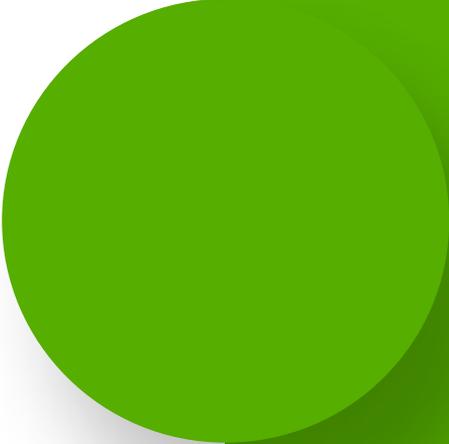PROGRAMMES

Democracy & Governance

2019

OBJECTIVES

Our focus (2019-2022) will be on supporting the principles of openness, participation, inclusion and accountability. We will amplify the pro-democracy voices in southern Africa through supporting processes, organisations and movements that are intent on protecting people from the abuses and excesses of the state and corporate sector. We will work with groups and organisations that are challenging and campaigning against the erosion of public space, the culture of fear, undemocratic cyber policing and surveillance consolidated in the name of national security. We will strengthen and support movements and organisations bringing ordinary people together in solidarity, where they work to deal with common grievances, and find strength to confront institutional power.
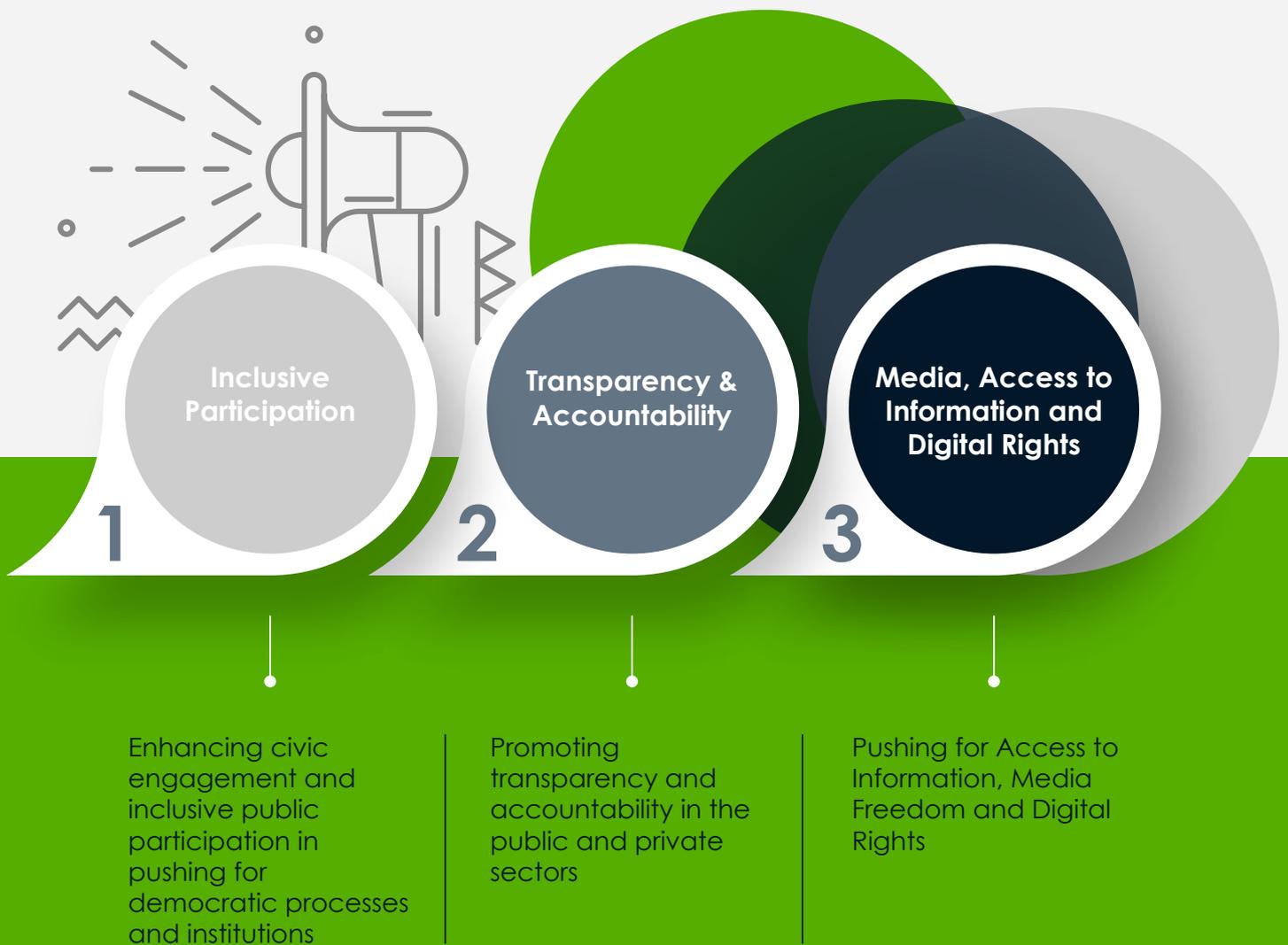
Strategic Goal:

Empower pro-democracy voices, processes, organisations and movements that work to promote and defend democracy, constitutionalism, public and private sector accountability.

