

Engaging and Empowering Youth in Local Governance and Economic Opportunities: Tools and Lessons for Accountability

Tetra Tech

Ad Hoc Commission in the Community Development Council
Management Systems International
Palladium

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Part I: Brief Presentations of Strategies & Tools



Social Audit as tool to Empower and Demand Accountability

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Three Learning Take Aways

Social audit is a proven:

1. **process** that promotes accountability in local government policy, service delivery and budget.
2. **framework** to engage and empower youth participation in local public policy.
3. crosscutting approach applicable to **all development sectors**.



Social Audit?

A social audit is a citizen/community-led process and framework that facilitates public participation in the monitoring of government policies, budgets, service delivery, public-funded projects and expenditures.



Why Design and Implement Social Audit Processes?

- **Empower** communities and organizations.
- **Collect evidence** on policies, public services, public projects and budgets.
- **Enable** citizens to claim and realize their constitutional rights to democratic participation and accountable government.
- Provide an opportunity for **vulnerable and marginalized voices** to be heard
- Reinforce the **oversight role** of citizens to hold government to account.



Who are the Stakeholders in a Social Audit Process?

There are three groups of stakeholders that are central to the social audit process:

- 1) the community,
- 2) organized and informed community/civil society/citizens, and
- 3) the local government.



Social Audit Approaches and Tools

Integrated Approach

1. It involves capacity development/training/specialized skill-building; tools; and policy dialogue with government officials and policy makers.
2. It is applicable in all phases of the public policy cycle, such as 1) design; 2) implementation; 3) oversight and monitoring; and 4) impact evaluation.

Tool Box

1. Participatory budget/planning.
2. Community report/score cards & citizen notebooks (public policy).
3. Incomes/expenditures, public expenditure tracking.
4. Quality, customer service, citizen charters (services).
5. Public works oversight.
6. Integrity Pacts/Public Procurement
7. Open Data/open government
8. Apps/technology



Amy's Story



Looking for Local Democracy in San Jacinto: Lessons and Challenges from the Local Space and Youth

Amy Roca

Member, Ad Hoc Commission in the Community Development Council (COCODE-Chimaltenango-Guatemala)



Three Learning Take Aways

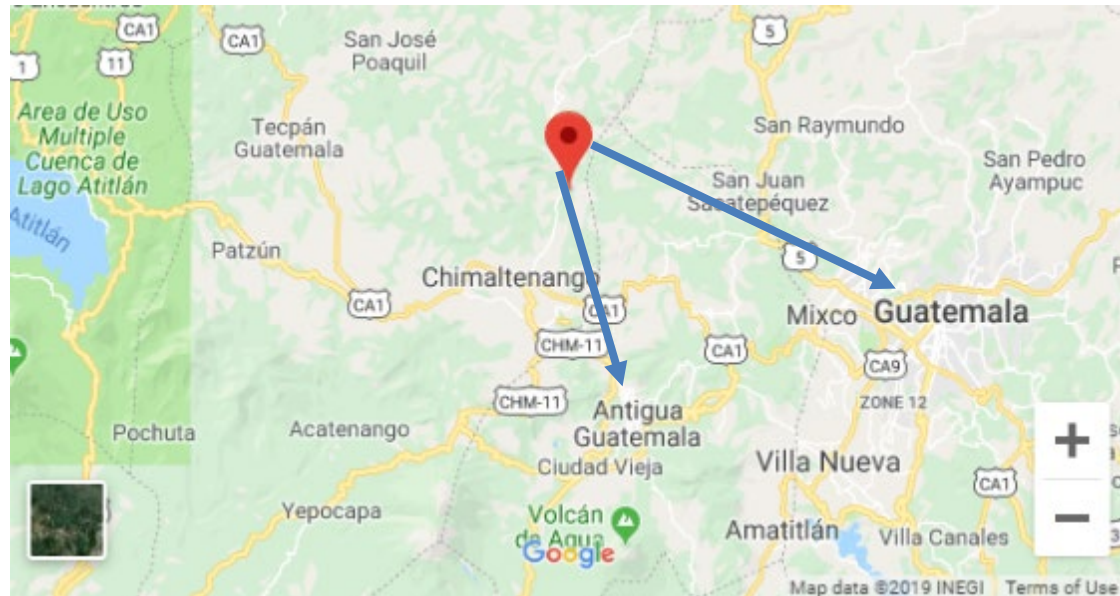
Social Audit Proceses:

