



## CARE International calls for:

- The rights of poor and marginalised people to be at the heart of aid policy: **the system must change to promote genuine local and democratic ownership** of development processes
- **Donors and governments to enable and encourage civil society to have voice in policy and to hold those in power to account. Local Funds as a mechanism can nurture civil society's diverse approaches to bring about pro-poor change**
- Donors and partner governments in post-conflict situations to negotiate binding 'compacts' establishing their **financial and political obligations to address the root causes of violence, promote recovery and consolidate peace**

# Mutual accountability in aid relationships



*"When things have gone wrong, we have complained to the international community. They say it is the government, so we complain to them and the government says it's the international community. We don't know who to talk to!"* Civil Society Organisation representative in Kosovo, The Listening Project

## Promoting local and democratic ownership in Angola

**The decentralisation of Angola's Government created opportunities for local government to be more responsive and accountable to its citizens.** CARE developed a way for municipal administrations to make their sustainable development planning inclusive and equitable – and called it Participatory Integrated Development Planning (PIDP). The key principles of PIDP are: (1) building consensus among all stakeholders; (2) inclusion and equity; (3) cost-effectiveness in fulfilling the most important needs of local communities. PIDP involves setting up forums where the different players – government, civil society and the private sector – can build a shared vision, objectives and an annual operating plan for development in their area. These plans are submitted to the provincial government for endorsement and subsequently to the Ministry of Finance for incorporation into the national investment programme. The different groups can hold each other to account at regular public reviews of the PIDP, which has proved so successful, the central Government has decided to replicate it in 68 municipalities.

## Empowering Peruvian citizens to hold the government to account

**ForoSalud - a civil society network of more than 100 national, regional and local organisations and movements - has increased accountability to the poorest and most marginalised groups in Peru by engaging with ombudsperson officers and setting up citizen oversight of health services.** This experience has demonstrated that it is possible to develop successful local scrutiny of health services, as well as establish partnerships between key people and groups which strengthen the voice of the marginalised. It has also showed how important it is for the community to share its experiences and views in order to influence how services which affect them are run. Women leaders have told us they feel better positioned and entitled to demand information about and changes in health services, while regional ombudsperson officers have showed how they can extend the scope of their work with voluntary organisations. The Peruvian Minister of Health has recognised these oversight initiatives and as a result, has supported citizen surveillance and state-funded monitoring in public hospitals.