Democracy & Governance

Objectives

The three cluster pillars (Inclusive Participation; Transparency and Accountability; Media, Access to Information and Digital Rights) will be guided by the following objectives:

Inclusive Participation

1

Transparency & Accountability

2

Media, Access to Information and Digital Rights

3

Enhancing civic engagement and inclusive public participation in pushing for democratic processes and institutions

Promoting transparency and accountability in the public and private sectors

Pushing for Access to Information, Media Freedom and Digital Rights

Areas of Work

The Democracy and Governance Cluster seeks to expand the civic space as well as encourage divergent voices. The overarching intention of our work is to support civic engagement and amplify community voices. This will be done through:

a. Enhancing civic engagement and inclusive public participation in pushing for democratic processes and institutions

We will enable and support alternative forms of participation, and engagement that help people organise, mobilise, and resist excessive power as well as demand transparency, accountability and responsiveness. We will also support governments to deliver more participatory democratic processes and improve the quality and capacity of policies and officials to deliver on the needs of the people. Supporting a diverse and rich mix of voices will be the defining element of this work which will be anchored on building agency. We will:

- Support local demands for better governance through more investments in social movements, community groups and residents' associations to push back against regression and abuses.
- Support activism and ICT hubs for youths to strengthen their presence in the public sphere and expand their voices.
- Support platforms for independent artists and promote spaces for the artistic expression of voices including protests theatre, music, and picture and art exhibitions.
- Enhance public debates and open spaces pushing for democratic accountability and strengthen voices for collective engagement.
- Amplify and strengthen women's voices, in working with women we will target rural women farmers, informal women traders, domestic women workers (domestic workers' rights), and women working in extractives.

b. Promoting transparency and accountability in the public and private sectors

Corruption remains an important factor affecting

the ability of the people of the region to enjoy respectable living conditions. Over the past few years, OSISA has had encouraging results in promoting accountability and fighting corruption. The launching of the OSISA study on corruption in Southern Africa contributed to generating a fierce debate on corruption in Malawi and Zambia. We wish to consolidate this work by promoting accountability and strengthening support to civic initiatives to enhance social accountability mechanisms that are pushing for public resources to be managed in ways that promote accountability and transparency. This will include supporting projects whose aim is to fight corruption and the mismanagement of resources for better government and private sector accountability. We will:

- Support residents' associations and civil society groups that work at the local level to promote greater transparency in local government.
- Support civil society on monitoring the public procurement processes, this includes the development of mechanisms to identify, expose, track and address corruption with a particular focus on the impact of corruption on service delivery.
- Support civil society monitoring and advocacy work on anti-corruption as well as strengthen their work with parliaments and anti-corruption bodies.
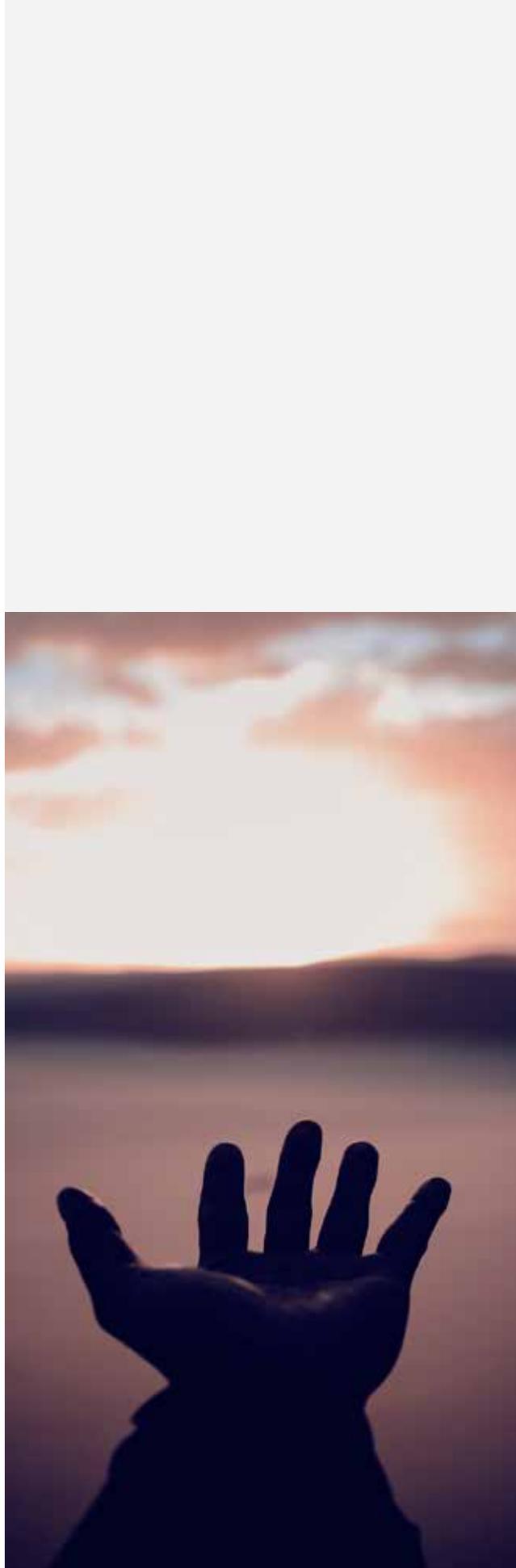
c. Pushing for Media Freedom, Access to Information, and Digital Rights

