

Strategic Programme Fund



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Annual Report 2008-2009





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Commonwealth
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Annual Report 2008-2009

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Foreword

Diplomacy is about making a difference to the world around us. Britain's diplomats excel in the traditional skills of negotiation and lobbying. But in today's interconnected world, where civil society has more influence than ever before, it is essential that we engage with an extraordinary range of actors to promote British interests and support our strategic objectives.





The Strategic Programme Fund (SPF) was set up in 2007, to help us deliver our four foreign policy objectives:

- > to counter terrorism and weapons proliferation and their causes;
- > to prevent and resolve conflict;
- > to promote a low carbon, high growth, global economy;
- > to develop effective international institutions above all the UN and EU.

Having funds available to help our diplomats achieve these objectives is crucial to their work. It allows them access to the people and groups that matter around the world, not just the governments who are the traditional contacts of diplomats. It makes it possible to sow the seeds of change, or to experiment with new ways of engaging people on the issues that matter to us and the rest of the global community. And it shows that the UK is actively engaged in making a difference, not just talking about it.

The money does make a real difference. Using SPF funds, we have helped to create legal livelihoods for farmers in Afghanistan, allowing them to turn aside from growing the poppy that ends up on Britain's streets as heroin. We have supported programmes to help our partners tackle the radicalisation that feeds terrorism overseas and at home. We have run projects to build coalitions between civil society and politicians to act on climate change. A little bit of money, combined with close and active partnerships around the world, can make a real difference. This report shows some of the ways in which the SPF has helped us on the way to our goal of a better world and a better Britain.



Rt. Hon. David Miliband MP

Executive Summary

In its second year, projects funded by the FCO's Strategic Programme Fund (SPF) have contributed to delivery of the FCO's Departmental Strategic Objectives (DSOs) during 2008-09.

Following the FCO's Strategy Refresh in 2007, programmes were refocused on the FCO's new Departmental Strategic Objectives. Some legacy projects remained on Sustainable Development and Science and Innovation Collaboration, management of the latter transferring to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS).

There were three new programmes for 2008-09. The Returns and Reintegration Fund is a cross-departmental fund (FCO, UK Border Agency, DFID, Ministry of Justice), building on the former Migration Fund. The Climate Change and Energy and Economic Reform programmes were subsumed into a Low Carbon, High Growth programme, and a Counter Proliferation programme was introduced. These programmes join the existing Afghan Counter Narcotics, Counter Terrorism and Radicalisation, Drugs and Crime, Human Rights, Overseas Territories and Reuniting Europe programmes.

Diver surveying the marine environment in the Falkland Islands

Afghan Counter Narcotics

The Afghan Counter Narcotics Programme works to DSO 6 "To prevent and resolve conflict" and DSO 5 "To counter terrorism, weapons proliferation and their causes". It is an important part of the UK's wider strategy to support the Government of Afghanistan. Both the UK and Afghan Governments recognise the critical threat that the drugs trade poses to building Afghan governance, security and stability, as well as the damaging effects on the region. The Strategic Programme Fund is one of several sources of funding from across Whitehall for this programme.

Working with the Afghan Government and the international community, the UK Afghan Counter Narcotics Programme takes a holistic approach to tackling the issue through:

- > Fostering legal livelihoods for farmers;
- > Building the criminal justice system and police to tackle the top end of the drugs trade;
- > Supporting Afghan provincial leadership to exert Government control, strengthen governance and reduce reliance on the drugs trade, including dedicated efforts in Helmand province.

Counter Proliferation

The Counter Proliferation Programme works to DSO 5 "*To counter terrorism, weapons proliferation and their causes*" and mitigate the risks posed by the spread of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and conventional arms. Activity is focused in three key areas:

- > Addressing the threat from WMD by preventing States from acquiring or developing WMD capabilities (including their delivery) and by reinvigorating the global commitment to nuclear disarmament;
- > Preventing terrorists or criminals from acquiring chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials;
- > Tackling the threat posed by conventional weapons to humanitarian, UK, regional and global stability and sustainable development.

Counter Terrorism and Radicalisation

The Counter Terrorism and Radicalisation Programme (CTRP) underpins the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's contribution to CONTEST (HMG's counter terrorism strategy) overseas. In support of DSO 5 "*To counter terrorism, weapons proliferation and their causes*", it works to reduce the threat to UK citizens and interests from terrorist incidents overseas. Projects are supported that either help to reduce the risk of a terrorist attack or help a country to deal with the aftermath of an incident. Further work is funded to improve understanding of what turns vulnerable individuals to violent extremism overseas; and use this expertise to help prevent them from being recruited by terrorist groups.

Drugs and Crime

The Drugs and Crime Programme supports DSO 1 “*A flexible Global Network serving the whole of the British Government*”. It seeks to reduce harm to the UK from drugs and financial crime by increasing international engagement and effectiveness. Activity is focused on three thematic areas:

- > Improving Professional standards;
- > Implementing Legislation;
- > Promoting Access to and Exchange of Information.

Human Rights and Democracy

The Human Rights and Democracy Programme directly supports DSO 6, “*Preventing and resolving conflict*” and DSO 8 “*To develop effective international institutions, above all the UN and EU*”. It also indirectly supports DSO 5, “*Counter terrorism, weapons proliferation and their causes*. ” It aims to bring about structural and institutional reform in key countries on seven priority human rights – and democracy-related themes:

- > Strengthening international, regional and national human rights mechanisms;
- > Improving criminal justice systems compatibility with international human rights law;
- > Addressing structural causes of inequality of minorities (ethnic, gender, or disabled);
- > Contributing to the abolition of the death penalty;
- > Improving electoral processes;
- > Promoting and protecting civil society’s ability to influence, monitor and hold accountable state institutions; and
- > Strengthening freedom of expression and the media.

Its ultimate aim is to help prevent conflict and to help develop effective international institutions capable of ensuring full implementation of international human rights law.

Low Carbon High Growth

The Low Carbon – High Growth programme supports DSO 7 “*To promote a low carbon, high growth global economy*” through:

- > A visible and accelerated shift in investment towards low carbon initiated in the major economies;
- > Creation of the political conditions for an equitable post 2012 agreement at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) conference in December 2009 of sufficient ambition to avoid dangerous climate change;
- > Management of risks to UK and EU energy security through more diverse and reliable external sources and more efficient global consumption;
- > Increased international commitment to an open, stable and equitable low carbon global economy.

Overseas Territories

The Overseas Territories Programme Fund works to DSO 1 “*A flexible Global Network serving the whole of the British Government*”. It is used to support the security and good governance of the UK’s non-EU Overseas Territories (OTs). The Fund pays for the FCO’s non-discretionary financial commitments in the OTs, such as contributions to the British Antarctic Survey. In addition, it contributes to the administration costs of the British Indian Ocean Territory and funds project work in the OTs linked to good governance, security, disaster management and reducing contingent liabilities.

Returns and Reintegration

The Returns and Reintegration Fund supports DSO 4 "Managed migration for Britain" and has two main objectives:

- > Significantly increase the number of foreign national prisoners and failed asylum seekers who return to their country of origin;
- > Ensure that those who return are effectively reintegrated.

The Fund enables us to support countries which face the biggest challenges in accepting back their nationals. A small proportion of the Fund is used to reduce illegal immigration to the UK.

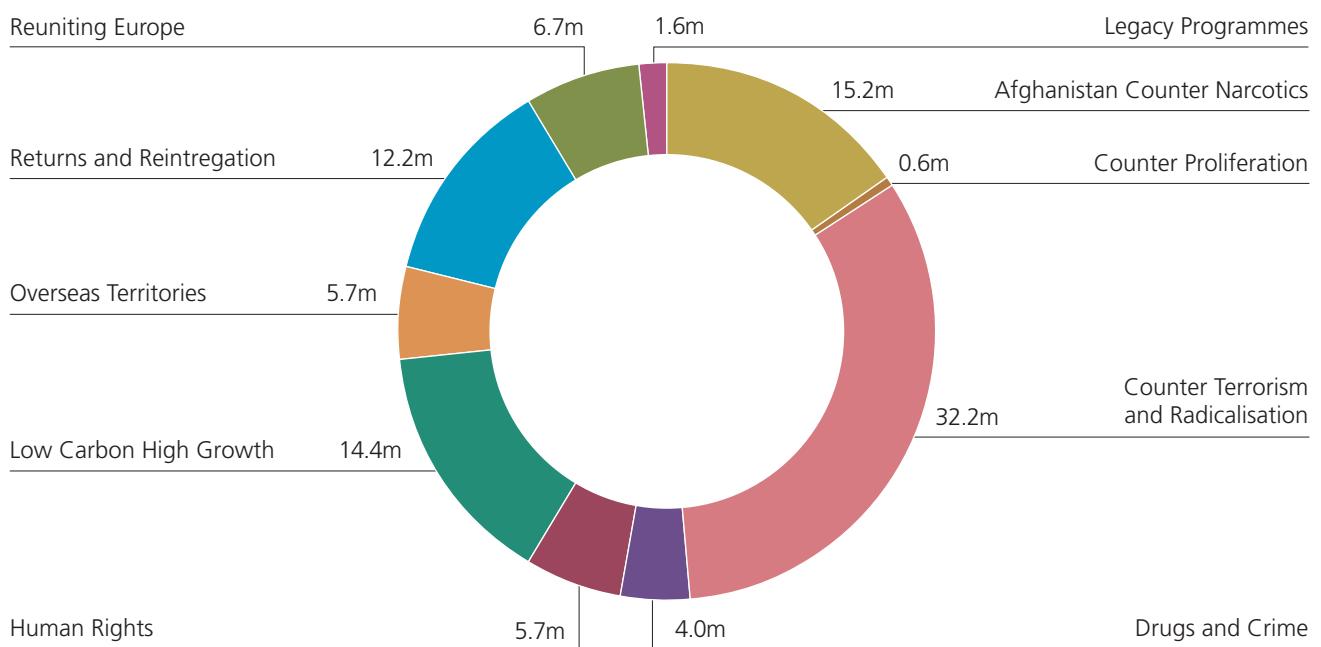
Reuniting Europe

The Reuniting Europe Programme supports DSO 8 "To develop effective international institutions, above all the UN and EU". It helps deliver our vision of building an effective and globally competitive EU. It does this by supporting partner countries in implementing the reforms necessary for EU accession or closer partnership with the EU. Its main objectives are:

- > Increase political transparency and good governance;
- > Build capacity in public administration;
- > Strengthen reforms in the justice sector and promote human rights;
- > Strengthen economic reforms in line with the Lisbon Agenda.

SPF Programme Spending 2008-09

During 2008-09 SPF expenditure directly managed by the FCO amounted to £98.3m across eleven programmes. The breakdown is given below:



Afghanistan Counter Narcotics

Introduction

The UK supports Counter Narcotics (CN) because of the critical threat that the drugs trade poses to securing and stabilising the country, and building governance. We are especially working to support the Afghan Government to reduce corruption, cut off support from the drugs trade for the insurgency, and ensure that poor Afghans can increasingly look to grow legal crops as a viable alternative to poppy.

A recent event to burn drugs seized in counter narcotics operations



The Afghan Counter Narcotics Programme supports the Government of Afghanistan's National Drugs Control Strategy (NDCS), which takes a comprehensive approach to tackling the problem. Our efforts in support of this include:

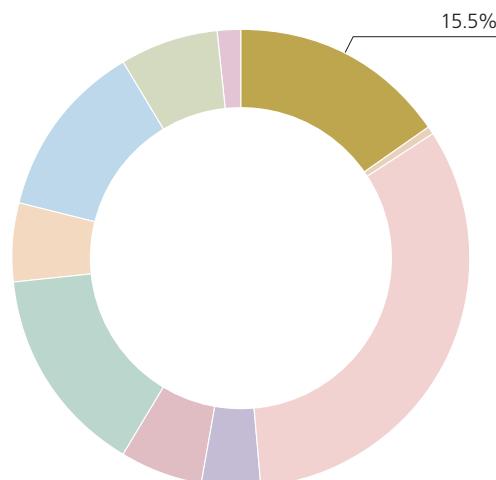
- > Fostering legal livelihoods for farmers;
- > Building the criminal justice system and police to tackle the top end of the drugs trade;
- > Supporting Afghan provincial leadership to exert Government control, strengthen governance and reduce reliance on the drugs trade, including dedicated efforts in Helmand province.

The UK works in close partnership with other international stakeholders, in particular the United Nations, the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and the USA, to share the burden of this significant task, and ensure it is delivered as part of the Afghan Government and international community's comprehensive civilian and military approach.

