



Selected Resources on Decentralisation, Local Governance and Human Rights

Compiled by GIZ project "Realizing Human Rights in Development Cooperation"

<http://www.gtz.de/human-rights>

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I. Human Rights in German Development Policy

BMZ (2010), Human rights in practice – Fact sheets on a human rights-based approach in development cooperation

Collection of 2-page fact sheets that explain what the human rights-based approach in development cooperation means in general and for all priority sectors of German development cooperation. The fact sheet on decentralisation and municipal development is on pages 20-21.

http://www.bmz.de/en/publications/topics/human_rights/BMZ_Information_Brochure_7_2010e.pdf
(English)

http://www.bmz.de/de/publikationen/themen/menschenrechte/BMZ_Informationsbroschuere_07_2010.pdf (German)

II. Human Rights Reference Documents related to Decentralisation and Local Governance

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/ccpr.htm>

UN Human Rights Committee (1996), General Comment No. 25: Right to participation

The general comments are interpretations of human rights standards by the treaty bodies. The general comment No. 25 details the state obligations on the right to participate in public affairs, voting rights and the right of equal access to public service, and as such is an important reference document.

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrc/comments.htm>

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/cescr.htm>

UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: General Comments related to decentralisation and local governance

Especially relevant for local governance programmes are General Comments Nr. 4 housing, Nr. 7 housing and forced evictions, Nr. 12 food, Nr. 13 education, Nr. 14 health, Nr. 15 water, Nr. 18 work and Nr. 19 social security.

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cescr/comments.htm>

III. More on Human Rights in the Context of Decentralisation and Local Governance

International Council for Human Rights Policy (ICHRP) (2002), Theme page "Local government: links with human rights"

This concise report explores the links between decentralisation and human rights: if and when decentralised governance supports or hinders the realization of human rights and how human rights can help guide decentralisation processes. The page contains downloads of the report "Local Rule: Decentralisation and Human Rights" as well as working papers with experiences from different countries, links and a bibliography.

<http://www.ichrp.org/en/projects/116>

ICHRP (2005), Theme page “Local government: delivering public services”

This easy to read report shows how human rights can be applied in the context of development programmes supporting local governments and decentralised public service delivery. It shows that many issues local governments are entrusted with (assuring housing, water supply, health care etc.) touch upon basic human rights and explains how the human rights standards and the human rights principles of non-discrimination, participation and accountability can be applied in a local government context. The page contains downloads of the full report and summary of “Local Government and Human Rights: Doing Good Service” as well as working papers with experiences from different countries, links and a bibliography.

<http://www.ichrp.org/en/projects/124>

UNDP, Rights-based Municipal Development Programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina (RMAP), Website with resources

RMAP is one of the first municipal development programmes that explicitly and systematically applied a human rights-based approach in all aspects of its work. It made use of the human rights legal instruments to guide its programme design and approach in order to improve the quality, impact and sustainability of its development outcomes. Focus has been on rights-based municipal assessments and planning. The webpage contains related studies, documents and tools. Noteworthy are the analytical tools (like sectoral background papers or human rights checklists) to assess the current state of implementation of human rights at municipal level.

<http://rmap.undp.ba/>

RMAP Knowledge Tools: <http://rmap.undp.ba/?PID=3&RID=21>

UNDP Local Governance, Human Rights Based Approach and Gender Mainstreaming in the Context of Europe and the CIS, Toolkit

This UNDP toolkit is a compilation of tools for programming for local governance while integrating the human rights-based approach and gender mainstreaming along the programme cycle. It includes many examples of application based on good practices and lessons learned from various programmes in Europe and the CIS. The experiences demonstrate that the human rights-based approach to programming and gender mainstreaming bring accountability, non discrimination, equality and rule of law as well as a powerful analytical tool to local governments.

<http://hrba.undp.sk/index.php/introduction/local-governance-human-rights-based-approach-and-gender-mainstreaming-in-the-context-of-europe-and-the-cis>

Esbern Friis-Hansen, Helene Maria Kyed (2009), Participation, Decentralization and Human Rights: A Review of Approaches for Strengthening Voice and Accountability in Local Governance, World Bank/ Danish Institute for International Studies

This report examines the theoretical and practical synergies between three intervention models that are currently being employed to improve local governance in developing countries: (i) democratic decentralization or devolution; (ii) community participatory approaches, and; (iii) human rights-based approaches. The aim is to identify the possibilities and challenges of an integrative approach to local governance. This is supported by a number of empirical cases from Africa, Latin America, Asia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Each case also highlights a number of context-specific challenges such as available financial resources, national policy environments and local conflicts.

<http://www.diis.dk/graphics/Subweb/Fremtidens-bistand/Local%20governance%20 DIIS %20%20-%20FIN<AL%20 2 .pdf>

Nancy Thede (2009), Decentralization, Democracy and Human Rights: A Human Rights-Based Analysis of the Impact of Local Democratic Reforms on Development

This article is situated at the intersection of the debates over the role of democracy in enhancing development and regarding human rights-based approaches to development. Decentralization acts as a lens through which the interaction of democratization, development, and human rights can be analysed in concrete local contexts. The analysis presented here, of the impact of decentralization in seven developing countries on local political participation and on the quality of enjoyment of education and health as economic and social rights, illustrates some of the limits of the democratization process, and the policy relevance of a rights-based approach to this process.

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/content~db=all~content=a909485521~frm=titlelink>

Paul Lundberg (2004?), Decentralized Governance and a Human Rights-based Approach to Development, UNDP

This UNDP commissioned paper explains on the first 12 pages the conceptual framework of decentralisation support programmes and human rights-based approaches. It then goes on to analyse exemplary projects and initiatives in the Philippines, Nepal, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Pakistan.

http://www.un.org.kg/index2.php?option=com_resource&task=show_file&id=3769

Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE) Website

COHRE is a human rights NGO specialised on the right to housing and the right to water and sanitation, which has published a number of background papers, parallel reports to UN mechanisms, technical reports, manuals, and resources on these rights issues in general and for specific countries.

<http://www.cohre.org>

Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR) Website

CESR is a non-governmental think tank and advocacy organisation focusing on economic and social rights (right to education, food, water, work, health, and housing and rights-related poverty issues). Its website contains a wealth of resources on these issues: thematic and country publications, tools for monitoring economic and social rights, country fact sheets and many more. It closely follows the situation in 21 countries – most of which partner countries of German development cooperation.

<http://www.cesr.org>

CESR is currently preparing a new publication on decentralization and human rights “Is decentralization good for human rights?” which will soon be published here:

<http://www.cesr.org/article.php?id=278>