



Newsletter

HIGHLIGHTS

How Can We Improve the GPSA Knowledge Platform?

The GPSA Knowledge Platform (KP) is an online social space that provides members with the opportunity to interact, network, share, and discuss knowledge and learning in the field of Social Accountability. It offers easy access to relevant e-seminars, forums, notice boards and a broad range of resources.

Your feedback helps us meet your needs better! In 2015, the user survey led to improvements to the KP's usability, user experience and activities. For instance, the idea to organize webinar series on specific topics, to be able to go more in depth in the knowledge exchange, and more. This year, as we've reached 3,500 members, we would like gather more feedback from users and keep improving the KP and its activities.

We want to hear from you! Help us improve the KP by doing this short survey: bit.ly/2q4nYN3

Social Accountability from the Trenches: 6 Critical Reflections



There is clearly a surge in social accountability initiatives across the globe today. From informal expressions at the grassroots to entrenched voices in corridors of power, the social accountability multiverse has become stronger and diverse. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that we are indeed witnessing the rise of an 'audit society' that animates the spectrum between confrontation and collaboration in citizen's engagement with the state. The proliferation of toolkits and manuals embellishes this trend as social audits and scorecards have become commonplace parlance for civic activists, policy wonks and academics as they line up an impressive array of data to hold the state to account. However, viewed from the trenches of day-to-day encounters with social accountability, some notes of caution need to be flagged. [Read More>>>](#)

Watch the recording of the BBL, Rise of the Audit Society: Some Critical Reflections from the Trenches

Social Accountability Advocacy in Bangladesh: New Comms, and Old...

By Thomas R Lansner, Project Director, Social Accountability Media Initiative (SAMI)



Facebook might now be the best way to connect with development professionals in Bangladesh's capital Dhaka. But traditional musical theater troupes, delivering social accountability messages crafted by GPSA partner CARE Bangladesh, still draw appreciative crowds in poor villages in northern Bangladesh. My visit to Bangladesh at the end of March and early April included an advocacy communications workshop with civil society staff and government officials in Dhaka, and a social accountability storytelling workshop with media practitioners in Rangpur, in the country's north. [Read](#)

[More>>>](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

ECA Regional Forum | May 23-25, 2017 | Oxfam, together with the GPSA and the World Bank's Water Partnership Program, is organizing the Europe and Central Asia (ECA) Regional Forum on Social Accountability in the Water and Sanitation Sector in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. This will be a highly engaging forum that aims to broaden participants' horizons on social accountability through a reflective process on its 'building blocks' and the factors that foster effective and impactful processes through collaborative, multi-stakeholder engagement. [Stay tuned for more>>>](#)

Webinar | Part 3: The Power of Stories in Written & Visual Media | May 31, 2017 | In the third and final webinar, we will discuss how storytelling can be approached in specific projects, either in visual or written media. Lysbeth Sherman from States of Minds will explore the impact of communicating stories in non-traditional formats (such as institutional videos and blogs) within an organization. Then, Soraya Chamaly, a free-lance journalist who has written for The Guardian, The Atlantic, The Nation, Huffington Post, and Time Magazine, will discuss in-depth the written storytelling format from the journalistic perspective. Following the webinar, we will also be launching a storytelling contest. [Learn More>>>](#)

Webinar | How Can Demand Driven & Bottom-up Social Accountability Tools Improve Health Services? The Experience of Rural Mozambique | June 28, 2017 | In a country like Mozambique people face numerous barriers when accessing health services. This is especially evident in rural setting and affects particularly the most vulnerable (women, children, elderly, people with HIV and other chronic diseases). This webinar will explore how Concern Universal (part of United Purpose) has managed to find the intersections in incentives and goals between government and rural communities while helping overcome some crucial gaps in health service delivery. It focuses on lessons learned through application of collaborative government/citizen's approach. [Learn more>>>](#)

PAST EVENTS

What Role Can Funder Collaboratives Play in Advancing Social Good? Introducing the Transparency and Accountability Initiative's New Approach | April 25, 2017 | As TAI shifts gears from strategy into implementation, how can their work support civil society organizations on the frontlines? Furthermore, how can lessons from practitioners and researchers best inform approaches on the priority themes shared by funders? In this BBL, Michael Jarvis, TAI's Executive Director, presented the collaborative's new strategy and focus areas with a view to sparking a conversation around how funders can best support the critical role CSOs and the GPSA play in helping build a more just, equitable, and inclusive society around the world. [Learn more and watch the recording>>>](#)

E-Forum: Improving Water Governance through Social Accountability | March 28-April 14, 2017 | This discussion with experts contributed 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. [Read the Discussion>>>](#)

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