

Citizen-data for inclusive VNR & VLR reporting

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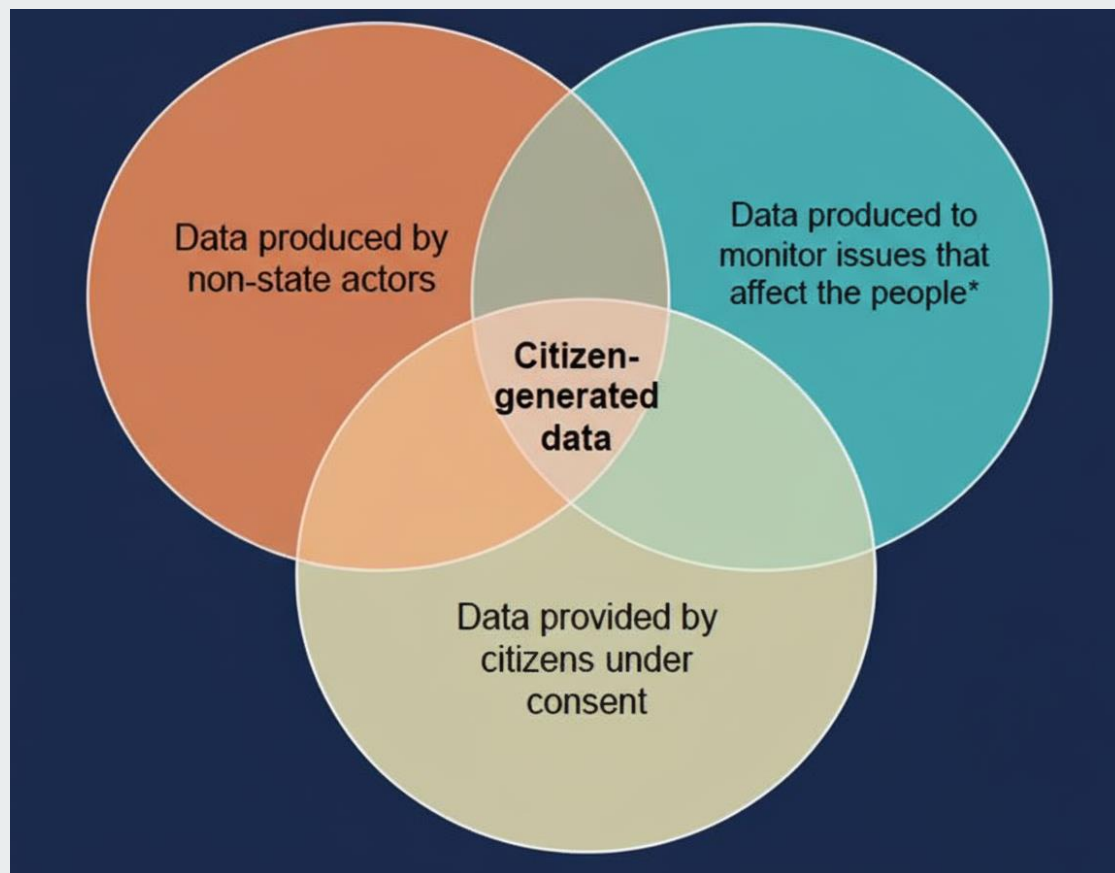
[Puseletso Maile, African Monitor]

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**Training and Peer Learning Workshop on SDG Localization,
Voluntary Local Reviews and Infrastructure Asset Management
for local and central government officials in South Africa**



What is CGD/ citizen data



‘**Citizen Data**’ refers to data originating from initiatives in which citizens are engaged at various stages of the data value chain, guided by principles that promote inclusive, responsible, professional and ethical production and use, regardless of whether or not these data are integrated into official statistics.

Key aspects in the definition:

- **Sufficient and meaningful** participation of citizens: strives for the highest degree and quality
- Stages of the **data value chain** that citizens are engaged: encouraging engagement throughout the entire data value chain

Source: Adapted by PARIS21 from CIVICUS (2021)

Source: Copenhagen Framework



The Copenhagen Framework for Citizen Data

helps conceptualize and agree on the different ways that citizens can play a role in data; and support formulating action points for the community to move forward

- Endorsed by the 56th UN Statistical Commission
- The definition of citizen data
- Principles of citizen data
- The role of National Statistical Offices
- An enabling environment
- A roadmap to implement the conceptual framework



Importance of CGD

- **Complementing Official Data:** CGD fills gaps left by traditional data sources (censuses, surveys) by providing real-time, localised, and more granular information, which is particularly useful for tracking progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- **Improving Inclusivity:** It ensures that **marginalised groups**, whose voices might not be captured in official statistics, are represented, aligning with the "leave no one behind" principle of the SDGs.
- **Enhancing Data Quality:** By validating and enriching official statistics, CGD offers alternative perspectives that improve the relevance, timeliness, and reliability of the data used for policy-making.
- **Strengthening Accountability:** CGD promotes transparency and **empowers communities** by enabling citizens to actively participate in data generation, monitoring public services, and holding institutions accountable.

Role of CGD Producers

- **Data Collection and Advocacy:** CSOs, through their work with communities gather information on marginalised groups and underserved populations. This can be used to fill gaps where official statistics might not fully represent local realities.
- **Influencing Policy and Decision-Making:** By providing actionable insights through CGD, the producers can contribute directly to the decision-making processes at both local and national levels.

