Development Research Centre on Citizenship, Participation and Accountability

Annual Report 2005–2006

www.drc-citizenship.org

DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTRE
Citizenship, Participation
and Accountability

Annual Report 2005–2006

Front cover photo:
Women protesting in
Veracruz, Mexico

1. Background information

Title of Research Programme: Development Research Centre on
Citizenship, Participation and
Accountability

Reference Number: R7849

Period covered by report: October 2005 to September 2006

Name of lead institution and Director: Institute of Development Studies,
John Gaventa

Key partners:
- Acção Para O Desenvolvimento Rural E Ambiental (ADRA)
- BRAC University
- Centro Brasileiro de Análise e Planejamento (CEBRAP)
- Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA)
- Theatre for Development Centre (TFDC), Ahmadu Bello University
- Centre for Southern African Studies, School of Government, University of the Western Cape (UWC)
- Institute of Development Studies (IDS)

Countries covered by research: Angola, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil,
India, Jamaica, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria,
South Africa

	Planned	**Actual**
Start Date:	October 2005	October 2005
End Date:	September 2010	September 2010
Total programme budget:	3,680,426	3,707,840

2. Executive summary

'What makes the biggest difference to the quality of governance is *active involvement by citizens* – the thing we know as politics'

– Secretary of State for International Development Hilary Benn (emphasis our own), in DFID White Paper, *Making Governance Work for the Poor* (2006)

This agenda of empowering citizens is at the heart of the work of the Development Research Centre on Citizenship, Participation and Accountability (Citizenship DRC). Since 2001, the Citizenship DRC has been working through international partnerships to understand how citizens gain and exercise their rights, participate in affairs of governance, and hold governments and other institutions to account in different contexts across more than a dozen countries.

This report covers the accomplishments of the Citizenship DRC for the period October 2005–September 2006, its sixth year. This was an important year for the Citizenship DRC as it completed, synthesized and shared work from its first phase, and planned and launched work for the next few years. Key accomplishments include:

1. *Finalisation* of the previous phase of work, which investigated key themes of the meanings and expressions of citizenship; citizen engagement in science and knowledge; citizen participation in new democratic arenas for change; and the politics of rights and accountability. Each research theme culminated in publication of a volume in the Zed Book series on *Claiming Citizenship*, and a policy briefing summarising its findings. The programme produced over 100 research and policy outputs (see www.drc-citizenship.org).

2. *Preparation* of a series of cross-cutting synthesis projects from the five year programme and a final international synthesis conference around them. The conference focused on overall research findings, key policy messages, and capturing learning on key approaches that characterise the DRC's work. This included partnership and collaboration; integrating research, policy and communication; and paying attention to research process and ethics.

3. *Planning, conceptualising and launching* three new major programmes of research on the themes of a) deepening democracy; b) citizen engagements in a globalising world and c) violence, participation and citizenship. Each of these will be relevant to core themes in the DFID White Paper on building effective states (Chapter 2); supporting good governance internationally (Chapter 3) promoting peace and security (chapter 4).

4. *Expanding* communications and policy influencing work, including the release of the report *Taking a Citizens' Perspective*, which has been widely used as a basis of policy dialogue in the UK and in other countries.

5.   *Continuing* our research capacity building work, through partnerships with institutions in seven countries, support for graduate training, and ongoing south–south and south–north exchange of experiences.

The Citizenship DRC is on track in terms of the plan outlined in the logical framework in its proposal for this phase (January 2005) and its subsequent 'Plan for future activities' (submitted March 2006). The attached report outlines these activities and accomplishments more thoroughly, and concludes with reflections and key learnings for the period.

3. Background and Introduction: What is the Citizenship DRC?

Since 2001, the Development Research Centre on Citizenship, Participation and Accountability has been working through international partnerships with research institutes and civil society groups in seven countries exploring new forms of citizenship that will help make rights real. Additional work is taking place in five other countries. Over 60 researchers are now directly involved in DRC projects and many more academics, activists and policy makers participate in working groups or capacity building and exchange programmes.

The main elements of the Citizenship DRC's approach includes working:

● Across countries, institutions and disciplines
● Through integrating research, capacity building, communication, policy influence and social change
● Through a broad range of research approaches, including participatory action research, in order to influence policy and challenge current theory
● Aiming to create opportunities for people and partner institutions involved in the research to influence how knowledge is generated and used
● With a commitment to research leading to positive change, contributing to more substantive forms of citizenship, participation and accountability on behalf of people living in poverty.

Research in the Citizenship DRC focuses on questions and issues that are critical to marginalised and excluded groups. Around the world, people are talking about how to make democracy more effective, inclusive and relevant to local situations. Global trade, climate change, transnational corporations, medicines, migration and foreign aid are all affecting more people's lives in new ways. These global processes challenge how people can act as citizens because national governments are increasingly less able to control these trends. Even within some democratic countries, there are growing levels of violence generated by the state, private armed groups or gangs internal to communities – contributing to social inequality. The extent to which citizen participation can reduce violence so that people are more able to claim their rights is uncertain.

The research focus on citizenship, participation and accountability has the potential to affect policy debates and practice related to these themes at local, national and global levels. Over the next two years, cross-cutting themes will be explored through three research programmes:

- **Deepening democracy in states and localities**
  How do new democratic institutions and new patterns of activism open political opportunities for people to express their interests and negotiate in political arenas?

- **Citizen engagements in a globalising world**
  How do citizens perceive and engage with new global processes and what impact do these processes have on the meanings and practices of citizenship in local settings?

- **Violence, participation and citizenship**
  How do people living in violent contexts make the transition from violence to citizenship through participatory social action and how do their personal and social identities affect their action?