We will support independent and investigative journalism to check the excesses of power and provide the ammunition for advocacy whether it is tracing beneficial ownership of companies, or following up on tenders or checking up on

procurement, or searching for answers to access to medicine, all of this should be about making connections with citizens so that they can use the information to demand answers and push for accountability. We will also support campaigns and advocacy aimed at removing constraints on getting online including promoting policies to increase the accessibility, availability affordability of the Internet. This also means supporting innovative and creative hubs that will be able to create applications/tools that will facilitate the telling of stories and sharing of information. This will be done through policy advocacy to limit restrictions and for infrastructural development balanced with content creation. We will:

- Support the development of safety and security measures for independent journalists in the region. The work will include supporting strong solidarity networks among journalists and media organisations in the region.
- Support advocacy campaigns against cyber laws and internet shutdowns as well as campaigning for reduced data costs.
- Promote and support organizations pushing for access to information. This will include pushing for full implementation of the law.
- Support the establishment and strengthening of community and alternative media platforms in the region to ensure their sustainability and effectiveness in enhancing access to information in the communities they serve. This will include supporting media's leveraging of ICTs for alternative information dissemination. This will mean also supporting local content production for online and digitized broadcasting.
- Support media organisations/processes that seek to build trust in the media following the scourge of disinformation (fake news). The work will include supporting fact-checking initiatives in the region.

Through this approach, we hope to see people using multiple forms of engaging, mobilising, organising, engaging not just elections but demanding and forcing government and business to act and respond to democratic demands and abuse of resources. Our range of support over the next four years will cumulatively result in articulate and insistent civic voices demanding democratic reforms, accountability and transparency.

Grantees

Nominated grantees doing stellar work

SIVIO Institute

DR TENDAI MURISA (DIRECTOR)

Email: tendaim@sivioinstitute.org
Website: www.sivioinstitute.org

Lesotho Centre for Investigative Journalism

SECHABA MOKHETHI (MANAGING DIRECTOR)

Email: sechabam@lescij.org
Website: www.lescij.org
Email: info@lescij.org

Facebook: MNN Centre for Investigative Journalism
Twitter: @CijLesotho

Sol Plaatje Institute for Media Leadership

FRANCIS MDLONGWA (DIRECTOR)

Email: spi@ru.ac.za
Website: www.ru.ac.za/spi

CLUSTER STAFF

Percy Makombe

Team Leader: Democracy & Governance

He is the Team Leader for the Democracy and Governance Cluster. Before that, he was a Programme Manager for the Natural Resources Governance Initiative at OSISA. Prior to that, Percy was a Programme Manager for the Economic Justice Network. In 2009 he was part of a team that was instrumental in the formation of the Alternative Mining Indaba, a space for amplifying voices of communities affected and impacted by the extractive industries. In 2009, he edited a regional research on the social impacts of the financial crisis in southern Africa. He was also joint author with Russel Honeyman of the Financial Times research report on Television Markets in sub-Saharan Africa. He has also written on political communication in southern Africa and has a chapter in the book Government Communication: Cases and Challenges edited by Karen Sanders. Percy has served in the steering committee of the Pan Africa Climate Justice Alliance as well as worked as a journalist for a number of publications including, as editor for Moto, chief sub-editor Zimbabwe Independent, and a correspondent for Mundo Negro, and Africa News Bulletin. He holds an MPhil in Development Policy and Practice from the University of Cape Town, an MA in Globalisation and Communications from the University of Leicester (UK), as well as a post graduate diploma in media & communications and a BA General from the University of Zimbabwe. In his younger days at the University of Zimbabwe he pretended to be an actor and had a role in the cast Who is Afraid of Nzarayebani, an adaptation of Nikolai Gogol's Government Inspector.