Funding

Funding for Afghan CN reflects the cross-Whitehall nature of the UK's effort. Support is received from the Ministry of Defence, Department for International Development, Serious Organised Crime Agency, Crown Prosecution Service, HM Prison Service, HM Revenue and Customs as well as from the FCO. The programme also received funding support from the Stabilisation Aid Fund, a joint FCO/MoD/DfID initiative. In 2008-09 the Afghan Counter Narcotics programme spent £46.4m, with £30.9m coming from the SPF, £15.2m of which was directly managed by the FCO.

Afghanistan Counter Narcotics as a percentage of SPF expenditure, directly managed by the FCO



Geographical Focus

The Afghan CN programme is focussed upon activity in Afghanistan. However, we recognise the need to address the regional context of the trade, and cooperate with the UN to facilitate strong regional cooperation, including between Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran.

Project:

Criminal Justice Task Force

Purpose:

Investigate and prosecute serious narcotics-related offences across Afghanistan

Context:

The Criminal Justice Task Force (CJTF) was set up in September 2005. Its mandate under the Counter Narcotics Law is to investigate and prosecute serious narcotics-related offences from across Afghanistan. The CJTF includes investigators from the Ministry of the Interior, prosecutors from the Office of the Attorney-General and judges from the Supreme Court working in the independent Central Narcotics Tribunal. Each department plays a role in the running of the CJTF, and has representation on its Project Management Board.

The CJTF receives cases from the Counter Narcotics Police of Afghanistan and other Counter Narcotics units, the Afghan National Police, the Border Police, Customs, the National Directorate of Security and ISAF forces.

The Task Force is then responsible for all stages of the criminal process from investigation and prosecution through to final disposal by the Supreme Court.

The UK provides support for the operation and development of the CJTF as an Afghan judicial institution. The UK provides salary support for the staff of the Task Force and assists the work of its Administration and Communication Units. UK and US prosecution advisers provide training and mentoring to support the investigation of cases and their preparation for trial.



A haul of
heroin found
hidden within
a package



The new Counter Narcotics Justice Centre, which the Criminal Justice Task Force moved into in May 2009

Outcomes:

2008-09 has been a successful year for the CJTF, with 259 convictions secured in the Primary Court. There has also been an increase in the quality of cases dealt with by the Task Force, with 21 Medium Value Targets convicted, compared with 12 in 2007-08. The conviction rate in 2008-09 was 66%, the Appeal Court upheld around 84% of convictions, and the Supreme Court confirmed 79% of the cases sent to them for finalisation. 2008-09 saw the first convictions secured on the basis of intercept evidence gathered by the Counter Narcotics Police.

This year has seen the CJTF move into new purpose-built accommodation at the US-funded Counter Narcotics Justice Centre. The UK helped manage a successful transition. The new centre has the advantage of an on-site detention centre, increasing the security of CJTF suspects and improving the efficiency of all sections of the Task Force.

Counter Proliferation

Countering weapons proliferation and their causes remains a key policy goal for the FCO. The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), the acquisition of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) materials by terrorists and the threats posed by conventional weapons endangers UK, regional and global security.



Inspectors preparing sub-surface sampling equipment for radioactive gases during the CTBTO on-site inspection exercise in Kazakhstan in 2008

The Counter-Proliferation Strategic Programme Fund is part of FCO efforts to meet these threats with an overall aim:

>>To further UK efforts to counter the proliferation of WMD and related materials, and to tackle the threat posed by conventional weapons, by funding projects that assist the delivery of policy objectives.<<

Our work focuses on three main objectives:

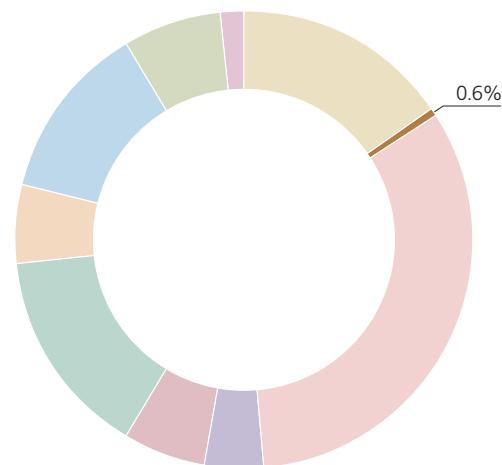
- > Addressing the threat from WMD by preventing States from acquiring or developing WMD capabilities (including their delivery) and by reinvigorating the global commitment to nuclear disarmament;
- > Preventing terrorists or criminals from acquiring chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials;
- > Tackling the threat posed by conventional weapons to humanitarian, UK, regional and global stability and sustainable development.

Much of the UK's counter proliferation work is focussed on strengthening the treaties, regimes and initiatives that make up the arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation architecture (including the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC), and the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)).

Funding

In 2008-09 the Counter-Proliferation Strategic Programme Fund spent £600,000 on a range of projects across our Programme objectives.

Counter Proliferation as a percentage of SPF expenditure, directly managed by the FCO



Geographical Focus

As the programme has a focus on strengthening treaties, regimes and international initiatives our work is often multilateral and covers multiple countries or regions. However, we also undertake bilateral projects in priority countries; in 2008-09 these included Pakistan, Libya, Ukraine, Sub Sahara Africa and India.

Project:

The International Conference on the Nuclear Fuel Cycle

Purpose:

To build consensus around the threats from the nuclear renaissance and the need to develop a regime of Nuclear Fuel Assurances (NFAs) to counter such proliferation threats.

Context:

As a milestone on the path to the 2010 NPT Review Conference, the Conference was seen to be both relevant and timely. Facilitating peaceful use of nuclear energy, whilst minimising the safety, security and proliferation risks associated with the expected “nuclear renaissance” of nuclear power, is a key objective of the UK’s overall counter-proliferation strategy. It contributes directly to the FCO’s Departmental Strategic Objective to counter weapons proliferation and their means of delivery and to the Foreign Secretary’s wider publicity campaign on nuclear disarmament – “Moving from a decade of deadlock to a decade of decisions”. This was highlighted in the pamphlet “Lifting the Nuclear Shadow” and provided a cornerstone of the Prime Minister’s speech at the conference.

Outcomes:

The Conference was attended by 150 delegates, representing 36 States, NGOs, industry, academia and Parliament. The opening address was given by the Prime Minister, and both the Foreign Secretary and Energy Secretary addressed the Conference. The Conference was well received by all those that attended, with unanimous commendation of the Conference organisation, venue and the very high level of UK Ministerial engagement. Although it was seen to be an important stepping stone on the way to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Review Conference in 2010, it did not produce any major changes of policy from those States that attended – no real identification of areas of convergence between States on how best to promote development of peaceful applications of nuclear energy in ways that are safe, secure and avoid proliferation. However, it added some momentum to the multilateral NFA agenda, improving depth of understanding of the issues from some emerging nuclear States rather than just an acceptance of the principle. A perhaps unexpected outcome

was the clear demonstration to the international community of the importance that the UK attaches to the wider nuclear agenda, particularly disarmament. It was decided that the outcome document should be the "Chair's Concluding Remarks" made by the independent Chair Bruno Pellaud in his summing up of the Conference. These remarks were subsequently sent out to all delegates, and were fed in to the International Atomic Energy Agency for the June 2009 meeting of their Board of Governors.



Foreign
Secretary
David Miliband
speaking to
delegates
at the
International
Nuclear
Fuel Cycle
Conference,
London
17 March 2009

Project:

African and Middle Eastern civil society action towards an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)

Purpose:

To have an increased capacity in civil society to inform and influence African and Middle Eastern governments of the importance of pursuing a comprehensive, legally binding Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

Context:

In 2006 the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution calling for an ATT, which was aimed at curbing the irresponsible trade in conventional weapons. Following that resolution and intensive lobbying on our part, an unprecedented number of countries responded to the UN's call for comments on an ATT. In February 2008 the first of three 'Government Expert' meetings was held in New York to take forward this work. The FCO maintains close contact with NGOs and the UK defence industry to reflect their views in overall UK policy on an ATT. NGOs and industry have wholeheartedly supported the ATT. The FCO worked in partnership with industry to hold an ATT seminar at a major arms export exhibition in London, and we supported Oxfam events to promote an ATT in the margins of UN meetings. This project continues the important work of extending the ATT and focuses on African countries.

Outcomes:

We trained 35 representatives of NGOs in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, DR Congo, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. They lobbied for appropriately informed / engaged individuals to be sent by their governments to the 1st regional ATT meeting of states in Dakar on 28-29 April; and also provided advice, assistance, examples, etc to their governments in the hope of influencing their statements in Dakar. The Dakar meeting highlighted a good level of regional awareness on the ongoing debate on an ATT (due, in part, to the existence of regional actors active in the field of arms control). Discussions in the working groups were described as 'very active and thought-provoking'. The long term impacts from this seminar are still being evaluated, but short-term objectives achieved. We trained about 30 representatives of NGOs from Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia and Yemen. They have been trained in the ATT and international law, and have agreed to meet with their government representatives to improve their capacity on these issues. The Middle East regional seminar has not yet been held, but based on the training we have conducted we expect to see evidence of a significant improvement in understanding of the legal responsibilities and benefits of an ATT.

Project:

Legislative assistance to ensure non-proliferation of Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) weapons

Purpose:

A clear understanding achieved of the state of Biological Weapons-related legislation in more than 90 countries. Enable 30 States to make demonstrable progress towards adopting appropriate and effective national implementing measures to fulfil their obligations under the various international regimes (Biological Toxic Weapons Convention, Chemical Weapons Convention, Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and UNSCR 1540).

Context:

Many States, particularly developing States and States of proliferation concern are not effectively implementing their obligations under NBC weapons treaties and UNSCR 1540 at the national level by adopting and enforcing appropriate national measures. Many States are yet to identify the gaps in their national laws, ascertain what additional measures are required and take steps to rectify deficiencies. These States often suffer a lack of awareness of implementation requirements or approaches, and/or insufficient resources, capacity or expertise, and require external support and assistance to redress shortcomings in their legislative frameworks. Certain States have specifically requested such assistance (e.g. in their UN 1540 reports, to other States or to VERTIC or other organizations).

Outcomes:

Deficiencies in compliance with both treaty and UNSCR obligations were identified for 90 states. At least 30 target states completed National Implementation Action Plans. There was also progress in at least 30 states in drafting national implementing measures for NBC obligations. At least 30 target States made progress in approving/adopting new legislation and relevant measures. At least 30 target states established or tasked national enforcement and oversight structures including, at a minimum, point of contacts for the BTWC Implementation Support Unit (ISU). Awareness was raised amongst key stakeholders about nuclear, biological and chemical weapons treaties and UNSCR 1540 implementation/compliance. There was also public diplomacy about national implementation of NBC weapons treaty and UNSCR 1540 obligations by 30 states.

Counter Terrorism and Radicalisation

Introduction

Terrorism remains at the top of the international agenda and reducing the threat to the UK is one of the most important strategic priorities for the FCO. International terrorism presents a long-term threat to the UK's security and the security of our allies. Despite law enforcement and military successes against terrorist groups since September 11 2001, al Qa'ida and the networks and individuals that are linked to it retain the capability and intention to attack UK and other western interests

Police officer monitors knives in a bag passing through an airport x ray machine



The CTR programme's strategic purpose is:

»To strengthen the Counter Terrorism (CT) Capabilities and to increase the resilience of CT priority countries to Pursue the perpetrators of terrorism, to Protect and Prepare against acts of terrorism and to Prevent vulnerable individuals becoming terrorists and supporting terrorism or violence.«

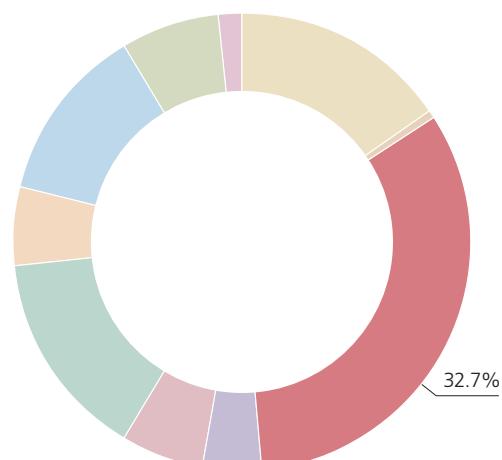
With a total budget of £127m over three years, the programme supports the delivery of Counter Terrorism objectives set out in the FCO's DSO 5 business plan and strategies approved by the overseas CONTEST group. Capabilities within partner countries which will help reduce the threat to the UK and where a UK contribution will have a positive effect are given primary consideration for funding.

Projects recommended for funding are considered by a Programme Board with representatives from across government. Only the strongest projects, both in terms of strategic fit and technical viability are agreed by the board. The board ensures that projects are comprehensive, meet our top priorities and that resources are balanced across our priority countries.

Funding

In 2008-09 the Counter Terrorism and Radicalisation programme spent £35.2m, of which £32.2m was directly managed by the FCO. Capacity building projects supporting the Prevent and Pursue themes of CONTEST accounted for the bulk of this expenditure.

