



# AFRICAN MONITOR ANNUAL REPORT 2017

## Introduction

This annual report summarizes key results achieved through programme activities and African Monitor's (AM) initiatives in 2017. All the main activities and events, organized according to national, regional and global action and results are captured in this report.

AM has increasingly worked towards supporting community-led advocacy in the year 2017. As an organization that aims to promote a grassroots-led and people-centered development agenda among policy makers in Africa and globally, African Monitor continues to empower communities to know and to speak up for their rights at local, national and international levels (Continue...)



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African voices for Africa's development

Key Activities:

CITIZENS REPORT

CITIZENS HEARINGS

ILLICIT FINANCIAL FLOWS

SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSOS) WORKING GROUP

AFRICAN MONITOR

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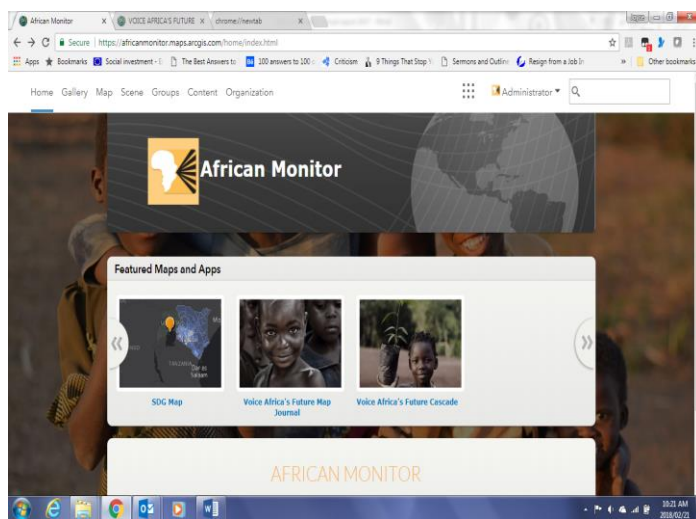
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Today, as the dialogue about the content of the SDGs shifts to dialogue about their implementation, governments should ensure that ordinary people and civil society groups in their countries play a similarly important role in translating the promise of the goals into national and subnational level commitments. Information on these local commitments, whether in national policies, strategies, plans or charters, should be accessible **to by** ordinary people.

In the years leading up to the MDGs in 2000, the current dialogue **has** demonstrated genuine attention to the rights and aspirations of the world's most marginalised people, with the principle of leaving no one behind.

Through our initiative the Citizens' Report at African Monitor, we have seen some success when citizens hearing dialogues were held in ten African countries (Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Uganda, Ghana, Kenya, Zambia, South Africa, Botswana, Malawi and Tanzania in February – March 2017 at the local level and these were extended and replicated, so that community representatives, including young people, can engage and build the capacity of African citizens to participate effectively in development delivery.

Similarly, stories from youth in the above mentioned countries were collected through our youth champions to be put on story maps. Story maps is an application by Arcgis Esri that we took advantage of. Story Maps are a simple yet powerful way to inform, engage, and inspire people with any story a person wants to tell that involves maps, places, locations, or geography. They make it easy for you to harness the power of maps to tell a story. The youth champions were tasked to collect stories that are related to any of the SDGs. In some cases the stories were told in videos, where people would tell their stories live on video. The stories were then taken and published on Esri Story Maps.



African monitor finds the citizen-generated data very useful as it leads to action that improves the lives of people in the grassroots. Monitoring and accountability directly enhances development effectiveness.

## **1. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS**

### **1.1. CITIZENS HEARINGS**

Through our youth led programme – Voice Africa's Future, Citizens hearings were held across ten African countries, where 77, 158 young people were engaged. This is a project whose aim was to provide space for those who tend to be left out of development dialogue, such as children and young people from the rural areas, to engage effectively.

This process has helped to identify the priorities of African youth – what services they need and what needs to be done to improve lives in their communities. From each Hearing a clear set of citizen-led recommendations on country priorities have been developed, as well as a strong call for citizen inclusion in decision making. Each of the Citizens Hearings has highlighted the importance of embedding participatory accountability into the updated Global Strategy and Sustainable Development Goals. This is critical to ensure that citizens are empowered to monitor implementation and progress on health service delivery through regular consultative platforms and enable “a strong link between the civil society representatives and the parliamentarians for continuous dialogue”.

