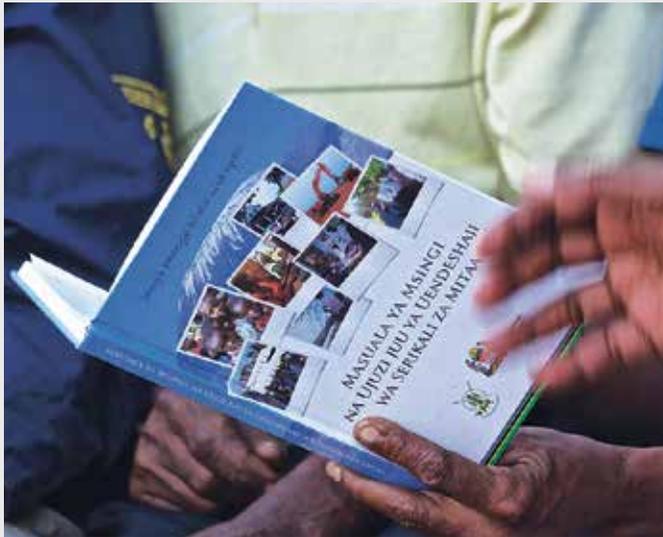


The context

The Councilor's Handbook has helped build leaders' capacities while also becoming a popular tool for enhancing good governance at the local level in Tanzania. SULGO works with LGAs and LLGAs in the pilot regions of Tanga and Mtwara to increase citizens' participation in governance. Councilors play a critical role in mobilizing citizens to participate in the socio-economic development of their areas as citizens are central to demanding and ensuring good governance and the rule of law.



German Development Cooperation

The Support to Local Governance (SULGO) programme is a cooperation between the governments of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Federal Republic of Germany. It is implemented by the Prime Minister's Office – Regional Administration and Local Government (PMO–RALG) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The overall aim of the programme is to improve access to public services for citizens through stronger local governments. It has been implemented since 2008, with the current phase running since November 2010.

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<http://www.sulgo.or.tz>
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Information for better governance

SULGO
better lives through better services



Building local government capacities

The Councilor's Handbook provides elected local authorities with information to support them in performing their daily functions effectively.

Councilors' capabilities

The Councilor's Handbook was compiled by SULGO in cooperation with the Association of Local Authorities of Tanzania (ALAT) to strengthen the capacities of local leaders as they are directly tasked with ensuring the delivery of services at the grassroots level.

It consists of 12 chapters that touch on the legal framework, the administrative functions of councilors as well as the scope of their duties and responsibilities.



The simplified handbook contains information related to decentralization and local government, including a rundown of the policies and legal framework within which LGAs operate. Thus, the booklet is aimed to equip local authorities with the knowledge and information they need to provide effective local governance. As the manual effectively provides a birds-eye view of the overall picture, it is hoped that councilors who utilize it will develop strong teamwork with leaders in the different institutions they work with as well as with the citizens they represent.

The handbook

While essentially basic, the handbook nevertheless provides councilors with more knowledge and information than they are able to attain in the three days normally spent in training.

It contains information on:

- ▶ The system, structure and legal framework for local government in Tanzania Mainland.
- ▶ The councilors' responsibilities as far as exemplifying good governance is concerned.
- ▶ National development strategies such as MKUKUTA.
- ▶ The role of public private partnerships in helping government achieve its goal to improve the welfare of citizens.
- ▶ The importance of transparency and accountability in strengthening the quality of service delivery.
- ▶ Multiparty democracy, the concept of separation of powers and the system of checks and balances.



The results

- ▶ The handbook provides a quick reference on important information concerning local government. It has already been made available not only for leaders in the pilot regions but for local authorities across the country.



- ▶ With this handbook, authorities have been able to do away with having to put together a scattered range of materials during the training of new councilors. The handbook is not only comprehensive but it is also available in Kiswahili which most local officials easily understand.
- ▶ Councilors who have utilized this handbook have been found to be more effective at discharging their duties and to have a more positive attitude towards the rights of people with special needs and their role in socio-economic development, which is an area of focus in the handbook. As a result, in many parts of the country today, people with disabilities are received well at public gatherings, which was not the case in the past.
- ▶ Councilors are able to differentiate between administrative and political matters and to manage these appropriately.
- ▶ Councilors are able to make sure that bylaws are available and implemented according to law in areas of their jurisdiction.