



CODESRIA

CONSORTIUM FOR DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP (CDP)

NEWSLETTER

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CDP in One Word

The CDP (Consortium for Development Partnership) is a research programme that brings together fifteen institutions (research centers, universities, civil society organisations) based in seven West African countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, and Senegal). Its main objective is to undertake joint research activities and reinforce capacity in the areas of economic development, democracy and conflict resolution. This programme has been in its second phase since 2009. The first phase (CDP-I), which lasted from 2004 to 2008, was coordinated by CODESRIA and the African Studies Programme of Northwestern University (NWU/PAS). This second phase (CDP-II) is also coordinated by CODESRIA, but this time, with the ASC's involvement. Just like CDP-I, this phase is financially supported by the Netherlands Foreign Affairs Ministry with additional funding from the institutions involved and from civil society organisations. The following table highlights the institutions that are committed to CDP-II under their respective projects and origins:

Editorial

The idea of having a newsletter for the CDP Programme has been suggested several times, especially during the last Steering Committee meeting held in Abuja in September 2010. All partners have expressed their desire to have the newsletter as a tool for information sharing on the on-going and future activities, on the progress of the programme, on the way in which participants succeed in finding solutions, etc. The materialisation of the CDP Newsletter through its first issue will set the tone for a great start of this New Year 2011.

This newsletter will be published every three months. Its content will be provided by all partners of CDP. Dear CDP partners, grab your pens! CODESRIA and ASC (African Studies Centre, Leiden), which coordinate this CDP Programme, will be animating it. We, therefore, invite all readers to give their opinion as to how the content and the quality can be improved. Enjoy reading it!

Project	Institutions	Countries
Local Governance and Decentralization	Point Sud and University of Bamako	Mali
	Center for Democratic Governance	Burkina Faso
Media and Voice in Democracy	Center for Democratic Governance	Burkina Faso
	University	Bénin

	d'Abomey-Calavi	
	University of Cocody	Côte d'Ivoire
Local Dynamics of Conflict and Peace Building	Igbidenion University and University of Benin	Nigeria
	University of Ghana	Ghana
	University of Bamako and Point Sud	Mali
	CERAP	Côte d'Ivoire
Access to Justice and the Rule of Law	University of Ibadan	Nigeria
Entrepreneurship in Agribusiness	University of Ibadan	Nigeria
	Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research	Ghana
ECOWAS and the Regional Dynamics of Conflict and Peace Building	Centre for Democracy and Development	Nigeria
Financing Democracy	Centre for Democratic Research and Training	Nigeria
	University of Ghana	Ghana
Modelling Success in Governance and Institution Building	Centre for Democratic Development	Ghana
	Institut de Recherche Empirique en Economie Politique	Bénin
	Centre for Democracy and Development	Nigeria
Impact of CODESRIA's Capacity Building Activities	CODESRIA	-

Study on the Impact of CODESRIA's Capacity Building Activities

The CODESRIA Secrétariat, within the framework of CDP-II, is doing a study on the Impact of its capacity building activities for researchers. A questionnaire was sent to more than 2000 laureates who have participated in different activities starting from 1990. Those activities concern the Institutes, the Methodological and Writing Workshops, the Small Grant Research Programme activities,

etc. A good number of filled questionnaires have already been returned to the Secretariat. The last are expected to be submitted by January 15th at the latest.

What Have We Learnt from CDP-I?

Project 1: Décentralisation and Local Governance

Decentralisation has been in vogue in West Africa since the 1990s. But to what extent has it helped bring about better governance and democracy? The study focused on the appropriation of the decentralisation process by local/rural communities and their implication in Mali and Burkina Faso. The studies demonstrated how the implementation of decentralization depends on the interests and social status of local actors.

Project 2: Voice and Media in Democracy

Media liberalisation, which was set in motion in Africa in the early 1980, was expected to be the catalyst of a significant evolution toward democracy. It was to help the people, regardless of their social origin, to express their points of view. The study has demonstrated that the media has not only helped in the democratisation process, but it has also strengthened it. Limiting factors in the access to media in West Africa, especially in Burkina Faso, Bénin and Côte d'Ivoire, are also highlighted in the study.

Project 3: Local Dynamics of Conflict and Peace Building

Why are some African societies more prone to wars than others, and how are they related to the national and international context? Based on this interrogation, the study examined how local dynamics which are influenced by national and international contexts generate conflicts. In so doing, the study helped identify the appropriate mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of conflicts, and models of conflict management.

Project 4: ECOWAS and regional dynamics of conflict and peace-building in West Africa

West Africa has been one of the regions where efforts have been deployed to find collective and regional solutions to conflicts. This has led to the creation of a peace keeping force (ECOMOG), the involvement of civil society organisations, regional security and integration. The study put under review the capacity of the ECOWAS for conflict prevention on the regional level by promoting regional integration and social transformation.

Project 5: Access to Justice and the Rule of Law

Difficulties to access justice are often considered as an obstacle for women to enjoy their human rights. Based on this fact, the project sought to provide free legal services to the poorest women in order to increase awareness and accessibility to justice. By the same token, the project examined the contributing factors to access or lack of access to justice for Nigerian women.