4. Key activities and research themes, October 2005–September 2006

The period October 2005–September 2006 has been a significant one for the Citizenship DRC. During this period, we:

- Concluded and synthesised much of the work from the previous phase, including a series of special dissemination events around the findings of our work
- Carried out planning and conceptualisation activities for the new phase of work (November 2005 to March 2006)
- Launched three new research programmes
- Continued and expanded our communication and policy influencing activities
- Continued our ongoing work on mutual capacity building.

4.1. Timing of activities: 2006–2008

Citizenship DRC Key Activities Round 2, Phase II (March 2006—February 2008)
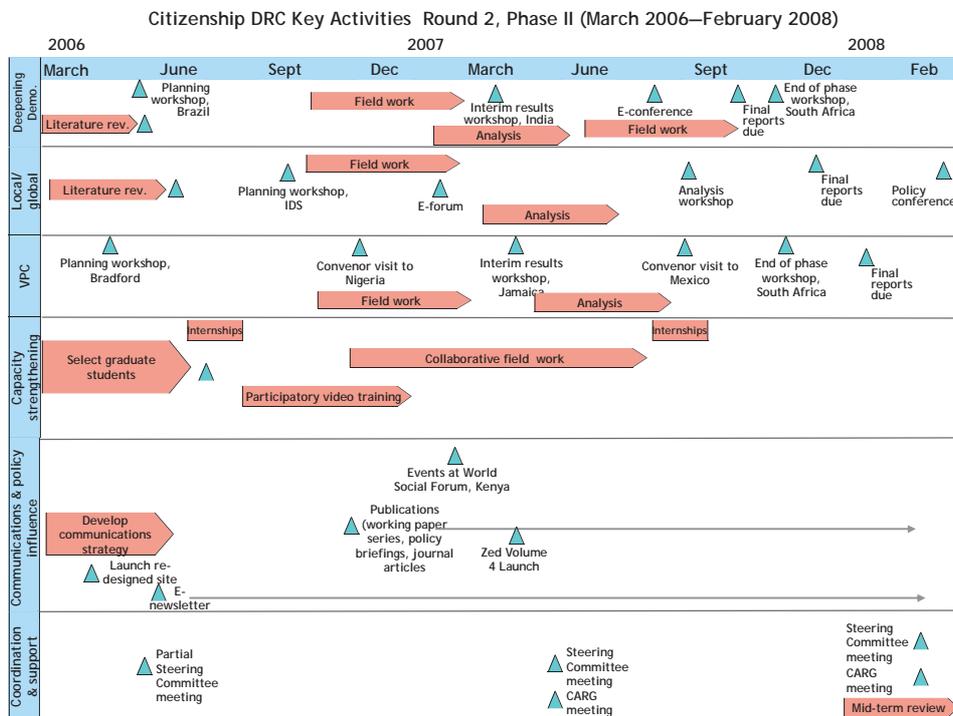
The sections below will report on each of these in turn.

4.2. Completion of past phase: synthesis and on-going consolidation

As we ended our work from the previous phase from October 2005 to March 2006, DFID provided additional funding for cross-thematic synthesis and additional policy influencing activities. The main activities during this period included:

- Commissioning and preparation of nine synthesis papers on cross-cutting themes and methods of the DRC's work
- Publishing additional working papers from the last round
- An international conference of DRC researchers and others to discuss the papers and to link them to the future round of work
- Dialogue with donors as input to a synthesis paper on key policy implications from the DRC work, especially related to aid instruments and aid effectiveness, led by Rosalind Eyben and Sarah Ladbury (see section 5.1)
- Dissemination and policy influencing events to share the work, including presentation at the DFID Social Development Advisors retreat, workshops for other donors including SDC and Sida, and presentations at events organised by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister on the relationship of the findings to current debates on citizenship and participation in the UK
- Planning and initiation of policy events in partner countries
- Preparing three policy briefings identifying key themes from past work
- Finalising two further books in our Zed series on Claiming Citizenship.

This synthesis phase was very important because it helped to inform the research and communication strategy for the current round, allowing the DRC to build on its previous experience and capture important lessons from the past five years. In particular, two sets of activities were especially important:

4.2.1. Synthesis Conference

The Citizenship DRC held a synthesis conference in late November 2005. Over 70 participants, including DRC researchers and others who have worked with the DRC, attended. The conference provided the opportunity to discuss draft versions of a series of synthesis papers. As part of the conference events, clips from films made by DRC research teams in Bangladesh, Nigeria, and Mexico where shown. In conjunction with the conference, the coordination team organised a participatory video training, using the most significant change methodology to encourage researchers to identify where important changes occurred in relation to their work. A group of ten researchers participated, with training provided by Chris Lunch from Insight. The group also conducted interviews with others from the DRC during the conference. The video compiling these stories helped to frame the planning workshop, held immediately after the synthesis conference.

Conference papers presented in Synthesis conference, November 2005

1. *Everyday practices of citizenship* by Bettina Von Lieres, Steve Robins, Andrea Cornwall
2. *Citizens and mobilisation* by Melissa Leach, Ian Scoones with members of the Science and Citizens group
3. *Rights, citizenship and inclusion* by Naila Kabeer
4. *Citizen Engagement with the State: Implications for citizenship, participation and governance* by Ranjita Mohanty and Rajesh Tandon
5. *Explanatory models linking participation and pro-poor outcomes* by Vera Schattan P. Coelho
6. *Researching Citizenship: Reflections on methods, ethics and praxis* by Lyla Mehta with members of the Methods Synthesis group
7. *Creating Spaces for Engagement: Understanding research and social change* by Joanna Wheeler and Steve Abah
8. *Building a collaborative research network* by John Gaventa with David Brown
9. *'Seeing Like a Citizen': Re-claiming citizenship in a neoliberal world* by John Gaventa
10. *Linking Participation to Violence and Conflict* by Jenny Pearce

4.2.2. Further communication of policy-relevant research

Building on the synthesis work, interactive policy events to communicate the work of the Citizenship DRC have been held in partner countries as well as with others in the UK. These are listed below in table 1.

