

# **GROUP INTERVIEWS REPORT**

## **EVALUATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES FOR INTERACTION WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT**



*idasa*

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## **GROUP INTERVIEWS REPORT FINDINGS**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Group Interviews (Focus Groups) involved participants from the Community Based Organisations (CBOs) that are part of the Idasa PACT's Strengthening Civil Society Participation in Local Governance Programme funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The purpose of this endeavour is to determine the impact the programme had in the first year of implementation. The results of the Group Interviews (Focus Groups) should be used to design intervention mechanisms to improve and nurture interactions between the broad-based CBO stakeholders and the Local Government (District and Local Municipalities) where gaps and weaknesses are identified.

This report focuses mainly on qualitative data where key themes form the bulk of the report. It is however important to note that most of the data sets for the Group Interviews sessions (Focus Groups) can only be analyzed quantitatively.

### **2. PROCESS**

The Group Interviews were carried out in the three respective provinces covered by the Idasa Civil Society Capacity Building initiatives for interaction with local government. These are Kwa-Zulu Natal, Limpopo and the Gauteng Province. There were a total of forty-five (45) CBOs that were invited for the Group Interviews. Fifteen (15) CBOs were expected per province. Each CBO was required to send two (2) participants each to the Group Interviews sessions. This translates to thirty- (30) participants per province and a total of ninety- (90) participants for the three provinces.

A total of forty - (40) CBOs participated in the Group Interviews out of the forty-five that initially were invited. The forty CBOs participated as follows:

UGU District Municipality	= 14
Vhembe District Municipality	= 13
West Rand District Municipality	= 13

Data was collected by means of the Dictaphones, Laptops and note taking by the scribes. The scribes were deployed on the basis of language proficiency as per the languages that are spoken in each province. This process ensured the best possible precautions are taken to optimize data collection.

### **3. SAMPLING METHOD**

An interview guide derived from the combination of validated baseline study instrument and the project implementation objectives primarily drove research for the Group Interviews.

After consultation and deliberations between the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Idasa their PACT partners and MMMIS, it was agreed that two participants per CBO should be selected.

Furthermore, an agreement was reached to reduce the number of questions on the Group Interviews interview guide to three at most. Further discussions between Idasa and their PACT partner as well as MMMIS where the interview guide was finalized.

#### **4. DATA ANALYSIS**

Analysis of data will be based on the data sets collected for each of the three provinces. Actual numbers of the CBOs present per province at the Group Interviews will be used for reporting the results of the Group Interviews. Global results will be based on a total of forty – (40) CBOs that were present at the Group Interviews. Actual examples given by the respondents from the interviews will also be used for reporting purposes. Given that the data sets are big in volume, the examples contained in the data sets reports will be included in the appendices to this report.

The results will be reported in the format that follows:

- Global results or overview
- Results per District Municipality/Province for ease of reference
- Data sets per District are attached at the back of this report.

#### **5. REPORT OF THE FINDINGS**

##### **5.1. ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**QUESTION: 1 Tell us how you are using what you have learnt to make your organisation function/work better.**

##### ***Global Findings For Question One***

- ❖ Thirty-nine of forty – (39/40) CBOs indicated that they are using the knowledge and skills acquired during this programme to make their organisations function/work better.
- ❖ This translates to ninety-eight percent – (98%) of the CBOs using knowledge and skills acquired to make their organisations function/work better.
- ❖ **One CBO, that is, the Port Shepstone Disabled Group indicated that the death of Mr. Xolani Gasa has left them destitute and they were trying to reorganise themselves.**

##### ***Findings For UGU DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY***

- ❖ Thirteen of fourteen – (13/14) CBOs indicated that they were us knowledge and skills acquired during this programme to make their organisations function/work better.
- ❖ This translates to ninety three percent - (93%) of the CBOs using this knowledge and skills to make their organisations function/work better.

