

rapid

Research and Policy
in Development

Tools for Measuring Policy Engagement

Research Communication Workshop

AIGRP - SMERU - ODI

13-14 October 2008

Jakarta



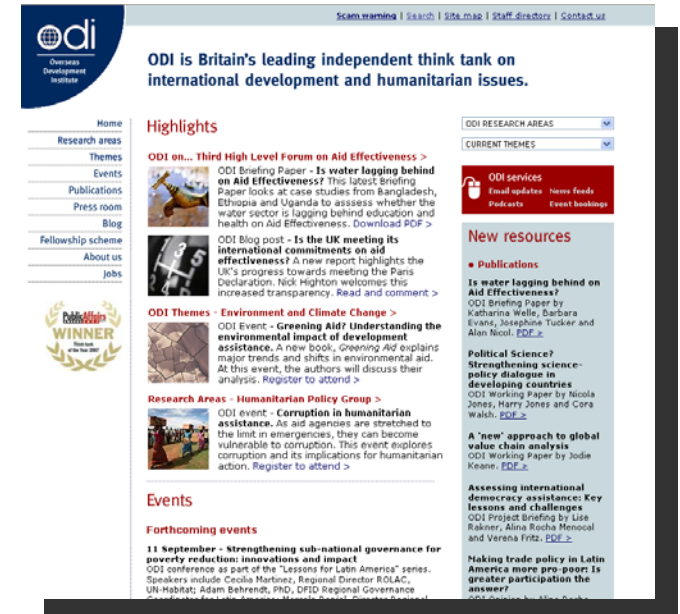
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Content

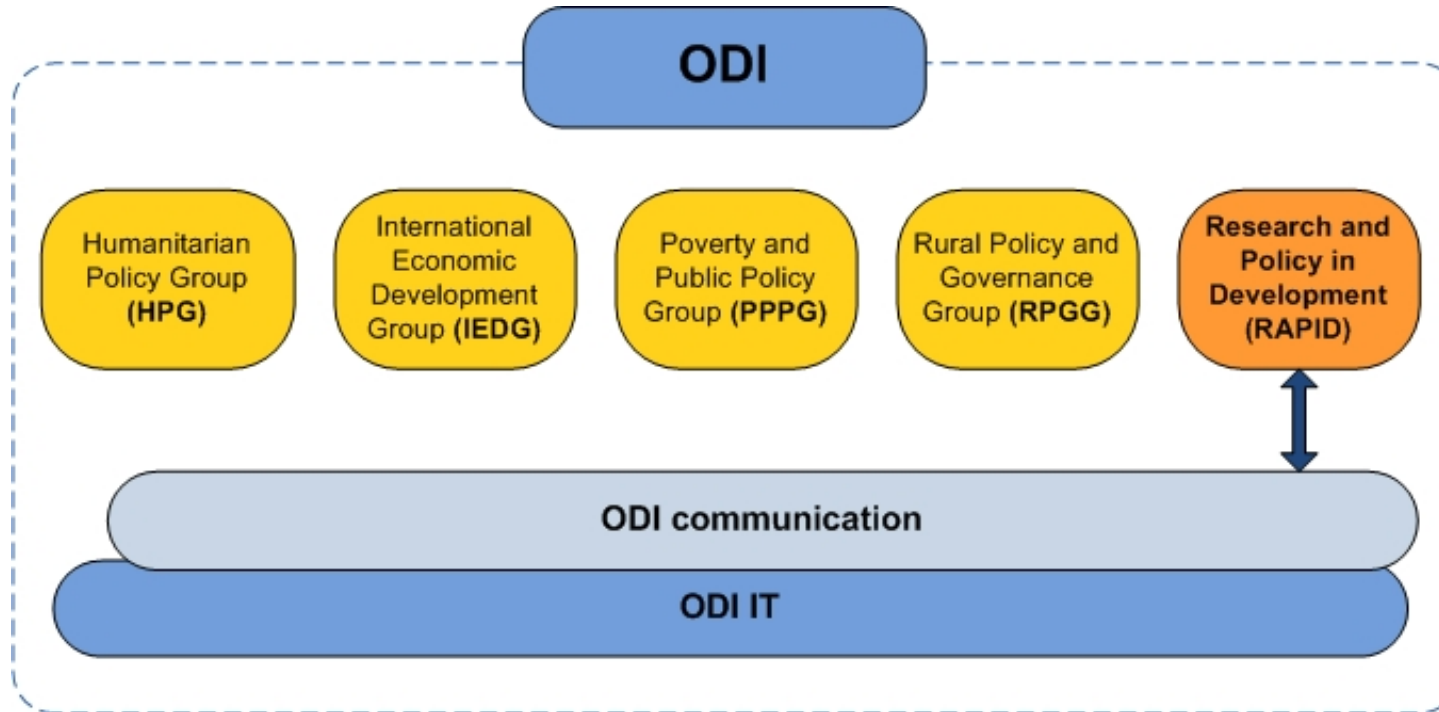
1. ODI and RAPID
2. Policy engagement projects
3. Measuring with a purpose
4. Example of tools
5. Challenges

