Tech4 TA/ Open Governance – where are we standing and where do we go?
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Order of Presentation

- Objectives of the Session
- Essential definitions
- About MAVC
- Key historical observations
- Where we are now
- Unpacking practical ambiguities
- Future: what to concentrate on
This session hopes to achieve the following objectives

• Pull together some common thought lines from the ICT4D week – where things are

• Motivate participants/ industry towards more
  – ‘theory of change’, ‘context-sensitive’ design/ interventions,
  – ‘use of evidence’ in practice
  – ‘going beyond ideology’ narratives to nuancing practical realities
Essential definitions

1. Governance
2. Open Governance
3. Transparency
4. Open Data/ Open Government Data
5. Open Government vs Open Governance
About ‘Making All Voices Count’

- Making All Voices Count is a global initiative that supports innovation, scaling-up, and research to deepen existing innovations and help harness new technologies to enable citizen engagement and government responsiveness.

- Making All Voices Count is supported by the Department for International Development (DFID – lead donor), U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and Omidyar Network (ON), and is implemented by a consortium consisting of Hivos (lead organisation), the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) and Ushahidi. This is in 12 countries (Ghana, Nigeria, Liberia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, South Africa, Mozambique, Phillipines, Indonesia, Pakistan and Bangladesh)
Key Observations for the history of TAIs and Open Government/ Open Data (IDS Bulletin plus)

- Review of the TAIs – led by IDS in 2010
- OGP
- ICT4Development

Untested Theories of Change
Lack of rigour of evidence of what works and does not work

Transactional accountability – citizen demand/ creating feedback loops
Where we are now?

- Collective action
- Flood of new technologies
- Improved evidence – but not used
- Buzz words and Fuzz words syndrome
- Practical ambiguities

Unpacking Practical Ambiguities

- Open data vs Citizen Empowerment
- Open data vs public accountability
- Tactical vs Strategic approaches (Fox, 2014)
- Willingness vs Capacity (Peixoto & Fox, 2016)
- ‘Talking the talk’ vs ‘Walking the Talk’ (Mills, 2016)
Future: what to concentrate on

• Pushing on Open doors – political will/keeping them open/opening new ones
• From ‘technological mindset’ in the tech to politics – innovation & scaling
• Rethinking mediation & representation – ‘who are the interlocutors?’ (Tembo, 2013, Fowler, 2014)
• Ethics in Civic Tec – (McGee, 2016)
Future: what to concentrate on

• Watch out for double sides of transparency and accountability
• Towards relational (Tembo, 2013) or reputational (Busuioc and Lodge, 2016) accountability
• Find smart funding (- include new entrants – McGee, 2016)
Building Relational Accountability – Transformative Change

See Tembo, F (2013, 2015)
References


- **Busuioc, M and Lodge, M (2016)** ‘What’s wrong with the principal-agent model’: *Governance Blog*

- **Edwards, D and McGee, R (2016)**, ‘Open Governance: Transforming Development Knowledge’ *IDS Bulletin, 47/1*

- **Fox, J (2014)** *Social Accountability: What does evidence really say?* GPSA Working Paper 1; World Bank

- **McGee, R (2016)** ‘Research, Evidence and Ethics in Civic Tec: a call to action’ blog post
  
References

• **Mills, E (2016)** ‘You Have to Raise a Fist!’: Seeing and Speaking to the State in South Africa, in IDS Bulletin 47/1, pp 69 - 81
• **Tembo, F (2013)** *Rethinking Social Accountability in Africa: lessons from the Mwananchi programme*, Overseas Development Institute, London