



Photo: Nicholas Miles

What is the Toolkit to Assess and Promote Equitable Economic Growth in Cities?

The toolkit is a simple, user-friendly, flexible tool to help mayors understand what equitable economic growth means for their city, and what kind of opportunities and constraints exist.

It is based on the premise that equitable economic growth in urban areas requires improving infrastructure and service public goods at the local level, and securing access to these public goods for citizens, private sector and state-owned businesses regardless of economic status, gender, ethnicity, or residential location.

A tested approach

The toolkit was piloted in four African secondary cities (Tema, Ghana; Dori, Burkina Faso; Mbale, Uganda; and Nampula, Mozambique), validating its functionality. The pilots generated city equitable economic growth profiles for each city and allowed for benchmarking and comparisons between cities.

Who can use the toolkit?

Local government officials and policy makers involved in local governance, planning or management.

What is Equitable Economic Growth?

Equitable economic growth in urban areas is directly related to equitable access to infrastructure and services provided by the public sector that communities need to improve their living standards, and businesses use to conduct commercial operations.

It aims to increase social and economic well-being by involving citizens in decent, productive employment and improving life chances for the working poor. For businesses, equitable economic growth seeks to enhance productivity and competitiveness in both the formal and informal sectors.

How does the toolkit help cities promote equitable economic growth?

The toolkit helps local governments:



Collect and analyse data on the provision of and access to urban infrastructure and services, as experienced by individuals, communities and businesses;



Identify constraints and drivers of equitable economic growth at the local level; and



Design and implement policies and projects that serve equitable economic growth by improving the access to infrastructure and services.

It is a simple, but not simplistic, tool that allows for the rapid and incremental development of insight, which makes it particularly suited for secondary cities and data scarce environments. The toolkit also helps build consensus among stakeholders and identify priority entry points for local government action.

Situational Assessment

A descriptive presentation of the facts and narratives related to population and economic characteristics of the city and to the provision and use of infrastructure and services public goods in a city.



Causal Analysis

A closer analysis of the reasons why access to infrastructure and services is insufficient, how this impact citizens and businesses, and what can be done to improve the situation.



Solutions Framework

Constructing a workable policy solution to the constraints that have been identified, proposing key entry points for concrete interventions, ensuring resources and stakeholder engagement.

What does the toolkit cover?

The toolkit helps local authorities understand how infrastructure and services are provided, who has what type of access, how the local economy works, and how the economy can be “fixed” by enhancing the provision and access to infrastructure and services.



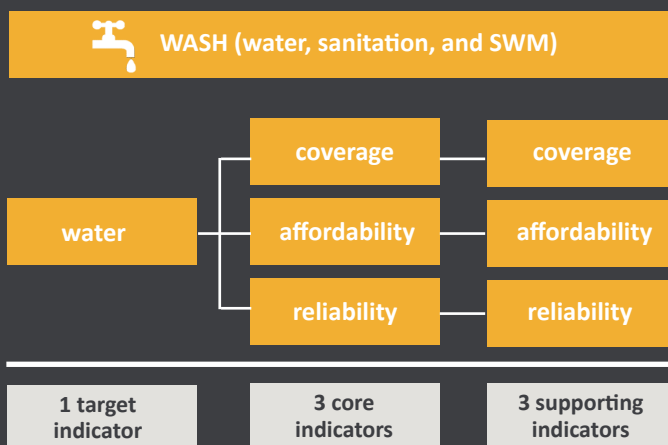
How is the toolkit applied?

The toolkit uses two types of survey instruments to collect data: Public goods ‘workbooks’ that measure access to public goods, and a business and economic survey questionnaire that measures the strength and characteristics of the local economy. All the indicators are compiled into an overall scorecard.

The toolkit is flexible and allows cities to decide how deeply they want to examine the issue depending on resources and data availability. Thanks to the combination of qualitative (core) and quantitative (supporting) indicators, the toolkit can be used in both information poor and rich environments.

The public goods workbooks

For each type of public good, the workbooks capture an overall measure of access (target indicator) and three data dimensions which help describe the overall level of access:



The business survey

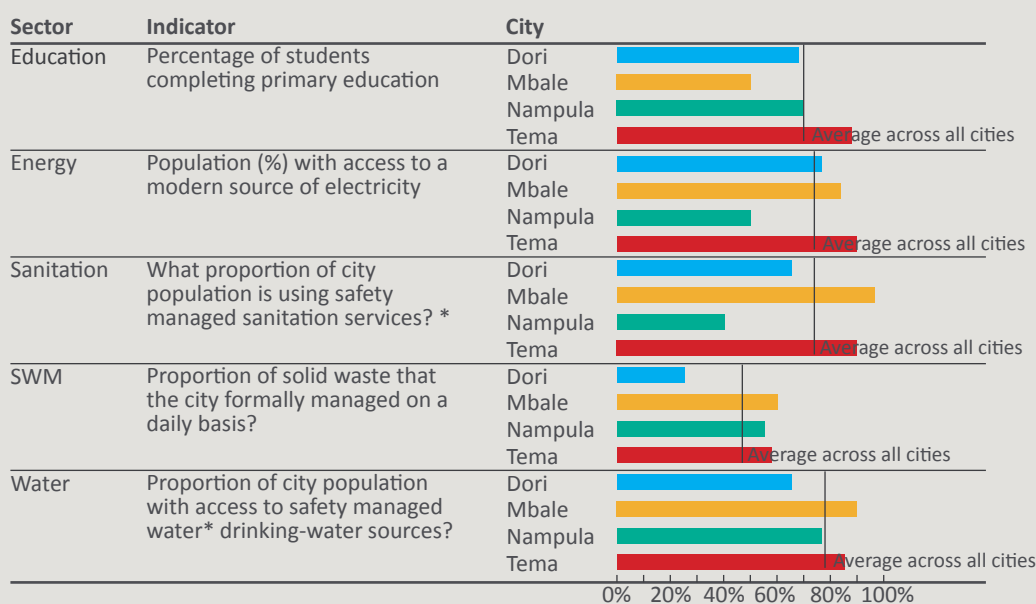
The business survey complements the public goods workbooks. It collects data and information on how access to infrastructure and service public goods impact businesses’ productivity and competitiveness.

The overall scorecard

All the indicators are put together in a summary scorecard that provides a snapshot of overall access to public goods and economic situation, which makes it easy to compare the performance of different cities. The scorecard is a useful tool to engage city stakeholders on the reality and likely causes of inequality in access to public goods across the city, and an entry point for prioritising interventions to support equitable economic growth.

Target Indicator Comparison Across the Four Cities

Source: IPE Triple Line Toolkit pilot testing



The Cities Alliance Joint Work Programme (JWP) on Equitable Economic Growth

The toolkit was developed for Cities Alliance by IPE Triple Line Consulting through the Cities Alliance JWP on Equitable Economic Growth, which works globally and locally to identify and facilitate knowledge, tools and insights that promote equitable economic growth in cities. It focuses on supporting equitable access to public goods and services by all citizens and formal and informal businesses.

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