

GOVERNANCE AND TRANSPARENCY FUND (GTF) BEGINS ROLL OUT

After more than a year of planning, the Governance and Transparency Fund (GTF) is underway in 16 countries!

The GTF is a unique opportunity to strengthen our regional partners' capacity through activities such as capacity building workshops, civil society meetings with parliamentarians and policymakers and exchange visits.

Following the 2006 DfID White Paper, *Eliminating world poverty: making governance work for the poor*¹, which recognized how governance and transparency are critical to protecting rights and access to essential services, DfID set up the GTF to improve the capacity,



Hilda Coelho of CRSD discusses the issues with women at a community meeting

accountability and responsiveness of governments.

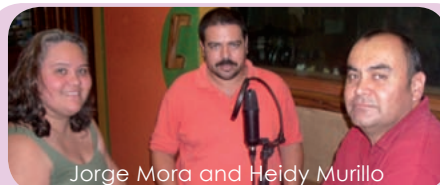
GTF portfolios of work vary widely from partner to partner. Some focus primarily on empowering local

communities to demand clean water and sanitation, others on legal and constitutional reform. But all are underpinned by the CAR framework – Capability, Accountability and Responsiveness².

GTF ON THE ROAD

Throughout 2009, FAN's Advocacy Action and Learning Officer, Kolleen Bouchane has been getting to know partners and assessing the best way to support the GTF programme.

Her role, which is funded by the GTF, has taken her to Zimbabwe to work with Women's Land and Water Rights in Southern Africa (WLWRSa), to Costa Rica to meet with the FAN Central America (FANCA) GTF partners and to India to meet with FAN South Asia (FANSA) partners with GTF Manager, Papa Diouf.



Jorge Mora and Heidi Murillo

"Working with FANCA on-the-ground was a tremendous opportunity," Kolleen says. "I was very impressed by their strong, long-standing partnerships with labour movement leaders, indigenous communities, other activist organizations and members of government. It was clear that GTF funding has really helped to strengthen ongoing regional communication and cooperation. FANCA is doing and planning some really exciting things!



Papa Diouf

"The trip to India was just incredibly great! It was an opportunity to not only learn about the excellent work done by FANSA but also to discuss various issues with the team. From the trip, I have total confidence in the work that FANSA and its partners within the GTF programme are doing, in terms of opportunities, as well as potential synergies."

WHAT'S NEXT FOR GTF?

Most GTF projects are just beginning implementation; i.e. wrapping up baseline studies, recruiting staff and finalizing plans and budgets. In September and October, regional meetings will take place to reflect on progress, lessons learned and challenges faced since the programme's inception and illustrate how to share future learning as well as preparations for the next GTF "big meeting" in early 2010.

¹ <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/wp2006/>

² *Why the CAR framework?* Read the discussion paper: <http://www2.ids.ac.uk/gdr/cfs/pdfs/CARframeworkDRCweb.pdf>

HONDURAS PARTNER CONTINUES WORK DESPITE OVERTHROW OF GOVERNMENT

In the early morning hours of June 28, President Manuel Zelaya of Honduras was taken from his bed at gunpoint and flown against his will to Costa Rica.

To date, the country is still under the control of military coup leaders and, after several weeks of protests and violence, the situation remains very serious. The Honduran Association of Water Boards (AHJASA) – a GTF partner and network of local organizations created to provide freshwater to poor communities – is working to ensure that they can sustain their activities regardless of the political climate.

Many social and environmental organizations, including individuals within AHJASA and other FANCA partners, are actively involved in

resisting the current government and calling for the return of President Zelaya, who is an advocate of civil society participation in Honduran politics.

FANCA partners in Honduras have told the FANCA Secretariat that the situation is very dangerous, with staff being watched and targeted by police and the army. They need help to disseminate information about what is happening in their country.

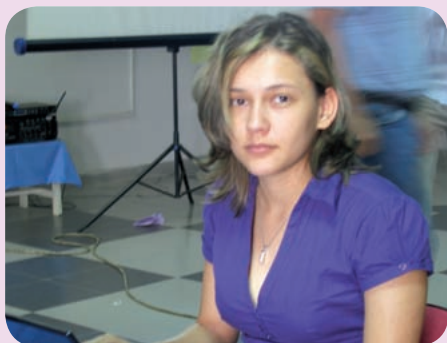
Despite the tense atmosphere in Honduras, AHJASA reports that its GTF activities will continue. It still plans to conduct an identification and inventory of FANCA and AHJASA organizations; analyze current and draft legislation on water for accountability and transparency mechanisms; and create a

transparency and accountability capacity building process and a manual for communal water boards. Due to the current situation, some of this work will be adapted. For instance, analysis of accountability instruments will be broadened beyond legislation to assess what is actually possible under different possible political scenarios.

GTF partner AHJASA and other FANCA partners in Honduras face a volatile future. But the FANCA Secretariat is in contact with Honduran partners as much as possible. Recent events in Honduras not only highlight how absolutely critical investments in governance and transparency are to all of our work, they also remind us of the importance of networking as a means of disseminating information and expressing solidarity.

MEET REGIONAL GTF TEAM MEMBERS

VANESSA DUBOIS FANCA GTF COORDINATOR



Vanessa holds an undergraduate degree in eco-tourism and is finishing her masters degree in environmental management and ecotourism at the University of Costa Rica.

Previously, Vanessa worked at the University of Costa Rica on the environmental system team and taught eco-tourism within indigenous communities. Vanessa is also the vice-president of the Flora and

Fauna Preservation Association (APREFLOFAS).

“New GTF regional staff are making it much easier to collaborate and understand what is happening throughout the region much more quickly” Vanessa says. “The aspect of the work I find the most rewarding is working with communities and local organizations.”

NEELKANTH MISHRA FANSA GTF COORDINATOR

Neelkanth came to FANSA in July from Oxfam's North India programme. Having hit the ground running with several days of meetings with GTF partners, FAN and WaterAid staff, and visits to programmes, despite a grueling initial schedule Neelkanth says: “GTF is my dream job. So much is possible!”



Neelkanth holds a masters in rural development, a certificate in human rights and has more than 9 years experience advocating on various issues, including several legislative and policy successes. He is keen to use his experience to link local experiences and successes to state, national and global issues and leverage the work of partners to increase progress on governance and accountability.

If you have GTF stories or learning experiences that you would like to share with FAN members, contact FAN Advocacy Action and Learning Officer Kolleen Bouchane at: kbouchane@freshwateraction.net