Table 1: Policy influencing activities

Activity	Lead institution/ researcher	Outputs	Progress to date
National policy workshop	BIDS/ Bangladesh	Communication of research results to national policy-makers and practitioners	June 2006
Dialogue with donors as input to a synthesis paper on key policy implications from the DRC work, especially related to aid instruments and aid effectiveness	Citizenship DRC	Policy event and publication	July 5th with European bi-lateral donors in London
National workshop	PRIA/India	Policy makers, civil society representatives and researchers meeting to have dialogue around Citizenship DRC themes	March 2006
Policy event	Theatre For Development Centre (TFDC) at Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria	State policy institutions (state and national legislative assemblies) and community-level stakeholders engaged in discussions of the research results.	July 2006
Policy event	University of Western Cape, South Africa	Policy makers from the national, provincial and local levels, including representatives of NGOs and CBOs, to be presented with the findings of the first round of research and to share the research plan in South Africa for the future round.	December 2006
Dissemination workshops	Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, Bangladesh	Research on citizenship communicated with researchers, NGO policy makers, government officials, factory owners, BGMEA, trade union leaders, garment factory workers, health programme workers, community activists, grassroots workers, media, and students.	April 2006
		Two policy briefs in English and Bangla on 'Who is accountability for garment workers' rights?' and 'Healthy citizenship' disseminated widely.	April 2006
Video documentary on sustainable management of local watershed, linking rural poor as stewards and urban poor as users	CODESUVER/IIS/ UNAM/ UAM-X/ Mexico	Participatory strategies for managing natural resources developed. Teaching and learning materials to facilitate the uptake of participatory strategies of natural resource management in other regions developed.	November 2005

Table 1 (cont.): Policy influencing activities

Activity	Lead institution/ researcher	Outputs	Progress to date
Drama workshops for recently elected officials	TFDC/ABU/ Nigeria	Drama used to inform recently elected officials in Nigeria about citizenship issues	On-going
National policy workshop	ADRA/ Angola	Policy workshop held to discuss key research themes with civil society organisations, policy makers, and representatives of bi-laterals	November 2005

4.3. Key Planning and Conceptualisation Activities

Following on from the synthesis period, the Citizenship DRC also used a participatory and iterative process of planning and conceptualisation in order to deepen the research agenda and prepare the work plan for the current round of research. During the October 2005–March 2006 period, key planning and conceptualisation activities included:

4.3.1. Research Planning

During the planning phase, the Citizenship DRC invested considerable effort in an iterative planning process to develop a set of projects under each theme. Each theme speaks to a common set of core questions, has the possibility of being comparative across different contexts and is possible with the time and resources available. The planning process included the following steps:

- September 2005 – call for proposals from DRC partners, around the three core themes
- December 2005 – discussion of each proposal in tentative working groups, and distillation and further refinement of key questions and approaches for each group
- Mid-December 2005 – circulation of revised programme plan for each theme, and call for revised proposals based on comments received and emerging priorities
- January 2006 – compilation and elaboration of projects into draft programme proposals by each convenor
- January 2006 – submission of all programme proposals and related individual projects to external reviewers who provided comments to the convenors and to the Steering Committee
- February 2006 – final agreements and budget allocations by steering committee meetings in South Africa.

The initial call for proposals produced more submissions than could be supported within budget constraints. The review and planning process helped to narrow and refine these, with some withdrawn altogether and others re-framed to meet the programme priorities. Because of this process projects are more compatible with the overarching comparative frameworks for each

research theme than in some previous phases of our work. The groups gave more attention to comparative methodologies and approaches. In addition, each project and each programme was asked to integrate capacity building and communication processes into the research planning, which has lead to greater coherence across the DRC's core purposes.

In addition to this, other activities to help support the research process included:

- Commissioning of literature review processes in each thematic area
- Planning a meeting of the thematic group on Violence, Citizenship and Participation for April 2006, and
- In-country planning processes, with consolidation of teams and networks in several countries.

4.3.2. Governance and Staffing

- Two Steering Committee meetings of all partners (December 2005 at IDS and February 2006 in South Africa) to make final decisions on projects, roles, governance, timetables, etc.
- Selection of new convenors for each thematic area, with a shift towards much more convening from the Centre's partners, and away from IDS
- Recruitment of two new staff positions at IDS in response to turnover, and the re-definition of the research assistant position to a research and communication officer role
- Recruitment and orientation of new IDS researchers in the programme, including younger researchers.

4.3.3. Capacity Building and Dissemination

- Orientation of the new partner in Angola, ADRA, through a visiting fellowship of one its staff
- Leveraging of additional funds from the Ford Foundation to support the emergence of researcher–practice network in South Africa
- Travel by IDS researchers for planning and dissemination meetings in Nigeria, South Africa and India
- Elaboration of communication and dissemination strategies, through planning meetings and other consultations
- Development of revised web page and publicity materials for the new phase of work.

