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End Evaluation of ActionAid's
Africa We Want Project

" *The ACDEG talks about accountability, this is a quality that we need to have, not only in the government sector. In any area you need to be accountable, also when you are a doctor, irrespective of the goals you want to achieve. [...] ACDEG is something that is inside us.*

ACDEG youth leader from Sierra Leone

Acknowledgements

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Acronyms

AA	ActionAid
AACO	ActionAid country offices
AADK	ActionAid Denmark
AAG	ActionAid Ghana, Accra
AAI	ActionAid International
AAM	ActionAid Mozambique, Maputo
AAN	ActionAid Nigeria, Abuja
AASL	ActionAid Sierra Leone, Freetown
AATZ	ActionAid Tanzania, Dodoma
AAUG	ActionAid Uganda, Kampala
AAZAM	ActionAid Zambia, Lusaka
AAZIM	ActionAid Zimbabwe, Harare
ACDEC	African Charter of Democracy, Elections and Governance
ACHPR	African Commission for Human and Peoples' Rights
AGA	African Governance Architecture
AGR	African Governance Report.
AKYDF	Akwa Ibom Youth Development Fund
APRM	African Peer Review Mechanism
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
AU-DPA	African Union Department for Political Affairs
AU-PRC	AU-Permanent Representative Committee (ambassadors)
AYFC	Africa Youth Front on COVID19
CCM	Christian Council Mozambique
CCYA	Centre for Coordination of Youth Activities (in Sierra Leone)
CEPA	Center for Policy Analysis
CIDO	Citizens and Diaspora Organisations Directorate
CSC	Community Score Cards
CSO	Civil Society Organisation, when we use "CSO" in this study, we also include CBOs, NGOs
DfL	Development for Life Foundation, Ghana
DPA	Department for Political Affairs
EAC	East African Community
EACSOF	East African Civil Society Organisations' Forum
EALA	East African Legislative Assembly
ECOSOCC	Economic, Social and Cultural Council
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EQ	Evaluation Question
EU	European Union
KYDC	Kogi Youth Development Commission
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MFWA	Media Foundation For West Africa
MISA	Media Institute of Southern Africa
MoPA	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Ghana
MoPPA	Ministry of Political and Public Affairs, Sierra Leone
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MoYA	Ministry of Youth Affairs
MPOI	Mass Public Opinion Institute
MS-TCDC	Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke's (AA Denmark) Training Centre for Development Cooperation
MTR	Mid -Term Review
NAYO	National Association of Youth Organizations
NaYCOM	National Youth Commission, Sierra Leone
NCCE	National Commission for Civic Education
NDC	National Dialogue Committee
NDF	National Dialogue Forums
NEC	National Election Commission
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NMYCW	Network Movement for Youth and Children's Welfare
OC	Intended outcome as defined in AWW's logical framework
OH	Outcome Harvesting
OP	Intended output as defined in AWW's logical framework
PO	Project Officer
REC	Regional Economic Community
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SADC-CNGO	Southern African Development Community Council of Non-Governmental Organisations
SAVIPE	Sauti ya Vijana Pemba
SAYoF-SADC	Southern Africa Youth Forum
SMART	Specific, Measurable, achievable and Time bound
TDA	Talensi District Assembly
ToC	Theory of Change
UG	Uganda
UN	United Nations
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
WACSOF	West African Civil Society Forum
YAC	Youth Advocacy Cluster
YAF	Youth Alive Foundation
YLISJ	Youth Leadership Initiative for Social Justice, Nigeria
ZEN	Zimbabwe European Network

1 Executive Summary

ActionAid (AA) Denmark's project "*Mobilizing Civil Society Support for Implementation of the African Governance Architecture*", referred to as the "*Africa We Want Project*" (AAW), aimed to increase and strengthen the role that civil society organisations (CSOs) and youth platforms play in promoting good governance and democracy in Africa. The project had an extensive geographic coverage spreading across eight countries, three regions, and at the pan-African level engaging with the African Union (AU) to promote the operationalization of the African Governance Architecture (AGA) and one of its instruments, the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG).

Making civil society a central constituent part of democratic policy-making and -implementation should support the member states of the African Union (AU) in being democratic and accountable to their citizens and aligned with the African Governance Architecture (AGA). To achieve this, the AWW project aimed to increase awareness and understanding of the AGA and the ACDEG among citizens, especially youth. At the same time the project had a strong advocacy and cooperation component at local, national, and regional levels, as well as with the AU institutions, engaging three groups of intermediaries popularizing and advocating for the ACDEG: youth, CSOs, and media.