1. Help to generate pressure from citizens on public administrations and public policy, so public services can be delivered with quality and to expand coverage.
2. Contribute to diminishing risks of corruption by strengthening the relationship citizens-government
3. Help reclaim the local democratic system by promoting transparency and accountability.
4. Increase legitimacy and generates support from citizens.



San Jacinto-Chimaltenango/Guatemala

- Community in rural area (18 miles from Guatemala City and 16 miles from Antigua).
- 672 families
- 5,700 population
- 51% young
- Development Community Council (COCODE) made up of adult males elected for 2 years.
- Informal economy with low education levels.
- Men: masonry, agriculture y carpentry;
- Women: Domestic work.



The Social Audit Initiative in San Jacinto

- Together with other young people, we monitored the “Expansion System of Drinking Water & Mechanical Well Equipment” project.
- It would benefit 140 families (21% of the population).
- Seeing the stagnation of the project, the COCODE Ad hoc Commission, of which I am a member, was created.



The Social Audit Initiative in San Jacinto [2]

- The commission engaged in dialogue with COCODE and the Municipality in order to expedite the completion of the community project.
- Initial resistance to oversight.



Nourishing the Social Audit Strategy

- The USAID Urban Municipal Governance (UMG) Project, promoted and supported my university and youth leadership for social audit in the local level.
- The initiative linked the university space, authorities and community leaderships to achieve the same goal for a collective benefit.
- The capacity building component added value to our effort as it facilitated the strengthening of the local social audit process so that it had more impact, because it provided theoretical-methodological content applicable in real contexts.



Building and Strengthening Social Audit Capacity

It helped with:

- Strategic tools, such as: online pages and platforms to verify information, understand legal frameworks, strategic planning, implementation and dissemination of findings.
- Establishing alliances, for example, with the Cost - Infrastructure Transparency Initiative team and other youth community leaders.



Active Citizens and Ongoing Process

- **Change:** The participation and influence of young people in community development processes, which had been seen mainly from an “adult” perspective, thus allowing a generational change to build social transformation processes.
- **Impact:** 140 families have better access to potable water.
- **Sustainability:** Community participation, through social audit, continues, and is still relevant and active in San Jacinto.



Tripartite Model: Building Linkages with Government and Youth

Ryan Young
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Three Learning Takeaways

1. MSI/TT's Tripartite Model focusing on building linkages between government and key communities – like youth – through shared-responsibility and co-design and implementation of projects.
2. The Tripartite Model has helped the Government of Colombia safely establish a presence in geographies previously underserved through the delivery of small scale infrastructure and other tangible outputs.
3. The Tripartite Model elevates the voices of key groups in the development of their community priorities.



Tripartite Model

Community: Coordinates with community members to identify priorities and provide unskilled labor for project implementation.



