Development Research Centre on Citizenship, Participation and Accountability

Annual Report 2006–2007

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DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTRE
Citizenship, Participation
and Accountability

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Front cover photo
An Ashaninka health worker from the Peruvian Amazon participates in a workshop in Brazil as part of an exchange programme of a project between the Citizenship DRC and NGO Saúde Sem Limites

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1 Background information

Title of research programme	Development Research Centre on Citizenship, Participation and Accountability
Reference number	R7849
Period covered by report	October 2006–September 2007
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) ● Centre for Southern African Studies, School of Government, University of the Western Cape (UWC) ● Institute of Development Studies (IDS)
Countries involved in research	Angola, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, South Africa
Additional associated researchers and institutions	● Peter Newell, University of East Anglia ● Marj Mayo, Goldsmiths College, University of London ● Carlos Cortez, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Xochimilco, Mexico ● Jenny Pearce, Department of Peace Studies, University of Bradford

	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

A focus on active and empowered citizens who can participate in decision-making, claim rights and hold institutions accountable is at the heart of the work of the Development Research Centre on Citizenship, Participation and Accountability (Citizenship DRC). The Citizenship DRC has been working since 2001 through international partnerships with research institutes and civil society groups in 10 countries exploring new forms of citizenship that will help make rights real. Over 60 researchers are now directly involved in Citizenship DRC projects and many more academics, activists and policymakers participate in working groups or capacity building and exchange programmes. The research focus on citizenship, participation and accountability has the potential to affect policy debates and practice at local, national and international levels.

In its current phase, the Citizenship DRC's research agenda is divided into three main research groups:

● Deepening democracy in states and localities (see Section 3.2)
● Citizen engagement in a globalising world (see Section 3.4)
● Violence, participation and citizenship (see Section 3.3)

Building on the research agendas set through a collaborative and iterative process in early 2006, these groups moved forward over the past year with field work and discussions about initial research results. Some 30 separate projects are in progress, and each have contributed early work in progress reports. Each of the groups held a series of e-debates and e-discussions, workshops, and other events to deepen the research agenda and begin discussions around the research results to date. Final research outputs for this phase of work are planned for early 2008.

The Citizenship DRC also launched a new programme of activities to develop capacity across the network and expand opportunities for learning and training. Further details on this work are available in Section 4. Some important activities in this area include support for graduate students working on areas directly related to the DRC, early steps to develop teaching and curricular materials based on the DRC work to be piloted in all six partner countries, a new initiative to develop participatory video as a research methodology in conjunction with other participatory methods, and comparative research projects linking together DRC partners.

In taking forward the communication strategy, there were a wide range of publications, events and other outputs targeted at different audiences, both within countries and internationally. More detail on these activities is in Section 4.4.

Because of the approach to influence and impact in the DRC (see Section 3), the past year was an important opportunity for maintaining or beginning dialogue and relationships with a range of different groups, including international policymakers, national and local government officials, media, community-based organisations and the general public. One of the key events was an international meeting bringing together 'Champions of Participation' from around the world to share their experiences with counterparts in the UK, helping to contribute international experience and insights to policy discussions on revitalising local democracy in the UK.

Key lessons learned on programme management and partnership included how to develop comparative research projects and a collaborative research approach; how to bridge the divide between researchers and practitioners; how to build a bottom-up monitoring and evaluation strategy, and; a process for exploring options for the future of the DRC network.

3 Introduction to DRC research

A focus on active and empowered citizens who can participate in decision-making, claim rights and hold institutions accountable is at the heart of the work of the Development Research Centre on Citizenship, Participation and Accountability (Citizenship DRC).

The Citizenship DRC has developed a specific approach to its work that is important to clarify at the outset. This approach has emerged over the last seven years of its work, through interaction with partners and others, and as a result of reflection on experience.

The research approach Using concrete case studies, the DRC research attempts to bring lived, empirical experience to core debates on large concepts such as citizenship, rights, and democracy. The work is interdisciplinary, cuts across theory and practice, and iterative in nature, allowing the development of conceptual frameworks through a participatory process.

Impact of research The impact of research is often understood as a direct correlation between research and poverty reduction. In practice, it is very difficult to establish this connection directly, especially as research is only one of many possible contributors to change and these changes can occur over long periods of time. The DRC's overall purpose is that policy actors, activists, researchers and research participants engage in issues of citizenship and democracy in the DRC's partner countries and that international development organisations make use of knowledge generated by the Citizenship DRC. In order to understand how research has influence in this respect, the Citizenship DRC maps the relationships that were started, maintained, or strengthened with different audiences as a result of the research process. It is in this sense that this report refers to impact.

At a recent workshop, a Nigerian researcher said, 'I can begin to see the commonality in the different challenges of democracy, of governance, of citizenship across these countries. So that also is very important in terms of the impact that it will make in my own teaching work and also in my civil society work and engagement.'

An important outcome from the Citizenship DRC in the past year is the development of an international teaching and learning programme. DRC researchers from different countries are collaborating to produce a coherent teaching module on citizenship and democracy that uses examples from a variety of contexts around the world. This means building relationships with other academics within research institutes and communicating effectively with students. This is likely to have an influence on understandings of citizenship.

Research communication Within the Citizenship DRC, communication is understood as an important element of the entire research process, from beginning to end. Research communication is not solely about the communication of research results by researchers to others, but about the process of communication that is created through research, which involves those who participate in the research as well as those who may make use of the research results. As a result, there are important stages to research communication in all points of the research cycle. Section 4.4 on research communication reflects this understanding.

Monitoring and evaluation Like research communication, monitoring and evaluation are activities that should occur throughout the research process. Central to the Citizenship DRC approach to monitoring and evaluation is to involve a range of stakeholders, including research participants, to understand better what the work is doing and in reflecting and learning from experiences. Monitoring and evaluation within the Citizenship DRC is a process of learning, both for internal purposes – to improve ways of working, and for external purposes – to communicate about the impact of our work to others.

Partnership Working in partnership is a core element of much of the work in the Citizenship DRC. By partnership, we mean relationships with other institutions that involve working toward shared goals and/or objectives, in such a way as to redress the power imbalances in those relationships. The core values of this approach include mutual accountability, trust, and transparency.

3.1 DRC overall outputs and impacts

In its current phase, the Citizenship DRC's research agenda is divided into three main research groups:

- Deepening democracy in states and localities (see Section 3.2)
- Citizen engagement in a globalising world (see Section 3.3)
- Violence, participation and citizenship (see Section 3.4)

Building on the research agendas set through a collaborative and iterative process in early 2006, each of the groups moved forward over the past year with field work and discussions about initial research results. Each of the groups held a series of e-debates and e-discussions, workshops, and other events to deepen the research agenda and begin discussions around the research results to date. Final research outputs for this phase of work are planned for early 2008. In addition to the specific work of these groups, we continue to consolidate and share our research from earlier phases of the DRC's work.

Figure 1 Citizenship DRC key activities Round 2, Phase II
(March 2006–February 2008)
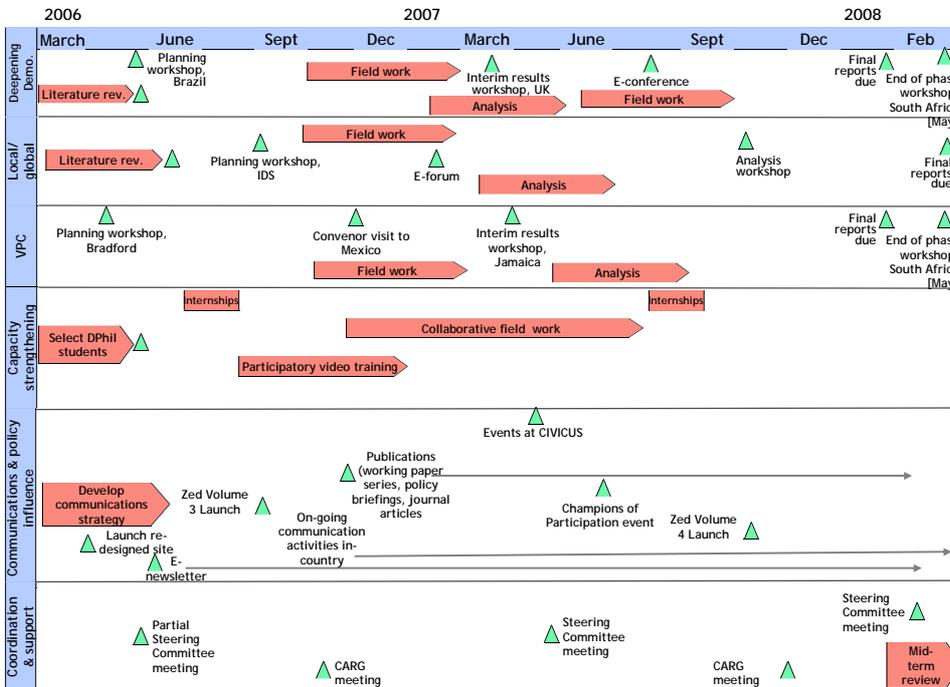
The Citizenship DRC also launched a new programme of activities to develop capacity across the network and expand opportunities for learning and training. For further details on this work see Section 4. Some important activities in this area included support for graduate students working on areas directly related to the DRC, and a new initiative to develop participatory video as a research methodology in conjunction with other participatory methods, and comparative research projects linking together DRC partners.

In taking forward the communication strategy there were a wide range of publications, events and other outputs targeted at different audiences, both within countries and internationally. More detail on these activities is in Section 4.4.