### 1.1.1. HEARING OUTCOMES

In the meetings held in Kampala and Mbale, Uganda, most of the young people indicated lack of employment as their biggest worry. There is no doubt that youth unemployment has reached an alarming proportion in Africa. The scenario gets grimmer when one considers that the African Development Bank notes that youth unemployment occurs at a rate more than twice that for adults.



Various reasons are said to contribute to youth unemployment, including rapid population growth, a skills mismatch between available skills and jobs in the market, lack of experience, inappropriate ways of searching for jobs, and lack of career guidance in schools. The biggest problem however, is that economies in Africa simply do not produce enough employment opportunities, partly because of lack of investment in labour intensive sectors.

Some of the youth who are university graduates reported that most of them have resorted to agriculture in their respective communities where they have failed to secure formal jobs in the urban centres. Some have secured low paying jobs that they have not even studied for, just so they can have some source of income.

*“I am currently participating in livestock keeping but on a small scale. I started with four piglets but right now they have multiplied. However, I face a big challenge of feeding the pigs. On a weekly basis I incur almost UGX 50,000/= on feeds only,”* said one of the participants in the dialogue meeting held in Mbale.

In the hearings in Botswana held in the rural areas of Maun and Francistown, respondents pointed out that a lot of the youth are affected by communicable diseases, some live in households with people who have those diseases or they also have those diseases. In addressing the issue on Malaria, the respondents stated that mosquitoes in their area do not carry malaria. There are few cases of malaria but most of the time the

affected are usually treated and they survive. However, the TB infections in the Francistown areas are on the rise. This is due to insufficient information / education about these diseases. Another contributing factor that emerged was that health facilities are too far to access easily by grassroots communities.

## **2.2. Citizens Report**

Drawing on the success of established Citizens hearings approaches to improve accountability, a Citizens' Report was developed.

The Citizens' Report is intended to be an initiative which puts the responsibility of monitoring the implementation of the sustainable development goals in Africa at the hands of citizens. The purpose of this project is to inform development delivery, focus on results achieved to improve the lives of ordinary citizens, generate data on the condition of the citizens and empower citizens to hold government accountable for the delivery of development.

This programme was first launched in Ghana, Accra on 1 November 2017, at the African Youth SDGs Summit. It was a 2-day conference that brought together more than 400 young people from across the African continent (around 24 countries) to deliberate on how best to enhance youths' participation in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Despite the launch and Summit being scheduled to coincide with the International Youths day on 1 November 2017, the conference drew the attention, attendance and participation of government, prominent individuals from the civil society organizations, academia and the media.

## **2.3. SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSOs) WORKING GROUP STRATEGY WORKSHOP**

On the 1st of September 2017, African Monitor in partnership with UNDP South Africa hosted a civil society Strategy workshop, with the aim to facilitate a dialogue between key Civil Society Organizations (CSO) networks in South Africa to build a strong CSO constituency for SDGs implementation. The expected outcome of the consultation was to have clear agreement among civil society networks on operational modalities and strategic priorities for the CSO Working Group on the SDGs.

**The expected outcomes of this workshop were as follows:**

- Membership of the CSO Working Group is broadened to include multiple sectors, provincial structures, and broader NGO and CBO community in South Africa.
- Guiding principles for partnership, modalities for collaboration and effective practices of working are agreed and adopted by the Working Group.

- Working group structures are formalised including a representative national steering group, as well as provincial structures.
- A strategy for engagement with the South African government, and priority actions endorsed as part of the CSO roadmap on SDG implementation.

## 2.4. Illicit Financial Flows

African Monitor as a founding member of the steering committee of the existing South African CSOs Coalition working on reducing IFFs, has undertaken to work with policy makers, civil society and citizens in Africa in general and South Africa in particular to deepen understanding on the subject of illicit financial flows in Africa. Other steering committee members are Economic Justice Network, Oxfam, Action Aid, Mining Affected Communities, Corruption Watch and ONE.

In November 2017, AM, in collaboration with Economic Justice Network (EJN), hosted a workshop for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) engagement on Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) in the coal and gold sectors. The workshop was a build-up on the previous work on IFFs conducted by AM and EJN in the last three years, which has generated great interest among policy makers, citizens and relevant authorities – including the South Africa Revenue Authority, the Davis Tax Commission, as well as National Treasury.



