID. Dr Matthew Lockwood, Head of Advocacy, ActionAid UK. Justin Forsyth, Head of Policy, Oxfam GB. Beverley Duckworth, Head of Campaigns, World Development Movement (19 May)

Can Aid Really Contribute to the Millennium Development Goals? What is the Use of the Development Assistance Committee? Richard Manning, Chair of OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) (20 May)

Sustainable Consumption? Sounds Great! I'll buy it, Chris Flavin (WWI), Andrew Simms (NEF), and Camilla Toulmin (IIED) (27 May)

Malaria – the Global Neglect, Dr Pascoal Mocumbi, former Prime Minister of Mozambique; Dr Chris Hentschel, Chief Exec of Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) (16 June)

Emergency Call to Action on UK Aid Budget, Sir Bob Geldof; Julia Drown, MP. In association with the APGs HIPC and Africa (22 June)

The UK's Role in the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, Eveline Herfkens, UN Secretary General's Executive Coordinator for the Millennium Development Goals Campaign (29 June)

Culture and Participation, Africa Commission: Commissioners Anna Tibaijuka, Hilary Benn, and Bob Geldof. In association with the APG Africa (12 July)

Launch and Dissemination Event for the UNDP Human Development Report 2004: Cultural Liberty in Today's Diverse World, Sakiko Fukuda-Parr, Director, HDR Office, UNDP; Jorge Tuto Quiroga, Former President of Bolivia; Johnny Grimond, Writer-at-large, The Economist; Pat Holden, Exclusion, Rights and Justice Team, DFID (19 July)

Launch of the International Parliamentary Petition for Democratic Oversight of IMF and World Bank Policies, Bert Koenders MP (Netherlands), Chair of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank; Mark Curtis, Director, World Development Movement. Co-sponsored by the HIPC, Overseas Development and World Government APPGs (8 September)

The Copenhagen Consensus, Professor Bjorn Lomborg, Director of the Copenhagen Consensus; Professor Dr Anne Mills, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; Dr Awa Coll-Seck, Roll Back for Malaria Partnership. Co-sponsored by the APPMG (19 October)

Commission for Africa, Myles Wickstead, Head of Secretariat, Commission for Africa (16 November)

Research Fellows

Caroline Ashley: pro-poor tourism strategies; rural livelihoods; influencing business behaviour; community-private partnerships; Southern and Eastern Africa.

Kate Bird: poverty and chronic poverty; policy reform; rural livelihoods, diversification and coping strategies; project, programme and policy evaluation.

Neil Bird: Forests and poverty reduction; sector policy processes; forest governance; forest management standards

David Booth: institutional issues in development and aid policy; aid modalities and the national policy process.

David Brown: governance and social development; institutional aspects of environmental management; forests, poverty and development policy.

Karin Christiansen: Aid effectiveness, donor behaviour, harmonisation and alignment agenda; public finance and links to poverty reduction strategies and national policy processes; post-conflict and fragile states.

Julius Court: civil society; evidence and policy processes; governance, aid and development; capacity building.

Elizabeth Cromwell: livelihood options for rural households; agricultural policy processes; sustainable agriculture.

James Darcy: humanitarian principles; protection of civilians and refugees; international human rights and humanitarian law; needs assessment.

Paolo de Renzio: public sector reform and management; public finance; decentralisation; aid management and effectiveness.

Priya Deshingkar: internal migration, remittances, rural labour markets; agriculture and rural-urban links.

Ruth Driscoll: poverty reduction strategies; donor behaviour; social development.

John Farrington: social protection, livelihood diversification, policy processes.

Verena Fritz: governance and the development of state capacity; public sector reforms; institutional change; political economy approaches to development; transition countries.

Ian Gillson: trade in services with and among developing countries; GATS; tariff preferences (especially GSP); political economy; trade facilitation; trade in agriculture.

Sven Grimm: European Union, European foreign and development policy, regional integration, Africa, (especially West Africa), governance.

Adele Harmer: humanitarian aid architecture; principles and practice of good humanitarian donorship; emerging non-DAC humanitarian donors; aid policy in protracted crises.

Paul Harvey: humanitarian programming and operations; AIDS and humanitarian action; complex political emergencies; food and livelihood security in emergencies.

Adrian Hewitt: European development policy; foreign aid; international trade; commodities; the WTO; global public goods; development strategy; Africa and the Caribbean.

John Howell: agricultural commodity markets; land reform in southern Africa; SADC trade facilitation.

