



A foot in the door

How AREAP secures a role for civil society organisations in the policy-making processes of the African Union, the Southern African Development Community and nation states

The **Africa Regional Empowerment and Accountability Programme** is a four-year project funded by the Department for International Development (DFID). It aims to improve access to high quality relevant data, evidence and analysis for African citizens, non-state actors and policy makers. It also supports the development of coalitions of citizens to use this information, voice their concerns and interests, and influence decisions of the state.

Three implementing partners (IPs) deliver AREAP:

- Afrobarometer (AB) conducts citizen opinion surveys across 35 countries in Africa
- The Southern Africa Trust (the Trust) undertakes policy advocacy, capacity building and disbursement of grants provided for pro-poor regional integration
- The State of the Union Coalition (SOTU) focuses on engagement in policy development and monitoring state compliance

AREAP's Learning Information and Communication Hub (the Learning Hub) is guided by Triple Line Consulting. The Learning Hub was established in December 2014 to identify lessons and capitalise on synergies and joint working between the partners. The Learning Hub facilitates the partners to share experiences and reflect on the practices, processes and outcomes of AREAP's empowerment and accountability work.

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Front cover photo: *State of the Union, 2015*

Abstract

A Foot in the Door is an account of how the AREAP implementing partners secure a role for civil society organisations (CSOs) to make the policies of the African Union (AU) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) pro-poor and gender sensitive. The case study examines evidence from the State of the Union Coalition (SOTU), led by Oxfam, the Southern African Trust (the Trust) and Afrobarometer, of the effectiveness of approaches in influencing policymakers. It explains how SOTU has strategically positioned itself to support civil society platforms in ten African states to work with governments in reviewing their compliance with the African Union's poverty reduction agenda and human rights treaties and protocols. It shows how the Trust supports the advocacy work of regional civil society coalitions to have a voice in making existing policies pro-poor and gender sensitive in the Southern Africa region. It also shows how

Afrobarometer capitalises on its brand image, built over ten years, to provide high quality data on citizen perspectives from thirty-five African countries that supports poverty analysis as well as advocacy efforts to hold governments to account.

This case study provides insights into the credibility that the AREAP partners bring to CSOs and the role they play in monitoring the rights of citizens to have a voice in continental and regional Summits. When space for civil society is restricted by national, regional and continental policymakers, all three organisations use their in-depth knowledge of norms and standards, their networks and relationships and their reputation to renegotiate with decision-makers. Without the AREAP partners in this space, civil society voice on poverty, gender and human rights would become ever more curtailed.

Introduction

1 This case study reviews how the Africa Regional Empowerment and Accountability Programme's (AREAP) implementing partners have consistently used their influence, resources and expertise to challenge the limited "space" for national and regional CSOs at the policymaking levels of SADC and the AU. Examples illustrate how the AREAP partners negotiate to create and increase the spaces in which CSOs can participate in these fora. The partners also challenge decisions and monitor

the impact when available space is restricted for CSOs at these levels. Through these actions national and regional CSOs and coalitions have kept the debate on pro-poor policies alive in the AU, SADC and in their own countries. The development of this case study involved successive in-depth focus group interviews with AREAP partners, and reviews of secondary data generated through programme implementation processes.



Access to the AU and SADC high-level meetings

- 2 The AU Summits are held twice a year, with the January Summit providing an outline of the agenda and priorities for the coming year. This Summit has remained relatively open to CSO participation, as it is ceremonial rather than a series of business meetings. The June/July Summit reviews and monitors progress on AU priorities. Access for CSOs to this Summit is closing, or in some cases is closed, for CSOs, with attendance to most meetings requiring a formal invitation. AU ministerial and committee meetings take place during the year but dates are not fixed. The degree of access CSOs have to these meetings depends on their credibility and experience in the field or sector under review rather than a formal restriction on CSO attendance.
- 3 SADC is gradually opening the access it accords CSOs to participate in policymaking, although the country location of the annual Summit may dictate the extent to which CSOs can participate if visas are difficult to acquire. The Council of

Ministers meetings are closed to CSOs, whereas they have open access to sectoral meetings. Table 1 summarises the range of open and closed spaces for CSOs at both the AU and SADC high-level and committee meetings.