4.4. Phase II research themes and working groups

Based on these conceptualisation and planning activities, the Citizenship DRC launched a two-year period of research, communication and capacity development activities in April 2006. Building on the work in its first round, the Citizenship DRC will explore three broad research themes over a two year period, until March 2008:

- Deepening democracy in states and localities
- Citizenship engagements in a globalised world
- Citizenship, participation and violence

The aim of the Citizenship DRC is to understand and influence, in different contexts, the ways in which democratic citizen engagement can work to strengthen the capacities of states and non-state institutions to be responsive to the needs and rights of poor people. Our core proposition is that to build states that work '*for* the poor' – as expressed in the DFID Research Strategy – also involves enhancing the opportunities for more inclusive forms of citizenship and participation by poor people.

4.4.1. Research theme 1: Deepening Democracy in states and Localities

The aim of this programme is to bring together research knowledge from different settings in the south and the north to re-think and re-theorise what democratic citizenship entails and how progress towards deepening democracy is being achieved. In particular, this programme will attempt to understand on the basis of selected case studies, how new democratic institutions (often state-initiated) and new patterns of activism (those that bring together confrontation and participation; universal rights and identity issues; representative politics as well as politics of presence; localism and strong links with international networks) are opening political opportunities in old and new democracies to strengthen the capacity of poor and excluded people to express their interests and negotiate in the political arena. The programme will also explore how different meanings and strategies of citizen engagement in different contexts help to strengthen the capacity of the state to respond to their interests and needs.

The research projects will focus on understanding (i) forms of mobilisation and organisation undertaken by poor and marginalised groups; (ii) their ways of building networks with 'like minded' institutions, especially the state, (iii) the political and institutional contexts (including the state) which give mobilisation, organisation and networking important freedoms and room for manoeuvre; and (iv) the outcomes of these processes in terms of the democratisation of political life and welfare.

Case studies will illustrate and compare a variety of political settings in which these trajectories are taking place and inquire as to their potential to introduce changes that may lead to both democracy and responsiveness to the needs of poor people. Individually and comparatively, the cases will examine a number of different themes:

● In settings with democratically elected governments, but fragile institutions, the research will undertake comparative studies to discover how selected civil society organisations mobilise and enable more inclusive participation, and show under what conditions they have grown and gained in strength and influence (Bangladesh, Kenya, Nigeria, Angola).

● In settings with democratically elected government and wide ranging institutional and non-institutional participatory 'spaces', the research asks how organisations characterised by plurality, and having markedly different forms of representation, negotiations and accountability, manage to include less organised and vocal groups and manage to form larger associations without losing their plurality and democratic potentials (South Africa, Brazil, India).

Across all settings, recognising the importance of networks that span the state, participatory and public spheres, the programme will investigate which kinds of arenas and networks promote meaningful engagement between less organised and vocal groups and state actors. In so doing, the programme will investigate key conceptions and contestations of democracy, the dynamics and practices of mobilisation and mediation, and the outcomes and concrete effects of new forms of citizen engagement.

The inception workshop for this group was held in Brazil in May 2006, convened by Vera Schattan Coelho (CEBRAP Brazil) and Bettina von Lieres (University of Western Cape, South Africa). Twenty five researchers met to elaborate these themes and projects further. For an in-depth description of the research agenda, please see the programme overview on www.drc-citizenship.org.

4.4.2. Research theme 2: Local–Global Citizen Engagements

Much work and policy debate (including earlier DRC work) focuses on citizenship and participation in national and local contexts. Yet increasingly this is inadequate. International processes and initiatives are proliferating, some reflected in specific international institutions and conventions, others taking the shape of less orchestrated, but nonetheless powerful, discourses and frameworks. Encouraged by global flows of people, aid and finance, these international processes shape the possibilities for, limits of and autonomy of state action in many ways. At the same time, citizens are increasingly engaging in processes beyond national boundaries, where new forms of alliance challenge notions of citizenship and participation restricted to those occurring within and in relation to the state itself.

The work in the first phase of the DRC has reinforced the need to examine more deliberately the implications of these emergent global engagements for the citizenship and rights of the poor. This previous work highlighted the need for a deeper 'vertical slice' analysis that links citizen engagement from the local and national to the global levels, asking how action and policies at one level affect the possibilities and strategies for citizenship at the other. While a great deal of work is already being carried out by other researchers on global governance, in line with an overall emphasis on 'seeing like a citizen', the work of this DRC will add value to these debates by asking how citizens perceive and engage with global processes and in turn, what impact global processes actually have on the meanings and practices of citizenship, given their locations in diverse historical and cultural settings. This research will look both at how local meanings and practices of citizenship engage with the global and how the global is reflected back at the local level.

In pursuing this research, the group will explore, through concrete case studies in different sectors and settings, the following questions:

1. *Meanings and expressions of local–global citizenship.* What alliances and identities are linking citizens from the local to the global and from the global to the local? Are new forms and understandings of transnational citizenship and solidarity emerging? How do these interact with more 'place-based' forms of solidarity, which are grounded in local concerns or in notions of national citizenship?

2. *Dynamics of mobilisation, engagement and mediation*. How are citizens engaging with global institutions and how do global institutions affect local forms of engagement? What new claim-making strategies are emerging, and how are challenges of legitimacy between local and global forms of citizenship being negotiated and mediated? How do these interactions between citizens, states and global institutions affect the capacities of states to respond to locally-grounded notions of democracy and citizenship, or the rights-claims of the poor?

3. *Outcomes and impacts*. What difference do these new forms of local–global engagement make to the emergence of new identities of transnational or global citizenship, to the formation of new kinds of alliances and intermediary organisations, and to practices and policies of global institutions?

Convened by Rajesh Tandon (PRIA, India) and John Gaventa (UK, IDS), 14 researchers, as well as several external resource persons, held their first meeting in September 2006 at IDS. For an in-depth description of the research agenda, please see the programme overview on www.drc-citizenship.org.

