

DANISH DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH NETWORK (DDRN)

Travel report

Reference: Uganda_28112007
Reporting person: Anne Sørensen (AS), Chief Coordinator, DDRN and
Lluís Armangué (LA), Coordinator DDRN
Date for reporting: 26/10-2007
Dates for travel: 12/10-25/10-2007
Travelling to: Uganda
Financial source: DDRN

1. Objectives for the travel

- To participate in Danida meeting for embassy staff and advisers within governance
- To 'brand' DDRN and identify potential members and collaborators in Uganda
- To hold a workshop on governance research and knowledge in Uganda
- To meet with donors and staff of the Danish Embassy in Kampala to introduce DDRN and collect information on strategies and funding support related to governance research

2. Background

DDRN's Objective 1 is "to contribute to the dissemination and exchange of information between development programmes and the research community within agriculture, environment and governance". In order to achieve this objective DDRN has been exploring various opportunities of dialogue with dev. staff and introducing the network and identified Danida's thematic annual seminars for advisers and embassy staff in different sectors as one of the best opportunities for this. Danida holds two-three of these seminars a year.

As the result of a continuous dialogue with TAS and input to the Governance Strategy, DDRN was invited to participate with a presentation on DDRN in the Danida seminar on Governance 15-17 October 2007 in Kampala, Uganda. The general objective of the seminar was "to spur learning, information sharing and networking about public sector issues, with a particular emphasis on the new Danish Public Sector strategy". DDRN presented as part of a session on "Governance Issues: Resources of International Experiences & Knowledge".

To take advantage of the presence of the DDRN secretariat (Lluís Armangué and Anne Sørensen) and the presence of Ole Therkildsen (also member of DDRN and key speaker in the Danida seminar on Governance) in Kampala, DDRN together with the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) held a one day workshop on "Knowledge and Research on Governance in Uganda" in Kampala 19 October 2007.

The main purpose of conducting research and knowledge collaboration workshops in the South (output 02.2 in DDRN's work plan) is to contribute to creating a stronger Southern ownership to research conducted for donor funds. To fulfil this objective, a new approach was tried out, where workshops in the South: a) be organised in connection with other relevant events in the specific country, b) be organised in collaboration with a local partner institution, c) take into consideration differences in national set-ups for support to research and national priorities and strategies related to research for development, and d) shifts the focus from 'on the spot' allocation of funds to support 'ready-to go' research collaboration projects to a higher involvement of Southern partners in taking the lead for funding search and research advocacy.

3. Activities

Participation in Danida seminar

DDRN's participation in Danida seminar had the following objectives: a) presenting "what's

DANISH DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH NETWORK (DDRN)

in DDRN for advisers and embassy staff", targeted at advisers and embassy staff, b) presenting an overview of competences and expertise of the Danish research & knowledge resource base within governance, c) identifying some of the programme and embassy knowledge needs within governance in the countries attending the seminar, d) establishing new links and reinforcing existing links to participants.

The Danida seminar, which was held in Speke Resort outside Kampala, had 41 participants from embassies and programmes from different countries, and from Danida Head Quarter.

Together with DCCD and Danida Fellowship Centre, DDRN's presented in a session on Danish options - resource Networks and Training Institutions. Each network/institution was given 10 minutes for the presentation plus 10 minutes for questions. Being so brief, a 'mind map' presentation format was chosen to provide the key benefits of joining and using DDRN, whereas more specific issues were presented after the presentation and during pauses. All presentations can be downloaded at the following link:

<http://www.danidadevforum.um.dk/en/menu/Events/GoodGovernanceSeminars/2007/Presentations2007.htm>

RUFORUM-DDRN Workshop

The main purpose of conducting this workshop was to contribute to creating a stronger Southern ownership to research conducted for donor funds through South-North research partnership projects; furthermore, to provide a platform for identifying the knowledge needs of development programmes and national initiatives within the governance sector, and a channel for Ugandan researchers to voice their research ideas and their knowledge and collaboration needs within governance and within the framework of national or regional priorities and policies.

The workshop was held in Hotel Africana, in Kampala on 19 October 2007, and had 42 participants. Participants came mainly from Ugandan research institutions, but also from relevant Danida supported development programmes (HUGGO and ASPS) and other stakeholder groups, e.g. NGOs and parliament. Two Danish governance researchers (one of them funded by DDRN) and two staff members of the DDRN secretariat participated in the workshop. In addition, a local facilitator and a minute-taker were hired.

