



african monitor

African voices for Africa's development

Annual Report 2019

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Dear Readers & Development Partners,

This annual report summarizes key results achieved through programme activities and African monitor's (AM) initiatives in 2018 / 2019. 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 2018 / 2019. As an organization that aims to promote a grassroots-led and people-centred 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.

African Monitor (AM), as an active participant and partner in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals for Agenda 2030, prides itself in advocating for grassroots and underserved communities and amplifying their voices on important issues that affect them. We recognize that the greatest global challenge the world is facing today is to eradicate the substantial gaps in access to resources. Hence we adhere to the universal pledge of "Leave No one Behind".

In 2017, AM officially launched the Citizens Report in Accra, Ghana. Since then, an implementing model to ensure that the tools and methodology for the programme were developed; partners secured; and a strategy for data dissemination implemented has been put in place.

Over the past two years, our network of youth champions collected data in 7 countries and 21 communities where they have held 21 citizens hearings and conducted 4 200 household interviews. We believe that Citizen's voices are necessary to inform and influence the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and ensure that development delivery responds to people's needs. 'Leave no one behind' needs to be ensured. Citizen's agency should be seen as a driver for the

implementation of agenda 2030. People need to speak for themselves. Development needs to come from the inside out and we need to look at citizens as a driver for development, not a recipient of development, and that accountability needs to happen from ground-up.

This year, AM has responded to the demand for an on-going engagement, and has expanded the number of countries to work with. The additional countries include South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

We are glad that the profile and recognition of Citizens' Report has been growing steadily since 2018; and its impact is being recognised in the region and across the globe. In April 2019, AM had the opportunity to share the success of Citizen's Report during the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, held in Morocco. The initiative was also recognised by a UN agency, UN SDG Action Campaign as one of the top 3 initiatives promoting inclusion and agency of citizens in the world. AM was invited to share the model and initial findings in Bonn, Germany.

As AM Director I participated at UN HLPF 2019 and had a number of speaking roles.

Furthermore, AM has supported South African civil society in participating in the United Nations voluntary national review process this year. This was a process led by the South African government, where Civil Society organizations reviewed, monitor and reported on the progress of the implementation of the SDGs in South Africa, at this year's High-Level Political Forum (HLPF).

The SDGs are a global set of commitments made by countries to change the lives of their citizens for the better, especially the vulnerable, excluded and poor. When the South African government made the commitment to adopt the SDG's, it was a promise to the people of South Africa that the poorest of the poor would in fact be taken seriously and prioritized. But while the nation regressed on major indicators of sustainable development, the citizens of the land knew nothing about it. One way to prioritise the poor is to design programmes that address their needs, and to ensure that those programmes actually reach citizens. Secondly is to ensure that service delivery, and budget allocation also prioritizes the poor. Thirdly, is to make sure that excluded communities have an opportunity to engage with their governments through civil dialogue, so that they can give feedback about what is going well and where things are failing.

It is interesting to notice that various stakeholders have come to understand that the Agenda 2030 cannot be attained without the involvement of young and women; I sincerely thank our donors, supporters and partners who came on board and supported us through the past year. Your consistent support has strengthened our persistence in empowering the grassroots communities so that they can take part in the development of their communities and countries as active citizen.

I also wish to express my utmost gratitude to the Founder and President of AM, Archbishop Njongo Ndungane and the Board of Trustees; we do appreciate the efforts, guidance and unwavering support that has driven the organisation to these great heights.

Last but not least, thank you to my colleagues at AM for making it possible, though sometimes in difficult conditions but you have shown that indeed this work is our passion.

Ms Namhla Mniki

AM Director

About African Monitor

The African Monitor (AM) is a not-for-profit organisation established in 2006 by the Archbishop Njongo Ndungane. It is registered as a trust, with its board of trustees comprising prominent Africans. AM is an independent continental body to monitor development support commitments, delivery as well as the impact on grassroots communities. African Monitor also works towards bringing strong additional African voices to the development agenda. Our vision is of an African continent rapidly achieving its development potential, whose people live in dignity, in a just society where basic needs are met, human rights are upheld, and good governance entrenched.