Running from April 2017 to February 2021 (including a no-cost extension), the project was supported by the European Commission (EC) and driven by a member consortium of 14 CSOs including the national ActionAid offices in the eight focus countries (Ghana, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe), and AA Denmark, as well as the three regional partners East African Civil Society Organisations' Forum (EACSOF), East African Civil Society Organisations' Forum (WACSOF), and Southern African Development Community Council of Non-Governmental Organisations (SADC-CNGO), the research partner Mass Public Opinion Institute (MPOI), and the media partner Media Foundation For West Africa (MFWA).

Purpose, objectives and evaluation questions

In July 2020, AA Denmark commissioned a team of three consultants with the **purpose** to document results at the outcomes level, and to analyse these to provide organisational learning on effective strategies for advocacy on the ACDEG principles. The **objectives** were to i) assess AWW's progress towards project goals; ii) identify signals for information flow and programming transferred between local, national, regional, continental levels with respect to citizen engagement and feedback loops; iii) serve as a forward-looking exercise informing future programming; and iv) facilitate a participatory process among the primary users of the evaluation enhancing knowledge sharing. There were **four main evaluation questions (EQs)**, addressing 1) Progress towards "Good Governance"; 2) Feedback loops and alignment of supply and demand for better governance, 3) AWW's contribution, and 4) Sustainability of AWW's outcomes. Some of these comprised sub-questions which will be specified below.

Outcome harvesting approach and scope

The end evaluation employed the Outcome Harvesting approach and was conducted from August 2020 to January 2021. In total 170 outcomes were harvested for the period from 2017 to 2020. After rigorous scrutinizing by the evaluators, 147 were considered to be SMART, i.e., they were sufficiently specific to be verifiable. Substantiation was done for a selection of the outcomes (65%) either by documents or informants providing further evidence used for verification of the outcome descriptions. All 147 SMART outcomes were used in the analyses accepting that those that were not substantiated provided also credible evidence to address the evaluation questions.

Findings and conclusions

The majority of the SMART outcomes addressed results at the local level (44%), followed by 36% at the national level, 6% at the regional and 14% at the continental level. The AWW project covered an enormous breadth of work, variety of actors, and resulting outcomes. For governments, the types of changes observed included those in i) creating space; ii) formal collaboration; iii) laws, policies or regulations in relation to ACDEG changed or adopted, or ACDEG ratified; and iv) implementation of laws, policies or regulations relating to the ACDEG. For CSOs and youth, changes were observed in i) awareness/ knowledge (capacity); ii) collaboration and networking; iii) outreach and advocacy; and v) ACDEG implementation (such as youths observing elections). For media, the only type of change was in outreach and advocacy. The broad bouquet of contribution strategies used by the project were categorized into six modalities: i) strategic planning; ii) capacity strengthening in youths, media and CSOs; iii) civil society coordination; iv) creating an evidence base through the Citizens Reports methodology; v) outreach and sensitisation; and vi) policy advocacy and dialogue.

EQ1: Progress towards "Good Governance". This was defined by three evaluation sub-questions to assess the evidence for i) increased space for civil participation (EQ1.1); ii) ACDEG principles being enshrined in national legislation and national and local institutions (EQ1.2); and iii) progress towards governments supporting the implementation of laws and policies aligned with ACDEG principles (EQ1.3).

At continental level, the outcomes showed that the AWW project worked with the relevant AU bodies in relation to the ACDEG as set out in the project planning: AGA Secretariat, AU-Department for Political Affairs (DPA), African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), Permanent Representative Commission (PRC), Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) and Citizens and Diaspora Organisations Directorate (CIDO). The AU acted as an ally to the AWW project to achieve changes on the ACDEG in the AU member states targeted by the project. The relationship was mutually beneficial: the AU provided legitimacy and credibility to the work of the AWW project at the regional and national level. At the same time the project was instrumental in providing the AU with a handle to national level work on the ACDEG.

Due to the scope of the evaluation, there were only a limited number of outcomes on the regional level. However, there was evidence that the AWW project managed to create visibility with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs). An impressive case was the engagement of the East Africa Legislative Assembly (EALA) through advocacy of youths engaged in the project and AWW partners.

