

## **Oxfam learning program on social accountability**

### **Phase 1: Online discussions**

#### **Week 3: Discussions on participatory expenditure tracking and participatory performance monitoring**

Congratulations, you've reached this far in our online learning phase!

This is the third week of our online overview course on social accountability. We hope you've already gone through the materials in weeks 1 and 2. They should provide you with a basic understanding of the concepts and principles of social accountability, as well as an introduction to the tools or approaches that are currently being used by citizens' groups to exact accountability from government and other power holders.

In week 3, we'll continue with our survey of social accountability approaches particularly in connection with the expenditure management and performance evaluation phases of the PFM cycle. Here, we'll be looking at experiences of citizens' groups in tracking government spending. These actions come after the budget has been formulated and approved, and the government starts implementing its programs and projects.

We'll also be looking at a whole set of tools that can be used to monitor and assess the impacts of these programs and projects. These tools not only allow citizens' groups to give immediate feedback on public services and projects, and thus point to immediate ways of improving them, but also link directly to efforts at ensuring citizen participation in government planning for the next financial and investment cycle.

#### **Our learning objectives are:**

1. To create broad understanding of participatory expenditure tracking surveys as tool for improving the delivery of public services;
2. To facilitate initial appreciation of various participatory performance monitoring approaches and tools, including theoretical bases and practical guides for implementing such approaches.

#### **Instructions for individual learners/learning groups:**

- Step 1: Please go through the discussion materials below.

#### **Discussion materials:**

- a) WBI powerpoint presentation on "Social Accountability and the Public Financial Management" cycle

- b) "People's Plan: A Film on District Planning" parts 1 and 2 (from the Society for Participatory Research in Asia or PRIA)  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rGXB0Clsv\\_E&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rGXB0Clsv_E&feature=related)  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJcuYpMDPnI&feature=related>
- c) Beyond Elections (videos on Participatory Budgeting, Porto Alegre, Brazil experience)  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HXeI5JX3Pmk>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Udz88fm9sMY>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VEvAOI7UHZw&NR=1>
- Step 2: What was your most significant insight/reflection after going through the discussion materials above? Please post your thoughts in the Oxfam discussion board. If you want, you can also discuss your answer with the other members of your learning group and make a common group post.