3.1.2 Outputs
Although final research outputs for the current research agenda will be available in 2008, an important series of interim outputs were completed in the past year. Table 1 summaries key outputs for the past year under each key area of work.

Table 1 DRC outputs

Area of work	Output	Further details
Research programme 1: 'Deepening democracy in states and localities'	Interim results workshop and workshop report	Held in March 2007, UK
	3 e-discussions held	Summary report circulated to research group
Research programme 2: 'Citizen engagement in a globalising world'	Planning workshop	Held in September 2006, UK
	1 e-discussion held	Summary report circulated to research group
Research programme 3: 'Violence, participation and citizenship'	Interim results workshop and workshop report	Held in April 2007, Jamaica
	5 e-discussions held	Summary reports circulated to research group
Mutual capacity development	Training for using participatory video for research	Trainings held for 15 DRC researchers, additional trainings held at the country level in 5 countries
	Graduate student support	Support provided for Idaci Ferreira (ADRA) to complete a Masters in Participation, Power and Social Change at IDS
	Teaching and curriculum development on citizenship and rights	Working group formed. Citizenship course trialled at UWC. Diploma course on human rights in Mexico
Communication and policy influence	Publications	5 *IDS Working Papers* 1 Zed book 1 *IDS Policy Briefing* in English 1 *IDS Policy Briefing* in Portuguese 4 e-newsletters - website
	Events (examples)	*Rights, Resources and the Politics of Accountability* book launch in London 10 UK seminars - CIVICUS workshop - Champions of Participation workshop in the UK - Policy dialogue event in South Africa - Discussion with the Nigerian Vice President - Workshop in Angola with policymakers, academics and community-based organisations

Table 1 DRC outputs (cont.)

Area of work	Output	Further details
Coordination and partnership building	Steering Committee meetings held for joint governance decisions	Meetings held in Brazil in June 2006 and the UK in March 2007 Quarterly phone conferences held
	Meeting of an African DRC partners group held	Meeting held in South Africa in June 2007

3.1.3 Impacts

It is very early in the current phase of work to identify impacts from the research and other related activities. However, over the past year, there was an important emphasis on thinking through how the DRC hopes to have an impact and how that impact can be assessed. Each of the research programmes and the Steering Committee discussed the details of this in relation to the respective research programmes and the overall programme of the DRC as a whole.

Because of the approach to influence and impact in the DRC (see Section 3), the past year was an important opportunity for maintaining or beginning dialogue and relationships with a range of different groups. With international donors, this included engaging around the formulation of key policies and bringing DRC research results to bear at important international events (see Section 4.4.1). There was also a strong emphasis on working with national policymakers, both within the government and in NGOs, by hosting events targeting these groups as well as taking advantage of existing spaces for engagement (see Section 4.4.2). Another important element of increasing the influence of DRC research in the past year was working directly with community-based organisations through the research process itself (see Section 4.4.3). Engaging with other academics and researchers is also an important strand of the communication strategy, and over the past year, a series of events and publications aimed to have dialogues with this group. Finally, the Citizenship DRC also communicated with the general public through a range of media including film, radio, television, and public addresses (see Section 4.4.4).

The Citizenship DRC is also involved in trying to influence UK debates on citizenship and democracy through its experience internationally. The DRC played a key role in organising a UK event, Champions of Participation, which brought together local government staff, elected officials and citizen representatives from 12 different countries around the world. The five-day workshop culminated in a policy dialogue with UK Minister for Communities and Local Governance Angela Smith MP. This meant that experiences of citizenship and democracy in other countries were made relevant to a UK context, bridging the North–South divide.

3.2 'Deepening democracy in states and localities' research theme

The complex relationship of democracy and development has long been a matter of intellectual and empirical debate. Recently the debate has again emerged in policy circles, as seen for instance in the statements made by the then Secretary of State for International Development, Hilary Benn, on the subject and subsequent policy papers from DFID (Department for International Development).[1] Internationally, funding for 'democracy assistance' by international donors has risen to an all time high, with recent estimates that some 10 billion dollars are now going into this democracy-building project.

Yet, what kind of democracy is being built, and what the strategies for doing so are remain highly contested ground. On the one hand, much democracy assistance focuses on building effective states, and therefore on the institutions necessary for representative democracy – fair elections, strong parliaments, good governance. On the other hand, other work focuses on how to build more substantive or 'deeper' forms of democracy, and the role in which citizens can play in building democratic states, not only the other way around.

The work of the Deepening Democracy Working Group enters this debate by asking the question, 'Under what conditions do complex networks – bringing together different approaches to democracy and different forms of mobilisation – develop a trajectory leading to democratic citizenship?' In exploring this theme, the group argues that the democracy project – whether in its representative or 'deeper' form – is not only a matter of getting the rules and institutions right, but it is also about agency, mobilisation, regimes of authority and citizenship. In other words, it takes a citizen-centred approach to democracy building, arguing that institutional improvement can only happen effectively in dialogue with the citizens and the civil society in which they are a part in any given context.

In exploring the question, the group also challenges assumptions that greater mobilisation and empowerment of civil society, coupled with provision from above of 'participatory governance spaces' will automatically lead to greater social inclusion or development. In fact, as previous work by the group has shown, simply opening spaces for engagement may in fact serve to reinforce the *status quo*.[2] Therefore, the question of under what conditions mobilisation helps to deepen substantive democracy and to foster development becomes critical.

The Deepening Democracy Working Group is made up of seven participating country teams: Nigeria, Brazil, India, Bangladesh, South Africa, Angola and Kenya. There are 14 individual projects and four cross-cutting comparative projects. The latter compare case studies from Brazil and India, Bangladesh and Kenya, Nigeria and Kenya, and a cluster of case studies from all the African partners (see Table 2).

1 *Governance, Development and Democratic Politics: DFID's work in building more effective states* (2007) London: DFID

2 See for example Coelho and Cornwall (2006) *Spaces for Change?*, London: Zed Books

Table 2 Work in progress on deepening democracy theme

Researcher	Topic/theme	Country
Andrea Cornwall	Mobilisation and mediation in the struggle for social rights for domestic workers	Brazil
Idaci Ferreira and Sandra Roque	From humanitarian aid to citizenship participation: the Núcleo Representativo das Associações in Dombe Grande, Angola	Angola
Jibrin Ibrahim and Sam Egwu	The role of citizen action in the consolidation of democracy in Nigeria	Nigeria
Simeen Mahmud and Naila Kabeer	Deepening participation, building citizenship and promoting participation: the role of civil society organisations	Bangladesh
Ranjita Mohanty	Reviving the agenda of social justice, civil society and citizenship practice in the institutions of local governance	India
Zander Navarro	New spaces of participation, democratisation and extreme poverty: recycling garbage in Porto Alegre	Brazil
Celestine Nyamu-Musembi and Duncan Okello	The dynamics of political change and transition: civil society, governance and the culture of politics	Kenya
Alex Shankland and team	Identity politics, representation and health policy in Acre	Brazil
Steve Robins	Exploring the limits and possibilities of 'rights talk': a case study of AIDS activism	South Africa
Vera Schattan and team	Social participation and public health services in the city of São Paulo	Brazil
Vera Schattan Coelho and team	Participatory sphere, identity politics and development in the region of Vale do Ribeira	Brazil
Chris Tapscott	Citizen Participation in Cape Town – A Tale of Two Communities	South Africa
Lisa Thompson	Poverty, participation and power: mobilisation on rights to service delivery	South Africa
Bettina von Lieres	Reconfiguring public spaces in health	South Africa

Key activities during the year

The Deepening Democracy Working Group continued to consolidate its research framework, as well as developing its communication strategies and policy engagement approaches. The programme's research and methodological approach developed significantly.

In the course of e-conferences the group debated the new configurations of state–society relations that have emerged from these networks. Methodologically, the group reflected on the challenges of researching complex configurations of broader engagements between state and society actors. It asked questions about how to research the *modus operandi* of these networks, how to identify their boundaries, who plays central roles and how to identify their interests, values and strategies.

The March 2007 workshop generated a series of significant advances in the thinking about the research framework. These include the need to develop a deeper understanding of the triggers and trajectories of mobilisations aimed at creating networks that bring together multiple actors engaged in democratic practice. In order to achieve this, the group agreed on the need to develop nuanced typologies of diverse forms of networks as these emerge in different country settings. It is important to define networks more clearly in terms of their relationship to different kinds of alliances and coalitions, as well as to different regimes of authority and citizenship. There is a need to clearly define diverse institutional and non-institutional spaces within which mobilisation takes place, as well as the interactions they make possible.

As Figure 2 shows, in this expanded view we are asking, how and when do actors become agents, who mobilise and form alliances, which create democratic gains and reversals, which change citizenship and authority regimes towards deepening democracy? As the diagram also suggests, this is not a 'virtual circle', but may be entered at any point, leading to positive or negative gains.

