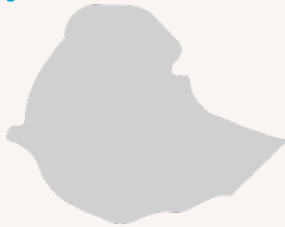


CASE STUDY

Ethiopia

2014



BREAKING
NEW GROUND

SNAPSHOT – POLITICAL SPACE

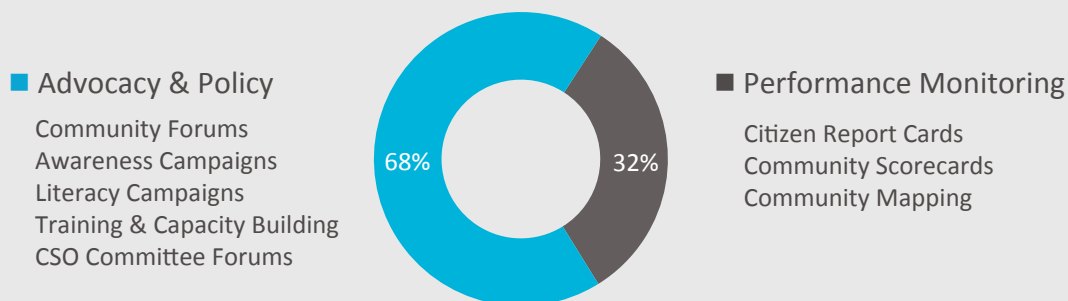
Ethiopia remains a semi-closed sociopolitical environment. Independent press and local organizations working in governance are under close watch by the central and regional government, and continue to be restricted in their coverage of governance issues.¹ Civil society organizations (CSOs) are limited by various legal and financial restrictions from the central government. And although the constitution and a select number of public policies support opportunities for good governance and civic participation, the space is restricted by mistrust in the government and the limited presence of CSOs working on governance issues.¹

Political Space: **LOW**

Freedom of the Press VERY LOW	Voice & Accountability VERY LOW	Enabling Environment for CSOs LOW	Rule of Law MODERATE
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PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE METHODS – RESULTS FROM CSO INTERVIEWS:

Breakdown of Participatory Governance Methods



¹ Source of Information for the 'Context' summary was obtained from Freedom House: Profile of Ethiopia: <http://www.freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2013/ethiopia#.VETV4haWG88>

*Map icon is from Icon Download: icon-download.com

The general public's understanding of participatory governance and the role of civil society in governmental decision-making are still quite new in Ethiopia. The results from this case study show that the methods currently being used in Ethiopia are ones that require the least capacity and tend to mobilize citizens on a community level, rather than the central level. The openness of the state is a major inhibiting factor for the implementation of certain methods in Ethiopia, as they require both openness and some level of responsiveness or state participation in order to properly work.



Much of the PG methods focus on major sectors, such as education, health and agriculture, mainly in the rural areas. The most widely used methods include citizen report card, workshops or trainings, and community dialogue forums. Budget tracking and audits are ongoing at the central level, but the role of CSOs is minimal.

According to the key informants, the participatory methods being used by CSOs in Ethiopia are bottlenecked by access to information both from the government and CSOs that encounter difficulty in disseminating information. Capacity is also a two-way barrier. Both supply- and demand-side capacity for implementing PG methods is limited, as citizen, CSO and state exposure and institutionalization of the methods are limited. The access to information, especially budget information and policy implementation documents, are relatively restricted to CSOs and the general public.

The key informants discussed that the capacity of their staff and partnering organizations remains limited. The largest social accountability project in the country, Ethiopia Social Accountability Program (ESAP), is in its second iteration. In 2013, a few CSOs tried to pilot social auditing and gender responsive budgeting, but social audits required too much technical assistance and gender responsive budgeting was not well understood or received by the government counterparts. All of the key informants iterated that CSOs in Ethiopia are lacking the appropriate number of staff with adequate understanding of participatory governance and often do not account for the timeline and human resources required by most of the methods.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: (CSO PARTICIPANTS FOR CASE STUDY)

Amhara Development Association
Guraghe Development Association
Jerusalem Children and Community Development Organization
Ethiopian Social Accountability Program-II Managing Organization

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CASE STUDY

Mozambique

2014



BREAKING NEW GROUND

SNAPSHOT- POLITICAL SPACE

Mozambique has been politically led by the Front for Liberation of Mozambique (FRELIMO) party since independence from Portugal in 1975.² In the most recent election, in October of 2014, FRELIMO won the majority of the vote and remains in power for an unbroken incumbency. Corruption within the government, police and businesses remains pervasive, and judicial action against corruption is weak.