4.4.3. Research theme 3: Violence, Participation and Citizenship

The Violence, Participation and Citizenship (VPC) programme is interested in the transition from violence to citizenship and the role of participatory social action in facilitating this transition. Research will focus on case studies drawn from communities living in contexts of violence generated by the State, private armed groups, or gangs internal to the communities. The research group has identified the actual or potential existence of 'parallel communities' as a particular theme, in which people live in boundaries policed not by the state but by local armed groups. The national contexts chosen for this research share the characteristics of being places dealing with an ongoing legacy of authoritarianism and violence, but where spaces of varying degrees of fragility have opened up for citizen participation. Such spaces have not eliminated violence, and in a number of the cases, violence has escalated in the context of transitions to electoral and civil contestation with the most severe impact on the poorest communities.

The overarching theme of the VPC is to understand how people move from violence, through participation, to substantive citizenship. The proposed research will track the mechanisms, theorise the processes, and engage with research participants to generate new responses to violence and new approaches to policy and practice. The two key questions are:

1. How do people move from violence to citizenship through participatory social action?

2. How do/can people begin processes of participatory social action in contexts of violence?

In such settings, this research group is seeking to understand better the relationship between violence and social variables such as generation, gender, class and ethnicity and the labelling which often accompanies these differentiations, placing particular emphasis on youth (children, adolescents

and young adults), gender and violence. It also aims to explore the relationship between violence and powerlessness, and to involve people in this research who are relatively powerless to resist violence or who have turned to violence out of relative powerlessness. The aim is to understand better how distinct forms of collective social action arise in these contexts and enable the 'researched' to become actors and subjects with a political voice and sense of citizenship rights. We are exploring whether, in turn, this reduces violence.

Methodologically, this group will work with research subjects as actors, who both give and receive knowledge, in an interactive research process contributing to social and political change. This interactive research process will include the use of innovative methodologies for recording research, monitoring and reflecting on research progress and communicating research to others. In so doing, it will also aim to produce new conceptual frameworks from comparative work across the cases, through specific interactions amongst VPC research group participants, such as workshops, methodological reflections and exchange, sharing of quantitative components and data sets, and joint publications.

Led by Jenny Pearce (Centre for Peace Studies, University of Bradford) and by Steve Abah (Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria), 12 researchers from this group met in Bradford in April 2006 to plan and develop the programme for this group. For an in-depth description of the research agenda, please see the programme overview on www.drc-citizenship.org.

5. Communication and capacity building activities

The past year has involved significant developments in consolidating past work and planning and launching new areas of research and other activities. A series of other complementary activities played a key role in amplifying the impacts of DRC research. This section outlines some of the lessons learned from activities related to the research including capacity building, communication, working with partners, and reflecting and learning processes.

5.1. Communication and policy engagement

As outlined in table 1, Citizenship DRC researchers in Nigeria, Mexico, Brazil, India, Bangladesh, South Africa and Angola engaged actively with policy actors at local and national levels and IDS has brought the research findings to the attention of international development agencies through a series of workshops and conferences. Following a synthesis conference in December 2005, researchers decided that there were still opportunities to communicate further the numerous outputs and findings of the Citizenship DRC and to promote policy dialogue with policy makers in countries where the DRC works.

As part of the synthesis process, Rosalind Eyben and Sarah Ladbury reviewed a large portion of the Citizenship DRC's work from the last round. They conducted interviews with representatives of European donor agencies to discuss their current concerns and understand how the results of the Citizenship DRC's research could link to these. They produced a policy paper, entitled 'Building Effective States: Taking a Citizen's Perspective', which draws together many of the implications for donors from the research of the Citizenship DRC. On July 5, 2006, the Citizenship DRC hosted a workshop in

Box 1: Uses of Taking a Citizen's Perspective policy paper

Requests for copies:

- DFID Pakisitan
- DFID Brazil
- DFID Nigeria
- Oxfam Australia requested 10 copies as AusAid has recently produced a White Paper with a governance theme

How has it been used since July 2006?

- As background reading for the DFID Social Development Advisors retreat
- For discussion at Oxfam UK on future work
- Logolink partners have all received copies. They are a global network of organisations working on local participatory governance
- It has fed into a debate on the IDS website about the recent DFID White Paper
- In Bangladesh, at a meeting of donors including CIDA, USAID, Danida, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Netherlands and a Swedish NGO
- With Social Development Advisors in DFID Bangladesh office
- At a workshop with national legislators on democracy in Nigeria

How will it be used in the near future?

- With the Ford Foundation India's programme officers dealing with governance and civil society in October 2006
- With the Planning Commission of India in October 2006
- At a policy event in December 2006 with municipal policy makers in Cape Town, South Africa
- At the annual conference of Lusophone countries on democracy and development in Rwanda in November 2006
- At a public debate with policy makers and civil society representatives on the challenges of deepening democracy in Angola
- At an INTRAC conference on aid and civil society in December 2006

London with 25 representatives of European donor agencies to discuss the policy paper and how a citizenship perspective fits into aid practice given the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. The publication is targeted at policy shapers in state bodies, international civil society and aid agencies. It presents the key findings from the Citizenship DRC and explains why these findings are important for supporting policies for effective states. At the meeting, there was a lot of support for the notion that active citizens, as much as state bureaucracy, are necessary for an effective state. For example, participants discussed how, in a context of service delivery, treating people with dignity helps to build state–citizen relationships. One participant said, "What matters is the capacity of people to move out of their households, and to organise around issues that are important to them. Sometimes these issues might not seem important to donors, but they are a critical part of state-building."