CLUSTER
STAFF

T. Benedict Komeke

Programme Support Officer: Democracy & Governance

He is affectionately known as Bennie and is the Programme Support Officer for the Democracy and Governance Cluster. Prior to assuming this position, he was the Programme Associate in the same Cluster. Benedict joined OSISA from the Highway Africa, a programme of the School of Journalism and Media Studies at Rhodes University where he served as Project Manager. Prior to joining Highway Africa, Bennie was employed as Assistant Project Officer by Southern African Communications for Development (SACOD), a coalition of filmmakers and producers in the SADC region. Bennie holds a post-graduate Diploma in Public Management. He is currently pursuing Bachelor of Laws (LLB) through the University of South Africa. He is a fervent supporter of the local football team Orlando Pirates and believes he can solve their goal scoring problem. His busy schedule at OSISA has prevented him from going for trials at Orlando Pirates.

Contact: DGCluster@osisa.org

CLUSTER STAFF

Lerato Mohlamenyane

She is a Programme Associate in the Democracy and Governance Cluster and has been working for OSISA for the past three years. Over the past five years, Lerato has worked within civil society in South Africa and the Southern African Development Community region. She has also worked on special projects for the UNDP – Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery through the Africa Insider Mediators Platform. She recently completed her Masters of Arts in Political Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand and also holds a Bachelor of Honours in International Relations. She is fascinated by regional politics. She fancies herself as a technology geek and is forever thinking about how to work with youth in Africa to strengthen the use of technology in activism.

Nhlanhla Ngwenya

Nhlanhla Ngwenya is the Programme Manager for the pillar: Media, Access to Information and Digital rights in the Democracy and Governance Cluster. Before joining OSISA, Nhlanhla was the MISA-Zimbabwe Director, which position he held for seven years. He has also worked as the founding Deputy Coordinator: Research and Monitoring at the Media Monitoring Project Zimbabwe. He has presented and published articles on media and freedom of expression regionally and internationally. He has also held board positions in a number of civil society organisations working on human rights and democracy and governance. He holds a Master's Degree in International Development Management from the University of Bradford in England; a Master's Degree in Media and Communications from the University of Zimbabwe. He also holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Media and Communication and a BA Honours in Linguistics also from the University of Zimbabwe. Nhlanhla has close to 20 years' experience working in media and communication in the region. On his bucket list is the nagging ambition to participate in the Cdes Marathon and he has therefore been practicing for the last five years and you may have stumbled on him in the mornings as he embarks on his daily 5km runs.

Phathiswa Mbolo

She is a Programme Associate in the Democracy and Governance Cluster at OSISA. She has 10 years' experience working for different organizations from receptionist, office administration, customer service, tender administration, travel and logistics. She has also studied a variety of short courses including: Personal Assistance and Basic project management, Time management, Assertiveness and Personal productivity. Presently, she is studying towards Office Management and Technology through UNISA. Her ambition is to win a swimming medal at the Olympics, and after attending swimming lessons for two months she thinks she is ready and no amount of discouragement will stop her.

CLUSTER STAFF

Ichumile Gqada

Ichumile joined OSISA in October 2018 as Programme Manager: Inclusive Participation in the Democracy and Governance Cluster. She is a social justice advocate and grant maker with a specific interest in transparency, accountability and promoting good governance in the natural resource sector; social accountability; civic engagement and state-building. Ichumile holds a Masters of Social Science degree from the University of Cape Town in Global Studies and is currently completing a Masters of Philosophy degree in Sustainable Mineral Resource Development. Ichumile previously worked as Programme Manager at the Open Society Foundation for South Africa and as a Business Analyst for South Africa's national oil company, PetroSA. She further worked as a Researcher at the South African Institute of International Affairs, focusing on natural resource governance in Africa. She has promised to give free revolutionary dancing lessons to the entire cluster.

Lusako Munyenyembe

Lusako is the Public and Private Sector Accountability Manager in the Democracy and Governance Cluster. Lusako's career has been grounded in human rights and governance, having worked with quasi-state institutions such as the Office of the Ombudsman, Human Rights Commissions and the legislature - Parliament in Malawi. During her time at the Human Rights Commission, she was instrumental in conceptualising public hearings, specifically on Sexual and Reproductive Health nationally. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from the University of Malawi and a Master of Arts in Applied Human Rights from the University of York in England, through the Chevening Scholarship from the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Lusako's work has been a combination of working with vulnerable groups in promoting and protecting human rights through advocacy and lobbying for policy change and effective service delivery systems. In 2015, she briefly joined the UNDP office in Malawi under the Human Rights and Democracy Portfolio. Lusako is a fitness enthusiast, although the only machine she can operate in the gym is the treadmill, that is, if she is not on the soccer pitch making dangerous tackles.

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