##### ***Findings For The VHEMBE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY***

- ❖ Thirteen of thirteen – (13/13) CBOs that were present indicated that they were using knowledge and skills acquired during this programme to make their organisations function/work better.
- ❖ This translates to one hundred percent – (100%) of the CBOs using this knowledge and skills to make their organisations function/work better.

**Findings For The WEST RAND DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY**

- ❖ Thirteen of thirteen – (13/13) CBOs that attended the interviews indicated that they were using knowledge and skills acquired during this programme to make their organisations function/ work better.
- ❖ This translates to one hundred percent – (100%) of the CBOs using this their knowledge and skills to make their organisations function/work better.

**5.2. WIDER IMPACT OF THE PROJECT**

**QUESTION: 2 Do you speak to other organisations about what you have learnt?  
Have you helped other organisations with what you have learnt?  
(How? To what benefit? For Whom?)**

**Global Findings For Question Two**

- ❖ Thirty-three of forty- (33/40) CBOs are assisting others/spreading knowledge to other CBOs that are not part of the project.
- ❖ This translates to eighty three percent – (83%) of the CBOs that are assisting others/spreading knowledge to others.
- ❖ Eighty-five – (85) CBOs are being assisted/helped.

**Findings For UGU DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY**

- ❖ Ten of fourteen – (10/14) interviewed CBOs are assisting others that are not part of the project.
- ❖ This translates to seventy one percent – (71%) of the CBOs that are part of the project who are assisting other (those that are not part of the Idasa project).
- ❖ Thirty-three - (33) CBOs that are not part of the Idasa project are benefiting/being assisted.

**Findings For The VHEMBE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY**

- ❖ Thirteen of thirteen – (13/13) CBOs that attended the Group Interviews indicated that they are assisting other CBOS that are not part of the project.
- ❖ This translates to a 100%-one hundred percent of the CBOs that assisting others/are spreading the knowledge to others.
- ❖ Twenty-three – (23) CBOs that are not part of the Idasa project are benefiting/being assisted.

**Findings For The WEST RAND DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY**

- ❖ Ten of thirteen – (10/13) organisations are spreading the knowledge gained to other CBOs.
- ❖ This translates to seventy-seven – (77%) percent of the CBOs that spreading the knowledge and skills to others (those that are not part of the Idasa programme).
- ❖ Twenty-nine – (29) CBOs that are not part of the Idasa project are benefiting/being assisted.
- ❖ The other three – (3) CBOs that are not assisting others yet cited lack of office space, still being mentored by the assigned Idasa Mentor on how to assist or still being organised.

### 5.3. PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**QUESTION: 3.1 (a) Did you participate in the IDP before this programmes started? How?**

#### *Global Findings For Question Three (3.1. (a &b))*

##### **Participation in the IDPs Before the Programme Started**

- ❖ Eleven of forty – (11/40) CBOs participated effectively in the IDPs before the programme started.
- ❖ This translates to a twenty eight percent – (28%) of the CBOs that participated in the effectively in the IDPs before the programme started.
- ❖ Eight of eleven – (8/11) CBOs that participated in the IDP before the programme stated are women led.
- ❖ This translates to seventy three percent – (73%) of the CBOs that participated in the IDP before the programme started that are women-led.
- ❖ Twenty-nine of forty - (29/40) were not taking part in the IDPs before the programme started. This translates to seventy three percent (73%) of CBOs not taking part in the IDPs.

**QUESTION: 3.1 (b) Did you participate in the IDP during this programme/do you participate now? How?**

##### **Participation in the IDPs After the Programme Started**

- ❖ Twenty-five of forty – (25/40) CBOs indicated that they are participating effectively in the IDPs.
- ❖ This translates to sixty three percent – (63%) of the CBOs leadership that are participating effectively in the IDPs.
- ❖ Fourteen of twenty-five (14/25) of the CBOs that are participating in the IDPs currently are women led.
- ❖ This translates to fifty six percent – (56%) of the CBOs that are participating in the IDPs that are women led.

