



CARE GOVERNANCE QUARTERLY UPDATE

March 2015



Upcoming learning events:

Affiliated Network for Social Accountability in the Arab World (ANSA– Arab World) Regional Conference JORDAN April 26-27, 2015

The **Social Accountability in the Arab World: “FromTheory2Practice”** conference will be organized in cooperation with the AUC School of Global Affairs and Public Policy and aims to raise awareness and exchange knowledge on social accountability concepts including the “best practices” of social accountability tools in the Arab World. Lessons will be drawn from the various projects implemented in this regard and practitioners of social accountability tools will showcase their success stories and challenges encountered during implementation, with a special focus on improving service delivery.

The conference website is available at <http://conf.aucegypt.edu/ANSA-AW-2015>
Contact Amr Lashin for further details: ALashin@egypt.care.org

Governance Africa Learning Event (GALE) NAIROBI April 28-30, 2015

Inclusive governance is one of the three core approaches for CARE International’s programming going forward. The Governance Africa Learning Event intends to: provide a platform to CARE governance practitioners to discuss what we mean by inclusive governance and what it looks like for CARE in Africa; to share and learn about promising governance models/practices/thinking in and outside the CARE world; and to network with peers inside and outside CARE. Contact Gilbert Muyumbu for further details: Muyumbu@careinternational.org



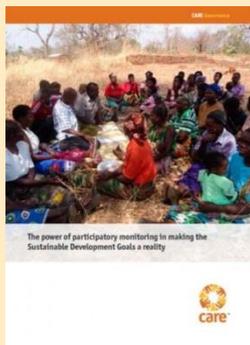
EXCITING NEW GOVERNANCE WORK

Ghana Strengthening Accountability Mechanisms (GSAM)

This US\$9.34 million USAID-funded project was launched in January 2015 and aims to strengthen social accountability by improving information availability and CSOs’ capacity to demand accountability. **Capacity building** will focus on: training CSOs in the use of digital cameras to regularly monitor the progress and quality of local infrastructure projects; and helping them develop a methodology for systematically gathering data for advocacy purposes. The **social accountability** project component will consist of carrying out Community Score Cards and budget monitoring in 50 districts across the country.

This quarterly update is for CARE staff to share ideas and learning around our governance work. Contact Tom Aston in order to contribute to the update: aston@careinternational.org.

OUR RESEARCH & PUBLICATION



CARE's Experience with Community Score Cards: What Works and Why?: The research compares four cases (Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania and Ethiopia) on how context shapes Community Score Card (CSC) programming, and how we adapt our work to different contexts. CARE's Community Score Card programs have contributed to strengthening service provision and community-state relations in each of these countries, albeit in different ways. However, in line with Fox (2014, in reading below), simplistic interventions - focusing only on civil society and relying on information alone— is less successful at securing action and leading to change. Instead, social accountability programs, like CSCs, must engage with the state as well as civil society. Learn key lessons on adapting programs to context and about the transition from citizen engagement to state action.

The power of participatory monitoring in making the Sustainable Development Goals a reality: The paper outlines CARE's experience with two specific forms of participatory monitoring: Community Score Cards and social monitoring, and proposes a six-step model for effectively incorporating participatory monitoring into the monitoring system for the post-2015 development goals. Learn how to create a system with accountability and local ownership and understand how participatory monitoring should be positioned as a means of measuring the real experience of service-delivery among local populations.

WHAT WE'RE READING, WATCHING AND LISTENING TO

Fox (2014) **'Social Accountability: What Does The Evidence Really Say?** An excellent meta-analysis of what makes social accountability successful.

Hudson and Leftwich (2014) **From Political Economy to Political Analysis** A sound critique of recent approaches to PEA, emphasizing the importance of politics, power and ideas in shaping development outcomes.

Boydell and Keesbury (2014) **Social Accountability: What are the Lessons for Improving Family Planning and Reproductive Health Programs? A Review of the Literature**: A clear assessment of the potential of social accountability interventions in family planning and reproductive health.

Please tell us what you're reading, watching and listening to; contact Tom Aston: aston@careinternational.org

HOW WE'RE INFLUENCING

In July 2014, CARE's SRMH team was invited to present at the Evidence Project's "Experts Meeting on Strengthening the Evidence Base on Social Accountability for Improving Family Planning and Reproductive Health programs." The aim was to consider the potential value of social accountability to improve the coverage, quality and equity of family planning services, to identify potential gaps, and to make recommendations for research to advance the field. The meeting report with inputs from CARE can be found [here](#). Contact Chris Galavotti for further details: cgalavotti@care.org

In March 2015, 23 University of North Carolina (UNC) and 10 University of Malawi (UM) Journalism students and faculty are in Malawi as part of a documentary film partnership with CARE, documenting how the Community Score Card empowers community members, health workers, and the local government to address the persistent barriers women face in accessing high quality health services. Contact Sara Gullo for further details: sgullo@care.org

Also in March 2015, Head of Governance Gaia Gozzo was invited to participate in a Global Dialogue on Participatory Monitoring and Accountability for the Post 2015 Development Framework in Lima, Peru. This conference brought together 10 countries that carried out a consultation on participatory monitoring. The event included a civil society fair at which CARE presented its recent experience of social monitoring in Peru and CSCs in Africa. Contact Gaia Gozzo for further details: Gozzo@careinternational.org