Opening up space and influencing national, regional and continental policymaking

- 4 The AREAP partners have negotiated at the highest levels at the AU and SADC and in so doing have managed to “keep a foot in the door” at these institutions for national and regional CSOs. The recognition the partners have gained through their advocacy and research work has contributed significantly to the participation of CSO partners at the AU, SADC and the Pan African Parliament (PAP). AREAP partners and their affiliated CSOs are also active at side events during the Summits, enabling wider participation in discussions and policymaking about pro-poor and gender issues. Afrobarometer also exerts influence on policy-making processes from another direction by encouraging the AU and SADC to use its high quality data and reports as evidence for policymaking. As Afrobarometer gains profile and credibility across the continent, and doors open to it directly in these organisations, a secondary effect is that by using Afrobarometer data to make their case, CSOs can also improve their credibility and opportunity of gaining entry.

Table 1: *Open and closed spaces for CSOs in continental and regional decision-making*

	Summit & Heads of State Meetings	Council of Ministers Meetings	Sectoral Meetings & National Committees
African Union	January Summit is open, though with some meetings closed Access to the July Summit is becoming more restricted	No fixed schedule of meetings CSOs require invitations and expertise in sector/theme	No fixed schedule for meetings CSOs require invitations and expertise in sector/theme
SADC	Annual Summit Open or closed (depending on location)	Twice a year Closed	Meetings arranged as required Open to interested CSOs

The State of the Union

- 5 The State of the Union (SOTU) has strategically positioned itself alongside the work of the African Union to create a bridge between national civil society platforms and continental policy- and decision-making. SOTU established its credentials at the continental level in a relatively short period of time by building on the strengths of the member CSOs active in ten states and using its contacts and reputation to access and gain leverage with different departments of the AU.
- 6 SOTU staff members actively link their CSO coalition partners¹ with national representatives while they are in attendance at AU meetings and summits. In some cases governments have taken the work of the CSOs in-country more seriously once they have gained experience and negotiated at the higher level with the backing of the Trust and/or SOTU. For example, in Malawi SOTU coalition partners, Eye for Development and the Malawi Economic Justice Network, have developed a working relationship with the African Union's southern Africa regional office in Lilongwe and are collaborating on addressing the gap between the ratification and implementation of key AU standards at the national level.

The Southern Africa Trust

- 7 The Trust has formed a wide range of partnerships and networks with CSOs focused on overcoming poverty. Their partners include labour movements, faith-based groups, women's and community-based organisations, as well as academic institutions. Annex 1 contains a list of the Trust's grant and strategic partners.
- 8 Like SOTU the Trust creates a bridge between its civil society partners and policymakers, namely SADC and its constituent organisations. The Trust also promotes and facilitates the establishment of formal mechanisms of engagement between SADC and non-state actors to ensure the institutionalisation and sustainability of its policymaking mechanisms. In 2009 the Trust secured an agreement with SADC for the attendance of national CSOs from the southern Africa region at the SADC Poverty and Development Conference. This achievement represented a significant widening of the space

available for national and regional CSOs at SADC fora, as well as providing entry points for the CSOs to negotiate with their national members who were attending the conference.

- 9 Since 2014 the Trust, at the request of the SADC Secretariat, has been supporting the establishment of a broad and inclusive SADC mechanism of engagement with non-state actors as a way to bring into operation the provisions of Article 23 of the SADC Treaty (i.e. rules of procedures that include space for citizens' voices). The Trust has also extended its reach and brokered opportunities for other partner organisations such as the Southern Africa Liaison Office and the ONE Campaign to develop direct relationships and collaborative plans with the Pan African Parliament (PAP). PAP encourages open dialogue between its parliamentarians and civil society, allowing continuing participation of CSOs in its policy work. Examples include work on poverty eradication and citizen participation in the post-2015 Global Development Agenda.

Afrobarometer

- 10 Afrobarometer works closely with regional and national partners to conduct a comparative series of public opinion surveys that measure citizen attitudes to democracy and governance, the economy, civil society, and other topics across thirty-five countries. Afrobarometer has consistently lobbied the AU, as well as other regional and multi-national organisations, to use its data in policymaking processes. However, Afrobarometer faced resistance until recently when the AU (and the United Nations Development Programme) requested assistance in advising governments on capturing data and feedback on the quality of governance. Afrobarometer is also working on a Memorandum of Understanding for sharing data and analysis with the AU Commission's Department of Political Affairs following an invitation to participate in a consultative meeting for the promotion of the ratification and implementation of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance. This demonstrates the importance of sustaining advocacy processes while building credibility, rather than expecting immediate results.
- 11 Afrobarometer attributes the progress in getting

its “foot in the door” to three key factors:

- i. Persistence – by reminding these organisations about the contribution Afrobarometer data and findings can make to their work and about the importance of public voice in policy processes;
- ii. Relevance – as familiarity with public opinion data spreads, Afrobarometer is expanding to cover thirty-five countries to such an extent that its survey findings now represent 75% or more of Africa’s population, with the result that it becomes increasingly difficult to ignore the critical role and relevance of public voice;
- iii. Credibility – increasing media coverage and utilisation of Afrobarometer data by local and international organisations, as well as

accurate prediction of election outcomes, has contributed to the heightened awareness and perceived credibility of the data.

- 12 The Afrobarometer Round 6 survey includes a special module of questions on Pan Africanism and regional integration, as well as the basic questions aimed at eliciting the perceptions of citizens towards the AU and other regional organisations. Afrobarometer sought responses about support for freedom of movement across borders and national independence versus intervention for regional organisations in domestic politics in the name of democracy and rights.

Managing change

Change in terms of citizen voice and empowerment is never straightforward and successes are hard to attribute to any one factor. Resistance and constraints are key factors affecting the management of change, especially with formal institutions like SADC and the AU. Establishing trust and relationships are key behaviours that can mediate against resistance and ensure that safeguards are in place to maintain spaces for active citizen engagement. Active citizen engagement alongside targeted capacity development makes a powerful contribution to the empowerment and accountability change agendas at national levels. The collective contribution of the change agendas has the potential to trigger a chain of impacts that goes beyond the country level to further build capacity at regional and continental levels.



Providing credibility and legitimacy for CSOs at the AU and SADC

- 13 Both the Trust and SOTU have worked hard to build up trust and understanding with policymakers at the AU and SADC. The informal but positive responses received from these institutions suggest that both organisations are respected for their ability to act as catalysts and sound facilitators on behalf of civil society. This in turn provides credibility and legitimacy for their civil society partners, who experience the benefits and the leverage to operate and negotiate at the regional and continental levels.
- 14 The Trust, through the Midrand Facility,² has supported the Centre for Citizen Participation in the African Union (CCPAU) to strengthen and coordinate the capacity of CSOs to engage the AU and its various organs and ensure that citizen voices are incorporated into the AU agenda and decision-making processes. In

2014 the CCPAU facilitated the participation and engagement of representatives of ten African CSOs with various thematic committees of the PAP on the sidelines of its 4th Session and 10th Anniversary celebrations. Civil society representatives had the opportunity to make presentations and input into the work of, for example, the Committee on Monetary and Financial Affairs and the Committee on Justice and Human Rights. CSOs advocated for financing integration and anti-corruption respectively. There were also plenty of opportunities for CSOs to engage informally with parliamentarians on the sidelines of the official session.

Developing capacity of CSO partners

- 15 Both the Trust and SOTU provide capacity development and training programmes for national CSOs in the skills and tactics of advocacy to improve their negotiation and participation at the continental and/or regional levels and enable more productive engagement with national governments.
- 16 In collaboration with Oxfam SOTU organised training for media practitioners in Rwanda on the AU, using Oxfam's comprehensive guide for CSOs on how this institution functions: the African Union Compendium.³ The Collectif des

Ligues et Association de Defence de Droits de l'Homme (CLADHO), a SOTU member in Rwanda, successfully applied the learning from the training in the use of national compliance reporting to engage AU representatives in country on policy matters. The Institute of Democratic Governance (IDEG), a SOTU member in Ghana, influenced the adoption of a National Youth Charter as part of Vision 2020 and used the Charter for leveraging further work on youth empowerment at the national level.

- 17 The Trust provided technical support to the SADC Council of NGOs (CNGO) to consolidate its governance, organisational and advocacy capacity. As a result the SADC-CNGO's credibility has increased among its stakeholders. These stakeholders include national affiliates, regional apex organisations, funding agencies, the SADC Secretariat and Member States. The SADC-CNGO is now actively working with national CSOs across the region to advocate for the implementation of the Regional Poverty Observatory (RPO).⁴

Challenges at the national level

- 18 The work that SOTU and the Trust undertake creates and widens space for the CSOs to operate at the regional and continental levels. This helps many CSOs build their expertise

and legitimacy outside their home countries. In part, opportunities to advocate in these fora help counter the serious restrictions placed on CSO activities by their own governments. Many African governments are suspicious of national CSOs and have passed laws (or proposed laws) that regulate and restrict their civic space. Some repressive laws restricting civil society are inherited from colonial governments and have been subjected to little scrutiny or reform.⁵

