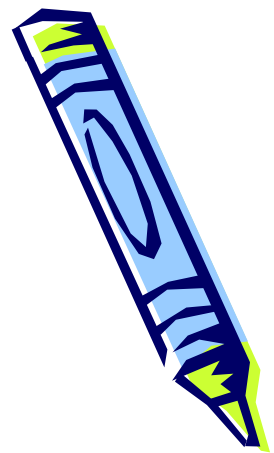


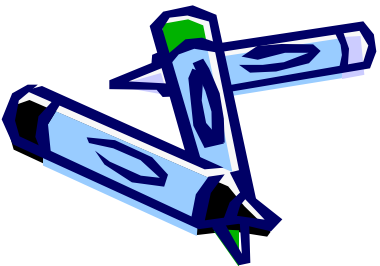
# Gender & accountability failures

MS TCDC  
GA Course  
10<sup>th</sup> April 2013



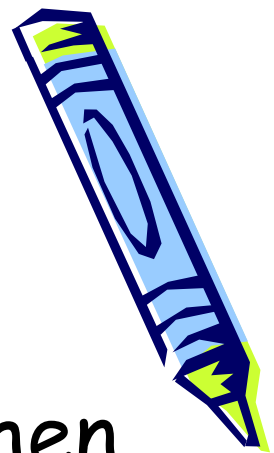


What is an accountability failure?