During the workshop a number of research ideas from researchers and knowledge needs from the programmes were presented and discussed and there was a lively exchange of ideas and needs across institutions, disciplines and stakeholder groups. A number of broad research areas were identified. However, these still need to be developed into researchable themes, within which partnerships can be formed and project proposals formulated and presented to donors for funding. The report can be downloaded at the following link: [http://www.ddrn.dk/filer/forum/File/RUFORUM-DDRN_Workshop_report_final\(1\).pdf](http://www.ddrn.dk/filer/forum/File/RUFORUM-DDRN_Workshop_report_final(1).pdf)

Other Meetings

In addition to participating in the workshop/seminar described above AS and/or LA met with a number of other players within the area of governance and development to brief about DDRN activities in Uganda and collect information about donor policies on support to governance research in Uganda, Ugandan research institutions and initiatives within governance and other issues. The list of meetings and activities include the following: A brief meeting at the Danish Embassy with Birgitte Marcussen (BM), counsellor, and John Nielsen, TAS, at the Danish Embassy on 24 October 2007; a meeting with Per Lundell in charge of research at the Swedish Embassy in Kampala and a brief visit to DFID in Kampala; an informal meeting with María Petrerá, Head of Section, Development Policy on the Human Rights and Democratisation Strategy; an informal meeting with Charles Lwanga-Ntale, coordinator at the ONG Development Research and Training; a meeting with Paul Nampala, executive director, National Academy of Sciences; a meeting with Jeremias Mowo, regional coordinator, African Highlands Initiative. The content and outcome of these meetings are reported on in the following section.

DANISH DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH NETWORK (DDRN)

4. Outcome

4.1 Danida seminar on Governance

- In general terms, DDRN acquired a good understanding on the connections between the strategy presented at the seminar on Public Service, and its 'second leg' on Human Rights and Democratisation, which was being developed at the time of the seminar. Furthermore, DDRN obtained knowledge on the development process of a strategy, which in future can enable DDRN to provide strategy input in early phases.
- Reinforced links to Danida's Head Quarters and related organisations (e.g. Danida's Centre for Competence Development, Danida Fellowship Centre), and establishment of new links to embassies and programmes.
- Development and presentation of a 'mind map' on DDRN objectives and activities, targeted at advisers and embassy staff.
- Overview of competence and expertise within governance presented during pauses. Advisers and embassy staff engaged in contributing their profiles.
- 6 new members from embassies and programmes and knowledge needs within governance in two countries identified.
- Acquired knowledge on Danida/FFU's allocation of funds for research collaboration in Tanzania and Vietnam from 2008 and in other countries from 2009.
- Links to on-line courses of relevance for DDRN staff and for researchers (e.g. Logical Framework for Project Design, Monitoring and Evaluation of Project, Environmental Impact Assessment).

Take home messages:

- DDRN was highly valued as a Danish resource within knowledge and research, and the benefits of the network were appreciated among advisers and embassy staff. Making visible these benefits, which often are (long-term) processes rather than products, is better accomplished by networking in pauses and informal meetings than by only holding a scheduled presentation.
- Danida/FFU's allocation of funds in Tanzania and Vietnam from 2008, and in other countries from 2009, offers DDRN new opportunities to strengthen links to research institutions and development programmes in above mentioned countries. DDRN may have a role to play in assisting to develop and carry out country consultations on research themes to be prioritised in relation to funding calls.
- The 'mind map' presentation held by DDRN suited well the target group and the place given in the seminar programme (an afternoon session after several presenters). Since this kind of presentation does not provide extensive text information, it may have to be complemented with links, when disseminated after seminars.

Follow up actions:

- DDRN will encourage participants in the Governance seminar to provide the secretariat with knowledge needs in their countries and competence profiles within governance.
- FFU's new approach to funding will be born in mind in relation to DDRN activities.
- Relevant on-line courses will be disseminated through the website.

DANISH DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH NETWORK (DDRDN)

4.2. RUFORUM-DDRN Workshop

Outcomes: (se also the document 'Briefs on outcomes' at:
[http://www.ddrn.dk/filer/forum/File/MEMO_on_UGANDA_wshop_governance_website\(1\).pdf](http://www.ddrn.dk/filer/forum/File/MEMO_on_UGANDA_wshop_governance_website(1).pdf))

- Broad governance research areas of relevance to the Ugandan PEAP were identified.
- Establishment of a Ugandan Process Steering Committee (PSC) to take the lead in organising the research and knowledge community within good governance in Uganda.
- New opportunity of linking up with African universities and programmes for Danish master students under Danida travel grant scheme.
- New contacts and information about knowledge needs, study areas and collaboration needs within good governance in Uganda.
- Recruitment of new DDRDN members in the South.

