

African Monitor



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

AFRICAN MONITOR

Email: media@africanmonitor.org

Tel: +27 21 461 4069

Website: www.africanmonitor.org

62 Sir Lowry Rd, Woodstock, 7925



This annual report summarizes key results achieved through programme activities and African monitor's (am) initiatives in 2018. 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. 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.

1. HEAR OUR VOICES: Key Findings from Citizens Report

1.1. Introduction

In 2017 African Monitor dreamt the impossible. It was the idea that citizens can hold their governments accountable for delivery of development outcomes if they are equipped with capacity to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) using citizen generated data. The idea that once collected, data by citizens would become a powerful tool through which ordinary people are empowered to engage with their own governments as part of the monitoring and review agenda for the SDGs. The hope behind this dream was to disrupt the governance architecture in Africa, so that citizens are no longer held hostage by unaccountable governments; consequently, suffering under-development and exclusion. Rather to reinstate governance systems where leaders serve their communities and prioritise their needs in an open society.

Through Citizens Report, a programme successfully launched in 2017 with the support of Open Society Initiative Southern Africa and West Africa, African Monitor has begun to achieve this ambitious goal. Thirty-five youth champions collected citizen-generated data in 7 African countries¹ after they gained extensive research skills through focussed training.

The key findings from this data demonstrates three underlying challenges, which have been identified as core messages:

¹ Botswana, Zambia, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Ghana, Nigeria.

FREE BASIC SERVICES ARE NOT FREE! Evidence shows that when you are poor, it costs money, time and dignity to access free services. Sometimes this includes costs associated to schooling, such as parent fees, chalk fees, etc. In some cases, there were even reports that children had to leave school as a result of this. In other cases, community members indicated that they had to pay bribes or exchange a service with a sexual favours.	DATA CAN TELL LIES ABOUT THE POOR! In some cases, we found that the evidence reflected by official data was not supported by citizen generated data. For instance, according to official statistics, the average %age of unemployment in the participating countries is 7.5%; whereas interviewed households across all seven countries were consistently stating that unemployment is at least 50%.	LEAVE NO-ONE BEHIND IS A PIPE DREAM The premise of the SDGs is that the poor will be prioritised in the delivery of the SDGs by being targeted first, their programmes being prioritised, and their households being targeted accurately. Evidence from Citizens Report shows that when it comes to social protection systems, and income generating initiatives for instance; the poorest of the poor are unable to access these programmes.
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1.2. What were the findings for each of the Goals?

	In the 21 communities interviewed, high levels of poverty were observed. People rely on self-employment in the informal sector, as well as smallholder farming. Ownership of productive asset is limited; as is availability and accessibility of social assistance to reduce poverty. When the data is disaggregated on gender and age, it becomes clear that female headed households are significantly more affected than their male counterparts.
	The success story of high enrolment rates at schools to correspond to higher completion rates would be determined by factors such as distance to school, availability of school materials such as text books, quality of teachers, and class size. Citizens Report data shows that even though at policy levels education is free; in practice some form of payment is still required from the households. These come in the form of costs of stationary, books, uniforms, transport, etc, which are still demanded by the school. These have a prohibitive effect on access and successful completion of schooling. Again, female-headed households are more affected, as they showed a greater number of out-of-school children.

	The citizens survey measured unpaid domestic work, as well as conducted gender and age disaggregation across goals 1, 4, 8, and 16. In all 21 communities, female-heads of households spend significantly more time on unpaid domestic work. Similarly, girls under the age of 18 spend more time on domestic work as compared to boys under the age of 18. Data disaggregated in gender of head of household shows that female-headed households have (i) less members of the household members that are engaged in productive activities, (ii) have less asset ownership, (iii) have more children who are out of school, (iv) have less sense of safety in their communities and (v) have lower public participation. Across all the indicators measured, women and girls enjoy less development benefits than their male counterparts.
	High-level of youth unemployment is apparent across all the localities in the seven countries. Furthermore, national youth unemployment statistics do not seem to correspond to unemployment perception in the communities that participated in the citizen's hearings. The programmes around youth employment such as school to work transition and skills development programmes, are in demand in those communities. Across countries the survey revealed that most young people are not employed, youth are engaged on some form of self-employment, and attending school or training or internships, with very few fully employed. Across countries there are various employment creation initiatives (public works programme, small business training and support, small scale agriculture inputs, public sector employment, internship or apprenticeship, government employment or employment guarantee programs, community services, unemployment and disability insurance). However, these initiatives have limited reach and do not satisfy the demand for such services among the poor.
	Data was collected across 21 communities on community safety, public participation, corruption and satisfaction on service delivery. There was great concern on community safety in rural, peri-urban and urban areas. For instance, as much as 81% of respondents in Gaborone West feel unsafe during the night. There were significantly higher female-headed households who experienced this sense of lack of safety. There is also limited public participation. For instance, in Zambia the data from the citizen's survey shows that only 20% in Chongwe, 12% in Kabwe and 2% of the respondents in Chingola indicated that they were invited to consultations by their government. In Nigeria also, the data shows that in the three localities, the level of public participation is very low. Only 0.5% of respondents in Gbopa, 5% in Moro and 7% in Ugehelli indicated that they have been invited to government engagement in the last 12 months. Satisfaction with public service delivery was also low in most cases. For instance, data from Citizens Survey on public participation in Malawi shows that while in Balaka more than 65% of the respondents expressed satisfaction on service quality, in Lilongwe and Rumphi, only 36% and 34% expresses satisfaction with quality of public services. This also shows a rural/urban divide in satisfaction levels.