With research revealing that South Africa has lost R1 trillion in IFFs between 2002 and 2011, and that in 2011 alone the country lost R237 billion – which could have funded one million students through NFSAS, created 6.6 million jobs for the youth, or built a clinic in every village – AM and EJN are set to continue the advocacy work by focusing on the “so what now” approach.

Given that significant awareness has been raised on what IFFs are and their impact, the focus should now be on the “so what now” or the “how” aspect of IFFs, taking into account an interactive advocacy approach where additional and new data has to be used to further sharpen advocacy work. Therefore, the two organisations

(AM and EJA) organised a CSOs forum on illicit financial outflows in South Africa, bringing together national civil society organisations, anti-corruption agencies, activists, media, and the private sector.

The most important aspect in rolling out the “how” to reduce IFFs is to understand where the bottlenecks are in terms of action from key stakeholders, including policy makers. To date, AM research has shown that the key bottlenecks constraining action by policy makers include lack of actionable data and information on dominant forms of IFFs such as trade mispricing and misinvoicing; as well as lack of coordination mechanism and performance management systems for key institutions responsible for addressing IFFs.

#### **2.4.1. CSOs Engagement and the way forward**

In our past research efforts to understand the IFFs, we found that the South African community heavily relies on international groups for data on IFFs. Even in this case, such data is aggregated, thus offering limited knowledge on the specifics of IFF as indicated above. Thus, we are fully aware that detailed information and understanding on illicit financial flows in the extractives sub-sector is still rudimentary and more data is needed to increase understanding among stakeholders. Therefore, with a funding support from Open Society Foundation South Africa, AM commissioned an independent consultant and expert, Mr Takudzwa Fundira to conduct a research work regarding the IFFs.

With this information we are therefore looking forward to deepening engagement especially on the policy reform agenda and how civil society, ordinary citizens and policy makers can work together to reduce IFFs in South Africa.

#### **The main objectives of the workshop were:**

- i) To share and increase knowledge within civil society about the scale and incidence of illicit financial flows in South Africa within the extractives sector and determine areas for collective future action
- ii) To build the capacity of a small group of civil society organisations interested to monitor illicit financial flows in South Africa.

#### **2.5. Partnerships Networks & Coalitions**

Strong partnership, buy-in and collaborative trust established between African Monitor, African civil society and African governmental representatives at the regional and global levels.

African Monitor, VAF and the AWG have become the go-to organisations for governments seeking technical support and civil society participation in the sustainable development sector. AM has also co-hosted a number of events with partners.

- **Economic Justice Network (EJN):** African Monitor collaborated with Economic Justice Network and hosted a workshop for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) engagement on Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) in the coal and gold sectors from on 22-24 November 2017 in Pretoria.
- **African Youth Summit (AYS):** AM collaborated with this organization and launched the Citizen’s Report as well as host a conference that brought together more than 400 young people from across the African continent to deliberate on how best to enhance youths’ participation in the implementation of the Sustainable Development.
- **Core Group Members:** An MOU was developed for the co-group which consists of Amnesty International, CSVr, POWA South Africa, Sonke Gender Justice, HURISA, CIVICUS, African Monitor and responsibilities were determined.
- **NANGOSA:** A representative of NANCOSA was brought on board to join the co-group and become active in sharing information with their membership.
- **SANGOCO:** Similarly, a representative of Sangoco was also invited to join the group.
- **UN System under the leadership of UNDP/SA:** Strong partnership has been established and need to formalise collaboration through MOU/TOR/Funding agreement.
- **Stats SA:** A good working relationship has been established and active participation in Stats SA offices. SANGOCO and NANGOSA are already members of the reference group.
- **March against Corruption:** After the dismissal of both the Minister of Finance and his Deputy in April last year (2017), African Monitor joined other concerned civil society organisations in calling for transparency and accountability. AM employees joined the planned mass action by civil society and other organisations that took place on Friday, 07 April 2017.

