



# Governance and Civic Engagement

To improve governance practices across sectors, RTI has developed a comprehensive framework to address the complex set of issues faced by good governance advocates in government and civil society. Using political economy analysis methodologies, we tailor our interventions and adapt our tools and approaches to local contexts. Our capacity strengthening and technical assistance activities focus on the three main levels of governance and service delivery systems: individuals, institutions, and the enabling environment.

## RTI Tools and Approaches

- **Adaptive Management:** a wholistic approach that includes adaptive programming to test, learn, and adjust project activities based on evidence; flexible management systems to support innovation and programmatic shifts; and highly effective communication channels with donors and partners to enable effective adaptation.
- **Inclusive and Evidence-Based Policy Development:** an iterative, multi-stakeholder process to ensure that sound research and advocacy efforts inform policy development across sectors.
- **Social Accountability Framework:** a set of tools and methodologies (community scorecards, public expenditure tracking, social auditing, citizen feedback mechanisms, etc.) that empower communities to monitor the quality of service delivery and hold government accountable.
- **Local Government Development Framework:** a participatory self-assessment methodology to assess and monitor government capacity in fulfilling their core functions, including service delivery.
- **Service Improvement Planning:** a participatory assessment methodology to assess gaps in service delivery and develop service improvement plans.
- **Political Economy Analysis:** a methodology to rapidly assess the social, political, and economic factors that drive stakeholders' relations and behaviors to inform programmatic strategies.

Our experts develop and implement multi-pronged interventions, including:

- Promoting participatory and inclusive governance at the local and national levels through planning, advocacy, and consultative processes;
- Strengthening national and local capacity to develop and implement evidence-based policies that build on local and international best practices;
- Strengthening the capacity of local and national governmental and nongovernmental public institutions to deliver services across sectors;
- Promoting accountability and fighting corruption by increasing government transparency and strengthening watchdog and advocacy capabilities of civil society and media.

## Project Experience

**Indonesia.** The Knowledge Sector Initiative (KSI) aims to ensure that Indonesia's knowledge sector produces evidence to inform priority social development policies. KSI works with research organizations across sectors to strengthen their research, organization, and advocacy capacities. KSI supports policymakers to recognize value

of evidence in the policy process, clearly articulate their needs for evidence to the research community, and use evidence to inform policy. Funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 2014–2022.

**Senegal.** The **Governance for Local Development (GOLD)** program is strengthening the ability of local municipalities to provide basic services in support of Senegal’s decentralization process. The program identifies mutually beneficial joint activities with USAID implementing partners in the target sectors and regions, with other development partners, and with Government of Senegal institutions. It is building a culture of collaboration and openness among all stakeholders with a focus on (1) building the capacity of local governments to respond to citizen demands, (2) mobilizing and improving the use of public resources, and (3) increasing community participation in managing services. GOLD also builds capacity in conflict management and mitigation and has a robust learning agenda. Funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), 2016–2021.

**Uganda.** The **Governance, Accountability, Participation and Performance (GAPP)** program is based on the hypothesis that greater accountability drives improvements across all areas of local governance. GAPP is improving the enabling environment for effective service delivery through four interrelated components: (1) improved legal, policy, regulatory, and institutional environment to meet demands for more democratic governance; (2) improved fiscal management and accountability processes for service delivery in targeted districts; (3) improved capacity of citizens and communities to participate in local governance; and (4) support the Ministry of Health to improve transparency and accountability. Funded by USAID and the U.K. Department for International Development (DFID), 2012–2020.

**Nigeria.** The **Leadership, Empowerment, Advocacy, and Development (LEAD)** program builds partnerships between state and local governments, civil society, and the private sector to improve governance capacity through multi-sectoral activities. LEAD and the target local governments provide visible improvements in service delivery through the creation of Service Improvement Plans in a participatory process. Funded by USAID, 2009–2018.

**Indonesia.** The **Kinerja (Local Governance Service Improvement)** program improved measurable performance in education, health services, and local business environment in Indonesia. For health and education, the program promoted tools that increase access, affordability, standardization, and quality. To enhance local economic development, Kinerja engaged policymakers on issues of business-related regulation and taxation, and established one-stop shops that streamlined licensing procedures. The project showcased Citizen Report Cards, comparative performance indexes in local economic governance, and peer-to-peer learning. Funded by USAID, 2009–2017.

**Guinea.** The **Multi-Sectoral Interventions to Advance Democratic Governance (Faisons Ensemble)** project improved the lives of citizens through strategic multi-sectoral interventions in governance, health, education, agriculture, and natural resource management. The project provided training and capacity building to local commune officials, increasing awareness about roles and responsibilities. Activities in the health sector included support to voluntary counseling and testing centers to improve their services and training to health personnel on roles and responsibilities of health management committees. Funded by USAID, 2006–2013.

**Morocco.** The **Local Governance Program (LGP)** facilitated more effective and accountable local governance. Activities included strengthening communes’ internal systems, with a focus on local tax administration; developing demand-driven training programs; and supporting communes to develop performance improvement plans. To increase youth participation in communal affairs, LGP supported the establishment of Local Youth Councils, supported emerging youth leaders in creating youth networks, and collaborated with young members of Parliament. LGP also supported locally elected women through leadership training and mentoring and by facilitating the creation of regional and national networks of women elected officials. Funded by USAID, 2010–2014.

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#### More Information

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