

Towards politically smart, locally led development

SAVI, Nigeria



Basic facts

- £29 million DFID funded programme, 2008-2016, working in 10 Nigerian States
- “demand-side” governance programme, working with citizens, Civil Society groups, media houses and State Houses of Assembly – helping them to work constructively with government

What problem are we trying to solve

- How to promote State governance that is more responsive to citizens and results in better services

How have others addressed this problem in the past

- Most “demand-side” governance programmes run as grant funds to CSOs – some with capacity building
- Very limited impact overall – many inherent challenges including inhibiting collective problem solving across “demand” and “supply” sides of government, and plans and activities shaped to donor requirements

What do we do

- No grants; no pre-planned programmes of capacity building
- In house State teams, indigenes of State, facilitate locally driven action behind the scenes. Focus on issues or processes that have traction across citizens and the State Government. Broker working relationships amongst credible demand side players, facilitate accountability to citizens and constructive engagement with government. Tailored hands on capacity building and mentoring, drawing on self-assessments. Seed funding.
- SAVI takes full responsibility for all DFID forecasting, planning and reporting – leaving local partners flexible, and free to respond to opportunity and momentum for change.

Managing the politics

- DFID: Highly experienced SAVI technical team, drawing on learning about multi-stakeholder partnerships from previous DFID Nigeria programmes. DFID has allowed SAVI time and space to develop, supported low/no branding, and retrospective recording of impact, rather than delivery of pre-planned results
- State level: participatory approach to political economy analysis, training and supporting staff and partners to conduct and update PE analysis themselves and use to inform their decision making continually

Learning

- Learning by doing intrinsic to the approach – action, reflection, revision. Internally and for partners.