THE "A" OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND WHY IT MATTERS

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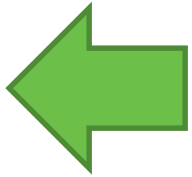Presentation at RHSC Advocacy & Accountability Working Group

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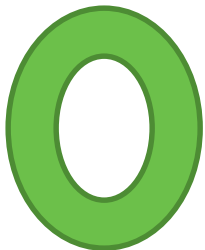
Directions of accountability

- Horizontal accountability

- Vertical accountability

- Diagonal accountability

Typology of SAcc in FP/RH

Categories of FP/RH Acc Activities	Illustrative Initiatives
I. Tracking donor and government financial commitments	• FP2020 • The Netherlands Inter-Disciplinary Demographic Institute's Resource Flows • The World Health Organization's National Health Accounts and System of Health Accounts • DSW - Euroleverage project • PAI – Budget Tracking Advocacy
II. Tracking national-level program implementation	• The Gates Institute's PMA2020 • Advance Family Planning (AFP) • The Deliver Project • Countdown to 2015
III. Tracking service delivery outcomes	• Pathfinder – Community Scorecard and reportcard in Tanzania • CARE - Community Scorecard in Malawi • IPPF/WHR – Social Audits in Dominica Republic and Panama • White Ribbon Alliance – "Social Watch" in various countries

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

Courtesy of Population Foundation of India

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Why Focus on Social Accountability?

- Accountability is an essential element to ensuring aid effectiveness

- Budget/expenditure tracking & report card verify if products are in the facilities and being used well.

- This facility/community level data can better inform national and global efforts

Social Accountability: What are the Lessons for Improving FP/RH Programs?

Evidence Review of SAcc in FP/RH programs

- Builds on a history of community involvement

- Limited literature specific to FP/RH (16 case studies)

- Evidence on effectiveness and impact has yet to be adequately demonstrated

Promising evidence on effectiveness and impact of FP/RH SAcc intervention—Tanzania

- By tracking policy implementation, staffing patterns at 24 intervention 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.

Experts Consensus Points

- SAcc interventions are more than just applying tools, they are **complex political processes**

- Social accountability models must be adapted to reflect **FP/RH issues**

- More **realistic expectations** are needed on the outcomes SAcc interventions can achieve within **limited timeframes**

- There is a need to identify and measure **minimum conditions** required for successful SAcc interventions

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

Role of A&A Working Group

- There is great potential to use existing SAcc work to monitor supply and prevent stock-outs.

- How can we harness A&A WG membership existing SAcc expertise to support the work of the Coalition?

Thank You