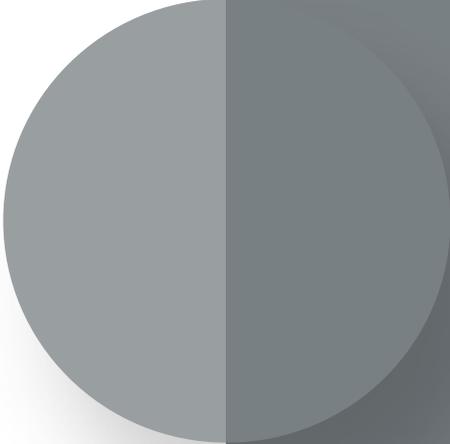


PROGRAMMES

# Economic & Social Justice





# OBJECTIVES

The Economic and Social Justice (ESJ) Cluster of OSISA exists to advance the cause of socio-economic rights within a human rights paradigm that locates and specifies such rights as indivisible and inalienable in the Southern Africa region. In this regard, the Cluster takes the approach that social and economic rights should be placed at the centre of economic development in the pursuit of human dignity, sustainable development, peace and prosperity for all, especially the excluded and marginalized including children, youth, women, persons with disabilities, indigenous populations and persons with Albinism for example. The Cluster seeks to engender a region where citizens enjoy their full spectrum of rights within the parameters of inclusive national economies that deliver quality social services, especially education and health. As such, the Cluster presently has three Programme areas including Education, Health and Economic Justice. Principally, the Cluster adopts a people-centred approach that harnesses the agency and power of citizens and communities in addressing their socio-economic realities. In other words, the Cluster focuses its interventions on the demand-side of the spectrum to effectively ensure transparency and accountability by states in the protection, provision

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and delivery of socio-economic rights. In equal measure, the Cluster seeks to deal with the pervasive threats to the delivery of these rights. Such threats include but are not limited to the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality, wide-spread corruption in the public sector, poor financing of the social sectors, the growing privatization of public services, illicit debt that undermines states' ability to fund socio-economic rights, regressive tax policies and the flawed global economic order that perpetuates endemic inequality and poverty in the region. The ESJ Cluster delivers on its work and mandate through the following strategic objective and in line with the broader OSISA strategy 2019-2022:

The Cluster's work on socio-economic rights has evolved over the years. It initially focused on deepening our own understanding of the socio-economic drivers of inequality and exclusion. At a time when Open Society concerns were restricted to civil and political rights, we were amongst the first Foundations that sought to build a movement on socio-economic rights in the region. Our work has focused on promoting inclusive economies and development processes as well as demystifying economic issues – generally the preserve of a few technocrats in government – for ordinary people. Over the years, we have learned that economic policy matters in whether or not a country is decidedly addressing inequality, poverty and underdevelopment. However, very few civil society organisations in the region have developed a good understanding of these issues to be able to question, challenge and confront exclusionary economic policies. Our grants to research and advocacy institutes working on socio-economic issues have therefore been aimed at helping them document, explain and publicise the implications of economic policies on the fairer and more equitable provision of public resources and services. We have also supported research and advocacy into the impact of laws and policies on marginalised and disadvantaged groups in society. More recently, our grants to specific groups such as education and health coalitions, rural women, youth movements, small scale farmer organisations, domestic worker and informal traders associations, among others,

has helped them to organise, mobilise and speak for themselves with policy makers on issues that affect them. Our grants have therefore assisted marginalised communities to leverage research and information in their advocacy for change and accountability.

## Field Support:

In pursuit of the current strategy, the ESJ Cluster will, in the area of Economic Justice, continue to work with and support activist think-tanks that represent marginalised communities, economic justice movements, target rural women farmers, informal women traders, women domestic workers (domestic workers' rights) and women affected by the extractives sector. We will also support women's and youth empowerment groups. Our work in this pillar will include supporting groups campaigning against illicit financial flows (IFFs), illicit sovereign debt and calling for greater domestic resource mobilisation as well as progressive tax reform.