Counter Terrorism and Radicalisation as a percentage of SPF expenditure, directly managed by the FCO



Geographical Priorities

During 2008-09 the programme worked across a range of countries in south and south-east Asia, the Middle-east, and north and east Africa.

Project:

Syria: Cartoon Series

Purpose:

The aim of the project was to promote moderate Islamic values and the Damascus model of peaceful co-existence and religious tolerance between Muslims and non-Muslims through the production and dissemination of a cartoon series for international distribution.

Context:

In Syria, Muslims and non-Muslims live together in peace and respect each other's religion. Children all over can see violence, death, wars and conflicts on television every day. The cartoon series has been designed to counter these images, to appeal to the purity and innocence of childhood and teach children of all nationalities that Islam values forgiveness, tolerance, love, and understanding. The cartoons are set in Damascus in order to 'export' these ideas to other areas of the world where radicalism and extremism may be a problem.

This project was implemented by the Islamic Studies Centre based in Damascus. They have produced three episodes of the Cartoon Series on the Damascus model of moderate thinking in Islam, peaceful co-existence and religious tolerance. The soundtrack was made available in

both Arabic and English and was subsequently dubbed in Urdu, Malay, Bahasa Indonesia and Farsi, so as to appeal to and reach as wide a target audience as possible.

Contacts have been established with relevant national and state TV institutions to broadcast the Cartoon Series in Syria, Pakistan, Iran, Indonesia and Malaysia and selected western countries (UK, Canada, Netherlands, France, Holland, Germany, Belgium and US) and it will be viewed by Muslim audiences in these countries.

Outcomes:

The cartoon series will reinforce and encourage the culture and Islamic values of tolerance, forgiveness and peace. It will be a tool used in schools and homes in order to promote these values world-wide.

A visit by Bill Rammell MP (Former FCO Minister of State with responsibility for the Middle East) helped to highlight this project as an initiative to strengthen UK's relations with Islam. The press coverage of the visit has greatly increased public awareness of UK's engagement with Syria and publicised the positive contribution we make.

Design and animation team discussing work with the technical director



Project:

Egypt: Al Azhar University Project

Purpose:

To enhance the ability of Al Azhar University to play an effective role, in Egypt and abroad, in countering misconceptions about Islam, tackling the extremist narrative and spreading the teachings of renowned Al Azhar scholars and experts.

Context:

Al Azhar University is the second oldest university in the world and a renowned centre of Islamic teaching, scholarship, and guidance. Al Azhar's reputation and reach among Muslims exceed that of any other institution, and it has the potential to play an important role in countering misconceptions about Islam. But it is hindered at the institutional level by poor language and communication skills, especially in the religious faculties, and a lack of opportunity for interaction with non-Arabic speakers.

This three year, FCO-funded project enables the British Council to work closely with Al Azhar University in areas such as quality assurance in education, management and human resources capacity-building, and English-language teaching. It also aims to create opportunities for interaction between students and faculty members from Al Azhar and British institutions.

An English Language Training Centre has been set up to offer English lessons to the top students from the University's five religious faculties. 20 teachers have been trained and mentored by the British Council, delivering a mixture of specially-tailored and general English courses to some 200 (male) undergraduate students. At the end of the 3-year English programme, students will receive a special "joint honours style" degree, reflecting their English proficiency and achievements in their chosen discipline. They are expected to rise to positions of influence

as imams, religious teachers, academics or scholars, in Egypt and abroad.

The Foreign Secretary visited the Centre during his visit to Egypt in February 2009, and wrote about the experience in his web blog. A delegation of leading British Muslims also visited the Centre during their visit to Egypt in 2008.

Outcomes:

Al Azhar student and faculty commitment to the project remains high. Students are keen to enrol, attendance is good, and both students and teachers work very hard. A set number of students are being prepared to train as Imams upon graduation from Al Azhar, to later preach in English disseminating the moderate message of Islam. The University leadership has demonstrated strong commitment by providing high-quality facilities, including five new classrooms and a multi-media room. A further 100 students are expected in the autumn with the first batch completing the three-year English component of their degree in spring 2010.

The Centre also promotes learning and interaction through a variety of media, including online. Students and teachers at the Centre have created their own social networking site, which already has over 130 members, including some in the UK. A group of students have formed a working group to produce a magazine in English and Arabic for the whole University.

Links have been created between Al Azhar University and Leeds University, and with Dar el Hadith (Syria) and Qaraween University (Morocco). A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Al Azhar/Leeds for exchange of information and training between both universities on Quality Assurance.

Project:

United Arab Emirates (UAE): Crisis Management

Purpose:

The project's aim was to assist the UAE to deliver a single coherent national response to crises such as a terrorist kidnapping through a single set of guidelines throughout Abu Dhabi and the UAE by developing and implementing a national crisis management system and a regional crisis management training college.

Context:

The UAE has some of the largest British communities in the Middle East, together with over a million British visitors a year. An effective UAE crisis management capability needed to be developed in order to protect British interests and that of the Host nation by responding to and managing any incidents that arose.

This one year project carried out a series of training courses and seminars for operations staff at the UAE's National Crisis and Emergency Management Authority (NCEMA). This involved courses such as risk assessments, legislation and regulations, recovery planning and emergency management, control centre standard operating procedures, and mass casualty management.

The development of emergency management guidelines and a Concept of Operations (CONOPS) for the UAE was constructed, setting out the arrangements for the response to any emergency that would require a national coordinated UAE action.

Outcomes:

The project successfully contributed to producing a 5 year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (signed in April 2007) between the UAE's NCEMA and the UK Cabinet Office's Emergency Planning College. The two main objectives of the MOU are establishing NCEMA and building its counter terrorism capabilities as well as creating the NCEMC. The college will be used for providing national and regional training to the UAE in all areas of crisis management and may expand its portfolio to include training such as humanitarian aid, hostage negotiation and other skill requirements.

Relevant and new legislation has since been written for the UAE for crisis management that includes the creation of a National Risk Assessment and a National Register. This enables the UAE to assess different types of risks and identify what sorts of crises are most likely to be encountered.



Negotiations with the offender using a vehicle as a barricade for protection. Supporting team is behind the chief negotiator

As a result of the guidelines and CONOPS being developed, a command and control framework has been devised using clear UK principles. This involves a simple Gold, Silver and Bronze structure. For example, Bronze represents the direction of casualty evacuation, (fire and ambulance and traffic) controlling vehicles and liaising with hospitals. Silver represents the command and control of incidents,

and the leading and direction of police and fire agencies. Gold represents the coordination of all agencies, political decision making and planning, consequence management and recovery as well as leading the local operations centre. These all allow for an organised and systematic approach to managing any crisis incident which involves multi agency involvement.

Project:

South/South-East Asia: Production and Broadcast of Regional Current Affairs Radio Programme, Asia Calling

Purpose:

The aim of the project was to counter extremism and intolerance in the region by promoting values of tolerance and respect for fundamental freedoms including the rights of women, while enabling an effective exchange of information across cultures and geographic boundaries.

Context:

In April 2007, Her Majesties Government (HMG) awarded the Indonesian Association for Media Development a two-year grant to support the production and broadcast of a weekly 60-minute regional current affairs programme called 'Asia Calling'. It is broadcast by KBR68H, Indonesia's only nationwide independent radio news agency with 650 radio station members across the country and Asia.

The programme offers news stories and features on religious tolerance, human rights, respect for freedom of speech, and respect for differences. Produced for Asia by Asians, it gives a voice to people across Asia on critical issues facing the region and how these impact on their daily lives. Millions of listeners from Indonesia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Burma, Thailand, Nepal, Timor Leste, Bhutan, the Philippines, Cambodia and Australia regularly tune in to hear stories that promote multiculturalism, battle extremism and challenge intolerance.

HMG's funding to 'Asia Calling' and KBR68H has also provided the opportunity to train journalists from across the region, as part of a sustained effort to raise standards of professionalism in the media industry and in the development of a bilingual website. Promotional activities were carried out in several countries in the region, including in Indonesia, Pakistan, and Afghanistan, to increase awareness of 'Asia Calling' and listener numbers, through public events, publicity and radio quizzes. This included two highly successful regional Asia Calling events, one on the ASEAN human rights mechanism, and the other on Islam and Democracy in South Asia and Indonesia.

Outcomes:

'Asia Calling' is translated into local languages and broadcast in 12 countries in South and Southeast Asia through over 240 radio stations, far exceeding the ambitious target set for its reach. It has also facilitated the establishment of a strong network of independent media organisations across Asia.

There has been a positive effect in raising journalism standards as a whole in the news room of KBR68H as Asia Calling's high quality content has caused journalists to refresh their style of presentation, and to be more communicative. Both the Asia Calling radio programme and its journalists have received awards in recognition of the quality of the programme. KBR68H has also received both international and national awards for its work as a whole, most recently the prestigious King Baudouin International Development Prize 2008-2009 from Belgium.

The number of monthly website visitors is over 16,000 per month, double the level achieved half way through the grant period. This is an enormous achievement that shows the strength of the radio network in delivering a message of tolerance and respect for fundamental freedoms.

The Asia Calling bilingual website (English and Indonesian) attracts many visitors, offering both text and audio versions of the programme, and further extends the reach of the programme. See more of Asia Calling at www.asiacalling.org.



In Afghanistan a woman celebrates the New Year festival of Nawrooz. She was deprived of an education during the Taliban regime, but is now free to play without fear

Project:

Pakistan, Educating the Young for Active Citizenship

Purpose:

The project aimed to increase the capacity of Pakistani educational leaders in selected public, private and religious schools through the creation, implementation and continuation of effective educational programmes, for students and youths, in areas where there's growing extremism by building a network of institutions committed to civic education with a network of young people trained and motivated in peaceful problem solving.

Context:

This project was implemented by the Centre for Civic Education (CCE) in Pakistan in 100 selected public, private and religious schools in ten districts including Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Gujrat, Faisalabad, Chakwal, Peshawar, Swabi, Charsadda and Nowshera during 2007-09. It ran a civic education curricular programme for middle-school students that promoted competent and responsible participation in local, provincial and national government, and contributed to the country objective of increasing community and institutional resilience to extremism.

The project actively engaged students in learning how to monitor and influence public policy and encouraged civic participation among students and teachers. The main activities within the project were workshops and training sessions, which focused on teachers, trainers and students to ensure the sustainability of the project. There has also been publication of books on the subject which schools are able to reuse. To promote the longer term impact of the project amongst students, an annual work book in which they could do their school work was produced.

A total of 10,046 students, 306 teachers/principals participated in the project. About half of the participating schools were from the rural areas and about sixty percent were from the public sector.

Outcomes:

The project was successful in instilling a sense of active citizenship among the students as well as the teachers by encouraging 'democratic ways of thinking and a sense of civic responsibility'. The sustainable benefit to the participants can be summed up in the following comment made by a student:

»Through this programme
we have learnt that we
can raise our voice for
the solution of our
community problems in
a democratic way.«



Students getting the reward of outstanding school on preparing a presentation on active citizenship

Public endorsements were obtained on the importance of civic education by the President of Pakistan, Prime Minister and the Education Minister and used in CCE literature helping to engage with the schools, teachers and students. Importantly for Pakistan, it also shows some degree of buy in and increased awareness amongst senior political figures of issues surrounding civic education.

CCE has published and shared its findings on the project's impact with the educational authorities and other stakeholders to good effect. For example, nine schools of Rawalpindi and Islamabad are implementing this project again by re-using the guidebooks and remaining material provided by CCE.

CCE have been able to embark on a process to continue advocacy for civic education based on the work done and products produced during the project's implementation. So far, they have been successful in getting the Aga Khan Foundation and several other publishers for private schools to include material from the project in their curriculum/text books.

Drugs and Crime

Introduction

Drugs and crime cause harm to communities and economies around the world and combating this effectively is a top domestic priority for the UK.



Drugs seizure in the Caribbean

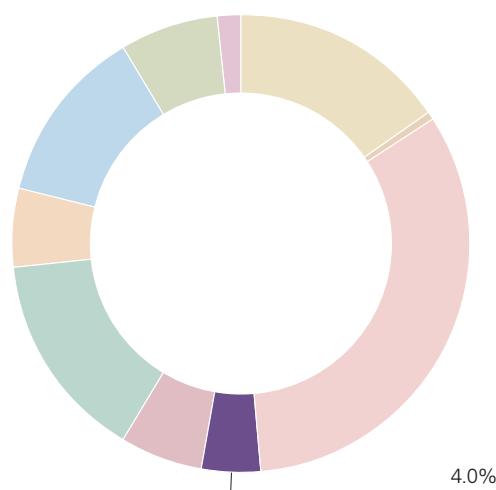
The overall objective of the SPF Drugs and Crime Programme is to reduce harm to the UK from Class A drugs and financial crime by increasing international engagement, capacity building and agreeing a common understanding of the threat. The programme works bilaterally with foreign governments overseas and multilaterally with partners such as UNODC to support our government partners' activities. According to the UN, the total annual income from transnational organised crime could be well over \$2 trillion, "giving it more financial resources than all the military budgets worldwide". We work with host governments to help them tackle the threat by:

- > Improving Professional standards;
- > Implementing legislation;
- > Promoting access to and exchange of information.

