

MODULE 4:

**SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY
IN ACTION**



Module Objective:

a) To be able to apply social accountability in monitoring the ICPD25 framework implementation, especially the various programmes initiated by governments and other development partners.

Total Duration: 2 hours, 40 minutes



General tips for the Trainers:

There will be a case study and an exercise.

You will need: Flashcards, marker pens.



Guide Questions

- Are the learners able to mention the various social accountability tools and how they are used in the monitoring process?
- Can the participants skilfully apply social accountability tools in monitoring the ICPD25 framework?



Tool box: assignments/hand outs

- Hand Out 4.1: Youth-powered social accountability –a driver in achieving Universal Health Coverage.
- Hand Out 4.2: Youth friendly social accountability toolkit guide.



Reference box:

- List of materials for further reading

Step 1: Introduce the session (20 mins)

a. Start the session by summarizing the last three modules and linking these modules with the need to activate action.

Meaning, we start from what ICPD25 means, what is social accountability, and the factors that informs the needs and space for this approach of participatory governance, and last but not least, their understanding of the building block for social accountability. Using the RECAP approach will be helpful.

b. The final linkage will be to now guide the participants on how to provide civilian oversight and conduct lobbying and advocacy on the basis of evidences generated by the various social accountability tools.

c. Help the participants by noting to them that their ability to generate quality evidence will depend with how they understand the ICPD25 concept, the social accountability tools and their political environment in which they conduct their civic roles.

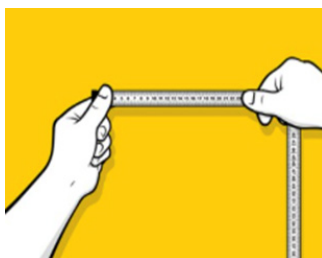
d. To start us off, use flash cards and on them, write different words like **(action, steps, movement, working, activity to illustrate the wider meaning of moving concepts and ideas into action).**

e. Get into a story circle (at most 8 people, minimum 4 people) and on a rotational basis, ask each of the circle to identify a problem that the ICPD25 is trying to address in their country. Let each circle identify a problem that needs either action, step, movement, activity, work for it to be addressed. Let them discuss what these semantics mean.

f. Also use the below example to show the connections, especially -where social accountability in this case is meant to measure the interventions by governments to address existing poor sexual reproductive health care systems. The measurement are the quality and significance of such interventions being rolled out.



When social accountability



Is measured overtime based on the evidence generated and action taken



Then it can lead to resource allocation and goodwill that improves sexual reproductive health care systems

Step 2: Planning on how to monitor the implementation of programmes on ICPD25 commitments.

2.1 Begin this session by highlighting that the government works on the ICPD25 commitments by realigning her policies and programmes to eventually address her respective commitments. This means that you start by developing a simple template that tracks the type of policies and programmes that exists at the local and national level. Use the policy tracking template below to populate your information, in a short exercise. (20 mins)


Policy	Programme	Level National/local	Sections/pages linking programme to ICPD25	Amount	Time period	Beneficiaries

The example in Kenya could be the National Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health Policy (https://www.popcouncil.org/uploads/pdfs/2015STEPUP_KenyaNationalAdoISRHPolicy.pdf)

2.2 Guide the participants to use the template to track whether there are programmes developed to help implement the policy frame, note whether it is either at grassroots or national level or both, any aspect of the programme that helps to achieve the ICPD commitment? The amount allocated in the programme (this is important, for budget tracking), time period that will require to implement the programme and the intended beneficiaries. (10 mins)

2.3 From the table above, guide the participants in knowing how government works by following the following hints:

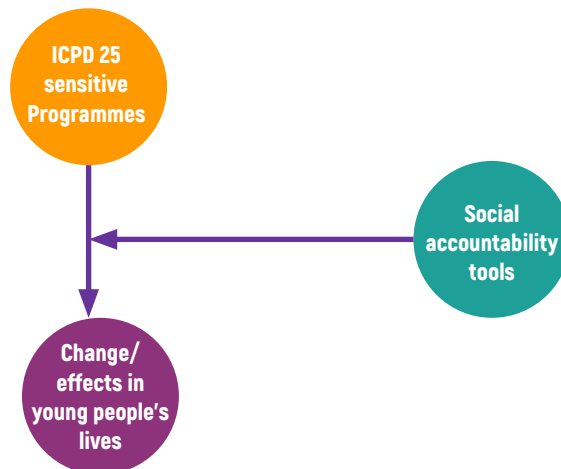
- That the ministries and respective departments develop plans that merit to provide solutions to the challenges agreed on in policies and international commitments (contextualized by the said policies).
- The plan is followed by budget development/drafting which then is implemented. Here is what follows next -monitoring of the budget and public expenditure for value strengthening. (5 mins)



Tip to the trainer:

- Point out that at this stage, it will be important to look at the programmes vis-à-vis the problem being addressed and the resources being considered -both human and financial resources.

