

## Key activities

- Assisting with strengthening national ownership through multi-stakeholder engagement
- Supporting countries in defining and selecting indicators that are country-contextualized, pro-poor and gender sensitive
- Assisting in the development of national databases on governance
- Promoting the uptake and use of governance indicators in policy making.

## Key knowledge products

*Governance Indicators: A Users' Guide*

*Measuring Democratic Governance: A Framework for selecting pro-poor and gender sensitive indicators*

*A Users' Guide to Measuring Corruption*

*UNDP Practice Note on Supporting Country Led Democratic Governance Assessments*

## Partners

A growing list of institutions and organizations that work in the field that the global programme engages with includes: Afrimap, Ghana Centre for Democratic Development, CIVICUS, DIAL, IADB, Indian Institute of Advanced Study, International IDEA, InWEnt, OECD, Overseas Development Institute, UN-Habitat, South African Institute of International Affairs, University of Essex, World Bank Institute

For more information, visit the Governance Assessment Portal at [www.gaportal.org](http://www.gaportal.org), a one-stop shop on governance indicators, or contact the programme manager at:

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The Oslo Governance Centre is part of the Democratic Governance Group in the Bureau for Development Policy of the UNDP.

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About the  
**Global Programme on  
DEMOCRATIC  
GOVERNANCE  
ASSESSMENTS**

UNDP Oslo Governance Centre

*Managed by the UNDP Oslo Governance Centre, the global programme seeks to support countries that want to conduct their own democratic governance assessment.*

## Strategic Principles

1. **National ownership** – an inclusive and consultative process involving government, civil society, elected representatives and other key stakeholders for the purpose of deciding what should be assessed and how.
2. **Capacity development** – assistance to national stakeholders, including statistical offices, government and civil society, on the production and application of governance related data.
3. **Harmonization** – alignment with national development plans and related instruments such as the PRSPs, MDG progress reports, local development plans or other political commitments.



## 10 central features of an effective democratic governance assessment

1. The governance assessment system is anchored in the national development plan
2. The assessment is country contextualized and focuses on national governance priorities
3. A methodology is used that conforms to global standards in terms of technical and scientific rigour
4. Indicators for the assessment are selected and generated through a transparent, participatory and inclusive process
5. There is an institutionalized procedure to collect data from a variety of sources and a public national database that stores this information
6. The assessment is poverty and gender sensitive, and responsive to other vulnerable groups in the country
7. There is a targeted approach to developing the capacity of national stakeholders
8. The assessment is cost-effective and timely
9. The results of the governance assessment are widely communicated and disseminated
10. The assessment is repeated to secure monitoring of governance performance over time

### Why this programme?

When conducted successfully, a nationally owned governance assessment serves to strengthen democratic governance at the country level.

A democratic governance assessment provides a critical accountability mechanism for government and for citizens to engage on governance issues and voice their opinions. Data produced by the assessment reflect and address citizens' concerns.

Democratic governance assessments may also offer a superior evidence base for national decision making. Benchmarking progress provides a record of reference for planning, monitoring and evaluation.

### What is the demand?

There is increasing demand from countries for technical assistance and knowledge on governance assessments.

Demand is partially a result of countries' aspirations. Some governments express desire to better serve their citizens. Similarly, parliaments, political parties, and civil society organizations would like to provide better checks on government in order to enhance services.

Donor policies are also influencing demand. Increasing direct budget support and support to governance as a sector increases the pressure for optimum country-level data to evaluate governance performance.

In addition, governments face the growing challenge of global governance indexes that rank and 'shame' countries. Governments understand the need for better country-level data as a key response measure.

### What does it offer?

The global programme offers guidance, technical assistance and financial support aimed at strengthening national capacity to conduct democratic governance assessments.

The global programme particularly seeks to support the process as well as the method of governance assessments. For UNDP, an assessment should be conducted in line with the democratic principles that it sets out to measure.

One such principle is inclusive participation: In the process of assessing governance, this means that the voices of all stakeholders, including women, the poor and the marginalized

should be included in setting the priorities of the governance assessment and in validating the assessment results.

Inclusive participation in the method of assessing governance means that data should be representative and adequately capture the differing opinions and experiences of all stakeholders.

### How is it rolled out?

The Global Programme 2008-2011 is a continuation of the UNDP Governance Indicators Project 2004-2007. The Global Programme receives financial support through the UNDP Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund.

The programme is executed through three windows:

1. The **country** window offers technical and financial support to nationally owned assessments through UNDP Country Offices.
2. The **regional** window offers regional training, knowledge products and workshops in partnership with UNDP Regional Bureaux and Service Centres.
3. The **global** window offers policy development, advocacy and knowledge services.