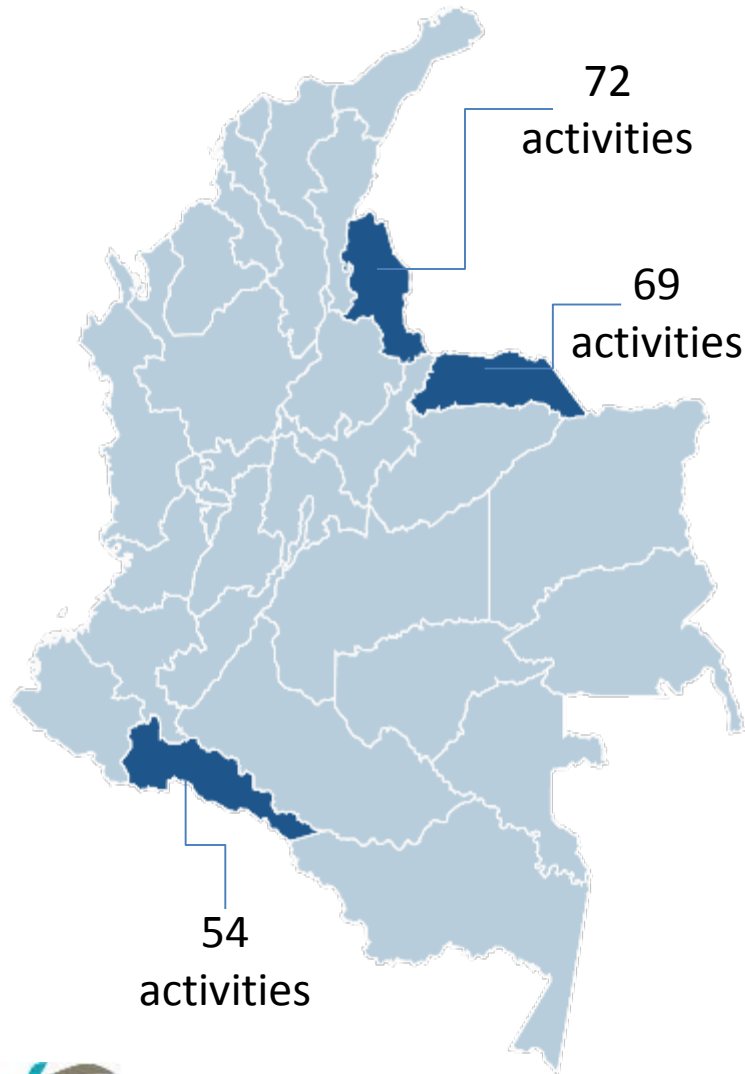
Government: Provide technical input into the project design and skilled labor for implementation.



MSI/TT: Provides materials, equipment, and facilitation support to project design and implementation.



Tripartite Model in Action



“We were not such a united community, with the activity we got together to carry out the project of the field. Coexistence relationships improved, at the beginning we all wanted to play on the first day, now we have rules and schedules so we don't have any problems.”

-Community Member

“There were so many volunteers that we set work shifts so everyone could participate”

-Community Action Board President

We now have a lot of communication with the mayor's office. His staff now come out to [the communities]. We've already about what we can do later on. This activity helped to strengthen our relationship.

-Community Member



Tripartite Model and Youth [1]

Arauca Department Youth Platform For Peace Participation And Advocacy:

- To formalize the mechanism of youth participation at the departmental level related to regional decision-making.
- Government, grassroots organizations and social organizations participate collaboratively in peacebuilding.
- Colombia Transforma provides In-Kind support to the Arauca department government in order to carry-out preliminary workshops for the formation of the departmental youth platform.
- The platform is also needed to increase the legitimacy of the role of youth and reduce discrimination by the wider community.
- This activity will be carried-out in Arauca municipality with participants from six other municipalities.



Tripartite Model and Youth [2]

Sports Courts Spark Community & Gov't Collaboration And Confidence For Peace:

- To increase the participation of strategic rural populations in sports, cultural and community activities in Tibú municipal government and local community action boards (JACs).
- To promote collaborative work between government and civil society organizations.
- Colombia Transforma provides in-kind support.
- The government will also take advantage of the court rehabilitations to host "service fairs."
- Small sports court infrastructure rehabilitation is seen as a viable first step to improve relations within and between communities, increase credibility of institutions, and facilitate the re-taking of public spaces.
- This activity will be carried-out in rural areas of Campo Dos, La Gabarra, and Pacelli as these are priority zones for peace agreement implementation.