1. Overseas Development Institute

- Development Think Tank
- £8m, 70 researchers
- Research / Advice / Public Debate
- Rural / Humanitarian / Poverty & Aid / Economics / Policy Processes
- DFID, Parliament, WB, EC
- Civil Society



1. RAPID Group



- Promoting the use of research-based evidence in development policy
- Research / Advice / Public Affairs & Capacity-building
- Working with: researchers, policymakers, southern think tanks, parliamentarians.

2. Policy Engagement Projects

ODI's mission is to inspire and inform policy and practice which lead to the reduction of poverty and alleviation of suffering

Project categories based on approach:

- Capacity Development
- Networks and Partnerships
- Programme Management
- Institutional / Programme Support
- Action Research
- Research

2. Policy Engagement Projects

Project aims

Strengthening capacity: communication, KM, learning, research, policy influencing; building networks

Budget

£2000 up to £200000

Timescale

2 days to 30 months

Donor

DFID, IDRC, EC + many small consultancies

Target(s)

developing country governments, ministries, civil society, northern donors

Partners

southern civil society

Outputs

Workshops, networks, policy briefs, media briefs, working papers, websites

3. Measuring with a purpose

Why do we do it?

- We are asked when preparing projects
- We need to know if we are ‘changing the world’
- We need to know if we reach policy process or not
- Strengthen ‘collective self-esteem’
- Communicating our learning to new audiences

What are we measuring?

- Strategy and direction
- Management
- Outputs
- Uptake
- Outcome & Impact

3. Measuring with a purpose

1. Strategy and direction

Q. Do we have a strategy for Policy Impact?

e.g. Logframe

2. Management

Q. Are we implementing the strategy effectively?

e.g. Quality Audits

3. Outputs

Q. Are outputs of appropriate quality?

e.g. Peer review, Web site analysis, After action reviews

3. Measuring with a purpose

4. Uptake

Q. Are people using the information?
e.g. Citation analysis, Users surveys

5. Outcomes & Impact

Q. Is it contributing to change policies and/or practice?

e.g. Outcome Mapping, **Most Significant Change**,
Episode Studies

4. Tools

Most Significant Change

- Introduce a range of stakeholders to MSC
- Involves selected stakeholders identifying broad areas of interest/analysis
- Define time
- Select the most significant stories
- Prepare document with MSCs and reason of the choice
- Verification of stories
- Monitoring the monitoring system itself
- Adjust the design of the MSC process

4. Tools

Episode Studies

- Start from a policy change and build a timeline with key policy decisions, documents, and actors
- Interview a variety of stakeholders
- Assess the role of research:
 - Participation by policy makers
 - Communication of results
 - Use of networks
- Lessons and documentation

5. Challenges

Only when knowledge is an integral part of a way of living does it achieve any real significance.