Figure 2 Deepening democracy research framework
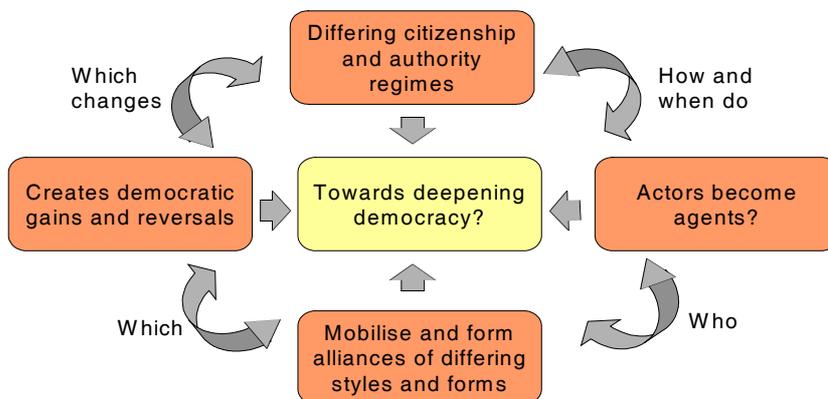
Workshops and intra-group communication

The Deepening Democracy Working Group annual workshop was held in March. Throughout the year participants engaged with each other through two international e-conferences and comparative working groups aimed at generating cross-cutting research. The e-conferences focused on deepening the research framework, as well as preparing participants for the March workshop. The group's African partners met at an African Partners workshop which was held in Cape Town in June. Comparative research clusters have also been set up between the partners from Brazil and India, and between partners from Kenya and Bangladesh.

Impacts

In terms of impact so far, researchers in all countries have been building relationships with strategic actors and stakeholders in order for the research to have a wider impact. These relationships are central to the way that the research could potentially be integrated into decisions and actions that these actors take.

Researchers in the Deepening Democracy group are building these relationships with various individuals, groups and organisations in a number of ways. In South Africa for example, researchers held a policy workshop with local government officials, national policymakers and academics; researchers work closely with development practitioners; and one researcher, Steven Robins writes regular articles for national newspapers, building good relationships with journalists and managing to get important research findings into the general public domain. In other countries the following relationships are being sustained and strengthened.

- In **Kenya** researchers are working closely with national NGOs
- In **Bangladesh** researchers are working with national NGOs, community-based groups and local media
- In **Brazil** researchers are building relationships with social movements, the national media, academics and policymakers
- In **India** researchers work closely with national policymakers, government ministers, NGOs and community-based organisations
- In **Nigeria** researchers link closely to community groups, NGOs, political activists, national government policymakers, ministers and international donors (see Box 1)
- In **Angola** researchers work regularly with local government officials, national government policymakers, NGOs, community-based organisations, and local and national media.

Box 1 Nigerian researchers meet with Vice President

Four DRC researchers, Oga Steve Abah, Jenks Okwori, Nkoyo Toyo and Ibraham Jibrin, also arranged a meeting with the Vice President of Nigeria, Atitku Abubakar, to share previous DRC research findings on democracy and citizenship in Nigeria, and to discuss with him his own vision of democracy in Nigeria, prior to the 2007 elections. The Nigerian research team organised a retreat with several members of the Nigerian parliament to discuss their paper, 'Agency in the Construction of Democratic Citizenship in Nigeria'. This type of relationship building is critical for the communication of future research findings.

Emerging lessons

The work of the Deepening Democracy working group is pointing to a number of examples where typically marginalised groups have mobilised both to strengthen and maintain democratic spaces, as well as to ensure that democratic governments help deliver developmental gains. In Nigeria, for instance, what has become known as the 2007 Movement successfully challenged the assumption of a third term by the then President. In turn, this coalition of citizens and parliamentarians played an important role in monitoring the national elections, and in challenging the widespread corruption which accompanied them.

In Brazil, where a number of participatory institutions are already in place, a series of case studies has focused on how marginalised groups – garbage collectors in Rio Grande do Sul, *quilombolas* (traditional communities of Afro-Brazilian descendents) in Vale do Ribeira, domestic workers in Bahia and indigenous people in Acre – mobilise for new regional policies as well as public services. What emerges here, as in other comparative research in Kenya and Bangladesh, is that it is the trajectories of mobilisation and the styles of activism which make a great deal of difference as to whether and how citizen engagement contributes to democratic and developmental gains. The research is pointing to the need for much more nuanced understanding that goes beyond the 'state–civil society' dichotomy that has characterised much of the thinking in this field.

It also points to the need to understand what is meant by democratic gains, and their relationship to developmental gains, in a much more contextual and historical way. In this view, we cannot see democracy building as a process of transition and consolidation from authoritarianism to stable democracies, as has often been the case. Rather, it is a process of gains and reversals, of opening and closing spaces, which can lead to a wide diversity of democratic and developmental outcomes through different paths and at different moments. In particular, there is a need to understand the conditions under which the sustainability or evanescence of democratic gains gets enacted.

By the end of this phase, the group aims to develop deeper understandings of how the approach depicted in Figure 2 maps onto country contexts and what kinds of patterns are emerging across the country cases. Work will focus on comparisons within countries between different trajectories of democratic networks, practices and gains/outcomes.

3.3 'Citizen engagement in a globalising world' research theme

Around the world, globalisation, changes in governance, and emerging forms of transnational social movements are creating new spaces and opportunities for citizen engagement. Indeed, some would argue, citizenship itself is being de-linked from territory, power is becoming more multi-layered and multi-scaled, and governance increasingly involves both state and non-state actors, which often are transnational.

In this context, the work of the CEGW group asks how this reconfiguration of spaces for engagement gives rise to new meanings and identities of citizenship, and new forms and formations of citizen action. In particular the research programme is asking questions across local, national and regional levels.

- Dynamics of mobilisation (paying particular attention to new forms and tensions of alliance building and claim-making)
- The politics of intermediation (representation, legitimacy, accountability)
- The politics of knowledge (different framings and power to frame, dynamics of contestation across forms of expertise and ways of knowing)
- Dynamics and process of inclusion and exclusion (who gains, who loses?)
- The materiality of the issue and context in which mobilisation occurs.

While a great deal of work has been done on transnational citizen action, the work of this group is unique in the way in which each project examines the vertical links from the local and the global taking, in particular, a citizen's perspective. And, while much normative and conceptual literature examines the concept of global citizenship, few studies of the theme are actually grounded in empirical study of concrete cases of how global reconfigurations of power actually affect citizens' own perceptions of the forms and possibilities of engagement.

The group is made up of 15 researchers, carrying out field projects in India, Nigeria, Kenya, the Gambia, Brazil and South Africa as well as other cross-national projects in Latin America (See Table 3). The projects are common in that they examine new forms of citizen engagement across local, national and global levels, but they do so by looking across a number of sectors – e.g. the environment, trade, education, livelihoods, health and HIV/AIDS, work and occupational disease, agriculture and land – and by looking at number of types of engagement, ranging from campaigns and social movements, to participation of citizens in new institutionally designed spaces and fora.

Table 3 Work in progress on citizen engagement in a globalising world theme

Researcher	Theme	Country/region
Angela Alonso	Globalisation and the Brazilian environmental movement	Brazil
Saturnino Borras and Jennifer Franco	Transnational campaigns for agrarian reform	Multiple
Rebecca Cassidy and Melissa Leach	Global funding and AIDS treatment	The Gambia
Rosalba Icaza, Peter Newell and Marcelo Saguier	Trade politics in the Americas (various aspects in linked projects)	Latin America
Marj Mayo and John Gaventa	Local and global advocacy: the Millennium Development Goal of education for all	India, Nigeria and the UK
Lyla Mehta	Citizenship and displaced peoples	Multiple
Steven Robins	Health citizenship, HIV/AIDS and the mediations of global biomedicine	South Africa
Ian Scoones	Global engagements with global assessments: the case of the IAASTD[*]	Africa
Rajesh Tandon and Julie Thekkudan	Women's livelihoods and global engagements	India
Linda Waldman	Mobilisation, citizenship and risk on asbestos issues	India and South Africa

Key activities during the year
Workshop and framework development
The CEGW working group held its initial workshop in September 2006. A literature review carried out in preparation for the workshop focused especially on the theme of local–global linkages, including literature related to global citizenship, global governance and global civil society, global advocacy and social movements, science, knowledge and policy, and rights discourse and policy.

Ongoing field work
Each of the researchers subsequently began exploring this framework further through field work, but in some cases it has been difficult to get access to the research. In India, for instance, corporate actors have been highly suspicious of the research by PRIA on their engagement with local self-help groups. In the Gambia, there was resistance to the local research with HIV/AIDS groups and their links to national and international processes. A key learning is that the interaction of global actors with national and local actors is not easily transparent.

[*] International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development

E-Conference, 30 April–4 May

Progress and initial insights from the case studies were shared in an intense e-conference focusing on the above framework during the week of 30 April–4 May 2007, which proved very rich and useful. Each of the researchers participated, though to varying degrees due to issues of travel and connectivity.

Impacts

For several of the projects, a key aspect of the methodology is to have ongoing dialogues with key actors about the findings. These dialogues form part of the research methodology – they allow verification of findings and illicit new inputs and insights – but they also are an important part of ongoing communication and dissemination with key activists and policymakers in the field.

● At the September 2006 workshop, the working group heard from Salil Shetty, director of the UN Millennium Campaign, about the challenges and tensions of developing citizen action on the Millennium Development Goals in a number of countries across the world, as well as the international level.

● In December 2006 Peter Newell, Marcelo Saguier and Rosalba Icaza held a workshop with activists at the South American Community of Nations negotiations in Cochabamba, Bolivia.

● Marj Mayo and John Gaventa have interviewed over two dozen NGO and trade union activists in the UK, India and Nigeria on their work on local–global forms of campaigning and activism. A dialogue and feedback workshop with many of the UK activists and others took place on 5 October 2007.

