



WWW.THEDATASHIFT.ORG

Citizen-Generated Data for Sustainable Development Goals: Lessons Learnt from SDG5 Monitoring in Kenya and Tanzania

About Us

DataShift is an initiative of CIVICUS, in partnership with Wingu, the Engine Room and the Open Institute. We are part of a growing global community of campaigners, researchers and technology experts that is using citizen-generated data to create change. CIVICUS, the World Alliance for Citizen Participation, is a membership alliance with members in over 170 countries and a strong presence in the Global South. It exists to strengthen citizen action and civil society around the world.

CIVICUS is responsible for the overall coordination and management of the initiative and leads DataShift's policy work, particularly on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and data revolution.

DataShift is helping civil society produce and analyse data, especially citizen-generated data, to drive sustainable development. We do this by building capacity, powering campaigns and improving the monitoring of government, resulting in better accountability, policies and services. We train people to use the latest data collection and analysis tools and we share new research to shape global and national policy on the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals. You can read more about DataShift and CGD in the [Learning Zone](#).

Our Approach

DataShift's work around Citizen-Generated Data (CGD) for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is exploring opportunities and challenges associated with harnessing multiple sources of data, particularly citizen-generated data, to monitor, demand and drive sustainable development progress, while facilitating an evidence-based conversation amongst a diverse range of stakeholders on these opportunities and challenges. With a deep-dive on SDG 5 (*achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls*), this is being achieved through applied research, collaboration and partnership development, and policy engagement, outreach and advocacy.

Our Work

Multi-stakeholder, data-driven approach in monitoring SDG 5

- We are pursuing multi-stakeholder, data-driven approaches to monitoring progress on SDG 5 and related gender targets and indicators in other SDGs at national and subnational levels in Kenya and Tanzania. Through thematic forums, we have facilitated engagements at the two



WWW.THEDATASHIFT.ORG

levels to raise awareness on SDG 5; gaining better understanding of the gender landscape, key players, and their priorities.

- We are developing ideas for annual multi-stakeholder country briefings on the status of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in Kenya and Tanzania. Through pre-selected gender thematic areas, the briefings will highlight key areas of progress or difficulties from practitioners and guest writers - presenting diverse, but more holistic perspectives. This work will be guided by expert advisory groups in each country comprising gender experts and leaders from government, civil society, multilateral agencies, donors, and research/academia, among others. By combining qualitative and quantitative analysis and evidence, we want to share learning on best practices, spotlight areas that need more concerted efforts, influence policy and practice, and inspire concrete multi-stakeholder action on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.
- We have adopted a collaborative model to help us achieve our ambitions and support our partners achieve theirs. We have partnered with the following organisations on various initiatives:
 - ❖ The Open Institute, Chief Kariuki, and Development Initiatives - on the domestication of SDG 5 at the sub-national level in Lanet Umoja in Kenya (Sep 2016 - Feb 2017).
 - ❖ Restless Development - the development and testing of campaigns training modules and the domestication of SDG 5 at the sub-national level in Tanzania (Sep 2016 - Feb 2017).
 - ❖ Development Initiatives - a thematic forum on the integration of citizen-generated data in decision making at various levels (Sept 2016).
 - ❖ Office of the Deputy President in Kenya - organising the Kenya national data roadmaps workshop (Aug 2016).
 - ❖

Gender Data

- We are conducting research to assess gender data availability, accessibility, quality, comparability, gaps in Kenya and Tanzania. We seek to gain in-depth understanding of the value and role of citizen-generated gender data produced nationally or locally in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.
- Through the research we shall map key gender players (both state and non-state actors) at national and subnational levels, their approaches, gender data sources and use. We shall review gender data indicators on health, education, women's economic empowerment and entrepreneurship, social exclusion of women and girls, water and sanitation, time surveys on the value of unpaid care and domestic work etc.
- We shall review gender data collection methodologies, types and formats (including citizen-generated data), channels through which they are made available, accessibility and use, and detailed review of gaps
- The reports expected at the end of 2016 will make recommendations targeting government policy and decision makers, civil society, donors, researchers, among others, to catalyse



action, fill data gaps, and promote an integrated approach to implementing and monitoring progress on SDG 5 and related gender targets and indicators in other SDGs.