2. ENGAGING FOR CHANGE: A People Led Advocacy Agenda

It is a grave concern that so many of the SDGs are far behind target when measured through a grassroots lens. The data from Citizens Report highlighted fairly significant gaps in the delivery system; which necessitated the Citizens Report youth champions to engage extensively with their governments in order to share the findings and pave a way for improved delivery of the SDGs. The section below highlights key activities conducted by youth champions to disseminate the findings of the study in their countries.

The second and third objectives of the Citizen Report initiative was to facilitate policy change and improved delivery by providing targeted support to enable national CSO SDG Forums and youth champions to engage with their governments and other stakeholders. Various activities were undertaken to facilitate policy change and promote citizen-led review of the SDGs both at national and regional levels. Some of the activities at the country level included AM country teams engaging policy makers, making submissions on various platforms, as well as organising events at sub-national, national and regional levels.

2.1. Regional Advocacy:

The highlight of the regional advocacy work has been the presentation of the Citizens Report to Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations; where one of our youth champions explained the significant role of young people in the review of the SDGs using citizen generated data.

The outcomes of Citizens Report were launched in Ghana at the Africa Youth SDG Summit. It is in the same meeting that the Citizens Report methodology was endorsed by the Presidency of Ghana, which was represented by the Senior Advisor to the President on SDGs.

The outcomes of Citizens Report were also presented in Rwanda at a meeting of Southern and East African National Statistical Agencies, organised by UN Women. At this meeting the CR methodology was endorsed by statistical offices from Ethiopia, Malawi, Uganda, and Kenya.

Two other partners that have endorsed the programme is UN Women East and Southern Africa, as well as GIZ – both of whom will support scaling up this work in East Africa and in South Africa respectively.

The outcome of all of the above activities is that the concept of citizen driven data as a monitoring mechanism for evaluating SDG implementation is increasingly being adopted by key institutions, including national statistical agencies as well as the UN System.

2.2. National Advocacy:

Regional advocacy was further fuelled by advocacy and influencing activities taking place at a national level. Below are advocacy profiles and activities for each of the seven countries. TEAM GHANA ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS	
Major Achievements: In Ghana the Citizens Report methodology was endorsed by the Presidency as well as the National Statistical Commission. A commitment was made by the Presidency to include the findings in the national review report of 2019.	
Events hosted & attended:	
Some of the events the CR team hosted and participated in include:	

- Citizens Forum on the SDGs held on the 29th August 2018 convened by the CR Ghana Team; bringing together over 100 people in the CSOs Platform on the SDGs, Members of Parliament, Municipal Chief Executives, Ghana Health Service and Ghana Education Service, National Commission for Civic Education, ordinary citizens etc from all the 3 municipal project areas to disseminate the key findings from the CR. The municipal Chief Executives, representative of the Member of Parliament and others present showed high appreciation of the findings from the CR. Below is the link to publication on modern Ghana

<https://www.modernghana.com/news/879045/yag-holds-forum-on-sdgs-at-nsawam-adoagyiri.html>

- The launch of Government of Ghana's SDGs Baseline Report held on the 6th September 2018, is where our Youth Champions participated in the launch of Government of Ghana's SDGs Baseline Report to ensure effective implementation of the SDGs in Ghana. The report set a selection of indicators that serve as basis for monitoring and tracking of progress towards achieving the SDGs and it was highlighted that effective planning, regular tracking and reporting on the SDGs progress require accurate and reliable data like the Citizen Report.
- Other national platforms our youth champion participated in include 3rd Anniversary of the SDGs Celebration, the Adolescent Health Ambassadors Camp, the National Dialogue on Education Policy, the Activista Greater Accra Regional Launch, Cultural Biodiversity Week, and The Colab489 which took place in Aubervillier. Emmanuel Clifford Gyetuah participated in the Global Solvers Co-Lab489 UN-Limited at Aubervilliers, France from 22-27 September 2018. The Citizens Report (CR) project was selected as one of the key SDG projects to be presented. His presentation focused on sharing the project concept with participants and also demonstrating how young people are leading such data innovation process with highlight on some key issues (SDG 4 & 8).

Media appearances:

- Our partner in Ghana in partnership with Action Aid Ghana's Global Platform hosted a tweet-a-thorn and Facebook LIVE chat on 13th August 2018 to commemorate the celebration of International Youth Day under the theme Safe Spaces for young people. This online activity featured some key issues from CR and reached over 10,000 young people on Facebook and twitter.
- Interview at Radio Emeshie 105.1 at Pokuase-Amasaman which took place on 18th August 2018. Youth Champions Ellen Lindsey Awuku, Francis Ametepey and Pamela Owusu Afful had a radio interaction to discuss the key findings from the Citizens Report. The radio is estimated to reach over 100,000 people in the Amasaman Municipality in Greater Accra Region of Ghana.
- On the 24th August 2018. Youth Champion Francis Ametepey and Emmanuel Clifford Gyetuah joined the morning show discussion at Pan African TV. Pan African TV morning show is a popular morning show in Ghana. They discussed the findings from the citizens Report and had a call on government to action findings from the data. Watch full interview via <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ieoMfRQW8IU&t=38s>
- Links containing some other useful media coverage:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HXNCE1RoOpU>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pxR7s91cXcY&t=27s>
 - <https://ecgyetuah.blogspot.com/2018/10/grassroots-hub-sends-3-representatives.html>

Overall assessment of the project:

Emmanuel Clifford, the CR project coordinator in Ghana says that

"The first phase of the CR project has generally been impressive especially the professional experience and impact on the young people that implemented the project in Ghana. Apart from that, the report findings and its methodology has always been considered by Civil Society players as well as some government officials and even the UN agencies as one of the best approaches to monitor the implementation of the SDGs."

"The CR gave ordinary people opportunity to express their views on key developmental issues and how their voices can help improve service delivery and development outcomes at the grassroot level. The CR is a good

example of how young people when empowered to be agents of change, can become active drivers of the Sustainable Development Goals.”