2.4 Remind the participants using the chart flow below that the main interest is to look at programmes that espouses ICPD25 commitments and thereafter use social accountability tools to monitor or evaluate the significance and value of such programmes in terms of the eventual output and money as well as other resources spent to it.



Step 3: Execution – Public expenditure management. (30 mins)

3.1 Start off a plenary discussion where you lead the participants to understand that once a budget has been allocated to an agency or department to implement key ICPD25 PoA activities, duty bearers ought to track the spending of funds against the approved budget. It is at this stage that you can also track the funds from origin to destination by developing your own tracker that now looks at the budget and where the funds are destined to go. Here, separate the main service/development oriented expenditure (direct investment), support oriented expenditure (indirect investment) and non-essential expenditure which add no value to the programme/budget (null investment). List them and develop a frequency in terms of how many the nature of investments are identified. The frequency is therefore enough to report on the status of priority by government when it comes to public expenditure.

Type of public resource investments	Expenditure nature	List of examples	Frequency (number of times noted in the budget)
Indirect investment	support oriented expenditure	Ambulance purchase, or Motorcycle	1 7
Null investment	No value expenditure	Paying per diems	15
Direct investment	Service/development expenditure	i.e. building a maternal ward or recruitment of medical staff, purchase of condoms	2 2 5

3.2 Indicate to the participants that this is a critical point where they need to also come in and share their stand through lobbying and advocacy meetings.

Step 4 –Oversight of public decisions and tracking of funds. (20 mins)

4.1 Start off this session by picking two reports from the ministry of health in your country, especially those on sexual reproductive health. One of the reports should be a programme report while the other should be a financial report.

4.2 For the financial reports, guide the participants that these can easily be accessed from parliament website or the National Treasury.



Tip to the trainer:

- The idea of accessing the financial reports is to be able to conduct rigorous exercise on the financial performance management in reference to how funds have been utilized.

4.3 Out of the 15 minutes set aside for this session, use 5 minutes to share a presentation on the connection between oversight and social accountability.

Remember to highlight the following:

- That oversight is an eventual end-line approach to social accountability.
- Within oversight, tools such as the resource flow risk maps and the public expenditure tracking are used at a larger scale to identify wastage and leakages.

4.4 Thereafter, engage the participants in a plenary discussion to discuss what motivates governments to allocate funds to deal with a lingering problem.

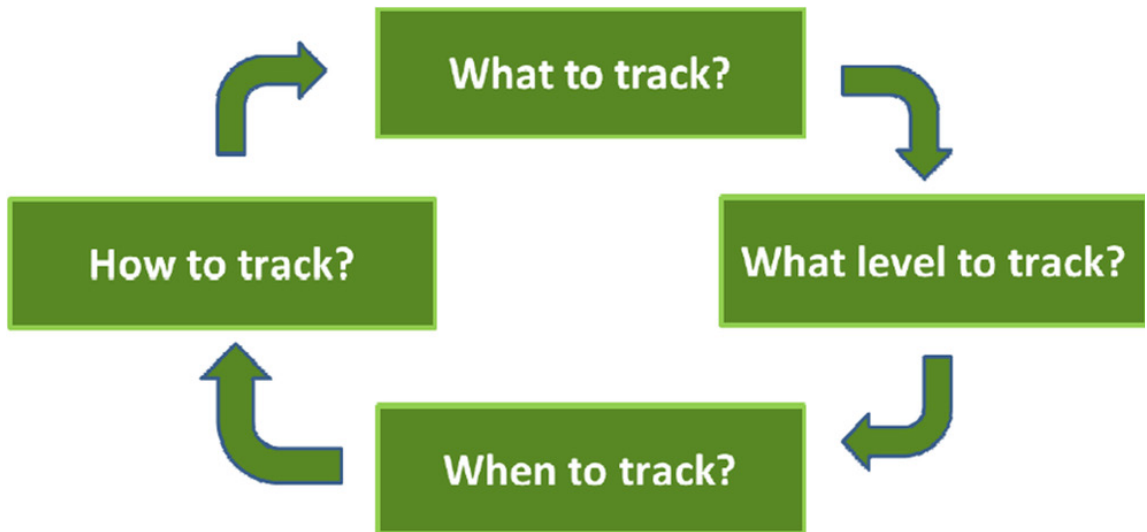
a) Bring on board the role that commitments such as those in the ICPD25 play and how they can be monitored at the planning and implementation stages.