Take home messages:

- The role as knowledge intermediaries and 'brokers' played by RUFORUM and DDRDN was highly appreciated by the participants, and DDRDN was requested to continue its involvement in the process of providing information, links and contacts related to governance research collaboration between Ugandan and Danish researchers on Ugandan research priorities and collaboration needs.
- Funding for governance research for development within European Union is to be further explored. DDRDN was requested to make European and Danish funding mechanisms accessible to the Ugandan research community.

Follow up actions:

- DDRDN will liaise with RUFORUM and the process steering committee on Ugandan governance research regarding the future role of the network (if any) in the process of strengthening the Ugandan research community within governance in Uganda and facilitating the development of research partnership proposals and projects.
- The study topics and contacts received from RUFORUM and advisers and programmes in the South will be announced on the web pages of DDRDN and Danida travel grants for Danish master students. The possibility of linkages between Danish and African master students will be further be explored.
- Input and information on knowledge needs provided by Ugandan researchers, donors, embassy staff, advisers and other key actors within governance research for development during the DDRDN visit to Uganda will be disseminated to DDRDN members and made available on the DDRDN webpage together with the Ugandan report from the DDRDN-RUFORUM.
- New DDRDN members will be entered into the member database.
- DDRDN will extend the overview of individual Danish DDRDN members' competences and knowledge within the focus areas of Danish support to good governance to include the profiles of Ugandan researchers. The extended overview will be disseminated to relevant actors within the field of governance and development.

DANISH DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH NETWORK (DDRN)

- The coordinators will invite Mille (previous coordinator of Rened) to present the funding opportunities within the European Union. Funding information from the EU will be disseminated on the website and a communicative tool will be developed.

4.3. Other meetings and contacts made

Outcomes and follow-up actions:

- The meeting with the *Danish Embassy* resulted in a request from John Nielsen to DDRN of writing a brief memo to Danida on the results of the RUFORUM-DDRN workshop. BM briefed about Danida's involvement and the joint donor initiatives within the governance area in Uganda. In general, the outcome of this meeting was quite limited as the meeting was disturbed by the embassy receiving the news about the call for elections to parliament in Denmark during the meeting.
- At the meeting with the *Swedish Embassy/SIDA* AS briefed Per Lundell about DDRN activities in Uganda and was informed about SIDA's support to research in Uganda. He expressed the Embassy's willingness to support the Ugandan researchers' initiative to organise themselves around priority themes within governance research (including financial support) and saw opportunities in supporting research projects and partnerships within the context of Uganda Joint Assistance Strategy UJAS and he would be glad to bring this up in the UJAS group.
- AS also paid the *DFID office* a visit, but did not manage to get a meeting with the staff in charge of research as they were too busy organising for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (**CHOGM**) to be held in Kampala in November 2007.
- At an informal meeting, María Petrera (MP), Head of Section of Development Policy, briefed on the process of elaboration of the Human Rights and Democratisation Strategy. Eleven participants, mainly from embassies and programmes, attended the meeting. After MP's presentation, the participants gave input and LA offered to provide the section with input from DDRN members *already during the early stage of elaboration*. MP agreed to convey the offer to the strategy group.
- LA had an exchange of information with Charles Lwanga-Ntale, Development Research and Training (DRT) - NGO partly funded by DFID and Overseas Development Institute. For more information on DRT: <http://drt-ug.org/>.
- LA had a meeting at the Ugandan National Academy of Sciences (UNAS) with Paul Nampala (PN), executive director. LA and PN exchanged their views on the forthcoming meeting with the Process Steering Committee (PSC), in which UNAS was to participate, and explored possibilities for collaboration between DDRN and UNAS. PN informed about UNAS' privileged financial position, which would allow it to co-finance relevant activities within the thematic areas of physical, biological and social/behavioral sciences. In addition, LA gathered information on UNAS' communication needs as newly established DDRN to feed into DDRN's needs assessment report. For more information on UNAS: <http://www.unas.or.ug/>
- LA also paid a visit to the African Highlands Initiative (AHI), where he had a meeting with the regional coordinator, Jeremias Mowo (JM). LA and JM exchanged their views on the forthcoming meeting with the PSC, in which also AHI was to participate. JM informed about AHI's current efforts in enhancing *action research* and explained the organisation's participative methodology to *natural resource management*. In addition, LA gathered information on AHI's communication needs as newly established DDRN to feed into DDRN's needs assessment report. For more information on AHI: <http://www.africanhighlands.org/>

DANISH DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH NETWORK (DDRDN)

- LA had an interview with a DDRDN student member at the Makerere University to gather information on communication needs among DDRDN members in the South.