- 19 National CSOs are often viewed as supporters of opposition parties and are seen to pose a threat to the viability of the ruling party, resulting in some national governments tightening control and oversight over their activities and structures. For example, in Malawi the Non-Governmental Organisations Act established a regulatory board, the NGO Board of Malawi, on which CSOs have no representative. The Minister only needs to consult the Council of NGOs in Malawi (CONGOMA), and is not bound by their inputs. Botswana's National Policy for NGOs provides for strong participation of the national umbrella association for NGOs in the NGO Policy Council however, the eight representatives are still outnumbered by the nine state representatives.⁶
- 20 There is a paradox in that most of the countries that restrict national CSOs are also signatories to international instruments that uphold freedoms of association, speech and assembly, thus creating dissonance between their policy agreements and their actions. For some CSOs,

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the restrictions at the national level increase the importance of their access to regional and/or continental decision-making levels in order to have important access to national representatives.

Restrictions to CSO access to key meetings at the African Union

- 21 In May 2013 many CSOs experienced a major setback and were denied access to the 50th AU Anniversary Summit following a statement from the AU Chairperson, Madam Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma. She said the presence of CSOs was distracting attention away from the Summit agenda for Heads of State and Ministers. This statement effectively curtailed the involvement of the CSOs at the Summit and at fringe meetings.
- 22 African CSOs have since participated only at side events at AU Summits unless they have received a formal invitation. These formal invitations are issued close to the date of the meeting, making travel and visa arrangements difficult to achieve. Most of the sessions at the June 2015 AU Summit were “closed” to CSOs. Some African CSOs were invited to attend the high-level Gender Summit, which was however poorly attended by decision-makers.
- 23 Despite restrictions, African CSOs have maintained their commitment to promoting poverty reduction, gender equality, human rights and empowerment and accountability at high-level meetings. Several South African CSOs held side events at the June 2015 AU Summit in line with the theme: “Year of Women’s Empowerment and Development towards Agenda 2063”. For example, SOTU and Human Rights Institute of South Africa, which is a Trust Partner, convened a regional discussion on women, peace and security. The discussion focused on the regional challenges in relation to women in armed conflict, particularly in the implementation of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) and the United Nations Security Council resolution 1325. It was well attended by ninety-two delegates from national and regional CSOs.
- 24 In January 2014 SOTU convened a Consultative Forum in Addis Ababa on diminishing space for CSOs at the national and Pan African level, which was attended by twenty-nine civil society representatives from across the continent. During the Forum a SOTU paper was presented pointing to evidence of the closing space for CSOs at high-level meetings. A SOTU-led delegation presented the main resolutions of the Forum to Ambassador Nantama, the chief of party to the African Union Commission. SOTU also contributed to a protest note on this issue in June 2015. The note was signed by SOTU’s coalition members and forwarded to the Chairperson of the AU.
- 25 Both the SOTU statement in January 2014 and the protest note in June 2015 point out that African citizens and their CSOs have a democratic right to participate in relevant decision-making spaces of publicly funded institutions, like the AU, which “belongs” to the

The Trust is supporting the establishment of a broad and inclusive SADC platform of engagement for non-state actors.



State of the Union, 2015

African people. To date, no formal response to the protest note has been received.

CSO participation at SADC Summits and meetings

26 A research study⁷ carried out by the Trust in 2014, at the request of the SADC Secretariat, found that despite the difficulties often faced by citizens when trying to access SADC policy organs, space for CSOs to engage is gradually opening up in this regional institution, but it is a slow process. The Trust, at the invitation of the SADC Secretariat, is supporting the establishment of a broad and inclusive SADC platform of engagement for non-state actors. Similarly the SADC Secretariat is considering adopting a mechanism for engagement with regional youth organisations⁸ and the SADC-CNGO and the Association of SADC Chambers

of Commerce and Industry have signed Memoranda of Understanding with the SADC Secretariat. Both organisations have received invitations to attend open sessions of the annual SADC Summit.