Arthur C. Clarke

- Incentives, habits, processes and procedures?
- How to aggregate project-level engagement into programme-level guidance?
- How to reflect programme-level needs into project-level guidance?
- How to strike a balance between optimum level of ignorance vs. optimum level of knowledge?

Additional slides

Ranking of RAPID toolkit downloads on ODI web-site

ODI Rank	Pub Year	Title	Hits	Downloads
1	2006	Ramalingam, B. <i>Tools for Knowledge and Learning A Guide for Development and Humanitarian Organisations</i>	23,158	11,202
2	2004	Start, D. and Hovland, I. <i>Tools for Policy Impact: A Handbook for Researchers</i>	65,664	10,078
3	2005	Hovland, I. <i>Successful Communication: A Toolkit for Researchers and Civil Society Organisations</i>	8,960	5,687
6	2006	Nash, R., Hudson, A., and Luttrell, C. <i>Mapping Political Context: A Toolkit for Civil Society Organisations</i>	6,915	3,821
8	2006	Sutcliffe, S. and Court, J. <i>A Toolkit for Progressive Policymakers in Developing Countries</i>	4,988	3,438

Note: 'Hits', refers to the number of time the file was requested, while 'Downloads' refers to the time the file was actually downloaded from different internet addresses.

Stories of Change

Template

Stories of change should tell a story – ie have a beginning, middle and end. They should be short (c.1500 words). They should be about a policy change in which there is reasonable evidence that ODI work played a role – or in which ODI was active and produced research results which had no impact or much less than expected.

- **Background**
- **Introduction** (including the setting, date, location, and key actors)
- **The challenge** (the key actors face a challenge – an opportunity or a threat)
- **Action** (the course of action that the key actors take to address the challenge)
- **Result** (success or failure of the course of action)
- **Conclusions** (What were the critical success factors? What were the potential critical failure factors?)
- **Sequel** (what comes next?)
- **Further information** (include one or two documents that support the story you have just told)

Stories of Change

Key Conclusions in ODI Discussion

- Useful tool, provide good evidence of the impact of ODI's work
- They could be a useful internal KM tool (e.g. on the intranet, in staff meetings, as a teaching case studies).
- It would be worth going back to the authors to collect a bit more information:
 - Was there an intention to influence policy at the start?
 - What % of effort went into research vs communication/engagement
 - How long it took people to write them
- The methodology could be improved or expanded as part of ODI's M&E, but needs to be combined with other tools for collecting routine project level information
- The methodology could also be used for PR

Episode Studies

RAPID has applied this approach to four case studies of policy change. The case studies were developed separately by their authors, but the same basic process was followed in each case and there were regular meetings to report and discuss the findings.

Young, J. Kajume, J. Wanyama, J. (2003) Animal Health Care in Kenya: The Road to Community-Based Animal Health Service Delivery, *ODI Working Paper 214*.

(http://www.odi.org.uk/RAPID/Publications/RAPID_WP_214.htm)

Christiansen, K with Hovland, I (2003) The PRSP Initiative: Multilateral Policy Change and the Relative Role of Research, *ODI Working Paper 216*. (http://www.odi.org.uk/RAPID/Publications/RAPID_WP_216.htm)

Episode Studies

Solesbury, W. (2003) Sustainable Livelihoods: A Case Study of the Evolution of DFID Policy, *ODI Working Paper 217*.

(http://www.odi.org.uk/RAPID/Publications/RAPID_WP_217.htm)

Buchanan-Smith, M. (2003) How the Sphere Project Came into Being: A Case Study of Policy-making in the Humanitarian Aid Sector and the Relative Influence of Research, *ODI Working Paper 215*.

(http://www.odi.org.uk/RAPID/Publications/RAPID_WP_215.htm)