Follow up actions

- AS will send a brief memo to Danida on the results of the RUFORUM-DDRDN workshop.
- AS will convey the Swedish Embassy's message on willingness to support the PSC to the Ugandan contact person in RUFORUM. In addition, Per Lundell will be kept informed about the meetings of the Ugandan PSC.
- DDRDN secretariat will keep DFID informed about the Ugandan PSC initiative and, in consultation with the PSC, invite the office to participate in the subsequent steps.
- After the elections to the parliament, LA will follow up the contact to María Petrera on DDRDN input to the Human Rights and Democratisation Strategy.
- Links to the organisations met will be put on DDRDN website. In addition, the organisations will be considered in relation to relevant DDRDN activities within their core thematic areas.
- Information on communication needs will feed into the DDRDN's needs assessment.

Take home messages

- DDRDN was highly appreciated as a collaboration partner in the North. Three general collaboration strands were expressed: a) gathering Ugandan research ideas and conveying them to institutions in the North, b) conveying funding mechanisms and research activities to institutions in the South, c) co-organising joint activities.
- DDRDN's approach to research collaboration between N-S and N-S-S institutions was also highly appreciated during the meetings with donors, especially regarding the focus on Ugandan research ownership, on research harmonisation and on alignment. In relation to the latter, shortage of time and tight Embassy schedule were an obstacle for a higher participation of donors involved in governance.

5. Conclusions

DDRDN's travel to Uganda was the first visit to a development country involving a new approach on: a) creating synergies regarding theme and country selection, b) activating membership in the South, and c) redefining the role played by DDRDN:

a) Creating synergies regarding thematic area and country selection

In addition to the participation in the Danida Governance Seminar in Uganda, DDRDN organised a workshop within a related area to broaden the scope of the visit to the country. Despite the different target groups and issues discussed in both events, the outcomes of both activities provided input to each other.

In particular, DDRDN experienced that 'in-field' briefings to development staff (TAS, advisers and embassies) on knowledge related issues and options were better understood and appreciated by the target groups when 'in the field' than during the pre-departure period.

DDRDN will continue to be pro-active in terms of using Danida thematic/sector seminars in the programme countries and to use such opportunities to reach a large number of advisers and embassy staff.

DANISH DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH NETWORK (DDRN)

In addition, DDRN will disseminate the outcomes of the related workshops, such as the RUFORUM-DDRN governance workshop, in relation to the discussions within the Danida seminar and the subsequent meetings held with donors.

b) Activating membership in the South

Prior to the visit to Uganda, DDRN activated previous contacts such as RUFORUM, CBR and several departments of the University of Makerere to make the workshop possible and to ensure Ugandan research ownership. Making RUFORUM to take the Ugandan lead in the organisation, the relationship between DDRN and the participants was appreciated as a horizontal partnership. The importance of the involvement of Southern partners in taking the lead in funding applications for research collaboration projects and for advocacy was clearly demonstrated at the workshop.

Engaging members in the South is valued as a good opportunity for DDRN to meet the demands on more activities in the South following from the new aid architecture. Counting with strong organisations/platforms in the South may provide DDRN with opportunities to enhance its presence in the South and to strengthen the linkages between North and South.

On the other hand, in a development context increasingly focused on internationalisation and alignment, it may become difficult to justify the 'Danish' character of the network before Southern partners. This is expected to be a recurrent matter of discussion also within the network itself.

c) The role of DDRN

The organisations met during the visit in Uganda requested DDRN to continue to play an active role in ensuring that all relevant information is available for the partners in the South and facilitating entry points and rationale for Ugandan organisations to enter into a dialogue with donors.

Regarding the relation to development agencies such as Danida, DDRN can play a more significant role in gathering and disseminating national research priorities and initiatives, and relating them to development programmes and to joint assistance strategies.

The new approach described above has resulted in a very satisfying visit to Uganda, where the objectives of the visit have been accomplished, and the vision of the role of DDRN in the South has been confirmed.

DDRN will continue to pursue and refine the approach described in this report in forthcoming activities in the South and to integrate the approach into the overall work plan.

AS and LA/... November 2007