



Westminster Foundation for Democracy

Strengthening
parliaments and
political parties
across the world

Annual Review
2008

Chairman's Welcome

WFD is in the business of strengthening parliaments and political parties internationally. If parliaments are the pivotal institution in any democracy, strong parties are essential to their effective functioning. You cannot have a multi-party democracy without political parties.



International aid donors recognise that strong governance is an essential prerequisite for development.

Few donors are willing or able themselves to tackle the institutions of governance which are overtly political. WFD brings together these two vital fields of international assistance - parliaments and political parties - under one organisational roof; and it has unique experience of working with overseas political parties through their UK counterparts.

As an officially sponsored but independent political foundation, WFD continues to work closely with its sponsoring department, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. I am pleased to report that we are also developing much closer relations with the Department for International Development, notably through an award in April 2008 from DFID's Governance and Transparency Fund: this will see WFD delivering, over the next five years, parliamentary capacity-building

programmes in six additional emerging democracies.

One of our achievements over the last year has been the creation of the Westminster Consortium for Parliaments and Democracy. This new, WFD-led entity is already beginning to see much closer co-ordination between the international programmes of the House of Commons, National Audit Office and Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (UK Branch). Working closely with them and others, such as the Universities of Cardiff and Essex, the Reuters Foundation and the International Bar Association, we are already the UK's most important source of information and expertise in international parliamentary strengthening.

Building on this strong and distinctive focus, WFD now has commitments to parliamentary and political party programmes in Kenya, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Mozambique, Egypt, Lebanon, Yemen, Georgia, Macedonia, Serbia and Ukraine.

Hugh Bayley MP
Chairman

WFD's approach: capacity, sustainability and political will

Wherever WFD works with parliaments we aim to develop a country-led, sustainable programme which recognises that removing political as well as institutional obstacles can make the critical difference to the success of a reform initiative.



Many developing parliaments lack the means or capacity to strengthen the roles of parliamentarians

and staff, and thereby their effectiveness as an institution. Internationally, there is a shortage of trainers experienced and knowledgeable in parliamentary practice; too many programmes rely on imported skills – which disappear when funding ceases.

Democracy assistance programmes have also tended to focus on institutional support without understanding political context. Political influences generally explain the gap, which exists in all parliaments, between the theoretical power of a parliament to hold government to account and the ability or willingness of its members to do so effectively. They also provide the key to real change.

WFD brings to this work the experience both of the Westminster parties and of our associate organisations in the new Westminster Consortium. We work both directly with MPs and parliamentary staff and through in-country trainers: we identify those who have the skills to work

in this unique environment and we train them. This approach ensures that capacity and best practice established during the life of the programme are sustained once it has ended.

Our goal is to help the parliaments we work with become more effective in their essential roles – legislation, oversight and representation. Our method, developed in Egypt and elsewhere, works with the grain of political influences in building the institution's capacity; and it invests in understanding those influences by forging strong links with local partners at the outset.

All the same principles apply in our cross-party work with political parties, such as the successful programme the Westminster parties and WFD ran in the months before Sierra Leone's last parliamentary elections in 2007.

I hope you will enjoy learning more of our activities and achievements over the last year; and that you will capture some of the enthusiasm here for the unique role we are developing, working with parliaments and parties together across the world.

David French
Chief Executive



Westminster Foundation for Democracy

Annual Review

2008

WFD is an independent political foundation sponsored by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. It works to achieve sustainable political change in emerging democracies, and it specialises in strengthening parliaments and political parties.

Increasingly, WFD's role in working with parliaments and political parties overseas is widely recognised and respected. I welcome the closer co-operation with the House of Commons, and other parliamentary organisations, through the Westminster Consortium for Parliaments and Democracy; and I am pleased to continue to lend my support to this important work in strengthening democracy worldwide.

Rt Hon Michael Martin MP,
Speaker of the House of Commons; Patron, WFD



The Labour Party's belief in equality of opportunity and a fair society for all is reflected in the projects we organise through our WFD work. These help to promote and strengthen our sister parties across the world.

In Africa, we continued to develop our long-term relations with individual partners: for example by training election monitors in preparation for local, general and presidential elections, collaborating on policy development and party modernisation.