Empowering Youth for Smallholder Farm System Resilience: Lessons from Malawi

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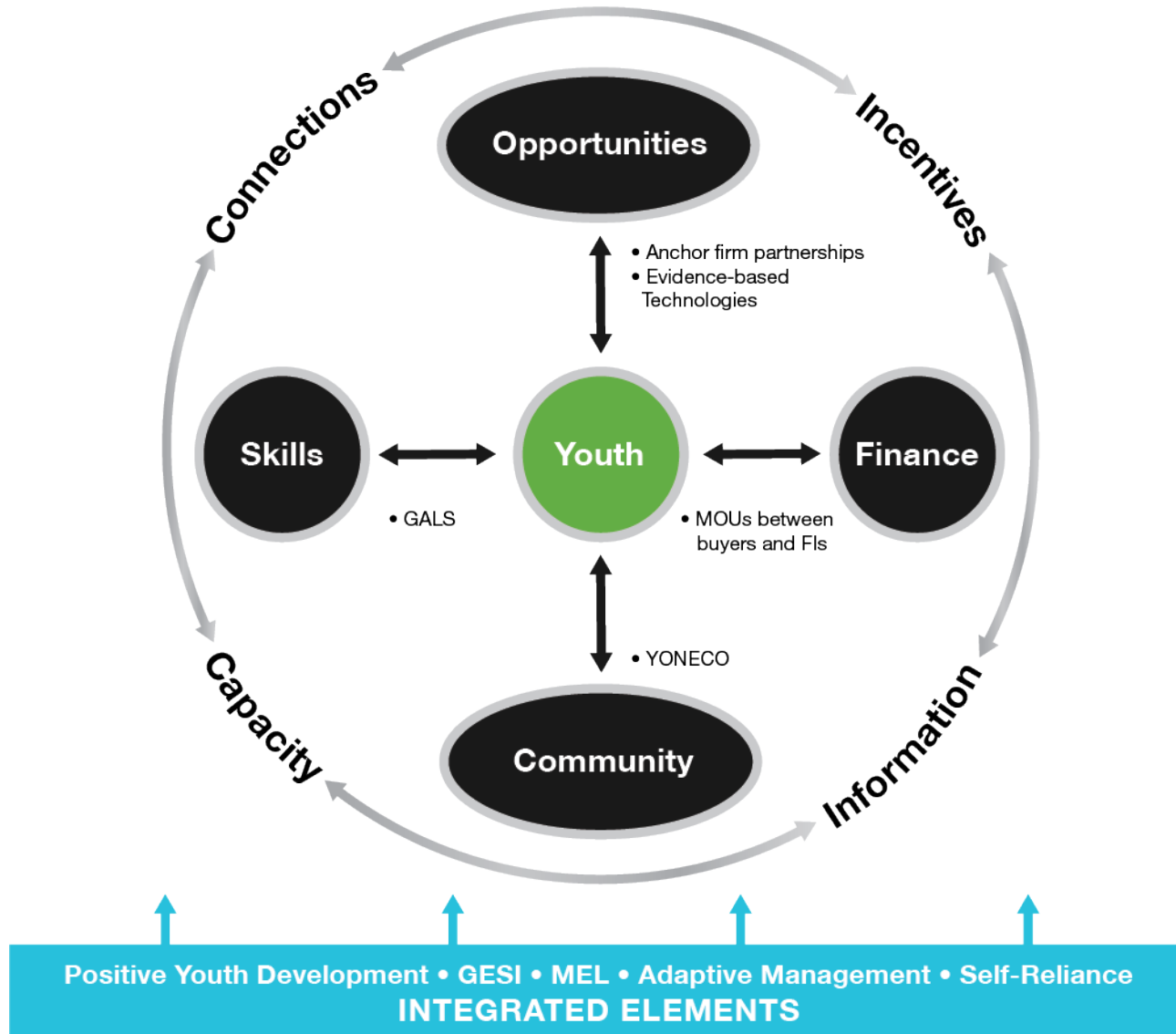
Three Learning Takeaways

1. Palladium's YouthYES! Youth Empowerment Strategy highlights key elements to strengthen youth economic opportunities
2. USAID/Malawi smallholder farming system resilience strengthened through:
 - Opportunities (evidence-based technologies),
 - Skills (Gender Action Learning System)
 - Capacity Building (local youth-led, youth-serving organization YONECO)
3. YouthYES! Checklist points to actions to strengthen youth economic opportunities



Palladium's YouthYES! Youth Empowerment Strategy

Youth Empowerment to Strengthen Smallholder Farming System Resilience



Engaging Youth in Evidence-based Technology and Initiatives for Resilience

Drip Irrigation

Drip irrigation uses water more efficiently than other forms of irrigation and increases yields and allows farmers in Malawi to grow up to three crops a year

Innoculant

Innoculant can boost the yields of legumes by as much as 25 percent, and is one of the most cost-effective ways to increase legume yields.

