



african monitor

African voices for Africa's development

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



Contents

Abbreviations.....	3
Introduction	4
About African Monitor	5
<i>Board of Trustees</i>	5
What we aim to achieve	5
Progress and Achievements in 2021	6
African Monitor 2021 Highlights	9
Challenges.....	10
Financial Overview	10
Funders and Development Partners	12

Abbreviations

AM	African Monitor
ANC	African National Congress
AU	African Union
CBO	Community-based organisations
CGE	Commission for Gender Equality
CSI	Corporate Social Investment
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DPME	Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council (UN)
GBVF	Gender Based Violence and Femicide
HLPF	high-level political forum on sustainable development
HURISA	Human Rights Institute of South Africa
IMF	International Monetary Fund
MSP	Multi Stakeholder Partnerships
NDP	National Development Plan
NDSF	National Development Stakeholders Forum
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NPO	Non-Profit Organisation
SA	South Africa
SADC	South African Development Community
SAWG	South African CSO Working Group on SDGs (SAWG)
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
Stats SA	Statistics South Africa
TAC	Treatment Action Campaign
UCT	University of Cape Town
UN	United Nations
US	United States
VNR	Voluntary National Review

Introduction

This annual report for the year 2021 is an opportunity for African Monitor (AM) to share with our partners progress of the work undertaken in 2021. We deemed this year as a chance to reshape the organisation after the global pandemic. We had to pause a little and see where we are in our mission to be the voice of the voiceless and the implications of the pandemic for our work. We had to assess how the pandemic had hindered areas of our work but also reflect on how we could use this experience to build on the future for the organisation and that of networks and civil society to which we are a part. Even though the outbreak of the Covid-19 global pandemic and the death it caused in the entire world were unprecedented, we should equally recognise the quick shift it created towards the use of digital communication and the push to work in one of the harshest lockdowns ever seen worldwide. In addressing or mitigating programme delivery during the lockdown restrictions we adopted an online strategy for working and executing activities. We found that the provision of data to participants a good way of ensuring ensured that all were all able to participate.

Besides the challenges, we are happy to report that we were able to adapt our work plan and timelines to the emerging context without losing focus on our main objectives. In 2022, we will also be embarking on consultations with grassroots communities to understand better the concept of the new social contract. Many stakeholders have been calling for a new social contract.

To support our objective to catalyse delivery of SDGs through the institutionalisation of multi-stakeholder partnerships as SDG advisory bodies our team is working on developing and negotiating a roadmap for the establishment of the national development stakeholder forum. We are also working on developing policies that guide the operationalization of the multistakeholder platforms. We have resolved to also engage parliamentarians considering their place in policymaking. With regards to strengthening the National Voluntary Reviews by ensuring citizens' participation in the VNR process supported by citizen-generated data, we will be working with Statistics SA in coordinating the CSOs to make sure that they understand the process and can make input. We have also started to conduct a comprehensive review of of the South Africa Working Group (SAWG) achievements and reflect on the trajectory in the last few years; identify the capacity strengths and gaps of Community-based organisations and build their capacity, we will carry on training members to align their programmes and frame local advocacy agendas with the SDGs; we want to ensure citizens and CSOs participation.



Ms Namhla Mniki, convenor of the Open SDGs Club, at the launch of the 2020 SDG club report

About African Monitor

African Monitor (AM) was founded in 2006 as an independent Pan-African continental body to monitor development commitments, delivery as well as the impact on grassroots communities. AM is registered as a not-for-profit organisation in SA with PBO Status and works towards bringing strong additional African voices to the development agenda, by making sure that citizens have the capacity, platforms and opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. Its 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 is entrenched. The organisation focuses on mobilising the grassroots to be at the centre of development policy and practice.

Development initiatives in Africa tend to be top-down in conception, with grassroots communities treated as passive recipients in their interventions. This has led to a mismatch between development interventions and grassroots needs, reducing the impact of such interventions and threatening their long-term sustainability. African Monitor champions accelerated delivery of a people-centred, action-focussed sustainable development agenda in Africa.

