

MuniSAM – Municipal Social Accountability Monitoring Program



Municipal Assemblies (MAs)

The People's House

The new decentralization package relies on the well-functioning of assemblies; at provincial, municipal as well as district level (*former to be created in 2024*). MuniSAM interacts and engages with members of Municipal Councils and Assemblies aiming to improve their capacities for operationalization of effective social accountability.

In implementation of its social accountability monitoring actions **MuniSAM believes that civil society should go beyond monitoring just the executive government performance and must also include actions, capacities and performance of oversight bodies.**

New Decentralization package:

The head of the party, coalition of parties or groups of citizens who obtain the majority of the votes in the elections for the Municipal Assembly is pointed as the President of the Municipal Council. (Law 6/2018, Arts. 58.1 and 91.1).

In the light of the Law 6/2018 (Art. 45.2 I) it is up to the Municipal Assembly to dismiss the President of the Municipal Council under the terms of the Law. This Law suggests that there must be sufficient reason for loss of mandate (Art. 100.1), which must be communicated by the assembly to the governing body (Articles 45.2 d) and 78.2 d). However, the loss of mandate must be declared by the Council of Ministers after a review or inquiry has been conducted (Art. 100.2 and 100.3).

These changes, on the one hand, give greater power to the Municipal Assembly as an oversight body and increase the accountability of the Mayor to the Municipal Assembly. On the other hand, there is a risk of reducing the direct accountability of the mayor to his residents, as he/she is no longer directly elected by them.

"(...) With MuniSAM we have the opportunity to learn about new legal tools and instruments that help us in our deliberation and oversight activities. Only in this way are we able to objectively supervise the activities of the local council. This partnership influences the improvement of our performance, as we are starting the mandate and there are new members in this process, who have never participated in this democratic exercise, it is necessary to know the management processes and especially the social accountability tools so that through monitoring we can ensure the progressive fulfillment of citizens' most pressing needs."

(Manuel Raibo – President of Municipal Assembly, Marrupa)

Municipal Assembly members must ensure that planned activities are implemented and that available resources are used in an effective, efficient and responsible way and that public managers performance is monitored, reported and audited.

Results, Impact, Change

- ❖ Members of 14 Municipal Assemblies from the Center and North of the country with increased capacity needed to exercise their oversight role thanks to increased knowledge and know-how;
- ❖ Female and Youth members of 14 Municipal Assemblies encouraged to influence the inclusion of projects for women and youth into local plans;
- ❖ Promoted increased knowledge and capabilities to allow Municipal Assembly members to monitor municipal developmental projects in a more informed manner, especially in territorial planning and climate change;
- ❖ Strengthened the institutional capacity of 14 target Municipal Assemblies;
- ❖ Citizens have closer relationship with respective Municipal Assemblies;
- ❖ Developed mobilization actions towards fight of corruption, promotion of citizenship and participatory governance;
- ❖ Introduced the Open Day to Citizens.

OPEN DAY TO CITIZENS – an innovative exercise that aims to straighten ties between municipal citizens and members of Municipal Assemblies. A space that promotes aproximation, interaction and engajament. During the Open Day municipal citizens have the opportunity to clarify doubts regarding public management of their Municipality, discuss specific urban matters, and, in an organized and open way raise their concerns, complains and suggestions.



Programa de Monitoria
de Responsabilização Social
nos Municípios.

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