

Widening the impact of governance reforms



SPARC is working in partnership with State Governments to introduce governance reforms in five Nigerian States. In 2011, three more States will be supported. In order to maximise the impact of successful reforms in Nigeria, SPARC is working to promote them to other States in the Federation – a process often referred to as 'replication'.

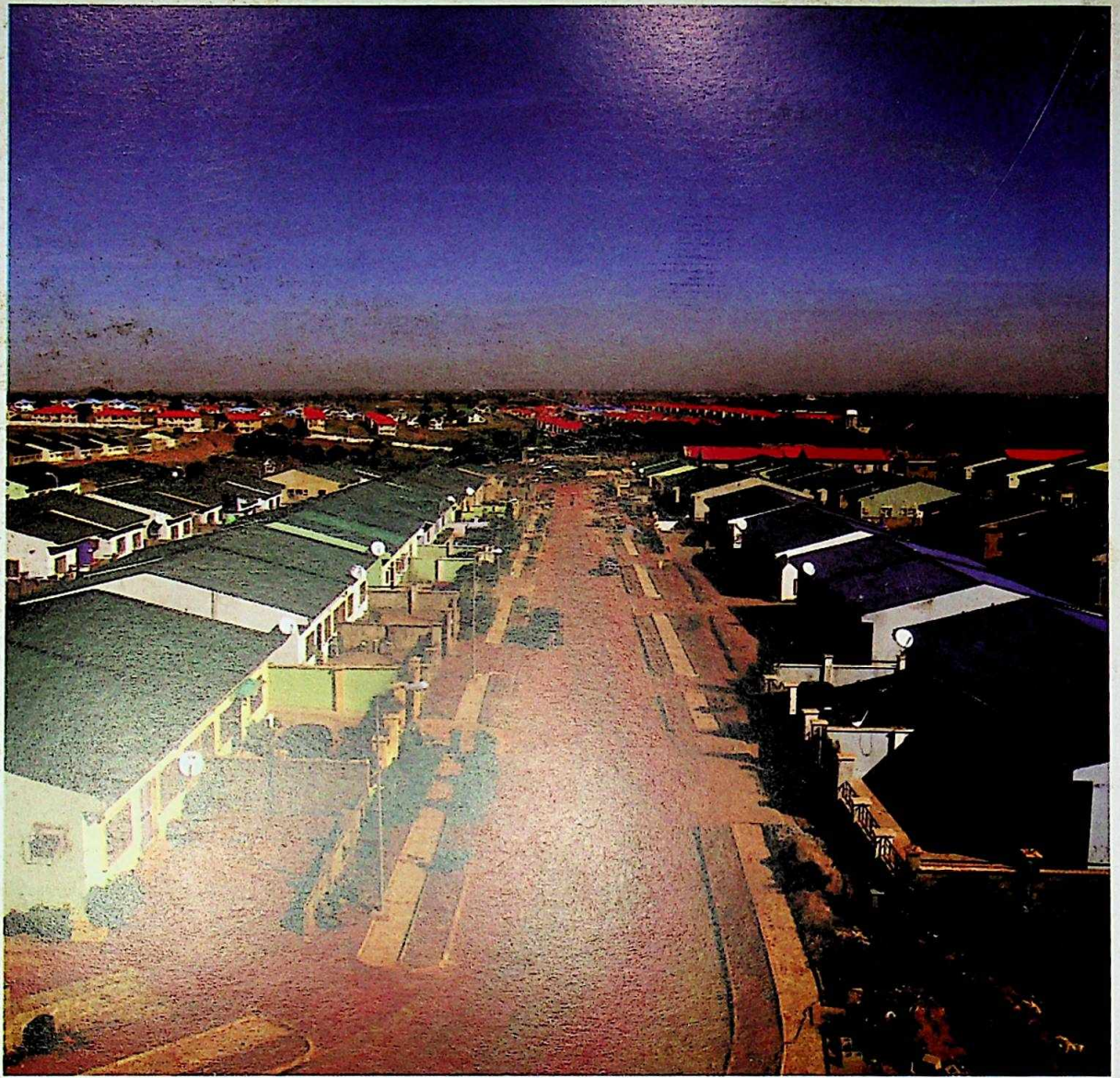
Replication is about innovation; it is about groups of people and practitioners adapting and adopting ideas and practices. Most often, these ideas are not entirely new; they are based upon existing knowledge and the imitation of successful experiences from elsewhere. An important part of our work is to capture what we learn and pass good practices both between the States where we are working, and to other States not directly supported by the programme. Also, it is not just technical skills that are important; often it is the *processes* of reform – the methodology and approach – that is the useful knowledge to be

transferred. We don't take a 'one size fits all' approach, but focus on common themes and good practice that can be shared and adapted to fit particular circumstances. This ensures that SPARC support matches the priorities of individual States.

Below, we outline our current plan, where we are in the life of the programme, some approaches we are trying out and where we are trying to get to.

It's about making connections

Promoting reform is a complex business, and is often best likened to a rather chaotic marketplace. We need to understand the whole system of supply and demand for knowledge and ideas, and then work to make the 'market' connections. Successful uptake, or replication, is not just about providing people with information, it is ultimately about them using it to push forward reform. And, like real markets, they are often driven by key individuals or organisations who champion new ideas.



What do we hope to achieve?

Ultimately, greater impact of the programme. We identified this as an important area in our strategic plan in 2009. And we have set ourselves targets.

By 2010, we had identified at least one reform idea from each of our three major technical work streams for use in another focus State and we will continue to identify promising reforms throughout the lifetime of the programme. We aim to apply three reform ideas areas in other focus States by 2012, rising to five by 2014.

At the national level by 2010, we had started to put in place an information bank that can be accessed by all States. By 2012, we aim to demonstrate that at least three non-focus States have adopted lessons, and by 2014, at least five have applied these lessons. Through our work we aim to leave behind a legacy of sustainable capacity to innovate and manage change in the reform processes.

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The opinions expressed in this leaflet are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Department for International Development.