**NB: A similar set of questions that were asked for the global findings would apply to the District Municipalities findings**

#### **Findings for UGU DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY**

##### **Participation in the IDPs Before the Programme Started**

- ❖ Three of fourteen – (3/14) indicated that they were participating in the IDPs before the programme started.
- ❖ This translates to twenty one percent – (21%) of the CBOs that participated effectively in the IDPs before the programme started.
- ❖ Three of three – (3/3) CBOs that participated in the IDPs before the programme started are women led.
- ❖ This translates to one hundred percent (100%) of the CBOs participated in the IDPs before the programme started that are women led.

#### **Participation in the IDPs After the Programme Started**

- ❖ Five of fourteen – (5/14) CBO leadership indicated that they are now participating in the IDPs.
- ❖ This translates to thirty six percent (36%) of the leadership that participates effectively in the IDPs.
- ❖ Three of the five CBOs – (3/5) that are participating in the IDPs which are women led.
- ❖ This translates to sixty percent – (60%) of the CBOs that are participating in the IDPs which are women led.

#### **Findings for the VHEMBE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY**

##### **Participation in the IDPs Before the Programme Started**

- ❖ Five of thirteen – (5/13) CBOs indicated that they participated effectively in the IDPs before the start of the programme.
- ❖ This translates to thirty-eight percent – (38%) of the leadership that participates effectively in the IDPs.
- ❖ Eight of thirteen – (8/13) indicated that they did not participate in the IDPs before the programme started. This translates to sixty-two –(62%) that did not take part in the IDPs before.
- ❖ Two of five – (2/5) CBOs that participated in the IDPs before the programme started are women led.
- ❖ This translates to forty percent – (40%) of the CBOs that participated in the IDPs before the programmes started, which are women-led.

##### **Participation in the IDPs After the Programme Started**

- ❖ Ten of thirteen – (10/13) CBOs indicated that they are now participating effectively in the IDPs.
- ❖ This translates to seventy-seven - (77%) of the CBOs that participate effectively in the IDPs now.
- ❖ Three of ten – (3/10) either cited difficulties with local councilors or lack of infrastructure for effective participation in the IDPs.
- ❖ This translates to thirty percent – (30%) of the CBOs that are not participation in the IDPs now.
- ❖ Four of ten – (4/10) CBOs that are participating in the IDPs now are women led.
- ❖ This translates to forty percent – (40%) of the CBOs that are participating in the IDPs which are women led.

## **Findings for the WEST RAND DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY**

### **Participation in the IDPs Before the Programme Started**

- ❖ Three of thirteen – (3/13) CBOs participated effectively in the IDPs prior to the Idasa training.
- ❖ This translates to twenty-three percent – (23%) of the CBOs that participated effectively in the IDPs before.
- ❖ Ten of thirteen – (10/13) CBOs did not participate effectively in the IDPs prior to the Idasa training/before the start of the programme.
- ❖ This translates to 77%-seventy-seven percent of the CBOs that did not participate in the IDPs prior to the Idasa training.
- ❖ Three of three – (3/3) CBOs that participated in the IDPs before the programme started are women led.
- ❖ This translates to one hundred percent – (100%) of the CBOs that participated in the IDPs before the programme started which are women led

### **Participation in the After the Programme Started**

- ❖ Ten of thirteen – (10/13) CBOs indicated that they are now participating effectively in the IDPs.
- ❖ This translates to 77%-seventy seven percent of the CBOs that actively participate in the IDPs now.
- ❖ Seven of ten (7/10) CBOs that are participating in the IDPs are women led.
- ❖ This translates to seventy percent – (70%) of the CBOs that are participating in the IDPs which are women led.