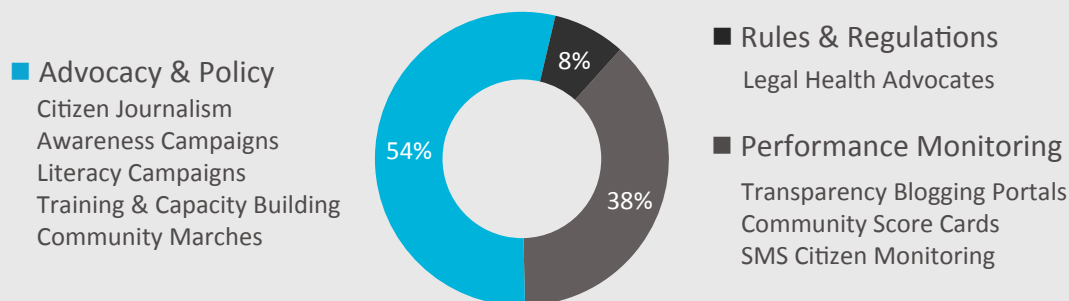
Freedom of the press is legally protected, although journalists have historically been harassed and threatened, and often practice self-censorship when covering governance issues.² NGOs operate freely, but face bureaucratic hurdles when formally registering and requesting information.

Political Space: **LOW**

Freedom of the Press MODERATE	Voice & Accountability LOW	Enabling Environment for CSOs MODERATE	Rule of Law LOW
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PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE METHODS – RESULTS FROM CSO INTERVIEWS:

Breakdown of Participatory Governance Methods



² Source of Information for this summary was obtained from Freedom House: Profile of Mozambique- <http://www.freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2013/mozambique#.VETQthaWG>

In Mozambique, citizen voice and participation in governance have not been easily translated into the cultural or political fabric. Historically, the influence of the prior communist rule and one-party political domination since the democratization of the country, has meant that CSOs and media had to align with the ruling party and economic elite in order to access donors and sustain funding.

Based on the interviews with CSOs, the methods being used are still focused on capacity building, awareness campaigns, and working at the local and regional levels rather than working at the central level.



According to the CSOs interviewed there are several opportunities for civil society and citizens to actively participate in governance. Recent changes in the legal framework have made it more conducive to voicing opposition about anti-corruption, human rights and gender equality. The diversity of CSOs provides various opportunities for citizens to get involved, and the funding for CSO participatory governance activities has become more harmonized and sustained in Mozambique. CSO interviewees talked about the shifting focus on decentralization has allowed for some limited space for women and CSOs working rurally to voice opinions, although, in many respects decision-making remains centralized. Other changes in political space, including access to information has opened up, although there is a lot of administrative regulation on accessing information, registering organization and other things required of CSOs, and thus bribes are common practice.

CSOs perceive that the main barrier to many methods is low capacity, both for citizen and state actors. Thus many of the activities include capacity building activities and public advocacy so that the issues and knowledge about participation is built up in the electorate. According to interviewees, one of the growing roles of CSOs is oversight, with numerous committees have been formed over the past few years.

Although there is some citizen journalism, media criticizing the central government is risky and many journalists and media outlets cover governance issues cautiously. One of the CSOs interviewed was a citizen journalists organization that used university students and other young people to blog about public service issues and covered election issues. Citizens are able to post pictures, send is SMS messages and call into the organization to report incidences. CSOs reported that most activities are still donor driven and there is little room for a vibrant and critical civil society due to the funding sources and closed political space of the government.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: (CSO PARTICPANTS FOR CASE STUDY)