In the next phase of the project, they would like to visit the Northern Regions of Ghana which are considered the poorest regions in Ghana to generate critical voices which can inform national level advocacy. In terms of recommendations, Team Ghana requested if there could be more opportunities to build the capacity of the youth champions in communication, policy advocacy, storytelling and general understanding of global policy frameworks.

TEAM SIERRA LEONE

ADVOCACY PROFILE



Major achievements:

In Sierra Leone, the Citizens Report has been welcomed by the Minister of Economic Planning and Development as well as the youth commission. Furthermore, a parliamentary action group has been established to sustain engagement with parliament around the SDGs.

Events hosted & attended:

Multi-stakeholder engagement:

- The team in Sierra Leone organised a National Dialogue on SDGs, as well as a Consultative Forum on SDGs, with participants from youth groups, students, local NGOs and faith-based leaders. Important to note from the dialogue sessions was the following:
- Both communities and key government officials are not informed about the SDGs and there is a significant need for a communications campaign that ordinary citizens can understand.
- The need to localise the SDGs also points to the need to make the aspirations of the SDGs become real to local communities, households and individuals, particularly the most vulnerable.
- Government should promote the quick publication of a SDGs national action plan and national targets. Subsequently, institutional annual corporate plans should systematically include references to SDGs to ensure a synchronized approach. This would require the implementing/coordinating agency to establish a partnership as soon as practically possible with the agency that currently tracks progress indicators for the national development plan or strategy. And Strengthen interaction, cooperation and information exchanges with key stakeholders in Government, private sector and civil society.

CSO Engagement:

- A third consultation was with the National CSO forum on SDG's Implementation in Sierra Leone {Coalition 2030} with representatives from OSIWA, Trocaire, Caritas Sierra Leone, Sight Savers, CAFOD, Civil Society Movement, Handicap International, Action Aid, Council of Churches in Sierra Leone. CSOs committed to agitate for more political work from government to act; as well as improved support from the donor community.

- The SL team has developed a very good working relationship with religious leaders and this has led Church authority's commitment to reach out to their congregation who constitutes a critical mass of society. The team held a working discussion with the President of Sierra Leone Bishops Conference, His Lordship Bishop Charles Campbell to ensure participation of religious leaders in the implementation of the SDGs.

Bilateral meetings held with government officials:

- The SL team met with Youth ministry/ Youth Commission and briefed them on major findings resulting from the Citizen Report, where the youth commission showed strong commitment to localise the SDGs. Agreement was reached that national action would focus on engaging youth, developing standardised morning systems, and ensuring that there is ongoing tracking of the SDGs.
- Youth Champions also met with the Minister of Economic Planning and Development, Madam Nabella Tunis. The team presented the CR report and requested the Ministry for increased funding and improved beneficiary identification mechanism in social assistance programmes in order to reach large number of poor and vulnerable households across the country. The discussion also touched on how the Ministry could develop an SDG-related budget analysis tool for monitoring of national initiatives on the SDGs. The outcome of this meeting led to the Ministry agreeing that for now the Coalition 2030 should be involved in the National Development planning process.
- The SL team had also engagement with the Parliament in order to form the Parliamentary action group. Key contact included Members of Parliament in the Committee of Development and the Committee Clerk Mr. Mohamed Deen Rogers. The project was welcomed by Members of Parliament (MPs) and an Action Plan was discussed to provide clear steps on the way forward early next year, which included the establishment of a parliamentary action plan.

Media appearances:

- The team presented the findings of Citizens Report on a national TV station as well as radio.

Overall assessment of the project:

Tamba Augustine Allieu, one of the volunteers from SL said *"Working in local communities on the implementation of the Sustainable Goals in Sierra Leone has been a challenging but wonderful encounter. Most importantly, it came out clearly that life in the rural setting has been very difficult but if rational actions are taken, there is possibility of it attaining the goals following the readiness and willingness of respondents."*

Sierra Leone is part of the 2019 Voluntary National Review of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable and the team wants to engage government to include the Citizen Report in their reporting.

Furthermore, during a dialogue with the Minister of Economic Planning and Development, she stated,

"I was part of Civil Society before my appointment, I have huge interest in the operations of Civil Society Groups because I believe they create the space for the inclusion of every facet of society. I want to congratulate you for the job you are doing and let me assure you of my support and by extension the Government of Sierra Leone. My ministry is open to you always".

TEAM NIGERIA ADVOCACY PROFILE	
Major achievements: One of the major successes of Citizens Report in Nigeria is the emergence of a group of highly committed young people who have now dedicated even their careers to the achievement of sustainable development in Nigeria and Africa.	
Events hosted & attended:	
Multi-stakeholder dialogues: • A National Dialogue on SDGs was organised at Ostra Hall, Ikeja in Lagos State, On August 28, 2018, which was attended by 51 participants from different sectors of society. The findings of Citizens Report were presented at the national dialogue, and participants noted that institutionalized SDGs multi-stakeholder mechanisms are not yet functional at district and local levels. They agreed that there should be adequate monitoring of the SDGs at all levels of government, including Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDAs). Lastly, there is a need for the government to ensure strengthening and protection of civic space. • Adeola Odunsi, a youth champion, presented the outcomes of Citizens Report to the UNESCO Youth Civic Engagement workshop, where she met other young Nigerians working on SDGs. At the workshop, youth civic engagement was discussed extensively. The outcome of this engagement was that more visibility was created for the Citizens' Report project among Nigerian youths and working relationship strengthened between UNESCO and NNNGO. Bilateral engagements: • The report was presented to Mr. Hugue Ngandeu Ngatta, at the UNESCO regional office, Nigeria. • The CR was also presented to the Senior Research Officer, Research Triangle International (RTI) with a view of introducing the Citizens' report Initiative to stakeholders in development.	
Bilateral meetings held with government officials:	
• The CR report titled "Measuring Society's Progress on the SDGs; a lens from 3 regions in Nigeria" was published in September. • The report was received by the Special Adviser to the Senate President, Mr. Innocent Onah, on behalf of the Senate President. He urged that a more expansive report which captures more communities in the country be carried out in order to better capture the reality of Nigeria.	
Media appearances:	
• The Citizens' Report Team hosted a live broadcast on Splash FM 105.5 to increase visibility and publicity for the project. https://web.facebook.com/search/top/?q=%23citizensreport http://www.nnngo.org/2018/10/10/the-manifestation-of-development-in-everyday-life/	
Overall assessment of the project:	
Hammed Alabi, Youth Champion (Nigeria) had the following reflection about his experience in the project:	

