SUNY Center for International Development

Governance Information Bulletin 6

Governance, Democracy Assistance, and Public Sector Performance

Benjamin Reilly, Per Nordlund and Edward Newman, "[Political Parties in Conflict-Prone Societies: Encouraging Inclusive Politics and Democratic Development](#)" United Nations University, 2008

There is a growing trend for developing democracies to attempt to shape their party systems by regulating the way parties can form, organize and behave. This policy brief surveys attempts at party regulation and considers how to promote stable, non-sectarian political parties—an essential component of democracy— whilst also allowing free political expression and minority representation.

Dennis de Tray and Theodore Moran [" Getting the Focus Right: U.S. Leadership in the Fight against Global Corruption,"](#) Center for Global Development, 2008

This CGD Policy Brief presents key facts and recommendations drawn from Chapter Five of ***The White House and the World: A Global Development Agenda for the Next U.S. President.*** The United States has played a leadership role in the fight against global corruption, and there are many reasons to be hopeful about this effort. Nonetheless, corruption continues to seriously impede development efforts around the world, and the critical task of combating it will require both long-term commitment and strong support from the next U.S. administration.

"[Twittering your war to improved governance](#)" and "[Promoting rural youth engagement though radio and cell phones and Burundi](#)." *Governance Matters*. June 5, 2009 and May 26, 2009, respectively.

These two blog posts on the World Bank's Governance Matters blog illustrate how information and social networking technology can be used to improve public participation and encourage citizen claim-making upon government. The first link points to how the city of San Francisco has just begun to use Twitter as a means of allowing citizens to give feedback to municipal authorities. The second link discusses how youth in Uganda can participate in local radio broadcasts using cellphones to discuss important issues of local governance, including education, government corruption, and the justice system. Both pieces illustrate how new technologies can be used to promote citizen participation in government and responsiveness by those in power.

Sub-Saharan Africa

Etannibi E.O. Alemika, "[Criminal Justice: Norms, Politics, Institutions, Processes and Constraints.](#)" African Human Security Initiative, March 2008.

This paper by a Nigerian Criminologist outlines the sociological functions of criminal justice and places cultural norms and values about the law at the center of it analysis. The author discusses

different scholarly paradigms of criminal justice as well as its substantial and formal aspects. Lastly, criminal justice and law enforcement is discussed in the African context, including public opinion data regarding the trustworthiness of national law enforcement agencies and the causes of corrupt and inefficient law enforcement institutions.

Transparency International Kenya, "Paying the Public or Caring for Constituents: Popular Expectations and Parliamentarians' Expenditure at the Constituency Level in Kenya," 2003

Is the role of MPs to "bring" development or to mobilize resources for development? Do MPs and constituents in Kenya understand the MP's role? This report on a study by Transparency International Kenya examines how MPs respond to demands for financial assistance at the constituency level. Such demands are particularly conducive to corruption. It concludes that there is an insatiable demand on the ground for assistance from MPs, but that there is also a palpable desire for change.

J Njeru, "The Impact of Foreign Aid on Public Expenditure: The Case of Kenya," African Economic Research Consortium, 2003

In recent years, donors have made their aid more conditional on fiscal discipline and satisfactory policies, leading them to freeze funds if governments do not comply. What effect does this have on government spending? This paper, published by the African Economic Research Consortium, explores the relationship between public expenditure and aid fluctuations in Kenya. The Kenyan government's response to aid freezes has been to borrow from the domestic market and to introduce fiscal control measures, including spending cuts. Using a welfare utility maximization approach, the study finds that there is a strong, positive relationship between total expenditure and aid, supporting the proposition that aid money is not being used for tax relief. Conversely, aid freezes affect total spending negatively.

Odd-Helge Fjeldstad, Lucas Katera and Erasto Ngalewa "Outsourcing revenue collection to private agents: Experiences from local authorities in Tanzania," Chr. Michelsen Institute, 2009

This paper examines recent experiences with outsourced revenue collection to private agents in local government authorities in Tanzania. Based on evidence from four urban and three rural councils, the study examines how systems of privatized tax collection perform with respect to revenue generation, administration, and accountability. The study concludes that outsourcing offers no 'quick-fix' neither to increasing local government revenues nor to reducing tax administrative problems. While collection has increased and become more predictable in some councils which have outsourced revenue collection, others have experienced substantial problems with corruption and exceptionally high profit margins for the private agents at the expense of accomplishing a reasonable return to the respective local government authorities. However, when appropriately managed and monitored, outsourced revenue collection may establish a foundation for more effective and efficient local government revenue administration.

Oceania

AusAID, "Tracking Development and Governance in the Pacific," 2008

This report provides a snapshot of development and governance in the Pacific and is intended to help policymakers design policies and programs and to track progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).Despite recent growth, the report concludes that the Pacific region as a whole is not on-track to achieve the MDGs by 2015. The situation is worst in PNG, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste - countries that account for three-quarters of the region's population. This report is the first of a series of annual AusAID publications that will track development and governance in the Pacific region. It covers 15 Pacific countries plus Timor-Leste. The report discusses progress in poverty reduction and sustainable development based on selected MDG indicators. It assesses the policy settings and development performance of partner countries, focusing on development strategies, economic management, service delivery and governance.