Groundnuts & Soy

Product of legumes like groundnut and soy provide households with access to more diverse nutritious foods for consumption, processing or sale.

OFSP

Orange flesh sweet potatoes provide households with a critical source of key vitamins and minerals to improve household nutrition

Soy Kit

Soy kits are affordable small scale soy processing equipment for making soymilk or yogurt.

Hermetic Bags

hermetically sealable bags are used for storing grains and legumes and can reduce losses incurred during storage by up to 100%.

Bamboo

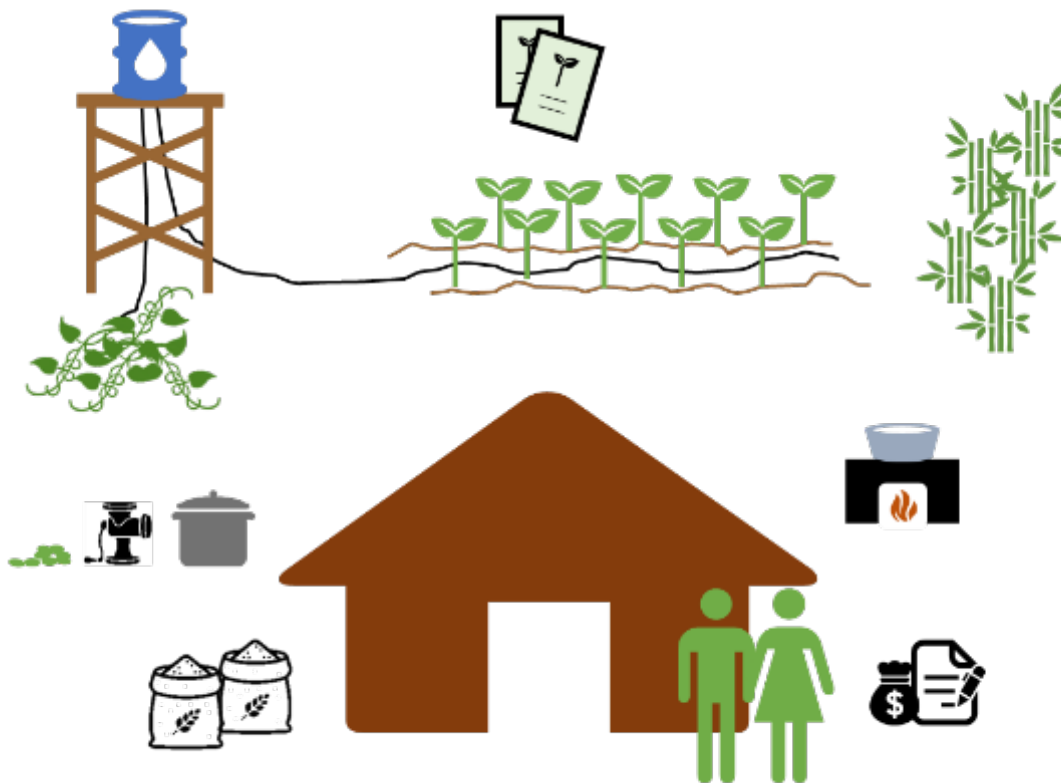
Strategically planting bamboo not only reduces erosion and improves watershed management but also provides a source of fuel for cookstoves

Rocket Cookstoves

The rocket cookstove is an energy efficient replacement for traditional open burning stoves.

GALS Training

Gender Action Learning Systems (GALS) training promotes gender justice and empowers both men and women socially and economically.



Please keep in touch!

Thank you for engaging with us

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Part II: Engaging Participants and Group Discussions



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