GOVERNMENT IN YOUR COMMUNITY

PLANNING THE EVENT

- Ensure buy-in through a stakeholder meeting
- Conduct a community needs assessment to determine event model
- Select event coordinator
- Design event agenda reflective of the chosen models' scope
- Create tools for follow-up, including surveys and interview questions

REPRESENTATIVE IN YOUR COMMUNITY MODEL

Elected officials visit communities to host discussions based on the findings of a community needs assessment.

SERVICE PROVISION IN YOUR COMMUNITY MODEL

Public service providers visit communities to provide citizens direct access to service agencies.

FOLLOW-UP & EVALUATION

- Analyze data collected from citizen consultations
- Debrief relevant government staff and assign follow-up responsibilities
- Municipal officials should follow-up with community on decisions made and consultations conducted during the event

CONDUCT THE EVENT

- Elected officials or public service providers open the event and present the agenda
- Q&A with citizens, government officials and public service providers
- Conduct individual citizen consultations with elected officials and/or public service providers

BENEFITS

- Enables direct interaction between government officials and citizens while allowing citizens access to public services
- Provides an opportunity for government officials to answer questions from citizens and identify the needs of the community which results in their ability to better represent their constituency
- Increases governments' ability to provide services to and engage directly with citizens by lowering a major barrier to participation—physical distance
OUR GOVERNANCE APPROACH

Citizen confidence in government institutions is critical for a strong, sustainable democracy. Where governments are unable or unwilling to fulfill citizen needs, the democratic process is undermined and risks becoming a democratic façade. IRI works with government officials, citizens and civil society to bring government closer to citizens, transforming it into a more responsive, transparent and effective institution that is representative of—and accountable to—its citizens.

IRI views a democratic political system as a feedback loop, where government leaders and institutions are accountable, responsive and transparent to citizens, and citizens have a say in decision-making.

ADVANCING DEMOCRACY WORLDWIDE

IRI advances freedom and democracy worldwide by helping political parties to become more issue-based and responsive, assisting citizens to participate in government planning and working to increase the role of marginalized groups in the political process—including women and youth.

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