



**GLOBAL  
PARTNERSHIP FOR  
SOCIAL  
ACCOUNTABILITY**

# Newsletter

## HIGHLIGHTS

### **How Can Social Accountability Address Fragility and Help Societies Rebuild?**

*By Jeff Thindwa, Program Manager, GPSA*

By 2030, almost half of the world's poor will be concentrated in countries affected by fragility, conflict and violence. It's easy to associate these problems with only poorer countries, but in fact they affect a broader range of countries, and yes, middle income countries too. And, increasingly, they cross borders. Beyond the threats of terrorism, conflict and violence, poor public services and economic livelihoods have led to mass migration and forced displacement, trapping growing numbers of innocent people in vicious cycles of deprivation. Consider how the Syrian refugee situation has spilled over beyond the Middle East, and the current famine in South Sudan, which is impacting approximately 100,000 people, with millions of lives at risk in the region if we do not act quickly and decisively. [Read More>>>](#)



### **Call for Interest - Europe & Central Asia (ECA) Regional Forum**

Together with the GPSA and the World Bank's Water Partnership Program, Oxfam is organizing the ECA Regional Forum on Social Accountability in the water sector, in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on May 23-25, 2017. Civil society organizations in the ECA region with experience in collaborative social accountability who wish to participate are invited to express their interest by sending a letter with motivation to [gpsa@worldbank.org](mailto:gpsa@worldbank.org) by Monday, April 10. Preference will be given to those with experience working in the water sector, although relevant background in other sectors will also be considered. For more information, visit: <http://www.thegpsa.org/sa/forum/eca-regional-forum>.



### **Interview with Hon. Secretary Abdul Malek, Bangladesh's Secretary of Local Government Division**

Invited to the World Bank Headquarters in Washington, DC, for the sixth GPSA [Steering Committee](#) Meeting, we asked Mr. Abdul Malek, Hon. Secretary for Local Government Division in Bangladesh, a few questions about the work that he does and what motivates him to work towards good governance within local government. [Read More>>>](#)

### **Improved Health in Mozambique: Four Takeaways from SAKSAN**

Imagine not feeling well, being unable to walk, and taking a road path to a health clinic. Yet, when you arrive there, you realize you will not receive any medical care as the medical technician went to the nearest town for shopping a few days ago and still hasn't come back. In Mozambique, Concern Universal (CUMoz) is working on this very problem, helping citizens to identify crucial gaps in health service delivery. The goal is not only to have a healthier



population, but also to create sustainable dialogue between community members and key government stakeholders.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**E-Forum: Improving Water Governance through Social Accountability** | March 28-April 14, 2017 | This discussion with experts will contribute to: (1) learning about CSO, citizen, water providers, and government capacity to implement social accountability strategies and tools in order to monitor and improve water service delivery; (2) understanding how citizen feedback that can be used to inform the design and implementation of water governance projects; and (3) exploring how gendered approaches to social accountability programming in the water sector can be transformative for women and girls.

[Join the Discussion>>>](#)

**MOOC | Citizen Engagement: A Game Changer for Development** | March 15 – April 18, 2017 | Learn about citizen engagement and critically analyze how it can be leveraged most effectively to achieve development results with this free Massive Open Online Course (MOOC). The course is taught by a number of leading experts in this field, including Beth Noveck, Director of the GovLab at New York University; John Gaventa, Director of Research at the Institute of Development Studies at University of Sussex; Rakesh Rajani, Director of Civic Engagement and Government at the Ford Foundation; Danny Sriskandarajah, Secretary General of CIVICUS; and Jonathan Fox, Director of the Accountability Research Center at American University. Enroll: <http://bit.ly/cemoocedx>

**Boosting Revenues, Driving Development: Why Taxes are Critical for Growth** | April 21, 2017 | Improved domestic revenue mobilization lies at the heart of the Sustainable Development agenda. At the Addis Ababa Financing for Development Conference in 2015, developing countries committed to improve national efforts and donors committed to double their assistance for tax reform. And yet, media leaks in 2016 increased awareness of wealth hidden in offshore tax havens and have driven new demand for fair and effective tax systems. This event is designed to start a conversation around the premise that: (1) countries need a certain level of tax revenue – 15 percent of GDP – to provide basic services to their citizens; and (2) we all have roles in helping them achieve that goal. More information coming soon on [World Bank Live](#).

## PAST EVENTS

**Webinar: Improving Functionality and Sustainability of Water Systems in Rural Settings through Social Accountability Mechanisms** | March 28, 2017 | This webinar explores how HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation addresses issues in its water project on social accountability in Benin and in other countries. It looks at the key issues that make water governance in rural settings such a challenge, and presents examples how accountability mechanisms in municipal planning and monitoring processes can be improved. [Learn more>>>](#)

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