Project 6: Financing Democracy

The success of any democratic process and its durability depends on the existence of well entrenched democratic institutions such as political parties, the parliament, elections, etc. These institutions' existence depends, in return, on financing. Financing also allows for the existence of democratic institutions that are strong and that operate in transparency without falling prey to corruption and bad governance. The project investigated political parties' financial resources in Ghana and Nigeria, how they are accessed to and how they are used.

Project 7: Modeling Success in Governance and Institution Building

African institutions are subject to many limitations in the accomplishment of their missions. Therefore, capacity building becomes a major preoccupation in Africa, as an important element in the fight against poverty and in the development of the continent. The project put under review capacities for two kinds of public institutions, namely electoral commissions and parliaments. This is to help better influence actions from governments to the benefit of the people.

Project 8: Entrepreneurship in Agro-business

Agricultural production in Africa generally does not satisfy population's need for food. This explains why African countries have to resort to the importation of different foodstuff. Based on this fact, the creation of job opportunities, the eradication of hunger and the fight against poverty will necessarily require an increase in the national production and resources, hence the need to augment production of essential crops. Based on case studies on Ghana and Nigeria, the project looked into how to achieve that goal, especially with crops such as cassava, palm oil, sorgho and « sheanut ».

The reports of these studies are available at CODESRIA. See also <http://www.ascleiden.nl/Research/ConsortiumForDevelopmentPartnerships.aspx>

Ten Research Questions for CDP-II

Studies undertaken within the framework of CDP-II are a continuation of the interrogations raised in CDP-I. Those studies explore the following questions:

- Where are we with women leadership in the management of public affairs in West Africa? (Project 1);
- How do community radio stations and the media in general influence the appropriation of forms of expressions and democratic consciousness? (Project 2);
- How do local dynamics, intertwined with the national, regional and international contexts, influence conflicts in Africa? (Project 3);
- How can « preventive diplomacy » help the ECOWAS to forestall conflicts? What is the role of non-state stakeholders? (Project 4);
- What are the challenges for women's access to justice? (Project 5);
- What are the challenges for the financing of political parties? (Project 6);
- What are the performances of government institutions in the area of human rights? (Project 7);

- How to improve the production and treatment of palm oil, cassava, peanuts and their derivatives? (Project 8);
- What are the impacts of CODESRIA training programmes on capacity building for researchers in Africa? (Project 9).

Did You Know ?

Six features justify the originality of CDP. These are: 1) members' enthusiasm; 2) the unique intra-regional network; 3) the relevance of the themes under study; 4) capacity building; 5) the interaction between researchers and political decision makers (this remains a challenge to overcome); 6) the comparative nature of the research projects.

As regards capacity building, we note that it takes place through i) interdisciplinary exchanges; ii) the use of methods that are both qualitative and quantitative; iii) the involvement of young students in the research process; iv) by improving the capacity of researchers in the member institutions; v) the increase of knowledge for civil society member organisations; vi) the improvement of the economic power of women, farmers, journalists; vii) the improvement of CDP's own capacity to coordinate research and working networks; viii) the organization of policy dialogues.

Where in the Process are We?

CDP-II programme activities started in earnest in December 2009 with the signing of partnership agreements. The first main activity was the organisation of methodological workshops in several member countries between January and March 2010:

Project	Place	Date
Local Governance and Decentralization	Bamako	17-18/03/2010
Media and Voice in Democracy		
Local Dynamics of Conflict and Peace Building	Ibadan	12-13/03/2010
Access to Justice and the Rule of Law	Ibadan	31/01/2010
Entrepreneurship in Agribusiness	Accra	30/01/2010
ECOWAS and the Regional Dynamics of Conflict and Peace Building	Abuja	29/01/2010

Financing Democracy	Kano	2-3/02/2010
Modelling Success in Governance and Institution Building	Accra	28/01/2010

Debates during these workshops concerned among others: i) the critical analysis of concept notes submitted by the teams; ii) the assessment of the proposed methodological approaches and recommendations for improvement; iii) the coordination of capacity building activities and policy dialogue; iv) the programme financing, and v) the programme activity planning.

Field work was then undertaken by the national teams, the reports from which are expected to reach CODESRIA and ASC for assessment and improvement in the coming weeks. The review workshops are taking place in January and February.

The first Steering Committee Meeting took place between September 13th and 14th, 2010 in Abuja.

The 4th Steering Committee Meeting

The CDP Steering Committee held its fourth meeting (the 1st meeting for CDP-II) on September 13th and 14th 2010 in Abuja, Nigeria. Among those who attended the meeting were 15 researchers, representatives of CODESRIA, ASC and the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The following issues were put on the table: i) progress of the work; ii) collaboration and communication within and between the teams, CODESRIA and ASC; iii) programme coordination; iv) the need to develop an additional fund raising strategy by insisting on CDP's innovative nature and its sustainability; v) strategies to sensitise political decision makers, civil society organizations and other stakeholders.

Recommendations were given on three other technical points: the design of a common conceptual framework, the need to adopt a critical approach vis-à-vis the concepts and the need to harmonize methodologies and create synergies between the different projects.

