

SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY IN EDUCATION OUT LOUD

HOW DOES EDUCATION OUT LOUD SUPPORT SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY IN EDUCATION?

Education Out Loud's Operational Component 2 (OC2) was established to 'Strengthen civil society roles in promoting transparency and accountability of national education sector policy and implementation.'

OC2 is specifically designed to ensure the participation of the most marginalised groups and communities in social accountability processes.

Between 2021 and 2026, Education Out Loud supported 14 national civil society organisations and alliances under OC2 in 13 countries across four regions.

WHAT IS SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY IN AN EDUCATION OUT LOUD CONTEXT?

Social accountability mechanisms are systems that allow civil society to monitor education policies and budgets, and use evidence to engage in policy discussions at local, provincial, and national levels. These mechanisms enhance communities' knowledge and capacity regarding their educational rights, enabling them to voice their needs and hold duty bearers accountable. They engage and empower the most marginalised populations in raising their voice in education.

While the 14 OC2 grantees in Education Out Loud differ in approach, scope, and target groups, the change processes they employ exhibit similar patterns. These mechanisms in pathways to social accountability in education are illustrated and simplified on next page.

PATHWAYS TO SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY IN EDUCATION

EDUCATIONOUTLOUD
advocacy & social accountability

GPE
Transforming Education

CIVIL SOCIETY STRENGTHENING
ORGANISE & EMPOWER CITIZENS
AND CIVIL SOCIETY

COLLECTING & MAKING DATA ACTIONABLE
MONITOR EDUCATION SERVICES
& SET PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

POLICY DIALOGUE & ADVOCACY
ENGAGE AUTHORITIES ON EDUCATION SERVICE
DELIVERY & COMMITMENTS

TRANSFORMING EDUCATION SYSTEMS
INFLUENCE EDUCATION SYSTEMS TO
BE MORE ACCOUNTABLE & INCLUSIVE

Capacity and voice of civil society groups strengthened on education rights, education policies and plans, participatory monitoring and engagement tools, voice, representation advocacy.

Capacity building fora
Youth Camp – Policy Camp –
Collective Accountability
Training – Learning Community
of Practice – Girls' Caucus

Citizens mobilised in education networks and monitoring groups at community, district, provincial and national levels. Marginalised people, including young people, women and girls are represented and empowered.

Civil society networks & groups
Education Observatory – Civil Society
Education Network – Girls' Voices Unit
– Youth for Policy – Education for
All Team – Community
journalists – Participatory
Budget Clubs

Data & evidence collected on education service delivery, budget execution, and tracking of government commitments – at local, subnational & national level. Data integrity & fact-checking is prioritized.

Monitoring tools
Community score card – Open school
data – Public Expenditure Tracking –
School performance appraisal –
EMIS – Complaint mechanism
– Commitment tracker

Local data made actionable through synthesised civil society monitoring reports where data is analysed, verified and prioritised. Reports are visual and sharable with clear recommendations.

Analysis tools
Monitoring Report – Citizen
accountability report – Infographic
– Girls' Education Dashboard –
Gender-responsive
budget analysis

Government commitments & action plans are documented at local, sub-national and national levels made public. Commitment tracking systems are updated.

Interface meetings & safe spaces for engagement between civil society and authorities organised at local, subnational and national level in safe dialogue spaces. Discussion on monitoring reports and priorities.

Type of interface meetings
Townhall meetings – Lobby meetings
– Education sector planning meetings
– Hello MP – Policy Breakfast
– Local Education Groups
– Parliamentary
Caucus

Campaigns, public engagement & collective action unify a diverse, progressive civil society and influence public opinion. Their voices and power are amplified in advocacy spaces.

Policy & Advocacy tools
Citizen charter – Youth Manifesto
– Policy Brief – Policy Reel
– Public hearing – Campaign
– Manifestation
– Media

Education policies & financing are influenced for more just access to free, public, quality education for all incl. investing in women, girls and the most marginalised.

Policy tools
Policy audit – Budget analysis
– System Diagnosis

Education authorities & institutions have improved inclusive practices and are held accountable for effective and just implementation of education policies.