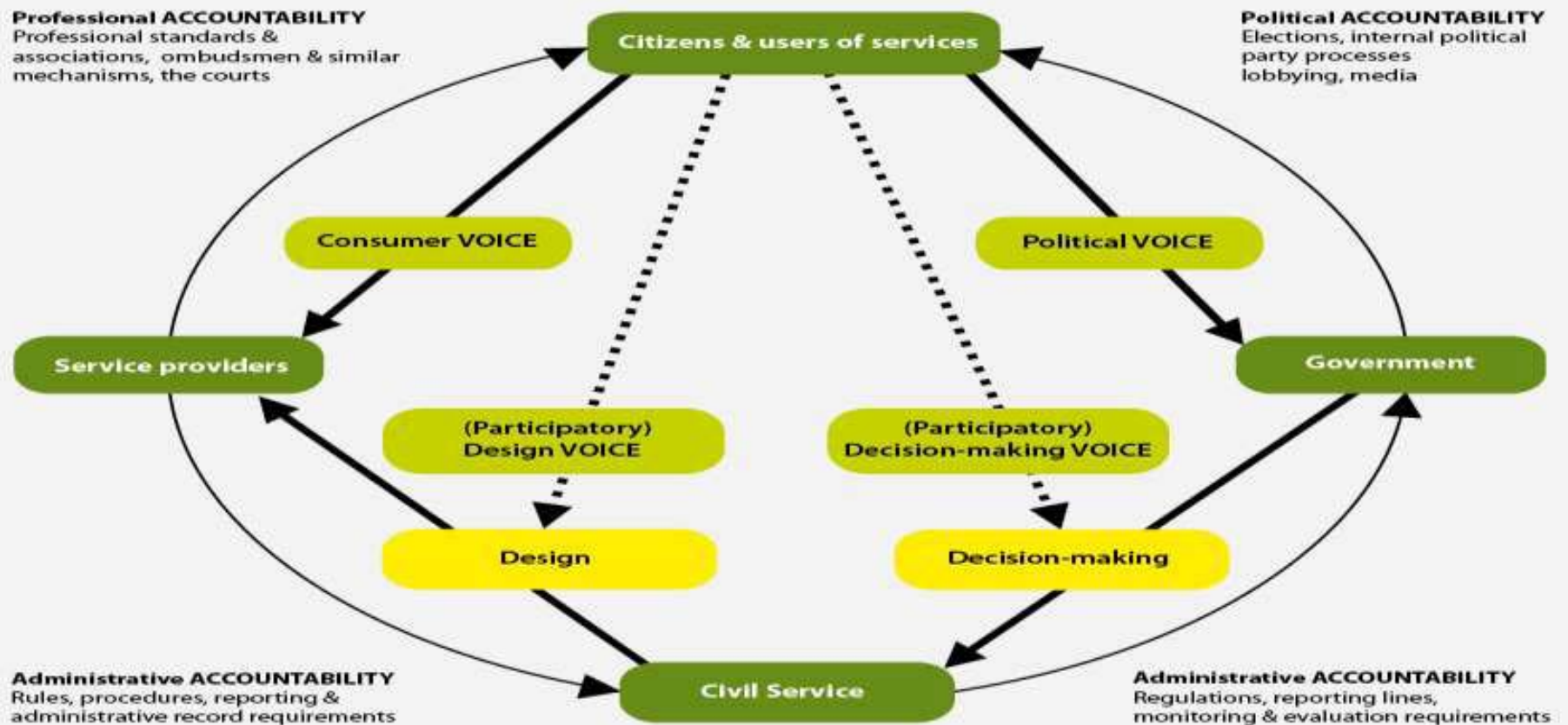


# When does it occur...

- An accountability failure occurs when the **accountability** systems that determine access to resources and power: politics, public services, labour, consumer and trade markets, justice systems, and international aid and security institutions cease to function to the expected standard.



**Figure 1 Governance framework for service delivery**



Source: Based on and adapted from World Bank 2003 and UNIFEM 2008

The provision of a service involves a complex framework of events involving four groups.

On the demand side are citizens – women, men and children – who need a service. This need is expressed through political processes to decision makers either directly by citizens or through community organizations, lobby groups, researchers, service providers or the civil service itself.

At the political level Government, usually in consultation with the civil service and other groups, is responsible for

deciding whether the service will be provided, its general nature and the resources to be committed.

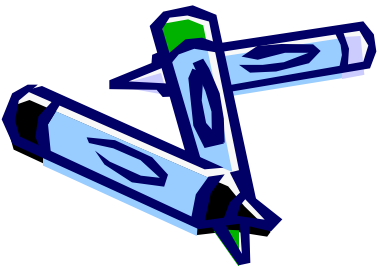
Government then directs the civil service to develop and implement programmes to supply the specific service according to the directions provided and with the resources allocated.

The service is ultimately delivered by service providers, such as teachers, health workers, police and judges.

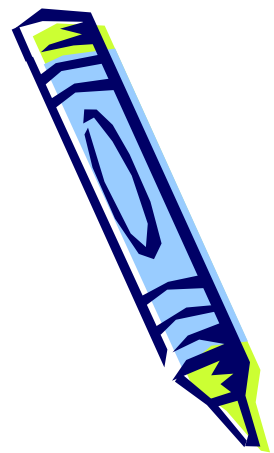
# Symptoms/examples of accountability failure



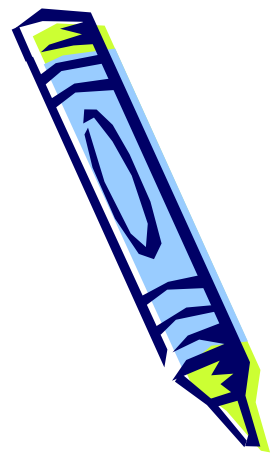
- Corruption
- Weak states; rigged elections
- Huge poverty margins between rich and poor
- High illiteracy rates among certain populations
- Dysfunctional legal systems
- Social exclusion
- Continuous stunted development in spite of huge financial and social capital investments.
- Psychological effects like increase mental illnesses due to long term depression
- Investment phobia.
- Gender based violence



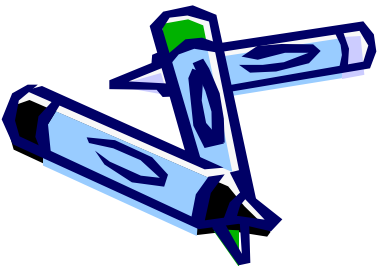
What do we understand by  
gender & accountability failures?



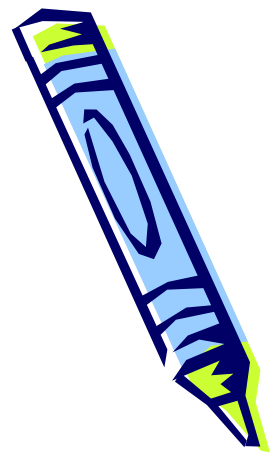
# Gender accountability failure is...



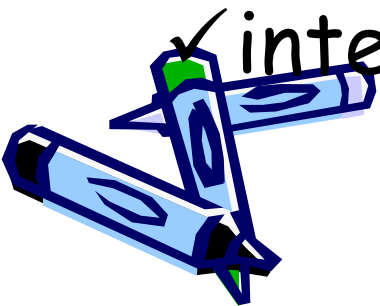
- The ineffectiveness of women's **participation** in terms of their ability to articulate **gender** interests, and the impact of this on actual resource allocation processes and decision making.