Funding

In financial year 2008-09 the DCP spent £4.0m funding a wide range of capacity building projects with key partners across 20 countries.

Drugs and Crime as a percentage of SPF expenditure, directly managed by the FCO



Geographical Priorities

- > Europe (Balkans/Turkey);
- > Caribbean;
- > Latin America;
- > South Asia;
- > South East Asia;
- > West Africa.

Project:

China – Visit by Chinese Delegation

Purpose:

Encourage closer cooperation between the UK and Chinese Police services.

Context:

Chinese criminal networks cause significant harm in the UK. Violence and intimidation underpin their activities. Threat assessments link these networks to the southern Chinese provinces of Fujian and Guangdong. In particular, networks of "snakeheads" (Chinese gangs that smuggle people) linked to the Fujian province play an active role in organised immigration crime. Fujian province is the most significant source of Chinese illegal migrants to the UK.

The Drugs and Crime Programme funded a week long visit to the UK of Chinese police officers from the Fujian and Guangdong Public Security Departments (PSD) with accompanying officers from the Ministry of Public Security.

Outcomes:

The project strengthened communication between the UK and Chinese police. It gave both sides a clearer understanding of how to develop operational exchanges through the UK/China Memorandum of Understanding. The project also enabled UK Police to establish key contacts in the South China PSD.

Chinese police delegation on week long visit to UK, hosted by the Metropolitan Police and funded by SPF Drugs and Crime



Project:

Ghana – Operation Westbridge

Purpose:

Provide structured training, technical and operational expertise to build Ghana law enforcement capacity.

Context:

Operation Westbridge is a joint exercise between HM Revenue & Customs, Detention Directorate (part of UKBA since August 2009) and the Narcotics Control Board (NACOB) of Ghana, based at Accra Kotoka international airport. The team focuses on "swallowers", who attempt to reach Europe by air, but they cover other methods of smuggling, such as air-freight. This complements the activity of a sea port project at the port of Tema. In addition, since February 2009, the Drugs and Crime Programme has supported the secondment of a UKBA official to act as an operational and strategic mentor to NACOB.

Daily mentoring and capacity building are the key headline outcomes from this project. To put this in more tangible terms, in its first two years to November 2008, Operation Westbridge was responsible for seizing 463kg of cocaine, 3.4 tonnes of cannabis and 1.3kg of heroin.

Tackling drugs trafficking on arrival in the UK has proven to be costly – in terms of airport operations, staffing, and resources, and policing and custody services. Tackling this menace before it reaches the UK's shores is much more cost effective.

Outcomes:

Despite the very obvious benefits of this project for the UK, the project has built local Ghanaian capacity and helped its law enforcement agencies tackle the problem in Ghana. The project has also helped increase the perception that Ghana is a difficult place for drugs traffickers to operate, discouraging Ghanaians, and visitors to Ghana, from acting as drugs couriers.

The success of the Operation Westbridge model has led UKBA to seek to replicate it elsewhere, and to generate other sources of funding beyond the FCO. The project has put the UK at the forefront of global drugs interdiction, and it is hoped other governments and European law enforcement agencies might adopt similar models in collaboration with the UK.

Project:

Macedonia – Support to the Organised Crime Department of the Macedonian Ministry of Interior

Purpose:

The main aim of this project is to introduce a new crime information gathering system for Macedonia.

Context:

Macedonia's regional location makes it a vital link in drug and human trafficking. It is used as a gateway to Europe and onward to the UK. Over the years, organised crime gangs have developed more sophisticated structures and through the use of various 'service providers' such as travel agents, document forgers and corrupt public officials, they have become more of a threat to economic stability not to mention the misery caused to victims of human trafficking.

The Drugs and Crime Programme provided £137k of funding for a two year project which introduced a new crime information gathering system to the eight regional police command areas as well as the Organised Crime Department at the Ministry of Interior. Information stored in their new database is now compatible with their European partners ensuring information can be shared easily and quickly.

Outcomes:

Using the skills shared through this project, officers from the Organised Crime Department conducted a large scale operation against a major drug dealer operating from Macedonia throughout Europe. Around €50m of assets have been seized pending trial and a large number of police officers and local government officials have now been suspended and are under investigation for suspected corruption.

Project:

Ghana – The Container Programme

Purpose:

Support the creation of an inter-agency Port Control Unit (PCU) through training and equipping.

Context:

Law enforcement in and around seaports is extremely challenging – structures are often hampered by a lack of resources, inter-agency mistrust, complex port processes and systems, as well as corruption. These factors are deliberately exploited by criminal organisations. With 420 million containers shipped yearly across the world, sophisticated concealment methods have made successful interdiction difficult.

This project supported the creation of an inter-agency PCU helping different law enforcement agencies: Narcotics Control Board, National Police, Bureau of National Investigation, Customs Excise & Preventive Service, Ghana Ports and Harbour Authority to be trained and equipped to work to the same standards. Theoretical training on the inter-agency PCU concept took place in early 2008. Practical training focussed on profiling, targeting high-risk containers, adopting procedures to harmonise different roles and working procedures in consultation with the relevant port authorities. A mentor from HM Revenue & Customs, Detention Directorate (part of UKBA since August 2009) makes regular visits to Tema to assist in capacity-building and to sustain the momentum generated from the initial training. The PCU became fully operational in October 2008 at Tema.

Outcomes:

Over 70kg of cocaine with a street value of £3.2m, hidden in a chewing gum consignment from Ecuador, was seized at Ghana's Tema port. This was a direct result of this Drugs and Crime Programme funded project. This was a major haul for Ghana and its law enforcement agencies. The successful operation benefitted other West Africa nations as well as helping to reduce the harm to UK.

The PCU is the first of its kind in Ghana. Before its existence, container profiling to uncover organised crime activities was not taking place. Customs authorities were the only agency regularly controlling import containers, but were focusing primarily on generating state revenue and preventing or detecting fiscal offences. Even during the training the benefits were immediately visible – profiling exercises by the officers resulted in the seizure of sub-standard medicines. Less than one month after the end of the practical training, the PCU intercepted 3 stolen luxury cars from Spain, as well as the most recent seizure of cocaine.

The 70kg cocaine seizure is a significant development. It reflects the PCU's use of intelligence skills and applying the training they received.

Human Rights and Democracy

Introduction

The principal objectives of the Human Rights and Democracy (HRD) Programme are to increase compliance by states with their obligations under international human rights law and to help prevent conflict around the world.

By supporting practical and political work on seven key themes, the SPF HRD aims to bring about sustainable structural and institutional change in countries which will, in turn, help embed the culture of respect for human rights and democracy.

Javed Abidi, Honorary Director, NCPEDP addressing the participants on the occasion of World Disability Day, 2008



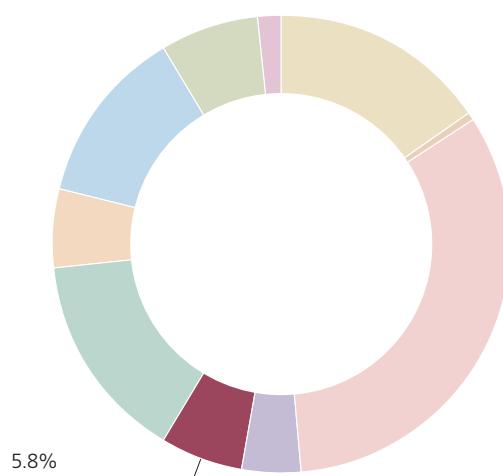
The seven themes tackled are:

- > Strengthening international, regional and national human rights mechanisms;
- > Improving criminal justice systems' compatibility with applicable international human rights law;
- > Addressing structural causes of inequality of minorities (ethnic, gender, or disabled);
- > Contributing to the abolition of the death penalty;
- > Improving electoral processes;
- > Promoting and protecting civil society's ability to influence, monitor and hold accountable state institutions; and
- > Strengthening freedom of expression and the media.

Funding

In 2008-09, the Programme funded human rights and democracy-related projects to a value of £5.7m. One third of this was allocated to criminal justice projects alone – by far the most dominant theme.

Human Rights and Democracy as a percentage of SPF expenditure, directly managed by the FCO



Geographical focus

The Programme is a global programme and, as such, accepts bids and considers funding projects anywhere in the world.

Some of the themes above do however have priority countries:

- > Criminal justice priorities: Bangladesh, China, Colombia, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russia and Sudan;
- > Equality priorities: Azerbaijan, Colombia, Egypt, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Nepal and Sri Lanka;
- > Abolition of the death penalty priorities: China, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Libya, Malawi, Morocco, Nigeria, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda and Vietnam;
- > Democracy priorities: Belarus, Cambodia, Colombia, DRC, Egypt, Nepal, Nigeria, Jordan, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Vietnam.

Project:

Lawyers' Law Project in China

Purpose:

To better guarantee the right to a fair trial by improving the implementation of the new 'Lawyers' Law' which gives defence lawyers greater access to their clients and prosecution evidence before trials begin.

Context:

China's new Lawyers' Law came into effect on 1 June 2008. This new law furthered defence lawyers' rights in three areas. Firstly, the Law provides a legal basis for defence lawyers to meet their clients with no approval from crime investigators. Previously lawyers could rarely meet their clients during the pre-trial stage. Secondly, the Law provides that lawyers can access all case files when prosecutors are preparing for prosecution, whereas in the past lawyers were not able to access files before the trial. Thirdly, the Law makes it possible for defence lawyers to carry out their own independent investigations.

Despite the Law's provisions, implementation has been difficult. For example, an on-line survey carried out in May 2009 showed that 73.4% of all participants (1,080 lawyers, 187 officers and 343 others) thought that there had been no progress on lawyers' access to their clients.

In July 2008, the SPF Human Rights and Democracy Programme funded a three-year project, to promote implementation of the Law. The project implementing agency, the Great Britain China Centre, is working with two Chinese partners to explore ways in which lawyers, prosecutors and police can work

together to ensure effective implementation of the Law. The project also aims to provide a comparative approach with reference to international standards on fair trial rights. And, as the conflict between the Law and the Criminal Procedure Law have been seen as the main obstacle for implementation, the project also commits itself to producing policy and legislation recommendations to address the conflict.

Outcomes:

During the first year of the project's implementation, the project has made the following progress:

- > New models have been developed in pilot areas among prosecutors, police and lawyers in order to promote the defence lawyers rights effectively. For example, in Chongchuan District, Nantong of Jiangsu province, draft procedures which aim to enable defence lawyers to access case files as well as to meet with clients without any interference have been introduced into local procuratorate's daily practice. The procedures will be further developed during the lifetime of this project and will establish longer-term policy in place before the project finishes;
- > The project has raised awareness of the issues among academics and legal practitioners both at national and local levels. The project and particularly the April workshops have attracted wider attention and covered by news reports in some mainstream media in China, for example, the Legal Daily;

- > Field research has been carried out to analyse and highlight the key problems of the Law's implementation over the country. A comprehensive report has been produced, which lists in detail the areas of conflict between the two laws. It highlights the common challenges that defence lawyers have to face from access to their clients, case files, obtaining evidence to general defence rights. The research report will serve as background information for the policy and legislation recommendations that this project aims to submit to the legislatures at the end of the project;
- > Two information workshops were held in April in Chongqing and Jiangsu (two of the pilot areas) to share the UK experience of how the police, prosecutors and defence lawyers are co-operating with each other in handling criminal cases. Three UK experts led by a QC visited China and contributed to the workshops. Through innovative case studies and role-play, the UK team demonstrated how the UK criminal justice system works in providing safeguards to defence lawyers in criminal procedures as well as Solicitors Code of Conduct and Bar Council's Code of Conduct for Barristers. Both of these Codes are the governing rules for lawyers in England and Wales, including criminal lawyers who represent either a defendant or prosecutions.



Project:

Mainstreaming Disability in the Indian National Agenda – Policy to Practice

Purpose:

To promote the effective implementation of India's obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD) into Indian Government policy to ensure equality for people with disabilities.

Context:

An estimated 5-6% of India's population (60-70 million people) are disabled (Planning Commission of India: 2007). Statistics reveal a huge gap in the development indices between people with disabilities and those without. Traditionally in India disabilities have been seen solely as a welfare issue.

