

Review of countries' practices in measuring women's political participation at the local level

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Overview

- 1. Current measurements on political participation and data gaps**
- 2. Building the case for a new measurement on representation of women at the local level SDG 5.5.1.**
- 3. Preliminary findings on local government typology**
- 4. Regional experiences with collecting data on women in local government**

1. Current Measurements on WPP

Quantitative

- Proportion seats held by women in **parliament** (IPU)
- Women's share of government **ministerial positions**
- Women **heads of state** and government (UNW)

Qualitative (World Values Survey – in nearly 100 countries)

- % of population who believe women **are credible political leaders**
- % women who regularly undertake various forms **political action**

Global Data Gaps

SG report on Women and Political Participation in 2013:

- Recognizes there are **significant data gaps**, with limited comparable statistics on WPP.
- Notes some important regional progress, but highlights that **data collected is often not comparable** because definitions, collection methods and sources vary from country to country, in particular at the **sub-national level**

No data

- Participation and leadership in **local government**
- Voter **turnout** and voter **registration**
- Proportion of **candidates** for election (national & sub-national)
- Incidence of **violence** against women in politics

2. The case for an indicator on local government

- ❖ As no global baseline of women in local government exists, UN Women started working towards having one
- ❖ Most countries have a local government.
- ❖ The contributions of millions of women are not being captured; rather focus is on 10,000 women MPs
- ❖ Little, but significant, evidence that women in local-level decision-making improves women's lives.

“What is not measured is invisible. What is invisible is lost. What is lost cannot be acted or remedied.”

- (UN Women I Know Gender Course)



SDG framework

SDG 5

“Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”

Target 5.5: *“Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at **all levels** of decision-making in political, economic and public life.”*

Indicator 5.5.1: *Measures women’s proportional representation in two distinct areas of government: (1) **national parliaments** (Tier I Indicator) and (2) **local government** (Tier III Indicator)*

Indicator 5.5.1b: *“Proportion of seats held by women in **local governments**.”*

What data do we need?

- Simple method of computation:

$$= \frac{\textit{Number of positions held by women}}{\textit{Total number of positions held by women and men}} \times 100$$

- But what tier(s) of government are most comparable across countries?
- And which positions? (councilors, executives or mayors, only elected, or also appointed positions?)

Methodology development

Collecting and analyzing data on local government for global baseline.

1. **1st technical meeting** (November 2014)
2. **Extensive research** (e.g. legal review of constitutions and local government acts to identify local government structures – original, UCLG and CLGF)
3. **Typology of LG** (how many tiers of local government) and **leadership positions**
4. **Consultations with partners** to understand data collection at country level and data compilation at regional levels
5. **Data request form** and pre-testing with countries

Local government definitions

Local Government refers to lower tiers of government that regulate and manage a share of public affairs in the interest of the local population.

The legal framework defines local government as provided by country laws, including the Constitution, Local Government Acts, Electoral Laws or equivalent legislation.

Tiers of local government include political-administrative levels of division of a country (*such as municipalities, districts, regions, etc.*) with **political, fiscal and administrative autonomy**.

This **autonomy** is reflected in the existence of three types of government bodies:

1. a deliberative body (e.g. council)
2. an executive body (e.g. mayor)
3. public administration staff (e.g. government employees)

