



# Middle East Good Governance Fund (MEGGF)

## Special Initiatives Division



# Middle East Good Governance Fund (MEGGF)

- ▶ Established November 2004
- ▶ Duration: 4 ½ years - ends March 2009
- ▶ Budget: 5.35 million CAD
- ▶ Funders: CIDA Iraq Task Force (5 million); IDRC (350,000)

# Working Definition of « Good Governance »

- ▶ Promotion of free and democratic space for civil society and political movements to take part in decision-making processes...
- ▶ Public space that defines the modes of intervention, cooperation and negotiation between political players for the development and monitoring of policies...
- ▶ Taking into account the unique political and socio-economic context of the Middle East: e.g. Islamic tradition, tribal structures, mutlisectarian societies, autocratic regimes and colonial legacy

# Goal of the MEGGF

- ▶ Increase policy-relevant knowledge useful for promoting good governance in the Middle East, with special attention to Iraq

# Objectives of the MEGGF

- ▶ Analyze the role of civil society
- ▶ Build capacity of civil society
- ▶ Analyze linkages between civil society, political institutions (political parties) and policy processes
- ▶ Strengthen networks
- ▶ Develop Research Agenda



# Framework

- ▶ Promotion of freedom of association and expression
- ▶ Themes:
  - ▶ Role of civil society as a catalyst for change and policy influence
  - ▶ Political institutions (political parties) as an essential link between civil society and policy processes
  - ▶ Cross-cutting themes: gender, youth and media



# Focus Areas

- ▶ **Political Islam (social structures and political movements)**
- ▶ **Informal structures (tribes) as political units**
- ▶ **Geographic focus: Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, Egypt, Morocco, Algeria, Yemen, Bahrain**



# Projects (ongoing and planned)

- ▶ Workshop on confessionalism (Iraq and Lebanon)
- ▶ Faith-based organizations in Lebanon
- ▶ Youth movement in Lebanon (*in development*)
- ▶ Hamas political party structure
- ▶ Political Islam in Egypt and Morocco (*in development*)
- ▶ AKP in Turkey: Domestic and External mechanisms and democratization
- ▶ Political party development (Lebanon, Iraq, Yemen, Bahrain, Morocco, Algeria)
- ▶ Tribalism in Jordan, Yemen and Iraq (*in development*)
- ▶ Building social science research capacity in Iraq (*in development*)
- ▶ International Crisis Group on Iraq and Islamism
- ▶ Arab Reform Initiative Network

# Expected Achievements

- ▶ Substantive body of research on governance and identification of a research agenda
- ▶ Strategic cross fertilization of ideas and strategies among researchers - support to networks
- ▶ Ongoing dialogue between actors with potential to influence policies
- ▶ Capacity of civil society institutions for policy-relevant research strengthened