# Accountability failures occur at these five (5) levels of governance



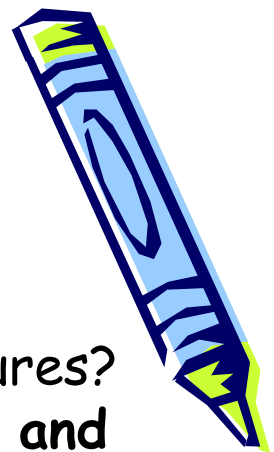
- ✓ the household or family;
- ✓ the community, in this case it is understood as e.g. the clan, the neighbourhood, the workplace, and associations or political parties;
- ✓ local government;
- ✓ national government; and
- ✓ international or global government.



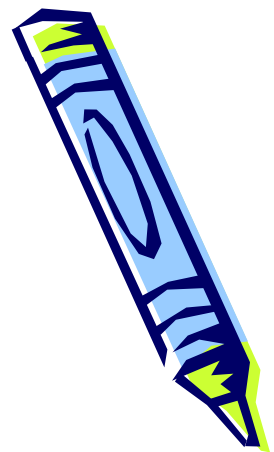


# Praxis of gender accountability failure is about determining...

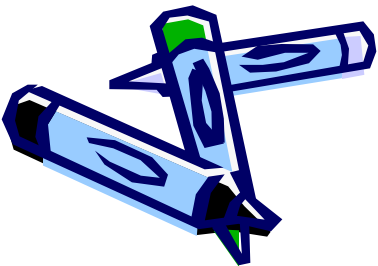
- How women and men are affected by accountability failures?
- Understanding how women and men **define, comprehend and experience** accountability differently?
- Understanding what brings about this **differentiation**?
- How does this differentiation affect **participation, representation, and democratization**?
- Are the sites at which governance and **accountability failure** occurs the same for women and men?
- Are the **effects of poor governance and accountability** manifested in the same way among women and men?
- Do women and men experience the same **barriers** in accessing services?
- Do women and men have the same performance barriers when it comes to adhering to **standards, commitments and obligations** for governance and accountability?
- Given an opportunity, would women **prioritise and plan** for development interventions at local, national and international differently from men?



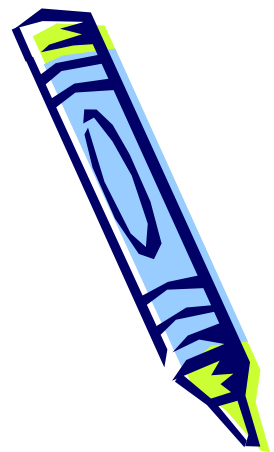
# Some key assumptions about gender, governance & accountability...



- Governance is presumed to be gender-neutral.
- Accountability results from demand-side pressures alone.
- Gender relations at family and household level are not mutually dependent spaces in which gendered norms, values and traditions are played out in the public and commercial private domains.