“One of the best things that has ever happened to me is working on the field as a Youth Champion to monitor implementation of the SDGs and adding the voice of ordinary citizens to the development process. Not only did it allow me a lot of reflection, it strengthened my resolve to continue advocating for development issues.”

Oyindamola Aramide, the Project Coordinator in Nigeria believes that The Citizens’ Report Project was a success in Nigeria. It provided an opportunity to get first-hand information from citizens on their experiences with the SDGs and development within their communities. At the presentation of this report to policy makers, the initiative was applauded, and team encouraged building on the momentum of the first phase.

In her opinion, the first phase of the project has created a basis on which a more expansive study could be carried out, with the aim of touching at least one community per state, bearing in mind the population size of Nigeria and the vastness of the country as a whole.

Another highlight of this project is the commitment by young people who worked on it as Youth Champions. We can clearly and confidently say that the CR have shaped a group of change makers who are ready to be part of development of their countries by monitoring the SDGs as Hammed Alabi, Youth Champion from Nigeria said that *“Working on the field has given me a first-hand experience of issues facing our people and has enabled me to advocate for them on several media platforms and tell stories around them.”* Hammed recently travelled by road from Nigeria to Ghana, on his own cost to attend the 2nd African Youth SDGs Forum where he shared his experience with the CR. Hammed has recently been recognised by the UNFP, the Nigeria Youth SDGs Network, Germany and Australian Embassies in Nigeria as one of 50 young change makers in Nigeria.

On her side, Odunsi Adeola, the youth champion from Nigeria who won the Citizen Report essay and video competition says *“in general, these experiences have widened my horizon such that I am now more conversant with the daily realities of the common man. Today, I wake up, more motivated to tackle the challenges of hunger, poverty and underdevelopment through advocacy and public enlightenment.”*

TEAM BOTSWANA ADVOCACY PROFILE	
Major achievements: In Botswana a major success is the fact that the National Statistical Commission has invited the programme to work jointly with the commission to explore expanding the work of Citizens Report to other parts of the country.	
Events hosted & attended: Bilateral meetings: CR Team met with the Resident Coordinator for the United Nations in Botswana who advised that the advocacy be aimed at ensuring that the government produce indicators tailored to the nation’s issues. As a result of this meeting the UNDP youth department is looking at how to partner in raising awareness and on how we can collaborate in their current SDG outreaches.	

- Our youth champions met also with the Public Affairs officer of the US Embassy in Gaborone whom they shared the Citizens report with. Among points discussed is the hosting of a youth roundtable in the SADC region.
- Youth champions also met with numerous community leaders including the Chief of Dukwi and his Village Development Committee; and Ntebaleng Kedumele who is an elder and a member of the Village Development Committee.

Bilateral meetings held with government officials:

- Member of Parliament for Bonnington South, Hon. Ndaba Gaolathe was briefed on the project and paved a way for the Youth Champions to carry it out in one of his constituencies by availing his community champions.
- Member of Parliament Hon. Polson Majaga whose constituency of Nata-Gweta covers Dukwi was consulted by the Youth Champions and was very supportive of the project. He was present for the Citizen Hearings where his constituents got an opportunity to address him.
- Team Botswana has engaged Statistics Botswana and also met with the whole team of Statisticians including the Statistician General Dr Mguni at the National Statistics Office. The Office welcomed the initiative after seeing the results of carrying out the project and has since opened a window for collaborations to replicate the project in other constituencies in order to further validate the findings.
- It is also planned that the Team in Botswana will present the Report to the National Steering Committee on Sustainable Development at the end of Year Meeting. The NSC has representatives from all the government sectors, the Private Sector, the UN Organs, the Office of the President and CSOs.

Media appearances:

In Botswana, The Youth Champions have been part of several television shows on the National Television Station where introduced and shared the findings of citizens report. The shows include the Prime Time Breakfast Show and a Talk Show Called Molemo wa Kgang where issues are discussed in depth.

Overall assessment of the project:



"Working on the Citizen's Report has been an eye-opening experience." Said Thandiwe Majama, a Youth Champion in Botswana.

"I can truly say I have experienced the spirit of 'Botho' that is encapsulated in Botswana's national vision. The highlight of my experience was always how often when I encountered elderly respondents, conversations around the survey would spiral into other conversations about where my home village is and my family. I believe it reflected respondents wish to know more about me as a person and not just the work I was carrying out." Added Thandiwe.

"Our survey results revealed a lot in terms of the unemployment in communities. The most intriguing revelation for me is noticing that very few youths have benefited from public sector employment. The advocacy work starts now" concluded Thandiwe.

