

International Development Research Centre

**Middle East Good Governance Fund
Summary of First Inception
Mission, December 2004**



Background

- ▶ **Objectives:**
 - ▶ **Learn about governance issues in Middle East**
 - ▶ **Identify niche areas and potential project partners**
 - ▶ **Identify prospective Advisory Group members**



General Findings

- ▶ **National vs. regional programming**
- ▶ **Iraq and the region**
- ▶ **Crowded field**
- ▶ **Strength of regional organizations and networks**
 - ▶ **Arab NGO Network**
 - ▶ **Lebanese Center for Policy Studies**
 - ▶ **Others**

Thematic and Country Findings

- ▶ Grassroots mobilization
- ▶ Importance of youth focus
- ▶ Rule of law and human rights
- ▶ Political parties
- ▶ Media freedom
- ▶ Elections



Recommended Thematic Niches

- ▶ **Freedom of Association**
 - ▶ **Political parties**
 - ▶ **Civil society organizations**
- ▶ **Youth as a cross-cutting issue**



Proposed Advisory Group Names

- ▶ Lebanon
- ▶ Syria
- ▶ Jordan
- ▶ Palestine



Next Steps - Short-term

- ▶ Mapping of Iraqi research scene
- ▶ Mapping of international scene on governance
- ▶ Literature review on freedom of association in ME region



Next steps - Medium-term

- ▶ **Second part of inception mission**
- ▶ **Policy paper on good governance**
- ▶ **First meeting of Advisory Group**
- ▶ **Redefined MEGGF framework**