



FACT SHEET

Local Governance Program (LGP)



A locally elected officials' network member in Sefrou, calling for better inclusion of women in local governance (USAID)

CONTEXT

The Arab Spring has elevated national awareness in Morocco of youth and women's issues. The 2011 constitution emphasizes good governance practices, including transparency and accountability of elected officials and greater citizen participation in local governance matters. Local governments, however, still do not sufficiently engage with their citizens. Citizens now demand increased civic participation and involvement.

USAID RESPONSE

The Local Governance Program (LGP) creates a platform for dialogue between citizens and their local governments (communes) by promoting participative practices and encouraging increased transparency and accountability of locally elected officials. Working in more than 80 communes, USAID supports locally elected officials to become more responsive to citizen needs and expectations, especially for youth and women in three areas:

- **Participation & coordination:** USAID promotes participative practices in elected bodies by implementing communal development plans; establishing equity and equal opportunities commissions that integrate the feedback of civil society in the commune council; supporting local youth councils and programs; and strengthening the leadership skills of locally elected women officials.
- **Commune performance:** USAID improves the performance of targeted communes by strengthening staff planning and programming skills, enhancing management of fiscal resources, and developing tools to measure the performance of communes in key functions against national standards.
- **Communication & transparency:** USAID renders local governments

QUICK FACTS

- **Program Name:** Local Governance Program (LGP)
- **Program Duration:** October 2012-September 2014
- **Program Goal:** to advance Moroccan initiatives for peaceful reform
- **Program Objectives:** to give citizen more opportunities to participate in local governance.
- To enhance local governments' ability to provide better services to citizens.
- To encourage increased accountability and transparency in local governance.

more transparent and accountable increasing communication with citizens, creating a complaints management system, and developing and implementing internal audit structures.

ANTICIPATED RESULTS

- 86 communes are now updating their communal development plan (CDP);
- Three communes conducted internal audit missions to assess their operations and budget management, leading to improved accountability and process efficiency;
- Local youth councils have been established in nine communes, creating an unprecedented environment for young men and women to engage with locally elected officials and administration on youth issues; and advocating for inclusion at the national level, through a National LYC Coordination Network;
- Gender/equity commissions have been created in eight communes, to ensure that women, youth and civil society engage their commune councils on key issues; while five networks of locally elected officials have been created at province-level;
- Complaint management and mediation systems have been developed and introduced into four communes to manage citizen complaints in a more transparent and accountable manner, and are now computerized;
- Small grants program sponsored 10 projects, worth \$137,000, supporting local youth initiatives and networks of locally elected women officials.