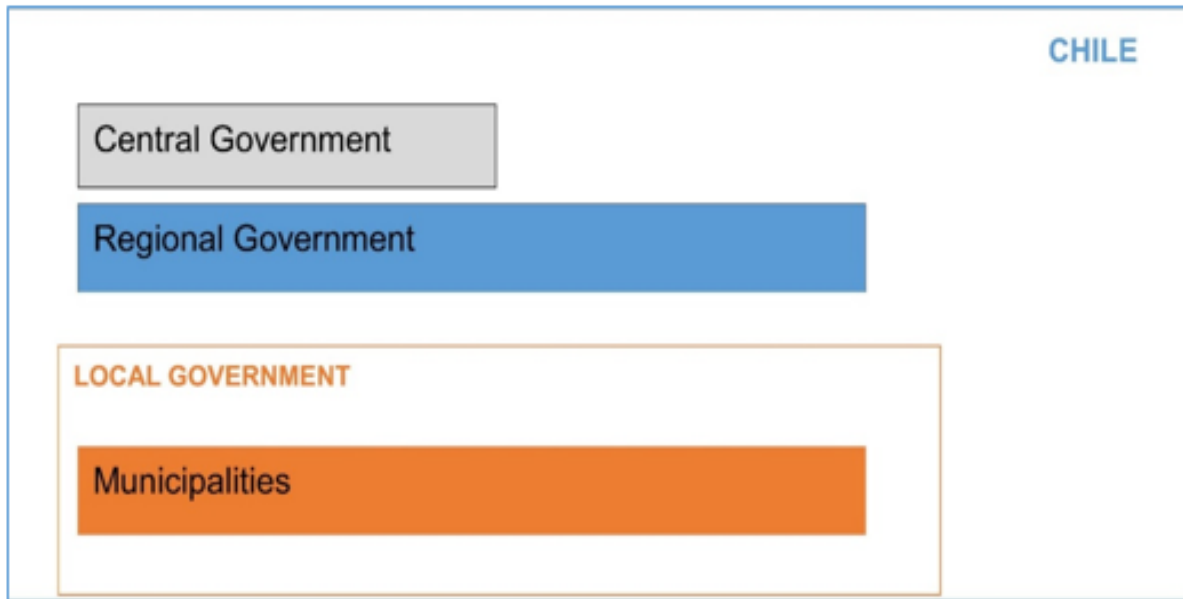
3. Findings of local government typology

- **105** countries analyzed from all regions
- An estimated **91%** of countries in the world have local government (9% with just national government)
- **71%** of countries are estimated to have only national & local govt.
- **20%** of countries have three spheres: national, *intermediate* & local

All profiles

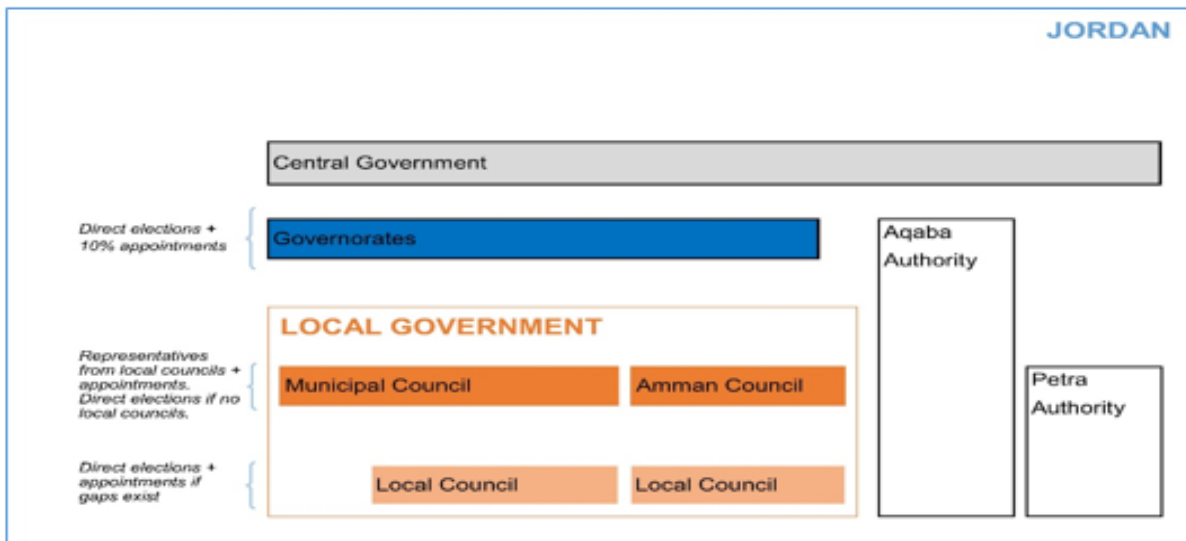
<i>Total number of local government tiers</i>	Number of countries	Percentage distribution
<i>Total</i>	96	100 %
<i>1 tier</i>	44	46 %
<i>2 tiers</i>	34	35 %
<i>3 tiers</i>	16	17 %
<i>4 tiers</i>	2	2 %