## 2. Media and Communications

Below is a summary of the media coverage AM got over the 2016/2017 period:

DATE	MEDIA HOUSE	PRODUCER AND CONTACT DETAILS	REQUEST & OUTCOME	TYPE	STATUS
	SA fm			Broadcast	Done

21 Nov 2016	<b>Programme: The Talkshop</b>  <b>Interviewer: Naledi Moleo</b>	Lesego Mangoenyana	Requested an interview on the Leave No one Behind dialogue that AM was hosting. Naledi Moleo, the host, wanted to know what the LNoB event was all about.		
21 Nov 2016	<b>VOC fm</b>	Ibrahim	They requested an interview after we released a press statement about the Leave No one Behind dialogue session that AM hosted. The interview did not happen as Namhla was attending to another interview at the same time with SA fm. We arranged with Mpilo – Director of Amnesty, but the interview ended up not taking place as the producer did not call again.	<b>Broadcast</b>	<b>Not done</b>
	<b>Programme: The Drivetime</b>  <b>Presenter: Shafiq Morton</b>				
24 March 2017	<b>SA fm</b>	Hezel Mahlangu	Requested to interview Namhla on their OTHERWISE midday show with Shado Twala – a slot to host phenomenal women.	<b>Broadcast</b>	<b>Done</b>
	<b>Programme: OTHERWISE</b>  <b>Interviewer: Shado Twala</b>				
16 Aug 2017	<b>Bush Radio</b>	Glen	Requested and interview on their afternoon drive show to know about the work that AM is doing and how can the youth can benefit from it.	<b>Broadcast</b>	<b>Done</b>
	<b>Programme: Everyday People</b> <b>Interviewers: Freedom Raphela &amp; Sive Msolo</b>				
20 Nov 2017	<b>Radio 702</b>	Thekiso Lefifi	Thekiso Lefifi requested an interview for their The Money Show programme. The interview did not take place because he did not contact us when the time for the interview came.	Broadcast	Not done
	<b>Programme: The Money Show</b>				
	<b>Interviewer: Bruce Whitfield</b>				
	<b>Duration:</b>				
21 Nov 2017	<b>SA fm</b>	Lesego Mangoenyane	Requested an interview for their The Talk Shop show to know more about the illicit financial flows report. However, the interview did not happen due to Namhla not being available for the interview.	Broadcast	Not done
	<b>Programme: The Talk Shop</b>				
	<b>Presenter: Naledi Moleo</b>				
	<b>Duration:</b>				
22 Nov 2017	<b>SA fm</b>	Ronald Phiri	Requested an interview to know about the findings of the IFF report and workshop for their PM LIVE show.	Broadcast	Done
	<b>Programme: PM LIVE</b>				



	<b>Presenter:</b> <b>Tshepiso Makwetla</b>  <b>Duration: 5 Minutes</b>				
22 Nov 2017	<b>SABC News Online, Radio &amp; TV</b>  Duration: 30 mins	Gloria (TV) and Shuma (Radio)	Attended the press conference and asked to interview the speakers. The story was published on SABC News online.	Print/Online Broadcast	Done
22 Nov 2017	<b>VOC fm</b>  Programme: <b>Drivetime</b>  Presenter: <b>Shafiq Morton</b>  Duration: 5 mins	Ibrahim	Requested an interview with Namhla on their Drivetime show.	Broadcast	Done
23 Nov 2017	<b>Channel Africa</b>  Programme: <b>Africa Midday</b>  Presenter: <b>Zikhona Miso</b>  Duration: <b>6 mins</b>	Nhlanhla Mahlangu	Requested an interview with Namhla for their Africa Midday show, to know about the outcomes of the IFF workshop and report.	Broadcast	Done
28 Nov 2017	<b>Bush Radio</b>  Programme:  Presenter:  Duration:	Sergo	Sergo requested an interview with Namhla.	Broadcast	Not done

### 3. Conclusion

Hopefully this report has succeeded in highlighting the progress and achievements reached in our organization in the year 2017.

Our work in monitoring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals continues. We have always believed lasting change rises from the grassroots up. We continue with the movements around the continent and the world at large to transform policies, practices and power relationships to ones based on sustainability, equity, resource rights, and justice.

As we move forward, one of the most important focus on our work will be to continue having a profound impact on development regionally and globally. The SDGs have been developed with the stated aim of ensuring that 'no one will be left behind'. We will work hard in continuing being the voice on the vulnerable through different initiatives, programmes and partnerships mentioned throughout this report.