



Building locally-led partnerships for accountability mechanisms

Dr. Angel Mwiche Chisha Munkashi, Assistant Director, Reproductive Health, Zambia Ministry of Health

Introduction



- Zambia aims to be a middle income country by 2030 leading a nation of healthy and productive people.
 - Ministry of Health (MoH) acknowledges offering quality, consistent and timely health services for all citizens requires optimal health systems functioning, including strong accountability for results and impact — not just clinical services.
 - MoH values partnerships with health and other sectors to ensure social and economic determinants of health are addressed progressively
- Zambia government appreciates importance of investing in FP and SRH programs to achieve 2030 goals.
 - MOH in partnership with in-country partners appreciates that meeting RH goals and contraceptive needs of all users will significantly increase public health impact with accrued developmental agenda gains.
 - Since 2012, Zambia has committed to increasing the Modern Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (mCPR) and increasing financing towards FP programmes.
- Zambia has several accountability government-led accountability mechanisms and multi-partner platforms, such as the National Family Planning and Safe Motherhood Technical Working.

Snapshot: MoH feedback to CSOs

Budget Tracking and Social Accountability

They have tried to educate people on how to make a follow up [on] whether those [funds allocated] in terms of accountability, [are] being managed in accordance with the plans in which they were planned for.”

Domestic Resource Mobilization and Citizen Participation

“The role of civil society organization..., I have seen them to sharpen ...a lot of activities in our province in the sense of capacity building. They have tried to build capacity or to educate our people so that they [can be] aware [of issues] starting from maternal health, or in terms of the way certain budgetary functions of the parliament works, for example, and the way we get grants under Ministry of Health [and] how that money reaches the provinces and the districts.”

Inclusion of Voices of People with Lived Experience

“We have seen that... [CSOs] and their advocacy have played a very big role trying to integrate the care that the people are expected to get. And even just on making sure that every mother, child, and an individual is actually well documented. Because ...when babies are being born, ...they have to make sure that they are registered in their birth records and everything. That is one of the areas we have seen that CSOs play a big role in making sure that ...people in the community are being given the information, because they have the right to ensure that they registered and documented.”

Grassroots CSO Budget Advocacy and Accountability Capacity and Timing Gaps

“CSOs ...come in when the plans and budgets have already been presented or generated either at grass roots level, district or province. ...the CSOs... [need to] come on [board] at the time when each of the levels is generating the plans and budgets so that they are well informed or before that the community is well informed because the community is highly expectant of many things which are not taken up during the time of making up plans and budgets because the plans budgets are restricted with various ceiling and basically there are very few changes [that] MOH [can make to such budget/

Media Advocacy

“CSOs have played a big role in ...advocacy. [When] we talk about advocacy maybe as a nation we would talk about advocacy on TV and radio, but we have some areas which cannot access radio or TV services. So we have some CSOs... [that] have made it possible for those people who cannot access the messages through such [social] media, [and] they have gone right [to] where those people are to advocate for a number of services under health; so we see them [CSOs] going maybe where we are not able to reach through the national media or ...the print media right into the rural areas and advocate for [several] health services ...in those communities. So, they play a big role in that area.”

The Advocacy and Accountability Collaborative -- Zambia Hub

- More than 30 local civil society and youth partners spread across all 10 provinces (partnering with MOH at both national and sub-national levels)
 - This spread promotes rich diversity of voices and increased inclusion of those with lived experience in policy and accountability for results agenda setting.
 - MOH Directorate of the Public Health and TAAC partnership has been working on: Family Planning Costed Implementation Plan (2021-2026); National Health Strategic Plan; and Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement MNCH/RH/FP scorecard to monitor performance indicators – MOH granted TAAC access rights.
- Other Zambia TAAC Hub ongoing policy engagements in support of the overall health development agenda include:
 - 8th National Development Plan,
 - Reproductive Health Policy and Adolescent Health Strategic Plan
 - Reproductive Health Policy
 - National Health Strategic Plan
 - RMNCAH-N road map
 - Global Financing Facility for RMNCAH+N



Key Takeaways



Joint accountability is critical and this hub is among CSOs initiatives that help government ensure we foster answerability from a coordinated platform.



Important to **balance close collaboration with government while ensuring respect for CSO voice independence**. Government must support, inform independence.



CSO and youth advocacy and accountability work is needed/appreciated by both government and donors -- landscape conducted at kick-off confirmed this.



Critical for CSOs to earn government trust backed by a solid CSO and youth advocacy and accountability plan. *For example, TAAC now has rights to the Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement MNCH/RH/FP scorecard to monitor performance indicators.*



CSO platforms must ensure **quality and sustained inclusion** of grassroots CSO and youth partners backed by a **solid capacity strengthening plan**.