

Oxfam learning program on social accountability

Phase 1: Online discussions

Week 1: Introduction to social accountability framework and scanning the social accountability context

Welcome fellow learners of social accountability!

This is the first part of our online learning program. In this part, we will focus on understanding some concepts related to social accountability. Hopefully, such initial appreciation will also provide us with a starting point for discussing social accountability's importance in terms of improving governance and the effectiveness of our development programs. Finally, we will try to look at the different factors that contribute to the success of this kind of citizen action.

Our learning objectives are:

1. To establish a basic understanding of the social accountability framework and related concepts;
2. To create an initial appreciation of social accountability's value in terms of enhancing governance and development outcomes; and,
3. To facilitate a deeper grasp of our social accountability and governance contexts.

Instructions for individual learners/learning groups:

- Step 1: Try to go through any of the learning materials listed below. You or your group should have read/viewed at least one (1) material to be able to participate in the online forum. You can also go through the other materials if you're interested or if you have more time.

Discussion materials:

a. Participatory governance in the Philippines

This is a series of short videos produced by the Institute of Politics and Governance (IPG) in the Philippines in cooperation with other citizens' groups. The videos feature experiences from IPG's participatory urban governance project *Bayanihan sa Kalunsuran* (Urban Partnerships) or Project BaKal. Through this project, IPG hopes to strengthen citizens' involvement in governance work at the *barangay* or village level.

Part 1 Barangay La Luz, Cebu City (4:10 minutes)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mzTnlvOcotw&feature=related>

Part 2 Barangay Pasong Putik, Quezon City (4:56 minutes)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fAd0bF8JAIY&NR=1>

Part 4 Barangay Villa Isla, Munoz City, Nueva Ecija (2:57 minutes)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1gLiqs2gf18&NR=1>

Part 5 Barangay Funda Dalipe, Antique (3:46 minutes)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ONnJlftWnaY&NR=1>

Part 7 Mujeres de Zamboanga, Zamboanga City (9:26 minutes)
<http://www.youtube.com/user/EASYJEDI#p/a/u/1/oX22yhWIKn0>

b. Case study: Citizen Report Rating in Cambodia

c. Nigeria's experience in publishing budget allocations

- Step 2: After reading and/or viewing the learning material/s, try to reflect on the questions below or discuss them with your learning group. Post your reflections and answers on the discussion board.

Guide questions:

- a. How did citizens' engagement with government shown in the cases you have read or viewed contributed to making government more accountable and effective?
 - b. What do you think were the key factors that contributed to the success of these kinds of citizens' engagement with government?
 - c. Can these factors be applied in your own country/program contexts? If yes, why? If not, what are the main challenges in carrying out these types of citizens' initiatives in your country? How do you think could such challenges be addressed?
- Step 3: Please make sure that you have posted your answers for Step 2 above before doing this step. Go through the readings below and post your thoughts, comments, or questions in the discussion board.

Readings:

1. Affiliated Network for Social Accountability in East Asia and the Pacific 2008. **Infosheet 2: FAQs on the Social Accountability Approach.** ANSA-EAP, Manila. 2 pages.
2. Malena, Carmen, Rainer Forseter, and Janmejay Singh 2004. **Social Accountability: An Introduction to the Concept and Emerging Practice.** Social Development Papers, No. 76. Social Development Department, The World Bank. 14 pages.
3. Reuben, William 2003. **The Role of Civic Engagement and Social Accountability in the Governance Equation.** Social Development Notes, No. 75. Participation and Civic Engagement Team, The World Bank. 4 pages.

- Step 4: Continue discussing the topics by posting your comments and answers to the earlier postings of the other learners or groups. Our facilitators and discussion moderators will guide us in this process.