India ratified the CRPD on 1st October 2007. It was in this context that the project was built. Its prime focus is on mainstreaming disability in development using the UNCRPD & the XIth Five Year Plan as tools and to ensure that disability is included in policies related to critical issues which constitute the Empowerment Paradigm – Health, Access, Employment, Communication & Information Technology and Rural Development. The strategy being used in the implementation of the project includes the empowerment of the disability leadership through dissemination of information, setting up of the National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disability, research, publications, structured issue-based campaigns for effective policy implementation at the National, Zonal and State levels and consistent advocacy efforts and lobbying leading to policy change.

India Gate, New Delhi – 10,000 candles to symbolise hope and aspiration of disabled people



Outcomes:

On the occasion of the World Disability Day, in 2008, NCPEDP launched a huge campaign which led to a peaceful Dharna (protest) at India Gate, New Delhi with over 10,000 disabled people present from all over the country. The Prime Minister's office intervened and called a meeting with NCPEDP where the NCPEDP submitted a list of '10 Big Ticket Items' that were achievable by the Government in its remaining 2-3 months in office. Two of those 10 Items have already been met (detailed below).

1. Access

NCPEDP and its partners lobbied the Election Commission to implement the Orders of the Supreme Court of India to ensure that the polling booths were accessible to those with disabilities and that the Electronic Voting Machines had Braille stickers. The three major political parties of India all included an element of disability in their manifesto (as a direct result of NCPEDP's advocacy during the project). The polls in 2009 saw disabled people come out and vote in large numbers. For some it was the first time that they were exercising their franchise as citizens of Independent India. For those with visual impairment, it was a matter of special celebration as they were able to cast their vote independently and as a secret ballot.

2. Communication and Information Technology:

- (i) As a direct result of NCPEDP lobbying and persuasion, the Web Access guidelines in India were changed to make websites accessible to all. In February 2009, the Government announced that it would start working towards making all Government websites WCAG 2.0 Level 1 compliant and the then IT Minister launched India's first accessible portal – **www.India.gov.in**
- (ii) Until now, the only accessible T.V. news available to people with hearing impairments were the weekly sign language news bulletin. Partly as a result of NCPED advocacy efforts the Government announced that the Prime Time news on the T.V. Channel run by the Government of India would be made accessible to people with hearing impairments.

Project:

Monitoring Kazakhstan's OSCE Commitments through Analysis and Civic Engagement

Purpose:

To support Kazakhstan's legislative reform process, making domestic laws on media, political parties, elections and local government more compliant with OSCE human rights and democracy standards; and to support civil society's involvement in the legislative process and its ability to monitor implementation.

Context:

At the 2007 OSCE Ministerial Council, the Government of Kazakhstan, in a bid for the 2010 OSCE Chairmanship, committed itself to reforming national legislation on political parties, elections, media, and local government, in support of human rights and democratisation. This project, implemented by Freedom House was timely in supporting Kazakhstan meet these commitments.

Outcomes:

This UK project has directly galvanised local NGO pressure and international support from other governments (USA, Canada, NL) to encourage the Government of Kazakhstan to make progress on key areas of legislative reform, particularly in relation to elections, religious freedoms and the media.

Freedom House's domestic and international advocacy efforts to raise awareness of the need for additional reforms reached out to more than 500 representatives of the Kazakhstani government, civil society, the international community and the media. A coalition of ten leading Kazakh NGOs developed analyses for the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Helsinki on Kazakhstan's fulfilment of its OSCE commitments, as well as a general review paper on the reform process. The domestic campaign included a range of press conferences, parliamentary roundtables, targeted meetings with government officials, presentations on the draft laws and a visit of Baroness Stern to Astana.

Four working groups developed recommendations on changes to legislation on media, elections, political parties, and local government. The working groups proved to be an effective mechanism for developing legislation, allowing civil society experts to influence government officials early in the process. That said, only some recommendations were taken into account resulting in draft laws falling some way short of meeting overall OSCE standards.



Roundtable platform between political parties, Government, MPs and NGOs to discuss amendments to legislation on elections, media and political parties

As a result of the UK initiative and follow-up support (political and financial) offered by other partners, electoral law in Kazakhstan has now been amended to allow a second political party to gain seats in parliament. (Kazakhstan has had a one-party parliament until now). Additionally, a central electronic register of all voters is in the process of being established, in line with OSCE standards, to boost enfranchisement and limit corruption.

As a direct result of an information campaign and concerted lobbying efforts involving domestic and international partners, an attempt to introduce a restrictive law affecting minority religious communities (requiring special

procedures to be conformed to, making it very difficult to operate), was also overturned in February 2009. This would, if enacted, have outlawed unauthorised missionary activity in Kazakhstan and made it more difficult for minority religious congregations to register and operate in the country. The Constitutional Council concluded that the proposed legislation was unconstitutional, and the bill has been dropped.

Minor changes to media law, making it easier for media outlets to operate without having to seek repeated permissions from the Government, have also been initiated.

Low Carbon High Growth

Introduction

FCO goals to secure ambitious commitments to tackle climate change, secure the UK's and EU's energy security and to promote strong economic growth and open international markets are inter-dependent.

A smokestack in Denver, Colorado

Low Carbon

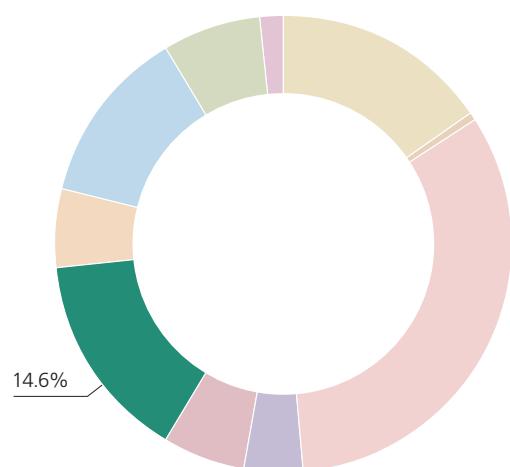
Avoiding dangerous climate change is essential for global security and prosperity. An unstable climate will undermine the conditions necessary for economic growth. Investment in global energy infrastructure must be directed away from carbon intensive to low carbon solutions. Achieving this will depend to a large extent on securing an ambitious, comprehensive and equitable agreement in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations on a post-2012 global framework. Political will to tackle climate change will only be secured once leaders are confident that policies to mitigate climate change will not undermine their growth objectives. The FCO's role is to create the political conditions for such an agreement.

As the UK becomes a net importer of energy and the economy makes the transition to low carbon, balancing our continuing (and growing) energy needs with our climate change ambitions will be central to ensuring the UK's energy security. In the meantime, the UK's energy security will be best guaranteed through diverse types and sources of supply, open and competitive energy markets and more efficient global consumption of energy.

Funding

In 2008-09 the Low Carbon High Growth programme spent £14.4 million.

Low Carbon High Growth as a percentage of SPF expenditure, directly managed by the FCO



High Growth

The global economic crisis has demonstrated the need for co-ordinated international action to boost the chances of recovery. We must maintain openness to trade and investment, resist protectionism and strengthen the multilateral trading system. The FCO can help to maintain support for this agenda through increasing commitment to open markets and promoting economic reforms in key countries. Economic policies must be "low carbon" if we are to stimulate strong and resilient growth and avoid the energy shocks caused by carbon dependency.

The Low Carbon High Growth (LCHG)

Strategic Programme Fund was created in 2008-09 following the merger of the SPF Climate Change & Energy programme and the SPF Economic Reform programme. The new combined programme maximises the benefits of these inter-dependencies.

The new programme supports four Departmental Strategic Objective outcomes:

- > A visible and accelerated shift in investment towards low carbon initiated in the major economies;
- > Creation of the political conditions for an equitable post 2012 agreement at the UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP) in December 2009 of sufficient ambition to avoid dangerous climate change;

> Management of risks to UK and EU energy security through more diverse and reliable external sources and more efficient global consumption;

> Increased international commitment to an open, stable and equitable low carbon global economy.

Within this the programme funds multi-year projects in a set of 22 priority countries which will:

- > Assist countries to put in place policy frameworks which enable them to sign up to and implement ambitious action to mitigate climate change;
- > Create the political support for an ambitious agreement at Copenhagen through building the case amongst influential groups such as business or civil society;



Lloyds of
London,
City of London,
England



Brent Oil field, North Sea, UK

Photographer: Michael Saint Maur Sheil

- > Promote more efficient global energy consumption through improved policy frameworks on energy efficiency;
- > Help countries to put in place policy frameworks which improve macroeconomic policy or regulatory frameworks;
- > Building political commitment to an open international economy and multilateral agreements.

Geographical Priorities

Climate security: Brazil, Canada, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Poland, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, USA

Energy security: Algeria, Azerbaijan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine

Economic Reform/Openness: Argentina, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, Philippines, Russia, South Africa

Project:

Climate Security, Brazil

Purpose:

To mobilise political support for climate change public policies in partnership with the Brazilian Forum on Climate Change (FBMC) which will lead to the establishment and implementation of a far-reaching, mainstreamed National Plan on Climate Change.

Context:

An important part of the FCO's work in tackling dangerous climate change is to support key countries to develop effective national climate change policies, both to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions but also to build political support for an ambitious post 2012 global climate deal in Copenhagen in December 2009.

Outcomes:

In December 2008 the Brazilian government launched its National Plan on Climate Change which included domestic targets for GHG emission reductions in key sectors. For example, it included a target to make 10% energy efficiency savings by 2030 and to cut yearly deforestation of the Amazon to 71% of the average 1996-2005 level by 2017.

The *Supporting the Brazilian Climate Change* Forum project contributed to the development of the National Plan and the establishment of specific commitments through expanding the consultation process. The project supported the Brazilian Forum on Climate Change to hold meetings with key economic sectors such as energy, transport and agriculture, and other stakeholders to ensure the widest possible input of views as part of a full public consultation on the National Plan. As a result of this the plan was of higher ambition. The energy efficiency targets were proposed as a result of this work. Funds were also leveraged from the Climate Change Public Diplomacy Programme, which worked simultaneously with civil society on an analysis of the National Policy on Climate Change, which supported those pushing for a more ambitious Plan.

The contribution of this project to the National Plan on Climate Change was recognised by the Minister of Environment, Carlos Minc, in a letter sent to the Brazilian Forum on Climate Change.



Climate Change Secretary and Environment Minister holding the improved version of the Climate Change National Plan, other key constituencies (such as congressmen), President Lula and representative from the National Forum on Climate Change

Project:

Climate Security, China

Purpose:

To develop practical action plans for low carbon cooperation between China and Europe and to build support and capacity for their implementation – including piloting low carbon development zones.

Context:

China became the world's largest emitter of energy-related carbon dioxide (CO₂) in 2008. In 2009, for a sixth consecutive year, coal was the fastest-growing fuel (China accounts for 43% of global demand for coal) with obvious implications for global CO₂ emissions.

If we are to avoid dangerous climate change then it is essential that China's growth is combined with a shift to low-carbon policies and technologies. In the past year the Chinese government has made statements indicating recognition that a move to low carbon is compatible with high levels of economic growth.

Providing evidence at provincial level that reducing emissions is compatible with continued strong economic growth will strengthen the resolve of policy makers to take tough action and increase the chances of a successful global climate deal after 2012.



Foreign Office and Chinese government officials visit a high-tech company in Jilin, China

Outcome:

A particular success was the decision to designate Jilin City in the North East of China as the location for a first "Low Carbon Zone" pilot study. Under the first phase in 2009, the local authorities will make plans to measure and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, before incorporating these plans into their next 5 Year Plan (2011-15). The National Development and Reform Commission – the responsible government interlocutor – is monitoring this SPF-funded pilot and other low carbon studies closely with a view to rolling it out nationally.

An SPF project paid for Chinese and UK think-tanks, including Chatham House and E3G, to put together the initial methodology and concepts, which has helped to persuade the Chinese Government of the benefits of the pilot as well as providing guidance on its feasibility. This has significantly accelerated the move to nominate a pilot low carbon city study. Strategic Programme Funds are also going to be used to support similar pilot studies in Guangdong, and Chongqing as well as other cities and provinces.



Officials from the Jilin government (Municipal and Development and Reform Commission, DRC) welcome Foreign office visitors to Jilin, China

Project:

Climate security, Mexico

Purpose:

To produce a report into the economic effects of climate change for Mexico to raise awareness and understanding of the need to tackle climate change and engage key constituencies in the debate to shape future policy and investment decisions to support the transition to a low carbon economy.

Context:

An objective of the climate strand of the *Low Carbon High Growth* programme is to build greater understanding of the implications of climate change and the urgency of taking action, in order to create the right political conditions to secure an ambitious post 2012 global climate deal in Copenhagen in December 2009.

One element of this is to increase understanding of the economic implications. Leaders may not fully realise the potential impact of climate change on their economies, or may think that any action to reduce emissions will damage their economic growth.

A project in Mexico, co-funded with DEFRA, has worked with the National Autonomous University of Mexico, the Mexican Treasury and the Federal Environment Ministry to improve the evidence base on the economic costs and benefits of climate change.