Box 2 DRC researcher communicates widely about asbestos

Linda Waldman's current DRC research in India draws on a long tradition of work on asbestos diseases in both South Africa and the UK (funded by the Citizenship DRC in the past and by the Economic & Social Research Council, ESRC). Waldman's recent work in the UK has been published as an *IDS Working Paper*. Waldman's work also served as the basis for a presentation in the House of Commons, in parallel with a House of Lords court case on compensation for laggers, or working class thermal insulation engineers, living and working in London. Her research has been widely publicised – in both South African and UK newspapers, in trade union magazines and on various web pages. Earlier research on asbestos mobilisation in South Africa conducted for the Citizenship DRC has also received further publicity in the *GSDRC Bulletin* (August 2007), circulated to all DFID staff, which summarised Waldman's exploration of why a successful legal case against a British asbestos mining company was regarded by many of its South African claimants as a defeat.

Emerging lessons and findings

The emerging findings have important implications for donor policies, as well as for other actors. While much policy work is focused on various levels – e.g. nation-states, global institutions, civil society actors – the work of this group suggests that these levels are highly interconnected in structuring the forms and possibilities and fora for citizen engagement. As a result, rather than look at the separate levels and actors, it may be necessary to look more vertically at how polices and strategies cut across the levels simultaneously. For instance, in the work by Marj Mayo and John Gaventa on the campaign to meet the MDG on global education for all, it is clear that integrated work across local, national and international levels is critical – yet little support exists at the donor and policy level to encourage and sustain this integration.

The work points to the growing influence of non-state and global actors on structuring the possibilities of citizen engagement, and the complicated dynamics that then emerge between global, national and local players in the new terrain. For instance, new players such as the Global Fund exercise enormous influence on determining policies around health, yet where and how citizens engage with them is not clear. Similarly, the role of multinationals in linking directly with women's self-help groups in rural India changes the relation of these groups to the local and national state for livelihoods support. While a great deal of debate exists in the literature on how and whether national governments can hold global actors to account, the ability of global players to 'forum-hop', that is to choose the places and spaces where they wish to engage with citizens, gives them a new form of unaccountable power.

At the same time, the research suggests a number of ways in which citizens are developing a new sense of rights and claim-making *vis-à-vis* global actors, whether this be the claims of displaced people, literally people without citizenship, on humanitarian agencies, or the claims of local actors on regional and global trade issues, or of people affected by HIV/AIDS on global health policy. In some cases, but not always, involvement in transnational action seems to be strengthening a global sense of solidarity and belonging. The emergence of a new sense of rights and international interconnection may be contributing steps towards building a sense of global citizenship, which will continue to affect where and how citizens engage on key development issues.

3.4 'Violence, participation and citizenship' theme

In the earlier work of the Citizenship DRC, it became increasingly clear that for many people, the possibilities of participation – whether it be through engagement in policy processes or mobilising for claiming rights – were highly constrained by violence in their everyday lives. Violence was increasingly pervasive not only in those countries which are labelled as 'fragile states', but also in large parts and for large populations of countries seen as having strong states, such as Brazil, India and even Nigeria. At the same time, those working on citizenship and citizen action rarely engage with issues of violence directly, and those working on violence often see it in terms of debates on human or state security, not necessarily on its relationships with forms of citizenship and citizen action.

In this phase of the work, therefore, a third working group in the Citizenship DRC is focusing on the theme of violence, participation and citizenship (VPC).

After a series of discussions and debates, the VPC working group arrived at the following four guiding questions for the group's current research:

● How do/can people begin processes of participatory social action in contexts of violence?
● What kind of social action reduces and or prevents violence?
● What kind of social action contributes to citizenship in violent contexts?
● How can our VPC research group contribute to peaceful social transformation?

Researchers are working in four different countries (Brazil, Jamaica, Mexico and Nigeria) and they address a variety of issues, from urban and youth violence (Jamaica, Brazil and Nigeria) to religious conflicts (Nigeria), militias and vigilantes (Brazil, Jamaica and Nigeria), and gender and violence (Mexico and Nigeria). Additional background work has been done by Jenny Pearce, from the Department of Peace Studies at the University of Bradford, drawing from Guatemala and Colombia.

Table 4 Work in progress on violence, participation and citizenship theme

Researcher	Theme	Country
Carlos Cortez	Social action against violence in two indigenous regions	Mexico
Colette Harris	Bringing young people out of violence into citizenship	Nigeria
Joy Moncrieffe	Labelling, violence and citizenship	Jamaica
Theatre for Development Centre (Steve Abah, Jenks Okwori, Ogah Alubo and others)	● Beliefs, perceptions, difference and violence ● Religion, violence and interfaith dialogue for building citizenship ● *Yan bangas* (vigilantes), violence, exit communities and citizenship prospects	Nigeria
Joanna Wheeler	'Jagged' citizenships and parallel communities: citizenship and social exclusion in Rio de Janeiro	Brazil
Jenny Pearce	Violence, power and participation in contexts of chronic violence (background paper)	Colombia and Guatemala
Patricia Justino	Quantitative approaches to the study of violence	Cross-cutting

Key activities during the year

The key activities include a baseline study, e-debates and a workshop in Jamaica. Field work by individual researchers has been conducted in all the countries yielding much information and knowledge.

Baseline research

The VPC group is aiming to combine both quantitative and qualitative data analysis across the countries. The comparability of the studies to be able to see similarities or differences in the issues and problems across the four countries has been a key concern from the very beginning. The baseline data gathered over the past year through quantitative surveys has helped to define the character of the problems in the different countries and the perceptions and factors that may be driving them. For example, the research highlighted certain features which may help in making comparisons, such as the patriarchal/masculine culture which may be passed down from one generation to the next (Mexico, Nigeria), economic deprivation and the resulting poverty as driver of conflicts (Jamaica, Nigeria, Brazil) and religion as triggers (Nigeria). Even within countries it is possible to make comparisons of the expressions of conflict in different states as in Kaduna, Kano and Plateau in Nigeria.

E-debate

A key debate on methodology took place before the Jamaica workshop in April 2007. Given that the team members are researching in different contexts with varying sensitivities, the question of what the approach to research would be was an important one. The group had decided from its first meeting in Bradford in 2006 that it would be very participatory in its approach to researching conflict. The decision of the group was partly informed by members' experiences from different countries that a fundamental issue in the discourse of conflict is exclusion. Research that was interested in understanding conflict and making a contribution to moving people, through social action, away from violence to becoming more responsive citizens of their own countries and communities would make sense if the people were integral to the process.

The debate shared experiences of participatory work from the field in the four countries; it raised issues about the ethics of researching disadvantaged communities, and discussed the question of expectations. In general the debate was useful in problematising violence (what indeed constitutes violence, who uses and is, or not allowed to use it, and at what times is it legitimised?). The debate problematised not only violence but the lack of social development which lies at its foundations.

The debates were important in leading towards developing a shared methodology template which all researchers would address in further field work and analysis.

Workshop in Jamaica

The workshop in Jamaica enabled members to share information and insights on work done, discuss emerging trends, address problems and plan for future work. The workshop was also significant as it allowed researchers to experience the context of violence in Jamaica itself. This happened through field visits to two schools. The disparity – of privilege in one and deprivation in the other – between the schools, was a telling recipe for conflict and violence. The stories heard in the schools revealed the vulnerability of the children and it was clear that many of them were dealing with very traumatic experiences although they seemed to be managing their situations well.

Researchers shared stories and information from the field and mapped the progress that the VPC working group had made in the year since the meeting in Bradford.

One common set of issues in researching violence was ethics and expectations. How do you convince community members to participate in research that has no immediate tangible benefit to offer? Is it ethical to ask people to tell their stories, many of which are private, when the research has no guarantee of addressing the problems?

The face-to-face meeting was very useful for group building and given that this thematic working group is the newest, both in terms of the theme and membership, such group building was important. There was a stronger sense of cohesion and direction at the end of the workshop. At the end of the workshop the group refined the research template and also agreed a methodology template.

Impacts

A key methodological approach of the VPC working group is to use the action and participatory research itself as a way of engaging with key actors, and creating public fora and spaces for dialogue on underlying causes of violence. This has happened in multiple ways.

In Nigeria, both video and theatre have been used as a way of researching violence but also as a way of creating interfaith dialogue. Using popular theatre in the states of Kano, Kaduna and Plateau, the drama process involved men and women across generations and across Moslem and Christian communities, often recreating connections which had been broken by recent histories of violence and conflict (see Box 3).

Box 3 Using drama to confront violence in Nigeria

'The issues are serious, and we need to reflect'

In all three states the project has been taking place inside communities on the two sides of the divide. We have been discovering the many boundaries we are dealing with. It is physical such as the division into Moslem and Christian enclaves or neighbourhoods. Such physical boundaries have also imposed a psychological boundary. Both young and old carry what Augusto Boal, the Brazilian Theatre theorist and activist, calls 'cop in the head' – restrictions or phobia that inebriate action by reinforcing positions and beliefs. In Kaduna it was best expressed in the experience of Musa from Kawo: 'Since the violent incidents in Kaduna which led to Christians and Moslems living in different parts of the city, I have not gone south of Kaduna. If I go to Sabon Tasha I will be killed!'

But look at how events unfolded... what came out [of the drama] is a mixture of forgiveness, bitterness and lingering trauma. Behind the trauma, the forgiveness and pain, everyone wanted peace. But they sought that such peace be in the context of respect, dignity and integrity for every one regardless of religion and ethnicity. It was clear that some of the factors that made the tension to persist were the disregard for the above principles.

– excerpt from annual report from Nigeria team

In Brazil, IDS researcher Joanna Wheeler has worked with a team of community researchers in the *favelas* to look at the causes and consequences of violence. Through the research, relationships are being strengthened with *favela* community members, private security forces, local and national media, national policymakers, and other academics.

In Mexico, the work on researching violence has been linked to a certificate programme for human rights workers. Class members carried out the research as part of their class projects, and the course became a space for reflection on and analysis of violent conflict with community members, local leaders, local and national policymakers, and political activists. Participants in the course were asked to share their research before a national commission.