b) Emphasize furthermore that external oversight or civilian oversight looks at each stage, but it's louder towards the end line by amplifying the evidence.

Step 5 – Group exercise: Using some of the Social Accountability Tools in your activities (45mins)

5.1. Assign participants into groups and give each group, one of the social accountability tools to look at and familiarize themselves with.

5.2 Using the Y-ACT Youth Friendly Social Accountability Toolkit Guide, allow the participants to discuss what Public Expenditure Tracking (PET) is, as the first tool, and how the tool can be used to track and sustain conversations initiated on the platform of the ICPD25.



Guiding notes:

Public expenditure tracking follows the flow of resources through several layers of the government, down to the frontline service providers which will actually spend the resources, to determine how much of the originally allocated resources reach each level. Bureaucratic capture, leakage of funds, and problems in the deployment of other resources such as human and in-kind resources are easily determined with the help of public expenditure tracking tool.

5.3 The second tool to learn from is the Y-ACT Youth Power Tracker (<https://www.yactmovement.org/caravan/icpd-25-commitments-kenya/>). Allow the participants through switching into the link, to discuss the status of the different partners -mostly from the Non-State Actors who are helping to actualize their respective countries' commitments within the ICPD25 framework.

5.4 Continue by discussing the intentions of the platform which is mainly to help the actors forge a common front that can be presented to government so that in turn respective governments can also bring out or consolidate the various contribution while reporting on the status of the implementation of the commitments.



Guiding notes:

The Youth Power Tracker, provides a snapshot of country political and financial commitments and how they are progressing in addressing the ICPD25 commitments. By providing this snapshot, the platform aim to spark conversations about the accountability of governments to young people in Africa, including where they are doing well and where they need to do better. The Youth Power Tracker provides a new perspective for national and global debates about improving outcomes.

5.5 Also using the Y-ACT Youth Friendly Social Accountability Toolkit Guide, lead the participants to discuss the third tool which is the motion tracker, and how the tool can be used to track and sustain conversations initiated on the platform of the ICPD25.



Guiding notes:

Motion Tracker is an online monitoring tool that can track the commitment progress made by governments and their leaders. It is an evidence-based tool that can monitor service delivery, healthcare workforce, information on legislations and law implementation and generally on health sector governance.

5.6 Last but not least, lead the participants to discuss what a score card is, and how the tool can be used to track and sustain conversations initiated on the platform of the ICPD25.



Guiding notes:

Score card perfectly works to evaluate existing policies and programmes upon conclusion of their implementation. Mostly it helps to assess the quality of public services received and works on perception and rates satisfaction on the basis of service value.

The tool generates consensus on delivery of objectives which often is to improve service delivery.

Discussions and candid evaluations are done with the service providers and service users in an interface meeting allow for immediate feedback which patches up effectiveness.

Let each group present, each of the tool and align the tool to an issue that is important to them, and how these issues could be addressed using the steps highlighted in each of the tool. Remind the participants that they will need to use Hand Out 4.2 for this task. **Group work is approximated to take 20 mins and presentations 25 mins.**



List of materials for further reading

1. Respective National and sub national budgets.
2. National policies and programmes on health, sexual reproductive health care, gender equality etc.
3. Status reports on the implementation of ICPD and SDG goal on SRH.
4. Strategic plans and annual ministerial/departmental plans.
5. UNFPA, (2014) ICPD-PoA. (https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/programme_of_action_Web%20ENGLISH.pdf)
6. A Youth Friendly Social Accountability Toolkit Guide, 2020. Y-ACT/AMREF.
7. Y-ACT Youth power tracker -Caravan (<https://www.yactmovement.org/caravan/icpd-25-commitments-kenya/>)