Since that workshop, there has been significant interest in the policy paper. Box 1 summarises who is using the policy paper and how they are using it.

5.1.1. Linking to the research community

Zed Books series: *Claiming Citizenship: Rights, participation and accountability*

This series of five volumes argues that increased attention must be paid to re-examining contemporary understandings of rights and citizenship in different contexts and their implications for related issues of participation and accountability. Challenging liberal understandings in which citizenship is understood as a set of rights and responsibilities bestowed by the state, the series looks at how citizenship is claimed and rights are realized through the agency and actions of people themselves. Growing out of the work of the Citizenship DRC of researchers and practitioners from both South and North, the volumes in this series explore a variety of themes, including locally rooted struggles for more inclusive forms of citizenship, the links between citizenship, science and globalisation, the politics of participation in new democratic arenas, and the relationships between claiming rights and ensuring accountability. Drawing from concrete case studies which focus on how people understand their citizenship and claim their rights, the volumes contribute new, empirically grounded perspectives to current debates related to deepening democracy, realising rights-based development and making institutions more responsive to the needs and voices of poor people.

Volumes one and two have been published, launched and already are being reprinted. Volume three, *Rights, Resources and the Politics of Accountability*, edited by Peter Newell and Joanna Wheeler was published in May 2006. The launch of the book is currently being organised to take place in March 2007 at Portcullis House, London. The fourth volume, *Spaces for Change?*, edited by Andrea Cornwall and Vera Coelho Schattan has been completed and is at press.

'This lively and thought-provoking collection of multi-disciplinary papers on citizenship, brought together by Naila Kabeer at the Institute of Development Studies, is a text that serves as an important and timely reminder that, even though we appear to be living in an RAE age where edited collections tend to be either sidelined or looked down upon, such enterprises can in fact be intellectually rewarding and make for truly fascinating reading. This is a book that achieves many goals regarding the empirical and theoretical – as well as methodological – challenges that studying and writing about citizenship can throw up.'

Journal of Social Policy, Volume 35, Issue 03, July 2006

5.1.2. Integrated dissemination

Over the past year, the Citizenship DRC has begun a new phase and launched a new website. The main forms of electronic dissemination for the Citizenship DRC include:

- the Citizenship DRC website (www.drc-citizenship.org) which provides a shop-window for the research work, and access to publications
- a quarterly e-newsletter in English that includes updates on recent activities, highlights on-going research, and promotes DRC publications
- participation.net, (www.pnet.ids.ac.uk) a collaborative on-line initiative that provides a range of resources on participatory approaches to rights, citizenship, and local governance in development.

Over the past year there has been increasing interest in these resources.

- The total amount of downloads from the DRC website and the IDS website combined was 27,039
- The e-newsletter, launched in September 2003, is now in its 11th issue. It currently has 1000 subscriptions, which reaches NGOs, donors, government officials and other researchers such as Save the Children, Amnesty International, DFID and Legal Watch, in Latin America, Africa, Asia and Europe. It is now possible to subscribe to the newsletter through the DRC website.

Table 2: Top 10 DRC Working Paper downloads, October 2005–October 2006

Publications	Author	Top 10 Downloads
The Case for International Labour Standards: A 'Northern Perspective', Working Paper 250	Stephanie Luce	1742
In Whose Name? Political Representation and Civil Organisations in Brazil, Working Paper 249, August 2005	Adrián Gurza Lavalle, Peter P. Houtzager and Graziela Castello	955
Who Participates? Civil Society and the New Democratic Politics in São Paulo, Brazil, Working Paper 210, October 2003	Peter P. Houtzager, Adrián Gurza Lavalle and Arnab Acharya	700
Making Spaces, Changing Places: Situating Participation in Development, Working Paper 170, October 2002	Andrea Cornwall	563
Mapping Accountability: Origins, Contexts and Implications for Development, Working Paper 168, October 2002	Peter Newell and Shaula Bellour	496
Rights Passages from 'Near Death' to 'New Life': AIDS Activism and Treatment Testimonies in South Africa, Working Paper 251, October 2005	Steven Robins	490
Citizenship and the Boundaries of the Acknowledged Community: Identity, Affiliation and Exclusion, Working Paper 171, October 2002	Naila Kabeer	381
Science and Citizenship in a Global Context, Working Paper 205, September 2003	Melissa Leach and Ian Scoones	339
Concepts of Citizenship: A Review, IDS Development Bibliographies No. 19, IDS: Brighton	John Gaventa and Emma Jones	280

Table 3: Top 3 *IDS Bulletin* Sales

Title	Total
Making rights real: exploring citizenship, participation and accountability Editors: John Gaventa, Alex Shankland and Joanna Howard Vol 33 No 2, April 2002	1171
New democratic spaces? Editors: Andrea Cornwall and Vera Schattan P. Coelho Vol 35 No 2, April 2004	1065
Developing rights Editors: Jethro Pettit and Joanna Wheeler Vol 36 No 1, January 2005	1144

Table 4: Book Sales

Title	Publishing date	Life Sales
Inclusive Citizenship – Meanings & Expressions Edited by Naila Kabeer	May 2005	1363
Science and Citizens – Globalisation & The Challenge of Engagement Edited by Melissa Leach, Ian Scoones & Brian Wynne	January 2005	1204
Rights, Resources and the Politics of Accountability Edited by Peter Newell and Joanna Wheeler	June 2006	274
Total sales		**2841**

Science and Citizens & Inclusive Citizenship are both being re-printed, in the
UK as well as in South Asia. Inclusive Citizenship is also being translated into
Spanish and reprinted in Mexico.

