

Our Members at a Glance

Interview with Besinati Mpepo*

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Besinati Mpepo is the new Technical Director for Local Advocacy at World Vision, a charity dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice - www.worldvision.org. Besi leads the Local Advocacy team that provides leadership for a social accountability approach that World Vision calls 'Citizen Voice and Action (CVA)', transforming the dialogue between communities and government in order to improve services (like health care and education) that impact the daily lives of children and their families. CVA is currently being implemented across more than 600 of World Vision's Area Development Programmes (ADPs) in 45 countries across Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Eastern Europe and Latin America, with communities, practitioners, independent research and programme evaluations reporting encouraging outcomes – ranging from improvements in local services to changes in national policy that improve outcomes for even more communities. For more on CVA see www.citizenvoiceandaction.org and <https://casestudiescva.crowdmap.com/main>.



In their experience, social accountability methods such as CVA offer great value for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that are being agreed upon by Members States of the United Nations this September. Not only can social accountability lead to improved development outcomes, but can also be sustainable – both in process and outcomes, promote collaborative government-citizen relations, improve equity by creating spaces for often marginalized groups - including children - to have a voice, and can generate essential data to contribute to reporting based on women, men and children's real lived experiences of the goals. See <http://www.wvi.org/united-nations-and-global-engagement/publication/grassroots-global-seven-steps-citizen-driven>.

In their practice, the GPSA knowledge platform has been a rich resource for thought leadership on social accountability, through sharing of new publications, training opportunities, networking forums etc, enabling a ready platform for practitioners, researchers, policy makers, interested individuals to converge in rich exchange.

* This interview was done by Janet Oropeza Eng, Coordinator of the Knowledge Management Area at Fundar, Centre for Analysis and Research.