

# **INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE**

*GENDER EQUITY AND  
GOVERNANCE PROJECT*



**Interventions to Promote Inclusive  
Governance for Underserved  
Populations in Sub-Saharan Africa:  
An Evidence and Gap Map**

**PLAIN LANGUAGE SUMMARY**

## Interventions to Promote Inclusive Governance for Underserved Populations in Sub-Saharan Africa: An Evidence and Gap Map

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This Evidence and Gap Map on interventions aimed at promoting inclusive governance for underserved populations found the evidence is distributed disproportionately and lacks comprehensive systematic reviews.

This EGM reviews and discusses the available evidence on interventions aimed at underserved populations to promote inclusive governance in SSA. Sub-Saharan Africa has a significant number of underserved populations, with notable challenges in service delivery and in government accountability to its citizens. By concentrating on this region, the EGM identifies context-specific interventions and evidence in areas where enhancing inclusive governance is essential for promoting equity, participation, and sustainable development.

It highlights that much of the evidence focuses on the advocacy efforts of civil society organizations (CSOs) and their initiatives to achieve inclusive governance outcomes, particularly in civic participation. Most of this evidence originates from countries in Eastern Africa.

### ***What is this EGM about?***

Due to structural inequalities, weak institutional capacity, and a lack of transparency, many underserved populations are often excluded from political, economic, and social decision-making processes. Inclusive governance interventions can help these marginalized groups have their voices heard and empower them. Policymakers increasingly seek to identify effective interventions that promote equitable and non-discriminatory participation, accountability, transparency, responsiveness, and overall effectiveness in inclusive governance. This EGM addresses that need by systematically identifying and organizing research on inclusive governance interventions for underserved populations in sub-Saharan Africa.

### ***What is the aim of this EGM?***

To present evidence from studies on interventions that promote inclusive governance for underserved populations in sub-Saharan Africa.

### ***What studies are included?***

The EGM comprised 88 articles, all of which were primary studies evaluating interventions aimed at achieving inclusive governance. These studies specifically focused on interventions designed for underserved populations in sub-Saharan Africa.

### ***What are the main findings of this gap map?***

The evidence presented in this EGM highlights the role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in advocacy, particularly in public policy, government agency engagement, and grassroots movements that promote inclusive governance. Specifically, there are clusters of evidence focusing on alliance building, advocacy and lobbying efforts, and the active participation of women and youth in CSO advocacy. Additionally, multiple studies have examined the development and strengthening of grassroots movements through collective actions and campaigns.

Most of the evidence originates from Eastern African countries, including Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania, with no systematic reviews included in the mapping.

Over 35% of the studies reported outcomes related to civic participation. Furthermore, there were 7 and 8 studies assessing interventions aimed at enhancing the use of key government information and influencing policy and policymakers, respectively.

While all regions of sub-Saharan Africa were represented, the majority of studies came from Eastern Africa (44.9%), with only a small proportion from Central Africa (4.1%). Most interventions in Eastern and Western Africa focused on CSO advocacy, with fewer studies addressing access to information and capacity-building initiatives.

### ***What do the findings of the map mean?***

This EGM aims to identify effective interventions for achieving inclusive governance among underserved populations. While there is limited evidence available, much of the research is concentrated in Eastern Africa, although Western and Southern Africa also have a significant number of studies, albeit without comprehensive reviews. This map helps build an evidence base in the field, enabling funders and researchers to identify existing gaps and prioritize future research efforts.

### ***How up-to-date is this EGM?***

We conducted a search for relevant studies up to September 17, 2024.