

PARTNERSHIP FOR SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY ALLIANCE



Strengthening Social Accountability and Oversight in Health and Agriculture in Southern Africa 2019 - 2023

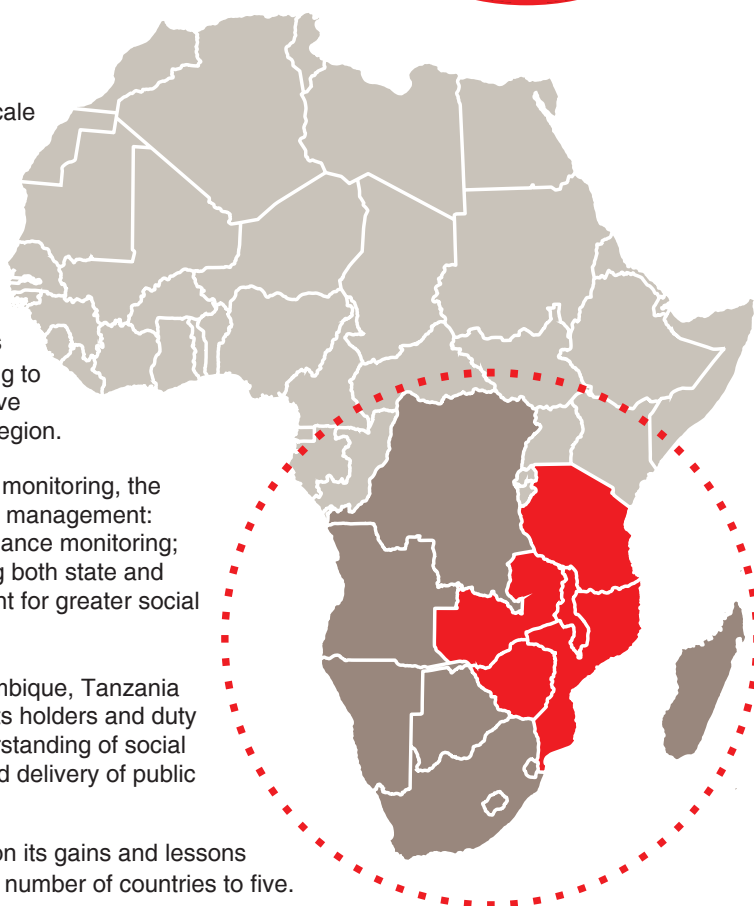
The PSA Alliance is a consortium of organisations led by ActionAid International and including the Public Service Accountability Monitor (PSAM) of Rhodes University, Eastern and Southern Africa Small-Scale Farmers Forum (ESAFF) and SAfAIDS. This consortium implements the project 'Strengthening Social Accountability and Oversight in Health and Agriculture in Southern Africa', with support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

Through this project, the PSA Alliance works to improve social accountability and gender-responsiveness in public resource management in health and agricultural services across five countries (Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe), contributing to the realisation of SADC commitments on HIV, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and food security in the Southern African region.

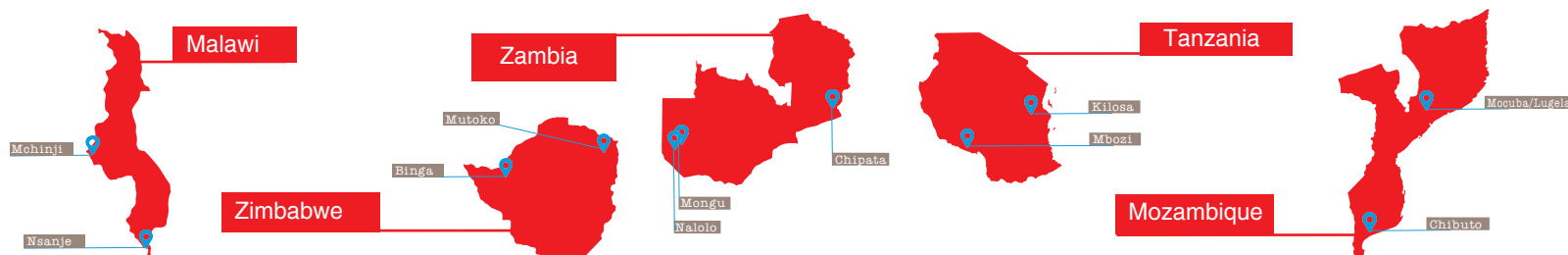
Using a rights and evidence based approach to social accountability monitoring, the project focuses on the five inter-related processes of public resource management: planning and resource allocation; expenditure management; performance monitoring; public integrity; and oversight. Through simultaneously strengthening both state and civil society actors, the project endeavours to develop an environment for greater social accountability at the local, national and regional levels.

Between 2016 and 2019, the PSA Alliance worked in Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia. The Alliance successfully built the capacity of both rights holders and duty bearers at district, national and regional levels, improving their understanding of social accountability and in many cases, enhancing the responsiveness and delivery of public services

In Phase Two of the project (2019 – 2023), the PSA Alliance builds on its gains and lessons so far, and expands its reach to include Zimbabwe, bringing the total number of countries to five.



Where does the PSA Alliance Work?