27 However, the majority of CSOs still lack access to SADC Summits and continue to rely on invitations to attend the annual Summit. As an alternative, CSOs create spaces for dialogue on regional integration and development on the sidelines of the official Heads of State Summit. The Regional Civil Society Forum⁹ is convened annually by the Regional CSO Apex Alliance, which includes the SADC-CNGO, Southern African Trade Union Coordinating Council, and Economic Justice Network of the Christian Councils in Southern Africa. In addition, social movements under the banner of the Southern African People's Solidarity Network convene the annual SADC People's Summit.¹⁰

Summary of CSO access at the AU and SADC high-level and committee meetings

28 In keeping their foot in the door in continental and regional decision-making, the Trust and SOTU are subject to the whims and sudden decisions of politicians and officials. This requires both organisations to be “nimble” and form sound relationships with key personnel and politicians who are prepared to listen. Afrobarometer has consistently lobbied the AU and other regional and multi-national

organisations to utilise its data for policymaking and is now realising the rewards of its persistence with requests from both the AU and the United Nations Development Programme for their assistance in advising governments on capturing data and feedback on the quality of governance.

29 The PAP encourages open dialogue between its parliamentarians and civil society, enabling the consistent participation of CSOs in its policy work. The PAP is still developing its institutional capacity but has an important part to play in pushing forward regional and continental governance reforms.

Conclusions and lessons learned

A number of conclusions and lessons learned emerged from discussions with the AREAP implementing partners in terms of the processes involved in “getting a foot in the door” as well as joint working to enhance empowerment and accountability approaches.

- i. Empowerment of citizens and accountability for decision-makers is not a final destination. It is a process that is ongoing. Incremental progress is the result of a sustained investment in dedicated people, men and women with strong and committed relationships working in organisations where resources, capacity strengthening support and mutual exchange are available. The AREAP partners have a wide variety of expertise, strengths and capacity, which is being shared and built upon through AREAP. Collectively they have the potential to strengthen the empowerment and accountability agenda at the regional and continental levels and in doing so maintain that “foot in the door” for CSO partners.
- ii. This case study highlights an important lesson for the AREAP partners: the need to capture descriptive accounts of what they strategically ‘do’ and accomplish in their organisations, along with the approaches they use and the results they achieve. These accounts need to be routinely synthesised and communicated for internal reflection and learning for donors.
- iii. Consistent, clear communication between the Partners and dedicated time for collaborative planning by senior managers are required for effective collective learning and actions. A joint AREAP Work Plan has been developed and progress on actions and events need to be consistently reviewed and monitored. The Learning Hub that supports AREAP provides an important space for the partners to interact and share their learning and information.
- iv. Informal networking and influencing decision-makers are critical activities for empowerment and accountability work as demonstrated by the AREAP Partners. Creating and maintaining space for the CSOs at high-level meetings is often achieved through informal engagements with key

officials or politicians, which are difficult to explain and document even though they are important meetings as they serve to establish relationships, build trust and “keep a foot in the door.” Such processes are acknowledged in the private sector and in dealings at a formal political level but their use by non-state actors may be construed as a misuse of resources. To ensure CSO accountability donors could usefully acknowledge these processes as necessary and valuable and accept them as a key activity.

- v. Persistence and credibility are factors recognised by all three AREAP Partners as key in making progress with their objectives. Afrobarometer particularly credits these factors in the AU’s recent recognition of the value of their surveys. These concepts are not lead issues in capacity strengthening training programmes but are constituent elements of successful CSO involvement with empowerment and accountability initiatives.
- vi. National CSOs and NGOs are usually locked into their work in their countries of origin. They develop skills and tools in relative isolation from similar approaches in other countries of the region or continent. When given the opportunity to move outside national boundaries these non-state actors compare notes and learn together to build upon and complement their comparative advantage. This is why their presence in continental and regional forums is so important.
- vii. The AU and SADC have cumbersome bureaucratic procedures that often cause delays for CSOs when they are implementing projects that involve informal agreements about SADC policies. It is not unusual for the blame to shift to the CSOs for slowing down progress. The AREAP partners should persist with their advocacy for dedicated mechanisms for civil society engagement with organs like the AUC and SADC Secretariat that will facilitate civil society participation and engagement in policymaking at the regional and continental levels.

Endnotes

¹ SOTU is monitoring the implementation of fourteen AU legal instruments and policy standards and the status of implementation in ten countries (Tunisia, Kenya, Rwanda, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Cameroon, Nigeria, Ghana and Senegal) across the five regions in Africa and at the continental level.