Overall, the large majority of government outcomes were observed in **"creating civic space" (84%, EQ1.1)** and we concluded that with the relevant AU bodies as their allies, the AWW project managed to open up space for civil society to engage on the ACDEG. On the national level it was evident that although it was often challenging to identify the ministries or agencies responsible for the ACDEG, the AWW project has been able to engage on the ACDEG with these in all countries. Notably, in countries where the ACDEG was not yet ratified and that experienced shrinking civic space, i.e., Zimbabwe, Uganda and Tanzania, working with the parliaments provided a way forward. On the local level too, there was evidence for successful engagement with local authorities on the ACDEG in some of the countries and some interviewees suggested that citizens could now interact more easily with leaders in districts where the project was implemented. With ten outcomes involving local authorities, the sample size was not sufficient for assessing the extent to which this had emerged across the focus countries. However, it is interesting to note that overall fewer changes were found with regards to **ACDEG being enshrined in legislation (8%, EQ1.2)** and for the **implementation of ACDEG (8%, EQ1.3)** than for creating civic space, while on the local level this was different with a

considerable proportion of outcomes relating to ACDEG principles in legislation and ACDEG implementation. In sum, as set out in the AWW project plan, the main emphasis was put on creating a movement that opened doors at government institutions to put ACDEG on the agenda, which the outcome data show they managed to achieve.

EQ2: Feedback loops and alignment of supply and demand for better governance. Two sub-questions were addressed, concerning i) potential linkages among the local, national, regional and continental levels, and ii) the demand from the public (citizens/youths, media, CSOs) for ACDEG implementation.

In order to visualize **linkages among the outcomes (EQ2.1)**, including among different geographic levels, "outcome maps" were developed for each of the eight focus countries, as well as the continental and regional levels. The outcome evidence showed that the project worked across all geographic scales, successfully establishing linkages i) within countries among local and national levels, ii) between the countries and the regional and continental level, and iii) vice versa, among the continental or regional level with the countries. The AWW project achieved this through several strategies. For example, the advice, legitimacy and mandate from continental and regional levels gave national and local implementation more weight. Further, the project convened multi-stakeholder events with representatives from different disciplines and levels, thus bringing together locally active youth with regional or AU level politicians. This helped to make local voices heard at national, regional or continent-wide levels, but also transferred the experience, knowledge and skills they gained back to the local level.

Through this multi-pronged approach working across different scales and through different channels with complementing qualities – the youth, CSOs, and media – the AWW project successfully mobilised civic actors across eight countries and three regions **to demand ACDEG implementation (EQ2.2)**. Youths were observed to be involved as actors or contributors in over half of the outcomes; they started organising themselves, through powerful outreach to their peers, using social media campaigns and forming networks and social movements. Media were important intermediaries communicating on the ACDEG with a wide reach, creating visibility in the public domain for the project and the ACDEG. With their thematic expertise from the ground, CSOs contributed to an increased public demand by both popularising ACDEG among citizens and supporting lobbying and advocacy for ACDEG implementation with governments. A small number of outcomes indicated that CSOs started incorporating the ACDEG into their own work acknowledging that the Charter provided legitimacy for their own objectives. The project often facilitated concerted action among these intermediaries, with AWW partners, CSOs of the wider AWW alliance, youth and media working together in joint advocacy and lobbying activities – certainly a great strength of the project.

EQ3: AWW's contribution. The third evaluation question addressed i) to what extent a specific contribution channel influenced the outcomes, namely the youth, and ii) how specific strategies contributed to the outcomes: the "Citizens Report" methodology and "Coordination of civil society".

There were 37 outcomes with young people as actors (e.g. starting to engage in advocacy), including those that were trained by the project (youth leaders) and those that were engaged through outreach. The outcomes evidence showed that across all focus countries the AWW project managed to interest youths in popularising the ACDEG, to develop the knowledge and leadership capacity needed, and to mobilise them as intermediaries/multipliers, thus **mainstreaming youth successfully making their voice heard to contribute to changes in other actors including government officials (scaling-up the ACDEG message) and citizens (scaling-down to grass roots level) (EQ3.1)**. Youth leaders and/or young people also acted as contributors to 28% of the outcomes, and thus were the

most frequent contributors apart from the AWW partners. Altogether, **youths were involved as actors or contributors in more than half of all results (54%)**. Within and across the focus countries youths connected and started to form youth movements on the ACDEG, as well as influenced other movements passing on information on the ACDEG principles. The AWW project inspired, fostered and maintained these movements using a variety of strategies, e.g., learning and facilitating capacity development; investing and providing opportunities for engaging in protest and advocacy; community building and multi-stakeholder bridging, e.g., through workshops, meetings and high-level conventions and side events. Digital platforms were an integral part of the communication and advocacy strategy, and the outcomes data provided clear evidence that the social media approach helped to <u>scale-out</u> **the ACDEG movement to national and transnational levels**.

