Social accountability and philanthropy

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• What social accountability is
  – Some examples of social accountability in action
• Role of philanthropy
  – As funder, as driver for change, and the challenge to philanthropy
• New model of social accountability
Social accountability

- Obligation of power-holders to take responsibility for their actions
- Dynamic of rights and responsibilities between people and the institutions that impact on their lives
- Interests of poorest and most marginal taken into account
- Builds mechanisms for civil society to hold institutions to account
Social accountability in action: national HIV prevention investment

- Plans for reduction of 50% in 2015
- Civil society led campaign
- NAT reports on local spending trends using freedom of information
- Press releases
- Citizen protest via letters to Minister
- Social media pressure
- Led to HIV innovation fund being established
Social accountability in action: PrEP in England

- Health system not providing PrEP
- Coordinated action across civil society
- Sustained use of parliament, social media, traditional media
- Public protest
- Court action
Social accountability in action: health data and immigration tracing

- Official review highlighted egregious practice
- Coalition of civil society organisations challenge practice led by NAT
- Continued pressure
- Health Select Committee, led to amendment to bill
- Government finally agreed to end practice
What we learn from these examples

• Coalition of civil society organisation and individuals have power
• Important tools: official data, freedom of information requests, analysis of Government policy
• Need functioning civil society to make this possible
• Must include policy expertise, coalition building skill, independence and adequate funding
Role of philanthropy in social accountability

- As a funder
- As a driver of change and good practice

- The challenge to philanthropy: to model leadership transparency and accountability
Philanthropy as a funder of social accountability

• Need to widen our understanding of philanthropy
• Yes: foundations and large donors
  – Viva Glam Fund, EJAF,
• Also: individuals coming together for social good – philanthropy as social accountability
  – Crowdfunding for PrEP court case
Philanthropy as a funder of social accountability

• Must recognise value of change and influencing work at scale
• Takes time and skill
• When effective benefit can be bigger and longer lasting
Philanthropy as a driver of change

- Large donors have huge political capital
- Using this can drive political commitment:
  - English government commitment to UNAIDS 2030 goal driven by EJAF
- Can also act as convenors of wide range of actors, bringing together government, business and civil society
Challenge to philanthropy

• Social accountability driven by transparency, and involvement to those affected

• Philanthropy must model this: greater transparency on priorities and decision making, greater involvement by citizens

• This will build credibility and influence
New models of social accountability in HIV

• Success will need to involve all actors: government, citizens, civil society, business and technology

• Philanthropy can support this process, enabling it and participating within it
HIV Commission

• Independent Commission to develop a plan to eliminate HIV in England by 2030
• Convened by NAT and THT
• Commissioners drawn from business, technology, public health, media, civil service, politicians, civil society
HIV Commission

• Model of building a process for social accountability
• Driven by civil society
• Enables equal participation by philanthropists – as a partner not a funder: power is shared