Aid and accountability in the health sector

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Aid and accountability in the health sector

• Research project with World Vision UK

• Case study research in Uganda and Zambia

• Analysis of actors, mechanisms around aid, and information flows
Aid and accountability in health

• Accountability defined in terms of answerability, enforceability and transparency

• Paris Declaration (2005): Emphasis on mutual and domestic accountability

• How has the aid effectiveness agenda impacted on (domestic) accountability for aid in health?
Uganda: Country context

- Executive dominance (history of no party system, civil war)
- Capacity for domestic accountability but also some weaknesses
- High aid dependency but also limits to donor influence
- Main aid modalities in health: budget support, on-budget and off-budget project aid
Uganda: key mechanisms for accountability for aid

• On-budget aid and SWAp mechanisms: ‘we know what is being done and who is doing what’
  – But diversity in on budget definition

• Prevalence of off budget aid in health
  – But moves towards alignment (Global Fund)

• Blockages to info flows
  – Decentralisation and ‘missing middle’
Zambia: Country context

- Dominant party rule
- Power imbalances within civil society
- High aid dependence
- Main aid modalities: budget support, on budget project aid, off budget project aid
Zambia: for aid and accountability in health

• Some increased participation and reporting through dialogue forums around the SWAp and NAMs

BUT:

• High levels of off-budget funding
• Upward accountability to donors
• Poor information flows
• Fall-out from health corruption scandal 2009
Zambia and Uganda: Key conclusions (1)

- Some improvements (e.g. reporting) in light of SWAp framework and new aid modalities
- No clear dichotomies; moves towards alignment of vertical funds, slip back of on budget donors
Zambia and Uganda: Key conclusions (2)

• What needs to be done differently (donors)?
  – Pay more attention to context and incentives
  – Realise commitments at Paris, Accra
  – Address ‘missing middle’ of accountability

• What can others do (CSOs, Parliamentarians)?
  – Hold donors and governments to account for commitments
  – Build strategic alliances with other actors

• Future research questions
Uganda: key findings

• Some improvements (e.g. reporting) in light of SWAp framework and new aid modalities

• Spectrum of donor practice and the need to move beyond simplistic dichotomies

• But more attention needed to:
  – Decentralisation and the ‘missing middle’
  – Underlying power dynamics