

LOCAL GOVERNANCE BAROMETER

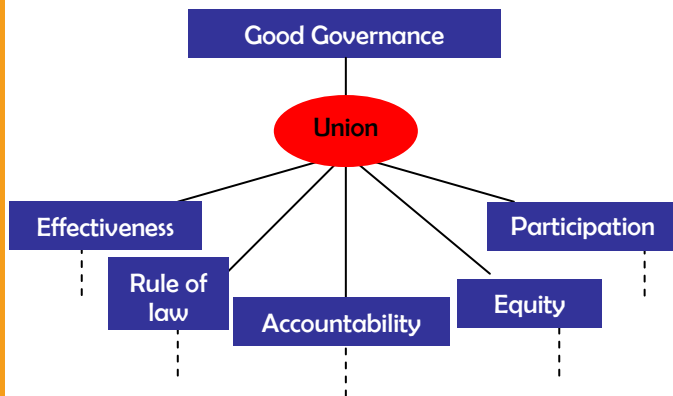
LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE FIELD

Enhancing participation

Within Cameroon, it has been noted that women lack the social status and individual confidence to defend their opinions during stakeholder forums.

Appointed officials are often wary of challenging decisions made by elected councillors or central government appointees.

Through the LGB, these actors have gained access to information that places them in a better position to participate actively: arguing their case and negotiating for their special interests.



LOCAL GOVERNANCE BAROMETER



www.lgb.mg

The LGB is a collaborative initiative of three organizations: IDASA, Pact and SNV under Impact Alliance's network.

idasa

idasa works to promoting sustainable democracy by building democratic institutions, educating citizens, and advocating social justice.

www.co.za



Pact works to help build strong communities that provide people with an opportunity to earn a dignified living, raise healthy families, and participate in democratic life.

www.pactworld.org



SNV is an international development agency that works to connect people's capacities with one another in the pursuit of human well being.

www.snvworld.org



The Impact Alliance is an international community of organisations committed to strengthening the capacity of communities to achieve positive social change.

www.impactalliance.org



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SUCCESS STORIES AND LESSONS LEARNED



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LGB KEY FEATURES

- The purpose of the LGB is to strengthen collective capacity for good local governance. The LGB provides a framework with which local stakeholders are able to define and assess their situation against performance standards for effectiveness, accountability, participation, equity, and adherence to the rule of law.
- The LGB increases local knowledge about good governance, while assessing performance in a governance system, identifying the factors contributing to successes and shortcomings, and promoting linkage among different stakeholders.

"I can no longer pretend that I don't know anything about accountability." Deputy Chair, Mvomero District Council.

"LGB for President!" Chairlady, Mvomero Parent Teachers Association.

CURRENT SITUATION

- The LGB is now used to assess governance in 20 localities within 7 countries: Cameroon, Ghana, Madagascar, Mozambique, South Africa and Tanzania.
- Were measured: Urban and Rural district and communal governance, Education governance, Forest governance.
- The implementing partners are in the process of assisting local partners to integrate learning into practice, and promoting wider application of the LGB.

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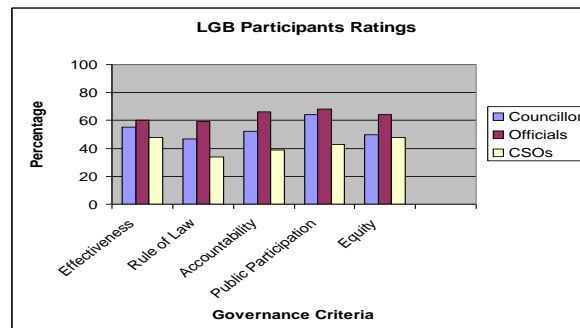
Acquiring more knowledge for decision making

All the municipalities in Limpopo Province that applied the LGB have been able to identify gaps in knowledge, skills and other capabilities which will need to be addressed if they are to attain the standards of performance expected after the ongoing review and reform of the public sector in South Africa.

During 2007, the LGB revealed that civil society's perceptions about local performance in equity and participation was much lower in one local municipality than in the other municipalities within Limpopo Province (South Africa).

The LGB has shown that the municipality should review the relevance and enforcement of its by-laws and invest more funds in civic education.

After reviewing the results, two priority areas for action have been identified: addressing civil society negative's perceptions and strengthening the capacity of municipal councilors and officials to provide quality services and monitor levels of client satisfaction.



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LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE FIELD

Improving relationships and fostering partnerships

Within Mvomero District of Tanzania, there was very little contact between the district council and the civil society organizations engaged in primary education. The LGB process has helped to dissipate some of the apathy and mistrust that existed among the actors.

The different actors are now more familiar with each others' roles and capabilities. The district council has begun to cooperate with some of the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on issues related to capacity building and service delivery.



Addressing geographic and sectoral priorities

Whether it is used to assess governance performance across a geographic area or within a specified sector, the LGB generates useful results, with implications for capacity building interventions.