

Effective Community Governance (ECG) in International Development



The four "Advanced Governance Practices" of ECG are represented by the overlapping areas in the figure, which are achieved by aligning "core community skills" as follows:

1. **Community Problem Solving:** Aligns "Engaging Citizens" and "Getting Things Done."
2. **Organizations Managing for Results:** Aligns "Measuring Results" and "Getting Things Done."
3. **Citizens Reaching for Results:** Aligns "Engaging Citizens" and "Measuring Results."
4. **Communities Governing for Results:** Aligns all three core skills.

A Methodology that Supports Decentralization

- The Effective Community Governance Model and related ideas provide a methodology for communities seeking to improve their governance practices by combining citizen engagement with performance measurement to address quality of life issues. These methods support decentralization by strengthening communities' abilities to govern themselves and continually improve conditions their citizens care about.

Tools for Building Citizen Engagement, Accountability, and a Better Quality of Life

- ECG provides a toolkit for local governments to identify governance roles that citizens can play and assess the robustness of existing governance structures. Planning based on ECG assessments breaks down the process of building "citizen engagement" into concrete, actionable components to improve civic participation in policy-making. The model also encourages government, NGOs, and private community-serving organizations to engage citizens in defining quality of life issues. By publicly addressing issues citizens rank as highly important, government builds trust, improves community quality of life, and increases accountability and the incentive to participate in governance. Investment in making a difference in day-to-day quality of life builds a foundation for addressing broader human rights concerns in developing countries.

For more information on ECG see www.effectivegovernance.net or the book *Results That Matter* by Paul D. Epstein, Paul M. Coates, and Lyle D. Wray with David Swain (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2006).

Contact: Paul Epstein at epstein@epsteinandfass.com and 212-349-1719