Table 5: Top 5 DRC document downloads – October 2005–October 2006

Publications	Author	Top 5 Downloads
Citizenship and Religion in Nigeria: comparative perspectives of Islam and Christianity in Kaduna State 2003	Georgina Blanco-Mancilla	295
End of Phase Report (Round I)		246
Implications for Aid Practice: Taking a Citizen's Perspective	Rosalind Eyben and Sarah Ladbury	201
Making Space for Citizens. Broadening the 'new democratic spaces' for citizen participation, *IDS Policy Briefing*, Issue 27, March 2006	Alex Shankland	193
Recent Publications list		**144**

5.2. Capacity building

5.2.1. Training and peer learning

All the members of the Citizenship DRC network helped to generate the current priorities for capacity building activities. Southern partners, as well as IDS, identified key areas for capacity building and the steering committee prioritised these areas. Priorities for the current round of work focus on learning how to use participatory video as part of a research and communication process, exchanging learning and experience on research methods, and providing support for graduate students and curriculum development linked to DRC research.

At the November synthesis conference, ten Citizenship DRC researchers took part in a participatory video training that combined the 'Most Significant Change' methodology and video to produce a DVD of stories of change from DRC research (see section 4.2.1). Building on this experience, the steering committee identified participatory video as an important tool for research, communication, and reflection and learning. In the current round of work, researchers from across the network will join in a participatory video training in Nigeria in October. Following on from this, many of the Citizenship DRC partners will integrate participatory video into different aspects of their work. There will be continuing opportunities for reflection on how participatory video links to other participatory research methods, and how participatory video can be used in context of violence.

From the past five years, a key lesson learned was that peer learning within the DRC is an important source of capacity building, and often more effective than one-off external trainings or events. At the Deepening Democracy and the Violence, Participation, and Citizenship working groups' inception workshops, space for peer learning around research methods was structured into the workshop structure. This involved researchers exchanging their own experiences of working with different research methods, including quantitative, ethnographic and participatory action research. Over the next two years, there will be continual reflection on research methods and how learning can be shared directly between different researchers in the network.

An additional institutional aspect to the capacity development in the Citizenship DRC is building up resource centres of DRC partners through continued mailings of DRC outputs. All DRC publications are sent directly to DRC partners in relatively large quantities so that all partners can build up their own resource centres on the main research themes, and distribute publications to their own networks. In addition to this, through the arrangement with Zed Books, 500 copies of each volume in the series are distributed free of cost to Southern institutions, including libraries, research institutions, universities, and civil society organisations.

5.2.2. Internships

The Citizenship DRC Internship Programme aids to build relationships between IDS and the Citizenship DRC partner institutions abroad. The programme helps students to develop their dissertation themes further and work within the field of their chosen research. Each year the process is very competitive and this

year there were over twenty applications. Three students were successfully chosen to work in South Africa, Angola and Bangladesh. The DRC Co-ordination team organises the process throughout, by initially proposing the idea to all IDS students, interviewing them and then liaising with the partners for a successful internship.

'What I experienced in Bangladesh is beyond words; I don't quite know how to describe it. Seeing poverty and struggle for survival everywhere I went made me want to cry, but I also saw strength and dignity of human beings in difficult situations. Yet, I don't want to describe all these experiences in such simple words. My internship pushed me to see things in a way that goes beyond politically-correct or academically-correct way and also taught me the complexity of reality. I feel that I experienced something that will always stay with my life'

– Junko Komatsu, Citizenship DRC Intern for Bangladesh, July–August 2006

Table 6: Citizenship DRC Internships 2006

Student Intern	Date	Destination	Activities/Outputs
Esther Sommer	July–August 2006	South Africa	Research title: *Urban water provision and water cultures in Cape Town, South Africa* Research activities report and MA dissertation forthcoming in September 2006
Maria Cascant Sempere	July–August 2006	Angola	Research title: *Between Academic and World Bank Knowledge: Cognitive Justice, Community Research & the ONJILA programme in urban Benguela, Angola* Research activities report and MA dissertation forthcoming in September 2006
Junko Komatsu	July–August 2006	Bangladesh	Research title: *Exploring the meanings of Citizenship and Gender in Bangladesh* Research activities report and MA dissertation forthcoming in September 2006

5.2.3. Support for other graduate training

After discussions with the Steering Committee, the Citizenship DRC is taking forward a new scheme for supporting post-graduate students, curriculum development and other forms of training. The primary focus of this fund is to support post-graduate training in the South, though other students working closely with the DRC or partners in the South could be eligible on a limited basis. Post-graduate candidates supported by the Citizenship DRC are working on a research topic directly related to the research of a thematic group in the DRC, or directly related to the in-country work of a DRC partner. These students are considered part of the DRC, and would be able to attend research workshops and other meetings at the country or international level, where appropriate and where financially feasible.

Table 7: Graduate students supported in this year include

Name	Research topic	Country	Type of support
Idaci Ferriera	The role of civil society in deepening democracy in Angola	Angola	Course fees for IDS MA in Participation, Power and Social Change

6. Programme management

A series of formal and informal mechanisms are central to the programme management for the Citizenship DRC that is designed to increase the accountability and effectiveness of the entire network. Formal mechanisms include the Steering Committee and the Centre Advisory and Review Group (CARG). Other more informal mechanisms include on-going communications between the coordination team based at IDS and members of the Steering Committee. The responsibility for programme management is shared by the coordination team made up of the director (John Gaventa), a research manager (Joanna Wheeler), a programme administrative coordinator (Georgina Powell-Stevens), and a research and communication officer (Alison Dunn), the programme theme convenors, and the country team leaders.

