

## PRACTICE BASED KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

### Issue Papers

- **Developing an Approach towards Social Accountability of Private Healthcare Services**  
Anant Phadke, Abhijit More, Abhay Shukla, Arun Gadre
- **Ethical Issues in Community Based Monitoring of Health Programmes: Reflections from India**  
Renu Khanna
- **How Do We Know We Are Making A Difference? Challenges before the Practitioner of Community Monitoring Processes in Assessing Progress and Evaluating Impacts**  
Dr. Abhijit Das
- **Who Are We To Care? Exploring the Relationship between Participation, Knowledge and Power in Health Systems**  
Barbara Kaim
- **Citizen Monitoring and Accountability to Promote the Right to Health Care**  
Ariel Frisancho and Maria Luisa Vasquez
- **Vigilancia Ciudadana y Rendición de Cuentas para Promover el Derecho a la Salud**  
Ariel Frisancho and Maria Luisa Vasquez (Spanish)

### Case Studies

- **Claiming Entitlements: The Story of Women Leaders' Struggle for the Right to Health in Uttar Pradesh, India**  
Abhijit Das and Jashodhara Dasgupta
- **Women in the Lead: Monitoring Health Services in Bangladesh**  
Sarita Barpanda, Samia Afrin, Abhijit Das
- **Community Based Monitoring and Planning in Maharashtra, India**  
Abhay Shukla, Shelley Saha, Nitin Jadhav
- **Accountability and Social Action in Health - A Case Study on Solid Waste Management in Three Local Authority Areas of Zimbabwe - Training and Research Support Centre (TARSC) with Civic Forum on Housing (CFH)**
- **The Power of Community Monitoring in Influencing Change in Health Care Delivery, A Case Study of Agulurude Health Centre III in Oyam District Northern Uganda. By UNHCO.**

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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# COPASAH

Community of Practitioners on  
Accountability and Social Action in Health



## SHARED PRACTICE. GROUNDED KNOWLEDGE.

### Vision

Communities are actively engaged in promoting accountability and transforming health systems towards the realization of well being, dignity and social justice.

### Mission

COPASAH's mission is to nurture, strengthen and promote collective knowledge, skills and capacity of community-oriented organisations and health activists-primarily from Africa, Asia and Latin America-working in the field of accountability and social action in health, for promoting active citizenship to make health systems responsive, democratic, equitable and people-centred.

## VALUES

COPASAH, as a global community of practitioners in health accountability believes that community monitoring for accountability in health, is a strategic tool in order to make our vision a reality and needs to be guided by the following:

- A citizen led and community centric process promoting active citizenship
- A contextual, decentralised, bottom up and participatory process of knowledge generation, resource sharing and empowerment
- Enabling communities facing inequities to assert their rights and to participate in concrete actions to bring about changes in health services and equitable distribution of resources
- Giving voice to peoples' perspectives
- Empowering processes where actors related to the health system are encouraged to address power imbalances that affect people's health
- Advocacy action which aims to influence or change health policies and programs in favour of the marginalized communities

## STRATEGIES

- Nurturing a community of practitioners will be done through the cross pollination of ideas, experiences and resources
- Facilitate systematic exchange of knowledge, practice and resource sharing
- Facilitates bottom-up and participatory practice based (grounded) knowledge generation
- Create opportunities for interaction between practitioners
- Collection, collation and production of appropriate conceptual and operational frameworks
- Inform and influence policy makers on health rights and dignity
- Building strategic alliances for citizen led – community centric accountability
- Global and local solidarity as well as collaborative action for health rights and dignity

# COPASAH 2011-2014

## CAPACITY BUILDING

In order to effectively use the community monitoring approach for improved health outcomes, organizations and practitioners need capacity strengthening. COPASAH initiatives helped to lay a good foundation for real practical social accountability and community monitoring. These have helped in bridging the knowledge and capacity gaps identified by members, besides generating interest in the learning strategies being promoted by COPASAH. The key activities include the following:

### Workshops

COPASAH member organizations vary in their experience and skills about implementing community monitoring for accountability. Formal training courses and workshops were organised with a view to generate collaboration between members and aimed at facilitation and capacity-building support to the organisations. These include two in South Asia region, one in East and Southern African region and two in Latin America.

### Resource Pack on Community Monitoring

A virtual learning platform, which is a collation of readings, guidelines, exercises, and examples which are intended to support a grassroots development or a human rights practitioner to adopt new methodologies or improve existing practices. It brings together and includes a vast array of conceptual and practical aspects of community monitoring. The learning resource has the potential to contribute to the overall knowledge building and sharing process and add to the process of capacity building of practitioners of community monitoring. The content generation and pooling of various experience based content under a framework for accountability practice for health rights from the practitioners' perspective is a first time initiative globally ([www.copasah.org](http://www.copasah.org))

## PEER LEARNING

### Targeted Technical Assistance (TTA)

This aimed at providing in-depth interaction and technical assistance to members through other more experienced practitioner(s) with the intention to improve their overall practice of community-based accountability or for specific problem solving. This was achieved through one TTA each in Nepal and Bangladesh and two in India (Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh) and one in East and Southern African region.

### Facilitated Learning Exchange

Facilitated peer learning exchange (FLE) visits were conducted (three in India, one in Bangladesh and one in East and Southern Africa Region). The facilitated learning exchange visits consisted of a three part process- an introductory workshop, a field visit and later a debriefing session to arrive at a consensus on the way forward for implementing the learnings. These visits are envisaged to facilitate peer learning and to enable strengthening of the solidarity and shared practice among practitioners.

### Sharing Practice

Learning among practitioners is facilitated through face to face meetings using social media (facebook, blogs listserv), newsletter- COPASAH Communiqué and the website.

## GROUNDING KNOWLEDGE GENERATION

Knowledge building from grounded practice is one of the strategic goals of COPASAH to counter the hegemony of expert and tool based accountability perspective dominating the accountability domain. The COPASAH members have a wide range of resources and examples of citizen centric monitoring. The experiences of practice and different strategies in community monitoring were shared through COPASAH's communication channels. The knowledge products include issue papers, case studies and quarterly editions of COPASAH communiqués. In addition manuals, toolkits for community monitoring, reports of various capacity building and peer learning activities as well as videos on practice have been produced.