Three strategies have been identified in order to ensure a proper use of the research results by decision makers: 1) have decision makers participate in workshops; 2) together, identify and discuss the linkages between research results and policies; 3) publish policy briefs.

Mirjam de Bruijn's Visit to the CODESRIA Secretariat in Dakar

Mirjam de Bruijn, CDP-II principal coordinator at ASC had a meeting with her counterparts at CODESRIA, Dakar, in November 2010. The consultation concerned the following points: fund raising, the follow-up of recommendations from the Steering Committee, communication strategies, publications, and the next coordination meeting which will take place in Leiden in March 2011.

The Next Coordination Meetings

According to the tentative agenda, January and February 2011 will be devoted to the preparation and the organization of dissemination meetings for the research results. Those among the national teams which are slow to submit their research reports to CODESRIA and ASC are called upon to do so by January 15th, 2011 in order to help the programme's coordination to proceed with the reports' evaluation and prepare for preparation of the dissemination meetings. In depth analyses will be undertaken following those meetings.

Coordination Meeting

CODESRIA and ASC will be meeting in Leiden in March 2011 to assess the evolution of the CDP Programme and to plan the outstanding activities before the end of the year 2011. The preparation of CDP III will be discussed as the logical continuation of CDP II. To that effect, a working session with the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which finances the Programme, will be held.

This is good to know!

CDP-II Coordinators:

- at the CODESRIA Secretariat: Ebrima Sall Executive Secretary; Bernard Mumpasi Lututala, Deputy Executive Secretary; Bruno Sonko, Programme Officer ;
- at ASC : Mirjam de Bruijn, Principal Coordinator CDP, Linda van de Kamp, Assistant Coordinator CDP

- at the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Margriet Kuster

National Research Team Coordinators:

- Local Governance and Decentralization: Moussa Sissoko;
- Access to Justice: Oluyemisi Bamgbosse;
- Modelling Success in Governance and Institution Building :Emmanuel Guymah-Boadi (Ghana), Léonard Wantehekon (Bénin), Jibrin Ibrahim (Nigéria);
- Local Dynamics of Conflict and Peace Building: Eghosa Osaghae;
- ECOWAS and the Regional Dynamics of Conflict and Peace Building :Jibrin Ibrahim;
- Media and Voice in Democracy: Augustin Loada;
- Financing Democracy: Shehu Dalhatu and Joseph Ayee;
- Entrepreneurship in Agribusiness: Antony Ikpi and Peter Quartey.

A New Director for ASC

CDP wishes great success to Ton Dietz, new Director of the African Studies Centre LEiden, The Netherlands. He is now at the helm of this institution which is a partner and is partly responsible for CDP's coordination. We are hereby pledging for our complete collaboration!

Just Issued!

Two studies on electoral commissions in Ghana and Nigeria, conducted by CDD West Africa (Abuja/Nigeria) and CDD Ghana (Accra/Ghana), have just been issued: 1) A Study of the Independent National Electoral Commission of Nigeria (INEC), by Jibrin Ibrahim and Dauda Garuba, CODESRIA Research Reports, n° 1, 2010, Dakar : CODESRIA, 104 p.; and 2) A Study of Ghana's Electoral Commission, by Debrah, Emmanuel, E. Kojo Pumpuni Asante et E. Gyimah-Boadi, CODESRIA Research Reports n° 2, 2010, Dakar : CODESRIA, 32 p.

Our thoughts go to Cote d'Ivoire!

Côte d'Ivoire, where two of CDP projects are conducted (Media and Voice in Democracy and Local Dynamics of Conflict and Peace-

Building), is once again in crisis following the second round of its 2010 presidential elections. This unfortunate crisis has led the country into an impasse, the exit of which is hardly predictable. The CDP team is expressing through this medium all its sympathy to the population of Cote d'Ivoire and is strongly hoping for a peaceful resolution of the conflict to the benefit of the country and its people. Our thoughts go to our colleagues who are involved in these two studies. Their studies will be very useful to get a more in-depth understanding of the dynamics of the current conflict.

Our Wishes for 2011

On the eve of the New Year 2011, CODESRIA Secretariat and the ASC team are sending their best wishes to the researchers of all 15 institutions (research centers, universities, civil society organizations) that are involved in CDP-II through the 7 countries. May each and everyone of us be in great health with peace in mind and spirit so that we can successfully fulfill our mission vis-à-vis CDP-II. Happy New Year 2011!

Thanks !

Many eminent people have worked hard to establish CDP on solid grounds and to give it its present scope. While sending them our best wishes, we would like to thank them! Although we will surely forget many, we would like to mention a few of them:

Adebayo Olukoshi, former CODESRIA Executive Secretary

Richard Joseph, Programme Director of Northwestern University African Studies Programme (NWU/PAS)

Alexander Gelis, Assistant to the Director, Northwestern University African Studies Programme (NWU/PAS)

Marisia Perzacheck, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Fritz Van Bruggen, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Fon Van Oosterhout, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ida de Kat, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Margriet Kuster, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

For more informations...

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