A regional cross-party workshop on promoting participatory decision-making is one example of the way in which our work encourages the development of policy-based left-of-centre political parties. Another looked at improving understanding between young activists from sister parties in the EU and from African countries.

Our support for sister parties in the Balkans is also bilateral and regional. We helped improve relations between left-of-centre foundations, discussing common concerns across the region; exchanged experiences with a new generation of young leaders; developed the capacity of sister parties to use the media effectively; and discussed policies to tackle climate change with our social democrat partners.

In the Middle East we arranged a forum on the Labour Party's Northern Ireland experiences of involving two or more sides in promoting peace. We visited new parts of the region, making new partners and identifying areas for future work. In Latin America our focus was on the link between economic and social policies.

The Labour Party continued to support initiatives aimed at women and young people. Study tours to the UK emphasised the ways we have improved the representation of women and youth.

The Labour Party has also supported the WFD in its cross-party work. Following the Labour Government's intervention in Sierra Leone, we worked with the largest political parties there in preparation for the country's parliamentary and presidential elections in August and September and continued our support by working with the newly elected Members of Parliament.

Support for democracy is fundamental to the work we do and this is reflected through the programmes developed by the Westminster Foundation for Democracy - both by the political parties and by the central organisation. We wish the Foundation continued success in its work, in which the Labour Party will continue to be closely involved.

Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP, Prime Minister and Leader of the Labour Party



Rt. Hon David Miliband MP, Secretary of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office meets representatives from the Labour Party's sister parties from Africa and the Caribbean during a study tour to the UK



The WFD programme enables the Conservative Party to play a key role in strengthening and promoting the values and institutions at the heart of our Conservative tradition, in new and newly emerging democracies.

Our past 12 months' work has focused on Eastern Europe and Anglophone Africa, in four core areas: party development; beliefs and values; promoting the engagement of women and youth; and building regional networks.

The Conservative Party has worked energetically to improve our sister parties' capacity to campaign and communicate well with voters. We supported the Democratic Party in the Maldives through a peaceful transition to democracy and to develop a strong party organisation. With the Forum for Democratic Change in Uganda, we worked on strengthening grassroots structures and recruiting and developing party activists. In Montenegro, our co-operation with Movement for Changes (PzP) and the People's Party has enabled them to reach the electorate through strong campaign networks.

We have sought to fortify understanding among these parties of the Conservative principles that underpin their political activity. A highly successful series of interactive seminars on these issues was organised across the Balkans and Eastern Europe, involving women and youth representatives. A conference in London also enabled young politicians from across the region to debate crucial policy issues.

Work with the next generation of political leaders is central to our approach. This year's Winter School for African youth leaders in Tanzania explored the principles of democracy and how they can be applied to current challenges in Africa. The Democrat Union of Africa Women's Network met in Ghana to give female politicians from across Africa the chance to discuss fundamental social concerns and what needs to happen to make political ideas a reality.

We continue to encourage expertise-sharing networks for centre-right parties. The Democrat Union of Africa, the Union De Partidos Latino Americanos, the International Democrat Union and the International Young Democrat Union have all been used as forums for sharing best practice on election campaigning and party organisation. They also offer access to the international stage to ensure voices are heard – particularly those struggling against corruption and state manipulation.

The Westminster Foundation for Democracy continues to perform a vital task in spreading democratic values and building institutions at a time when hard won freedoms are under attack in many parts around the world. The unique structure of the Foundation enables the British political parties to share their expertise and to take a leading role in consolidating democratic change and good governance.

Rt Hon David Cameron MP, Conservative Party Leader and Leader of the Opposition



The Liberal Democrats work with WFD to develop democracy based on the values of liberalism in Africa, Eastern Europe and the Middle East.

Our projects aim to improve campaigning and to promote women and youth within democratic political parties, for example in Morocco. We also believe in strong local government and we ran a Councillor training programme in Moldova based on our experience in the UK.

We work to strengthen the Africa Liberal Network and the Liberal Arab Network, which bring together Liberal parties from these regions. We supported a workshop to develop an African youth network, and facilitated an internship in South Africa.