Clare Lockhart: governance and institution-strengthening; institutional and organizational analysis; public expenditure management; judicial reform and approaches to rule of law; approaches to state-building.

Catherine Longley: seed security and agricultural rehabilitation; rural livelihoods in chronic conflict and political instability; farmers' management of crop diversity.

Cecilia Luttrell: governance and natural resources; vulnerability and livelihood analysis; forest and CPR management; resource rights.

Simon Maxwell: development theory and policy; poverty; food security; economic, social and cultural rights; aid; policy processes.

Andy McKay: poverty and inequality analysis; poverty and PRSP monitoring; chronic poverty; impact of policy, especially trade policy, on poverty.

Alan Nicol: social, institutional and political dimensions of water resources management and water supply development at all levels.

Sheila Page: international and regional trade; the WTO; comparative trade and development performance; capital flows; foreign investment; tourism; Southern Africa and Latin America.

Laure-Hélène Piron: governance, politics, civil society, conflict and difficult environments, security and access to justice, human rights.

John Roberts: public finance; aid management and effects; results-oriented public expenditure management and PRS; determinants of social sector outcomes.

Andrew Rogerson: the international aid system; global public goods; financing for the MDG; multilateral development institutions; and European Union aid policies.

Andrew Shepherd: poverty reduction policies and poverty analysis; Africa; South Asia; policy and programme evaluation; rural development; aid management.

Rachel Slater: rural and urban livelihoods, food security and food policy, Africa and South Asia.

Tom Slaymaker: natural resource management; water-poverty-livelihood linkages; water policy; information and communication for rural development.

Robert Tripp: agricultural research and extension; seed systems; natural resource management.

Dirk Willem te Velde: foreign direct investment effects and policies; trade in services; WTO, regional integration and impact assessments, Africa and the Caribbean.

Michael Warner: corporate citizenship; optimising the poverty reduction impact of corporate investment.

Steve Wiggins: rural livelihoods and the non-farm economy; rural-urban linkages; governance, environment; Latin America and Africa; food security.

John Young: rural services; information and IT; knowledge management and learning; research-policy interface; capacity building; partnerships; Asia and Africa.

Senior Research Associates

Edward Clay: economic and financial aspects

of natural disasters; food and nutrition policy, especially food aid and food security.

Tony Killick: international economic policy; World Bank and International Monetary Fund; debt, PRSPs and conditionality; African economic problems; aid; poverty.

Caroline Moser: conflict and violence; gender; livelihoods; human rights perspectives; security; empowerment; participation; poverty reduction.

Gill Shepherd: international forest and environment policy; national forest programmes; forests, poverty and the ecosystem approach; Asia and Africa.

Research Officers

Edward Anderson: inequality, poverty and growth; the effects of trade on poverty and inequality; aid allocation.

Robert Chapman: natural resource management; agricultural research and extension; information and communication for development.

Naved Chowdhury: rural livelihoods; partnerships and capacity building; natural resources management and sustainable development.

Lin Cotterrell: complex emergencies; international politics; humanitarian aid architecture.

Zaza Curran: poverty reduction strategies; governance; civil society political empowerment; human rights and development.

Sonja Fagernas: econometric and policy modelling; growth; macroeconomic stabilisation; aid allocation and the fiscal impacts of aid.

Ursula Grant: chronic poverty; poverty analysis and policy; urban livelihoods; participation and local governance.

Nambusi Kyegombe: health; poverty and poverty analysis; chronic poverty; intra-household dynamics; vulnerability and social protection.

Cokro Leksmo: rural development; governance; decentralisation; privatisation of rural services; and Asia.

Enrique Mendizabal: networks; bridging research and policy; policy process; vulnerable groups; urban development; sustainable livelihoods; Latin America

Ben Ramalingam: knowledge management; strategy development and organisational change; IT systems.

Alina Rocha Menocal: Democratic governance; institution building; accountability; decentralisation; social policy; rule of law.

Kevin Savage: humanitarian programming; the delivery, impact and evaluation of humanitarian assistance.

Debbie Warren: Japan-UK dialogue on aid policy; role of civil society in the policy process; bridging research and policy.

Katharina Welle: social, institutional, financial and policy aspects of water supply and sanitation in rural and peri-urban environments.

Adrian Wells: environmental governance; law and poverty; NR policy, poverty and decentralisation; multilateral environmental agreements.

Victoria Wheeler: humanitarian protection, donor government policy, contemporary security issues and civil-military relations.