



INNOVATIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL SOCIETIES

Building Institutions, Escaping Development Traps

Innovations Abound: Improving Government Accountability & Leading Reform

Princeton's Innovations for Successful Societies has been busy during the first few months of 2012. ISS Researchers have been hard at work in Indonesia, Latvia and Lithuania, researching and writing cases on anti-corruption efforts and centers of government reform.

Preparations are underway for upcoming research in Botswana, Italy, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Rwanda and South Africa. Meanwhile, ISS now has 73 case studies on innovations in 30 countries and more than 300 interviews posted to its [website](#). Highlights of recently published case studies can be found below.

[Improving Coordination and Prioritization: Streamlining Rwanda's National Leadership Retreat, 2008-2011](#)

In 2008, President Paul Kagame was deeply frustrated with his government's inability to move Rwanda forward after civil war and genocide decimated the African nation in the early 1990s. He created two units, a Strategy and Policy Unit within his own office and a Coordination Unit in the prime minister's office. These actions helped improve the retreat planning process. The two units worked with a retreat steering committee headed by Minister of Cabinet Affairs Protais Musoni. A reallocation of roles at the center of government and a concerted effort to build planning capacity further streamlined the retreat process. By 2011, the retreats had become high-level forums for government planning, coordination and accountability.

[A Promise Kept: How Sierra Leone's President Introduced Free Health Care in One of the Poorest Nations on Earth, 2009-2010](#)

When Ernest Bai Koroma assumed the presidency of Sierra Leone in 2007, he promised to run his government as efficiently as a private business. A few years earlier, a brutal 11-year civil war had ended,

Recent Case Studies

[Delivering on a Presidential Agenda: Sierra Leone's Strategy and Policy Unit, 2010-2011](#)

[Enhancing Capacity, Changing Behaviors: Rapid Results in Gashaki, Rwanda, 2008](#)

[A Change Agent in the Tax Office: Nigeria's Federal Inland Revenue Service, 2004-2009](#)

Countries Where ISS Has Worked

Africa: Botswana, Burundi, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somaliland, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda

Asia & Pacific: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Vietnam

Europe & Central Asia: Albania, Bosnia, Georgia, Italy, Kosovo, Macedonia, Northern Ireland

Latin America & Caribbean: Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Guyana, Haiti

Middle East & North Africa:

leaving an estimated 50,000 dead and an additional two million displaced. The effects of the war gutted the government's capacity to deliver basic services. Koroma launched an ambitious agenda that targeted key areas for improvement including energy, agriculture, infrastructure and health. In 2009, he scored a win with the completion of the [Bumbuna hydroelectric dam](#) that brought power to the capital, Freetown. At the same time, the president faced mounting pressure to reduce maternal and child death rates, which were the highest in the world. In November, he announced an initiative to provide free health care for pregnant women, lactating mothers and children under five years of age, and set the launch date for April 2010, only six months away. Working with the country's chief medical officer, Dr. Kisito Daoh, he shuffled key staff at the health ministry, created committees that brought ministries, donors and non-governmental organizations together to move actions forward, and developed systems for monitoring progress. Strong support from the center of government proved critical to enabling the project to launch on schedule. Initial data showed an increase in utilization rates at health centers and a decline in child death rates.

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Innovations for Successful Societies | Bobst Center for Peace and Justice | Princeton University | Princeton | NJ | 08544

Egypt and Jordan

Contact Us

Phone: +1 609-258-8237
Fax: +1 609-258-7762
Email: iss@princeton.edu

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