#### **5.3.2. Joint Problem Solving Initiatives**

**QUESTION: 3.2. (a) Have you engaged with local government to solve a problem/problems before the start of this programme? How?**

#### **Global Findings For Question Three (3.2. (a&b))**

### **Joint Problem Solving Initiatives Before the Programme Started**

- ❖ Nineteen of forty – (19/40) CBOs engaged local government to solve a problem(s) before the programme started.
- ❖ This translates to forty-eight percent – (48%) of the CBOs that engaged local government to solve a problem(s) before the programme started.
- ❖ Twelve of the nineteen – (12/19) CBOs that engaged local government in problem solving initiatives before the programme started are women led.
- ❖ This translates to sixty three percent – (63%) of the CBOs that engaged local government in problem solving initiatives before the programme started which are women led.



**QUESTION: 3.2. (b) Have you engaged with local government to solve a problem/problems after the start of this programme? How? Explain.**

***Joint Problem Solving Initiatives After the Programme Started***

- ❖ Thirty-four of forty – (34/40) CBOs are engaging local government to solve a problem/problems after the programme started.
- ❖ This translates to eighty five percent – (85%) of the CBOs that are engaging local government to solve a problem/problems.
- ❖ Twenty-one of thirty four – (21/34) CBOs that engaged local government in problem solving initiatives after the programme started are women led.
- ❖ This translates to sixty-two percent – (62%) of the CBOs that engaged local government in problem solving initiatives after the programme started which are women led.

**NB: A similar set of questions that were asked for the global findings would apply to the District Municipalities findings.**

**Findings For UGU DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY**

***Joint Problem Solving Initiatives Before the Programme Started***

- ❖ Five of fourteen – (5/14) CBOs engaged local government to solve a problem.
- ❖ This translates to thirty six percent – (36%) CBOs that engaged local government to solve a problem.
- ❖ Four of five – (4/5) CBOs that engaged local government on problem solving initiatives before the programme started are women led.
- ❖ This translates to eighty percent – (80%) of the CBOs that engaged local government on problem solving initiatives before the programme started which are women led.

***Joint Problem Solving Initiatives After the Programme Started***

- ❖ Thirteen of fourteen - (13/14) CBOs are engaging local government to solve a problem(s).
- ❖ This translates to ninety-three percent – (93%) of the CBOs that are engaging local government to solve a problem(s).
- ❖ Ten of thirteen – (10/13) CBOs that are engaging local government on joint problem solving initiatives are women led.
- ❖ This translates to seventy-seven percent – (77%) of the CBOs that are engaging local government on joint problem solving initiatives that are women led.

**Findings For The VHEMBE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY**

***Joint Problem Solving Initiatives Before the Programme Started***

- ❖ Four of thirteen – (4/13) of CBOs engaged Local Government on problem solving initiatives prior to the start of the programme.
- ❖ This translates to thirty-one percent (31%) CBOs engaged Local Government on problem solving initiatives before.

- ❖ One of four – (1/4) CBOs that engaged local government to solve a problem(s) is led by a woman.
- ❖ This translates to twenty five percent – (25%) of the CBOs that engaged Local Government on problem solving initiatives before that are women led.

**Joint Problem Solving Initiatives After the Programme Started**

- ❖ Nine of thirteen – (9/13) CBOs are engaging Local Government on problem solving initiatives now.
- ❖ This translates to sixty nine percent (69%) of the CBOs that are engaging Local Government on problem solving initiatives now.
- ❖ Three of nine (3/9) CBOs that are engaging Local Government on problem solving initiatives are women led.
- ❖ This translates to thirty three percent - (33%) of the CBOs that are engaging Local Government on problem solving initiatives now that are women led.

**Findings for the WEST RAND DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY**

**Joint Problem Solving Initiatives Before the Programme Started**

- ❖ Ten of thirteen – (10/13) of the CBOs engaged Local Government on problem solving initiatives before.
- ❖ This translates to 77%-seventy-seven percent of CBOs that engaged Local Government on problem solving initiatives before.
- ❖ Seven of ten – (7/10) of the CBOs that engaged Local Government on problem solving initiatives before are women led.
- ❖ This translates to – seventy percent (70%) of CBOs that engaged Local Government on problem solving initiatives before which are women led.