TEAM MALAWI ADVOCACY PROFILE	
Major achievements: One of the major achievements in Malawi is that youth champions were able to present the outcomes of the study to the Vice president and Finance Minister; and further secured commitment that certain pro-poor programmes would receive priority. Furthermore, the City of Lilongwe has agreed to take specific steps to ensure that an SDG domestication, implementation and monitoring system is in place at the provincial level. Lastly, one of the youth champions is standing for local government elections after seeing the need for good leadership at the local level.	
Events hosted & attended: - The CR Team in Malawi organised the national dialogue on SDGs; the meeting brought together strategic partners relating to SDGs from government's key ministries including Finance and Economic Development, Office of President and Cabinet, Natural Resources, UNDP, UNFPA, the Council for Non-Governmental Organizations (CONGOMA), Civil Society organizations, youth leaders and the academia. 60 people attended the dialogue. - The objective of the national dialogue was to share findings from citizen hearings on the status of domestication and implementation of SDGs in Malawi and discuss how best they can move forward as a country on SDGs. - The national dialogue agreed among others that in order to fast track the implementation of the SDGs there is need for massive awareness on SDGs to enhance popular participation, strengthen monitoring system and partnerships to speed up achieving SDGs targets.	
Bilateral meetings held with government officials: - Engagement with the Vice President and the Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development: On 20th July 2018 the team in Malawi met with the Vice President of Republic of Malawi, Honourable Saulos Chilima. The VP welcomed the advocacy initiative on domestication, popularization and implementation of the SDGs. He also stressed that his office is available for further engagements with Civil Society Organizations for common good of the citizenry. He assured the gathering that he will push for policy development at cabinet level which would harmonize the SDGs and Malawi Growth and Development Strategy. The VP then challenged all stakeholders together with government to start meaningful investment in youths hence leaving no one behind. - The Minister of Finance committed to lobby for the increase of budgetary allocation of projects that were raised in the Citizen Report at parliament. The team has planned to follow up early next year on these promises. - Youth Champions in Malawi met the Parliamentary Committee on Budget and Finance, on the 27th July 2018. Among the tangible outcome, the committee accepted to lobby for the increase of budgetary allocation of specific programmes at parliament and they assured the youth champions that they will fast-track the SDG decentralization process in all Districts in line with the SDGs theme "leaving no one behind." - Interface meeting with the Lilongwe City Council On the 20th September 2018; this is the city's administrative headquarters where various heads of sections and directorates meet for planning urban programs and implementation. CR team found it a need to engage the council as a central planning entity at city level. In this interface meeting was attended by various sections and directorates including: Director of Planning and Development, Director of Health, Hygiene and Sanitation, Director of Engineering and Director of finance. As part of the outcome of this meeting it was agreed on the following: - Incorporation of SDGs in the Urban Development Plan Strategy - Establishment of SDGs City monitoring team - Establishment of Youth Directorate at City Council hierarchy to ensure youth meaningful inclusion.	

- City Council to partner with the Malawi Police in community policing to address the issue of safety and security - Domestication of SDGs/MDG III should be prioritized as a first step for people to participate in local and national development from an informed point of view
Media appearances: In Malawi the team organized a Media Briefing that was attended by 8 National media houses for radio, TV and Print. They had Zodiak Broadcasting Station, Nation News Pape, Times group, Capital radio, Rainbow TV and the Malawi Broadcasting Cooperation. The media engagement was facilitated with the aim of: Presenting key findings from the Citizen Report; raising awareness about the SDGs; engaging the media on tracking progress of SDGs in Malawi and lobby various stakeholders to buy in the domestication and implementation of SDGs. It is estimated that viewership and listenership of combined media that carried the stories is about 4 million people nation-wide that had a rare opportunity to be informed about SDGs.
Overall assessment of the project: Asked about the impact of the CR, Mr Edward Chileka-Banda who is the Project Coordinator and Focal Point in Malawi says: <i>"I must be honest here, the Citizen Report project is a very critical campaign for the SDGs involving the youth. The youth are central to the achievement of the global goals and Malawi has already benefited a lot from this project."</i> <i>"The project has helped to popularise the SDGs in Malawi and facilitated policy dialogue among stakeholders. More importantly, the project has provided citizens with a unique opportunity to input into the SDG process and provide a picture on the state of domestication and implementation of SDGs", said Banda. "Malawi is one of the poorest countries and will benefit a lot if citizens push government to implement the goals."</i> The Malawi Team wishes to continue with the advocacy work and engage processes on SDGs. The Ministry of Finance has committed to work with the project and the youth champions would like to ensure that government is held accountable. Finally, it is worth mentioning that in Malawi the project has allowed young people to understand better issues facing the communities and they have now decided that they will no longer sit and watch while politicians are not taking them seriously. As they said, it is critical for the youth to be part of the decision making; one of them saw a gap in youth involvement in the decision making and he is now standing for next year parliament election; as he says he was influenced by being part of the CR.

TEAM ZAMBIA ADVOCACY PROFILE	
Major achievements: A major achievement in Zambia is agreement to establish a parliamentary caucus on the SDGs, which will be fully realised in 2019. A number of members of parliament have already committed to support youth champions to motivate for this through parliament.	
Events hosted & attended:	

- On 20th October 2018 a meeting with the Zambia Social Forum took place at the Zambia Social forum secretariat to present CR findings to civil society in Zambia. There was a suggestion for MPs to form MPs caucus on SDGs that will work closely with the Youth Parliament Group on SDGs. Civil society in Zambia envisage forming a loose network with committed MPs from both the ruling party and opposition. A follow up is planned early 2019 to map out plans for next year with them through the office of the clerk of the national assembly and four parliamentarians who have shown their willingness to help start the project.
- A Meeting with Zambia national educational coalition was held to share CR outcomes especially those relating to SDG 4 in order to map out a joint advocacy strategy with the CSO coalition on issues related to education.