Sub-national Case Studies

- In Kenya, the “Global Goals Local Impact” project is being implemented in Lanet Umoja location of Nakuru County in partnership with the Open Institute and Chief Kariuki (aka the Tweeting Chief - a local government administrator) and other partners.
- The project is working with the community to domesticate gender-related targets and indicators in 5 SDGs (1, 3, 4, 5, and 6), identified and prioritised by the citizens of Lanet Umoja – drawing on multiple sources of data, particularly citizen-generated data to monitor implementation and progress on the targets and indicators.
- Importantly, the project is moving beyond the collection of citizen-generated data to empower the community to undertake advocacy campaigns targeting the Nakuru County budget making process with a view of attracting resources to gender-related initiatives that empower women and girls.
- In Tanzania we shall soon be working with Restless Development to empower youth to generate CGD on who is accessing local government funds for economic empowerment, and formulating campaigns that can promote access to these funds by young women.
- The lessons, learning, and emerging replicable model will be shared widely online and through the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data to encourage replication and scaling - thereby meeting objective three. It will be documented as a practical case study of how SDGs can support the achievement of real impact to local communities, and further demonstrate the practical use of citizen-generated data, and how collaboration among multiple local level actors can be fostered.

Advocacy and campaigns

- We are facilitating civil society inclusion in government SDG follow up and review processes - in particular around SDG 5 on gender equality – including the domestication of targets and indicators in subnational and national development strategies.
- In Kenya, our ongoing advocacy work with the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics has seen us campaign for the inclusion of civil society inputs and multiple sources of data, including citizen-generated data, to be included in the revised National Statistics Act.

Direct Support

- In Kenya and Tanzania we are directly supporting organisations to collect, manage, analyse and disseminate citizen-generated data with the goal of creating effective gender-related campaigns.
- We have developed and are testing a four module course that provides basic information about the SDGs, CGD, and how to use the country's commitments on the SDGs for advocating for local issues. The modules provide guidance on how to create a campaign and generate CGD



WWW.THEDATASHIFT.ORG

for a compelling campaign. It is being tested with country level partners in our four pilot locations; Kenya, Tanzania, Nepal, and Argentina.

Promoting the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD)

- We are facilitating civil society engagement in the GPSDD in all regions and in Africa in particular, to ensure civil society both contributes to and benefits from this new Partnership.
- As a founding champion of the Partnership, we continue to play an active role in activities such as the provision of expert advice to Government-led national data revolution roadmap workshops, as we did in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Kenya and Tanzania, to demonstrate how civil society and CGD can support more effective monitoring of SDG targets and indicators.

What are we learning?

Generally

- One year after the adoption of the SDGs general awareness is good among civil society organisations especially within thematic sectors like health, water, gender, education etc. There is however very little information on the SDGs in the public domain. Widespread lack of awareness on the SDGs is likely to lead to weak accountability mechanisms with citizens unable to hold the government to account for its commitments.
- The delayed domestication of SDGs by government has a direct bearing on what other actors do. Many are waiting for a formal government framework in order to position themselves.
- The SDGs are perceived as an important framework to shape the development agenda for the next 14 years.
- Even though the SDGs are a globally defined, the constituent targets and indicators are relevant to ordinary citizens and majority can identify with the issues being highlighted.

Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls

- The main areas of focus for gender related work include; adolescent and young women empowerment, ending early child marriages, policy and advocacy on Sexual Reproductive Health Rights, citizen empowerment, anti-FGM advocacy, women economic empowerment, women political leadership, girl child education, promotion and protection of women's right, gender systems and value chains, rights of unpaid care workers, maternal and child health, and sustainable livelihoods.
- The existence of a stand-alone SDG on gender (#5) lays special emphasis on the subject and raises its profile among state and non-state actors. We must however provide incentives for citizens to participate - they want to see what's in it for them.
- Many stakeholders are working on gender thematic areas directly related to the SDGs but are yet to draw direct links between SDGs and their day to day work. The appetite for this however exists and technical expertise is needed to support the integration process if civil society is to fully and effectively participate in the follow up and review process.



WWW.THEDATASHIFT.ORG

- Raising awareness on SDG 5 targets and indicators is in itself a critical progressive step towards empowerment of women and girls.
- That gender is a cross-cutting issue in SDGs is no longer a myth. Despite a stand-alone goal on gender, our experiences show that the manifestation of gender equality within the community is directly linked to targeted government service delivery and women's access to economic opportunities, for example through women and girls accessing clean water, efficient and timely health services, financing for their community economic empowerment projects, quality education etc.
- Mainstreaming gender in government policy, practice, and service delivery is critical for targeted interventions and effective service delivery.
- Gender equality is still largely perceived as a women's-only affair. Capacity building is needed even among gender equality advocates to change the perception and bring men onboard to support the agenda.