Board of Trustees

- Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane, retired Anglican Church Bishop in South Africa (SA).
- Rev Ndaba Mazabane, Outreach & Missions Pastor at Rosebank Union Church and Chairperson of World Evangelical Alliance in SA.
- Ms Grace Kaimila-Kanjo, Senior Capacity Building Advisor at Public Health Institute in SA.
- Ms Mitra Deliri Sabet, Executive Director of Chipua, the Institute for Social Transformation in Tanzania.
- Dr Alioune Sall, Founder and Executive Director at African Futures Institute in SA.
- Professor Penda Mbow, Lecturer at the Université Cheikh Anta Diop in Senegal and President of Mouvement Citoyen.
- Judge Leona Theron, Judge of the Supreme Court of Appeal in SA.
- Advocate Dumisa Buhle Ntsebeza, practises in the Johannesburg Bar and former member of the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) in SA.
- Dr Rev Samuel Beja, Director of Medical Services at the Department of Health in the Eastern Cape Province, SA.
- Rev Ishmael Noko, Founder and President of the Interfaith Action for Peace in Africa and CEO of The Luther Varsity in Southern Africa (LUSA) in SA

What we aim to achieve

AM work in 2021 focused on the following objectives:

- Objective 1: Activating citizen engagements (marginalised and excluded groups) to galvanise political commitment and influence policy towards accelerated implementation of SDGs)
- Objective 2: Create space and facilitate a multi-stakeholder dialogue to develop a shared understanding and accelerated delivery of SDGs
- Objective 3: To catalyse the delivery of SDGs through the institutionalisation of multi-stakeholder partnerships as SDG Advisory Bodies
- Objective 4: To strengthen the National Voluntary Reviews by ensuring citizens' participation in the VNR process is supported by citizen-generated data.

With the support of our key partners, African Monitor worked in promoting the accelerated implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Africa; ensuring that people are at the centre of the implementation agenda through four initiatives:

- Support SDGs Community Working Groups
- Convene the Annual Open SDGs Club, South Africa Symposium
- Supporting the establishment of the National SDGs Advisory Body
- Strengthen the National Voluntary Reviews by ensuring citizens' participation in the VNR process.



Joseph Eliabson Maniragena, AM Senior Programmes Coordinator opening the webinar on the topic “Towards a New Social compact on ending poverty and building resilient livelihoods”.

Progress and Achievements in 2021

Objective 1: Activating citizen engagements (organization and excluded groups) to galvanise political commitment and influence policy towards accelerated implementation of SDGs. Mapping of the Community-based organization (CBOs) for implementation of SDGs