Bilateral meetings held with government officials:

- The Zambia team has held two meetings with the director of community development at the Ministry of Community Development and Social welfare to present CR findings. The meeting took place on the 5th July and 10th August 2018 respectively. The ministry noted the reality of the miss-match between policy and what is actually obtaining on the ground; which points to the need to explain and involve the grassroots on policy formulation in order for government programs to succeed and benefit the communities.
- Youth Champions have engaged Members of Parliament for Katuba Constituency in central province, Mandevu Constituency and Kabwata Constituency, and Kanyama constituency. The meetings with the MPs took place on the following dates: Mandevu- 05/08/2018; Kanyama- 08/08/2018; Kabwata- 11/08/2018; Katuba- 14/08/2018 and the following are the names of MPs met:
 - Honourable Given Lubinda-MP Kabwata Constituency, Minister of Justice
 - Honourable Elizabeth Phiri-MP Kanyama Constituency, Minister of Gender
 - Honourable Patricia Mwashingwele, MP Katuba Constituency
 - Honourable Jean Kapata-MP Mandevu constituency, Minister of Lands, Environment and Natural Resources.
- Advocacy letters were sent to the Minister of Finance and the Minister of National Development planning ahead of the Budget presentation in parliament asking them that the budget should prioritize issues raised in the Citizen Report.

Overall assessment of the project:

GCAP Coordinator Mr. Dennis Nyambi says *“My general assessment of the project in Zambia starting from inception to the end of the project is that it has been fairly good despite a few hiccups here and there which are normal in any undertaking. Looking back and reflecting on the events that we encountered in the field both during the hearing with community members and during data capture in the communities, I can happily say the experience was informative, rich and humbling.”*

Dennis added that *“the participation of the youths in the discussions was so enlightening, they brought out real issues that they struggle with daily in their efforts to transform their lives and their communities.*

“It was also sad to see how much we are lagging behind in terms of development as a country. I will take the case for Kabwe which is 2hrs drive from Lusaka and Chongwe which is about 45 minutes from the Capital city. Once you are in these districts and you see the levels of poverty, one can’t believe the levels of inequalities that exist in Zambia when it comes to distributing our nation’s wealth. Some places are forgotten and only come to the minds of the duty bearers when its election time to solicit for votes,” Dennis concluded.

The project in Zambia has increased the levels of awareness among community members on the subject of the sustainable development goals as well as community development in general. *“People are now beginning to realize that they have a right to development as opposed to thinking that when government brings certain initiatives in their area it’s a privilege. They are beginning to realize that they can demand for services to be provided for them.”* Said Cheswa Kapasa, one of the Youth Champions in Zambia. He was recently selected to

represent Zambia at the recent African Youth SDGs Summit that took place in Ghana because of his championing of the SDGs.

Cheswa Kapasa who is the award-winning journalist is also passionate about advocating for the sustainable development goals through TV programs.

Citizens' report has increased the debate on the SDGs and community development in Zambia. The young and the old are now fully engaged and involved on championing their own development. *"I was impressed recently when I attended a community meeting and saw for the first-time people standing up to government and calling on the Minister of Infrastructure to work on their road. The minister in no time released the grader and other equipment and dispatched them to that community to have their roads done."* Said Cheswa.

The benefits of the first phase of the citizen hearing are that there is increased awareness of the SDGs in Zambia and it has also enhanced collaboration and more engagement between the people and their leaders. The country is also benefitting in terms of new data which is generated from the grassroots. In meetings with some government officials and civic leaders our partners feel that there is generally now an appreciation and acceptance of the fact that things must change for the people on the ground. The youth champions are gaining skills in research, advocacy and participatory methods or approaches of working with communities. The project has also enhanced networking opportunities with their colleagues both locally and at the regional level.

"The first phase of the Citizen Report has opened up for us more opportunities of engaging with government on these matters. I am sure moving forward it won't be that challenging to engage government or civic leaders on the SDGs especially with the evidence from our report." Said Dennis Nyambi, the Coordinator of the project in Zambia.



TEAM SENEGAL ADVOCACY PROFILE	
Major achievements:	
The Citizens Report team was able to present the outcomes of the study to various entities in Senegal and in New York, including the UN system who endorsed the project; local government leadership in Dakar; and the UN Office of the Deputy Secretary General.	
Events hosted & attended:	

- On the 24th July 2018, ROJALNU-ODD Senegal launched the The Citizen's Report at the United Nations Headquarters in Senegal. This meeting saw the presence of the entire United Nations System based in Senegal. Different entities committed to the following: The ILO has committed to train youth champions; FAO committed to work with youth through an agricultural youth entrepreneurship programme; the Millennium Promise Alliance offered its partnership on SDG related projects; UNDP committed to partner on the Citizens Report programme; and UNICEF committed to popularize the SDGs through its "Great Lesson of Life" project.
- On 24 September 2018 in New York, the Senegal Citizens Report team represented by Mr Pap Moussa Sow and Mr Seydina Limamou Diop participated in a meeting with the Youth Executive Committee of the UN NGO Office during the UN General Assembly co-chaired by Mr Juan Pablo Celis Garcia and Miss Madison Ross, where they presented the outcomes of Citizens Report in Senegal. Most of interventions suggested that the Citizen's Report initiative should be recognised as a model of ownership for citizens in relation to the implementation of the SDGs.
- On the 25th September 2018, the ROJALNU ODD Senegal delegation participated with the ROJALNU ODD AFRIQUE delegation on a panel discussing the cost of the SDGs at the UN, where the role of citizens in monitoring the SDGs was highlighted. The session was co-facilitated by Ms. Amina Mohamed, under Secretary General of the United Nations in charge of the SDGs.
- On September 27, 2018, ROJALNU Senegal facilitated a panel discussion on youth involvement in popularizing the SDGs at the Bronx University College with student participation. Mr Pap Moussa Sow, Panel facilitator, made presented Citizen's Report as an example of such a project that facilitates youth engagement in the SDGs.

