



Affiliated Network for Social Accountability in East Asia and the Pacific  
... connecting citizens to improve governance

## **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) Public expenditure tracking surveys in Malawi
- b) Citizen's audit/monitoring of public works projects in Abra, Philippines

- c) Citizen Report Card in India (video)  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=seLgJwrebqs>
- d) WBI CLP presentation (Introduction to Performance Monitoring)
  - **Step 2:** Do the following exercise individually or as a group. Reflect on the process and results of the activity. Try to relate what you have seen or read in the discussion materials when you reflect and discuss the results of the exercise. Post your reflections and insights in the Oxfam Group's Discussion Forum.

### Exercise:

- a) Think about how you can apply a participatory expenditure tracking or participatory performance monitoring approach to one of your existing programs or focus sector, particularly those involving the delivery of a public service or good. What are the main issues you want to address with your chosen social accountability tool? Identify a major objective for your project.
- b) Who are going to be your main stakeholders for the project (specific government agency/ies that you need to work with, citizen groups or communities you need to link up with or mobilize, etc.)? What kind of information will you be needing for this kind of initiative? Where can you get such information?
- c) List down possible activities that you need to go through in doing this project (or in creating the enabling conditions for doing this kind of project). What are the challenges in implementing these activities? What can be done to address the challenges?

### Suggested readings:

1. Den, Jahn, Ritva Reinikka, and Jakob Svensson 2003. **Survey Tools for Assessing Performance in Service Delivery.** In Luiz A. Pereira da Silva and Francois Bourguignon, eds. *The Impact of Economic Policies on Poverty and Income Distribution: Evaluation Techniques and Tools.* World Bank and Oxford University Press. 22 pages.
2. Thomas, Kurian (no date). **Social Audit.** Centre for Good Governance. 5 pages.
3. Wagle, Swarnim and Parmesh Shah (no date). **Public Expenditure Tracking and Facility Surveys: A General Note on Methodology.** Social Development Department, World Bank Group. 4 pages.