East and Southeast Asia

Stephen Sherlock, "Indonesia's 2009 Elections: The New Electoral System & the Competing Parties" Centre for Democratic Institutions, 2009

This paper analyses reforms in electoral legislation from 2008 and the effect of the challenges in the Constitutional Court. It examines how the new law and regulations will influence the way the parties and candidates conduct their campaigns and the type of coalition-building that will take place. It provides a lesson about the unintended consequences that certain legislative or judicial actions may have and the possible contradictory effects of multiple agendas of reform. The changes to Indonesia's electoral laws can be seen as a case study of the impact of electoral systems on the distribution and operation of power in a democracy. The steps towards "open-list" voting in the parliamentary elections will fundamentally alter the dynamics of the relationship between candidates and their party leaderships on the one hand, and between candidates and the voters on the other. They will greatly reduce the power of the party machines over the selection of candidates and have the potential to increase the accountability of members of parliament to their constituencies through the ballot box. In doing so, they have the potential to transform the way politics are played out in Indonesia.

South and Central Asia

Andrew Exum, Nathaniel Fick, Ahmed Humayun, and David Kilcullen,"Triage: The Next Twelve Months in Afghanistan and Pakistan," Center for a New American Security, 2009

This report outlines the next twelve months (06/09-06/10) in Afghanistan and Pakistan with an eye towards the strategic objectives of the American and NATO war effort. The authors argue that a population-centric counterinsurgency strategy is the only way to defeat the Taliban. Further, special attention should be given to developing the institutional capacity of the Afghan government by placing additional civilian advisers in Afghan ministries and PRTs, as well as supporting Pakistani police institutions. While these actions will not lead to the outright defeat of the Taliban, they will alter the momentum of the war and force the Taliban on the defensive. .

Eastern Europe

United Nations Development Programme, "Kosovo – Early Warning Report # 24" 2009

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Kosovo released the latest Fast Facts of the Early Warning Report # 24 at a press conference held on Friday, 15 May. The latest EWS offers people' perceptions towards global economic crisis, changes in family income, employment, and business activity and recent levels of satisfaction with governing institutions, and international presence in Kosovo (KFOR, UNMIK, EULEX). The EWS # 24 also reveals interesting trends with respect to people's concerns, perceptions and attribution of corruption, communities' readiness to work with one-another, as well as varying perceptions among different communities on paramount problems facing Kosovo.

Keith Brown, "Democracy on the ground: apathy, community and civil society" *Opendemocracy.net*, 2009

This account of a civil-society project in Macedonia suggests that United States democracy-promotion in the post-communist world too often lacks both local knowledge and historical awareness.

Middle East and North Africa

International Crisis Group, "Lebanon's Elections: Avoiding a New Cycle of Confrontation," 2009

This ICG report concludes that Lebanon's 7 June elections risk offering a false hope. It argues that the parties agreement to shift their conflict from street to ballot box is positive, but that the results will probably be close and replicate the schism that divides the political arena into two irreconcilable camps. With the crisis that pushed the country to the brink of new civil war in 2008 apparently past, the parties could revive underlying conflicts. Regardless of who ultimately prevails – the Hizbollah-dominated alliance or the pro-Western coalition – the formation of a viable government and agreement on a common program will likely be time-consuming and require difficult compromises from all parties.

Mona Yacoubian, "Lebanon's Parliamentary Elections: Anticipating Opportunities and Challenges,"United States Institute of Peace, 2009

This report is the first of two papers addressing Lebanon's parliamentary elections. It is based on research conducted in Lebanon as part of a pre-election observation trip sponsored by the National Democratic Institute as well as the author's ongoing work as director of the Institute's Lebanon Working Group. Topics discussed include power-sharing in Lebanon; opportunities for reform; electoral challenges; and stakes in the Lebanese parliamentary elections.

Kristina Kausch, "Freedom of Association and Civil Society in Egypt," FRIDE, 2009

This paper by Kristina Kausch analyses freedom of association in Egypt and identifies the main obstacles facing Egyptian NGOs, political parties and unions. The planned amendments to the already restrictive Associations Law are likely to further limit the space in which civil society is able to operate. The extralegal role of the Security Services in monitoring and harassing political activists impedes the latter from taking any legal action.

"U.S. -Backed Majority Holds On To Power in Lebanon." By Elias Muthanna. World Politics Review. June 9, 2009.

"Well, well, well...Lebanon's Elections: Winners and Losers." By Andrew Exum. Abu Muqawama. June 7, 2009.

Two web pieces on the recent elections in Lebanon. Muthanna's piece discusses the prospects for a new Prime Minister and the major issues of contention that the new government must deal with, particularly Hezbollah's veto power within the cabinet. Exum's piece chronicles the winners and losers of the election by party and sect.