In the area of Education, in collaboration with the Education Support Programme and the Early Childhood Programme, we will continue to support regional and national education coalitions as well as campaigning organizations for the right to education such as parents' associations, school governing bodies and other stakeholders to push for the expansion of access and quality especially for out-of-school children, learners with disabilities and children from poor households and indigenous communities both at general and early childhood development (ECDE) levels. We will provide support for people-centred interventions premised on transparency and accountability in the governance and financing of the education and early childhood sectors.

In the area of Health, undertaken in close collaboration with the Public Health Programme, we will continue to use grants, research and advocacy to advance health rights in the region. We will provide grants to civil society groups and communities throughout Southern Africa that seek to ensure quality universal health coverage, adequate financing of health and accountability in the sector.



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*Empower citizens to advocate and demand inclusive and responsive economies that deliver more accountable and equitable public services, in particular, health and education.*

# Areas of Work

## Economic Justice Programme

The region continues to be faced by challenges such as; inequality, poverty, weak domestic resource mobilisation, a growing informal economy and deepening debt crisis. Four countries from the region (Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Botswana) feature in the top ten most unequal countries in the world. While on the other hand at least half of the region's countries have the lowest human development rankings. The shrinkage of formal sector employment has resulted in a sharp drop in labour organising, thus undermining the capacity of unions to mobilise their membership and opened the unions to aggressive attacks from states on their leadership. The informalisation of labour has pushed workers away from formalised labour practices of protest actions and moved them into individualised and often criminalised

strategies of survival. According to The Economist, public debt has climbed above 50% of GDP in half the countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Zimbabwe's debt accounts for 75% of its GDP with domestic debt having increased from \$US4 billion to US\$7.7 billion between November 2017 and August 2018. Mozambique, and Mauritania have debt to GDP ratios near or above 100 percent and Namibia's public debt has increased to 41.5% (2017) debt to GDP ratio compared to 23.2% in 2014.

The Programme, in collaboration with other Regional and Network Programmes, continues to monitor and advocate against illicit financial flows and push for better regulation and policy reforms to address tax havens, tax evasion and illicit transfers. Financial and technical support is provided to coalitions and individual CSOs particularly in Zimbabwe, Angola, Mozambique, the DRC and

Zambia to build their capacity to monitor trends, advocate and litigate at national and global levels. The Programme also focuses on strengthening institutional capacity, improving economic literacy and enhancing the political-economy analysis of economic justice movements, human-rights activists and citizens. We continue to facilitate citizens' engagement in monitoring the realisation of the SDGs in the region while providing support to the use of legal empowerment approaches to advance socio-economic rights.

## Inclusive Access to Education Rights Programme

The attainment of the right to education and the vision for an enlightened and informed population in the region continues to be stymied by a myriad of challenges including exclusionary and obsolete education systems; insufficient sector financing and declining official development assistance to education; entrenched corruption and unethical leadership; poor learning outcomes and skewed access, poor retention and school survival rates amongst other challenges. This has resulted in a state of affairs where millions of children are out of the formal school system, especially special interest groups such as girls, children with disabilities (on average constituting approximately 10% of every population demographic), indigenous populations and learners with Albinism. In response to this context, the Education Programme will focus on building civil society capacity and agency for the mobilization of citizens to stand up for the right to education by demanding it and holding duty bearers to account for its provision and delivery.

The Programme will harness a sharp strategic focus on investing in innovative campaigns and advocacy that seek to expand access to quality education that is fit-for-purpose in the 21st century. Fundamentally, the Programme will support citizen's own agency and power in demanding for and safeguarding the delivery of quality education and early childhood services through robust transparency and accountability mechanisms and strategies. This will entail supporting citizens to closely monitor the deployment and effective use

of education finances and resources; advocate for an increase in the resource envelope for education through innovative and sustainable means as well as push for representation and participation of citizens in policy and governance structures relating to the management of education systems in the region.

