



Internationale Weiterbildung
und Entwicklung gGmbH

Capacity Building
International, Germany

InWEnt Centre for Economic,
Environmental and Social Statistics



announcement

Invitation to the Workshop

Country-led Governance Assessments: Sharing Experiences and Increasing Political Accountability

Web-based preparation phase
(1st - 30th October, 2009)

Workshop in Windhoek, Namibia
(2nd - 5th November, 2009)

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Workshop Invitation

The InWEnt Centre for Economic, Environmental and Social Statistics and the UNDP Oslo Governance Centre are pleased to announce the workshop:

Country-led Governance Assessments: Sharing Experiences and Increasing Political Accountability



Workshop Description

Organized by InWEnt, Namibia Institute for Democracy (NID) and UNDP, this workshop focuses on strengthening accountability in the *process* and as an *outcome* of governance assessments.

The workshop will provide a venue for presentation of methods and approaches and for sharing experiences on these issues. International and regional expertise and practitioners will be invited.

Accountability in the process of conducting the assessment: Who is doing the measuring matters; it affects the ownership, sustainability, legitimacy and quality of the assessment. Without involving the right stakeholders, the assessment results may be accused of being biased and/or lacking in scientific rigour without this necessarily being the case.

Though politically desirable, genuine stakeholder participation in the research can be difficult to achieve in practice. Often stakeholder meetings are costly, participants may feel that they have had little real impact on any final documents, and civil society may under-represent rural, poor, uneducated and female demographics.

The political environment may also be more or less enabling for conducting a free and open process of assessing governance. In any country, key governance issues are inherently controversial and politically potent. There may be questions that are both difficult to ask by the researchers, as well as difficult to respond to by respondents. It may also matter who is doing the asking. National statistical offices are faced with particular challenges, e.g. the political sensitivity of Governance Assessments versus their role as independent data providers.

The challenges and need for a wider or narrower consultation may vary with the type of assessment. For example, an assessment that aims to contribute to capacity building and consensus building on the state of democracy may require broader consultation than an assessment that solely aims to contribute to political debate.

The need for consultation may also vary depending on the public trust already enjoyed by the lead institution conducting the assessment. Lead institutions may include national statistical office, government, academic institution, civil society, partnerships consisting of civil society and government, or other.

Accountability as an outcome of governance assessments: To improve accountability in policymaking requires strengthening a relationship between two or more parties, where one party is held responsible. For civil society, governance assessments may be helpful to demand answerability and enforce political commitments, national development plans, or other political statements or election promises. For government, governance assessments may be helpful to improve efficiency, effectiveness, and equality in service delivery.

A critical starting point for increasing accountability is to have a good assessment framework that deals with the key governance issues within a country. Global templates and blue-prints may often fail to capture political problems that are particular to countries. This means that indicators that are politically relevant and useful in one country may be less relevant in another.

Political economy analysis may help to identify areas of democratic governance deficits, such as lack of accountability, lack of participation, unresponsive institutions and vulnerable groups within particular countries. Such an analysis may therefore guide where more quantitative indicators are needed.

Accountability may also be more easily strengthened if indicators are aligned to political plans. The effectiveness of the monitoring of governance components of national development plans may vary from country to country. Sometimes it may be an issue of improving indicators, collecting better evidence, improving participation or strengthen the institutions charged with oversight.

Finally, assessments may assist in improving accountability to groups that are under-represented in political processes, such as marginalized groups, women and the poor. Methods for selecting pro-poor and gender sensitive indicators may help in making institutions more accountable to these groups.

Within the scope of these themes, the workshop will include sessions on:

1. **What should be assessed? How political economy analysis may help** –different tools and perspectives of political economy analysis that may be helpful in understanding the governance situation in a particular country, and how these can be used as starting points to develop quantitative frameworks for assessments.
2. **How should it be assessed? Methods of participatory monitoring** – Securing optimal participation, what is optimal, and methods and experiences of multi-stakeholder participation in assessments in Africa.
3. **How can marginalized voices be included: practical methods for selecting pro-poor and gender-sensitive indicators** –hands-on and interactive training on developing and selecting indicators that are pro-poor and gender sensitive.
4. **Governance Assessments for Monitoring National Development Plans** - selecting indicators and collecting evidence, working with different groups of stakeholders and particular challenges faced by national statistical offices, including 'red lines'.
5. **Outside Assessments** – InWEnt alumni report on experiences with 'outside' GAs - using indicators to increase political accountability, inform the policy process and political debate
6. **Building Capacity for Government and non Government Stakeholders to conduct Governance Assessments for Monitoring National Development Plans** – Experiences from the field and current support for nationally led GAs

About InWEnt – Sharing experiences from nationally-led governance assessments

Since 2003, the InWEnt Centre offers annually a training course on assessment approaches in the field of democracy, governance and human rights. These training courses have created a platform for experts from various fields and disciplines of this subject matter from developing countries, development agencies, research institutions and other bodies to exchange information on the subject and to give new inputs sharing the results of their conceptual and practical work in this area.

Every year, the training course design and content is updated to include the latest developments in the field of measuring governance and to give the participants fresh inputs while sharing the results of their conceptual and practical work in this area. During the last few years participants demanded more information on how they could conduct governance assessments in their countries. To this end, a web-based training course was launched two years ago and has been modified and adapted according to the needs of our participants. The web-based training course is carried out by using the InWEnt internet platform for e-learning, networking and professional exchange, the Gobaal Campus 21 (www.gc21.de).