Namati Mozambique
Olhodo Cidadai Mozambique
Centro de Intrgridade Publica

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CASE STUDY

Tunisia

2014



BREAKING NEW GROUND

SNAPSHOT – POLITICAL SPACE

The advent of the Arab Spring has catalyzed a political revolution and change in governmental power throughout Tunisia. In 2011, the Constituent Assembly was democratically elected in order to draft Tunisia’s new constitution, and has subsequently opened up the legal and financial platform for civil society.³ Previously, NGOs were legally prohibited from working on political activities, but now are operating with greater freedom and advocating for women’s rights and the role of religion in the state.³ Although access to information has improved and is legally protected, it remains difficult due to the administrative processes.³ Press has also diversified, and state-led outlets have grown increasingly nonpartisan when covering governance issues.³

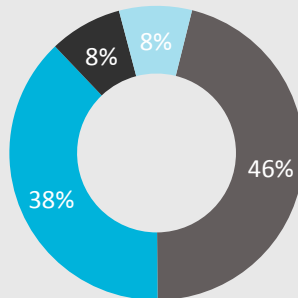
Political Space: MODERATE

Freedom of the Press MODERATE	Voice & Accountability LOW	Enabling Environment for CSOs MODERATE	Rule of Law HIGH
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PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE METHODS – RESULTS FROM CSO INTERVIEWS:

Breakdown of Participatory Governance Methods

- Advocacy & Policy
 - Community Forums
 - Awareness Campaigns
 - Literacy Campaigns
 - Training & Capacity Building
 - Citizen Journalism
- Rules & Regulation
 - Public Interest Litigation



- Performance Monitoring
 - Community Scorecards
 - Community Monitoring Committees
 - Transparency portals
 - Anti-Corruption Barometer
- Budget & Expenditure
 - Budget Analysis

³ Source of Information for this summary was obtained from Freedom House: Profile of Tunisia-
<http://www.freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2013/tunisia#.VETamRaWG8>



Tunisia has emerged from the Arab Spring revolution with a new constitution, elected officials and invigorated civil society. According to the CSO interviewees, culturally, a citizen actively participating in governance issues through organizations and specific methods remains novel for Tunisian citizens. Interviewees talked about how prior to the revolution, many people complained about policies and service delivery, but lacked a channel for collective action and a space where their voice was heard by a receptive government.

Unlike other case study countries, CSOs agreed that capacity was not one of their biggest issues. Due to the population's education level and European influence, there is a qualified workforce. And unlike the other case study countries, working for civil society or a non-profit organization is not a high paying job in Tunisia. It is common that CSO employees work part-time on the weekend or evenings. Although the capacity is not an issue, public literacy about citizen participation in governance and the methods, which citizens can use to monitor public services or participate in policy making, is low. Additionally, the government remains centralized. Local government officials are appointed and few activities focus on interactions with local governance representatives because there are only horizontal accountability mechanisms in place for these appointed officials. Following the Arab Spring revolution, international support, technical assistance and monetary investment in citizen and demand-side participation in governance has grown considerably. The space for CSOs to work opened up considerably. According to key informants, access to information is legal protected and the central government has lowered the requirements to be a registered organization thus more than 7,000 new NGOs have been created since 2011.

The distribution of participatory governance methods is less focused on public awareness, but rather monitoring public services and is the first case study country to include budget and expenditure tracking. CSO interviewees stated that public awareness was still important in Tunisia, as many of the methods are newly possible due to the opening up of political space, but due to the basic education level and communication infrastructure it is easier to raise public literacy about participatory governance. CSOs interviewees felt they had limited autonomy when choosing PG methods, because of the donor influence and support for participation in governance in Tunisia. Many of the methods currently being implemented follow the decisions of donors and large international organizations.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: (CSO PARTICIPANTS FOR CASE STUDY)

Coalition Tunisienne Pour Le Dialogue Constitutionnel
Creativity for Development and Employment
Association Tunisienne de la Sante de la Reproduction
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CASE STUDY

