

Assessing Enabling Environment for Cities and Local Governments in Africa

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Published by

 **UCLG AFRICA**
United Cities and Local Governments of Africa
Cités et Gouvernements Locaux Unis d'Afrique
CGLU AFRIQUE
www.localafrica.org

Cities Alliance
Cities Without Slums
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Assessing city enabling environment in Africa

An joint initiative of the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa and of the Cities Alliance

Objectives:

- Rating African countries against agreed indicators to assess the enabling environment put in place by national governments in favour of the initiatives and actions of cities and local governments
- Identifying the challenges African countries face in this regard and key reforms necessary to overcome these challenges
- Providing guidance to national decision-making authorities, to the national associations of local authorities and international technical and financial partners on the dialogue, frameworks and mechanisms to put in place in order to improve the enabling environment for cities and LG.

Methodology of the assessment

Assessing the city enabling environment in 50 African countries according to:

- ✓ A qualitative approach
- ✓ According to 10 agreed criteria
- ✓ Assessing countries against each criteria, on a scale from 1 (least effective) to 4 (most effective). Countries obtain a global rate out of 40, which indicates if national environment is rather enabling - or not – for the cities
- ✓ The assessment was done by comparing the legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks of any given country to its effective implementation. Therefore the rating is about country consistency in its will and actions to create an enabling environment for cities and local governments.

The 10 Criteria considered for assessing the Institutional Environment of Cities and Local Governments in Africa

1. Constitutional Framework
2. Legislative and regulatory Framework
3. Share of Public Finances between Central Government and Local Government
4. Local Governments' Own Revenues
5. Local Democracy
6. Human Resources Capacities of Local Government Administrations
7. Local Government Delivery and Management Performance
8. Existence of a National and/or Local Urban Policy/Strategy
9. Provisions for Transparency and Accountability Mechanisms
10. Provisions for Citizen Participation

Scope of the assessment

- ✓ 50 Countries of Africa have been rated
- ✓ Global rates obtained by the different countries are comprised between 11 and 33 out of 40 points.
- ✓ The rating has been peer reviewed by researchers from African Universities and by Practitioners from Development Partners Agencies active in the decentralization and urbanization sectors in Africa.
- ✓ The report contains the rating and its justification, but also indications for priority reforms to be implemented in order that the country improves the city enabling environment.

First Results of the assessment

Green Countries: 3 Countries (scores of 30 or higher)

Countries with the most favourable environments for the action of cities and LG.

South Africa; Morocco; Uganda

Yellow Countries: 4 Countries (scores below 30 and above 25)

Countries whose environment is rather favourable to the action of cities and LG, but where some improvements are needed.

Ghana; Kenya; Rwanda; Tanzania

Orange Countries: 25 Countries (scores between 25 and 20)

Countries whose progress towards an enabling environment for cities and LG would require major reform efforts.

Red Countries: 18 Countries (scores less than 20)

Countries whose environment is generally unfavourable to the action of cities and LG and that require a drastic shift to be able to comply with the requirements of an enabling environment for cities and LG.

Thank you for your attention