The Citizens Report approach was implemented in all countries, yet in some only partially, e.g., conducting only the Community Score Card (CSC) assessment and legal analysis, and not consolidating and launching a final national Citizens Report. Still, the **Citizens Reports methodology proved to be an effective instrument for popularization and advocacy of the ACDEG in several dimensions, even when implemented only partially (EQ3.2a).** At the <u>local level</u> it helped to strengthen capacity of youth and CSOs, engaging communities, and identifying gaps. It delivered an effective evidence base and advocacy products for use at <u>both local and national level</u>, serving as a policy engagement tool and door opener, transporting the message of the ACDEG. In one case, the CSC methodology was even adopted by a local authority on a regular basis to bring up concrete gaps that needed to be met, enhancing accountability to citizens' demands. At the <u>continental level</u> the outputs of the Citizens Report added value channelling the views from the ground to an international audience and served as an instrument for outreach to international NGO forums and CSO platforms and gaining visibility. With respect to exploring complementarity of the processes of the Citizens Report and the African Governance Report, it might have been useful to intensify the collaboration on this with the AU earlier in the project cycle.

With respect to **coordination of civil society (EQ3.2b), the AWW project managed to initiate, inspire, foster, and maintain a multitude of collaborative partnerships, task forces, networks, and a broad movement on the ACDEG.** We observed three forms of coordination: First, AWW succeeded to create a strong <u>consortium of AWW partners</u> (i.e., the project co-beneficiaries) that mutually strengthened their capacity, facilitated collaborative action, and helped to connect to regional and global level stakeholders. This was achieved by linking the partners through AWW reflection meetings; providing support to the country offices through the media partner and AA Denmark; and creating opportunities for collaborative actions at the regional and continental level (e.g., AU side events; joint press statements). Second, <u>working together with external (non-AWW consortium) stakeholders</u> for specific advocacy activities or events gave further weight to civil society's voice on the ACDEG (multi-stakeholder "bridging" function of the AWW project). Third, the project also successfully <u>stimulated the collaboration of CSOs and youth platforms external to the AWW consortium</u>, initiating and fostering task forces and networking especially at the local and national level, often as a result of ACDEG training. With respect to the collaboration with youth activists and the use of digital media as envisaged in the AWW media strategy, it was observed that the ACDEG message diffused also to other platforms (e.g., Youth Advocacy Cluster, Nigeria) and to inspire even international movements (#ACDEG55). AWW's coordinative role thus worked on multiple scales, and it not only encouraged collaboration and networking among peers but also across disciplines, thereby greatly enriching the sharing of learning and experience. Considering the importance of a coordinated approach, a clearer definition of the different types of partnerships and networks through which the AWW project worked, and their respective purpose might have been helpful.

EQ4: Sustainability of AWW's outcomes. The outcomes evidence indicated that there is a good basis for follow-up work which could lead to more downstream impact. Knowledge has been built amongst the AWW country teams and partners on the ACDEG, which they, as stated in the interviews, will continue using. Further, the work of the AWW project was embedded in existing (e.g., Activista/ Global Platform) or newly formed (e.g ACDEG task forces) structures which will continue to exist beyond the lifetime of the project. The country offices can also leverage from the good relationships built with governments through the project at local, national, regional and AU levels. The sustainability of the results was harder to judge for this evaluation than usually due to COVID-19 effects impeding implementation in the last year of the project. Some outcomes were still emerging during the period of the evaluation, which may indicate that further outcomes are to be expected. Based on the above considerations, we believe that the work on the ACDEG has good chances to continue and even grow, when the momentum is being kept. The ACDEG movement that the AWW project has been able to create on a diversity of levels and with a variety of actors is more than impressive, to say the least.

