

Year zero: Building the foundations for stronger accountability work

Education Out Loud is unique in that it offers selected applicants the opportunity to prepare the foundations for their work before beginning to implement their proposals. This “year zero” is an initial period for intensive capacity support for the development of sound theories of change, monitoring, evaluation and learning strategies, and capacity development in core areas for grantees. Applicants will be selected for year zero learning support based on the submission of an initial application concept note.

During Year Zero, which can be up to 12 months, organizations will receive modest support for institutional and planning costs such as:

- Undertaking an assessment of the environment for their work, including the governmental regulatory environment, political economy and wider civic ecosystem, i.e. a situation and power analysis;
- Undertaking an organizational assessment as the basis for their Learning Plan to ensure that proposal development not only focuses on the relatively short-term outputs of civil society social accountability projects, but also supports an explicit investment in enhancing civil society capacity;
- Relationship building with key partners and allies to enhance the probability of success in their work, including between Education Out Loud and other GPE stakeholders;
- Developing an elaborated theory of change related to the problem they are proposing to address, including exploring assumptions and approaches to evaluate their success;
- Strengthening monitoring, evaluation and learning systems and capacities of the organization;
- Testing approaches for Education Out Loud and finalizing their program of work in a final proposal, including budget levels and activities.

Oxfam IBIS will work with Learning Partners to provide technical support to selected applicants, as part of a wider framework in Education Out Loud for accompaniment, mentoring, training and adaptative management to achieve stronger, more effective civil society capacity to improve accountability for education. By the end of the Year Zero period, the applicant will report on progress according to their Learning Plan, together with the elaborated proposal for review and recommendation for approval by the Independent Selection Panels.