Activities

Capacity Building

Multi-stakeholder training and mentoring on social accountability monitoring of public resource management.

Action

Social accountability monitoring and collective advocacy on findings.

Learning

District, national and regional platforms to exchange learning and share experiences.

Five Stakeholder Groups

Duty Bearers

- Parliamentary and district council committees
- Government departments

Rights Holders

- Issue-based civil society organisations
- Smallholder farmers' organisations
- Media

Results So Far

Improved social accountability in the provision of public services has led to an increase in the proportion of citizens accessing and benefitting from public services. In *Tanzania*, voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) has increased amongst adolescents aged 9-16 years in project sites following awareness sessions on SRHR. PSA Alliance has also noted enhanced quality of health service delivery as a result of improvements in access to medical equipment, medicine, mobile clinics for HIV medications, and health care workers; including better attitudes among health care workers. In *Mozambique*, advocacy on community scorecard findings prompted local officials to clear an irrigation ditch in Marracuene district, resulting in improved production among smallholder farmers.

Service delivery concerns shared during multi-stakeholder engagements have triggered responses by local officials. In *Mozambique*, reports from a community scorecard led to the inclusion of requested agricultural equipment in the Marracuene district development plan. In *Zambia*, community engagements led to the provision of a requested agricultural extension officer, and improvements in the receipt of farming inputs during the 2017/18 season in Chipata. In *Tanzania*, the Mbozi district medical officer took disciplinary action against underperforming clinicians in response to complaints received by the local monitoring teams. Additionally, in Mbozi district, village extension officers provided technical sessions *post-harvest* management in response to concerns raised.

Improved local planning, monitoring and reporting. In Malawi, the Mchinji district council was persuaded during a training in March 2018 to push for the production of key strategic planning documents. Trained ward councillors are also now monitoring selected government development health and agriculture projects in the area. In Malawi's Nsanje district, councillors uncovered mismanagement of district development funds, compelling the district commissioner to institute an external audit.

Advocacy for a parliamentary budget office in Malawi created widespread support through the formation of a cross-ministerial and parliamentary task team, leading ultimately to the establishment and staffing of a PBO in 2019.

Social accountability issues reported by journalists trained through the project have triggered government action. In *Malawi*, an investigative radio report and debates were produced based on findings from community scorecards in Mkanda village, prompting an investigation by district council committees, and action by the implicated private contractor. In Chipata, *Zambia*, a report on poor provision of agricultural inputs led local authorities to resolve the issues with agro-dealers. In *Mozambique*, improvements have been noted in the reporting of national planning processes by trained journalists.

Collaborative initiatives involving government and civil society to strengthen social accountability have emanated from project engagements.

In *Zambia*, the first adolescent and HIV/AIDS technical working groups (TWGs) were established in Mongu and Chipata. In *Tanzania*, project partners in collaboration with district councils facilitated the re-establishment of 12 facility health management committees in Kilosa and Mbozi, and social accountability training of their new members.

District level SAM teams have shared their findings with parliamentary committees, resulting in more informed parliamentary debate and budget changes. In *Tanzania*, engagements by community representatives from Kilosa and Mbozi with the parliamentary committee on agriculture led to inclusion of the findings from community scorecards in the committee's report. The report provoked intense debate in parliament, resulting in budgetary and operational adjustments.

Emanating from project engagements, the SADC Parliamentary Forum (PF) prepared and passed a motion urging SADC Member States to accelerate the implementation of the Malabo Declaration, with a focus on improving social accountability in agricultural services for smallholder farmers.

The Partnership for Social Accountability Alliance

ActionAid is a global justice federation working in over 45 countries to achieve social justice, gender equality and poverty eradication. Throughout the world, ActionAid works to strengthen the capacity and agency of people living in poverty and exclusion, especially women, to assert their rights. We work with communities, people's organisations, women's movements, groups and networks, social movements and other allies to overcome the structural causes and consequences of poverty and injustice. We connect the work we do at community level with broader efforts and struggles for justice at every level to make the greatest contribution towards a just, equitable and sustainable world.

SafAIDS is a regional non-profit organisation with its headquarters in Harare, Zimbabwe. SafAIDS' goal is to complement national governments and regional bodies' efforts to reduce HIV, and increase the uptake of sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR), HIV and TB services through building community capacities to address social and policy service barriers for vulnerable populations in Africa.

Public Service Accountability Monitor (PSAM) forms part of the School of Journalism and Media Studies at Rhodes University, South Africa. PSAM's vision is to ensure that the right to social accountability is universally realised. Among other things, the right to social accountability places an explicit duty on members of the Executive arm of governments, public officials and private service providers to justify their decisions and performance regarding the manner in which their use of public resources has affected the progressive realisation of socio-economic rights. PSAM's activities include research, monitoring, advocacy and capacity building.

Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) was established in 2002 as a network of smallholder farmers to advocate for policy, practice and attitude change that reflects the needs, aspirations, and development of small scale farmers in east and southern Africa region. The Tanzania based network has built strong working relationships with its 16 national members and like-minded networks by supporting farmers to engage with policy makers, law makers and public institutions in the region.

PSA Alliance online
<http://copsam.com/psa>

For further information, please contact psaalliance@actionaid.org

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