

“Citizen Voice and Action”

Social accountability holds the key to improving child health



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Global Health Policy Forum
Alexandra_Newlands@wvi.org

In the countdown to 2015...

- **The global community has made progress in saving children's lives:**
 - ✓ Under-5 mortality has fallen from 12 million to 6.6 in the past two decades
 - ✓ 90 million lives saved due to collective efforts to improve child survival
 - ✓ Reduction of measles, malaria and other childhood diseases
- **But millions of children around the world die unseen, invisible, unregistered and unable to access the kind of health services that could save their lives.**
 - ✓ 18,000 children under 5 still die every day
 - ✓ 2 million will die on the day they are born
 - ✓ 4 million more won't make it to their fifth birthday
 - ✓ Only 20% of countries have strong health information systems that count all births and deaths and track causes of death

Social Accountability

Whilst traditional health interventions are all important and much needed interventions, social accountability approaches, such as *Citizen Voice and Action*, go one step further.

DEFINITION

Social Accountability: *Form of civic engagement that builds accountability through the collective efforts of citizens and civil society organisations to hold public officials, service providers and governments to account for their obligations with responsive efforts. (UNDP)*

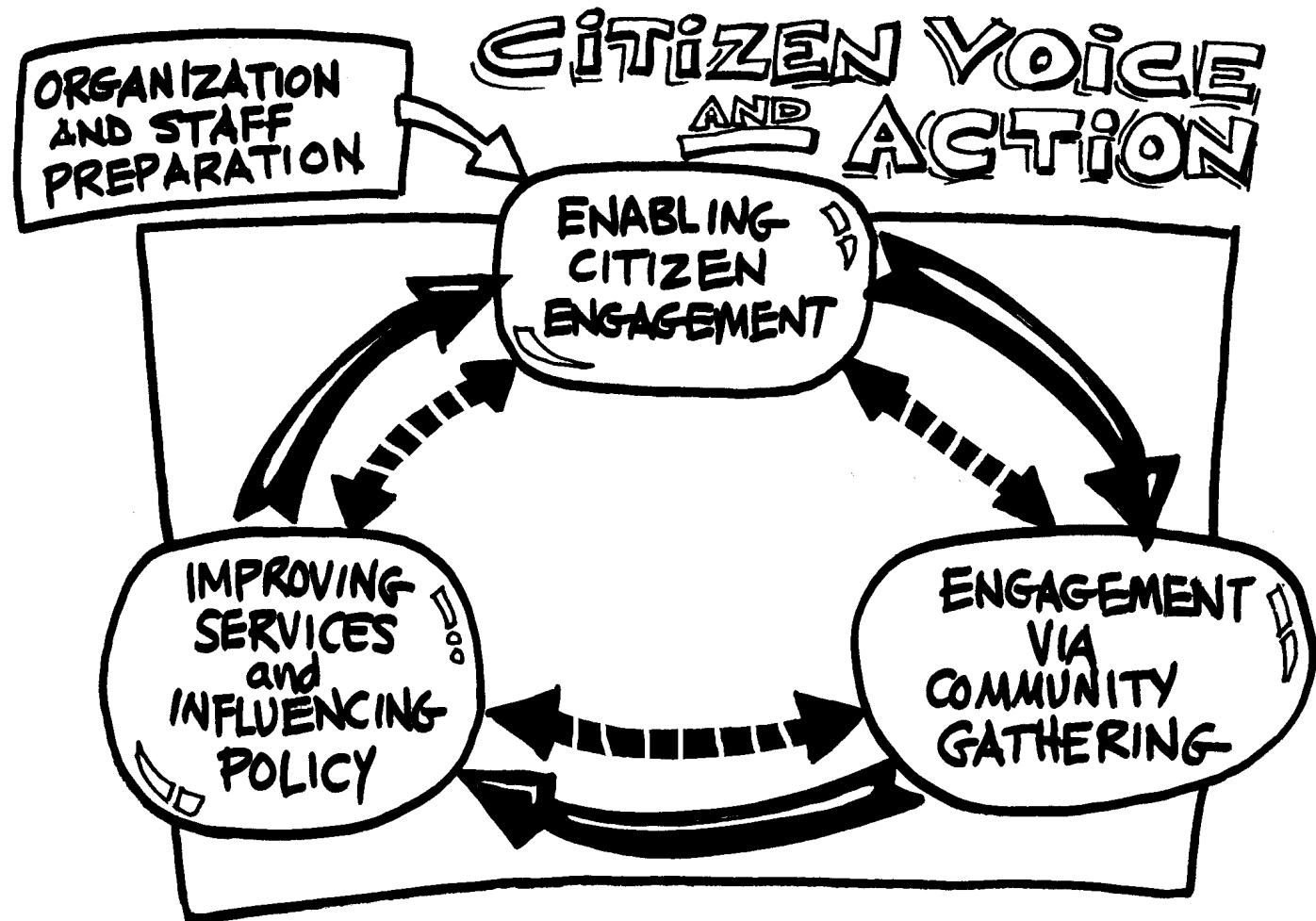


What is Citizen Voice and Action?

- **Replicable and sustainable approach** successfully applied today in 375 long-term development programmes in 43 countries.
- It equips communities to engage in **constructive dialogue** with governments to hold them accountable for health and education services that children and their families use on a daily basis, and to ultimately take hold of their own future in a sustainable way.
- The methodology lies at the intersection of **data collection, awareness raising** and **community-led advocacy**.

How does *Citizen Voice and Action* work?

- By using a simple set of participatory tools, communities monitor local public facilities and compare reality against government commitments.
- Series of activities divided into three phases:



Key results

Oxford University, Makerere University and Georgetown University randomised control trials in health clinics in 50 communities in Uganda found:

- ✓ 33% drop in under-five mortality
- ✓ 20% increase in the utilisation of outpatient services
- ✓ 58% increase in the birth deliveries by skilled attendants
- ✓ the most vulnerable children benefitted from the community monitoring project

Social Accountability and the EU

EU Policies

- ***Agenda for Change (2011)***: Good governance
- ***The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with civil society in external relations (2012)***: Promotion of diverse and innovative approaches in the area of 'social accountability'.
- ***Report on the EU support for democratic governance (2013)***: enhancing the role of CSOs in democratic governance and accountability + active engagement of all domestic stakeholders in design and implementation of policies