Steering Committee

The Citizenship DRC Steering Committee is made up of the country team leaders, research programme convenors, and the coordination team. It meets on a regular basis to make decisions about the management and coordination of the DRC, including approving future research directions, new initiatives, and budget allocations. To help improve on-going communication amongst the members of the Steering Committee, the coordination team scheduled quarterly telephone conferences to supplement the meetings held in November 2005 at IDS, February 2006 in Cape Town, and May 2006 in Brazil.

The CARG provides feedback on the DRC's programmes of work, including feedback on areas of research and the communication and evaluation strategies. This year the Citizenship DRC will convene a new CARG. Members were chosen through a nomination process by members of the DRC, with a final vote by the Steering Committee. The CARG members include:

- Fiona Wilson, Roskilde University, Denmark (chair)
- Marian Barnes, University of Brighton (tbc)
- Ben Cousins, University of Western Cape, South Africa
- Evelina Dagnino, Universidade de Campinas, Brazil
- James Deane, Communication for Social Change Consortium, UK
- Eghosa Osaghae, Ibaddin University, Nigeria

Representatives of DFID will also attend the CARG meetings.

7. Innovations and Learning

Throughout this work, an important part of the DRC's approach is to reflect, learn and continue to innovate to improve its performance. This has been illustrated this year in several ways.

7.1.1. Reflection and synthesis

The synthesis process involved examining the DRC's work from the first five years to draw out cross-cutting conceptual and methodological learning. This process of reflection and learning highlighted some important issues, both in terms of research directions and in terms of ways of working within the DRC. Some of the most important reflections on how the DRC works to emerge from this process include:

- A better understanding of how the DRC functions as a transnational learning network, and what elements are important for this to happen (see L. David Brown and John Gaventa, *Constructing transnational learning networks: observations and reflections from the case of the Citizenship DRC*, DRC conference paper)
- An examination of the ethical dilemmas that arose from using participatory research on citizenship, including the difficulties for the postionality of researchers themselves (see Lyla *et al.*, *Researching Citizenship – Reflections on Methods, Ethics and Praxis*, DRC conference paper)
- An analysis of how DRC research created spaces for engaging with different stakeholder groups as part of the research process and the way that influence emerges through these engagements (see Abah and Wheeler, 2006, *Creating Spaces for Engagement: Understanding research and social change in the Citizenship DRC*, Citizenship DRC Working Paper)

On the basis of this experience, the Citizenship DRC is developing a strategy for reflection and learning that will be built into the research process from the start. This strategy is still under development, but the core elements will include:

- Facilitating learning and reflection throughout the research process
- Involving research participants and other stakeholders in the evaluation of the research process through participatory M&E
- Qualitative measure of research outcomes and influence using methods such as Outcome Mapping and Most Significant Change methodology
- Quantitative measure of research outputs and dissemination of findings
- Developing case studies as examples of what happens when citizens engage in policy processes

Other innovations and improvements during the year have included:

7.1.2. An iterative and in-depth planning period.

In order to agree the current research strategy and work plan, the coordination team facilitated a series of participatory planning processes over the course of a year, as outlined earlier. This involved all the members of the DRC contributing ideas for future research directions, generating ideas for new areas of work from the bottom-up. The steering committee met to consolidate these ideas and refine the research directions for the current round of work.

The coordination team invited external reviewers to provide feedback on each programme and this feedback helped each group refine their plans in the inception workshops held over the last year. Although this was a long and time-consuming process, the multiple opportunities for DRC researchers to have a role in developing the overall research agenda, communications strategy, and methodological approach has generated a coherent programme strategy with a significant degree of ownership by Southern researchers.

- **Comparative research:** The in-depth and iterative planning process has produced, we believe, more robust and developed research themes, each with common sets of questions to pursue in each country. In addition, building on the relationships and frameworks that been developed, each programme is experimenting with new forms of comparative research. The Deepening Democracy project for instance has funded a series of projects that build bi-lateral comparisons, south–south comparisons in across several of the projects. The programme on Violence, Participation and Citizenship is experimenting with using a common quantitative survey, that has been designed with the input of each researcher, alongside the more qualitative and participatory research also being undertaken;

- **Building a communications strategy from the bottom up:** The communication strategy has been strengthened during the past year during the synthesis phase and the start of the new round of work. Each researcher has been encouraged to think about desired or anticipated changes they would like to see as a result of their research, and what kinds of communication processes and activities could contribute to this. Individual researchers' inputs into the communication strategy have fed into the strategy for the thematic group and the DRC programme as a whole. At a country level, the DRC has also worked with partners to identify their research, policy and practice networks so that communication of research filters through existing national and international networks.

7.1.3. Decentralising the convening role

In this phase, nearly all research programme convenors are Southern researchers based outside of IDS. This requires a shift in the approaches to communication between IDS and partner organisations. This has been an important transition within the DRC as new convenors adjust to their roles and as the coordination team learns to work well with them. It is also crucial because it helps to build the long-term sustainability of the Citizenship DRC research agenda in Southern partner organisations.

Conclusion

2005–2006 has been a year of synthesis, reflection and planning for the Citizenship DRC. Lessons have been learnt from the previous five years' work and applied to the planning and implementation of the new round of work. Of key importance is the decentralisation of the convening of research programme themes and the shift of convenors mostly to the South. The communication strategy has developed from the bottom up according to lessons learnt by individual researchers, most significantly through experience and peer learning during workshops and meetings. This has led to a more complex mapping out of research, policy and community relationships and a more sophisticated analysis of research and communication processes. Further information is available on our work on the DRC website: www.drc-citizenship.org.