Recommended points for consideration

In order to use this momentum, ActionAid may consider the following points for their future work:

1. Position ACDEG advocacy within other pan-African or regional frameworks and instruments for alignment and complementarity, e.g. the Transitional Justice Policy Framework or the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections.

2. Leverage from the partnerships and the ACDEG movement built during the project and further strengthen, refine and expand collaboration with its various partners, potentially also considering CSO-government co-operations, where possible.

3. For this it may be helpful to define and use in a more systematic way different, explicit partnership, collaboration or networking strategies, including also the testing of innovative network development and social movement strategies, which would support monitoring, learning and strategy development in different contexts.

4. Enhance monitoring and evaluation efforts, including e.g., the development of a Theory of Change (global and contextualized to countries); monitoring capacity development effectiveness; distinguishing in a more fine-granular way different policy influencing strategies (e.g., dissent / dialogue); finding ways to better report and monitor downstream, impact-near results.

5. With respect to sustainability, keep the momentum of engagement going, i) using the structures developed during the project; ii) especially at the level of youth and communities creating new incentives and teaming up youths to continue popularisation of the ACDEG; and iii) mainstreaming the ACDEG in future projects and integrating the ACDEG principles where possible and adequate.

2   The Africa We Want Project and the ACDEG

ActionAid (AA) Denmark's project "*Mobilizing Civil Society Support for Implementation of the African Governance Architecture*" aimed to increase and strengthen the role that civil society organisations (CSOs) play in promoting good governance and democracy in Africa. As a pan-African project supported by the European Commission (EC), the project was soon commonly referred by its implementers as the "Africa We Want" (AWW) project" – in line with the "Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want" of the African Union (AU)[1]. The project aimed to make civil society a central part of democratic policy-making and -implementation supporting governments in being democratic and accountable to their citizens and aligned with the African Governance Architecture (AGA). For this, the project put its main emphasis on the popularization of and advocacy for the "African Charter of Democracy and Good Governance" (ACDEG), because – as explained in the AWW Project Document "*it addresses many of the reforms needed to improve governance across the continent, in particular issues that are very close to citizens' interest in national politics in their own countries- such as the conduct of elections, and the change of power from one leader to another by Constitutional means*".

AGA, AU and the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG)

The ACDEG is one of the "Shared Valued Instruments" that stipulate the functions of the African Governance Architecture (AGA)[2]. The AGA is a platform that fosters interactions between stakeholders that work to promote good governance and democracy in Africa; established by the African Union Commission (AUC). The AGA Secretariat serves as the coordinating hub of the Platform and is housed in the Department of Political Affairs of the AUC.

The ACDEG was adopted in 2007 and proposed to enable AU member states to strengthen democratic practices, respect for human rights and rule of law, promoting free, fair and credible, electoral processes. The ACDEG was signed by 46 member states and ratified and acceded to by 34 states[3]. Within the context of the AWW project, five countries (Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Mozambique and Zambia) have ratified the ACDEG, two (Uganda and Zimbabwe) have signed; and one (Tanzania) has neither signed nor ratified.

The Charter is a multi-level governance framework with several AU organs at the continental level, including amongst others the Assembly; the Executive Council; the AU Commission (AUC); the Permanent Representative Committee (PRC); the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM); the Pan-African Parliament; the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECCOSOC); and Citizens & Diaspora Organisations.

At the regional level, the AUC should establish a framework for cooperation with the Regional Economic Communities (REC) which in turn encourage member states to ratify or adhere to the ACDEG as well as designate focal points for coordination, evaluation and monitoring of commitments to the ACDEG, ensuring participation especially of civil society organisations (CSOs).

At the national level, the Charter foresees the involvement of multiple stakeholders ranging from government, parliament, judiciary, political parties, electoral bodies, etc., to CSOs, media and citizens. The situation varies among countries, some mandating ministries, usually the Ministry of

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[1]   https://au.int/en/agenda2063/overview
[2]   http://aga-platform.org/about/
[3]   List of countries which have signed, ratified/acceded to the ACDEGF

Foreign Affairs (MFA), sometimes other ministries or agencies, and others do not yet have designated lead agencies for the implementation and reporting on ACDEG (e.g., Ghana).

The ACDEG obligates member states to submit a report (every two years) to the AUC on legislative or other measures taken to give effect to the Charter's principles. At the continental level, the AU-APRM has currently the mandate on behalf of the AGA platform to assesses and monitor progress towards good governance in African countries in the biannual African Governance Report (AGR).

