



Introduction to PERL: the SAVI Successor Programme

In May 2016, SAVI transitioned into a successor programme – the ‘Engaged Citizens Pillar’ (ECP) of a wider DFID-funded governance reform programme ‘The Partnership to Engage, Reform and Learn’ (PERL). ECP is managed by the same service provider, Palladium, and the same core management team as SAVI, and many of the SAVI front line staff have continued into the new programme. The design and approach of both ECP and PERL build on the successful and widely recognised innovation and achievements of SAVI, of SAVI’s sister supply-side governance reform programme, SPARC, and the federal level governance reform programme, FEPAR.

The objective of the PERL programme is to reform how Nigerian governments organise their core business of making, implementing, tracking and accounting for the policies, plans, and budgets they use to deliver public goods and services to citizens, and how citizens themselves engage with these processes. The programme works at the Federal level, in the three focal states of Kano, Kaduna and Jigawa, in the North East region, and through sub-national learning and reform hubs in the South West and South East.

PERL has been tasked with significantly scaling up the achievements of SAVI, SPARC, and FEPAR, achieving greater tangible impact on citizens’ lives, and moving from islands of success to transformational change. To this end, PERL is structuring in close links between supply-side and demand-side reform processes; embedding evidence and learning; and seeking to work in politically smart, locally-led, and adaptive ways. PERL is expected to be the last programme of DFID support to governance reform in Nigeria in this form, building on over 15 years of investment. This means that reforms need to be replicable and sustainable without the continued existence of the PERL programme, and this will inform planning from the outset.

PERL is being delivered through three separately contracted ‘pillars’: pillar 1 – Accountable, Responsive and Capable Government (ARC); pillar 2 – Engaged Citizens (ECP); and pillar 3 – Learning, Evidencing and Advocacy Partnership (LEAP). The three pillars will plan, implement and measure the effectiveness of their work through three broad work streams focused on embedding, deepening and broadening governance reform, through engaging core governance processes and service delivery issues.

Download the PERL Business Case

<http://savi-nigeria.org/savi-approach-paper-15/>

Note: at the time of the programme design process, what is now called PERL was referred to in the Business Case as the Nigeria Public Sector Accountability and Governance Programme (PSAG).