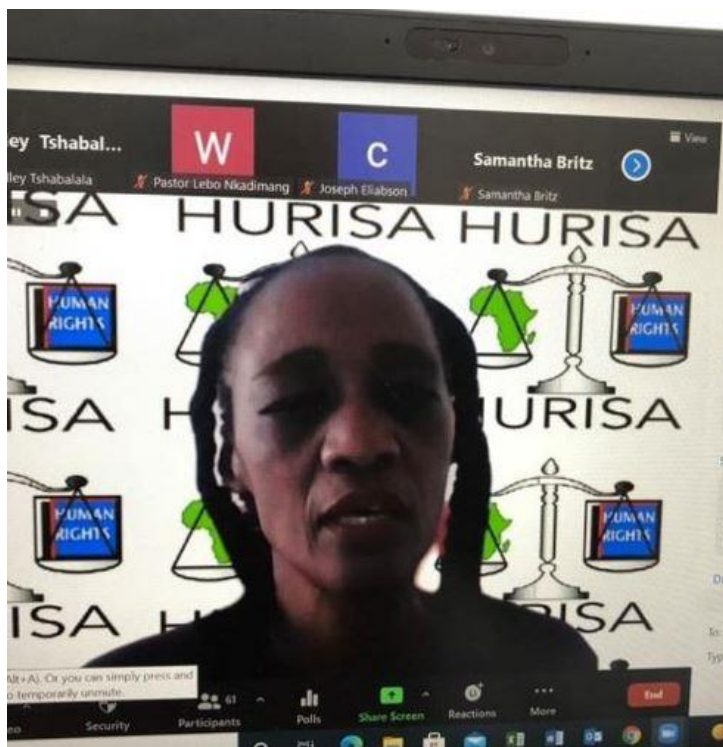
- The South Africa Working Group on SDGs (SAWG) whose secretariat is hosted at African Monitor partners with local community organizations to achieve development objectives in South Africa. The organizations operate in different themes and sectors. New ones include Mining Affected Communities United in Action (MACUA), Passover Community Organisation, Mpelelele Ngwana Mosadi, Kids with No Legs, and Hands on Bafazi. They join Leratong Child Rescue and Advisory Centre based in Kattlehong, Gauteng; The Tafelsig community located in Mitchells Plain in Western Cape and the Omang Youth Development based in Kuruman, in the Joe Morolong municipality in Northern Cape. These organisations have been identified as they work on selected SDGs at the grassroots level. Including grassroots communities in the SAWG is making sure that the SDG's principle of leaving no one behind is respected.
- In the same spirit of “leaving, no one behind” we have been able to recruit faith leaders working on development issues so that their views are also part of the dialogues. Discussions are at an advanced stage with their umbrella network whereby more than seventy pastors from various denominations will be taking part in dialogues being organized.
- Mobilising South African youth for Global week to act for SDGs
- African Monitor participation at the High-Level Political Forum 2021 (HLPF 2021)
- Multistakeholder Dialogue on the New Social Compact
- Forming partnerships and working groups for each policy area to lead to the discussions/ 4 thematic working groups set up among members of SAWG.

Objective 2: Create space and facilitate a multi-stakeholder dialogue to develop a shared understanding and develop a common pathway for accelerated delivery of SDGs. Launch of the Open SDGs Symposium South Africa Reports 2020

On 16 July 2021, the SAWG hosted a webinar to launch the 2020 Open SDGs Symposium report. The virtual event shared insights and outcomes of the Open SDG South Africa 2020 that took place in November 2020 and the relevance of the proposed building blocks and policy options to kick-start advocacy and influencing drive based on the Open SDG Symposium South Africa 2020 outcomes call for action. The launch was attended by more than 86 participants from civil society, business, government, the labour movement and Chapter 9 institutions.

Speakers included among others

- **Ms Sixolile Ngcobo**, Western Cape Commission for Gender Equality
- **Ms Stefanie Chetty**, Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
- **Mr Oli Henman**, Action for Sustainable Development
- **Dr Janet Munakamwe**, African Diaspora Workers Network
- **Pastor Lebogang Nkadamang**, Director at Omang Youth Development in the Northern Cape)
- **Dr Kefiloe Masiteng**, National Planning Commission
- **Dr Dineo Seabe**, Multi-Stakeholders Partnership Expert (Post-Doctoral Researcher)
- **Mr Matthew Parks**, Congress of South African Trade Unions
- **Ms Corlett Letlojane**, Human Rights Institute of South Africa (HURISA)
- **Mr Yared Tsegay** (African Monitor)



Ms **Corlett** Letlojane, Executive Director of the Human Rights Institute South Africa (HURISA) speaking at the dialogue on poverty alleviation.

The attendees agreed on the following immediate actions:

- Engage communities – the violence in the last few days has been overwhelming to law enforcement. However, some communities organized themselves and played a role in stopping the looting. It was agreed that the SAWG will have to reach out to these communities and engage them and educate them about the duty and responsibility expected from the government and the significant role of local government.
- Need to focus and understand the connection between the security risks and the vulnerability issues - need to simplify goal 16 on promoting peace, law, order, and justice. SAWG needs to organize dialogues and encourage citizens at the local level that are standing up to occupy a big role in facilities where there are riots and looting.
- Call for action - We need to have a call to action in terms of the implementation of the SDGs but focusing on their vulnerability to bring life to this idea of leaving no one behind
- Increase engagements between local government and communities - Communities can engage local government through readily available ways, which is through the integrated open development framework that empowers active communities.