We also carried out two workshops to promote skills exchange between Party representatives from emerging democracies. An Innovative Campaigns workshop held in London discussed the latest campaigning techniques. And an International City Leaders Conference brought together members of local government to discuss ways of developing and communicating policies at a local level.

The work we in the Liberal Democrats do with WFD is important.

We have great experience within the Party at both national and local level of working within a democratic system and we are delighted to share that experience with our like-minded Liberal partners in new and emerging democracies in Africa, Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Our excellent co-operation with the WFD enables us to do this.

Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats

Smaller parties



The DUP continued to co-operate with the Association of Local Government Authorities Kenya (ALGAK). Study visits to Northern Ireland provided ALGAK members with first-hand experience of the local government system and the planned changes. ALGAK were able to gain further insights into different systems of decentralisation.



Plaid Cymru continued to use its great experience in the field of youth to support the youth wing of Sobor (Ukraine). A workshop was held in Odessa where campaign and canvassing techniques from the Welsh Assembly elections were shared.

Smaller parties continued



Malawi and Zambia remained the priorities for the SNP. The People's Transformation Party (Petra) and the People's Progressive Movement (PPM) from Malawi attended the SNP annual conference in Aviemore, giving them a strong understanding of the internal operations of the party. How to communicate with constituents in large rural constituencies was one of the subjects that the SNP focused on with the Forum for Democracy and Development (FDD) in Zambia.



The role of women in politics in post-conflict countries is an area of great expertise for the SDLP. A seminar was held in Lumumbashi (Democratic Republic of Congo) with women, analysing the participation of women in politics as a means of preparation for the 2009 municipal elections.



The UUP, along with the DUP and the SDLP and in partnership with WFD's Middle East and North Africa Team, gave a seminar in Lebanon. Its aim was to update Lebanese politicians on the developments in Northern Ireland following the 2007 elections and the restoration of devolved government which ensued.

Strengthening parliaments

WFD's interlocking specialisms are strengthening parliaments and political parties. It is often parliamentary parties which provide the discipline which makes a parliament effective; and strong parliaments also need well-trained staff. WFD's programmes work with both parliamentarians and those who support them. In its political party and parliamentary programmes WFD works at both national and local levels.

In the following sections we highlight some examples of our work and achievements over the last year.

Middle East and North Africa: Consolidation

In **Egypt** we have worked both with parliament as an institution and the parliamentarians who work within it. We have focused on three main areas: our work with parliamentarians on the financial oversight role of the parliament highlighted their role in holding government to account; we have increased the involvement of women who aspire to be part of the political process (See panel: Empowering women); and, working with the BBC World Service Trust, we have strengthened parliamentary reporting standards through our training for parliamentary reporters. A training programme for staff of the parliament's upper chamber, the Shura Council, is now under way.

WFD continues to work with the **Lebanese** parliament, which supports our work across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region by providing an office for our Head of MENA Programmes. Work has been done to pave the way for the establishment of an advisory unit to support the parliament in its financial oversight role. In preparation, both the Westminster approach to financial oversight and the recently established budget office in the Moroccan upper house have been assessed for their relevance to Lebanon; and an assessment of the capacities of the Lebanese parliament's finance committee and its staffing has been undertaken, with training needs being identified. WFD selected a group of



AAW poster depicting the Peoples' Assembly and "Modern Women in Egyptian Elections" in the run up to local elections in April 2008

parliamentary staff who will be supporting the future advisory unit to serve as the core team for future training.

In a separate initiative, WFD facilitated shared experiences on conflict resolution and national reconciliation between Lebanon and Northern Ireland, two divided societies, both of strategic importance but with contrasting environments. Our work has demonstrated how much they have to learn from each other. Among other initiatives in Lebanon is a project on nurturing a better understanding of local issues, facilitating the empowerment of local people by urging initiative-taking and encouraging them to apply pressure on the authorities to resolve local social problems.

WFD continues to fund projects in **Morocco**, the **Occupied Palestinian Territories** and **Yemen**. At a regional level, WFD projects include contributing to the development of a guidebook on ethical standards in parliaments and improving fiscal control and monitoring in five Arab countries (**Jordan**, **Morocco**, **Yemen**, **Lebanon** and **Egypt**).