² The Midrand Facility is a mechanism for African CSOs to engage with pan-African institutions based in South Africa, namely the Pan African Parliament, African Peer Review Mechanism and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

³ <https://www.oxfam.org/en/research/african-union-compendium>

⁴ The SADC Heads of State agreed to the establishment of the Regional Poverty Observatory (RPO) through the Declaration on Poverty and Development in Mauritius, April 2008. Civil society is represented in the RPO Steering Committee by five apex bodies (SADC-CNGO, SATUCC, Economic Justice Network of the Christian Councils in Southern Africa, Gender Alliance, and Association of Chambers of Commerce and Industry). These organisations join fifteen Member State representatives, three independent experts and two international development partners in the RPO's main

governance structure with a direct reporting mandate to SADC Council.

⁵ Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa, 2011. "Civil Society Regulatory Framework; A Situational Analysis for Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Namibia and Zimbabwe".

⁶ Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa, 2011, as Note 5.

⁷ Kasambala, Tiseke and Marlon Zakeyo, December 2014. Draft Proposal on SADC Mechanisms of Engagement with Non State Actors. <http://www.southernafricatrust.org/docs/SADC-Mechanism-of-Engagement-with-NSAs.pdf>

⁸ <http://www.sadc.int/news-events/news/youth-forum/>

⁹ In July 2014 about 400 delegates attended the 10th Regional CSO Forum in Harare, Zimbabwe.

¹⁰ An estimated 2,500 delegates attended the SADC People's Summit in August 2014, in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. <http://www.ejn.org.za/index.php/component/content/article/60/741-sadc-peoples-summit-declaration-2014>



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Acronyms

AB	Afrobarometer
AREAP	Africa Regional Empowerment and Accountability Programme
AU	African Union
CBO	Community-based organisation
CCPAU	Centre for Citizen Participation in the African Union
CLADHO	Collectif des Ligues et Association de Defence de Droits de l'Homme
CNGO	Council of NGOs
CONGOMA	Council of NGOs in Malawi
CSO	Civil society organisation
DFID	Department for International Development
FBO	Faith-based organisation
IDEG	Institute of Democratic Governance
IP	Implementing partners
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SOTU	State of the Union Coalition
PAP	Pan African Parliament

The AREAP case studies were developed by the Learning, Information and Communication Hub established in December 2014. The Learning Hub is facilitated by Triple Line Consulting. It brings AREAP partners together every quarter to share experiences and examine evidence so as to reflect and learn. Case study development involved successive in-depth and focus group interviews and reviews of secondary data generated through programme implementation processes.

Annex

Southern Africa Trust Grant and Strategic Partners, February 2012 – March 2016

Organisation	Project name	Programme area	Thematic area
1. African Women's Development Fund	African Grantmakers Network Assembly	More and better financing to civil society organisations.	The state of civil society in Southern Africa
2. AFS Interculture South Africa	Southern African Regional Exchange Programme	Constructing regional identity and civic participation amongst citizens.	The state of civil society in Southern Africa
3. Alternatives to Neo-Liberalism in Southern Africa (ANSA)	Development of the SADC Poverty Status Report (PSR)	Creating new opportunities for voices of the poor to be heard in policy dialogue.	Governance for development
4. Associacao de Mineiros Mocambicanos	Ex-miners national dialogue – Mozambique; Capacity building	Learning for better poverty reduction results.	Migration, social protection and social service delivery.
5. Bongzi Ngema-Zuma Foundation	Bongzi Ngema-Zuma Foundation Launch Activities	More and better financing to civil society organisations.	The state of civil society in Southern Africa
6. Centre for African Development Solutions	Civil society participation in the review of the African Union	Creating new opportunities for voices of the poor to be heard in policy dialogue.	Governance for development
7. Centre for Citizens' Participation on the African Union	Defending democracy - Capacitating civil society to engage with Pan African institutions and development processes	Creating new opportunities for voices of the poor to be heard in policy dialogue.	The state of civil society in Southern Africa
8. Charities Aid Foundation Southern Africa	National study on social giving and civic service in South Africa	Learning for better poverty reduction results.	The state of civil society in Southern Africa
9. Citizens for a Better Environment	The African Mining Vision — Strengthening Networks of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Social Capital	Learning for better poverty reduction results.	Equitable and broad-based (pro-poor) growth
10. Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers Forum (ESAFF)	Strengthening capacity of smallholder farmers to hold national governments accountable to fulfil their responsibilities on the Malabo 2014 and Dar es Salaam 2005 declarations for sustainable agriculture and food security in Southern Africa; Advocacy on the RAP; Strengthening the organisational and technical capacity of smallholder farmers to hold SADC member states accountable	Learning for better poverty reduction results.	Food security and livelihoods
11. Economic Justice Network of the Fellowship of Christian Councils in Southern Africa	Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) Consultative Meeting	Learning for better poverty reduction results.	The state of civil society in Southern Africa
12. Employers Confederation of Zimbabwe	Scoping study: Inclusive business in the SADC region	Learning for better poverty reduction results.	Equitable and broad-based (pro-poor) growth