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1. The Open SDG South Africa symposium

South African civil society, including African Monitor, have been calling on government to create the opportunity and open up the space for real engagement around SDG's and the National Development Plan. Such calls have fallen on deaf ears. AM took the initiative and formed the Open SDG Club South Africa, and continued to host a symposium, in partnership with the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) and the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSV). The main goal for the symposium was open up a space for civil society in South Africa to exercise their voice and to contribute to the national report on sustainable development.



The symposium, which took place on 12 – 14 June 2019, came in the backdrop of an extremely fragile and disheartened civil society, which receives little support from its government. We believe that it is essential to create space for South Africans to share their story, in hopes that their newly elected leadership will listen and act.

For the SDG's to be truly transformative, power and influence over the SDG implementation and review process must be shared with civic actors. Within these processes, it is important to position citizens and civil society as rights holders, using a rights-based framework to participate in the review process and to demand accountability from the state. This right to participate is already enshrined in the constitution of South Africa; however greater investment is required to build capacity of citizens to present their experiences by creating an enabling environment for participation.



The Open SDG Club presented an opportunity for civil society and other civic actors in South Africa to review the SDGs and share perspectives in an open, inclusive and collaborative platform. The platform was designed to be an inclusive collaborative platform to showcase and encourage the transformative nature of the SDGs. The symposium was preceded by a necessary consultative and report writing process covering the Voluntary National Review (VNR) 2019 goals. The VNR 2019 Citizens' Report was validated at the event, and further presented at High Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2019, in New York.



The three-day symposium was kick-started by the Directors from African Monitor and Commission of Gender Equality giving the

broad objective for the symposium and key deliverables for the country. They provided a background of the adoption of the SDGs and the importance of not leaving anyone behind. They pointed out issues around funding for civil society, especially how it has led to a lack of collaboration between different organisations and the effort it took for the partners to have the symposium, and explained that the Symposium is a result of African Monitor, Commission for Gender Equality, Human Rights Institute of South Africa and the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation.

They also acknowledged the presence of government, the Presidency and the United Nations (UN) system and the support they have been receiving from them. They also explained that the work was not only done by the four partners, but by the South Africa Working Group which is a platform for inclusive dialogue that ensures that civil society works together, and that at the end of the three days, they hope to have had critical engagement, but importantly also commitments from key industries and government.



2. THE VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW ((VNR)

South Africa participated in this year's [Voluntary National Reviews](#) (VNR), where 47 countries presented their

**CITIZENS' REPORT
SOUTH AFRICA**
ENSURING AN INCLUSIVE REPORTING
PROCESS FOR HLPF 2019

SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL SOCIETY WORKING GROUP
ON THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

JULY 2019

VNR at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council, held in New York from 9 to 18 July 2019. In preparation for the VNR, African Monitor spearheaded the consultative process and the writing process of the report, and thus organising the symposium for civil society in South Africa in partnership with the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) and the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR).

Countries that participated in the VNR were expected to submit comprehensive written reports that was to be made available in the UN VNR database. In addition, each country was expected provide main messages summarising their key findings.

The South African Civil Society Working Group, which AM is part of, noted with dismay the slow pace with which SDG adoption has taken place in the country; especially because such a pace points to lack of political will and commitment on the part of government. Three years into the adoption of the SDGs, it is clear that

while a few areas have seen some positive progress, there is a far greater need to accelerate progress in key areas.

2.2. The key areas and recommendations are as follows:

i) Data for Monitoring Sustainability

It is commendable that Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) has done a successful job in mapping out current data gaps in South Africa and preparing the country's first full SDG report through an extensive consultative process. Through this process, it has become clear that there are major data gaps especially when it comes to disaggregated data, as well as targets that affect the bottom 40%.

Therefore, the two recommendations proposed are, firstly, SDG monitoring framework which will highlight a clear plan to close the data gaps needs to be developed as well as identify new reliable data sources, including citizen generated data.

Secondly, there is an urgent need to ensure that the processes to monitor and review sustainable development in South Africa are not a mere statistical and report writing exercise; but rather are a meaningful process of reflecting on progress and mapping out a way to improve delivery.

ii) Institutional Framework for Implementation and Monitoring

The CSO Working Group noted that an institutional framework for the implementation and monitoring of the sustainability agenda in South Africa has been approved by government. However, this institutional framework has not yet been introduced to other stakeholders outside government; nor has an action plan been developed for the establishment of this structure.