For this workshop the GC21® will be used for networking and knowledge sharing before and after the workshop. A precondition to participate in the web-based training is a good internet access (home or office computer, internet cafe) for the chats and reviewing of online material about measuring governance, democracy and human rights. In preparation for this workshop there will be two moderated chat sessions on efforts to conduct nationally led assessments. Participants will also be able to access the other sections of Governance City in order to receive up to date information on the many different tools and approaches used.

InWEnt will primarily rely on InWEnt Alumni who have participated in previous trainings to deliver the input to the upcoming workshop in Namibia. These alumni will share their experiences and provide insights into how and who conducts governance assessments (from the inside, outside and together), lessons learned, the dissemination of results, who and how the results were used, how these efforts increased accountability, the costs and sustainability of the projects, as well as some examples of actionable and non actionable indicators.

InWEnt has been working with National Statistical Offices for many years. In many countries NSOs offer a low-cost high quality partner for conducting governance assessments at the national, regional and local levels. Their experience in sampling and interviewing, as well as their large sample sizes, which make disaggregating data possible, are just some of the reasons they are seen as important. There will be several sessions examining recent projects conducted with NSOs and the challenges they face as they seek to assist their government and citizens in conducting governance assessments.

About UNDP – Global Programme on Democratic Governance Assessments

Through the Global Programme on Capacity Development for Democratic Governance Assessments and Measurements, UNDP seeks to assist developing countries in producing disaggregated and non-ranking governance indicators to enable national stakeholders to better monitor performance toward democratic governance reforms.

The aim of the Programme, coordinated by the Oslo Governance Centre, is to develop the capacities of governments, national statistical offices and civil society in the collection, maintenance and analysis of governance-related data and to assist development of an inclusive, consultative framework for systematic assessment and monitoring of democratic governance goals and targets expressed in national development plans.

UNDP currently provides financial and technical support to 16 projects on governance assessments.

The UNDP also hosts the Governance Assessment Portal, (www.gaportal.org) which aims to be a hub of information and a valuable entry-point on democratic governance assessments. It seeks to provide experts, practitioners, national counterparts and the wider community of stakeholders with information on:

- tools for assessing governance
- existing initiatives for measuring democratic governance at the national, regional and global level
- how to measure governance with regard to specific areas of governance such as corruption or local governance
- how to use global indicators more correctly
- opportunities to connect and share knowledge with other practitioners and experts.



Target Group

The workshop is designed for producers and users of statistical information, policy makers, researchers and members of the civil society with proven experience in the field of measuring and monitoring Democratisation, (Good) Governance and Human Rights in Sub-Sahara Africa.



Workshop Structure

In order to hear as many voices as possible and to ensure an interactive working mode the workshop with its preparation and wrap-up phase will be organised in five steps.

1. **Application and selection process:** During the application phase potential participants are asked to fill out a brief online survey. The purpose of this survey is to better understand the needs of the participants and their experience with conducting governance assessments. Participants with experience may be asked to hold a brief presentation during the workshop. Participants will be chosen according to the quality of their application.
2. **E-learning:** Participants will attend two moderated chat sessions on the **InWent e-learning platform Global Campus 21, GC21®, facilitated by key experts in the specific fields.** These sessions will focus on "Governance City's" section on nationally-led Governance Assessments. Our virtual workspace "Governance City" is designed to provide a structured overview of the multitude of approaches, methods, indices and indicators in the field of Governance Assessments. All workshop participants will receive access to the course in order to deepen their knowledge on a wide variety of different Governance Assessments. For additional resource, the participants may consult UNDP's Governance Assessment Portal (www.gaportal.org)
3. **Selection of Presenters:** The final selection of presenters for the workshop in Namibia will be based on the type of assessment conducted, the governance topic addressed and the role of the participant in the assessment process. The presentations (around 10 to 12 Power Point slides, max. 10 minutes) should address the following issues: topic, sample of actionable indicators, impact on accountability and policy process, dissemination and use of results, information on the cost and sustainability, lessons learned. We hope to have five to six presenters of various topics and approaches for the joint classroom workshop in Namibia.
4. **Workshop: Presenters and chairs from a lead institution** in the specific field of Governance assessment will be responsible to steer the different workshop slots in Namibia according to peer learning methods. This working mode ensures also an active role of all other participants and thus their voices to be heard.

5. **Follow-up/Wrap-up:** The workshop results, including the presentations and a summary of each session will be published as an electronic report. This report is meant to be a practical guide on how to move forward making Governance Assessments useful for accountable politics. (The report will be published on the GC21 and the GA portal).



Important Information

- Duration:** Web-based training: October 1st - 31st, 2009. During this time period there will be two moderated chats on nationally led governance assessments; Participants should also use self directed study in Governance City to deepen their knowledge of the various topics and approaches being used to measure governance and increase political accountability.
- Classroom Session: 2nd - 5th November 2009
- Venue:** The web-based training will take place virtually on the GC21®, while participants remain in their home country.
The classroom session will take place in Windhoek, Namibia.
- Language:** The course will be conducted in English. Therefore, participants must have a good command of the English language, both oral and in writing.
- Costs & Funding:** InWEnt participants:
The workshop is open to any practitioner in the field of Governance Assessment.
The training programme is financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).
There are no fees requested for workshop.
The organisers will support participants from beneficiary countries by covering the costs for board and lodging according to the German regulations.
The organisers will **not** cover any travel costs or travel related costs (e.g. visa, airport fees, etc.) to attend the training course.
- Procedure:** Contact InWEnt - preferably via the below indicated email address - to obtain the official application form.
The completed application form must be returned **by 16th September 2009**. The participants for the web-based training are selected on the basis of their application forms. The participants for the classroom session are selected on the basis of their qualified participation in the web-based training. Due to limited resources only a certain number of participants can be selected.
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