Africa: Progress

With funding from DFID, WFD established a cross-party political party development programme in **Sierra Leone** with the objective of strengthening the policy-based platforms of local political parties (See panel: Political Party Development). By linking public voter forums and campaign skills training for the parties, the electorate were provided with issues-based choices. WFD also worked with civil society groups, strengthening their capacity to play a more effective part in the post-war development of participatory multi-party democracy. This included support to the 50/50 Group, Lawyers Centre

POLITICAL PARTY D

The UK political parties, working delivered various programmes of Sierra Leone, working mainly with People's Congress, People's Movement and Sierra Leone People's Party part of WFD's programme, introducing policy-making process and to diff This involved identifying issues in creating policy platforms, developing and voter communication tools, such as party pledge cards conveyed

EMPOWERING WOMEN

An important element of WFD's Egypt programme aims to integrate women in the mainstream political reform process by increasing their numbers in the political structures and enhancing their role within them. In preparation for the April 2008 local council elections, WFD's partner Alliance for Arab Women (AAW) conducted training activities to raise the political skills of 300 women. They were able to take part in the election campaigns and succeeded in winning seats in the selected governorates, Qalyobia and Menofia. Of the women who had been trained, 147 nominated themselves and 97 won seats.

See the full case study at www.wfd.org

Y DEVELOPMENT

Working together through WFD, we provided a series of direct pre-election support in partnership with the three largest parties: All Uganda's Movement for Democratic Change, the National Resistance Party. Training formed an important part of this support, introducing political aspirants to the use of different campaign techniques. We also discussed issues important to the electorate, and helped in developing election manifestos and campaign tools,

See the full case study at www.wfd.org

Our pledges to young people

1. More education and training opportunities ✓

2.

3.

Our pledges to women

1. More women involved in politics ✓

4.

2. Greater equality under the law and stronger legal rights for women ✓

5.

3. Health and education services accessible for all women ✓

4. Action against violence towards women ✓

5. Greater financial opportunities for all women ✓

for Legal Assistance and Forum for African Women Educationalists to carry out advocacy and lobbying projects, resulting in the repeal of three discriminatory

laws against women. Support for the 50/50 Group played an important role in empowering women to play an active part in the post-war political process.

WFD's work with the **Ugandan** parliament has focused on training to enhance the capacity of both parliamentarians and staff to fulfil the role of parliament as a representative institution of democracy. WFD also launched a constituent outreach programme in Uganda to strengthen MPs' ability to work jointly with their constituents. Working with the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative and the United People's Development Association, WFD supported a consultation exercise for leaders of local government in 15 districts.

In the run-up to the December 2007 elections in **Kenya**, and following the disputed presidential election, WFD made substantial contributions to support the resolution of the crisis. We organised a workshop for civil society organisations and political parties to agree a common framework for ending the post-election crisis. We organised and hosted a study visit by the Speaker of the Kenyan parliament to Westminster to explore practical ways in which WFD and its associates could support the new parliament. The Speaker was accompanied by the chief whips of the coalition government parties, the