The CSO Working Group believes the full establishment of this structure with its non-governmental representatives will be a key determinant of the successful implementation of the sustainability agenda in South Africa; and therefore, underpin the urgency of setting it up.

Furthermore, it is important that the process of establishing this structure is a consultative one. The CSO Working Group therefore strongly recommended a series of consultations led by Department of Planning Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) to facilitate this process.

iii) The application of the principle of "Leave No one Behind"

The application of the principle of "Leave No one Behind" is crucial for South Africa as the country grapples with historical injustices and as a way of addressing social and economic marginalisation. In other words, development has to start from the margins and move towards the centre ensuring it leaves no one behind.

The CSO Working Group notes that most of the critical indicators that are lagging behind directly affect the bottom 40%. It is a recommendation to prioritise delivery of these targets through solutions articulated under each development goal and especially pay attention to vulnerable groups including women, youth, children and the disabled.

Furthermore, the principle of leave no-one behind also applies to the extent to which citizens' voices and agency is strengthened at national, provincial and local levels.

iv) Accountability of the State to its Citizens

The SDGs are a global set of commitments made by countries to change the lives of their citizens for the better, especially the vulnerable, excluded and poor. Citizen's voices are necessary to inform and influence the implementation of Agenda 2030 and ensure responsiveness of development delivery to citizen's needs.

When the South African government made the commitment to adopt the SDG's, it was a promise to the people of South Africa that the poorest of the poor would in fact be taken seriously and prioritized. One way to prioritise the poor is to design programmes that address their needs, and to ensure that those programmes actually reach citizens. Secondly is to ensure that service delivery, and budget allocation also prioritizes the poor. Thirdly, is to make sure that excluded communities have an opportunity to engage with their governments through civil dialogue, so that they can give feedback about what is going well and where things are failing.

3. Digital Media Campaign

In a bid to build a tangible online network of engaged citizens in South Africa who will not only be 'members', but also participate in reporting on what is going on in their communities, African Monitor collaborated with a Media agency called Nonzero in running a media campaign that served as build up towards the Open SDGs Club symposium that took place in June 2019.

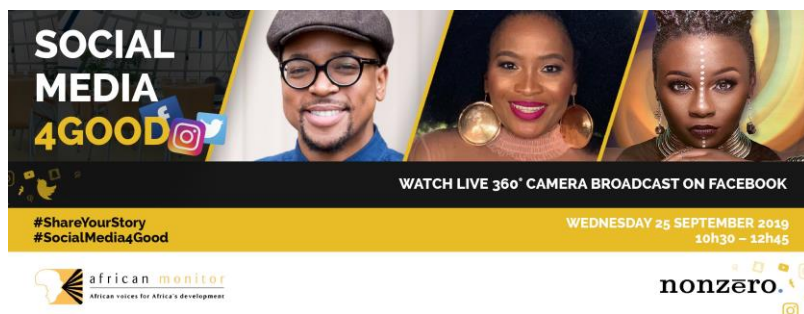
The campaign's objectives were:

- To create and collect stories from the citizens about their experiences around the 5 SDGs, using the Hashtag #Shareyourstory
- To share and popularise CSO perspectives on national progress to achieve the SDGs
- To popularize SDGs in South Africa and ensure broad-based engagement
- To create an ongoing conversation on Social Media around the achievement of the SDGs
- To get the attention and engagement of traditional media about the work of the SDGs

