

## AFRICA

## DFID evaluation of mainstreaming of gender and HIV/AIDS issues in security and justice programming

The United Kingdom's (UK) Department for International Development (DFID), in collaboration with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence, commissioned four SSR experts to conduct an independent evaluation of security and justice reform programming in Africa and, in particular, in Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Nigeria.<sup>1</sup> The evaluation had two main objectives:

1. To assess the coherence, effectiveness and impact of UK SSR programmes in Africa over the past four years;
2. To identify lessons and recommendations for the strategic direction and management of future SSR programmes in Africa and elsewhere.

The evaluation examined the mainstreaming of gender and HIV/AIDS issues within security and justice reform programming—as these are key “mainstream” themes of DFID bilateral programmes.<sup>2</sup>

The evaluation found that gender and HIV/AIDS issues are strongly represented in *Safety, Security and Access to Justice* programming, but have largely been absent from programmes dealing with defence and police or those with a wider remit, such as the Sierra Leone SSR programme. Despite their priority on paper, gender and HIV/AIDS are generally not well reflected in the strategic considerations underlying the UK's security and justice reform programming.

Notwithstanding, effective implementation of security and justice reform policy and programmes can produce potentially positive outcomes in relation to gender and HIV/AIDS. In the Jigawa State in Northern Nigeria, community policing initiatives have reportedly resulted in greater access for women to the justice sector. Similarly, there is evidence to suggest that an alternative dispute resolution system implemented as part of the *Security, Justice and Growth* programme has generated increased access and awareness for women. In the same vein, professionalisation of the armed forces, for example through peacekeeping training, has allowed military personnel to undergo HIV/AIDS awareness programmes as well as gender and child protection training. Such benefits would be better harnessed if gender and HIV/AIDS formed an integral part of the security and justice reform strategy. The recommendations emerging from the review included the suggestion that “*mainstream themes on HIV/AIDS and gender be incorporated into all [security and justice reform] interventions, not only those specifically dealing with Safety, Security and Access to Justice...*”<sup>3</sup>

The evaluation further highlighted that, as in the case of HIV/AIDS, one of the main challenges to an effective gender approach to SSR programmes and policies is the reluctance of local partners to recognise such problems and discuss them. The UK should draw on their success in mainstreaming gender issues in *Safety, Security and Access to Justice* programming, and increase cooperation and joint working arrangements between country teams for better inclusion of gender issues in all future security and justice reform programmes.

► Gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation of gender issues is discussed in the *Security Sector Reform and Gender Tool* page 16, and in the *Security Sector Reform Assessment, Monitoring & Evaluation and Gender Tool*, pages 9–13.

1 Nicole Ball, et al., “Security and Justice Sector Reform Programming in Africa” (Evaluation Working Paper 23, DFID: London, April 2007), <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/42/1/38635081.pdf> (accessed February 17, 2009). The review was commissioned by DFID's Africa Conflict and Humanitarian Unit on behalf of the Africa Conflict Prevention Pool, backed by a steering group representing DFID's Evaluation Department, MoD/Directorate of Policy & Defence Relations South, and FCO/Pan-Africa Policy Unit.

2 Ibid., 59.

3 Ibid., xiv.