Outcomes:

This comprehensive study, with a foreword by Sir Nicholas Stern, analyses the inter-relationships between climate change and the economy in Mexico and will help decision makers to determine appropriate policy options regarding climate change. The headline study finds it will cost Mexico about 5% GDP to reduce emissions to 50% below 2002 levels by 2050, versus a cost for 'inaction' of around 8% of GDP.

This is the first report of its kind to be completed in Mexico. The report was launched by Augustín Carstens, Minister for the Treasury, at World Environment Day on 5th June alongside President Calderón's Special Climate Change Programme, demonstrating the importance attached to this issue by the Mexican government.

When Mexican President Felipe Calderón spoke to the meeting of the Major Economies Forum in Cuernavaca in June 2009 he made several references to this study. The President explained to world leaders attending the event that the cost of inaction would be much greater than the cost of action.

President Calderón also spoke of the "co-responsibility" of developed and developing countries in tackling climate change:

»[This is] the first time that all economies, or at least the ones from OECD, will show negative signs [as a result of the effects of climate change]... I would also like to tell you... [that] another idea that we have to dispel is that we have to wait for good economic conditions to do it. There is no time to waste.«

Project:

Strand: Economic Reform and Open markets, Russia

Purpose:

To roll out the practice of anti-corruption analysis of federal and regional legislation (including departmental regulatory legal acts and bills) in Russia.

Context:

Corruption is a serious issue in Russia, which ranked 147 out of 180 countries in Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index in 2008. As well as hampering Russia's economic growth, corruption weakens interest from foreign investors – reducing Russia's interaction with the global economy.

SPF has supported a number of projects to allow systematic evaluation of draft legislation in order to identify – and subsequently close – loopholes that could be exploited for corrupt practices.

Outcome:

The projects, starting in 2006, have trained officials to carry out this evaluation of legislation in more than half of Russia's regions, as well as those at the Federal level. In the last year, as corruption as an issue rose up the political agenda, the Russian government sought the assistance of the project implementer to develop a new anti-corruption law. The Duma (parliament) has now passed this law. As a result, anti-corruption analysis of laws is a compulsory process in the drafting of Russian legislation. Both the ruling party and opposition politicians have recognised the law as significant. The most senior recognition of the importance of the new law came when President Medvedev discussed it in a high profile interview, in which he commented:

>>This law... is the latest step in creating the legal framework for the fight against corruption.<<



Training being given to regional representatives as part of the Anti-corruption Analysis of Laws project

Project:

Energy Security, Nigeria

Purpose:

To build the capacity of local and state government in all aspects of participatory governance while simultaneously building the confidence and capacity of communities in the Niger Delta to plan and implement development projects; with the objective of reducing conflict and improving energy security.

Context:

Few Nigerians have benefited from the country's oil wealth. In 2006, estimated GDP was over \$168bn but less than \$1109 per capita.

Corruption, a lack of government services and high levels of unemployment are causes of disaffection among people living in the Niger Delta, which has fuelled violence in this oil-producing region.

Nigeria is one of the world's largest producers of oil, currently producing 1.7 million barrels of oil per day although it has a capacity of 3 million barrels per day. Oil theft by the militants in the Niger Delta and others costs Nigeria an estimated £3.1bn every year, in a country in which the oil and gas sector accounts for around 20% GDP and 85% of government revenue.

As domestic supplies run out, the UK is increasingly dependent on energy imports, and will have to compete harder for these diminishing supplies as global demand for oil expands in emerging economies.

Reducing the levels of violence in the Niger Delta is a priority for the UK's development and energy security objectives.

An SPF project which aimed to develop participatory governance through the establishment of Community Development Foundations (CDFs) is delivering results, which has recently been confirmed by the findings of an external evaluation. The evaluation found the project to have been more effective than a similar project, run by an international agency, which was ten times the size of this SPF project.

The Foundations are organisations set up in Niger Delta communities to develop and submit project plans for development funding from the local and state level governments. The project worked on two levels:

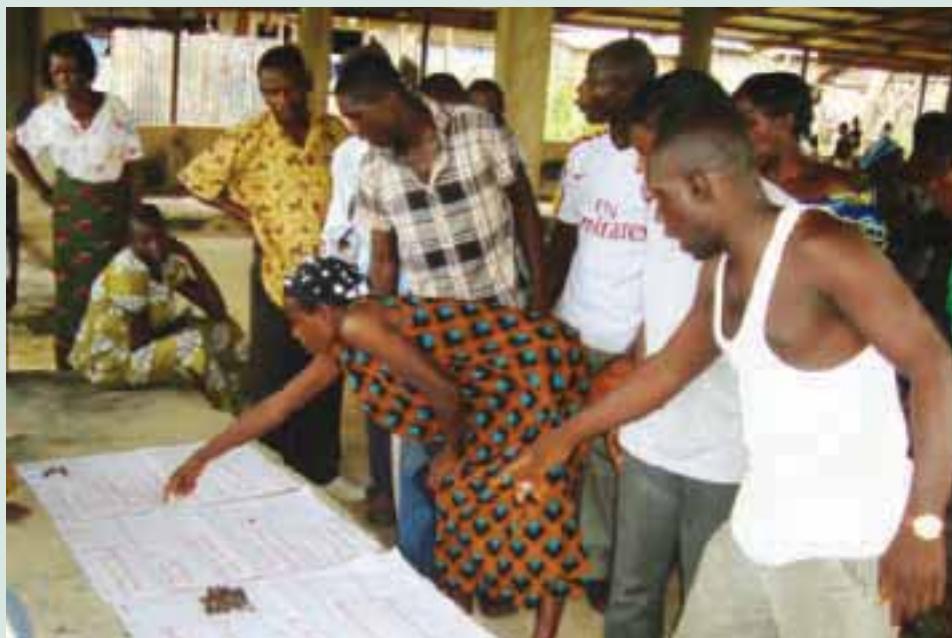
- > With political office holders and civil servants – through training and field visits – to increase interest in the CDF model as a mechanism to improve the delivery of development funding where the old top-down approaches have failed;
- > To mobilise the local communities so they are able to engage more confidently and productively with government.

Outcomes

The project facilitated the emergence of CDFs in three development areas within Bayelsa State: Anyama, Kaiko Ibeawo and Beletieama. Communities involved have been increasingly successful in lobbying for funds for their development plans. Several government grants have been awarded to the communities, for example one CDF secured the release of funds for a hospital renovation.

A number of state agencies expressed interest in replicating the CDF approach. In the same spirit the Bayelsa State government initiated the policy of inviting communities to submit priority projects for inclusion in the project budget. The state's Sustainable Development Strategy pledged the government's commitment to facilitating CDF, while the state governor publicly called for the adoption of the model.

SPF LCHG is funding a follow-up project to build capacity in local NGOs, oil company development staff, civil servants and political office holders to scale up the work of the CDFs.



An SPF project in Nigeria which helped to develop participatory governance through the establishment of Community Development Foundations. This is the CDF process at work in Ayakoro community in Anyama. The men are reading the options in the matrix to assist the woman in making her vote, while one of the project implementers (3rd from left) looks on

Overseas Territories

Introduction

The Overseas Territories Programme Fund (OTPF) contributes to Departmental Strategic Objective 1; “a flexible global network serving the whole of the British Government”. It supports the work of the FCO to ensure the security and good governance of the UK’s Overseas Territories (excluding Gibraltar and Cyprus, which have separate arrangements). This embodies the UK’s legal and constitutional obligations towards its Overseas Territories (OTs).

Diver surveying the shallow marine environment in the Falkland Islands



The FCO co-ordinates overall UK Government policy on the OTs. Through OTPF, it works closely with OT Governments, Whitehall Partners, NGOs, business and other stakeholders to promote sustainable initiatives in the areas of good governance. Adherence to international obligations, such as environmental management, maintaining the security of the Territories and managing contingent liabilities are specific focuses of policy.

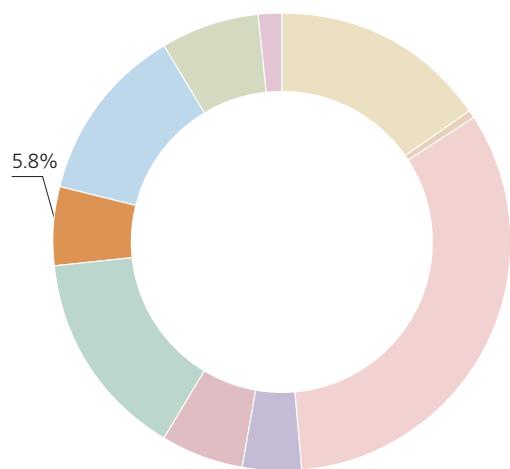
Programme funds make an essential contribution to managing risks and reducing the UK's liabilities in the OTs. OTPF covers the diverse range of UK responsibilities towards the OTs combining non-discretionary obligations and discretionary funding. It also funds the Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP), a joint FCO/DFID Programme. OTPF discretionary funding focuses on the priority areas of security, good governance, contingent liabilities, international obligations and the Polar Regions, while non-discretionary funding pays for standing commitments such as annual subscriptions to international organisations. Focus on these areas also reflects the 2007/2008 National Audit Office, Public Accounts and Foreign Affairs Committee reports.

A major objective of the programme over the next three years is to simplify the processes for accessing OTPF funding and identify synergies between the Territories to develop larger regional projects which can have greater overall impact. Action is also in hand to combine the OTPF and OTEP bidding processes.

Funding

In 2008-09, the OTPF spent £5.7m.

Overseas Territories as a percentage of SPF expenditure, directly managed by the FCO



Geographical Priorities

The OTPF supports work in the following OTs: Anguilla, Bermuda, British Antarctic Territory, British Indian Ocean Territory, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, the Falkland Islands, Montserrat, Pitcairn, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, St Helena and dependencies (Ascension and Tristan da Cunha) and the Turks & Caicos Islands. It does not cover Gibraltar or the Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas. OTEP supports environmental projects in all the OTs including Gibraltar and the Sovereign Base Areas of Cyprus.

Project:

Falkland Islands – Shallow Marine Programme

Purpose:

The project aims to:

1. Conduct comprehensive marine surveys in areas not previously surveyed, in order to establish baseline data;
2. Design and implement a long term monitoring programme for Kidney Island, a National Nature Reserve close to Stanley, to investigate seasonal and long-term changes in the coastal environment, and to monitor for invasive species;
3. Advise the Falkland Islands Government (FIG) on appropriate management policies and potential mapping of the inshore environment;
4. Educate and involve the community about the marine and bird life around the shallow waters of the Falkland Islands, including production of waterproof guides, and recruitment of volunteers from recreational divers and beachcombers to provide continued information.

Context:

While much is already known about the deeper waters and commercial fisheries surrounding the 700-plus islands of the Falklands, there is limited knowledge about the wildlife found in shallower, inshore waters. This restricts effective and coherent marine conservation management. OTEP has therefore joined forces with others including the Falkland Islands Government, Falklands Conservation, and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds to fund a local group of volunteers known as the Shallow Marine Surveys Group (SMSG) to take forward work on the Falklands Islands Shallow Marine Programme.

Conservation management of the inshore environment is important as the islands' population increases, which in turn leads to increasing inshore fishing, aquaculture, and changes brought about by coastal settlement. The islands contain globally important colonies of seabirds, especially penguin and albatross species. For example, the Falkland Islands Flightless Steamer duck, one of only 2 endemic species, is a waterbird of coastal habitats. Of the 10 endangered bird species (IUCN-BirdLife International 2004) that breed in the Falklands, 8 are seabirds and the remaining 2 are closely associated with offshore islands containing seabird colonies. These bird species rely on the waters around the Falkland Islands for food, and in turn are linked to the transfer and recycling of nutrients to the land, particularly the soils, plants and invertebrates of coastal areas.

There is relatively little data on the species that inhabit this area, and even less data on the impact that increased use of coastal resources will have on the seabirds, marine and littoral fauna, and the marine mammals. The Falkland Islands State of the Environment Report acknowledged this as a key knowledge gap, and it is hoped that this project will help address this.

Outcomes:

SMSG made excellent progress over the austral summer with a major expedition to Berkeley Sound, a large body of water to the north of Port William. Ten SMSG and Falklands Conservation members surveyed 42 sites and collected over 800 photographs for analyses. Sites in Port William saw continued survey work during the summer with ten different sites visited. The group also set up a permanent study site at Kidney Island to collect long term environmental data. These will be surveyed quarterly to monitor temporal variations and invasive species.

There has been a fair amount of publicity surrounding the project including a poster highlighting the sponge communities of the Falkland Island presented at the Porcupine Marine Natural History Society annual conference. SMSG and the shoreline environment of the Falklands were featured on a 20 minute programme on BBC Radio 4's 'The Living World' and over the summer a reporter from 'Outside Magazine' joined SMSG on an expedition to Kidney Island. Local interest in the project has also led to regular feature articles in the weekly Penguin News publication and interviews on Falkland Islands Radio.