The Africa We Want project

The rational for the AWW project was that, in practice, the implementation of the ACDEG, i.e., democracy, governance and elections across the continent, still falls short of people's aspirations. In their efforts to enhance the process through outreach and advocacy for the ACDEG, the project took a bottom-up approach, working in eight focus countries (Ghana, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe) to enable citizens, especially young women and men to enhance their awareness and understanding of the importance of the ACDEG and the AGA and demand for the implementation of the ACDEG. At the same time, the project had a strong advocacy and cooperation component at the national level (focus countries), as well as working with three regional forums, namely the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the East African Community (EAC), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and continent-wide (AU) (see Annex 9.3 for the AWW logical framework with impact, outcomes and outputs).

To mention only three of the main lines of activities:

- **Capacity strengthening** on the ACDEG, mobilising youth from the AA youth platform Activista, local and national CSOs, and media.

- **Coordination of civil society** (youth, CSOs, and media) for outreach and advocacy on the ACDEG, as well as for policy dialogue at local, national, regional and continental levels.

- **Citizend Reports**: a methodology developed for this project to create the evidence base for advocacy and lobbying with national governments, and at regional and international levels.

The project ran from April 2017 to March 2020 and was extended through a no cost extension up to end February 2021 due to COVID-19 and the impact of subsequent lockdowns. It was driven by a **member consortium of 14 CSOs:** including the eight national ActionAid offices in the focus countries, the three regional partners East African Civil Society Organisations' Forum (EACSOF), West African Civil Society Organisations' Forum (WACSOF), and Southern African Development Community Council of Non-Governmental Organisations (SADC-CNGO), the research partner Mass Public Opinion Institute (MPOI), and the media partner Media Foundation For West Africa (MFWA), as well as the grant holder AA Denmark. In July 2020, AA Denmark commissioned an external end evaluation to assess the results and learnings of the project on an outcomes level. The Outcome Harvesting evaluation was conducted from August 2020 to January 2021 led by a team of external consultants from Uganda, Belgium, and Germany and supported by the AWW team at AA Denmark.

The following Chapters 3 and 4 present the evaluation design, methodology and limitations. Chapter 5 summarises the overall findings of the outcomes evidence. Chapter 6 comprises the main body of the report with four sections on findings corresponding to the four evaluation questions. At the end of each section, we summarise the general conclusions on the outcomes evidence. The recommendations drawn from the findings and conclusions follow in Chapter 7. The Annex, finally, contains additional information including the AWW logical framework and the so-called "outcome maps" elaborated from the data. Outcomes from the database referred to in the text are provided in brackets and in blue.

3   Evaluation purpose, objectives, questions, and scope

3.1 Purpose and objectives of the evaluation

The Terms of Reference specify the **overall purpose** of the evaluation as follows:"*... document outcomes and results, and to analyse these to provide organisational learning on effective strategies for advocacy on ACDEG principles*". Hence, the evaluation should serve both accountability and learning. It was intended to provide evidence for the project's achievements by compiling credible, intended and unintended outcomes, and use this evidence to assess the relevance of the results and the extent of progress towards the project's overall goals (effectiveness).

Following Michael Quinn Patton's utilization focused approach (2008), we identified the primary and secondary users and uses of this evaluation (Annex 9.4) and based on this defined the objectives of the evaluation as described below:

1. Assess AWW's progress towards project goals based on a compilation of credible and categorized, exemplary outcome narratives (i.e., descriptions of changes observed in relevant stakeholders, their significance, and the plausible contributions to these changes by the project) that will serve to identify signals, patterns and trends addressing the evaluative questions.

2. Identify signals for information flow and programming transferred between different levels (local, national, regional, continental), with respect to citizen engagement and feedback loops influencing policies at higher levels and government responsiveness to people's needs.

3. Serve as a forward-looking exercise informing future programming by examining AWW's contribution to results through effective CSO coordination and strengthening capacity for advocacy and opportunities for improving the interventions' strategies for effective advocacy on ACDEG.

4. Facilitate a participatory process among the primary users of the evaluation (AADK and AWW country offices / consortium), enhancing knowledge sharing and strengthening capacity for future programming and MEL.

