THE “A” OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND WHY IT MATTERS

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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

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<th>Categories of FP/RH Acc Activities</th>
<th>Illustrative Initiatives</th>
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| 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
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*

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?
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Thank You