WHAT’S WRONG WITH MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY?

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Four Results Agendas

- Defend aid
- Improve aid
- Manage agencies
- Manage complexity
Accountability & complex problems

Björkman & Svensson (2007). "Power to the People: Evidence from a Randomized Field Experiment of a Community-Based Monitoring Project in Uganda"
The effects of local accountability

With citizen report cards:

- Waiting time decreased
- Doctor and nurse absenteeism plummeted
- Clinics got cleaner; fewer drugs stolen
- 40-50% more children vaccinated
- 33% fewer under 5 children died

_Björkman & Svensson (2007). "Power to the People: Evidence from a Randomized Field Experiment of a Community-Based Monitoring Project in Uganda"_
How can aid be accountable?

Money and expertise

Taxpayer → Donor → Government → Service delivery → Citizen

Accountability
The mutual accountability problem

- Taxpayer
- Donor
- Government
- Service delivery
- Citizen

Money, Money & Advice, Services, Aid Accountability, "Mutual Accountability"
Problems of ‘mutual accountability’

- Undermines local accountability
- Too prescriptive
- Empowers vested interests
Results: the basis of accountability

Pressure for better aid

Reliable, rigorous measures of impact
End-to-end transparency of aid
Conclusion

- Four results agendas
- Local accountability works
- Complexity requires evolution
- Mutual accountability undermines progress
- Outcomes & end-to-end transparency