

Terms of Reference for an Output to Purpose Review of the Governance and Social Development Resource Centre (GSDRC) Project

The Governance and Social Development Resource Centre (GSDRC) project runs for 3 years from 1 April 2006. A summary review was submitted in April 2007. An annual review under DFID project cycle management procedures is required by early October 2007; as this is also the mid-term point of the project, it is an appropriate moment to undertake an Output to Purpose Review (OPR).

The OPR will be undertaken jointly by DFID and the GSDRC Service Provider. A multi-disciplinary team comprising Asha Newsum (Senior Governance Adviser and team leader for the review, DFID) Pat Holden (Senior Social Development Adviser, PRD), Peter Twite (Project Officer, GSDG, PRD) and Brian Lucas (GSDRC Manager) will be responsible for conducting the OPR.

The Review

The project is defined by a project memorandum, including a project log frame. The delivery of project objectives is through a contract between DFID and the GSDRC consortium, led by the University of Birmingham.

The OPR will assess progress in delivering the outputs and achieving the purpose, and estimate the likelihood that outputs and purpose will be achieved. It will address any key strategic issues that need attention if the activity or intervention is to achieve its purpose. The assumptions about risks at all levels will be reviewed. The team will explore any differences in views among key stakeholders and strengthen and reaffirm a common purpose.

The team will report its findings, any lessons learned and conclusions, including recommendations for changes to the log frame, implementation procedures and/or to the contract that are deemed necessary to increase prospects for success.

Methodology

The team will report to the project steering committee. Meetings will be held with the key stakeholders within DFID, the partners of the GSDRC consortium and key staff responsible for administering and providing the services within the GSDRC. The review team will consider all activity reports of the GSDRC to date. It will survey DFID users within the social development and governance & conflict advisory groups as well as other DFID programme staff known to have used the services of the GSDRC. It will also seek, as far as is possible, views from external partners (eg country partners, bilateral and multilateral development organisations, CSOs, academic institutions). The results of these surveys will be analysed to gauge the degree of satisfaction with the various services of GSDRC.

The review is expected to take 30 days of work by the team. The team will submit a draft report to the project steering committee by early October 2007.

Policy and Research Division
23 August 2007