



INITIATIVE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

Call for Article Submissions

The Initiative for Social and Economic Rights (ISER) invites submission of articles on the theme: *Social Accountability as a tool for realization of Economic and Social Rights*, which is the focus of the 7th Issue of its Economic and Social Rights Advocacy (ESRA) Brief to be published in November 2016. While the ESRA Brief is dedicated to Economic and Social Rights (ESRs) advocacy in Uganda, it does draw on key lessons from the broader East African Community and beyond. The Brief provides insight into the debates and steps currently being undertaken by Ugandan organizations individually and collaboratively towards the full realization of ESRs.

Background

According to the World Bank, Social Accountability refers to the extent and capacity of citizens to hold the state and service providers accountable and make them responsive to the needs of citizens and beneficiaries. Examples of social accountability mechanisms and tools in Uganda include informal mechanisms like citizen scorecards, public media campaigns, performance agreements for top district officers, signing of client charters and enforcement of community meetings on accountability (“*Barazas*”) as well as mechanisms embedded in legal or policy instruments such as School Management Committees, Water User Committees and Health Unit Management Committees.

Participation is provided for under Uganda’s legal framework as a legal right. Article 38 of the Constitution of Uganda states that every Ugandan has the right to participate in the affairs of government and to influence government policy. Article 41 guarantees the right of access to information, which is a key prerequisite for participation. Additionally, the Local Government Act provides for democratic participation in, and control of, decision-making by the people.

It is in this regard that the next edition of the ESRA brief will examine the various mechanisms through which citizens can demand accountability from duty bearers and service providers at the local government level in the areas of health, education and water.

We therefore welcome submissions that address, but are not limited to, the following topics:

- Case studies of social accountability mechanisms in the different districts of Uganda and analysis on how effective these are;
- Case studies of citizen monitoring of public services, participatory budgeting and public expenditure tracking;
- An assessment of the efficacy of Uganda’s current legal framework to facilitate social accountability and community participation in local government processes;
- An evaluation of the factors hindering citizens from participating in local government service delivery (including recommendations on how to increase the participation of vulnerable and marginalized groups);
- Social accountability as a tool for poverty alleviation;
- Best practice from the East African region and beyond on effective citizen participation in local government service delivery.

The deadline for submission of articles is the 30th of October 2016. Contributions should be 800 – 1000 words in length.

Please direct all inquiries regarding this call for articles to the editors at info@iser-uganda.org