Objective 3: to catalyse the delivery of SDGs through the organization of multi-stakeholder partnerships as SDG Advisory Bodies. A roadmap to Institutionalise the National Development Stakeholders Forum (NDSF) to catalyse the progress on SDGs in South Africa

In 2020, in consultation with the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME), and the Department of Environment, Forestry, and Fisheries (DAFF), African Monitor developed a proposal on key principles and modalities for establishing the NDSF. The proposal was developed based on the consultation of key stakeholders from the labour movement, civil society, private sector, and academia; this was endorsed at the Open SDG Club South Africa 2020.

This exercise aimed to undertake a study and consult stakeholders to formulate an evidence-based proposal on modalities and key principles for a National Development Stakeholders Forum on SDGs in South Africa.

To achieve the stated objective, the project has been informed by the following guiding questions:

- What challenges will the MSP be addressing within the context of having an effective institutional architecture to ensure the accelerated delivery of SDGs?
- What role can the MSP play in achieving the objectives of the National Coordination Mechanisms and ensuring the meeting of the targets for Agenda 2030? What will be the scope of the work of the MSP as a governance mechanism in achieving the SDGs?
- What is the accountability, governance and operational mechanism that should be in place for the MSP to function effectively and in a participatory and representative manner? And which principles should underlie its work to ensure the platform is participatory and representative?
- What enabling political, legislative, and administrative environment would be required for the MSP to effectively function and fulfil its objectives? Does the South African context provide such an enabling environment?

Objective 4: To strengthen the National Voluntary Reviews by ensuring citizens' participation in the VNR process is supported by citizen-generated data.

South Africa, through the 2019 Voluntary National Review (VNR), has identified critical intervention areas and introduced a new institutional architecture. The critical interventions include ensuring the availability and use of disaggregated data; addressing corruption; improving employment opportunities for the most vulnerable; discriminated sectors in society; strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships; eliminating gender inequalities and gender-based violence; and gauging the impact of the 4th Industrial Revolution. The critical areas identified in the VNR are further reflected upon a review of Economic progress towards the national development plan's vision 2030- recommendations for course correction and addressed through medium terms strategic framework 2019- 2014 and sectoral policies and programmes.

Furthermore, the 2019 VNR highlighted that deepening progress and making headway against our challenges requires more enhanced stakeholder engagements and partnerships and where necessary, social compacts. It has identified critical areas which need to be addressed in the medium term. Achieving the SDGs is therefore in South Africa's best interest as the country pursues the vision of the Constitution of a united, non-racial, non-sexist, and prosperous nation, at peace with itself and the rest of the world.

As CSOs we conducted a review of the 2019 VNR which assisted the government and its developmental partners in understanding the impact of policies and programmes toward realising sustainable development and the considerable developmental challenges that remain. One of the shortcomings highlighted was the need to improve multi-stakeholder engagement and the government promised that this will be addressed. As part of making sure implementation of the SDGs takes place, a national coordinating mechanism (an institutional framework for the coordination of sustainable development) has been established by the cabinet for national engagements and reporting on the 2030 Agenda, but its institutionalisation and its operationalisation have not been affected almost eight years after the SDGs were agreed upon. South Africa is conducting another Voluntary National Review (VNR) in 2024 instead of 2022 as previously communicated. As CSOs we have started to organise ourselves to effectively participate in the VNR 2024 processes, and this is where our work becomes relevant. VNR processes provide opportunities for CSOs to engage with different government departments and provide access to key actors in the development sector. It is also an opportune moment for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in South Africa to be propositional to the government on the institutionalisation of NSDF. It is pertinent therefore that before we start engaging in the process of VNR 2024 we had to assess critical areas identified in the VNR 2019 so that they can guide us in the process of VNR 2024. The idea is that VNR 2024 will go beyond public consultations rather than provide clear outcomes of civil society

feedback on the SDGs implementation. An enabling environment for SDGs implementation should include a holistic approach that is inclusive to all stakeholders and the implementation of policies that facilitate such participation.