3.2 Evaluation questions

The Terms of Reference (ToRs) specified eight Evaluation Questions (EQs) and three additional questions. During the participatory design phase, these questions were grouped into four main questions, of which some were defined in more detail through sub-questions:

Main EQ 1: Do the outcomes represent patterns of progress towards "Good Governance", i.e., the overall objective of the project that AU member states are more democratic and accountable to their citizens?

    1.1   To what extent do the outcomes show <u>progress or regress in terms of increased space for civil participation</u>?

    1.2   To what extent do the outcomes show that the <u>principles of ACDEG are being enshrined in national legislation and national and local institutions</u>?

    1.3   To what extent do the outcomes show progress towards governments supporting the implementation of law and policy changes demonstrating increased democracy and accountability of governments.

Main EQ 2. Do the outcomes indicate feedback loops and alignment of supply and demand for better governance?

    2.1   To what extent do the outcomes show linkages between the local, national, regional and continental level?

    2.2   To what extent do the outcomes show a demand from the public (understood as citizens, media, CSOs as well as young men and women) of AU member states for the implementation of ACDEG?

Main EQ 3. How did the AWW project contribute to the observed results?

    3.1.   To what extent have young men and women contributed to the outcomes, and how.

    3.2.   To what extent and at what scale did AWW's contribution strategies, especially "Citizens Reports" and "CSO coordination", influence the outcomes?

Main EQ 4. To what extent do the outcomes indicate that AWW's achievements are sustainable?

3.3 Scope

The ToRs for the end-evaluation asked the evaluators to implement an OH approach and methodology that would ensure that "*all partners, target groups, beneficiaries and geographical regions of the project are equally represented*" in the collection of data. Due to Covid-19 travel restrictions, the evaluation was handled entirely remotely. The following sketches out the scope and sampling as agreed upon with the users during the design:

Evaluation period. The evaluation harvested outcomes that emerged during the evaluation period from the start of the project in 2017 to September 2020.

Target countries and geographic scope. The harvest included outcomes from all eight focus countries of the AWW project (Ghana, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe), relevant either on the national or local level. In addition, the evaluation collected evidence for achievements on the regional level, namely SADC, EAC, and ECOWAS, as well as Africa-wide (continental level).

Sources. The internal informants (AWW partners) who actively supported the harvesting process included the AA Denmark headquarters in Denmark, the eight ActionAid offices in the target countries, the regional partners South African Development Community Council of NGOs (SADC-CNGO), East Africa CSOs' Forum (EACSOF) and West African Civil Society Forum (WACSOF), the media partner Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA), and the research partner Mass Public Opinions Institute (MPOI, partner in Zimbabwe assisting in the development for an ACDEG citizen monitoring framework for compiling Citizens Reports). At least one representative from each of these "change agents" was engaged in the harvest either through interviews, workshops or emails.

To a limited extent, the evaluation engaged with external stakeholders of the project who were either the actors specified in the outcomes, or external organisations or groups knowledgeable about the project's achievements. This included continental government authorities (AU-AGA), CSO, youth and media representatives (see Annex 9.5 for a list of informants).

4   Approach, methodology and limitations

4.1 Approach and methodology

The evaluation method used for this evaluation was Outcome Harvesting (OH) as developed by Ricardo Wilson-Grau and colleagues (Wilson-Grau & Britt, 2013)[4]. OH defines outcomes as observable changes in the behaviour relationships, actions, activities, policies or practices of individuals, groups, or organisations (Annex 9.1). The method offers a very systematic and methodological approach to collecting ("harvesting") such social change outcomes as evidence of what has changed and, working backwards, determining whether and how an intervention has plausibly contributed to these changes. OH distinguishes among two stakeholder roles with respect to the emerging outcomes: i) the "contributor" or "change agent", who influence an individual, group or organization to do something differently, and ii) the "societal actor" who are influenced to change through the activities or outputs of the contributors.

OH is a utilization-focused and participatory approach, comprising usually an intensive and interactive design phase and depending on high engagement and the support of internal sources during data collection. It is set out as a 6-step framework, which however in a very flexible way can be adapted to the specific needs of the program and evaluation. During the initial phase (OH step 1), we established a small committee comprising the external consultants and internal staff from AA Denmark to coordinate the evaluation and jointly take decisions on its design (Annex 9.4). The evaluation largely followed the OH methodology, with some exceptions which we will point out in the following.