3.1. Social Media4Good Event & Media activities

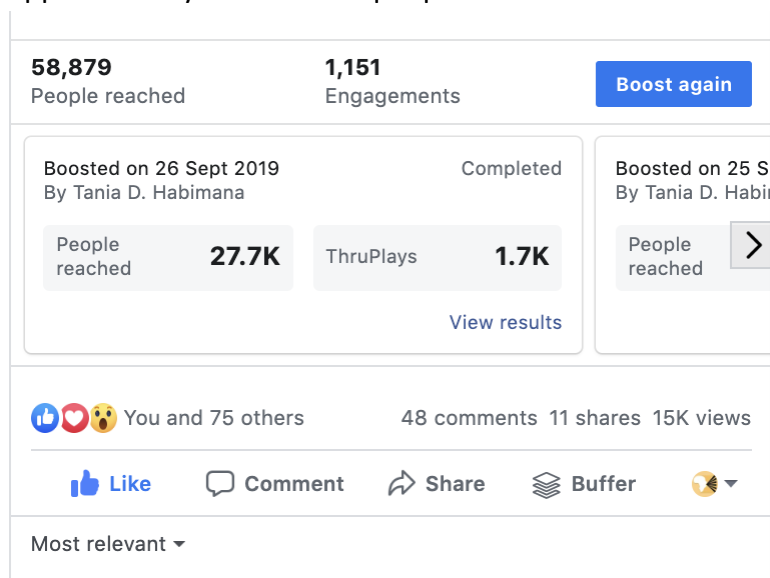
As part of the digital media campaign, African Monitor hosted a Social Media4Good event on 25 September 2019, in Johannesburg. The Social Media4good event came after 3-month long social media campaign that Nonzero ran for AM.

The aim of the this event was to promote the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through a campaign termed "**Share your story**", where some of SA's foremost social media influencers who engaged discussions on SDGs, their impact on communities and how to use social media to promote the SDGs and to educate communities about them. The influencers included **Maps Maponyane, Amanda Black and Ayanda Borocho.**



Moderated by an internationally acclaimed conference moderator, **Nozipho Mbanjwa**, the programme kick-started with AM director having a conversation with two young women, who shared their stories with the audience on how social media helped them achieve their goals in terms of being influential for a good course on social media.

The discussions were LIVE streamed on AM's Facebook page through a 360 camera equipment, where approximately 15 thousand people viewed the live streaming throughout the country as per records below.



The event was attended by approximately 100 people from different sectors, including media personnel.

3.2. Media Activities for Social Media4Good and the Symposium

- 2 media statements were sent out to the media prior the Social media4good event.
- 2 media statement and 2 Op – Ed were released prior the VNR Symposium.

Coverage:

1. VNR Symposium (held on 12 -14 June 2019)

- AM Director – Ms Namhla Mniki was interviewed about the VNR Symposium on SA FM's Focal Point show, on **13 June 2019**.
- The Op-Ed for the symposium was published on AM's website as well as on CGE (Commission for Gender Equality) website.

2. Social Media4good

- The event was covered in The Star (Pg. 4) newspaper of **26 September 2019**

4. The Citizen Report in East Africa

4.1. Preliminary work

After a successful implementation of the Citizen Report in Southern Africa and West Africa in seven countries, 3 in Southern Africa (Botswana, Malawi, Zambia) and 4 in West Africa (Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Senegal) with the support of the UN Women the initiative was replicated in 3 countries of East Africa namely Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

In a bid to initiate and enhance the monitoring and review of the SDGs through citizen-generated data in East African countries, the project kicked off by identifying youth-led, or women's organisations whom we partnered with to implement the project. The following are the Citizen Report Partners in East Africa:

- **Kenya:** Grassroots Organizations Operating Together in Sisterhood – Kenya (GROOTS - Kenya) is the lead partner in Kenya. GROOTS is a national movement of grassroots women-led community-based groups (CBOs) and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in Kenya.
- **Tanzania:** United Nations Association of Tanzania (UNA TANZANIA) is the lead partner in Tanzania. UNA Tanzania has been operating in the civil society community for about 5 decades. They have implemented similar project to the Citizen Report, working with youth at universities to influence policy. They are a member of the Tanzania CSO SDGs Platform.
- **Uganda:** The project is coordinated by Francis Maberi, an African Monitor team member based in Kampala.

Youth champions were also selected to collect citizens generated data, where 75% of the youth champions are females (9 out of 12). All youth champions come from diverse communities, including those from rural areas, urban slums, and indigenous communities. Two out of the three country coordinators are female.

After selection of partners and subsequent selection of Youth Champions as well as national experts to support the country teams, African Monitor organised a reference group meeting which was followed with the induction and planning workshop for the youth champions. The training workshop was organised in collaboration with dLab of the University of Dar es Salaam, and took place from 18-21 October, 2018 at the University of Dar es Salaam. The workshop was attended by 12 youth champions from three participating countries together with their country project coordinators and the research experts.

