

Research proposal 4 country comparative

ECID programme

Presentation to the ethics panel

28 January 2021



Research overview

CITIZEN ACTION IN FRAGILE GOVERNANCE COUNTRIES: EXPLORING PUBLIC SERVICE RESPONSES TO THE DEMANDS OF DISADVANTAGED GROUPS IN MYANMAR, NIGERIA AND ZIMBABWE.

- **“Fragile”** > Countries with a low capacity to respond to citizen demands and where civil society has very limited space to manoeuvre (WJP Rule of Law, 2020; CIVICUS, State of Civil Society, 2020). This limits citizen access to public services and related decision-making.
- **“Governance”** > State and non-state actors (IDS).
- **“Disadvantaged groups”** > As defined by the countries, i.e. PWD, rural women in remote areas, adolescents.
- **“Public services”** > Mostly health public services.

Research methods

- ❑ A comparative analysis of mostly secondary data (drawing on existent ECID data) from the ECID areas in the 3 countries.
- ❑ **Challenge 1:** dependent on the **quality** of others' research (CA for community action plans, OOR for community journalism data –text, audios, videos–, and research partners for research results. **Solution 1:** forum; standardising mixed methods, and scope.
- ❑ **Challenge 2:** dependent on **calendar** of research partners to be able to compare (e.g. COVID19 limitations). Always one-step behind them. **Solution 2:** planning ahead, leaving some buffer time in 2022.
- ❑ **Research population:** all ECID target groups from the three countries, e.g. PWDs, rural women, adolescents, sex workers, drug users (for secondary data) and mostly PWDs for partners' research.
- ❑ **Methods:** 1) Literature review + 2) secondary data from baseline, CA, OOR, and research partners + 3) interviews to programme staff in the countries from CA and OOR.
- ❑ **Analysis:** 1) qualitative coding of secondary data and interviews.

Research question

What similarities and differences exist in Myanmar, Nigeria and Zimbabwe regarding governmental responses to the demands of ECID disadvantaged groups?

Subquestions:

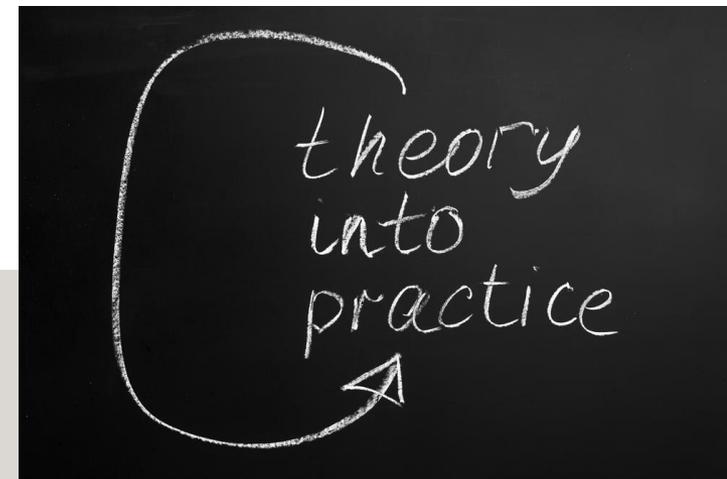
1. What is the **profile** of all community action plans asking for public services (how many, how many solved/pending/abandoned, public service targeted, level of government targeted)?
2. What are the **reasons** action plans were addressed or not addressed by the state?
3. What other non-state **actors** exist that respond to these citizen demands if not the state?
4. How do these reasons and actors **compare** between the countries?



Research theory

Bodies of literature:

- Countries with fragile governance (MAIN) e.g. IDS research strand on fragile, conflict and violence-affected settings (FCVAS).
- Accountable governance between citizens and states (MAIN) e.g. Fox, vertical integration.
- Decentralised governance and local governments
- Community-driven development
- Country contexts



Alignment with ECID

ECID Objectives:

Which objective(s) is your research contributing to?

1. Improve **access to services** for marginalised people ✓
2. Improve **participation in decision-making processes** for marginalised people ✓
3. Increase the **effectiveness of civil society** and other actors at all levels to address the priorities of marginalised people ✗
4. Create greater **accountability and responsiveness among power holders** to act on the priorities of marginalised people, from the local to global level. ✓

Ethics: risk, consent, anonymity

Assessment: Research risk is very low

- This research does not engage with sensitive topics although it may raise some sensitivity in governments given it explores citizen-government relationships and governmental accountability.
- No direct contact with stigmatised groups, secondary data collected from other programmatic and research efforts in-country. Online interviews will be limited. I will inform about the purpose, scope, benefits, risks of the research and the right of participants to withdraw at any time. I will ask for a verbal (recorded online) or written consent.
- Research does not deal with children or vulnerable adults.

Ethics: data management

- I won't collect more data than what is necessary
- I will keep data only for the necessary time after the research, then delete.
- I will keep all the data collection in a safe manner, protected with passwords, to ensure confidentiality.
- Confidentiality will apply both data collection and data analysis.
- Results will be shared with the research participants for accountability.
- Overall, this research will follow the ECID's ethics manual (and its three ethics tools of risk assessment, data management and informed consent), the requirements from the GDPR regulation, and Christian Aid's safeguarding procedures regarding referral mechanisms.

Ongoing Comms, including feedback to participants

Audiences will include practitioners and academics, for which both a research report and an academic paper will be written. The research will be summarised in a two-pager for policy and decision makers. There will also be sharing of findings in conferences and similar events.

Below: stakeholder mapping



Timeline

| Activity | Deadline |
|---|--------------------|
| Literature review | Last week February |
| Collection of secondary data and analysis | March-April |
| First results from data collection | April-May |
| Sharing preliminary findings | June-July |
| Full research report (challenge: dependent on country data) | December-March |
| Full journal article | By August 2022 |
| Communication opportunities (DSA, BOND) | All along |

Budget and Team

Budget

This research is fully based on secondary data and has no fieldwork costs. The main resource will be Dr Sempere's time. Dr Sempere works 0.7FTE for ECID, and will be using half of that time for research.

Research Team – roles and responsibilities

- **Main researcher:** Dr Kas Sempere – The Open University kas.sempere@open.ac.uk
- **Content Supervisor:** Professor Giles Mohan - The Open University
- **A research officer:** there is some budget for this, if need be
- **Ethics Supervisors:** ECID Ethics Panel and Research Forum as peer-colleagues
- **Data providers:** Christian Aid country teams (action plans), On Our Radar (community journalism data), Research Partners/Forum (research results).