In Jamaica, video work has been done including in-depth discussions and interviews with children on labelling and the causes of violence in the community. Through the process, relationships are being strengthened with community leaders, academics, primary schools, community radio stations, and military leaders.

Box 4 Research engages different actors in Jamaica

Many children in Jamaica, as in other countries, feel that they lack voice on the crucial issues that affect them. Moncrieffe, through the DRC, initiated a radio programme in which children who are traumatised by violence can discuss matters that affect their daily lives, in what the host, Michael Cuffe, describes as a 'safe space'. Importantly, the programme aims to bridge social divides and thus invites participants from a broad spectrum. Children have been discussing the ways in which they perpetuate social labels, the divisions these labels create and sustain, and the commonalities that are revealed when they are able to properly converse.

The research process has also tried to build important relationships with academics, such as Horace Levy, Professor of Sociology and founder of the Peace Management Initiative; Colonel Oral Khan from the Ministry of National Security; and Milton Tomlinson and Sonia Whyte, community workers from the garrison areas. Through the interaction of these different people, the research is aiming to make broader connections and have a more sustainable impact.

Emerging lessons and findings

A major contribution of the VPC working group will be its learning on the use of multiple methods in researching – and acting upon – violence. Stories from the different contexts showed that working in conflict environments requires a different kind of negotiation to allay fears, give reassurances, and respect sensitivities. What came out was the need for openness on the part of researchers and to entrench participation as a means of ensuring community ownership and sustainability of action after the research. Such participation is also more likely to result in respect for the project and a buy-in by the larger community. When communication is integral to the process it enhances understanding between researcher and community because information is shared, problems and ways of dealing with them are discussed, and consequently tension is reduced.

At the same time, the work is producing many insights into the causes of violence, which has important policy implications. In the current environment, much of the approach to dealing with violence and conflict involves strengthening states which are perceived to be fragile. Yet, in many of these settings, state and political violence are themselves deeply engrained in, and highly linked to, community level violence as well. In Nigeria for instance, community identities and divisions around religion and ethnicity were used and exploited in recent political violence at the time of the election. In Jamaica, local 'dons' (gang leaders) and gangs play a role in drugs and arms trafficking, as well as being deeply linked to political power and parties.

Many of the causes of violence are deeply related to other forms of social, political and economic exclusion. In the absence of equitable and responsive treatment by states, youth and others gravitate towards alternative, parallel structures, which then can claim to promote social action on behalf of community interests, be it through the militias in Brazil or the 'gangsters' in the community in Jamaica. Alternative structures then claim more legitimacy than the state itself, and become strong forces in mediating state–citizen relations.

At the same time, emerging case studies have begun to illustrate how social action can be used and for the reduction of everyday violence. The work by Jenny Pearce in Guatemala and Colombia, for instance, suggests that 'by connecting people, restoring plurality and opening invisibly sealed boundaries, civil society organisations... can potentially have a direct influence on violence. They can encourage victims to overcome fear... They bring people together to make violences visible public and political problems. By disseminating a sense of rights, CSOs [civil society organisations] enable people to feel they can legitimately challenge violent actors, as well as those who use dominating power over them. By building citizenship, they may not eliminate violence and it may even increase at given moments, but over time and as more and more (re)gain a sense of their potentiality, so the exercise of violence becomes more difficult and will receive more sanction'.[3] The VPC working group will in future continue to explore this theme of how participatory social action can strengthen full citizenship and reduce violence in everyday life.

4. Lessons learned on research methodology, programme management and partnerships

4.1 Working with partners

The Citizenship DRC puts a strong emphasis on working in partnerships that require trust, transparency and mutual accountability. This approach influences the way that the research programmes function, both in terms of debating research agendas and frameworks, and with regard to the governance and management of the international network.

4.1.1 Comparative research projects

The Citizenship DRC encouraged stronger cross-country collaboration in this round, particularly in the Deepening Democracy in States and Localities working group. The programme supports several partners to develop their work collaboratively. Simeen Mahmud in Bangladesh and Celestine Nyamu-Musembi in Kenya will be working together to compare civil society organisations in their respective countries, understand why the experiences have been so different, and look at whether the nature of civil society organisations makes a difference to the kinds of social action and the social actors it produces. Ranjita Mohanty in India and Vera Schattan Coelho in Brazil will be exploring how the context of a particular country contributes to how citizens experience participation. They will ask a series of questions about the ways in which marginalised people formulate and practise their relationship with the state, and about different strategies that public officials use in their relationships with marginalised people.

In addition to this, DRC researchers in Nigeria, South Africa, Angola and Kenya decided to establish a firmer working relationship in order to develop a continent-wide approach to researching democracy and citizenship. Eight DRC researchers and four of their colleagues from South Africa, Nigeria and Angola met in Cape Town on 12–14 June 2007 to explore the different dimensions of their research and see how they relate to each other in an African context. In particular they looked at common themes across countries worthy of further

3 Jenny Pearce (2007), 'Violence, Power and Participation: Building Citizenship in Contexts of Chronic Violence', *IDS Working Paper* 274, pp52–3

research. Researchers from Kenya will join later on. A meeting in December 2007 will take this work forward. Key lessons learned from this approach include:

● It takes time to build the trust and relationships required to do good cross-country collaborative research. Earlier attempts to carry out comparative or collaborative research were less successful.
● Cross-country collaborative research requires people from different disciplinary and cultural backgrounds to compromise in methodologies and ways of working together.
● Multi-country comparative research projects which are led by a group of Southern researchers (i.e. not by IDS) require significant investment in time and resources to organise an effective coordination and operational structure.

4.1.2 Collaborative research process

Throughout the research process, the Citizenship DRC has built a process which is (a) collaborative – it brings together researchers from different disciplinary, geographical and institutional backgrounds to create knowledge together, and (b) iterative – rather than imposing frameworks from 'above' (usually in development research, from the North), it explores ideas through empirical research in order to co-construct common analytical frameworks through dialogue, and then to re-explore these frames in different settings.

Box 5 Researchers' insights into collaboration

A significant outcome is the development of DRC researchers' capacity to exchange and share knowledge and experience with each other in an enabling environment. The collaborative and iterative process has not always unfolded in the same way across the different research groups. Each of the working groups developed its own way of working. The March 2007 meeting of the Deepening Democracy working group – with participants who have met together the most and over the longest period – was particularly valuable for building frameworks and insights together. The experience provoked a somewhat spontaneous reflection on what participants learned through the collaborative and iterative research process, and how it was different from other research projects in which they had been a part:

Bangladesh researcher 'For me it's really part of my research process because I'm really able to draw on so many brains, and so many minds and so many experiences which I wouldn't have otherwise. It's almost like having a live literature review or something like that!… The other distinguishing feature I think is the sense of sharing, by sharing we're also building, not only transferring from one to the other, but building something which is greater than the sum of its parts….'

South African researcher 'What I found so useful is how the quality of discussion has gotten better and better. This is a group that has built quite a lot of trust, but the building of collective trust has also influenced the quality of its conceptual output. There are those who argue that collective theorising or researching really produces output that is less good in quality than individual theorising or researching. I think that this is an example against that argument… I don't think I would ever have developed this type of framework or way of thinking or approaching my work if it hadn't been for the group.'

Kenyan NGO-based activist 'I think for me, it's first and foremost a reminder that I need to pay more attention to academia. It does let me see the difference between information and knowledge. When you are in activism or absorbed in NGO work on an almost full-time basis, you tend to have a lot of information, especially if you have residual academic interests. But because you are not in full-time academics, you lack the framework for analysing and processing that information so that it transforms into knowledge. I think the beauty of this, for a practitioner like me, is just helping me close the gap between information and knowledge.'

IDS-based researcher 'We're crafting our research projects through this mutual interchange rather than each bringing their own and then having to cobble something together, or having a framework and each person having to speak to it. This lovely interweaving, the shape we might take in our future research as we now go away from this will change because of this conversation and it will change again when we come together again.'

Over the life of the DRC, there are some important lessons about the elements of developing a collaborative research process. Key lessons include:

● the importance of dialogue, both through workshops that are participatory and deliberative, as well as through electronic means;
● the importance of building trust and a constructive, non-competitive environment in which opinions can be aired across differences, and
● the importance of time, which allows relationships and ideas to be built over multiple encounters. These may involve conflicts, and may also involve different cycles of engagement across the participants, but over time can produce positive results.

4.1.3 Learning through field visits and other events

Learning through workshops was an important outcome of working with partners. Specifically, the Citizenship DRC combined research workshops or other events hosted by different partner organisations with field visits or policy dialogues. By connecting the research workshops with these additional opportunities to engage with a particular context, the Citizenship DRC allowed researchers to learn about these contexts through direct experiences in them. The partner organisation hosting the events is responsible for organising them, and links these events directly to their research or other work for the DRC as well using the opportunity to try and increase their influence within their local context.

Box 6 Field visits in Jamaica

As part of the Violence, Participation and Citizenship working group meeting in Kingston, Jamaica in April 2007, Joy Moncrieffe organised visits to three of the schools involved in her research project. This gave other researchers an opportunity to interact directly with children participating in Moncrieffe's work, and to observe first-hand some of the issues emerging around violence and labelling. In addition, Moncrieffe also organised a policy dialogue with representatives of the Jamaican military, community development workers and leading researchers working on violence. This dialogue gave DRC researchers the opportunity to learn about the dynamics of violence in greater depth and to share relevant experiences from their own contexts.

