



Social accountability:

Review of concepts and pillars

**Enhancing Local Plan-Budget Link
Through Social Accountability**

Leyte, 15 April 2009

What we have discussed so far . . .

Harmonization

- **within Barugo LGU:** linking processes/areas of work, improving working relations and capacities of LGU
- **between LGU and NGAs:** rationalization/simplification of systems, standardization of requirements, role of oversight agencies, synchronization of schedules
- **among LGUs:** reconciliation of priorities and plans, schedules or time frames

What we have discussed so far . . .

What is it for?

“efficient management”:

- performance of functions
- maximizing limited resources
- avoiding duplication of processes/projects
- timely delivery of services



What we have discussed so far . . .

What do we expect from the pilot project:

- good governance
- better public services
- local development
- economic growth
- better quality of life



What we have discussed so far . . .

Social accountability

“citizen participation”, “social participation”, “accountability”

- **checking government:** ensuring that government/LGU resources are put into proper use
- **responsiveness to people’s needs:** provides a way of knowing those needs, more appropriate services
- **measuring performance:** providing feedback on LGU’s efficiency/effectiveness, way for continuous improvement

What we have discussed so far . . .



What is it for?

- improving quantity/quality of participation
- more transparency in governance
- more bottom/up approach in our work
- providing equitable/quality services

What is social accountability?



*“Actions by **citizen groups** to hold **public officials, politicians** and **service providers** to account for their conduct and performance in terms of delivering better services, improving people’s welfare, and protecting their rights.”*

CIVICUS Online Participatory Governance Toolkit

List of Categories and Tools

	Policy and planning
1	Local Governance Capacity Assessment
2	Participatory policy-making
3	Participatory development planning
4	“Future Search” public workshops
5	Joint policy-making boards/committees
6	Educating/supporting parliamentarians
7	Participatory social impact analysis
8	Policy audits

	Public Budgets and Expenditures
1	Public Revenue Reporting and Monitoring
2	Budget Transparency
3	Independent Budget Analysis
4	Alternative Budgets
5	Public Expenditure Reporting and Tracking
6	Community-led procurement
7	Participatory budgeting

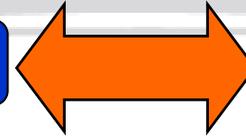
	Monitoring and Evaluating Public services
1	Stakeholder Surveys
2	Citizen Report Cards
3	Community Score Cards
4	Community-based Monitoring and Evaluation
5	Participatory Outputs Tracking
6	Social audits

Public accountability mechanisms:

Political mechanisms	Fiscal mechanisms	Administrative mechanisms	Legal mechanisms
Constitutional constraints	Formal systems of auditing and financial accounting	Hierarchical reporting, norms of public sector probity	Corruption control agencies
Separation of powers		Public service codes of conduct	Ombudsmen
Legislative investigative commissions		Rules and procedures regarding transparency and oversight	Judiciary

Key players

Citizens



Government

Citizens asserting their rights
to participate in governance.

Government providing information
and enabling environment.

Social accountability is an **evolving form** of citizen engagement with government:

- Organized and capacitated citizens
- **Evidence-based and solutions-oriented process**
- More constructive and sustained engagement

Key benefits and risks:

Benefits:

- Improved governance
- Poverty reduction
- Enhanced voice and empowerment
- Enhanced transparency
- Reduced corruption
- Strengthened social capital
- Strengthened reform agenda for public sector

Risks:

- Raised citizen expectations
- Lack of sustainability or institutionalization
- Mechanisms may not immediately result in service improvement
- Citizen involvement may be superficial
- May involve a small group of “well-behaved” NGOs and people’s organizations

4 pillars of social accountability