The youth champions were trained to conduct research, engage community members and produce citizen generated data. Youth Champions were also equipped with advocacy and leadership skills, where they were urged to take charge, redefine and shape civil society in their communities and not be afraid to do the unusual.

4.2. Methodology developed and validated for monitoring SDGs through citizen-generated data

The monitoring model, consisting of two monitoring tools was developed and validated through a reference group meeting held in October 2018 at University of Dar es Salaam. It brought together expertise from CSOs, national statistical offices and technical experts, who among other things agreed on the criteria for purposive sampling in selecting communities and accepted a sample size of 600 per county is sufficient for the purpose. They extensively reviewed the survey instrument and provided necessary amendments as well as providing advice on use of technology.

4.3. Data Collection

After the training the country teams embarked on the field work, which entailed Citizens Hearing or Focus Group discussions and the administration of a household survey.

Before the actual data collection started, the teams in the three countries approached the local community to inform them about the project and get their buy in. In all the communities, leaders appreciated the project

and pledged to cooperate in support. Local leaders helped to recruit participants to the citizen hearings and informed their constituency where the household surveys were to be conducted. Volunteer community members were also recruited to assist youth champions.

Local authorities gave clearance for the citizens hearing that took place and the administration of the household questionnaire to the sampled households. Focus group discussion were also successfully held without major challenges.

The Citizens Hearing which took place in all 10 communities across the three countries brought together between 60 - 100 people. Participants included both members of households (male and female), local council chairperson, members from the local youth council and representation from Local Government Authorities and Ward Development Committee representatives.

The Citizen Hearings approach is an integrated approach that entails a citizen's sharing their lived experiences in their own words, with the aim of ensuring that ordinary people's voices, realities and experiences are expressed and documented. The purpose of the Focus Group Discussions is to give community members an opportunity to reflect and discuss their experiences regarding the focus areas of discussion in a way that brings out stories, anecdotes and feelings about the issue. The following are the communities where collection of data was conducted in the three countries:

Province/zone	District	Ward	No households	Representation
Temeke	Temeke	Tandika	200	Urban population with stable power supply but congested and poor infrastructure such as road, sewage systems etc.
Kisarawe	Kisarawe	Cholesamvula	194	Rural population with unstable internet connectivity, no power supply and poor latrines conditions
		Kazimzumbwi	100	
		Kisarawe	108	Semi Urban population with reach of power and connectivity in some areas but poor latrine conditions
Uganda				
Kampala City Council	Kampala /	Bwaise	232	Retail trading, very few toilets mostly shared with more than two households, High urban crime level, Unemployment,

				Poverty
wakiso	Wakiso/ kasisi	Kasaasi	209	Retail trading, small scale urban farming, rental settlement.
Bungokho	Mbale	Aisa	232	Subsistence Agriculture, stone query, brick laying, unemployment, poverty
Kenya				
Nairobi	Nairobi	Mathare	249	Urban - Part of informal settlement in Nairobi County, High Level of crime, Lack of access to key services such as sewage disposal - Constant eruption of violence especially during election period and-related conflicts
Cental	Kiambu	Mwiki	219	Lack of access to key services; sewage and water services (Open drainage and disposal trails of waste are common);Dilapidated infrastructure such as roads unique sectoral interaction between both rural, agricultural functions (Horticulture production) and urban functions (high rise buildings)
Riftvalley	Loitokitok	Rombo	210	Their livelihood (livestock) often affected by the impacts of climate change; Food and nutrition security is often challenged by recurrent droughts episodes; patriarchal community (high male dominance in decision making and civic engagement)

4.4. Data visualisation

African Monitor in partnership with Data lab at University of Dar salaam has developed a data visualisation which will enable the public to access to visualisation and data set.