Key lessons learned from this approach include:

● Learning about the local context can be gained in different ways and direct experiences are often more informative than abstract discussions in workshops and academic papers.
● Combining field visits and other events with research workshops enriches and enhances the quality of the research workshop itself by helping to ground and contextualise discussions of research questions.
● Field visits and policy dialogues also offer the opportunity for researchers from other countries to share the experiences from their own contexts that are relevant.
● Combining field visits and other events with research workshops contribute to building relationships between researchers.

4.2 Good practice/innovation
4.2.1 Bridging the researcher/practitioner divide
Collaborative research between academics and practitioners is important in making research matter. Practitioners in the field bring perspectives on real life concerns and experiences that help make research more relevant to people's daily lives. These insights challenge and develop new approaches to complex problems. The Citizenship DRC works to develop these alliances from the start of the research process by involving practitioners in shaping research agendas. Some DRC projects also include ongoing opportunities for practitioners to reflect on their own experiences and contribute to actual research about citizenship, participation and accountability. The Citizenship DRC aims to communicate to a range of audiences what its research is trying to achieve, and key findings and implications. Box 7 is an example of how this works in practice.

Box 7 Researcher/practitioner collaboration in Nigeria

In Nigeria Citizenship DRC researchers from the Centre for Development and Democracy and the Theatre for Development Centre/Amhadu Bello University held dialogues with leading politicians in the run up to the April 2007 national elections. The aim was to generate debate about accountability and civil society engagement in the elections. Afterwards researchers joined other civil society leaders to campaign for more democratic elections by monitoring and challenging corruption. By working with practitioners, researchers contributed to positive changes in Nigeria, and gained insights about processes of democracy.

Developing coalitions between researchers and practitioners has great advantages but is a complex and sometimes difficult process. Recent work by the Citizenship DRC looks at the tensions that arise between theory and practice. Carlos Cortez, a researcher at Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Xochimilco and a Citizenship DRC partner is very engaged with practitioners in Mexico. 'When I was involved as an activist I thought we needed to be more analytical. When I started my academic career I became worried that this was very abstract and not related to reality. I have the privilege of being part of both groups – working with people that combine theory and practice and are very creative. But balancing all their competing interests calls for "delicate equilibrium".'

Finding equilibrium between research and practice raises critical questions. Does action-orientated research necessarily mean prioritising local action at the expense of analytical rigour? Should research lead to targeted and strategic action or be inspired in response to action and practice? Effective research programmes aiming to link research with action and researchers and practitioners – at the local, national and global levels – need to understand how contradictory the results of action research can be.

4.2.2 Teaching and learning

There are two main elements to teaching and learning at the Citizenship DRC: the development of a graduate teaching programme and the graduate support programme.

Graduate teaching programme

During the Steering Committee meeting in March 2007, several researchers proposed a graduate teaching programme. The DRC has worked together for seven years and has collected diverse case study material. The aim is to connect internationally generated material and localised literature to fill the gap that currently exists in many teaching programmes on democracy and citizenship.

In March 2007, researchers formed a working group to take forward curriculum development and teaching within the DRC. The goal is to collaboratively produce course materials and pedagogies to communicate what has been learned in the DRC to higher education and training audiences, using materials and case studies produced by the DRC, together with key external material. This will build on existing work by DRC researchers to link their research to teaching activities such as a course for human rights practitioners in Chiapas, Mexico, coordinated by Carlos Cortez; and a postgraduate course on citizenship and democracy at UWC led by Bettina von Lieres.

Initial steps of the work will include an e-conference to collect ideas about the shape of the curriculum project, and to form working groups that will:

● assemble theoretical and case study materials
● discuss pedagogies that would model the approaches to participation being studied
● determine support that should be offered for those taking up this curriculum
● investigate possibilities for teaching collaborations such as DRC researchers teaching together at each others' institutions, or a summer school based on DRC material.

Graduate support programme

The graduate support programme was set up at the beginning of this phase to support students associated with DRC partner institutes to continue with further study, including Idaci Ferreira, a researcher working with DRC partner ADRA in Angola. Ferreira has recently completed the Masters in Participation, Power and Social Change at IDS, a unique programme that takes place over 18 months and allows the student to work in the field as part of their experience. He said of the programme, 'The most important thing for me was the perspective to link theory and practice... I think it was very, very powerful this

reflection about transformative learning, reflexive learning, to reflect about participation, to use this form of learning, of deepening reflection... I think the dimension of power relations that we have studied here in this course was very, very important and I think now I have a way, how to bring this kind of reflection for action in the field... So this course has given me more tools. How can I apply this discussion about power relations, this discussion about reflection to reality in a deeper way? In relation to the DRC programme, for me, it is much clearer about the direction we will now use in Angola to write about the topic of the DRC programme. My citizenship paper started to reflect on democracy, and on the relationship between associations; how the associations are transforming things in the community; how the associations create citizenship; how they influence the building of democracy.'

4.2.3 Research methods

Research projects across the DRC use a very wide range of research methods, from large-scale quantitative surveys to participatory action research. In the past year, there was a lot of emphasis on discussing these different methodologies as part of the research process, focusing on the differences and tensions that emerge, as well as the important contributions that methodological diversity can provide. Some of these insights, drawing on the first five years of the DRC's work, are available in Lyla Mehta's 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow? The Politics and Dilemmas of Researching Citizenship and Marginality' (*IDS Working Paper* 288, 2007). This work will also be forthcoming as an article in the *Journal of Action Research*. Incorporating a discussion around methodology from the beginning of the research process was crucial. This included ongoing opportunities for reflection on research methods into the research workshops held in the past year. In addition, several research groups addressed the topic through e-discussions and structured written reflections. Boxes 8 and 9 highlight some of the important methodological innovations over the past year.

Box 8 Combining participatory and quantitative methods in contexts of violence

There are many challenges to carrying out research in contexts of violence. Traditional quantitative surveys alone are often unreliable at the micro level because of high rates of refusal and the risks people face in providing accurate answers. Using participatory action research in contexts of violence is also unusual. Citizenship DRC researchers opted for a primary focus on participatory action research as an important entry point into communities where sharing information and talking about issues can be dangerous for both researchers and research participants. Using participatory action research in the context of violence in Brazil, Jamaica, Mexico and Nigeria created detailed and rich case studies of the dynamics of violence and participation at the local level. However it can be difficult to compare the results of this research across contexts. As a result, the Violence, Participation and Citizenship working group developed a quantitative questionnaire that was applied in all of the cases. Researchers integrated the application of this questionnaire into the participatory research process. This helped to increase the accuracy of the questionnaire and also enhances the basis for comparing each of the cases in order to identify more general implications for policy and practice.

Box 9 Participatory video as a research method

Researchers in the Citizenship DRC are experimenting with participatory video as a research tool, as a creative and effective tool for communication, and also for monitoring and evaluation. Potential advantages of using participatory video as part of the research process include:

- **Providing a medium for research participants to articulate their views and amplify their voice**
- **Opening spaces for debate with other stakeholder groups, including policymakers, community-based groups and NGOs**
- **A powerful communication tool that enables dialogue and interaction between different contexts.**

The Citizenship DRC sponsored a training in participatory video for researchers from Brazil, Bangladesh, Mexico, Jamaica, Nigeria, Angola and the UK in October 2006. Building on this training, researchers used participatory video as part of their overall research methods and communication activities. They have also trained others in their own countries to use participatory video. For example, Joanna Wheeler held a training for 15 community researchers from slums in Rio de Janeiro in January 2007 and a second training for 15 researchers at CEBRAP in February 2007.

Work on final films using participatory video is under way in each of the projects, and in the next year the DRC will draw together these videos to create collective outputs and incorporate the videos as part of the monitoring and evaluation process.

4.3 Project/programme management
4.3.1 Monitoring and evaluation
The Citizenship DRC has been developing a monitoring and evaluation strategy during the past 12 months. This incorporates a bottom-up approach so that DRC researchers themselves identify what they expect or would like the research to achieve; developing some useful indicators for the mid-term review next year; developing an outline for five of the research projects to carry out some in-depth analysis of the progress of the research; and exploring different ways in which the communication of the research can be evaluated.

At the Steering Committee meeting in March 2007 and at each research group workshop, researchers responded to the following questions: What would you like the DRC to have achieved by March 2008? How will we know if it has happened? At the meeting the Steering Committee divided into groups looking at research content, methodologies, communication, capacity strengthening, and networking and partnerships. At the workshops researchers also explored similar areas. The findings from these exercises are being translated into an improved and more relevant log frame for the DRC as well as providing the thematic groups with useful indicators with which to assess their work.

Several of the research projects have agreed to participate in a more in-depth analysis of what the research is trying to achieve and to what extent this has happened, as well as how the research participants perceive the research and what kinds of influence might be taking place. The aim is to take learning that

is instinctive and internal and make it more explicit. This will be done at the beginning, middle and end of each project. Some of the questions that researchers will try to answer are: Who do you want to influence (specific individuals, groups, institutions)? What changes would researchers like to see? What changes would research participants like to see? What changes would you like the research to contribute to as part of the DRC? How will the methods used contribute to the desired changes? How will the communication tools and approaches contribute to the desired changes?

Evaluating the influence that the role of communicating research has is complex, but it is a topic that the DRC has been trying to tackle. The coordination team regularly attends meetings of a cross-organisational Research Communications Monitoring and Evaluation Group (RCMEG), which explores the monitoring and evaluation of research communication. In September 2006, RCMEG held a workshop, supported by DFID, to explore the key issues behind monitoring and evaluation for research communications. The Citizenship DRC presented its work by showing a participatory video that used the Most Significant Change methodology.