Organisation	Project name	Programme area	Thematic area
13. Endla Ecumenical Services for Development in Africa	Dutyini Shawbury & KwaBhaca Community Development Projects; Using church land for food security in Eastern Cape and Kwa-Zulu Natal	Learning for better poverty reduction results.	Food security and livelihoods
14. Ex-Miners Association of the Mountain Kingdom of Lesotho	Ex-miners national dialogue – Lesotho; Strengthening the Ex-Miners Association in Lesotho	Learning for better poverty reduction results.	Migration, social protection and social service delivery
15. Family Planning Association of Malawi	Youth Alliance for Regionalism	Constructing regional identity and civic participation amongst citizens.	The state of civil society in Southern Africa
16. Graca Machel Trust	Recruitment of two programme managers	Understanding civil society organisations and building capability to do pro-poor policy work.	Governance for development
17. Grahamstown Area Distress Relief Association Advice & Community Work	Food Gardens for the Blind	Learning for better poverty reduction results.	Food security and livelihoods
18. International Society for Third Sector Research Africa	Deepening understanding and enhancing capabilities of African scholars examining African civil space	Understanding civil society organisations and building capability to do pro-poor policy work.	The state of civil society in Southern Africa
19. Joaquim Chissano Foundation	Fighting poverty through development of subsistence farmers in remote rural areas	Learning for better poverty reduction results.	Food security and livelihoods
20. Mail & Guardian Media Limited	Drivers of Change Awards Thematic Spreads	Constructing regional identity and civic participation amongst citizens.	The state of civil society in Southern Africa
21. Mandela Institute for Development Studies	Regional Integration High Level Dialogue for Poverty Reduction	Constructing regional identity and civic participation amongst citizens.	The state of civil society in Southern Africa
22. Mauritius Council of Social Service	Construction of civil society learning centre & implementation of the MOU	Understanding civil society organisations and building capability to do pro-poor policy work.	Governance for development
23. Mozambican Association for Family Development	Youth Alliance for Regionalism	Constructing regional identity and civic participation amongst citizens.	The state of civil society in Southern Africa
24. National Smallholder Farmers' Association of Malawi (NASFAM)	Coordination of the Consultative Stakeholder Forum for validation of the SADC Food and Nutrition Strategy, with input from the Youth Forum.	Creating new opportunities for voices of the poor to be heard in policy dialogue.	Food security and livelihoods
25. New Lovelife Trust	Youth Alliance for Regionalism	Constructing regional identity and civic participation amongst citizens.	The state of civil society in Southern Africa
26. Ntaba ka Ndoda Heritage and Development Centre	Rural Mobilisation in Keiskammahoek	Learning for better poverty reduction results	Food security and livelihoods
27. Open Society initiative for Southern Africa	Establishment of a Civil Society Funding Mechanism	More and better financing to civil society organisations.	Governance for development