Social Accountability and the EU

EU Funding

- **Thematic programme CSO-LA (2014-2020):**
 - ✓ Acknowledges CSOs' work to empower populations, promote inclusion and enhance governance and accountability.
 - ✓ Supports initiatives promoting improved governance and accountability.
 - ✓ Aims to stimulate a demand for social services by population to which public authorities should be able to respond ('downward accountability')
- **Unclear how the CSO-LA programme complements the GPGC programme and other geographic programmes.**

Social Accountability and the Post-2015 agenda

- **Build on the vital unmet commitments** to improving health within the current MDGs;
- Redress inequality by setting a goal to **end preventable maternal, newborn and child deaths**;
- Ensure proven maternal, newborn and child health interventions **target the poorest and most vulnerable children**, families and communities;
- **Enhance accountability by involving citizens** - including women, children and other community members - in the planning, monitoring and review of any health goals at the local, national and global levels.

World Vision calls on the EU to:

1. Allocate and track significant resources that scale and measure the impact of social accountability approaches.
2. Integrate and strengthen social accountability approaches across EU programming aimed at crisis prevention and recovery, democratic governance and addressing the underlying causes of chronic poverty.
3. Champion the inclusion of robust mechanisms for social accountability in the post-2015 agenda.
4. Ensure that citizens are involved in the planning and review of local services and monitoring of related national and global development targets.

CONCLUSION

If we are going to end the preventable deaths of children under 5:

- We need to see more of these initiatives supported, integrated into national information systems and scaled up by governments.
- We need to see global-level endorsement of approaches that put people – families and communities – at the front and centre of efforts to count and reach the most vulnerable children.
- We need political champions willing to stand up for those children furthest from health centres and people's minds and put them at the forefront of the next development agenda.

***Every child has the right to be counted,
the invisible deserve to be given visibility,
and the most vulnerable children deserve
to be given the opportunity to survive to
fulfil their potential.***



SAVE THE DATE!



World Vision Brussels & EU Representation cordially invites you to attend the Report launch event

EUROPE CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

How Social Accountability
Improves the Lives of Children

Tuesday 6th May 2013, 14:00 – 17:00

followed by a light cocktail reception

European Economic and Social Committee

74 rue des Trèves, 7th floor, 1000 Brussels

For further information

- Visit www.citizenvoiceandaction.org
- Contact [Alexandra Newlands@wvi.org](mailto:Alexandra_Newlands@wvi.org)