Under this objective, our team also took part in various Voluntary National Review (VNR) presentations for learning purposes. Opening of the High-level Segment of the Ministerial Segment of HLPF ECOSOC President Akram opened the High-level Segment on Tuesday, 13 July, noting the ministerial segment is an opportunity to demonstrate international solidarity and cooperation. UN Deputy Secretary-General Ms Amina Mohammed opened the VNR presentations. She said VNRs have become a centrepiece of the HLPF. Among African countries that presented in 2021 include among others: Angola, Cape Verde, Chad, Egypt, Madagascar, Namibia, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe.

Among their various presentations, we noted the following key VNR priorities from our fellow African countries:

- Most presentations confirmed that addressing economic and social challenges requires the development of a capable and effective State with sound institutions that are prepared to deal with emerging and various challenges
- Leaving no one behind principle should be the focus of any intervention to achieving the SDGs on a local level, addressing inequality, and focusing on the most vulnerable
- Highly indebted and vulnerable countries require alternative, non-traditional mechanisms and indicators for accessing development financing
- There is a need for capacity-building support targeting civil society to enhance and broaden participation in the implementation as well as for CSO to be able to monitor the implementation
- Investments in good governance, gender equality and human rights, reproductive health, and the development of human capital.
- Countries need to align national and sub-national strategies and policies to achieve the SDGs.

Among the recommendations and key takeaways of the HLPF 2021, it was noted that countries are moving further away from the Global goals. COVID-19 also brought much-needed attention to the digital divide and its increasing role in either separating or bringing together the “haves and have-nots.” This was particularly apparent in discussions on education, where only those with internet access were able to continue their schooling. Many, particularly girls, may never return to school, contributing to a surge in child marriage. This corroborated with African Monitor Open SDGs community Dialogue report conducted in 2020 which found that communities in South Africa with limited access to infrastructural services such as ICT infrastructure, housing and community facilities, water and sanitation, and transport, have been adversely impacted by Covid-19. This manifested itself in the deepening of the digital divide, whereby the lack of access to digital platforms and technology perpetuated the cycle of exclusion and poverty. The AM report added that these impacted families significantly, especially lower-income families with no or little access to the internet, data, DSTv and electricity. A participant from Kuruman stated: “Government promised programmes but didn’t deliver.” Due to the DSTv subscription fees, many learners were excluded, and parents were angered, saying it was unfair and not well thought out.

African Monitor 2021 Highlights

- Launch of the SDG 2020 symposium report – AM was able to launch the 2020 report on 16 July to kick start the work for SAWG for the year 2021. The event was attended by more than 85 people and there was a lot of engagement between government officials and grassroots communities. The event was able to tackle pressing issues including gender-based violence, poverty and the social unrest that was taking place at the time. The stakeholders also shared what is needed to have an inclusive stakeholder forum.
- There has been increased participation from community-based organisations in dialogues due to the work AM is doing to galvanise support.
- Hosting the global week and dialogue on poverty eradication in September 2021 and most importantly the way we mobilised young people to raise their awareness of SDGs and then demand the implementation of the SDGs.
- In September 2021, we were invited by the Presidency to contribute to their consultations with civil society that will lead to the development of the new South African anti-poverty strategy. This consultative process is led by an inter-agency government and Civil Society task-team made up of the Presidency, the National Planning Commission, the National Treasury, and the Department of Social Development. As AM we mobilised other CSOs to participate and contributed on behalf of other CSOs and grassroots communities.
- We have managed to re-organise the SAWG after a slow pace of activities due to Covid 19 which negatively affected many of our members.
- Publication of a study-themed South Africa: Promising preconditions calling for recognition and a roadmap that features AM work on MSP published by The Partnering Initiative (TPI) in cooperation with Global Forum for National

