

# THE POTENTIAL OF ACCOUNTABILITY

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# Why Focus on Accountability?

- Accountability is an essential element to ensuring aid effectiveness
- Range of positive potential outcomes
- Accountability has become increasingly important in the SRHR field

***At its most basic, accountability ensures that those in power are held publicly responsible for their decisions***

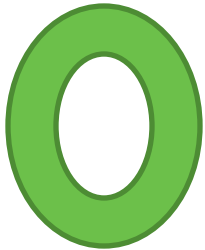
# Directions of accountability



- Top Down Accountability (Horizontal)



- Bottom Up accountability (Vertical)



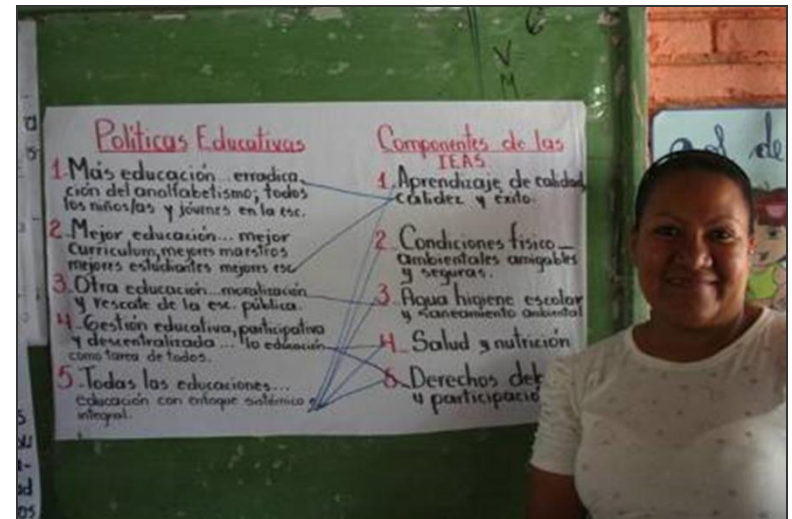
- Diagonal accountability

# Typology of SAcc in SRHR

Categories of FP/RH Acc Activities	Illustrative Initiatives
<b>I. Tracking donor and government financial commitments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FP2020</li> <li>• The Netherlands Inter-Disciplinary Demographic Institute's Resource Flows</li> <li>• The World Health Organization's National Health Accounts and System of Health Accounts</li> <li>• DSW - Euroleverage project</li> <li>• PAI – Budget Tracking Advocacy</li> </ul>
<b>II. Tracking national-level program implementation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Gates Institute's PMA2020</li> <li>• Advance Family Planning (AFP)</li> <li>• The Deliver Project</li> <li>• Countdown to 2015</li> </ul>
<b>III. Tracking service delivery outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pathfinder – Community Scorecard and reportcard in Tanzania</li> <li>• CARE - Community Scorecard in Malawi</li> <li>• IPPF/WHR – Social Audits in Dominica Republic and Panama</li> <li>• White Ribbon Alliance – “Social Watch” in various countries</li> </ul>

# What is social accountability?

Efforts of *citizens* and *civil society* to scrutinize and hold *duty bearers* (politicians, government officials and service providers) to account for *providing promised services*, actions that most often take place at the sub-national or community level.



# Types of SAcc Interventions

Participatory Budgeting

Public Expenditure Tracking

Community Report Cards

Citizen Report Cards

Social Audits

Citizen Charters

Health Committees

Information Sharing & Campaigns

Complaint Mechanisms

राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण आरोग्य अभियान PMC - पासकी  
आपल्या गावातील आरोग्य सेवांचे प्रगतीपत्रक  
चला आपण एकत्र येऊ, आपल्या आरोग्य सेवांवर देखरेख ठेवू!

गावाचे नाव: केळद, भडो, विहीर, बिरी, सप्रोळी दिनांक: ११/०८-०८

गावात मिळणाऱ्या आरोग्य सेवा	आरोग्य सेवांची परिस्थिती			इतर मुद्दे
	चांगली परिस्थिती 😊	चिंताजनक परिस्थिती 😞	गंभीर परिस्थिती 😡	
१) साथीच्या आजारांवर गावात केल्या जाणाऱ्या उपाययोजना		1	2	
२) गावात मिळणारा औषधोपचार	1	2		
३) माता मृत्यू / बाल मृत्यू	1		2	
४) गावासाठी मिळणारा (१०,००० रु.) निधी		1	2	
५) माता आरोग्य- अ. गरोदरपणात मिळणाऱ्या सेवा	1	2		
ब) बाळंतपणानंतर मिळणाऱ्या सेवा		3	2	
६) बाल आरोग्य- अ. लसीकरण	1			
ब. अंगणवाडीत मिळणाऱ्या सेवा	1	2	2	
७) जननी सुरक्षा योजना	1	1		डोनायर्स (६) भ्राम्या वाढीत
८) सरकारी आरोग्य केंद्रात आलेले अनुभव अ. आरोग्य केंद्रात मिळणाऱ्या सेवा ब. आरोग्य केंद्रात मिळणारी वागणूक		1	2	

आपल्या गावात आरोग्य, पोषण, पाणी पुरवठा स्वच्छता समितीची मदत घेऊ.  
आपण सगळे मिळून गावाच्या आरोग्याची परिस्थिती सुधारू!

Courtesy of Population Foundation of India

# Social Accountability: What are the Lessons for Improving SRHR Programs?

- Promising evidence on effectiveness and impact of SRHR SAcc
- By tracking policy implementation, staffing at 24 facilities increased by 33% after 4 months\*



\*Health Policy Initiative-Task Order I (HPI). 2010. "Promoting Accountability for Safe Motherhood: The White Ribbon Alliance's Social Watch Approach," Health Policy Initiative Task Order 1.



# Consensus Points

- SAcc interventions are more than just applying tools, they are **complex political processes**
- Social accountability models must be adapted to reflect **SRHR issues**
- More **realistic expectations** are needed on the outcomes SAcc interventions can achieve within **limited project timeframes**
- There is a need to identify and measure **minimum conditions** required for successful SAcc interventions

# Some considerations for the larger post-2015 process to support accountability for SRHR:

- It is important to have both ‘voice’ and ‘teeth’
- Social and official accountability approaches should be linked
- Accountability efforts should be vertically integrated

# Thank You

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The Evidence Project uses implementation science—the strategic generation, translation, and use of evidence—to strengthen and scale up family planning and reproductive health programs to reduce unintended pregnancies worldwide. The project is led by the Population Council in partnership with INDEPTH Network, International Planned Parenthood Federation, Management Sciences for Health, PATH, Population Reference Bureau, and a University Resource Network.



# Social Accountability for RH/FP

## FP issue or bottleneck

Policies,  
regulations  
and budgets

Implementation  
of policy and  
regulations

Resource  
flows

Quality &  
respect for  
rights

User experience  
–  
appropriateness  
and satisfaction

## Focus level

National

Subnational

Facility

Community or  
household

## Social Accountability approach

Evidence-  
based  
advocacy

Resource  
tracking

Monitoring  
service  
provision

Empower-  
ment

Community /  
provider  
engagement

# What is Unique about SAcc for FP/RH?

- Much Potential
  - Applies to specific FP/RH issues
  - Operationalize rights based approaches
- Reservations
  - Balancing private and public
  - Role of incentives for SAcc