CDG for VNR/VLR reporting

- As stated in the 2030 Agenda, the SDG follow-up and review processes at all levels “should be open, inclusive, participatory and transparent for all people and support the reporting by all relevant stakeholders”.
- **National review should** “draw on contributions from indigenous peoples, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders”
- **“Nothing about us without us”:** Make voices heard and count, ensure representation of and accessibility for the most marginalised groups

Citizen Data can:

Empower citizens and turn them into agents of change

Enhance data availability, timeliness, quality, openness, and disaggregation and provide valuable insights, especially for marginalised populations



CSO participation in the VNR processes

Ten goals that civil society contributed to in the national report:

1. SDG1: no poverty
2. SDG 2: zero hunger
3. SDG 3: good health & well-being
4. SDG 4: quality education
5. SDG 5: gender equality
6. SDG 7: affordable and clean energy
7. SDG 8: decent work
8. SDG 13: climate action
9. SDG 16: peace, justice and strong institutions
10. SDG 17: partnerships for the goals

Collection of inputs, part of the writing group, disseminating survey, facilitation of consultations



Coordination of the People's Report processes

People's report - an independent civil society assessment of the national delivery of the Agenda 2030



African Monitor



Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES)



Kagiso Trust



Sonke Gender Justice



Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU)



Natural Justice



The Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR)



African Monitor



Compiling the People's Report using CDG

Compiled using a People's Scorecard [toolkit](#) developed by Action 4 Sustainable Development (A4SD), held consultations for each of the goals, and chose 3 targets to report on under each goal & identified sources of information

Goal report structure:

1. Context (social, political and economic context as applicable)
2. Performance and progress (assessment of progress achieved so far towards meeting the target by 2030)
3. Policy and enabling environment (is there policy and enabling environment to achieve the targets by 2030)
4. Policy coherence (is there a coherent policy framework that can deliver on specific goal as well as other goals)
5. Institutional fitness (Mandate, legislative provisions and resources) to deliver 2030 agenda
6. Gaps and accelerators (what are the gaps and what are the accelerators)
7. Recommendations



Goal 1: Key Messages

Lead organisation: African Monitor



Challenges

Income inequality, unemployment, limited access to livelihood capital, education, social exclusion, and vulnerability contribute to poverty in South Africa.



Successes/ Progress

Growing social grant coverage and improved youth employment rates, supported by government programmes.



Proposed interventions

Formalising informal work, beneficiation of minerals, efficient public transportation, sustainable human settlement, permanent social grant and investment in skills development.



Goal 4: Key Messages

Lead organisation: Kagiso Trust



Challenges

Low reading proficiency, skills mismatch and teenage pregnancy.



Successes/ Progress

Increased school enrolments, higher matriculation rates and growing financial aid for students.



Proposed interventions

Governance and accountability, promoting equitable learning, free technological skills and resources in disadvantaged communities, and scaling up successful pilot programs such as the Beyers Naude District Whole School Development programme (DSWP).



Goal 17: Key Messages

Lead organisation: African Monitor



Challenges

Rising debt, state-owned enterprises that are under pressure, mismanagement of public spending, illicit financial flows and political, economic, and regulatory factors.



Successes/ Progress

Financial resource mobilisation through remittances, access to technology, and regional integration.



Proposed interventions

Restructure Eskom, improve public expenditure management, and operationalise the National Development Stakeholders Forum.



SAWG VNR reports



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Challenges in localising the SDGs

Challenges faced by municipalities during the 2024 VLRs:

- Availability of credible data sources
- Human resources
- Interface with communities
- Competing priorities
- Location of the VLR and support



CSO involvement in the VLRs

Stakeholder engagements

- City of Tshwane: 19 March 2024
- City of Johannesburg: 10 April 2024
- Mogale City: 11 April 2024
- Koukamma Local Municipality: 10 May 2024

Stakeholder engagement involved identifying stakeholders, developing engagement plans, organising consultations, and conducting workshops.



Input into the reports

Participants are expected to make input into the following:

- Policy frameworks put in place to achieve SDGs in the municipalities.
- Significant advancements made towards specific SDGs, supported by relevant data
- Obstacles impeding SDG progress, supported by relevant data
- Recommend interventions that would significantly accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs in the municipality



Progress/challenges/interventions

Indicator 11.2.1 Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport.

Information to cover

What type of public transport system is available? E.g. taxis, bus (municipal, mainliners), train? Or do people need to hire private transport?

- How many taxi, busses are operational?
- Do you have a central nodal point for transport? If yes describe?
- How do people experience the taxi, bus etc. services?
- Is it accessible?
- Is it located within walking distance from their homes?
- Do passengers feel safe, while waiting for the taxi, bus services or when they are in the vehicle?
- Do the services cater for people with disabilities?
- Does the municipality or an outside agency conduct a customer survey?



Linkages to other goals

The municipality aims to achieve a sustainable city and communities through accelerating Goal 11, and other goals which are interlinked and have direct impact on achieving Goal 11, especially those which align to:

- Provision of basic services like, **SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation** and **7 Affordable and Clean Energy** are the core mandate of local government.
- Safety is also an important pillar for sustainable communities, highlighted by **SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions**.
- And **SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals**, is important because sustainable cities benefit from collaboration



Recommendations for advancing CGD

- Invest in CGD
- Strengthen partnerships on CGD at national and local level
- Develop civil society guidelines/ national standards for CGD integration
- Build CSO capacity on data quality



Thank You

