



Georgia

Accountability

2013/14

Promoting children and youth as agents of change My Rights, My Voice

'My Rights, My Voice' is a global project implemented in Georgia and seven other countries and focuses on child and youth rights to receive education and health care. The project promotes children and youth as agents of change by fully involving them in campaigning and awareness raising, and by establishing a network of youth clubs through which Georgian children and adolescents can consider health rights' issues affecting them, and promote health care improvements. Youth leaders are also identified and developed, and given a platform in youth forums where duty bearers and policy makers can be addressed directly. It also trains family doctors to protect their rights and supports civil society to push for policy changes. Project activities take place in two regions of Georgia – Samegrelo and Shida Kartli. The project has been implemented in Georgia by three partner organisations with the support of Oxfam: the Public Defender's Office (PDO) and Georgian non-governmental organisations (NGOs) – Welfare Foundation and DEA,(the Association of Disabled Children and Mothers of Disabled Children).

According to children participating in project activities, they were both implementing the project and benefiting from its outcomes at the same time. They were regularly consulted in order to determine their expectations and needs, and their ideas presented to the partners, such as theatre performances, flash mobs, have been fully supported.

'We have chosen all the topics of activities, not anyone else. We have selected the participants. Thank you for giving the chance to tell the people openly about the problems in our society.'

Evaluation Design

Accountability Reviews seek evidence for perceptions of, and make judgments about, the degree to which a project meets Oxfam's standards for accountability. This is with regards to both Oxfam's mutual accountability in our partnerships, and Oxfam and partners' shared accountability to those it works on behalf of.

For details on evaluation design, see the 'How are effectiveness reviews carried out?' document, and the full report for how these designs were tailored by individual reviews.

Project date: December 2011 - December 2014 Evaluation: May 2014

Publication: November 2014

Results

	Oxfam's accountability to partners					Oxfam and partners' accountability to communities				
	Score	1	2	3	4	Score	1	2	3	4
Transparency	Oxfam	4				Oxfam/Partner Community Review team	3.5			
	Partner	3.5					3			
	Review team	3.5					3			
Feedback	Oxfam	4				Oxfam/Partner Community Review team	4			
	Partner	4					3			
	Review team	2.5					2			
Participation	Oxfam	4				Oxfam/Partner Community Review team	4			
	Partner	4					3.5			
	Review team	4					4			
Overall Accountability	Oxfam	4				Oxfam/Partner Community Review team	3.8			
	Partner	3.8					3.2			
	Review team	3.3					3			

Transparency to partners: 'We have not participated into the very beginning of the project. I am not saying that because something went wrong, but often people in Tbilisi, think, they know the situation in the regions better than we do here... We were given the budget and almost everything was almost decided' Partner organisation representative

'We even did not know that we were able to participate in the planning process.' 'It is common. Usually, donors finance the projects and they have not asked for our opinion.' 'Do the individuals in Tbilisi or elsewhere know more about my need?'

Transparency to communities: Oxfam and partners tried to present project information to beneficiaries, but could not reach all the groups. Financial information had also not been share or discussed with them. Despite this, representatives of the communities seemed to be familiar with the partners' work and had regular contact with them, the partners advising them in their everyday work.

Feedback: Oxfam and partners had regular contact during project implementation, so it seemed all concerns were discussed. However, the formal feedback system was not used:

'I know there is a feedback mechanism ... I do not want to discuss [the issue in question] more [via this mechanism]. Personally, I prefer to discuss some questions informally than go and write a complaint.'

'...we did not participate at the planning stage; but we always had opportunity to participate and introduce some changes in the implementation phase. It was our right to choose a topic of training, also the sort of activity and discuss the methods of implementation. We used to fill up the questionnaire, we always were able to contact the people from Oxfam and they always take our desire into account' Partner about participation with Oxfam

Key Commitments

The My Rights My Voice project ends in December 2014, at the same time Oxfam in Georgia is exiting from healthcare work. All recommendations introduced by the Accountability Review will be used for current and future country programmes, such as Economic Justice, Disaster Risk Reduction and Gender Justice programmes. In order for this to happen, the Accountability Review report will be shared and discussed by whole Oxfam Georgia Team. A seminar to familiarise Oxfam staff and partners on Accountability concepts, dimensions and best practice will also be requested.

For future programmes, a feedback and complaints mechanism suitable for the Georgia context and respecting local ways of giving feedback will be designed together with partners, community members and other stakeholders. Visual aids and leaflets will be designed and disseminated in all target communities on their rights to be involved in Oxfam's interventions, transparency, and feedback mechanism.

Oxfam Programme Managers for livelihoods, disaster risk reduction and gender justice programmes, together with selected implementing partner representatives will hold annual meetings with target communities on Accountability issues. Stakeholders such as community representatives and partners will also be invited to contribute in making key decisions about projects throughout the entire cycle, including planning and budgeting, and whilst project monitoring, evaluations and monitoring reviews, are conducted.

Photo credit: Khatuna Khubitia/Oxfam