Tanzania -

https://public.tableau.com/views/TanzaniaAnalysis_15671027503460/intro?:display_count=y&origin=viz_share_link

Uganda-

https://public.tableau.com/views/UgandaAnalysis_15671034769460/intro?:display_count=y&origin=viz_share_link

Kenya-

https://public.tableau.com/profile/citizens.report#!/vizhome/KenyaAnalysis_15671029271060/intro

4.5. Advocacy & Media Work

At the national level some advocacy activities have been organised to engage with key stakeholders and share emerging results. This included among others to establish the Parliamentary Action Group to engage parliament directly; to organise bilateral meetings with Planning Ministry and Youth Ministry as well as the Presidency and to promote specific youth related policy outcomes or programmes. The project's Phase one sought also to involve Youth in national meetings to advance their key asks as well as media engagement and communication of the results. For an example, our partner in Kenya has been invited to join the Consultative platform with the Kenyan National Bureau of Statistics on Data, this invitation by the Gender Advisor of the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics is a step in the right direction towards collating data for advocacy. As a result, Groot's Director has been invited to speak about the Citizen Report at the Global Conference on Statistics in New York which will take place in February 2020.

The Kenya team did also conduct various advocacy activities among them was the participation of the SDGs open day national meeting organised on 20 June 2019, where GROOTS Kenya youth and women participated in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Parliament Open Day 2019, which brought together Members of Parliament, key agencies of the United Nations in Nairobi and Development Partners to critically examine the important role of Parliamentarians in the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

On media coverage, it is worth mentioning that 28 journalists from print and electronic media were convened for a 2 day meeting on use of data for reporting. The meeting was held in Maanzoni –Machakos County. After this meeting, the media have since been producing reports that have included data evidence, and collaboration efforts between GROOTS and the media have continued. GROOTS Kenya is in the process of developing a gender dashboard that will offer media practitioners, policy makers, government officials, grassroots advocates, development organizations and other data users, visualization tools that can be used for advocacy. The dashboard will be launched during the course of this year (2020).

Even though this project was confronted by a few challenges, we are so proud of what it has achieved so far. Seeing our youth champions engaging duty bearers and holding them accountable is our greatest

achievement. Seeing how they are being taken seriously since they can clearly present challenges facing communities using credible data and offer some of the solutions is something which we should not take for granted. As the first phase came to the end, we are talking to various partners so that we can launch the second phase in East Africa which consists in empowering communities on how to use collected data so that they can claim improvement in service delivery and hold government accountable for the delivery of the SDGs. The pilot of the Phase II has been launched in Southern Africa with the support of OSISA.

5. The Citizen Report - Phase II

5.1. Background

As mentioned above the Citizens Report is now in its second phase and has a strong presence at the local, national and regional levels in three countries of Southern Africa where Phase II is being piloted. In Botswana, there are three communities that are part of this project, namely Gaborone West, Selibe Phikwe and Dukwi. In Malawi, the project is being implemented in the communities of Balaka, Lilongwe and Rumphi. And in Zambia, the CR is in Chingolo, Kabwe, and Chongwe. These communities include rural, urban and semi urban localities.

Our theory of change is that when citizens effectively hold their governments accountable for delivery, democracy is strengthened, development outcomes improve significantly for the poor, and citizens gain confidence to claim their rights and solve local problems.

It is to be recalled that during its first phase of implementation (September 2017 to August 2018), our network of youth champions collected data in 10 countries, 30 communities through citizen's hearings and conducted household interviews. The data have shown indicators that do not currently have data from official sources; and the data has been be disaggregated according to gender, age, and geography - thus bringing out pertinent information about segments of the population that are often left behind mostly women, youth and rural excluded communities.

On the second phase of the project which is currently running, the Citizen Report has evolved from 'gathering the voices' to 'influencing actors for change' in specific and measurable ways. The phase two of Citizens Report addresses the need for a strong citizen-led effort to utilise the citizen-driven data already gathered to strengthen citizen engagement and influence at the local and national levels; as the AM Director Ms Namhla Mniki said while launching the Townhalls in Lilongwe, the end-game is to see concerns of citizens addressed through improved service delivery, greater access to economic opportunities, and institutionalised accountability systems between citizens and their governments.

What is exciting in this project is that it is enabling communities to co-create development solutions with state and non-state actors on priority issues.

In 2018/2019, a country report was produced that includes qualitative and quantitative analysis on aspects SDGs Goal 1, Goal 4, Goal 5, Goal 8, Goal 10 and Goal 16. Based on the findings of country report as well in house workshop, the country teams working with the communities were expected to identify three issues that an intervention can be designed to address.