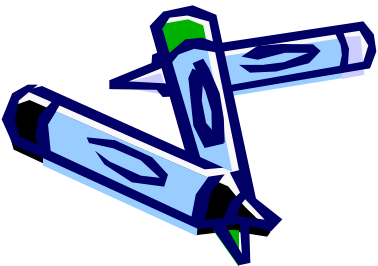


# Consequences of gender accountability failure.

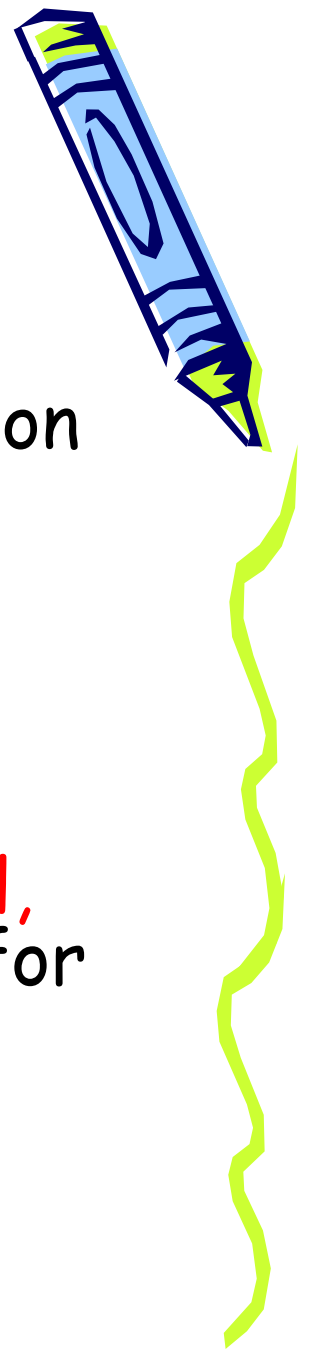


The **Scenario** we see...

1. Women continuing to face barriers to health, to education and agricultural support services.
2. They are denied access because health clinics and schools are often too distant or costly, agricultural services are geared towards male farmers,
3. and government services routinely target employed, literate or propertied men.



# Five (5) key areas where there is need to strengthen gender accountability



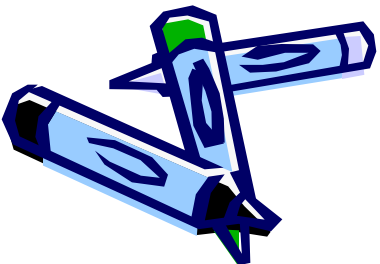
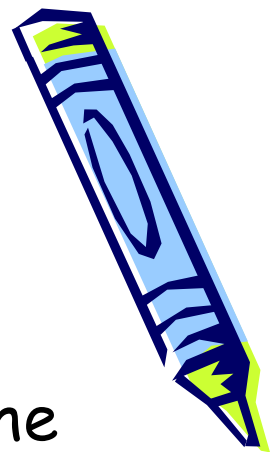
1. politics and governance ( representation & participation),
2. access to public services,
3. economic opportunities,
4. justice,
5. and finally the distribution of **national**, **regional** and **international** assistance for development and security.



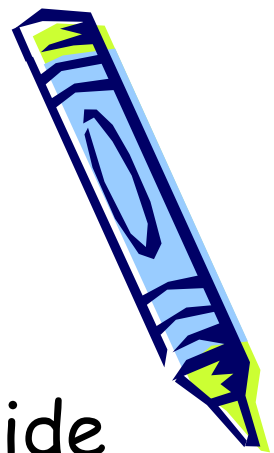
# Group exercise

Conduct a gender accountability assessment in the following areas:

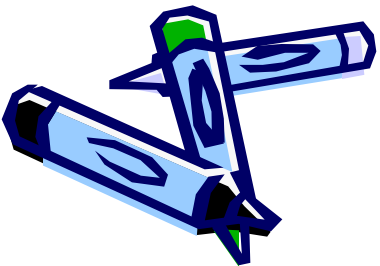
- politics and governance
- access to public services,
- economic opportunities,
- justice,
- The distribution of national, regional and international assistance for development and security.



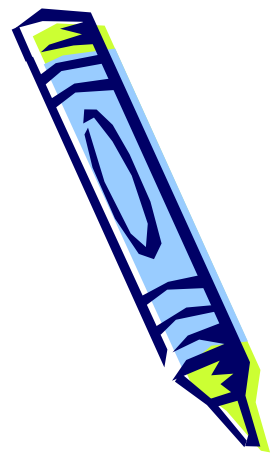
# How do we address gender accountability failure?



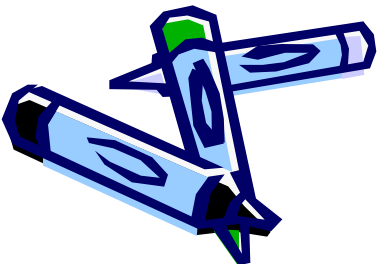
- A Gender institutional analysis can provide an entry point for rethinking governance & accountability debates from the perspective of poor women.
- Understanding of the role of institutional rules, norms and practices in determining entitlements is key to understanding gendered experiences and processes of poverty.