Gender Data

- The main sources of gender data include literature review, official (demographic and household, surveys, official statistics, reports) and non-official sources (research, baseline and household surveys, reports), networks and partnerships, and emerging digital spaces (internet, radio, social media) that are deemed much more interactive and dynamic.
- Selected challenges associated with gender data include:
 - ❖ Significant capacity gaps remain in understanding gender data, its analysis, and packaging in more powerful ways to support advocacy and policy engagement
 - ❖ Access to “classified official data” to complement data generated by communities is a challenge. Whereas CGD is being produced, barriers in accessing official data make it difficult to understand what government is doing and therefore hold it to account. This is likely be a major challenge for the follow up and review process.
 - ❖ Reaching impact at scale is a challenge. The scope of gender CGD, especially at the subnational level is often quite limited therefore not comprehensive enough mainly because it narrows down to issues specific/unique to a particular community.
 - ❖ Exaggeration of information and the resulting conflicting data on the same subject creates confusion.
 - ❖ Limited funding to collect good quality, credible, sex disaggregated, and timely data - more frequently.
 - ❖ Data collection methodologies and approaches are disparate with very little standardisation inhibiting interoperability and comparability.
- CGD is in itself a powerful political exercise for empowering grassroots communities and provoking community led actions. We however need to invest in technology to enhance and support data collection.



WWW.THEDATASHIFT.ORG

- Aggregating gender data, especially the result of analysis from clusters of different sources of gender data (official, CGD, research) offers the best opportunity for a comprehensive SDG 5 follow up and review process. To do this effectively however requires significant investments in time and money.
- Shrinking civic space is creating a difficult environment for non-state actors to collect gender data due to countering government restrictions, lack of political will and support, and countering legal and policy frameworks.

Gender Related Priorities

The following have been identified by key stakeholders as some of the top priorities for SDG 5 and gender related work:

- Investments are needed in comprehensive education, training and capacity building for women entrepreneurship; including adult literacy.
- We need to advance policy on unpaid care and domestic work. A critical starting point would be national baseline studies on unpaid care and domestic work to determine the magnitude.
- Implementation of existing policies and commitments to affirmative actions
- Establishment information data hubs on economic empowerment.
- Implementation of health policies by national and subnational governments to improve workforce well being.
- Enforcement of gender responsive budgeting at all levels and across all sectors.
- Key actors want to see increased access to financial capital to sustain emerging businesses to empower women.
- CGD generation and effective use for policy influence and advocacy campaigns
- Development, adoption and implementation of contextualised gender policies at sub-national level
- Review of existing policies and laws to promote equal opportunities and action.
- Engaging media and lawmakers to promote active citizen participation
- Find innovative ways to package and communicate key messages to diverse audiences in order to inspire action e.g use of film and documentaries to share stories and experiences, online visualizations, and art
- Open community dialogues that involve men to champion gender equality
- Conduct baseline studies to better understand where we are/starting from
- Invest more time in sharing learning, particularly from the lowest levels of society through briefings and blogs.
- Empower communities with tools to sustainably undertake SDG 5 follow up and review
- Develop standards and toolkits for citizen generated data, and enhance the capacity of civil society to use them.
- Develop quality assurance frameworks for gender CGD to increase credibility.



Annex

Dispatch from Kenya and Tanzania on SDGs

- One year after the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) there's limited access to information by CSOs and other stakeholders on what the governments of Kenya and Tanzania are doing to domesticate SDGs.
 - ❖ This year's Kenya national budget and the budgets of the 47 County governments didn't have any provisions for SDGs.
 - ❖ Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) says it has identified 128 provisional indicators for monitoring based on data availability and national availability that Kenya can start reporting on these. However this list has not been made publicly available. It has also categorised the goals and indicators according to the three tiers identified by the IEAG (data availability and methodology)
 - ❖ Whereas there is general consensus on the critical role of civil society, private sectors and other actors in supporting the delivery of the SDGs, actions so far point towards government and UN Agencies having closed door conversations
 - ❖ There's confusion on who is leading the SDGs process. KNBS says it has a working group on SDGs, while the SDGs unit under the Ministry of Devolution and Planning has also established a multi-stakeholder steering committee comprising UN agencies and CSOs represented by SDGs Kenya Forum. Note that KNBS falls under the same ministry. Kenya has just formally launched SDGs (September 14th) and announced the existence of a roadmap. The roadmap should be shared to clarify leadership and provide entry points for civil society.
- UN agencies in Kenya have formed a joint working group to coordinate SDGs that is led by UNDP
 - ❖ Pros - A harmonised strategy for the UN agencies to approach the SDGs and better coordinate implementation which will leverage limited resources
 - ❖ Cons - The hands of progressive agencies like UN Women that want to forge ahead are tied by the fact that the joint working group has to decide on how they all move together
 - ❖ The common strategy has not been formulated. The joint working group has been inactive since formation primarily because UNDP (Chair) was tied up in finalising a review of MDGs and pre-occupied with the formal launch of SDGs by the Kenyan government
 - ❖ No specific resources have been made available to individual UN agencies in Kenya for SDGs related work and each agency is trying to figure out its role in the SDGs - one year after they were adopted