Malawi

2014



BREAKING NEW GROUND

SNAPSHOT – POLITICAL SPACE

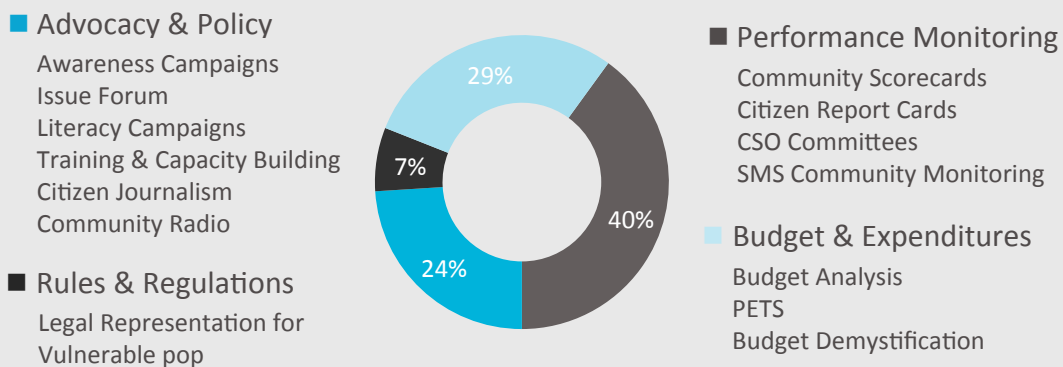
Politically, Malawi has experienced a rapid change in power following the sudden death of President Mutharika in 2012.⁴ Vice President Joyce Banda took over as leader and quickly repealed many of the repressive policies that inhibited transparency and respect for human rights.⁴ Freedom of the press is legally guaranteed and under the recent administration, diversification of media sources is burgeoning. The legal and policy environment is very progressive, but implementation of these policies is inconsistent and many of them are just on paper. Access to information is also legally protected, but remain difficult to access for civil society.⁴ And corruption has been a major issue, and efforts to combat it have been relatively unsuccessful.⁴

Political Space: HIGH

Freedom of the Press MODERATE	Voice & Accountability MODERATE	Enabling Environment for CSOs HIGH	Rule of Law HIGH
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PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE METHODS – RESULTS FROM CSO INTERVIEWS:

Breakdown of Participatory Governance Methods



⁴ Source of Information for this summary was obtained from Freedom House: Profile of Malawi- <http://www.freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2013/malawi#.VET3exaWG88>

Historically, the space for PG methods has been restricted by the state through direct and indirect political maneuvers, and thus work in governance has only recently started to blossom. CSO interviewees talked about when in 2011 many multilateral donors retracted funding amid concerns of deteriorating human rights and corruption due to the ‘cash-gate’ scandal, where stacks of public money were found in the living rooms of numerous political figures. Although Malawi does offer a very progressive policy environment, many of these reforms are stalled and implementation has not yet been achieved.



According to CSO informants, access to information does not inhibit CSOs from creating a space for citizens to participate. CSOs and other non-state actors are limited in what methods they can implement do to their lack of understanding of the concepts and methods. One of the major limiting factors is the capacity, although less so than in Ethiopia. Informants also mentioned that there seems to be a correlation with size of the CSO and capacity. Openness of the government to the existence of CSOs doing participatory governance work was not discussed as a barrier, although getting the central government, local government or chiefs to participate in these methods is very difficult. Overall, the capacity of CSOs is still weak, and the sustained use of participatory methods is not independent of donor influence.

The participatory governance methods more varied than the previous case study countries. However, more complex methods, including budget tracking and auditing of programs is restricted to a few CSOs. Many of the CSOs interviewed highly supported interface meetings and community dialogues for issues such as education or health care delivery. Each community has its own issues, and have a local space where they feel like they are heard and an action plan is set into motion.

Unique to Malawi is the presence of chiefs as an integral component of the local governmental system. Appointed by the central government and thus not elected nor historically accountable to their citizens. In 2014, for the first time in 10+ years, most local officials were elected rather than appointed, and thus this has opened up even further space for CSOs to implement localized PG methods.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: (CSO PARTICIPANTS FOR CASE STUDY)

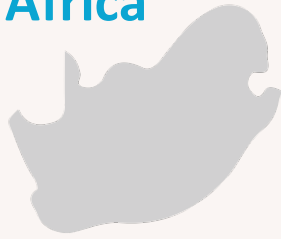
Malawi Economic Justice Network
Tilitonse Program
Center for Social Concern
Malawi Health Equity Network
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CASE STUDY