Bilateral meetings held with government officials:

- On the 24th April 2018 our Youth Champions were invited to a sharing meeting on issues related to higher education in Senegal organised by the ARDN (African Renaissance Diaspora Network) and the Ministry of Higher Education in the framework of the SDGs. It was a platform for the ROJALNU-ODD Senegal to present the Citizen's Report specifically on goal 4 to Prof. Teuw NIANE, the Minister of Higher Education and all of the department heads present at this meeting. He noted the value of the work in policy formulation.
- On the 25th April 2018 our team met with the Association of Mayors of Senegal (AMS).The Secretary General of AMS Mr Mbaye Dione received a delegation from the Citizens Report team, who explained how municipalities should be part of the implementation of the SDGs. This association is strategic as it brings together all 552 municipalities. The Secretary General of the AMS expressed interest in the Citizen's Report and said that they are ready to provide its database of all the mayors of the country and a strategic support to commit all of its Mayors to spread the SDGs at the local level for better ownership of local governance actors of the major challenges related to the SDGs.
- On the 9th August 2018 a meeting was held with Mr Jean Baptiste Diouf (Deputy Mayor) of Grand-Dakar (Grand Dakar was one of the three locations where the CR is being implemented). After having received the Citizen's Report presented to him, the Deputy Mayor promised to relook at the municipalities' resources and see how they can better involve those who have been left behind. He recognized that much remains to be done for youth employment, which is a general challenge in Senegal. He reassured the team by committing himself and the mayor to look into the report and see how they can improve on those issues raised in the report. He has also pledged as an MP to advocate for the SDGs in budgeting and to encourage the ministries concerned and his peers to further guide policies towards achieving the SDGs.
- On the 14th August 2018 the team met with the Honorable Déthé Déflié Fall, who is an MP and Deputy President of his party Rewmi. He praised the Citizen's Report and promised to further engage with other parliamentarians on matters related to the SDGs. He also committed to use the Citizen's Report to guide his own interventions during the next plenary sessions of the National Assembly of Senegal during the Budget vote of the year 2019.

Media appearances:

- The team conducted a media tour of Citizen's Report to share outcome of the research conducted. They visited various influential media organizations such as *La RTS -Télévision Nationale : dans l'émission*

matinale kinkeliba, Vibe Radio, Trade FM, La Sénégal TV : site d'information en ligne, and used Les Réseaux sociaux (Facebook, Twitter, Whatsapp etc.).

- This media tour had a significant impact and far exceeded expectations because it attracted interest and enthusiasm from the public, including schools who want to run the programme in their schools; as well as ministries and other civil society organisations. There were also young people from other areas that were not targeted by the project such as Ziguinchor, Kédougou, Tambacounda and Louga who expressed the desire to join the programme for the next phase.

Overall assessment of the project:

The Senegal team reflected that the CR project came just at the right time. Beside the resources which they think were limited comparing to the volume of work needed on the field, they think this project has been successful.

They were overwhelmed to see more young people approaching them to be part of the project on a voluntary basis as well seeing how the UN system as well as leaders have welcomed the project. Their wish is to extend this project so that the seed sown in the first phase can be followed and get concrete results.

Ndeye Bineta Marena, a 27-year-old Youth Champion in Senegal says *“this CR project allowed us first of all to relay the real problems that plague our communities. The experience that struck me the most was that of the ladies of Sokone who try to sell local products to provide for their families. They face enormous difficulties in selling their products; and unfortunately, they have no access to their land or financial resources. These are brave women who get up at the first songs of the rooster to rest after sunset.”*

“It allowed me to know as a young person that it is up to us to develop our Africa, nobody will do it for us. Special mention to all these women and thanks again to African Monitor for this great opportunity.”

3. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK: Implementing model for Citizens Report

African Monitor officially launched the Citizens Report initiative on 2 November 2017, in Accra, Ghana where more than 400 young people from 25 African countries were in attendance. Since then, African Monitor put in place an implementing model to ensure that the tools and methodology for the programme were developed; partners secured; and a strategy for data dissemination implemented.

3.1. Methodology and Tools

- A monitoring framework has been developed based on the concept of citizen-generated data or CGD, defined as “data that people or their organizations produce to directly monitor, demand or drive change on issues that affect them. This can be produced through crowdsourcing mechanisms or citizen reporting initiatives, often organized and managed by civil society groups.”
- The monitoring framework entails two research tools, i.e. a citizen’s survey and citizens hearings, both of which have been developed, tested and validated. Furthermore, a guidelines document has been developed as a resource tool for field workers to conduct citizens hearings.
- A reference group was established that brings together expertise from CSOs, national statistical offices and technical experts made up of the following individuals:
 - Monica Nthiga - Ushahidi Kenya
 - Sandiso Sibisi - Accenture South Africa
 - Hannah Wheatley - CIVICUS Tanzania

- Steve Kenei - Development Initiatives, Kenya
- Aluwani Makuya – Statistics South Africa
- Omar Seidu - Statistics Ghana.
- The reference group served as a technical advisory group to the Citizens Report, providing guidance on practical methodology for citizen generated data to monitor the SDGs, and to validate the research results.
- In its first meeting held in February 2018, the reference group agreed on the criteria for purposive sampling in selecting communities and accepted a sample size 600 per county as sufficient for the purpose; as this sample only needs to represent vulnerable communities. On the second meeting of the reference group held in August, the team reviewed the field work experience and lessons learned; as well as emerging findings from the work done in the seven countries. It has validated both the qualitative and quantitative data generated in the process.
- The fieldwork was conducted in 21 communities, which is composed of 21 citizens hearings and data collection from 200 household per community (4200 household in total). Youth Champions guided by in-country consultants (experts) conducted hearings in rural, peri-urban and urban areas in the seven countries. All citizens hearings were attended by targeted population groups, local stakeholders and community leadership (local chiefs) as well councillors.
- The 21 community research sites are listed in the table below:

Community research sites per country			
Botswana			
District	Sub District	Ward	
South East	Gaborone/ Urban	Extension 7	
Central	Tutume/ peri urban	Boiteko	
Central	Selibe-Phikwe/ Rural	Botshabelo North	
Ghana			
Regions	Municipality/District	Specific Community	
Eastern	Nsawam Adoagyiri Municipality	Sekyikrom	
Central	Awutu Senya East District	Kasoa	
Greater Accra	GA West Municipality	Amasaman	
Malawi			
State / province	District	National Assembly Constituencies (NAC)	Traditional Authority
Southern Region	Balaka	Balaka North Constituency (Boma)	Nsamala
Central Region	Lilongwe City	Lilongwe City North	Chitukula
Northern Region	Rumphi	Rumphi West Constituency	Chikulamayembe
Nigeria			
State / province	District municipality	Local Government area	wards
1.Oyo	Ibadan	Ibadan North	Sabo
2. Delta	Delta	Ughelli North	Ughelli
3. Kwara	Ilorin	Ilorin West	Ajikobi-Adewole
Senegal			
Region / province	Zone	Commune- Arrondissement /district	Wards
Dakar	Dakar / Urban	Grand-Dakar	-
Dakar	Pikine / Peri Urban	Keur Massar	
Fatick	Foundiougne / Rural	Sokone	-
Sierra Leon			
Province	District	Chiefdom	Local Municipality
Southern Province	Bo	Tikonko	Torwama
Northern Province	Bombali	Makari Gbanti	Makeni

Western Area Urban	Freetown Urban	Freetown Urban West	Freetown
Zambia			
State / province	District municipality	District	Ward
Lusaka	Chongwe	Chongwe	Chongwe, Chalmimba,
Central Province	Kabwe	Kabwe	Bwacha, Kabwe central,
Copperbelt Province	Chingola	Chingola	Nchanga, Chingola

Partnership Strategy

Among the 7 countries where the Citizens' Report is being implemented, African Monitor in partnership with our country partners have selected four youth champions and one focal point who will work on the project. A researcher was also secured to provide technical support to the team in each country and a project coordinator appointed. Together the project had 35 youth champions and focal points, among them 18 (51.4%) are female and 17 males (48.5%).

The List of African Monitor partners in 7 countries are:

- Zambia: Civil Society MDG Campaign (CSMDGC/GCAP Zambia)
- Malawi: Eye for Development(EFD)
- Botswana: Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa(YALDA)
- Ghana: Youth Advocates Ghana (YAG)
- Nigeria: Nigeria Network of NGOs (NNNGO)
- Senegal: Réseau des Organisations de Jeunesse Africaine Leaders des Nations Unies pour l'atteinte des Objectifs de Développement Durable" (ROJALNU-ODD-SENEGAL)
- Sierra Leone Sierra: Young Christian Student Movement(SLYCS)

From the 19 February to 23 February 2018 African Monitor (AM) organised the workshop for 30 young people from six countries. The objectives of the workshop were to train young people to conduct research, engage community and generate citizen generated data and key policy asks. Youth champions were also trained in financial management, leadership and how to conduct an advocacy campaign. They also had practical scenarios of how to collect the data and were taught on how to use the KOBO toolbox for data collection.

3.2. Data Dissemination

The Citizen generated data has been published on Tableau public, a data visualisation platform attached to the African Monitor website for a select number of countries. Through this open platform, the public can have access to the data set in electronic formats. African Monitor went into a partnership with Data Lab in Tanzania to develop the platform. The data visualisation has also been disseminated through AM Social media platforms. It can be found on the link: https://public.tableau.com/profile/citizens.report#!/vizhome/SenegalAnalysis_0/intro

4. CONCLUSION

The principles of inclusivity and participation are embedded in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Yet for three years there has not been any tangible progress to action this principle into a reality, as citizens are largely still excluded from the implementation of the SDGs. Citizens Report is a ground-breaking instrument in

that it has proven to be an effective tool for civic engagement in the SDG agenda; especially because it enables citizens to hold their own governments accountable for delivery.

During its first year of implementation (September 2017 to August 2018), 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. The in-depth results shed light on the state of delivery of Goals 1, 4, 5, 8, 10, and 16 in these communities. The data that emerged is unique in that it covers indicators that do not currently have data from official sources - thus bringing out pertinent information about segments of the population that are often left behind, that is women, youth and rural excluded communities. This is demonstrated in Section 1 of this report, where it seems clear for instance that services meant for vulnerable communities do not reach them; or reach them at a significant cost to dignity, time and money.

2018 was just the beginning of a long-term agenda by African Monitor to promote inclusive, open societies; and to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable communities are prioritised in the government delivery machinery. As can be expected, one year of implementation is not enough. Especially because engaging with different government departments and other stakeholders necessitates a long-term and ongoing strategy for tangible results to be realised.

The need for on-going engagement is further validated by the fact that several arms of the state in different countries have asked for ongoing engagement, including statistical offices in Ghana, Botswana, Malawi; as well as ministries and UN entities in other countries. To respond to this demand, African Monitor has expanded the number of countries to include South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

Furthermore, for the second year of implementation (September 2018 to August 2019), African Monitor is deepening the work by evolving from 'gathering the voices' to 'influencing actors for change' in specific and measurable ways; especially focussing on facilitating dialogue between communities and duty bearers to address issues raised during the data collection phase.

African Monitor is grateful for its partnership with the OSISA, OSIWA, UN Women and GIZ, whose visionary leadership have made it possible to implement in seven countries.

To all the country partners around the continent, we take this opportunity to express our appreciation for your continued support and partnership this year.