5.2. Community Feedback sessions

Community feedback sessions were organised in 9 communities to give community feedback on key findings, agree on priority issues for advocacy, and develop key messages. As part of this exercise, community members were invited to a town hall meeting where the Citizen Report findings were presented as well proposed priority issues. The community had an opportunity to discuss the report and validate its findings; once they agreed on the issues they were given time to debate what shall be the priorities. We are happy to report that in the 9 communities have validated findings. After agreeing on priorities, the community selected a group that will coordinate the activities in communities and set up “the Youth & Community Action Group” which was then trained on data utilisation and advocacy. After the action group was established and trained, their role and responsibilities were explained which include among others to:

- Work collectively on the Citizens Report, prioritised key issues by the community
- Develop data driven community solutions & agree on action plan.
- Lead engagement with national government including parliament based on agreed priority issues for policy change and improved delivery
- Negotiations/advocacy is held with state & non-state actors to create a joint platform for on-going review of the implementation of the SDGs.
- Oversee the appropriate management of the resources that the action group will be able to raise

5.3. Capacity building workshops

Capacity-building workshops were conducted for the youth and women action groups selected from the 9 communities. The workshop were in line with the project objective of enabling communities to co-create development solutions with state and non-state actors on priority issues. It focused on building capacity for community action and strengthening youth and women community action groups to lead engagement with local government in each community. 62 members of action groups did attend the training.

The Capacity building workshops covered among other things the introduction of the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development mainly on why and how monitoring the implementation Goals, targets, indicators using the Citizen Generated Data (CGD) and how the selected young and women who are members of the



action groups can guide communities through the process of Community Problem Solving. In addition each training included concepts and elements of advocacy & advocacy avenues for the Citizen Report. It has demonstrated how young people can use their voice to influence power. They

were trained on how to create an advocacy campaign, and prioritize advocacy avenues and Examples were provided on how to promote specific youth related policy outcomes to duty bearers/policy makers.

Facilitate a dialogue between the community and state actors to co-create solutions and collaborate on action Through this project community members are given a platform to have genuine discussions about issues that affect them and find solutions. In 2020 all the communities assisted by the Action Group selected by the community and trained by AM are embarking on a set of activities that will bring change in their communities. Our team is positioned to offer strategic support to encourage their active participation so that communities can achieve what they set to do.

6. AM's Work at the World Economic Forum (WEF)

The World Economic Forum (WEF) took place this week in Cape Town where many of Africa's leaders came to grapple with Africa's current opportunities and the 4th Industrial Revolution.

The event was preceded by a series of negative developments about Gender Based Violence (GBV) in the country, one being the #AmInext march. Concerned about what was happening in the country, African Monitor (AM) made a call to the leaders and business companies for an urgent action to ensure safety of women through technology, instead of talking about artificial intelligent deployment and drone economies,

spending billions on research and testing.

Ahead of the WEF, AM Executive Director Ms Namhla Mniki, who was to lead discussions on Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the event - made a call for urgent intervention to step up the fight against GBV. Ms. Mniki urged technology companies to take a lead in delivering solutions. AM submitted a statement to the WEF executive, and at the meeting held on 4 September, the WEF endorsed the statement by AM. The WEF adopted an action plan focused on using technology in the fight against GBV and announced that a GBV fund was to be set up.

One of the top outcomes of the meeting was the launch of an action plan aimed at tackling the crisis of gender-based violence. The plan was also backed by the South African government through the Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities and the United Nations in South Africa.



"We are pleased that our voice has been heard. It is very pleasing to note that we share the space with world leaders who are as concerned as we are about societal issues affecting us. There was real commitment shown at the WEF to join in fighting the scourge of gender-based violence. Beyond these just being discussions, we are pleased that concrete action plans have been put in place by the WEF," - Ms Mniki.

