Understand the SPARC Resource Centre

Why do we need a Resource Centre?

SPARC has produced its Resource Centre as a way of ensuring that the best of our technical documents are easily available to our partners and team members. Having these hand-picked resources easily available will allow us to make best use of them throughout the Programme’s lifetime and beyond.

We are also aware that programmes like SPARC tend to produce many information-rich documents that are only read by a handful of experts working on particular issues. We believe that if more people can easily access this information, they might use it in new ways that we just have not thought of yet.

What is the SPARC Resource Centre?

The SPARC Resource Centre is made up of three key products: the Resource Centre Website, the Pocket Guide and the CD.

The Resource Centre website is a fully searchable, online resource site, which users can visit to search for and access key documents and their summaries.

The Resource Centre Pocket Guide is a hard copy A5 book designed for you to carry in your pocket or bag. It contains summaries of the hundreds of documents available in the Resource Centre, each with a search code that links to the Resource Centre site.

Partners can use this Pocket Guide to very quickly get an overview of the resources available, and SPARC team members can use it as an advocacy and teaching tool to ‘walk’ partners through key thinking and processes during meetings.

The Resource Centre CD is a mirror image of the online resource site and is distributed with the Pocket Guide – making the Resource Centre available even to those with very poor internet connections.

What did we include in the Resource Centre?

When deciding what resources to include in the Resource Centre, we focused on documents that give
The Resource Centre also contains a variety of generic resources ranging from manuals to leaflets, brochures and videos giving you an overview of different areas of our work.

**What's the aim of the Resource Centre?**

Our main aim is to offer users of the Resource Centre a range of options and choices. We recognise that, because so much depends on context, there is no 'best' approach or best way to improve governance - examples from the states where SPARC works clearly demonstrate this. But there are common patterns that can help guide decisions. The emphasis is on long-term learning and change in governance processes, policies and institutions.

We also believe that the approaches developed, piloted and successfully launched by SPARC over many years must be shared widely to reach their full potential. We therefore intend the Resource Centre to

- Provide a new kind of working tool that team members can use to explain new processes in order to encourage uptake
- Give users a wider overview of the change interventions taking place in Nigeria today
- Provide a Programme legacy to ensure that SPARC's work continues to have an impact far into the future.

**What subjects are covered by the Resource Centre?**

The Resource Centre covers all the areas in which SPARC works. These are divided into the following:

**Developing effective policy and strategy** - covering issues from developing effective policies and strategies, to performance and data management

**Managing public finances** - including issues such as budget setting and execution, and public financial analysis and expenditure

**Improving public services** - covering issues such as government structure and organisation, managing human resources, and setting priorities for improvement

**Support from federal and national organisations** - including our use of the peer review mechanism, and our experiences in network building and information sharing.

The search facility also has a unique code for each document. Putting this into the search system pulls up the specific document and the summary associated with it. This means that you can either read the summary to get an overview of its content first, or dive straight into the technical detail.

**Contact details**

SPARC has eleven offices in Nigeria. For more information on our work email info@sparc-nigeria.com, telephone +234 (0) 7029 682832. Or visit our website at www.sparc-nigeria.com

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