Local government in Chile



One tier local government

Local government in Jordan



Two tiers of local government

Local government in China

CHINA

Central Government

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

4 LG tiers

3 LG tiers

2 LG tiers

Indirect elections

Direct elections

T1. Province-level

Provinces

Autonomous regions

Municipalities

T2. Prefecture/city-level

Autonomous prefectures

Large cities

T3. County-level

Counties

Autonomous counties

Cities not divided into districts

(?) City districts

Municipal districts

T4. Township-level

Townships

Nationality townships

Towns

Mass organizations of self-management at grass-roots level

Residents' committees

Villages' committee

Pre-testing the methodology of data compilation at global level

B1. Background information on tiers of local government

INSTRUCTIONS: Section B1 collects background information on the organization of local government tiers, the manner of selection of their members, and whether quotas are in place. Please provide information on all tiers of local government from highest to lowest and complete the information requested for each of them. It is important that the information provided in this form is as indicated in the instructions and not based on personal opinion. Please use the symbol "x" if data are not available. Local government refers to lower tiers of government (i.e. not the central government or international organizations) that regulate and manage a share of public affairs, under their own responsibility and in the interest of the local population.*

**Definition of Local Government Tiers: Most countries in the world have a local government. What constitutes local government is defined by country laws (Constitution, Local Government Acts, and/or other equivalent legal framework) and may vary from one country to another. Local government refers to lower tiers of government that regulate and manage a share of public affairs, under their own responsibility and in the interest of the local population. Tiers of local government are defined as political-administrative levels of division of a country (such as municipalities, districts, regions, etc.) with political, fiscal and administrative autonomy must be reflected in the existence of three types of government bodies: (1) a deliberative body such as a council or assembly, usually elected by universal suffrage, that has decision-making power to issue by-laws, on a range of public and local aspects; (2) an executive body, elected, appointed or nominated, such as an executive committee or a mayor that prepares and executes decisions made by the deliberative body; (3) public administration staff (employees) that ensure the implementation of the local decisions and the provision of services to the population.*

Highest local government

1. Name of all tiers of local government

List as many tiers as there are in the country from highest to lowest tier. Examples are provided in the instructions. Most countries have 2 tiers of local government, while some countries have only 1, or 2 or more. (Examples: "municipalities", "communes", "districts", "counties", "regions" etc.)

a.
(ex. Region)

2. Number of administrative units of each tier (unrounded figures)

Enter how many "municipalities" or "districts," etc. exist in the country

a.
(ex. 5)

3. Does this tier exist only in some areas of the country (Yes/No)?

Select Yes/No:

a.

If YES, please indicate what areas of the country are covered:

Data collection within countries

Sources: The agencies carrying out these activities may be governmental institutions such as

- Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs);
- Line ministries (including for example, ministries overseeing local governments, women's ministries), and
- NSOs

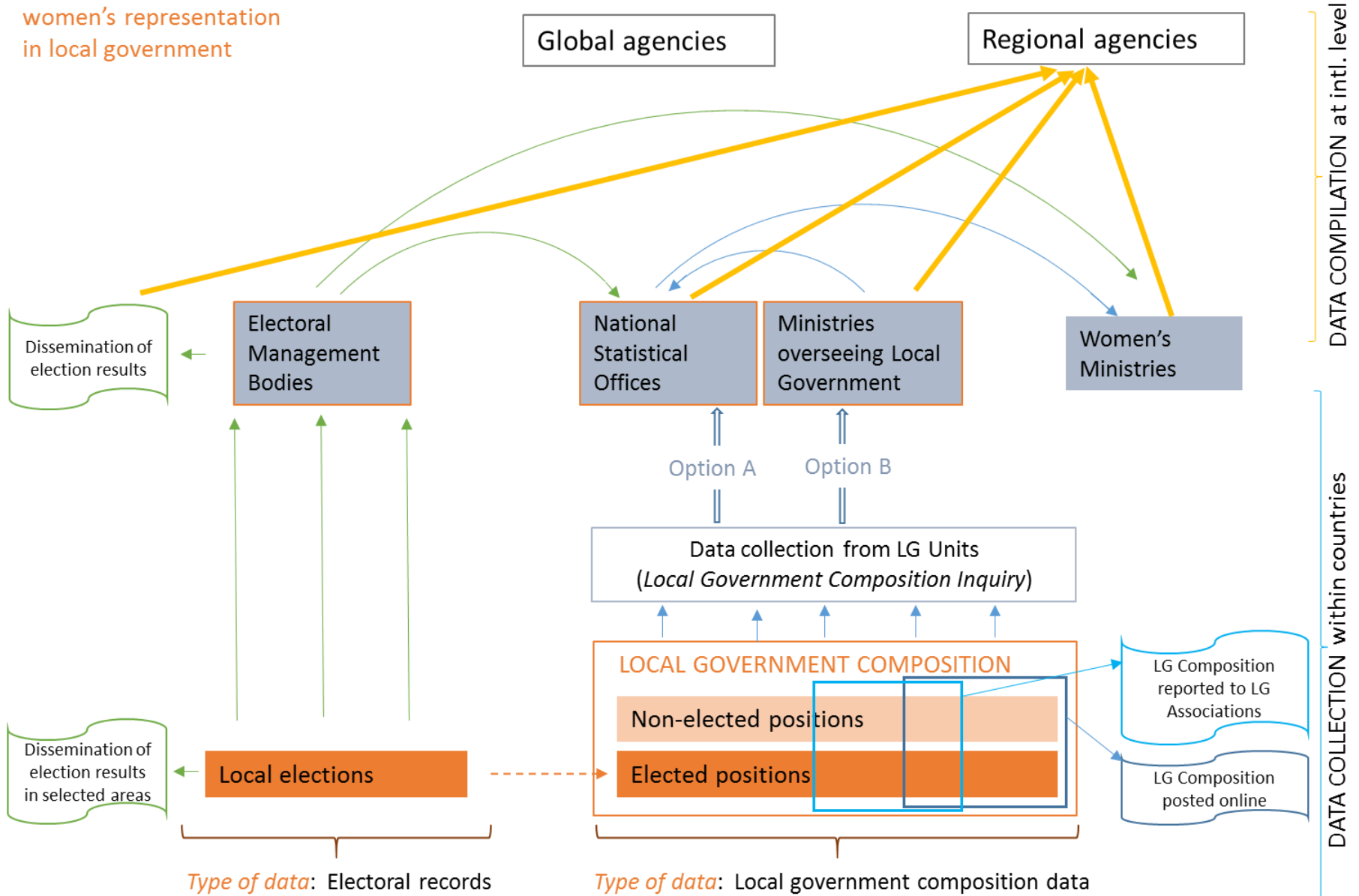
Difference in data:

(1) local government member positions covered (such as those elected, nominated or appointed) and if executive head/mayor included

(2) coverage of all areas of a country and tiers of local government

(3) reference date for the data produced (election date, by- election, or date of enquiry)

Figure 1. Flow of data on women's representation in local government



4. Regional Experiences

- UNW has examined ongoing regional efforts to collect data, mostly from regional commissions.
- Methodologies involved in data compilation vary from one institution to another in terms:
 - (1) how local government is defined
 - (2) which tiers of local government are taken into account
 - (3) which LG member positions covered
 - (4) data collection frequency and reference date
 - (5) databases and reporting mechanisms.

	UNECE	European Commission	ECLAC
Period covered	1980, 1990, 1995, 2000-2013	2011, 2013, 2015	1998-2012
Frequency of data collection / Periodicity	Every two years. Reporting of countries varies from 1 to 4	Every two years	Each time new local elections take place
Type of indicator	Share of women among members of local government	Share of women among members of local government	Share of women among members of local government
Leadership positions considered	Indicator 1: Members of municipal councils or other local area governing bodies	Indicator 1: Members of local/municipal council Indicator 2: Mayor	Indicator 1: Directly elected municipal members Indicator 2: Directly elected mayors
Tier of local government	Municipal government administering the territory at the lowest administrative level of a country.	Lowest administrative subdivision with an elected representative body.	Municipal government / Lowest tier of local government with an elected body
Types of data sources	Electoral records Administrative records Municipality survey	Electoral records Administrative records	Electoral records

Data availability	Number of countries ^a with at least one data point in the interval specified				
Region	2001 - 2010		2011 +		Total
Indicator: Share of women among local councilor					
Latin America and the Caribbean	26		23		26
Asia and Pacific	16		22		24
Europe ^b, Northern America, Australia, Japan and New Zealand	36		42		49
ALL REGIONS	78		87		99
Indicator: Share of women among mayors or other leadership positions in local government					
Latin America and the Caribbean	28		27		28
Asia and Pacific	13		16		22
Europe ^b, Northern America, Australia, Japan and New Zealand	..		35		35
ALL REGIONS	41		78		85

Next Steps

- Data form pre-testing: Ongoing
- Expert Group Meeting (EGM): 3-4 November 2016
- Consultations ongoing with partners about potential harmonization of data collection methodologies
- Expected draft methodology to IAEG-SDG: December 2016
- Expected piloting and data collection: 2017



Thank you for your attention

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