SDG Advisory Bodies. The study takes a fascinating look at the policy processes and stakeholders involved in seven countries including South Africa. the <https://www.africanmonitor.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Global-Forum-Study-Pieces-of-a-Puzzle-March-2022.pdf>

Challenges

Some of the challenges identified in 2021 include among others:

- Inevitably, the COVID-19 continual situation and the lockdowns that followed greatly affected the way we operate. Many of our partners also were affected such as businesses, Churches, and fellow civil society organisations with whom we normally work to implement most of our activities.
- Unforeseen events such as the social unrest in South Africa in July 2021 affected some of the decisions around the activities and the issues the group needs to focus on.
- The national lockdowns led many organisations to either decrease activity or close down due to a lack of funding including some of our key partners and others that are members of the SAWG
- Schools and religious institutions were closed temporarily due to the national lockdowns, leading to projects like the consultation with the grassroots to halt activity.
- Load shedding also affected our work and even the attendance to many of our events of our participants as it impacted the network as well as the organisations with which we work.
- The rapid needs in programme activities (responding to unrest; contributing to various policy discussions and engagements) are impacting the organisation's capacity to deliver effectively especially since the organisation is operating with a minimal funding budget. AM's capacity to respond to demands from its working environment is being tested on available organisational resources and capacity.

Financial Overview

African Monitor Trust

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 28 February 2021

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 2021

	Note(s)	2021 R	2020 R
ASSETS			
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	2	30,800	33,857
Current Assets			
Trade and other receivables	3	-	104,110
Cash and cash equivalents	4	73,694	298,942
		73,694	403,052
Total Assets		104,494	436,909
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
EQUITY			
Trust capital	5	100	100
Accumulated surplus		86,567	40,182
		86,667	40,282
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	6	17,827	396,627
Total Equity and Liabilities		104,494	436,909

African Monitor Trust

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 28 February 2021

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	Note(s)	2021 R	2020 R
Revenue	7	1,743,502	3,103,187
Project expenses	8	(1,634,757)	(3,572,621)
Gross surplus (deficit)		108,745	(469,434)
Other income	9	274,699	165,452
Operating expenses		(346,842)	(388,611)
Operating surplus (deficit)	10	36,602	(692,593)
Investment revenue		9,794	13,463
Finance costs		(11)	(2,628)
Surplus (deficit) for the year		46,385	(681,758)
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income (loss) for the year		46,385	(681,758)

African Monitor Trust

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 28 February 2021

DETAILED INCOME STATEMENT

	Note(s)	2021 R	2020 R
REVENUE			
Open Society Initiative of Southern Africa		-	1,023,045
CIVICUS		-	34,000
World Fair Trade Organization		22,500	-
Deutsche Gesellschaft Für Internationale Zusammenarbeit		1,181,002	1,450,139
Miscellaneous other revenue		140,000	-
United Nations Women		-	196,003
ABSA Bank		400,000	400,000
	7	1,743,502	3,103,187
DIRECT COSTS			
Project expenses		(1,634,757)	(3,572,621)
Gross surplus (deficit)		108,745	(469,434)
OTHER INCOME			
Other income		274,699	165,452
Expenses (Refer to page 19)		(346,842)	(388,611)
Operating surplus (deficit)	10	36,602	(692,593)
Investment income		9,794	13,463
Finance costs		(11)	(2,628)
		9,783	10,835
Surplus (deficit) for the year		46,385	(681,758)

Funders and Development Partners

We thank the following donors and our development partners who generously supported and made AM's work possible this year.

- ABSA Bank, South Africa
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- German Council for Sustainable Development (RNE)

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To all our staff members, associates and consultants, interns, partners and volunteers: every idea shared, and every opportunity seized by you helped us achieve the heights we reached. Thank you for your efforts, commitment and hard work!