Organisation	Project name	Programme area	Thematic area
28. Rhodes University	The Regional Integration Story: a capacity building project	Constructing regional identity and civic participation amongst citizens.	The state of civil society in Southern Africa
29. SADC Council of Non-Governmental Organisations (SADC-CNGO)	Strengthening civil society participation in the roll-out and implementation of national poverty observatories in the SADC region; Regional CSO Forum.	Creating new opportunities for voices of the poor to be heard in policy dialogue.	Governance for development
30. South African Institute of Advancement - Inyathelo	Inyathelo Philanthropy Awards - Production of mini-documentaries	More and better financing to civil society organisations.	The state of civil society in Southern Africa
31. Southern Africa Confederation of Agricultural Union (SACAU)	Regional women farmers' platform	Learning for better poverty reduction results.	Food security and livelihoods
32. Southern Africa Cross Border Traders' Association	Strengthening capacity of the SACBTA to influence SADC policy and practice Strengthening capacity of the SACBTA to influence SADC policy and practice	Learning for better poverty reduction results.	Governance for development
33. Southern Africa Miners Association (SAMA)	Former migrant miners access their benefits including social security benefits and compensation related to occupational disease / illness.	Learning for better poverty reduction results.	Migration, social protection and social service delivery
34. Southern African Community Grantmakers Leadership Forum (SACGLF)	Strengthening of the SACGLF and the peer-learning opportunities	More and better financing to civil society organisations.	Governance for development
35. Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions	Effective engagement of women farmers and young farmers in the SADC region	Learning for better poverty reduction results.	Food security and livelihoods
36. Southern African Development Community Secretariat	Supporting full operationalisation of the SADC Regional Poverty Observatory and related national mechanisms	Creating new opportunities for voices of the poor to be heard in policy dialogue.	Governance for development
37. Southern African Liaison Office (SALO)	Policy dialogues on the Post-2015 Development Agenda	Creating new opportunities for voices of the poor to be heard in policy dialogue.	The state of civil society in Southern Africa
38. Southern African Miners Association	Capacity Building	Learning for better poverty reduction results.	Migration, social protection and social service delivery
39. Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC)	Communicating SADC Regional Integration	Constructing regional identity and civic participation amongst citizens	The state of civil society in Southern Africa
40. St Joseph's Theological Institute	Conference on Church Responses to Globalization in Africa	Learning for better poverty reduction results.	The state of civil society in Southern Africa
41. StraConsult limited	Baseline Study for Policy Change and Supplier Development Programme for better Inclusive Business in Mauritius	Learning for better poverty reduction results.	Equitable and broad-based (pro-poor) growth

Organisation	Project name	Programme area	Thematic area
42. String Communication	Change Mudanca Newsletter	Constructing regional identity and civic participation amongst citizens.	The state of civil society in Southern Africa
43. Swaziland Migrant Mineworkers Association	Ex-miners national dialogue – Swaziland SWAMMIWA Capacity Building	Learning for better poverty reduction results	Migration, social protection and social service delivery
44. University of Cape Town - Children's Institute	Southern Africa network for child indicators	Learning for better poverty reduction results	Governance for development
45. University of Johannesburg	Seminar on development framework for the school of leadership E-Learning Platform for the School of Leadership	Understanding civil society organisations and building capability to do pro-poor policy work	Governance for development
46. University of South Africa Foundation	Dialogue on land reform, land grabbing and agricultural development in Africa in the 21st century	Learning for better poverty reduction results.	Food security and livelihoods
47. University of Witwatersrand	Public dialogues based on the book "South Africa's suspended revolution" Establishment of an African Chair in Philanthropy	Creating new opportunities for voices of the poor to be heard in policy dialogue.	The state of civil society in Southern Africa
48. West Cape News	Changemakers Magazine	Constructing regional identity and civic participation amongst citizens.	The state of civil society in Southern Africa
49. Young African Leaders Initiative	Youth Alliance for Regionalism	Constructing regional identity and civic participation amongst citizens.	The state of civil society in Southern Africa
50. Youth Association of Zambia	SayXchange - Zambia	Constructing regional identity and civic participation amongst citizens.	The state of civil society in Southern Africa
51. Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCODD) acting on behalf of Southern Africa People's Solidarity Network (SAPSN)	People's Summit 2015	Understanding civil society organisations and building capability to do pro-poor policy work	The state of civil society in Southern Africa
52. ZIMIND Publishers (Pvt) Ltd.	News Day People's Choice Awards	Constructing regional identity and civic participation amongst citizens.	The state of civil society in Southern Africa

Strategic Partners

- Regional Civil Society Apex Organisations
 - o Southern Africa Development Community Council for Non-Governmental Organisations (SADC-CNGO) – umbrella NGO
 - o Southern Africa Trade Union Coordinating Council (SATUCC) – trade union
 - o Economic Justice Network of the Fellowship of Christian Councils in Southern Africa (EJN of FOCCISA) – faith-based
 - o Southern Africa Peoples Solidarity Network (SAPSN) – social movement
- Southern Africa Youth Movement (SAYM)
- Zayrah Africa (Youth Agency)
- Gender Links
- NEPAD Business Foundation (NBF)
- Open Society Initiative of Southern Africa (OSISA)
- Finmark Trust
- TrustAfrica