The project is now in its second year and on track for successful completion in mid-2010.



Surveying
marine life in
Falkland Island
waters

Project:

Cayman Islands – Report on the Implications of Sea Level Rise in the Cayman Islands

Purpose:

To highlight the challenges facing the Cayman Islands and other Caribbean Overseas Territories by researching and reporting to the Cayman Islands Government and other Territories on the impacts of sea level rise.

Context:

Small islands in the Caribbean and their low-lying coastal areas, many of which are heavily populated and contain the bulk of economic activity, are at risk from sea-level rise and intense coastal storms. Many of the islands are already experiencing increased coastal inundation, storm surge, coastal erosion and damage to infrastructure due to sea-level rise. Reducing the vulnerability of the Cayman Islands and other Caribbean Overseas Territories through short and medium term adaptation strategies is imperative.

Working with Dr. Murray C. Simpson (Oxford University Centre for the Environment) and in liaison with the Cayman Island Government, the Cayman Institute (CI), a non-profit, non-partisan institution dedicated to improving the long term sustainability of the Cayman Islands, developed a comprehensive, strategic report and adaptation action plan to address the effects of sea level rise in the Cayman Islands which could also be applied to other Caribbean Territories.

The report looked at data and reports published by several internationally respected climate change bodies such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre, NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, the British Antarctic Survey and the Met Office Hadley Centre.

Outcome:

This project delivered a valuable reference to the future planning regimes for the Cayman Islands and other Caribbean Overseas Territories on the sustainability of their economies and the protection of biodiversity and the livelihoods of communities.

Project:

Investigating Crime in the British Virgin Islands

Purpose:

£22,000 was allocated from the Overseas Territories Programme Fund to the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force (RVIPF) to develop and improve the Scene of Crime capability and the RVIPF's ability to investigate serious and organised crime within the British Virgin Islands.

Context:

The project came about as the result of a 2007 Forensic Review carried out by the UK Forensic Science Service who made a number of recommendations to improve the capacity and capability of the RVIPF Scene of Crime Unit. The Scene of Crime Unit was a small operation and faced a number of limitations. While officers had received some training, the Unit lacked the resources and capacity as well as appropriate systems and good practice to provide consistent, quality evidence. Officers were unfamiliar with new methods of forensic evidence collection and examination. The poor quality of forensic evidence and a failure to adhere to accepted standards had been severely criticised by trial judges, lawyers and the Director of Public Prosecutions. With an increase in violent

crime, including gun-related crime in the British Virgin Islands, the safety of the BVI public and economic wellbeing was under threat due to a lack of credible forensic evidence being available.

A Scene of Crime Specialist from Hampshire Constabulary was seconded to the RVIPF for three months in February 2009 to provide "on the job" mentoring to police Forensic Unit officers and to introduce internationally recognised scene of crime organisational and management systems and standards.

Outcomes:

As a result of this project, the Scene of Crime Unit have significantly improved the RVIPF's ability to investigate serious and organised crime in the British Virgin Islands. This has been done in a way where the standards are monitored by RVIPF senior officers and plans have been put in place to further train staff to a consistent and higher level. As a consequence, the improvements will be sustained and improved further. Gillian Merron, the former FCO Minister for the Overseas Territories, visited the centre during her visit to BVI in April 2009.

Former FCO minister
Gillian Merron visits
the centre



Returns and Reintegration

Introduction

The aim of the Returns and Reintegration Fund is to increase the number of foreign national prisoners (FNP) and failed asylum seekers (FAS) who are returned to their countries of origin and to help them reintegrate into their home community.



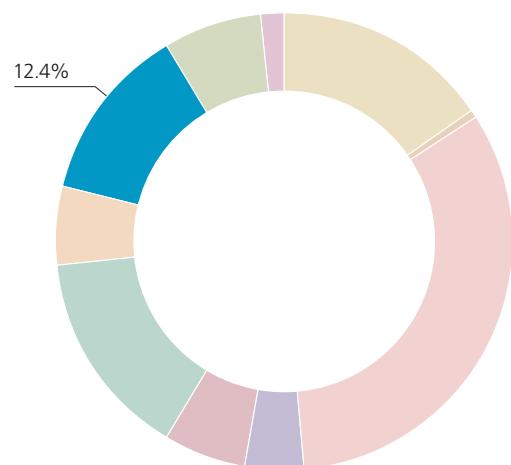
Building migration facilities in DRC

It is a cross-government effort with inputs from the FCO, DFID, UKBA and Ministry of Justice. The fund enables us to support countries which face the biggest challenges in accepting back their nationals.

Funding

Returns and Reintegration Fund spent £12.1 million in 2008-09 on 95 projects in 33 countries.

Returns and Reintegration as a percentage of SPF expenditure, directly managed by the FCO



Geographical priorities

The RRF priority countries are Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, China, DRC, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Ghana, Iraq, Iran, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe.

Project:

Return and Rebuild in Iraq and Afghanistan

Purpose:

Increase voluntary returns to Afghanistan and Iraq by 50% on 2007 figures, while promoting the long term sustainability of returns to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Context:

The Return and Rebuild programme started on 1st September 2008. It was a pilot project designed to promote the long term sustainability of returns to Iraq and Afghanistan. In doing this it is hoped that the numbers of returns under the Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme (VARRP) would increase by 50% to both countries thus contributing to the overall VARRP return target.

The project was introduced in response to a request from ministers to increase the number of VARRP returns in order to contribute to the tipping target. Various strategies were considered. A country specific programme was selected for Afghanistan and Iraq as it was considered that the most impact could be made through increasing numbers to these countries. Lack of shelter is a major problem for returnees who do not have the funds to renovate their homes. It is a major stumbling block to returns as many properties have sustained significant damage.

Although the current VARRP tailored programme includes three months assistance with accommodation it does not provide for housing reconstruction. The Return and Rebuild project therefore seeks to build on this programme and was drawn up after consultation with International Organization for Migration (IOM) in order to develop the project details.

£1.6 million was initially allocated from the Returns and Reintegration Fund to provide assistance for up to 300 Afghans and up to

300 Iraqis to enable them to rebuild and renovate their homes destroyed in the conflict.

Outcomes:

The number of returnees since the beginning of the programme is as follows:

Country or return	Number of returns from 1 st September 2008 to 30 th June 2009	Number of returns last year from 1 st September 2007 to 30 th April 2008	Number who have claimed the Return and Rebuild Reintegration assistance to end June 2009.
Afghanistan	337	200	171
Iraq	515	214	253

Actual returns to Afghanistan have increased by around a third and those to Iraq have almost doubled during the lifespan of the project to date. Returnees have three months after their return to approach IOM in order to claim their reintegration assistance and usually apply for the Return and Rebuild element once they have accessed the business start up provisions. Take up of the package is therefore likely to increase significantly on the figures above. Returnees so far have claimed the maximum £2000 allowable largely in the form of construction materials.

Challenges to delivery were identified during the reporting period but these have now been overcome. A sampling exercise conducted by the IOM six months after return provided positive feedback from returnees. There was an increase in the uptake of assistance in both countries as construction work recommenced after the harsh winter.

Return and Rebuild has been viewed favourably by stakeholders who consider its introduction is a positive step towards sustainable return.

Project:

Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Offenders and Deported Persons in Jamaica

Purpose:

Reduce re-offending and crime rates in offenders returning to Jamaica after serving their sentences.

Context:

A high crime rate is one of the main barriers to development in Jamaica, but there is no structured programme in place to help rehabilitate offenders, or to reintegrate those people who have been returned to Jamaica after serving their sentences in British or other foreign prisons. In a joint initiative with the Jamaican Government we have launched a programme to improve the rehabilitation and reintegration of both groups of people, with the ultimate aim of reducing re-offending and helping to reduce the high crime rates.

The programme, which costs £2.97 million, spans three years and started in November 2008. It began with a series of workshops designed to help the Jamaican Department of Correctional Services and Ministry of National Security develop a planned approach to tackling the problem of re-offending. Since then dozens of Jamaican government staff including top managers, communications specialists, prison and probation officers have participated in around 10 training events run by experts, mainly recruited from the UK Ministry of Justice. The aim is to share UK experience and to work together to develop solutions that are tailor-made for Jamaica.

Outcomes:

Until now Jamaica offered very limited rehabilitation services, but this project provides a detailed base of information, training and infrastructure to expand those facilities.

This programme is financing:

- > The refurbishment of a building to be used as a pre-release hostel, to help manage prisoners' transition to freedom;
- > The construction of a visitor centre for families at Tower Street prison, to help maintain family links;

- > The establishment of a training suite in Kingston to be used for staff training and offender groupwork;
- > Gymnasium equipment at four prisons, to improve prisoners' health and self-confidence.

These projects will be ready for use in late 2009.

The Jamaican Government is developing more proposals this year including

- > Improving its rehabilitative infrastructure;
- > Providing help with literacy training;
- > Support for prisoners' families;
- > Handling domestic violence;
- > Training in carpentry, leatherwork and automotive repairs;
- > A range of services to ease the reintegration of those people returning to Jamaica from the UK.

We also intend to conduct an opinion survey, to be repeated in the second and third years of the programme, to assess whether there are changes in public perceptions of offenders and deported persons over the life of the programme.

Probation and prison officers who work directly with offenders will be the first to benefit from this programme. Offenders and those people returned from the UK will be able to make use of the rehabilitation projects and services as soon as they become operational. And as the programme begins to have an effect on re-offending, the benefits will be felt by the people in Jamaica, especially those living in marginalised communities who currently suffer most from crime and violence.



A new reception centre for those deported from the UK, funded in part by the RRF

Project:

Programme of projects in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Purpose:

Create a sustainable returns programme to DRC, increasing voluntary returns.

Context:

The British Embassy in Kinshasa has worked closely with the Congolese authorities to identify projects which will help us put in place a sustainable programme of returns to DRC and lead to an increase in the number of voluntary returns. In terms of public perception promoting returns to DRC is a real challenge for both the UK and DRC governments given the post-conflict environment.

Take up of assisted voluntary return is low amongst irregular Congolese in the UK. We want to increase the rate of voluntary returns as they are more cost-effective than forced removals and provide a more dignified return with enhanced reintegration opportunities.

In order to better understand why the figures were low and identify ways to bring about an increase, we funded an in-depth research project into Congolese attitudes to migration. This project was carried out in both the UK and DRC. In the UK the researchers interviewed Congolese failed asylum seekers and Congolese community

leaders; in the DRC, voluntary and forced returnees and their families; and then families with relatives in the UK. The aim was to identify Congolese perceptions, concerns and their level of awareness of assisted voluntary return options.

Our improved understanding of patterns of illegal migration and attitudes towards it has subsequently enabled the UK government to adopt a more creative approach to tackling illegal migration, for example through targeted information campaigns. We are also working closely with the International Organization for Migration on identifying ways to better promote assisted voluntary return options. We have worked with a local NGO to produce informative and attractive documents containing safe migration messages. And we have used the research findings to inform the content and script for a TV programme for audiences in the DRC called "*Play By The Rules*", warning of the risks inherent in illegal migration.



DRC border post prior to construction of modern building

Outcomes:

Over the last year, the UK and DRC's partnership on managing migration has gone from strength to strength. The Returns and Reintegration Fund (RRF) has played a key role in helping us build that relationship and achieve our objectives. One key milestone has been the re-commencement of our charter flight programme in May 2009.

Our activities have included the provision of equipment and training for the immigration authorities to strengthen their capacity to manage the DRC's vast borders; public information campaigns to discourage potential illegal migrants from leaving DRC; support to the Congolese Vice Minister for Diaspora's Migrant Resource Centre; and detailed research into Congolese attitudes to migration.

We have also funded an unprecedented project to re-document those Congolese nationals in the UK, including prisoners, who have failed to cooperate with the standard re-documentation process. This has led directly to an increase in removals, including of Foreign National Prisoners, thereby helping UKBA reach the tough targets set by the Prime Minister.

We are funding the construction of two modern computerised border posts on the DRC/Angola border. Building the immigration service's capacity will help reduce the flow of irregular Congolese and other nationalities across the border and onwards to Europe.

The border posts will be equipped with computerised document checking equipment, tools and procedures for data collection, treatment and analysis. And alongside the improved technology, immigration staff will work through a comprehensive training programme in the essentials of migration management.

The UK has established itself as a key partner in the DRC in managing migration. The RRF has played a significant role in facilitating this step change, allowing us to fund innovative projects which will have a positive impact both in the DRC and in the UK.

Reuniting Europe

Introduction

Recognising the positive impact of EU enlargement on Europe as a whole, the Reuniting Europe programme supports partner countries in the implementation of the reforms necessary for EU accession or closer partnership with the EU.