## Health Rights Programme

Inequalities in access to health remain entrenched. The attainment of health rights for all remains elusive as marginalised populations including the poor, rural communities, women, girls, children, sex workers, and prisoners often struggle to access health. There is insufficient financing to the health sector with most of the budget allocations in SADC countries falling far below the 15% committed to in the Abuja Declaration. In most cases these meagre allocated public resources are siphoned out of the system through widespread corruption in the sector. Southern Africa continues to experience health governance challenges fuelled by an endemic corruption, ineffective policy implementation, abuse of resources and a lack of transparency and accountability. To address these challenges, the OSISA Health Programme focuses on supporting interventions that promote sustainable, innovative and transparent financing for health, initiatives that invest in enhancing good governance, transparency and accountability in the health sector as well as initiatives targeted at promoting health rights for marginalised communities such as Sex workers.

The programme takes a rights based, people centred approach that seeks to cultivate active citizenship, strengthen citizen agency and participation in health decision making processes at both policy and implementation levels. The idea is to improve transparency and accountability in health by increasing citizen engagement and participation in health governance and resource management. A few examples of work typically supported by OSISA include initiatives on anticorruption, budget advocacy, health service delivery monitoring as well policy advocacy and policy tracking.

# Grantees

*Economic Justice Programme Grantee*

## Centre for Trade Policy and Development (CTPD)

The Centre for Trade Policy and Development (CTPD) is a not-for-profit, membership-based economic think tank working on trade and development policy. The organization was established in 1999, as the Zambia Trade Network (this was an idea developed by Zambia Association for Research and Development primarily to respond to the issues of gender and trade. It was registered in December 2004 as Civil Society Trade Network of Zambia (CSTNZ) but was rebranded from being a trade advocacy network to an economic think tank on trade and development as the Centre for Trade Policy and Development (CTPD) in 2009. Based in Lusaka, Zambia CTPD's vision is to promote domestic, regional and global trading systems that contribute to poverty reduction and human development. The core mandate of CTPD is to promote equitable pro-poor trade policies and practices in Zambia through trade reform at national, regional and international levels.

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# Grantees

*Health Rights Programme Grantee*

## Community Working Group on Health (CWGH)

The CWGH is a network of civic and community-based organizations that aim to collectively enhance community participation in Zimbabwe. The network was formed in 1998 and currently has 40 national member organizations which represent various vulnerable social groups in Zimbabwe. The CWGH's operational framework taps into the main levels of local government, community participation structures and health system structures. CWGH has been working with the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA) in a number of areas including health governance, budget tracking and national advocacy. The organisation has managed to empower communities to demand accountability from health service providers thereby improving transparency and accountability. Over the years CWGH has registered an array of successes, for instance, under budget advocacy, CWGH's annual budget position papers are used by the Ministry of Health to

inform the national health budget over the past years. Much more recently, with funding from OSISA CWGH was part of a team of organisations that successfully influenced the review of the old Public Health Act, which has been signed into a new law.

CWGH occupies influential advocacy spaces from community, district, provincial to national, regional and global levels. Such spaces include the Maternal Death surveillance and Response (MDSR) committee which assesses causes of maternal death and makes recommendations for corrective action and the National Results-Based Financing (RBF) Steering committee which deliberates on the national implementation of the RBF Programme. At global level CWGH is a member of the UHC2030 and Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (CSEM). CWGH is also very well known for speaking on topical health policy and service delivery issues.

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The CWGH website ([www.cwgh.co.zw](http://www.cwgh.co.zw)) and social media such as Twitter (@CWGH-ZIMBABWE) and Facebook (Facebook: CWGH) platforms are pivotal in advocacy and are used extensively to publicize the organization's activities and important health issues.

# Grantees

*Inclusive Access to Education Rights Programme Grantee*

## Africa Network Campaign on Education for All (ANCEFA)

ANCEFA is a strategic partner and grantee of the Education Programme, especially in the body of work on promoting innovative financing for the education sector; campaigning for the implementation of Goal 4 of the SDGs, inclusive education and the coordination as well as movement-building of national education coalitions across the region. As a wholly African institution, ANCEFA remains one of the most strategic and important organizations that represent the voices of Africans in policy spaces relating to the right to Education. With a membership of 35 national coalitions of diverse richness and capacities anchoring its work across Southern Africa and Africa more broadly, ANCEFA facilitates Civil Society engagement through the

Dakar-based Regional Secretariat, Programme Offices in Lomé, Lusaka and Nairobi, and National Education Coalitions to deliver on its advocacy and campaign work to contribute to the realization of the right to Education. ANCEFA is a member of the Global Education Movement, the Global Campaign for Education (GCE).