As well as formal forms of monitoring and communication, there is informal reflection and learning that takes place as researchers interact with each other over email, telephone and during workshops. For example, in relation to communication, Lisa Thompson from South Africa said, 'It is better to try to separate out more academic theorising meetings from those where we are focusing on policy implications. And recognise that work often needs to be rewritten for the latter purpose' (1 July 2006). Bettina von Lieres said, 'Our policy communication is not only about interacting with policymakers, but also about how to intervene strategically and politically in the broader public spaces in which citizenship and participation issues are being formulated' (19 November 2006).

4.3.2 Envisioning the future of the network
One of the very interesting and important aspects of the DRC's work has been the ways in which it has contributed to network building: internationally, regionally and nationally.

At the international level, the DRC itself has emerged as a network of researchers and activists that spans a dozen countries. Members of this network are now linking to a number of other networks and coalitions, contributing to further cross-fertilisation of research and ideas. For instance, three researchers associated with the DRC are linked with the Deliberative Democracy Consortium, a network of scholars and practitioners based in the USA.

Nationally, for several of our partners, the DRC has also contributed to expanding networks or development of new institutional centres. For instance, in South Africa, through supplemental funding from the Ford Foundation, the Middle Spaces Network is linking researchers at the UWC with NGOs associated with the Good Governance Learning Network. In Brazil, the network of researchers associated with the DRC have now formed the Centre for Citizenship and Development, which in turn is building links with other NGOs and academics in Brazil and other parts of Latin America. In Angola, links established through the DRC have helped to strengthen relations of Angolan researchers with other researchers in Brazil and southern Africa.

A key challenge in the remaining period of the DRC will be to consolidate these networks and strengthen their options for sustainability. As one step in this process, the DRC supported a small meeting of DRC members in Africa to discuss particular aspects of democracy building in Africa, but also to discuss ways of strengthening their cross-regional collaboration. In the coming year, the DRC will continue to map institutional linkages that have emerged during the course of the DRC's work, and Bettina von Lieres (UWC) will prepare an options paper on future possible organisation arrangements that will be sustainable.

4.4 Communication

The Citizenship DRC engages with a number of different audiences throughout the research process to communicate findings from the previous round of research and to involve people with current DRC activities (as per the communication strategy).

One of the main principles of the communication strategy is to work at different levels and interact strategically with a range of audiences and stakeholders. The DRC Director, coordination team, international researchers and country level partner institutes have undertaken a range of communication activities with international policymakers, civil society and academics; national and local governments; community-based organisations; and the public.

4.4.1 International level

At international donor, civil society and academic level, activities have included: collaborating with the One World Trust and the Ford Foundation to organise an event in London in March 2007 called 'Making Accountability Count: Citizens, NGOs and the State'. Speakers included DRC researchers Peter Newell from the University of Warwick, and Simeen Mahmud from the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies. The discussion focused on the third book in the Zed 'Claiming Citizenship' series – *Rights, Resources and the Politics of Accountability* edited by Peter Newell and Joanna Wheeler.

The Citizenship DRC held an interactive workshop at CIVICUS in Glasgow in June to discuss, *Rights, Resources and the Politics of Accountability*. There was also a stall with DRC publications and resources available. The main theme for CIVICUS was accountability and much of the debate focused on technical and sector specific accountability initiatives, so the DRC's work on citizen strategies for accountability made an important contribution.

The DRC Director, John Gaventa, has been active at various events: a seminar on Power Analysis as part of the IDS–ODI–IIED series; various presentations on participatory research and on international approaches to participatory local governance, and the PRIA Jubilee Anniversary Conference. He was also guest lecturer at the Deepening Democracy Lecture Series at Virginia Tech University, USA. Gaventa also used the Citizenship DRC's work to contribute comments on the DFID governance publication, *Governance, Development and Democratic Politics: DFID's work in building more effective states*.

The Citizenship DRC also communicates internationally through electronic resources such as the DRC and IDS websites, and via the IDS information

services. A synthesis of the last round of the Citizenship DRC's work is now available through a special edition of *ID21 Insights* (www.id21.org): 'Claiming Citizenship: Building inclusive citizenship and democracies'.

The redesigned DRC website has been attracting more visitors than last year. It is interesting to note that the total number of downloads and the total number of visitors are very close to each other. This means that a very high number of people who visit the DRC website download a publication or document. Tables 5 and 6 show the most popular downloads.

Table 5 Top 10 DRC *IDS Working Paper* downloads, October 2006–September 2007

Publications	Author	Top 10 downloads
'Triumph, Deficit or Contestation? Deepening the "Deepening Democracy" Debate', *IDS Working Paper* 264, July 2006	John Gaventa	615
'Mobilising Citizens: Social Movements and the Politics of Knowledge', *IDS Working Paper* 276, March 2007	Melissa Leach and Ian Scoones	599
'Making Spaces, Changing Places: Situating Participation in Development', *IDS Working Paper* 170, October 2002	Andrea Cornwall	426
'Mapping Accountability: Origins, Contexts and Implications for Development', *IDS Working Paper* 168, October 2002	Peter Newell and Shaula Bellour	422
'Rights Passages from "Near Death" to "New Life": AIDS Activism and Treatment Testimonies in South Africa', *IDS Working Paper* 251, October 2005	Steven Robins	409
'Corporate Accountability to the Poor? Assessing the Effectiveness of Community-based Strategies', *IDS Working Paper* 227, October 2004	Peter Newell and Niamh Garvey	389
'Unpacking Rights and Wrongs: Do Human Rights Make a Difference? The Case of Water Rights in India and South Africa', *IDS Working Paper* 260, November 2005	Lyla Mehta	378
'Who Participates? Civil Society and the New Democratic Politics in São Paulo, Brazil' – *IDS Working Paper* 210, October 2003	Peter P. Houtzager, Adrián Gurza Lavalle and Arnab Acharya	349
'Contentious Politics, Contentious Knowledges: Mobilising Against GM Crops in India, South Africa and Brazil', *IDS Working Paper* 256 – Part of Citizens and Science Working Paper Series, November 2005	Ian Scoones	340
'Monsanto and Smallholder Farmers: A Case Study on Corporate Accountability', *IDS Working Paper* 277, March 2007	Dominic Glover	306

Table 6 Top 10 DRC publication downloads, October 2006–September 2007

Publications	Author	Top 10 downloads
'Making Accountability Count', *IDS Policy Briefing* 33, November 2006	Peter Newell and Joanna Wheeler	1,158
'Making Space for Citizens: Broadening the "new democratic spaces" for citizen participation', *IDS Policy Briefing* 27, March 2006	Alex Shankland	697
Introduction, *Spaces for Change? The Politics of Participation in New Democratic Arenas*, London: Zed Books, 2006	Andrea Cornwall and Vera Schattan Coelho	568
'The rise of rights: Rights-based approaches to international development', *IDS Policy Briefing* 17, May 2003	Rosalind Eyben	488
Introduction, *Rights, Resources and the Politics of Accountability*, London: Zed Books, 2006	Peter Newell and Joanna Wheeler	429
'Science and Citizens: global and local voices', *IDS Policy Briefing* 30, May 2006	Melissa Leach, Ian Scoones and Kirsty Cockburn	324
Citizenship DRC Annual Report 2005–2006		321
Recent publications list		258
Citizenship DRC Synthesis conference report		254
End of phase report		231

Table 7 *IDS Bulletin* sales, October 2006–September 2007

	Total
'Making Rights Real: Exploring Citizenship, Participation and Accountability', John Gaventa, Alex Shankland and Joanna Howard (eds), *IDS Bulletin*, Vol 33 No 2, April 2002	1,233
'New Democratic Spaces?', Andrea Cornwall and Vera Schattan Coelho (eds), *IDS Bulletin* Vol 35 No 2, April 2004	1,121
'Developing Rights?', Jethro Pettit and Joanna Wheeler (eds), *IDS Bulletin* Vol 36 No 1, January 2005	1,228

Table 8 Zed Series book sales by IDS, October 2006–September 2007

	Sales
Inclusive Citizenship: Meanings and Expressions, Naila Kabeer (ed.), Zed Books, Vol I, April 2005	52
Science and Citizens: Globalization and the Challenge of Engagement, Melissa Leach, Ian Scoones and Brian Wynne (eds), Zed Books, Vol II, March 2005	39
Rights, Resources and the Politics of Accountability, Peter Newell and Joanna Wheeler (eds), Zed Books, Vol IV, 2006	24
Spaces for Change? The Politics of Citizen Participation in New Democratic Arenas, Andrea Cornwall and Vera Schattan Coelho (eds), Zed Books, Vol III, 2007	16

Table 9 Zed Series book sales by Zed Books, October 2006–September 2007

	Publication date	Life world sales	Current year (Oct. 2006–Sept. 2007)	Includes sales to IDS of:
Rights, Resources PB	June 2006	894	204	477
Rights, Resources HB	June 2006	78	21	0
Inclusive Citizenship PB	May 2005	1,351	158	471
Inclusive Citizenship HB	May 2005	106	7	0
Spaces for Change PB	November 2006	867	867	461
Spaces for Change HB	November 2006	79	79	0
Science and Citizens PB	January 2005	1,182	143	470
Science and Citizens HB	January 2005	132	7	0
Total		**4,689**	**1,486**	**1,879**

4.4.2 National level

DRC researchers communicated their work at the country level through a variety of methods. In Nigeria, three DRC researchers met with the Vice President of Nigeria. They presented research findings on citizenship and identity in Nigeria, and discussed issues on deepening democracy and citizenship in violent contexts, which are current research projects.

