



Fuelling Change: How Data and Evidence Empower Youth-Led Accountability

FRONTLINE AIDS 



 GLOBAL NETWORK OF
YOUNG PEOPLE
LIVING WITH HIV



 **IOM**
UN MIGRATION

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**Save the
Children**



Kingdom of the Netherlands

Outline

1. Understanding youth led accountability
2. Importance of evidence for accountability
3. Source of data and evidence
4. Applying evidence for youth-led accountability
5. Common challenge in data and evidence use
6. Ethical Considerations- Responsible Data Use

Understanding Accountability

Accountability is the obligation of an individual or organization (e.g., government, institutions) to account for its activities, accept responsibility for them, and disclose the results in a transparent manner.

Pillars of Accountability:

- **Answerability:** Duty to provide information and justification for actions.
- **Enforceability/Redress:** Mechanisms for citizens to seek remedies or sanctions for unmet commitments or wrongdoing.
- **Responsibility:** Clearly defined roles and duties.

Why it matters for youth: Ensures youth voices are heard, needs are met, and rights are protected.

Youth engagement and Accountability

- **Youth engagement and Youth-led Accountability are highly intertwined**
 - Youth are increasingly active agents of change, not just passive recipients.
 - Global movements for transparency, justice, and sustainable development are often youth-driven.
 - **Youth-Led Accountability:** Young citizens actively participating in governance and holding institutions responsible.

Importance of evidence for accountability

Evidence is the Backbone of Accountability because it:

- **Moves Beyond Opinion:** Evidence provides objective proof, strengthening claims.
- **Establishes Baselines:** Allows for tracking progress and measuring impact over time.
- **Identifies Gaps & Failures:** Clearly shows where commitments are not being met.
- **Supports Constructive Dialogue:** Facilitates informed discussions with decision-makers.
- **Empowers Advocates:** Gives youth the confidence and credibility to demand change.
- **Challenge the status quo:** Nurture substantive rigueur to challenge existing norm

Group work

- Exercise: Identifying source of data and evidence
- Time: 10min
- Method: Group work

Source of data and evidence

- Official Government Data
- Academic & Research Institutions
- Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) & Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
- International Organizations & Intergovernmental Bodies
- Youth-Generated Data (Primary Data Collection)
 - **Storytelling & Testimonials:** Qualitative data capturing lived experiences.
 - **Digital Data:** Information gathered through social media monitoring, online polls, or youth-focused digital platforms.
- Media Reports & Investigative Journalism
- Private Sector Data (where relevant and accessible)

Applying evidence for youth-led accountability

- Identify the core issue you want to address
- Generate/ consolidate the evidence
- Understand the evidence
- Trim the evidence per the target audience
- Address the primary target with consolidated evidence using multiple channel
- Track progress of response
- Re-strategize with new evidence

Common Challenge

The common challenge that hinder youth to use evidence for their accountability includes:

- **Limited Access to Data:** Official data is often hard to get, not youth-specific.
- **Lack of Data Literacy & Skills:** Need for training in collection, analysis, visualization.
- **Resource Constraints:** Funding and human resource limitations for youth groups.
- **Safety & Security Concerns:** Risks when challenging powerful entities.
- **Tokenism:** Participation without real influence.

Platforms for youth-led social accountability

- Mapping of continental, regional and national platforms
- Organise online webinars and or other formats
- Intergenerational dialogue
- Social media page/ blogs, images, infographic messages
- Peer networks
- Mass media
- Out of school CSE sessions
- Community conversation/ youth dialogues

Ethical Considerations Responsible Data Use



- Using Data Ethically and Responsibly is key for the success of youth led accountability.
- Ethical use of data includes:
 - **Informed Consent:** Ensure participants understand how their data will be used.
 - **Privacy & Confidentiality:** Protect sensitive information, anonymize data where necessary.
 - **Do No Harm:** Consider potential negative consequences of data collection and dissemination.
 - **Data Security:** Securely store and manage collected data.
 - **Transparency:** Be clear about data sources, methods, and limitations.
 - **Representativeness:** Strive for data that accurately reflects the youth population being discussed, acknowledge biases.
 - **Reliability:** Checking the reliability of data resources (trusted news sources, published articles, grey literature from tangible websites of organisations...)

Conclusion



The Future is Data-Driven and Youth-Led

- Youth-led activism + data = Powerful combination for change.
- Investing in youth data literacy is crucial.
- Supporting youth-led data accountability strengthens health and wellbeing of young people and builds a just world.



Thank You