GOVERNANCE, ACCOUNTABILITY AND CITIZEN EMPOWERMENT: A LEARNING WORKSHOP

11-12 June 2014
European Union House
18 Dawson Street
Dublin 2

AGENDA

Effective governance is increasingly recognised as critical to international development. Efforts to strengthen accountability from the state towards its citizens have become central to improving public services and realising the vision of the Millennium Development Goals. More and more development programmes focus on empowering citizens to demand better services and engage with how decisions are made, both locally and nationally. Arguably the most important lesson to emerge in this work is that power and politics matter. Formal institutions matter but also critical are the politics that lie behind the institutions. Central to this is the ability of civil society and donors to think and act politically.

This learning workshop aims to provide an in-depth forum for dialogue to better understand **how change actually happens and how we can think and work politically in practice in governance programming**. It will explore lessons, successes, challenges and failures in governance programmes. Academia, local partner organisations, international non-governmental organisations and donors will discuss the following themes:

- Thinking and working politically- how to make it work in practice
- Delivering change at local and national levels: lessons from civil society in securing the right to access basic services
- Thinking and working differently? Assessing what current funding and monitoring and evaluation methods mean for working with power and politics

Wednesday 11 June 2014

8:30am   **Registration**

9.00am   **SESSION ONE: THINKING AND WORKING POLITICALLY**
The purpose of this opening session is to give a broad overview of new insights, debates and lessons on governance programmes. It will look at what is needed to enable those working on, or funding, governance programmes to think and work politically. Lessons will be shared from the Mwananchi programme in Africa.

- **Welcome and opening remarks**
Dr Su-Ming Khoo, Development Studies Association Ireland and Rosamond Bennett, CEO, Christian Aid Ireland

- **Keynote address I:** *The importance of political voice in governance and accountability programmes. (45 mins)*
Alina Rocha Menocal, Research Fellow, Overseas Development Institute

- **Keynote address II:** *Re-thinking social accountability in Africa: Lessons from the Mwananchi Programme. (45 mins)*
Fletcher Tembo, Research Associate, Overseas Development Institute

11.00am   **COFFEE BREAK**

11.30am   **PLENARY DISCUSSION**
Chair: tbc
Panellists: Alina Rocha Menocal, Fletcher Tembo, Dr Su-Ming Khoo and Rosamond Bennett

12:30pm   **LUNCH**

13.30   **SESSION TWO: MAKING PEOPLE COUNT**
The purpose of this session is to look at how specific programmes seek to improve accountability from state to citizens on the human right to basic services. Presenters will address issues such as:
- **What's working and not working in engaging citizens and improving accountability from government at a local level?**
- **The challenges of working politically in practice**
- **Linking local interventions to national and international advocacy**

- **Chair and respondent**
Alina Rocha Menocal, ODI
- **Experiences from partners I:** *Delivering accountability for health services in Sierra Leone*
Siapha Kamara, CEO SEND Foundation, Sierra Leone

- **Experiences from partners II:** *TBC*
Julius Mukunda, Coordinator for the Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group in Uganda

- **Experiences from partners III:** *Building citizenship in El Salvador*
Ramon Villalta, Director, the Initiative for Social Democracy

- **Experiences from partners IV:** *Giving voice to citizens on service delivery in Ethiopia*
Tamiru Lega Berhe, VNG, Management Agency, Ethiopian Social Accountability Programme (ESAP2)
Tamrat Getahun Woldemichael, KMG, implementing partner agency representative, ESAP2

15:00pm   **PLENARY DISCUSSION**
Chair: Alina Rocha Menocal, ODI
Panellists: Siapha Kamara, Julius Mukunda, Ramon Villalta, Tamiru Lega   Berhe, Tamrat Getahun Woldemichael

16:00pm   **CLOSING REMARKS**
Eamon Meehan, Director of Trócaire

9.00am SESSION THREE: THINKING AND WORKING DIFFERENTLY?
The purpose of this session is to assess if current funding and monitoring and evaluation methods are fit for purpose for working with power and politics. It will assess the challenges international NGOs and governments face and what new approaches might be needed.

Re-cap and welcome
Tom Lodge, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Centre for Peace and Development, University of Limerick

Chair and respondent
Tembo Fletcher, ODI (Mwananchi Programme)

- **Presentation I**: *Social accountability programmes as part of large donor-supported basic services grant*
Bizuwork Ketete, Irish Aid Ethiopia

- **Presentation II**: *The perspective from Irish Aid*
Earnan O'Cleirigh, Irish Aid, Policy Planning and Effectiveness Section

- **Presentation IV**: *Sharing key lessons and challenges from governance programmes from the INGO perspective*
Niall O'Keefe, Trócaire
Karol Balfe, Christian Aid Ireland

10:30am PLENARY DISCUSSION

Chair: Tembo Fletcher
Panellists: Bizuwork Ketete, Earnan O'Cleirigh, Niall O'Keefe, Karol Balfe

11.00am COFFEE BREAK

11:20am SESSION FOUR: DELIVERING LOCAL CHANGE
The purpose of this session is to provide in-depth examples of lessons on how change is happening at a local level. They session will look at a case study from Sierra Leone on health services and a study of decentralisation in Burundi.

Chair and respondent
Siapha Kamara, CEO SEND Foundation, Sierra Leone

- **Research presentation I:** *Lessons from social accountability programmes in Sierra Leone*
Pieternella Pieterse, Department of Politics and Public Administration and Centre for Peace and Development, University of Limerick

- **Research presentation II:** *The politics of decentralisation*
Dr Niamh Gaynor, Development and International Relations, School of Law and Government at Dublin City University

PLENARY DISCUSSION
Chair: Tom Lodge
Panellists: Pieternella Pieterse, Niamh Gaynor

13:00pm   **LUNCH**

14:00pm   **SESSION SIX: FINAL DISCUSSION SESSION**
      Chair: Tom Lodge, University of Limerick
The purpose of this session is to bring together the main discussion points from the entire workshop.

16:00pm   **Close**