British and European flags



To do this it focuses on the political and economic accession criteria set by the Copenhagen European Council in 1997. These state:

>>Membership requires that the candidate country has achieved stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities, the existence of a functioning market economy as well as the capacity to cope with competitive pressure and market forces in the Union.<<

The Programme helps to build support for our vision of an enlarged EU and closer partnerships with the European neighbourhood. Our assistance projects improve our understanding of the progress and remaining challenges countries face in meeting the conditionality set by the EU. We aim to be able to respond faster than traditional donors to support countries, tackle priority issues and overcome the obstacles they face in implementing their partnership agreements with the EU. The Programme recognises the importance of working with partner countries at key stages of the accession negotiations and at key stages of negotiation on partnership agreements.

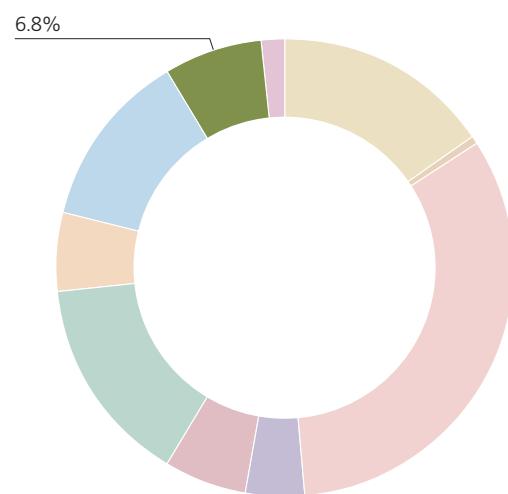
The four programme objectives during 2008-09 were:

- > 1. To increase political transparency and good governance;
- > 2. To build capacity in public administration;
- > 3. To strengthen reforms in the justice sector and promote human rights;
- > 4. To strengthen economic reforms in line with the Lisbon Agenda.

Funding

In 2008-09 the Reuniting Europe programme spent £6.7 million.

Reuniting Europe as a percentage of SPF expenditure, directly managed by the FCO



Geographical Focus

Turkey, Croatia, Macedonia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Kosovo, Ukraine, North Cyprus, Albania, Moldova, Belarus, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Project:

Armenia spreading the word on EU partnership

Purpose:

To equip local journalists with the skills and knowledge to cover European topics more accurately and comprehensively.

Context:

One of the strategic objectives of the UK project team in Armenia is to increase transparency and good governance and several of their projects have centred on this area. The media is a particularly important area for the British Embassy in Armenia as they wish to promote the workings of the EU in order to encourage closer partnership with the European Union. They recognised that there was very little professional coverage of European themes in the local media in Armenia and it was felt that this stymied healthy public debate and participation in this field. This project was therefore vital in promoting a closer partnership between Armenia and the EU through a strong and informed media network. Its wider aims also included helping to secure a real concrete commitment to EU standards and values from the Armenian government.

Outcomes:

The project achieved a number of positive results. Forty Armenian journalists received comprehensive training on European values and structures and participated in discussions on current issues affecting the EU. The training sessions were followed by a six-month media monitoring programme which revealed how newspapers and news agencies cover Europe and European themes in general. At the end of the training period an award ceremony was held for the best article produced on a European theme. (photograph of first prize winner attached)

The results of the final media monitoring exercise, carried out at the end of the project, showed an improvement in the accuracy of reporting on EU issues and an increase in the ability of journalists to employ the technical terminology of the EU. In addition to this, the journalists themselves stated that they felt more comfortable when approaching representatives of European structures in Armenia for interviews and information. The increased contact that the journalists had with the government on EU issues together with the high profile of the project, which had state support, also caused the Armenian government to renew its commitment to upholding EU standards and values.



First prize winner in a competition for the best article on a European theme, an initiative which formed part of the training provided to journalists by the SPF RE EU media awareness project in Armenia

Project:

Communicating Europe to the Western Balkans

Purpose:

To give senior policy-makers, MPs and media editors from the Western Balkans first-hand experience of key aspects of the EU integration debate and increase co-operation and information sharing between these countries.

Context:

Communicating Europe is one of a number of regional projects funded by the Reuniting Europe programme. These projects group together countries geographically to help them achieve progress in a common area of concern or focus. Regional projects often result in increased co-operation and information sharing between neighbouring countries which may have been rare or problematic in the past.

The Communicating Europe project is run by the European Stability Initiative, a think-tank with offices in Istanbul, Berlin and Brussels. It covers the countries of the Western Balkans and aims to help key figures in government, civil society and the media in the Western Balkans improve their understanding of key debates in EU member states and create a strong, sustainable network. It seeks to do this by holding a series of conferences at which delegates from each of the countries can engage with key officials from European states. These conferences have been held in a number of different locations, including larger European powers such as Germany and Italy, countries about to have the EU presidency (France and Czech Republic) and new member states (Poland).

Twenty one delegates, three from each of the Western Balkan countries, attend each conference. These have included senior officials from the nations' Foreign Ministries as well as editors-in-chief and presenters from six TV programmes covering EU integration issues. Conferences address a variety of themes.

In Prague, participants engaged with senior policy-makers who are making the case for EU enlargement. In Rome (May 2008), the Italian Interior Minister addressed the visa liberalisation issue. The integration process and the experiences of other states who have recently acceded to the EU have also been discussed.

Outcomes:

The project which is still on-going has achieved some interesting results. It is apparent that, through attending a series of conferences, participants from across the Western Balkans countries have established a network of contacts and links. Senior officials in the Western Balkans have gained the skills to enable them to engage in the EU integration debate at a time when this is becoming more challenging. Delegates from the Western Balkan countries also believe that they have better relationships with EU member countries as a result of the conferences.



Edin Sehic, Head of EU section, Bosnia Foreign Ministry and Srdjan Mastorovic, Deputy Director of the European Integration Office in Serbia participate in discussions on EU integration at the ESI conference in Warsaw

Project:

Montenegro – Fighting corruption on all levels

Purpose:

To raise public awareness of corruption and to conduct an independent monitoring exercise on the implementation of the National Action Plan for the Fight Against Corruption and Organised Crime.

Context:

One of the primary objectives of the British Embassy in Montenegro is to "make progress towards the EU by meeting the political conditions and implementing the necessary reforms". This includes the fight against corruption on all levels. In 2007 the Montenegrin Government established a national commission to tackle corruption and organised crime. SPF Re-uniting Europe funded a project aimed at helping MANS (The Network for Affirmation of the NGO Sector), which participates in the Commission, to raise public awareness of the issue and to conduct an independent monitoring exercise on the implementation of the National Action Plan for the Fight Against Corruption and Organised Crime.

Project activities have included two roundtable meetings at which recommendations for anti-corruption measures were suggested and discussed as well as National Anti-corruption conferences where these recommendations for improvement were developed further and drawn up into a concrete document.

Outcomes:

The initiative has generated positive results. The project implementer has produced a book documenting the round table discussions and the recommendations agreed upon at the conference. This has been published in both English and the local language. Several ministers and a significant number of national ambassadors to Montenegro attended the conferences which were major, high-profile events, generating a large amount of publicity. The UK's Ambassador in Montenegro held talks on the project with the Montenegrin deputy Prime Minister, who said that the pressure the NGO implementer applied to national ministries during the course of the project produced positive results and improved the efficiency of the National Anti-corruption Commission. This is particularly noteworthy as it illustrates the willingness of the Montenegrin ministries to co-operate on anti-corruption measures as a direct result of the communication networks the project established.



High-profile speakers at the National Anti-corruption conference, part of the SPF RE project to tackle corruption in Montenegro

Project:

Serbia – Tackling corruption in public procurement

Purpose:

To reduce corruption in public procurement.

Context:

Serbia spends 16% of GDP on public procurement and an estimated 25% of it (almost half a billion pounds) is lost every year as a result of corruption. This is of particular concern in the current global economic climate. It is therefore vital to make public institutions accountable, to encourage better governance and to save taxpayers' money through competitive tendering processes. By combating corruption in this area Serbia aims to increase capacity in public administration. This is one of Serbia's key areas of focus in their long-term aim to develop the mechanisms and skills necessary to achieve the EU accession criteria set down by the Copenhagen European Council in 1997.

The British Embassy in Belgrade, together with the local branch of Transparency International and the Serbian authorities ran a 2-year project to increase the capacity of the Public Procurement Office and ensure effective contracting.

Existing public procurement legislation and the procedures and capacity of the public procurement authorities were analysed and recommendations for legal amendments suggested. As a direct result of this project these recommendations were taken up and

the procurement laws were amended.

The project also provided training and assistance to procurement officers and implemented a system to monitor the efficacy of anti-corruption measures. Through their work on this project Transparency Serbia was also able to position itself as an effective point of contact and consultation for the media and relevant stakeholders on all issues of state accountability.

Outcomes:

A final project conference was organised to raise public awareness of procurement issues. The participation of the British Ambassador to Serbia added to the profile of the event and generated vital media interest. The project had several high profile knock-on effects: state institutions (like the Tax Administration) and representatives from Serbian industry responded positively to the issues raised.

This was a very successful project for the SPF portfolio, transforming and improving an area of Serbian administration which two years previously had an obsolete legal framework, was not subject to controls and was susceptible to corruption.

Project:

Improving Turkey's Child Protection System

Purpose:

To promote reforms in the juvenile justice sector, encouraging inter-agency co-operation to ensure an effective child protection system.

Context:

The British Embassy in Turkey concentrates on two principle areas in order to support its goal of eventual accession to the European Union. These are to strengthen reforms in the justice sector and promote Human Rights and to increase capacity in public administration. One of the projects funded by SPF covered both these areas. It sought to do this by developing a co-ordinated child protection strategy in two pilot cities which could then be rolled out across Turkey.

Having co-ordination mechanisms within the public sector and putting in place mechanisms for co-operation with the civil society is a key component of public administration reform. This was especially important in the field of child protection as the lack of co-ordination and co-operation was having a detrimental effect on child welfare. This had also been noted as an area for action in the European Commission's progress report.

The project began shortly after a new law on child protection was introduced and was therefore very timely. Its biggest achievement has been to increase the capacity in administration in order to allow for the changes in law to be effectively implemented.

Outcomes:

In the two cities where the project was effective, the implementer, British Council, created a solid mechanism for co-operation and co-ordination between the various agencies, which were responsible for different stages of the children's care. They promoted the British model of multi-agency co-operation and produced a guidebook which included an organogram and listed the roles and contact numbers of each agency in order to promote a more co-ordinated child care system. A local co-ordination council was established in each city which allowed for regular meetings and information sharing between representatives of the different groups.

The achievements of the pilot were recognised by the Social Services and Child Protection Institution, thus giving official backing and support to the work done and providing the legitimacy needed to spread the pilot further.

The project's sustainability was secured after UNICEF began an EU-funded project based on the outcomes of this project. They are also making use of the handbook produced in order to train all the deputy governors from the 81 cities in Turkey on their need to have a role in and knowledge of the child protection system

Members of the new local co-ordination council, established through the SPF RE Juvenile Justice project in Turkey, meet some of the children for whom they have joint responsibility



Appendix: SPF Governance

Overview of the SPF
Governance Structure:
Who we are and what we do



Strategic Programme Fund (SPF) Board

The purpose of the SPF Board is to enhance the strategic performance of the programmes through:

- > Championing SPF programmes and ensuring there are no strategic gaps;
- > Measuring effectively the impact of the programmes on FCO policy objectives;
- > Ensuring the impact of SPF programmes on overseas posts is fully taken into account;
- > Making recommendations to the Finance Committee on how to reallocate Strategic Programme budget when required to vary total programme spend.

Programme Office

The Programme Office provides guidance and support to the FCO's policy programmes, including the Strategic Programme Fund. Its main responsibilities are:

- > Promoting best practice in programme and project management;
- > Analysing SPF's and other FCO policy programme's overall performance and making recommendations to the SPF Board;
- > Managing communications and publicity on SPF;
- > Capacity building, including training, and exchange of lessons learnt.

Programme Teams in London

Each SPF Programme has a dedicated management team. It also has a Programme Board responsible for making funding decisions on project proposals and giving strategic direction. Board members are drawn from the FCO, other government departments and civil society. The role of the Programme Team is to:

- > Develop a programme strategy, working with the Programme Board and policy officers;
- > Appraise projects submitted during bidding rounds and make recommendations to the Programme Board;
- > Work with the potential bidders and posts to advise on project proposals;
- > Monitor the programme's progress and recommend any actions to the Programme's Senior Responsible Owner, who has ultimate responsibility for the Programme.

Projects Teams at Post

Programme activity abroad is co-ordinated by UK diplomatic missions. There is an extensive network of UK-based and locally engaged project officers working on projects in SPF priority countries. Project officers explore and develop partnerships in-country and regionally, and work with project implementers, including on project design.

Finance Committee

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





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