South Africa

2014



BREAKING NEW GROUND

CONTEXT

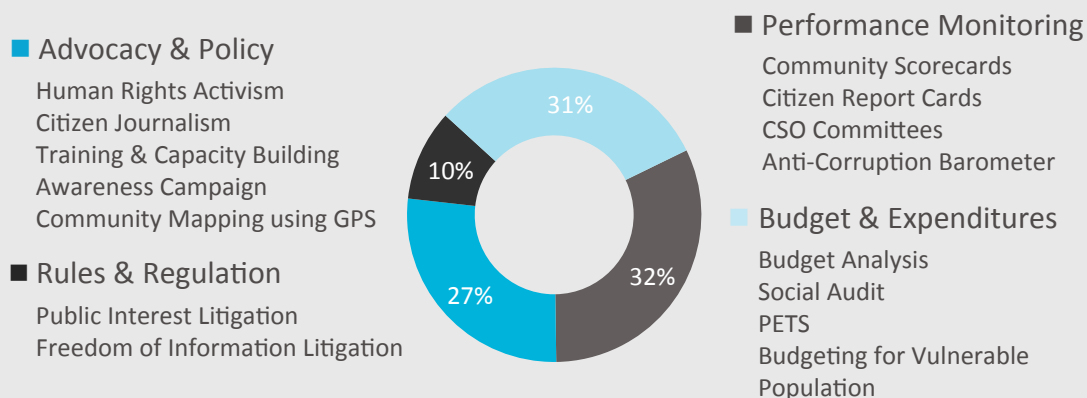
South Africa is one of the limited numbers of African countries to have achieved the peaceful transfer of power through successive democratic elections. South Africa has a flourishing civil society including an array of CSO networks and NGO umbrella organizations that are well supported by both domestic and international interests. Access to information is highly supported by the law, but in practice is restricted by administrative processes. Freedom of the press is protected and generally observed, although the government is highly sensitive to media criticism. Corruption is still a major problem, and many agencies have been tasked with combating it, but the enforcement and transparency is inadequate.⁵

Political Space: **VERY HIGH**

Freedom of the Press VERY HIGH	Voice & Accountability VERY HIGH	Enabling Environment for CSOs VERY HIGH	Rule of Law HIGH
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PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE METHODS – RESULTS FROM CSO INTERVIEWS:

Breakdown of Participatory Governance Methods



⁵ Source of Information for this summary was obtained from Freedom House: Profile of South Africa-
<http://www.freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2013/south-africa#.VET-YBaWG88>

South Africa is a relatively open environment where questioning the government is quickly becoming a societal norm. Citizens and civil society are often involved in issues ranging from natural resource protection to health budgeting. The government is relatively decentralized, and many of the CSOs interviewed reported working at the local, district and national level.



Comparatively, South Africa is using the greatest number of methods on the most diverse number of sectors and issues. The CSO culture in South Africa is mainstreamed and citizens' ideology of participation is accepted. Practitioners in South Africa talked about the importance of three factors for participatory governance. First, the issues civil society is working on has to be salient, and there has to be a social movement behind it where citizens care about the outcomes. Second, there has to be a community of practice, where practitioners gather evidence, because without supportive evidence what they say does not get attention. Lastly, leadership is critical to facilitating and sustaining participation in governance, and it has to come from both the state and non-state sides. Unlike other case study countries, the emphasis on evidence gathering in order for an argument to have validity is somewhat unique.

The CSO interviewees emphasized the importance of interface meetings as an effective training tool and a method that aids in holding local governance accountable. Interface meetings are effective because participants gain a better understanding of each other's role, responsibilities and limitations. The outcome of interface meetings is often a joint action plan, and thus it is an exercise that allows for each side to clearly define their roles and responsibilities.

According to informants, another unique component of civil society in South Africa is the collaboration and coalitions between the Southern African countries. There was a coordination of efforts between neighboring countries, and most of this action was spearheaded by South Africa. South Africa also has a large training program for accountability programs. The training program facilitates capacity building in the Southern Africa region. The course takes a holistic approach to accountability, include tutorials on most of the methods used by both the non-state and state actors. The CSOs administrating the course referred to their approach as 'Africanized', meaning that their training material and content is tailored for what is going on in the region.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: (CSO PARTICIPANTS FOR CASE STUDY)

Gender Links
Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa
Ndifuna Ukwazi
Public Service Accountability Monitor (PSAM)

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