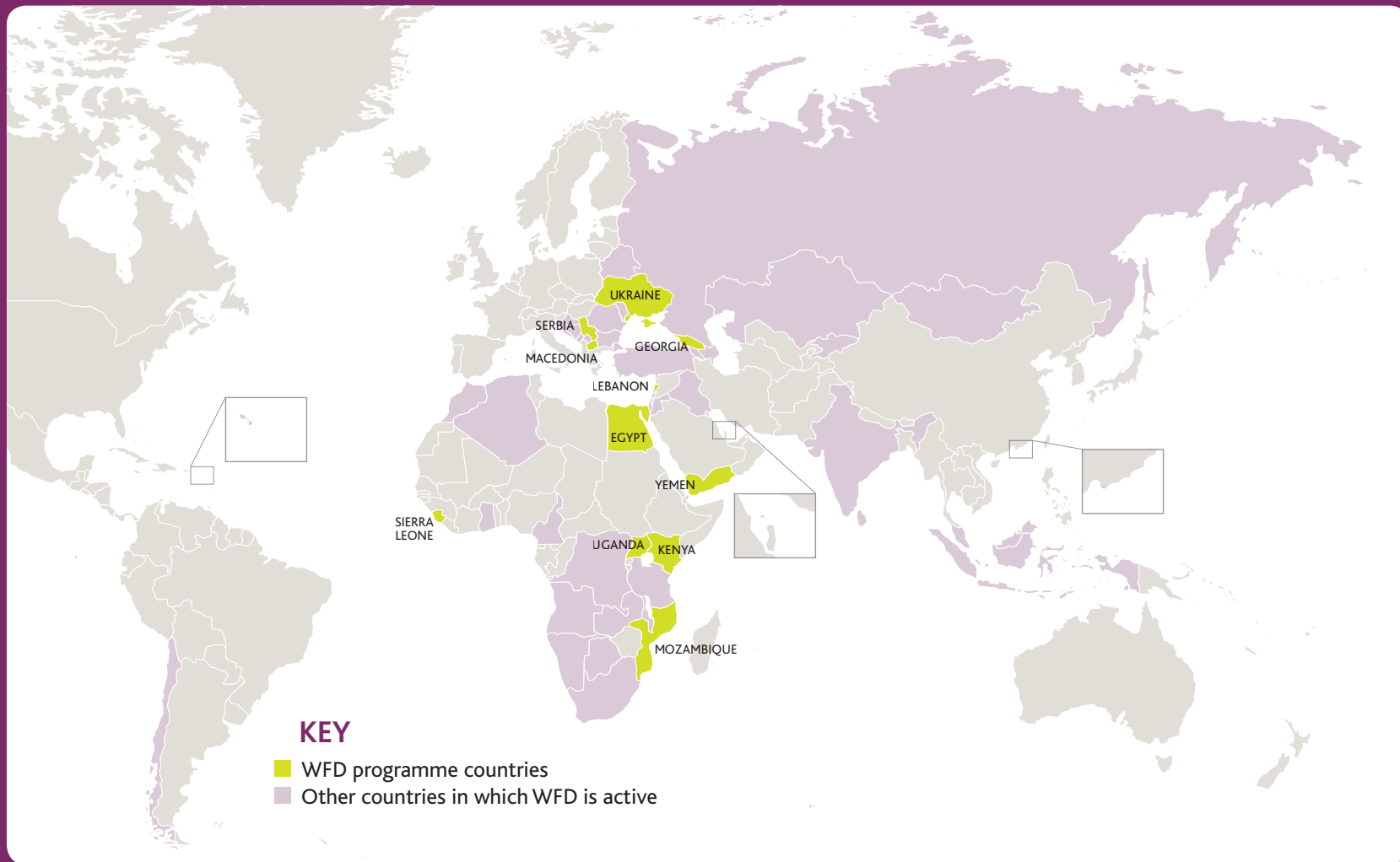
Orange Democratic Movement and the Party of National Unity. In a parallel initiative with the International Commission of Jurists, WFD is working to increase awareness among parliamentarians of human rights issues and freedom of information.

Europe: Action

WFD's work in Europe has seen the creation of useful models of public consultation and community development management in **Ukraine**, for example. There and elsewhere our focus now shifts to WFD's specialisation in strengthening parliamentary institutions. Programmes with this aim have been designed for both Ukraine and **Macedonia**. They draw on WFD's significant experience in both countries and benefit from consultation with our partners there and with both parliaments. In order to sharpen the focus of the programmes, Macedonian MPs attended a workshop at Wilton Park, while in Ukraine a consultation event was the arena for refining their design. Having secured funding for programmes in both countries, WFD has begun their implementation which will continue in the next year.

Accountability and transparency are qualities fundamental to the democratic process. Their furtherance has been at the heart of WFD's work in **Serbia**, where our programme has been active in six municipalities, setting up boards to monitor the implementation of a code of ethics for local councillors. The effectiveness of the programme is borne out by an increase in the number of reported breaches of the code, bearing witness to heightened public awareness of the boards' work. UK experts supported the participating municipalities with training in the proper investigation and management of such complaints. By such steps is the democratic process further secured. The next step in the process, either by national legislation or municipal statute, is to fix the monitoring boards firmly in Serbia's administrative structure.