**Joint Problem Solving Initiatives After the Programme Started**

- ❖ Twelve of thirteen – (12/13) CBOs are engaging Local Government on problem solving initiatives now.
- ❖ This translates to 92%-ninety-two percent of CBOs that are engaging Local Government on problem solving initiatives now.
- ❖ Nine of twelve – (9/12) CBOs that engaging Local Government on problem solving initiatives now are women led.
- ❖ This translates to seventy-five percent – (75%) of the CBOs that are engaging Local Government on problem solving initiatives that are women led.

**5.3.2.1. NUMBER OF PROBLEM SOLVING INITIATIVES BETWEEN THE CBOs AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

The table below will outline the number of problems solving initiatives that the CBOs engaged in with Local Government before and after the programme started. The problem solving initiatives will be listed per District Municipality for all three-district municipalities.

District Municipality	Number of problem solving initiatives
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	Before Programme Started	After Programme Started
UGU District Municipality	7	22
VHEMBE District Municipality	7	14
WEST RAND District Municipality	36	34
Global number of Initiatives	50	70

### 5.3.3 Understanding of How Local Government Works

**COMMENT ON ANALYSIS:** This question aims to determine how well CBO leaders communicate to their members on local government issues. Improved understanding among the members of how local government works, indicates that the leaders, who have in most cases attended the training workshops and other activities such as seminars and mentoring sessions, have not kept their newly acquired knowledge of how local government works to themselves, but have communicated this to members.

**QUESTIONS: 3.3. (a). How much do you think your members understand about how local government works now/at the moment? Why/how do you know this? Etc.**

#### Global Findings For Question Three (3.3. (a&b))

##### After the Programme Started

- ❖ In all forty of forty - (40/40) CBOs members have a good understanding of how local government works.
- ❖ This translates to one hundred percent – (100%) of the CBOs where members have a good understanding of how local works.

**QUESTION: 3.3. (b). How does this compare to what your members understand/understood about how local government works before this programme started? Explain!**

##### Before the Programme Started

- ❖ In seven of the forty – (7/40) CBOs members had a good understanding of how local government works before the programme started.
- ❖ This translates to eighteen percent – (18%) of CBOs where members had an understanding of how local government worked before the programme started.

**NB: A similar set of questions that were asked for the global findings would apply to the District Municipalities findings.**

#### Findings For UGU DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

### **After the Programme Started**

- ❖ All fourteen (14/14) CBOs indicated that their members have a good understanding of how local government works now.
- ❖ This translates to one hundred percent – (100%) of CBOs where members have a good understanding of how local government works now.

### **Before the Programme Started**

- ❖ Two of fourteen – (2/14) CBOs had members who had a good understanding of how local government works before the programme started.
- ❖ This translates to fourteen percent – (14%) of the CBOs where members had a good understanding of how local government works before the programme started.

## **Findings For VHEMBE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY**

### **After the Programme Started**

- ❖ Thirteen of thirteen (13/13) CBOs indicated that their members have a good understanding of how local government works.
- ❖ This translates to one hundred percent – (100%) of CBOs where members have a good understanding of how local government works.

### **Before the Programme Started**

- ❖ In two of thirteen – (2/13) of the CBOs members had a good understanding of how local government works before the Idasa programme started.
- ❖ This translates to fifteen percent – (15%) of the CBOs where members had a good understanding of how local government works before the Idasa programme started

## **Findings For THE WEST RAND DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY**

### **After the Programme Started**

- ❖ In thirteen of thirteen – (13/13) CBOs members have a good understanding of how local government works now.
- ❖ This translates to 100%-one hundred-percent-CBOs where members have a good understanding of how local government works now.

### **Before the Programme Started**

- ❖ In five of thirteen – (5/13) CBOs members had a good understanding of how local government works before the programme started.
- ❖ This translates to thirty-eight percent (38%) of the CBOs where members had a good understanding how local government works before the programme started.