System monitoring tools
Social Audit – Voluntary Periodic
Review – Civil Society Spotlight
Reports – Gender-responsive
budget & sector plan
reviews

Feedback loop to civil society and communities

CIVIL SOCIETY STRENGTHENING - ORGANISE & EMPOWER CITIZENS AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Social accountability mechanisms involve **mobilizing citizens in education networks and groups at various levels** – whether local, sub-national, or national. This includes ensuring empowerment and representation of some of the most marginalised groups and their organisations. The national civil society organisations and alliances under OC2 establish and strengthen different civil society networks and monitoring groups such as Education Observatories (Benin), Civil Society Education Networks (Pakistan), Girls' Voices Units (Benin), Youth for Policy (Bangladesh), Participatory Budget Clubs (Uganda), Education for All Teams and Community Journalists' groups (Ghana).

These groups and networks of **civil society actors are strengthened in their capacity** to understand education rights, policies and plans in their country, how to use different monitoring tools, and the various advocacy spaces available or created. OC2 grantees use different capacity strengthening and empowerment platforms such as youth and policy camps (Bangladesh), collective accountability training (Philippines), learning community of practice (Nepal), Girls' Caucus (Ghana).

COLLECTING AND MAKING DATA ACTIONABLE – MONITOR EDUCATION SERVICES AND SET PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

These mobilised and empowered civil society groups and networks **collect data and evidence on the ground on education service delivery**, and budget execution. They track to which extent government commitments and citizens right to education are fulfilled at local, sub-national and national levels. This is done by using tools such as community score cards (various countries), open school data/EMIS (Pakistan, Ghana), public expenditure tracking (Uganda), school performance appraisal (Ghana), complaint mechanism, commitment tracker (Philippines).

The collated data and evidence are then made actionable in various ways. This is done by analysing and synthesising local level data into civil society monitoring reports. They verify the data to ensure data integrity and avoid misinformation. The data is prioritised and presented in visual and sharable documents with clear recommendations for the authorities. The OC2 grantees use tools such as monitoring reports, citizen accountability reports, infographic, Girls Education Dashboard (Liberia), gender responsive budget analysis (Liberia, Uganda).

POLICY DIALOGUE AND ADVOCACY — ENGAGE AUTHORITIES ON EDUCATION SERVICE DELIVERY AND COMMITMENTS

What follows is organising **interface meetings and using various spaces for engagement between civil society/citizen groups and authorities** and government stakeholders at various levels. These spaces of engagement are used to present the results coming out of the monitoring and tracking processes. Reports and prioritised data are presented and discussed, allowing interface between marginalised citizens and authorities. Some recommendations are for the school or district level, whereas others need to be moved to provincial or national level monitoring reports and interface meetings. OC2 grantees use existing spaces for dialogue such as townhall meetings (Ghana, Bangladesh), education sector planning meetings, local education groups, parliamentary caucus. Or they create new spaces such as Hello MP, and policy breakfast (Bangladesh), or different type of lobby meetings. There are often various stages of interface meetings at the different levels.

The process and interface meetings most often result in **government commitments and/or action plans**. And OC2 grantees ensure government accountability by documenting these commitments to track them on to the next levels. The social accountability mechanism ensures that commitments made at the various levels are documented and the commitment tracking systems are therefore also updated by the OC2 grantees.

At the same time and interchangeably with the two above processes of interface meetings and government commitments, **civil society organise campaigns, public engagement and dialogue** to influence public opinion, and ensure joining a diverse civil society into collective voices for advocacy. OC2 grantees in EOL use various policy and advocacy tools like citizen charter (Philippines), youth manifesto, and policy briefs/policy reels (Bangladesh), public hearing, different types of manifestations and media campaigns using community journalists (Ghana).

TRANSFORMING EDUCATION SYSTEMS — INFLUENCE EDUCATION SYSTEMS TO BE MORE ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE

Engaging in these social accountability mechanisms, OC2 grantees **influence education policies and financing** for more just access to free, public, quality education for all including investing in education for women girls and the most marginalised. Policy tools such as policy audit, budget analysis, and system diagnosis are used.

In the process, and ensuring engaging at all levels, education authorities and institutions are held accountable for the effective and just implementation of education policies. The social accountability mechanisms implemented by OC2 grantees and their respective civil society networks aim for institutionalisation, eventually **improving the practices of authorities and institutions to be more inclusive and accountable**.

Last, but not least, the results of the social accountability mechanisms and processes at provincial and national levels would be fed back to communities and local civil society networks ensuring downwards accountability.

*Education Out Loud is **Global Partnership for Education's** fund for civil society advocacy and accountability in education. The programme aims to strengthen civil society's capacity to engage in education sector planning, policy dialogue and monitoring, and to promote transparency and accountability in national education policies, as well as create a stronger global and regional enabling environment for civil society advocacy and transparency efforts in education.*

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