Despite the suppression of civic activities in **Belarus**, WFD's work there continued, helping to foster political pluralism and civic engagement at the local level.



Contact details

David THIRLBY, Programme Officer,
Africa and Rest of World
thirlby@wfd.org

Sian DIXON, Programme Officer,
Africa and Rest of World
sian@wfd.org

Romana JANKU, Programme Officer, Europe
romana@wfd.org

Matthew YOUNG, Programme Officer, MENA
matthew@wfd.org

Philippa BROOM, Director, International Office
and WFD Programme,
The Conservative Party
philippa.broom@conservatives.com

Nabila SATTAR, International Projects Manager,
The Labour Party/WFD
nabila_sattar@new.labour.org.uk

Paul SPELLER, Head of the International Office
The Liberal Democrats
paul.speller@libdems.org.uk

David THIRLBY, WFD Programme Manager,
Smaller Parties
Democratic Unionist Party
Plaid Cymru
Scottish National Party
Social Democratic and Labour Party
Ulster Unionist Party
thirlbyd@parliament.uk



Westminster Foundation for Democracy

The following summary financial statements are a précis of the information contained in The Westminster Foundation for Democracy Limited's Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2008. They do not contain sufficient information to allow a full understanding of the results and state of affairs of the Foundation. For further information, the Annual Report and Accounts should be consulted. They can be viewed or downloaded from our website at www.wfd.org and a free copy obtained by writing to the Company Secretary at WFD, Artillery House, 11/19 Artillery Row, London SW1P 1RT.

Annual Review Financial Summary

Summary income & expenditure account
for the year ended 31 March 2008

	Total 2008 £	Total 2007 £
Gross Income		
Third party funding	459,050	84,923
Direct Expenditure		
Projects	(3,536,039)	(3,187,718)
	(3,076,989)	(3,102,795)
Other Expenditure		
Staff costs	722,590	715,012
Other operating charges	275,944	359,232
Depreciation	16,798	14,836
	1,015,332	1,089,080
Net operating expenditure	(4,092,321)	(4,191,875)
Interest receivable	8,726	11,959
Net expenditure for the year	(4,083,595)	(4,179,916)
Opening funds balance	67,707	147,623
Cash Funding from FCO Grant-in-Aid	4,100,000	4,100,000
Funds balance at 31 March	84,112	67,707

These summary financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985 and applicable accounting standards and were approved by the Board of Governors on 16 July 2008 and signed on its behalf by Hugh Bayley MP, Chairman, and by David French, Chief Executive and Accounting Officer of the Foundation.

The Independent Auditors' opinion on the full financial statements and on the auditable part of the Remuneration Report was unqualified and did not contain a statement under either Section 237(2) or Section 237(3) of the Companies Act 1985.

Summary balance sheet as at 31 March 2008

	2008 £	2007 £
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	32,433	45,356
Current assets		
Debtors	155,545	100,930
Cash at bank and in hand:		
Core	(46,658)	64,074
Corporate	65,144	149,322
	<u>174,031</u>	<u>314,326</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	102,909	154,166
Net Current Assets	<u>71,122</u>	<u>160,160</u>
	103,555	205,516
Provision for liabilities and charges	(19,443)	(137,809)
Total assets less current liabilities	<u>84,112</u>	<u>67,707</u>
Funds		
Core	(369)	(100,905)
Corporate	84,481	168,612
	<u>84,112</u>	<u>67,707</u>

Independent Auditors' Statement to the Members of The Westminster Foundation for Democracy Limited

We have examined the summary financial statements of The Westminster Foundation for Democracy Limited in this Annual Review

Respective responsibilities of Governors and Auditors

The governors are responsible for preparing the Annual Review in accordance with applicable law.

Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summary financial statement within the Annual Review with the full annual financial statements and the Governors' Report, and its compliance with the relevant requirements of section 251 of the Companies Act 1985 and the regulations made thereunder.

We also read the other information contained in the Annual Review and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summary financial statement.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our work in accordance with Bulletin 1999/6 'The auditors' statement on the summary financial statement' issued by the Auditing Practices Board for use in the United Kingdom.

