



# African Policy Dialogues

EVIDENCE FACTSHEET GHANA

Institute of Local Government Studies (ILGS)

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## Democratic Developmental Local Governance and Economic Transformation in Ghana

This document is about INCLUDE's African Policy Dialogue (APD) in Ghana, which is hosted by the Institute of Local Government Studies (ILGS). The APD provides an inclusive space for policy actors to share research and practice evidence to inform Ghana's quest for local governments which prioritise economic production, employment creation and income growth in a context of elected mayors.

### Challenges that impede local governments' developmental activities

- Low local revenue generation and delays in the disbursement of central government transfers.
- Disconnect between the central government's priority for job creation and the local governments priority for administrative services.
- Limited engagement between residents and their local governments.
- Low citizens' participation in local government elections compared to national elections.
- Appointment of the metropolitan, municipal, and district chief executives (Mayors) by the President which makes them more accountable to the central government.
- Inefficient bureaucratic structures that do not compel the staff to be accountable to the local authorities that they work for.
- Local governments over-reliance on the central government for funds, service delivery and accountability.

### Recommendations to make Ghana's local governments more developmental

- Enhance downward accountability by amending the constitution to allow for direct election of metropolitan, municipal and district chief executives.
- Promote municipal-citizen partnerships through participatory budgeting, performance contracts with local residents through citizens' charter and promulgate the Municipal Finance Bill.
- District assemblies should prioritise local economic development based on the lessons from One District One Factory (ODOF) policy by localizing the ODOF Secretariat into the local governments.
- Shift the management of local governments from bureaucracies to focus on development by investing in productive activities in collaboration with the private sector.
- Local governments should employ innovative ways to mobilize resources.



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## Our publications from the APD Ghana:

- Managing municipalities as businesses, not bureaucracies
- Time to transform decentralisation, local governance framework
- Local Governance Practitioners' Forum (LGPF): Report on the Second Forum
- Industrial policy for local economic transformation: A synthesis of literature
- "Be citizens not spectators"
- Industrial policy for local economic transformation and development in Ghana
- Fixing the challenges of Ghana's local governments
- Africa Youth Employment Insights: Ghana Brief
- Democratic development-oriented local governance and economic transformation in Ghana

## For more information on the African Policy Dialogues Programme:

<https://includeplatform.net/theme/african-policy-dialogues/>

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