

Factsheet

Improving support for citizen-state accountability

Poor governance constrains development. Accountability – the ability of citizens to hold governments to account – plays a key role in shaping the quality of governance. Aid to processes that improve citizen-state relations can help reduce poverty and support the realization of rights, equity and justice, in particular for marginalized populations. The OECD DAC¹ Governance Network (GOVNET) (see overview on back page) has launched **new work on aid and domestic accountability** to influence donors to provide aid in ways that promote effective citizen-state relations in developing countries – through support to parliaments, political parties, media, civil society organisations, audit institutions, etc.

Partnership and Ownership: Representatives from developing country accountability institutions (parliaments, media, political parties, etc.) are guiding this work together with donors and relevant experts. The approach builds on human rights, anti-corruption and taxation efforts, and will provide evidence for the High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in 2011 through co-operation on ownership and accountability with the **DAC Working Party on Aid Effectiveness**, with particular relevance to work on mutual accountability.

At the heart of this new work are **in-country, multi-stakeholder dialogues to be held** in 2010 in Mali, Mozambique, Peru and Uganda. These dialogues will identify challenges and opportunities for enhancing citizen-state relations, taking account of the politics and impact of aid on domestic accountability. The case-studies will be supported by lead donors and a team of local and international analysts. One to two day dialogues in each country will bring together donors, government officials, civil society and representatives of various accountability institutions to discuss how donors can improve their support to effective citizen-state relations across sectors, using such entry points as the budget process, service delivery in the health sector and electoral processes. As part of the work on electoral processes **Draft Principles on International Support to Elections** are also being developed.

	Date	Local multi-stakeholder dialogues
Mali	3 rd quarter 2010	A multi-stakeholder Forum on Good Governance (<i>Forum multiacteurs sur la gouvernance au Mali</i>) begun in 2008 debates governance issues across various sectors. Following an initial debate on the governance of aid, a multi-stakeholder workshop on donor support for improving citizen-state relations will be supported by local partners and France.
Uganda	3 rd quarter 2010	The Government of Uganda is developing a new Partnership Policy that will be complemented by a multi-stakeholder dialogue on effective citizen-state relations in the context of the budget process and accountability in the health sector supported by local partners, the United Kingdom and Ireland.
Mozambique	4 th quarter 2010	The mapping of the accountability system in Mozambique and the organisation of a multi-stakeholder dialogue will be led by the Mozambican Centre for Public Integrity (CIP) supported by Switzerland.
Peru	TBC	The case of a middle income country like Peru is of particular interest.. The Peruvian case-study is likely to explore the accountability system in service delivery in the health sector. Local partners, USAID and the Peru office of International IDEA will support the process.

Next Steps: Building on the evidence gathered through the dialogues, the GOVNET will deliver:

- A **policy paper** on the impact of aid on the scope and capacity for domestic accountability, exploring the effects of different types of aid delivery on support for effective citizen-state relations.
- **Operational guidance** for donors about how they can maximise the impact of aid on domestic accountability. The guidance will emphasise support to domestic accountability institutions that takes proper account of country context and focuses on emerging accountability systems rather than on individual accountability institutions alone.

¹ The Development Assistance Committee (DAC) is a unique international forum where donor governments and multilateral organisations come together to help partner countries reduce poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Contact:

For more information on the OECD DAC Governance Network (GOVNET) see www.oecd.org/dac/governance. For comments or queries about this factsheet, write to dac.contact@oecd.org.



The OECD-DAC Governance Network (GOVNET) An overview

The OECD DAC Network on Governance (GOVNET) aims to improve the effectiveness of donor assistance in support of democratic governance in developing countries. It provides a forum to exchange experiences and lessons, identify and disseminate good practice, and develop policy and analytical tools. GOVNET promotes partner country ownership, co-ordinated donor approaches, results and mutual accountability. Active partner country involvement in the GOVNET work is essential and dates back to its founding Guidance on Participatory Development and Good Governance in 1995.

Current GOVNET priorities include work on:

Aid and domestic accountability frames today's GOVNET approach. It aims to provide guidance on how donors can help strengthen effective citizen-state relations through better support to domestic accountability in institutions including parliaments, supreme audit bodies, political parties, the media, and civil society. The work-stream is co-managed with representatives from these institutions in developing countries and is a core component of the "Cluster on ownership and accountability" of the DAC Working Party on Aid Effectiveness. The work-stream is based on a number of case studies using service delivery, budgets, taxation, anti-corruption and electoral processes as entry-points. Findings will feed into the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Korea in 2011. (see additional details on front page)

Human rights: Growing recognition of the crucial links between rights violations, poverty, exclusion, vulnerability and conflict has led many OECD member countries and multilateral donors to look at human rights more thoroughly as a means for improving the quality of development co-operation. GOVNET is currently producing principles on aid effectiveness and human rights through developing country consultations. It is also exploring the role of human rights in strengthening citizen-state relations, as well as the linkages between pro-poor growth and human rights. This work is integral to the implementation of the human rights commitments in the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) and the 2007 *DAC Action-oriented policy paper on human rights and development*, which provides guidance on how to integrate human rights into development.

Anti-corruption: In the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, donors committed to lending greater support to developing countries' anti-corruption efforts, aligning with country-led initiatives, and promoting local ownership of anti-corruption reforms. Current work focuses on the implementation of the 2007 *Policy paper and principles on anti-corruption, Setting an Agenda for Collective Action*. In addition to continuing its support to developing country efforts to implement the UN Convention against Corruption, GOVNET is working with several donors at the country level to improve joint responses to corruption. Second, guidance is being developed on how to address corruption in fragile states. Third, GOVNET works across the OECD to address the supply side of corruption, for example in international business transactions and government procurement. In 2010, the OECD started to track OECD members' efforts to trace, freeze and recover illegally acquired assets to the developing world.

Governance assessments: Over the last decade, the importance of understanding the impact of governance on development has gained prominence and, as a consequence, the scope and volume of assessment tools have flourished. GOVNET has embarked on an analysis of these tools and their use in an effort to share experience, reduce the risks of duplicating assessments, and promote more coherent collective action in line with the Paris Declaration. In 2008, GOVNET drew attention to increasing duplication of assessment tools and approaches in its *Donor Approaches to Governance Assessments: Guiding Principles for Enhanced Usage and Harmonisation* and a *Sourcebook on Donor Approaches to Governance Assessments* (2009). A survey will be launched to gauge donor performance against these principles.

Taxation: In 2006, GOVNET began work on examining the governance aspects of domestic resource mobilisation, specifically taxation. Through a specialised task team, GOVNET facilitates exchange and dialogue among donors and experts, supplements existing technical expertise with a governance perspective, and provides guidance for increased donor engagement in the field of taxation. The DAC's Governance, *Taxation and Accountability: Issues and Practices* paper (2008) has had a significant impact on the international focus on domestic resource mobilisation, particularly in aid-dependent countries. GOVNET is now working with the OECD Centre for Tax Policy and Administration to support the development of the African Taxation Administration Forum – an African initiative designed to promote improvements in tax policy and administration in the continent. The OECD Committee on Fiscal Affairs and the DAC are also jointly designing a new tax and development programme.

