

# Accountability for Reasonableness

A priority setting concept  
Is it useful for community monitoring under  
severe resource constraints?

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# Focus on legitimacy & fairness

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- ❖ **Legitimacy:** accepted moral authority of decision makers
- ❖ **Fairness:** decisions are morally acceptable because decision making process is morally acceptable

# The problem continued

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- Lack of legitimacy and fairness leads to
  - Unclear priorities
  - Unrealistic priorities
  - Non – implementable priorities
  - Demotivation
  - Distrust
  - Waste of resources
  - Reduced health care
  - Reduced health

# A concept and approach

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## Accountability for Reasonableness (AFR)

- Operationalizes the concept of fairness in specific contexts
- Improves legitimacy of priorities set, and therefore greater "buy-in" and implementation

# Accountability for reasonableness' (AFR) – 4 conditions

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- ❖ **Relevance:** decisions based on *reasons* upon which stakeholders can agree
- ❖ **Publicity:** *reasons* publicly accessible
- ❖ **Revision (Appeals):** quality improvement mechanism for challenging/revising *reasons*
- ❖ **Leadership (Enforcement):** to ensure the 3 conditions are met aiming for public accountability

# Elaborating conditions

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## ❖ **Relevance**

- ❖ Reasons and criteria built upon value-choices
- ❖ Multi-stakeholder and user involvement

## ❖ **Publicity**

- ❖ Transparency – a process
- ❖ Proactive dissemination including reasons

## ❖ **Revision/Appeals**

- ❖ Responsiveness and dispute resolution
- ❖ Sustainable decisions

## ❖ **Leadership/Enforcement**

- ❖ Ensure continuous application of conditions 1-3
- ❖ Monitor with other providers and users/the public/communities – mutual accountability
- ❖ Monitor service output, health outcomes and trust

# An application

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REsponse to Accountability priority setting for Trust in health systems (REACT)

Applies AFR in a district in Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia

- A case study and action research (participatory) design.
- Assesses the need, process, acceptability and use
- Discusses consequences for services (output), their results (outcomes) and their health and disease effect (impact).

## Main focus / outcome

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- Evaluate effect of improved priority setting on indicators for

- Quality
- Equity
- Trust

After 5 years all want to continue

- Kenya – Motivation/the new counties
- Tanzania – Acceptance, change, scale up
- Zambia – Outcomes, change and outreach



# Narrowing the Democratic Deficit

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- ❖ Make 'private' decisions public
- ❖ Iterative - improves over time
- ❖ Social Policy learning
- ❖ Power blind?

