

TASK SHEET 8.1: IS THIS THE RIGHT TOOL?

SCENARIO A

In 2006 a major flood destroyed 17 villages in northeast Uganda. The government launched a major program to deliver food aid to the affected villagers. The food aid never reached most of intended beneficiaries. A few months later, a community-based organization with strong ties to local communities in the region decided to review the situation. They decided to implement a Citizens' Report Card Survey to identify the flow of food aid from the central government to the final recipients.

Is this an appropriate choice of tool? Please explain why or why not.

SCENARIO B

In 2000 the government of a small country in Southeast Asia signed a major international declaration to improve the standards of health care in the country and ensure that all pregnant women and children had free access to primary health care within 20 kms of their homes within a decade. A national health policy research institute decided to track the government's achievements in 2005. They undertook a social audit to assess the procurement procedures being followed by the government in the construction of health care clinics.

Is this an appropriate choice of tool? Please explain why or why not.

SCENARIO C

In the 1990s, the education sector in a country in Latin America faced a major crisis. The Department of Education, responsible for delivering education services to approximately 18 million students, was accused of extensive corruption. Instances of corruption were especially severe in the procurement of textbooks. At least three forms of corruption were suspected: officials were awarding overpriced contracts to unqualified bidders, suppliers were not honoring their contracts (many textbooks remained undelivered even after the government had paid for them) and some vendors were providing books of poor quality. In response, a national coalition of grassroots organizations began to monitor audit reports. They published a leaflet ranking the Department of Education against the other departments in the country, based on the amount of questioned expenditures identified in the audit reports of these departments.

Is this an appropriate choice of tool? Please explain why or why not.