ANCEFA is currently working with the OSISA Education Programme in pioneering groundbreaking work on innovative financing for education whose principal thrust is to advocate for home-grown models and African thought leadership as well as solutions relating to the ubiquitous questions of sustainably financing the education of Africa's peoples.

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## CLUSTER STAFF

### Velaphi Mamba

Team Leader

Velaphi Mamba is currently the Team Leader for the Economic and Social Justice Cluster of the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA). Velaphi possesses over 12 years working experience on human rights, education, youth development, leadership and economic and social justice. His work covers eleven countries in the SADC including Angola, DRC, Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mozambique, Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. He leads the Foundation's efforts at

supporting the cause for inclusive, equitable and quality transformative education in the region through strategic grant making, advocacy and other interventions. Professionally, Velaphi is a qualified teacher having been trained at the University of Swaziland (UNISWA) for both undergraduate and graduate studies. Velaphi has just completed his second graduate qualifications in Development Studies (MA) with the University of the Free State (UFS).

### Rumbidzai M. Masango

Economic Justice Programme Manager

Rumbi joined OSISA in 2017 as the Economic Justice Programme Manager. She has over 10 years' experience in human rights, trade, tax justice, gender mainstreaming and communications. Prior to joining OSISA, she worked for the International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) based in Cote d'Ivoire for two years, where she worked with partners on the first ever Human Rights Defenders Protection Law in Africa. She also has grassroots

experience having worked as a Programme Officer at the Economic Justice Network of FOCCISA in Cape Town for four years. Rumbi holds a Master's degree in Public Administration from Central European University (CEU), and a Bachelor in Social Science (Politics and Economics) from the University of Cape Town, UCT. She is also a FK Norway Fredskorpset Fellow (2011) and an Open Society Internship for Rights and Governance Fellow (2014).

## CLUSTER STAFF

### Cynthia Ngwalo Lungu

Health Rights Programme Manager

Cynthia Ngwalo-Lungu is a development practitioner currently managing the Access to Health Programme at The Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA). Cynthia has over 10 years' experience working in public health, HIV and AIDS, gender, child rights and public policy. Ms Lungu is passionate about socio-economic rights, financing for development, social justice, inclusive

participation, good governance and human rights. She holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration from The University of Wales, a Bachelor's Degree in Humanities from The University of Malawi, Chancellor College and is currently finalizing her MPhil in Health Systems and Services Research with The University of Stellenbosch.

### Tshegofatso Diphukwane

Programme Support Officer, Economic and Social Justice Cluster

Tshegofatso (Tshego) Diphukwane joined OSISA in 2017 as a Grants Associate in the Grants Management Unit and has since moved to the Economic and Social Justice Cluster as a Programme Support Officer. Tshego has 5 years' experience working on programmatic issues relating to the rule of law and socio-economic development. Prior to joining OSISA, she worked for regional and international non-profit organizations

such as Freedom House and CIVICUS. Tshego holds an Honours Degree in Development Studies, a Postgraduate Diploma in Management and a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations and Political Studies, from the University of Witwatersrand (WITS). She is currently working towards her Master in Management, specializing in Public Policy, from the Wits School of Governance.

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### Nonkululeko Buthelezi

Programme Associate, Economic and Social Justice Cluster

Nonkululeko (Nonku) Buthelezi is currently a Programme Associate for the Economic and Social Justice Cluster. Prior to assuming this position, she was the Executive Associate to the Executive Director and served the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa Regional Board. Nonkululeko joined OSISA from Mindcor Executive Search, an Executive Placement and Consulting Organisation, where she served as Project Coordinator providing

administrative support to senior executives and clients. Nonkululeko holds certificates in Secretarial and Administrative Support as well as in Project management. She is currently pursuing a Corporate Governance (CSSA) qualification with the University of Witwatersrand. Nonkululeko is known to live in her heels and has ambitions to change the world and bring relief to those in need, particularly in the socio-economic rights field.

## REFERENCES

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