# How to cont....



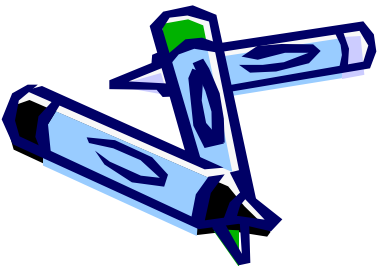
- The apparent **gender** neutrality of governance structures and processes should be questioned at all levels in order to identify constraints to the institutionalisation of **gender** equitable outcomes;
- The different forms in which women organise, and varied issues around which they mobilise, particularly at local level, need to be recognised as political processes and institutional spaces created for women's **gender** interests to be articulated, for example in local government;



# How to cont...

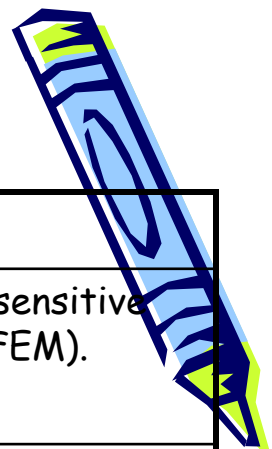


- Incorporating a **gender** perspective into governance analysis and policy should not be restricted to any one domain (e.g. civil society) but should cut across all domains, and make links between them;
- Higher priority should be given in governance debates to issues of family governance not as a separate 'women's' domain, but in recognition of the ways that **gender** biases in this domain permeate wider social institutions

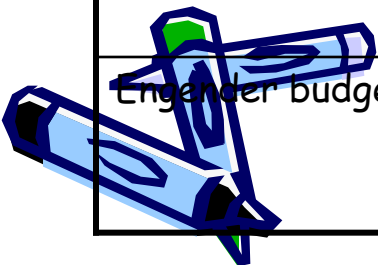




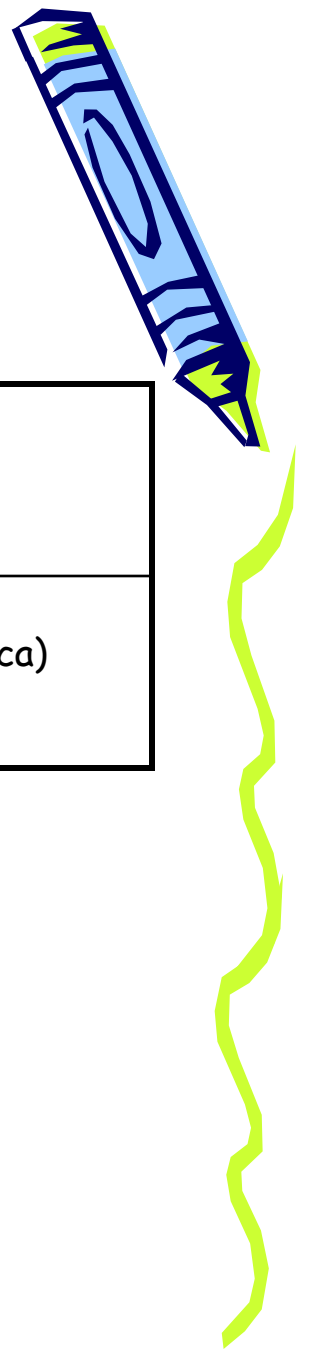
# Some tools to use



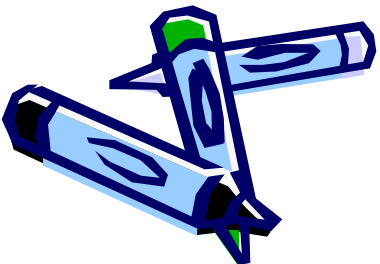
| issue   | tool   |
|---|--|
| Engendering service delivery & determining the role of governance in service delivery | A user's guide to measuring gender-sensitive basic service Delivery (UNDP/ UNIFEM).  |
| Engendering elections:  | Gender checklist for free & fair elections (electoral institute of southern africa)  |
| Engendering governance  | a <b>gender</b> analysis of the processes and structures of governance.  |
| Mainstreaming gender equality in local government.                                    | A framework for mainstreaming gender equality in local government ( equal opportunities commission UK)   |
| Engender local governance   | This Handbook is an overview of the literature and web sites concerning gender and governance processes, underlining strategies and best practices |
| Engender budgeting  | Gender budget training manual ( ACFODE)  |



# Tools cont....



|  |  |
|--|--|
| Gender-Disaggregated Beneficiary Assessment of Public Service Delivery and Budget Priorities | Tool for gender budget initiative ( commonwealth foundation)             |
| Participatory budgeting in africa  | A toolkit by network for social accountability ( east & southern africa) |



Thanks for listening