This milestone attracted a lot of media coverage as follows:

Name of Media House		Date of publication / broadcast	Type of Media
1. SA fm (The Update @ Noon)		4 Sept. 2019	Broadcast (Radio)
2. SA fm (The View Point)		4 Sept. 2019	Broadcast (Radio)
3. Radio Islam (Breakfast show)		5 Sept. 2019	Broadcast (Radio)
4. TimesLive		5 Sept. 2019	Print (Online)
5. The Herald		6 Sept. 2019	Print (Online)
6. Business Report		10 Sept. 2019	Print (Online)
7. SA fm (The Focal Point)		10 Sept. 2019	Broadcast (Radio)
8. IOL News		5 Sept. 2019	Print (Online)
9. Eye Witness News		8 Sept. 2019	Print (Online)

7. Finalists for United Nations SDG Action Awards, 2019

In May, 2019, AM was privileged to be named among the finalists in the UN SDG Action Awards 2019 for the Citizens Report.

The selection process for the awards, which attracted over 2000 contestants from 142 countries, resulted in only three finalists under each of the seven categories: Mobilizer, Storyteller, Campaigner, Connector, Visualizer, Includer and Creative. AM, nominated in the Includer category, nd emerged among the top three in a tightly-contested category that had a total of 258 contestants, including 33 from South Africa. AM was one of the three South African organisations among the 21 finalists across all the seven categories. The category of Includer is for a project / group that makes the most innovative and impactful effort to ensure that excluded groups become part of the SDGs dialogue and decision making in their community or at international levels.



It was an incredible achievement for the organization to be selected among the best from the 2000 applications from 142 countries entries received by the judging panel in 2019. This recognition can only

"It was encouraging to see the work that the organization is doing being recognised internationally,"
Ms. Namhla Mniki.

serve to inspire us to push even harder on the work we do around SDGs. AM was represented by Programmes Manager – Mr Joseph Maniragena at the award ceremony held at the SDG Global Festival of Action in Germany.

8. Income & Expenditure 2019

African Monitor Trust

(Registration number: IT3633/2006)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 28 February 2019

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 2019

Figures in Rand	Note(s)	2019	2018
ASSETS			
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	2	11 503	3
CURRENT ASSETS			
Trade and other receivables	3	549 215	292 949
Cash and cash equivalents	4	605 189	1 329 659
		1 154 404	1 622 608
Total Assets		1 165 907	1 622 611
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
EQUITY			
Trust capital	5	100	100
Accumulated surplus		721 945	1 221 734
		722 045	1 221 834
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	6	443 862	400 777
Total Equity and Liabilities		1 165 907	1 622 611

African Monitor Trust

(Registration number: IT3633/2006)

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 28 February 2019

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

Figures in Rand	Note(s)	2019	2018
Revenue	7	4 808 345	4 764 582
Project expenses	8	(4 868 146)	(4 156 498)
Gross (deficit) surplus		(59 801)	608 084
Other income	9	2 261	51 023
Operating expenses		(483 110)	(574 583)
Operating (deficit) surplus		(540 650)	84 524
Investment revenue	10	40 861	85 283
(Deficit) surplus for the year		(499 789)	169 807
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive (loss) income for the year		(499 789)	169 807

9. Conclusion

Hopefully this report has succeeded in highlighting the progress and achievements reached in our organization in the year 2019. 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 to continue being the voice of the vulnerable through the different initiatives, programmes and partnerships mentioned throughout this report. We thank the following donors and partners who generously supported and made African Monitor's work possible this year.

i) Partners

- **Botswana:** Youth Alliance for Leadership & Development in Africa (YALDA)
- **Malawi:** Her Liberty
- **Nigeria:** The Nigeria Network of NGOs (NNNGO)
- **Uganda:** African Monitor Coordinator Francis Maberu
- **Tanzania:** United Nations Association of Tanzania (UNA Tanzania)
- **Ghana:** Youth Advocates Ghana (YAG)
- **Zambia:** Young Women in Action (YWA)
- **Sierra Leone:** Young Christian Students Movement (SLYCSM)
- **Kenya:** Grassroots Organizations Operating Together in Sisterhood (GROOTS)
- **Senegal:** Réseau des Organisations des Jeunes Leaders Africains des Nations Unies (ROJALNU)

ii) Funders

- **GIZ** (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
- **OSISA** (The Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa)
- **OSIWA** (The Open Society Initiative for Western Africa)
- **UN Women** (United Nations Women)
- **ABSA** Bank
- **DLab** (Data Laboratory)



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