Our report on the company's full annual financial statements describes the basis of our audit opinion on those financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion the summary financial statement is consistent with the full annual financial statements and the Governors' report of The Westminster Foundation for Democracy Limited for the year ended 31 March 2008 and complies with the applicable requirements of section 251 of the Companies Act 1985, and the regulations made thereunder.

Baker Tilly UK Audit LLP

Registered Auditor

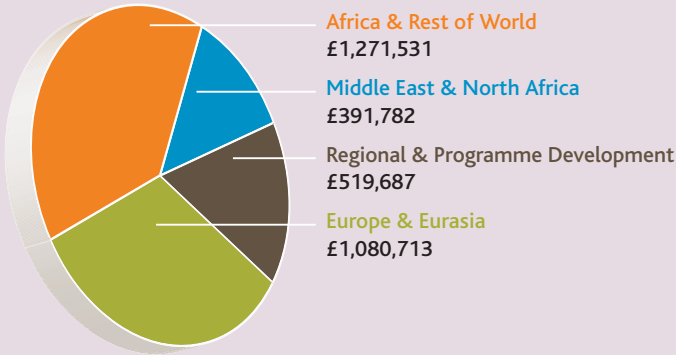
1st Floor, 46 Clarendon Road, Watford, Herts, WD17 1JJ

16 July 2008

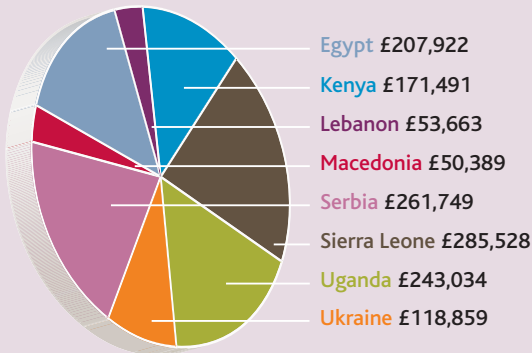


Westminster Foundation for Democracy

WFD supported democracy-strengthening activities to the total value of **£3,263,713** during 2007-08. These funds, from grant-in-aid and third-party sources, were disbursed as follows:



Of these funds, £1,392,635 supported activities in WFD programme countries, as follows:



WFD's work is centred on six corporate objectives:

- 1: Achieving recognition for our parliamentary and political party programmes wherever we work.
- 2: Increasing our funding to £7 million per annum within three years while maintaining and growing the level of grant-in-aid.
- 3: Constantly improving our efficiency.
- 4: Strengthening collaboration with all UK and international contributors to our work, particularly the FCO and DFID.
- 5: Making the most of the distinctive contribution of the UK parties to WFD's work.
- 6: Employing the best people and nurturing their success and professional development.

Patrons

Rt Hon Michael Martin MP
Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP
Rt Hon David Cameron MP
Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP
Rt Hon Peter Robinson MP MLA
Ieuan Wyn Jones AC/AM
Rt Hon Alex Salmond MP MSP
Mark Durkan MP MLA
Sir Reg Empey MLA

Governors

Hugh Bayley MP, Chairman
Saghir Alam OBE
Jim Bewsher
Tom Brake MP
Philip Dunne MP (appointed 8 August 2008)
Tina Fahm
Dr Sean Farren (appointed 9 September 2008)
Rt Hon Lord Foulkes of Cumnock MSP
Ken Jones
Christine Knights
David Lidington MP (appointed 8 April 2008)
Hugh Robertson MP (resigned 21 July 2008)
Lord Rogan of Lower Iveagh (retired 23 March 2008)
Richard Spring MP
Gary Streeter MP (resigned 11 March 2008)
Gisela Stuart MP
Myles Wickstead CBE

WFD Senior Staff

David French, Chief Executive
Paul Naismith, Director of Finance/Company Secretary
Marina Narnor, Head of Africa and Rest of the World Programme
Alex Romaniuc, Head of Europe Programme
Dr Dina Melhem, Head of Middle East and North Africa Programme



Westminster Foundation for Democracy

8th Floor, Artillery House
11/19 Artillery Row
London SW1P 1RT

Tel: +44 (0)20 7799 1311
Fax: +44 (0)20 7799 1312
Email: wfd@wfd.org
Web: www.wfd.org