A unique citizen dialogue event in Angola explored how far democracy should be adapted to the Angolan context and how far the Angolan context should change in order to become democratic. After nearly 30 years of war, Angola is undergoing a process of rapid economic growth and democratisation and these are very challenging issues. Idaci Ferreira, a DRC researcher based at ADRA organised the event, and participants included local government representatives, civil society groups and academics. DRC researchers from the UK, Brazil and Mozambique contributed their experiences to the discussion. There are few forums in Angola that allow these groups to come together to discuss how democracy should be shaped. For many participants this was the first event they had ever attended to discuss these important issues.

In São Paulo, Brazil, DRC partner CEBRAP participated in celebrating the 40th anniversary of IDS by hosting a round table debate on the future of development and poverty reduction in Brazil. This debate included national and local government officials, academics and representatives of civil society, along with several journalists. The leading national newspaper, *Folha de São Paulo*, covered the event and featured DRC researcher Zander Navarro.

Joanna Wheeler, DRC manager and researcher, organised a video debate in Rio de Janeiro. A film made by research participants and *favela* community members showed how violence is perpetuated in *favelas* and explored some possible solutions. It was screened to a packed cinema audience and was followed by a panel discussion. National policymakers, community activists and academics, and the media attended.

Twenty-five years ago the Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) began working towards more inclusive forms of democracy where citizens are able to participate and have a voice. In 2007 PRIA celebrated its 25th anniversary by holding a number of events in different countries, culminating in a large conference in Delhi in February 2007. It brought together people from India, South Asia and other parts of the world who have been championing citizen participation. Mr Mani Shanker Aiyar (Honorable Minister for Panchayati Raj, Youth Affairs, Sports and Development of North East Region, Government of India) closed the conference by congratulating and acknowledging the advances that have been made by citizen participation. He gave a reminder that there is still much to be done. He said, 'People should feel that through their participation the future is being made brighter.'

In South Africa, researchers engaged in policy advocacy with officials and community development workers from Cape Town. At a policy workshop held in December 2006, questions were raised pertaining to the nature of researcher/practitioner collaboration; the impact of collaboration on NGO and community-based organisation capacity; the impact of research on poor community stakeholders, as well the nature of the policy influence which the projects seek to bring about, and how best to achieve this.

4.4.3 Community level

Many researchers, using action research methodologies, closely interact with communities as part of the research process, and encourage community members to become empowered. The Theatre for Development Centre in Nigeria works within communities using theatre as a means for members of the community to express themselves. Researchers/actors take issues that community members have identified as important, such as violence or democracy, and turn them into a short sketch. During the performance, the actors stop, and ask the audience to reflect on what is happening and decide on an outcome for the sketch.

In Jamaica, Joy Moncrieffe works with children who live in violent contexts such as garrison areas in Kingston. Many children in Jamaica, as in other countries, feel that they lack voice on the crucial issues that affect them. Moncrieffe initiated a radio programme in which children traumatised by violence can discuss matters that affect their daily lives in what the host, Michael Cuffe, describes as a 'safe space'. Importantly, the programme aims to bridge social

divides, inviting participants from a broad spectrum of backgrounds and social classes. Children have been discussing the ways in which they perpetuate social labels; the divisions these labels create and sustain; and the commonalities that are revealed when they are able to properly converse.

In Bangladesh, researchers are working closely with community members. Simeen Mahmud and her team are carrying out research on the theme of deepening democracy, building citizenship and promoting participation. They are looking particularly at the role of civil society organisations in Bangladesh and work with eight civil society organisations to do so. They are using participatory video with four of them – the Grameen Bank, Nijera Kori, Bangladesh Sramajibi Kendro and Proshika.

Working with the Grameen Bank, research participants learnt how to use the video and sound equipment and were able, without much trouble, to record interviews with each other. On the second day participants went out to interview people in their village. Three groups each drew up ideas for subjects to explore independently: local problems, present political situation and the price hike. After watching their recordings, the participants felt more confident and more interested in connecting video with community expression and communication within a society. According to the research team, community members realised the potential video has for empowerment of the community.

In Angola, DRC researchers at ADRA have been working to integrate community feedback into the research process. In association with the Citizenship DRC and Oxfam, they organised a conference 'Participation, Citizenship and New Democratic Challenges in Angola' with the intention of creating a dialogue between communities, civil society organisations, decision-makers and other political forces of society. It involved around 60 people from government institutions, NGOs and community groups.

4.4.4 General public level

The DRC also used more popular forms of communication in order to reach the general public. The Citizenship DRC has been working closely with coordinators and script writers of a television soap opera set in Kenya called *Makutano Junction* (see Box 10). The programme aims to entertain and educate English-speaking East Africans with access to television, using accessible storylines. *Makutano Junction* has reached 5 million regular viewers in Kenya alone, and is also broadcast in Uganda and Tanzania, with other satellite companies picking it up to show in other parts of Africa.

Box 10 *Makutano Junction* **and good governance**

The Citizenship DRC's research informed storylines around good governance with its 'taking a citizen's perspective' approach. Episode five of the latest series of *Mukatano Junction* focuses on ordinary citizens participating in political processes, and the need to be accountable to other community members.

Hope is a recently elected MP for Makutano. She struggles to explain to her friends that just because she now has power it does not mean that she can hand out money to those who want it, but that funds must be allocated through systems such as the Community Development Fund (CDF). Hope helps to educate her constituents about the fund and it up for them.

During the drama Hope says, 'Unlike in the past where the MP picked the CDF committee from relatives and friends I will let the people decide who can best represent them in the committee. Even if you don't get selected as part of the committee, you are free to stay and hear the decisions made at the end of the day to see where the fund is being spent. As a constituent of Makutano, it is your responsibility to support, participate and ensure transparency in the initiation and implementation of the CDF projects decided on here today.'

5 Programme management

5.1 Programme management

A series of formal and informal mechanisms are central to the management of the Citizenship DRC that is designed to increase the accountability and effectiveness of the entire programme network. Formal mechanisms include the Steering Committee and the Centre Advisory Review Group (CARG). Other more informal mechanisms include ongoing 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 the research and communication officer (Alison Dunn), the programme theme convenors, and the country team leaders.

5.2 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 ongoing communication amongst the members of the Steering Committee, the coordination team scheduled quarterly telephone conferences to supplement the meeting that was held in Lewes, East Sussex on 22–23 March 2007. The main focus of discussions was on the overall functioning of the research network, forthcoming events and future publications.

5.3 The Centre Advisory Review Group (CARG)

The CARG provides feedback on the DRC's programmes of work, including feedback on areas of research and the communication and evaluation strategies.

Current CARG members include:

- Fiona Wilson, Roskilde University, Denmark (chair)
- Marian Barnes, University of Brighton
- 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
- Mary Thompson, UK Department for International Development.

A CARG meeting was held at the University of Sussex on 6 November 2006. Table 10 shows key recommendations made by CARG members at the meeting.

Table 10 CARG recommendations

	Recommended by	Actions taken
'Networking with other academics is important. If you don't connect with them, you lose opportunities to influence people who in turn are going to influence the world'	Ben Cousins	The DRC joined the UK university-based network on participatory video in research A number of presentations at other academic conferences Working with Marion Barnes at the University of Brighton to submit a proposal for an ESRC seminar series to link Southern researchers with other academics
'The DRC should write about the experiences and challenges of making connections between research, policy and practice as others in academia would find it useful'	Evelina Dagnino	See forthcoming *IDS Working Paper* by Joanna Wheeler, 'Creating Spaces for Engagement: Research and Social Change'. Future workshops will include reflections on this dimension of work
'Can the role of the CARG be used to challenge the discourse about what M&E [monitoring and evaluation] is about?'	James Deane	Ongoing participation by coordination team members in Research Communication Monitoring and Evaluation group in London Development of an innovative monitoring and evaluation strategy for the DRC to explore different forms of monitoring and evaluation

Table 7 CARG recommendations (cont.)

	Recommended by	Actions taken
Future of the network 'The CARG and the DRC should be thinking about longer term projects that are not bound by DFID funding and DRC time frames, but rather about building alliances between people in the long term'	Andrew Long, DFID	Bettina von Lieres contracted to lead discussions for the DRC on future network scenarios
'The CARG should be looking at the organisation of the DRC that can translate into building institutional capacity in the long term'	Bettina von Lieres	In-depth discussion of future directions at the Steering Committee meeting, March 2007
'The DRC could prepare a short options paper and a broader discussion paper on the sustainability of the DRC network'	John Gaventa	Institutional capacity building set as key priority for final 18 months of DRC Bettina von Lieres contracted to prepare an options paper

Conclusion

The Citizenship DRC is now in its seventh year as an evolving international research network. As the report shows, it continues to grow and to make contributions in the areas of research, policy influencing and mutual capacity building. It also continues to develop as a network, spawning and seeding new networks and relationships within countries where it works, and internationally. A critical part of this evolution has been the commitment by DFID to provide support over a longer period of time than is often the case, a unique but highly valuable feature of DFID's research support for research centres and consortia. Without this long-term commitment, it would not have been possible to build the relationships which are reflected within the network and with other audiences, nor to learn continuously about how to improve our work.

The current support for the Citizenship DRC will come to an end in September 2010. In the final three years, the Citizenship DRC hopes to complete work on its current research themes, and then to spend a final period consolidating its work through cross-cutting synthesis of the research findings and methodological innovations, widespread communication of results, and strengthening the country and regional networks which have evolved so that the work may be sustained. We hope by the next annual report that we will be well along the way towards these goals.