4.1.1   Data collection and validation

Data collection reflected OH steps 2 and 3, involving document review, a survey and interviews to harvest the outcomes. In addition, we conducted key informant interviews to contextualise the evaluation questions. The evaluation built on the outcomes harvested collected during a mid-term evaluation (MTR) that had also employed OH, as well as other previous harvesting events including a workshop in Nigeria. Guided by the consultants, the AA Denmark evaluation management team harvested outcomes from the AWW annual reports 2018 and 2019. In addition, a survey was sent to a wider circle of youth informants trained through the AWW project to collect potential results. After reviewing the existing outcomes data, the evaluators collected missing information and additional outcomes through remote interviews and email from internal sources including AADK focal points, AWW staff from the eight country offices, the three regional partners, and the media and research partner. This included guiding the internal sources in drafting outcome statements in the collection tool used (Citrix Podio). After the first round of harvesting, the circle of informants was widened, including also the external stakeholders of the project, to fill in gaps, harvest additional outcomes, and for substantiation (see below). The aim was not on harvesting a large number of outcomes, but on the quality of data and understanding background and linkages between the outcomes to reflect this complex project. Therefore, in parallel to the harvesting, there were also 'piggy-back' key informant interviews with some of the stakeholders involved in the harvest in order to obtain additional views on specific outcomes areas, AWW implementation and context, thus addressing some of the evaluative questions in further depth.

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[4] See http://outcomeharvesting.net for more information on OH

Data validation. The evaluators scrutinised all outcomes data making sure that the information was sufficiently specific to comply with the SMART criteria of OH, i.e., they were within the scope of the evaluation, relevant to the project goals, and plausibly linked to the contribution of the AWW project (Annex 9.2). However, information on some of the outcomes was insufficient and they remained so-called "outcome leads". They nevertheless provide interesting information and may be worth following up at a later stage. In total 170 outcomes were harvested, of which 147 were considered to be SMART.

Sources for the outcomes. Out of the 147 SMART outcomes, 13 outcomes were collected prior to the evaluation through previous OH in the countries (mainly the workshop in Nigeria in December 2019); 26 outcomes harvested for the MTR in 2019 were SMART; three outcomes stemmed from the survey at the beginning of the evaluation; 49 were harvested from the desk review, and another 56 through informants' inputs (the focal points entering outcomes in Podio and/or interviews with the evaluators), or through the splitting of outcomes.

4.1.2 Substantiation of outcomes (credibility)

Instead of the standardised, formal OH substantiation process that sometimes follows the harvest, we used here the iterative harvesting process and sharing of outcomes data with different internal and – for some outcomes – also external stakeholders to substantiate some of the SMART outcomes. For example, before interviewing the actors of outcomes (e.g., youth, CSO, media representatives) they were sent the relevant outcomes and asked to review these for verification. In some cases, we sent only the outcome descriptions (not the contribution), or even the outcome headings (e.g., in case of the AU-AGA Secretariat). Outcomes were also verified by information available through screening of in total c. 170 internal or external documents, including reports shared with external participants, handwritten participants lists, photos and videos, etc., as well as external documents such as newspaper clippings or other (online) publications. Outcomes were marked with "SUBST 1" when they were substantiated by one source, either a document or an external interview. "SUBST 2" indicated that there was both documentary evidence and an interview with an actor or external person confirming the outcome.

Out of the 147 SMART outcomes, 98 (67%) could be substantiated either through one source (SUBST 1; 80 outcomes, 54%), or through two or more independent sources (18 outcomes, 12%). In OH, the credibility of the outcomes evidence is enhanced by various means:

- As described above by compliance with the SMART criteria
- Review and validation of all SMART outcomes and their classification by the evaluators
- Review and verification across different stakeholder groups and sources where possible
- Informing interview respondents that their response may formally go on public record as part of the evaluation report (unless objected explicitly)
- Validation meetings with the AA Denmark AWW team.

The evaluators and the AA Denmark team considered the 147 SMART outcomes sufficiently credible evidence to be used in the data analyses addressing the four evaluation questions.

4.1.3 Data analysis and use of findings

Data analysis was based on the 147 SMART outcomes, the 23 outcome leads were not included in the analyses, yet they present useful "signals" that further results were likely to have emerged in similar areas. In this report, the outcome leads will sometimes be used in an anecdotal way as further

potential areas of achievement. In line with OH step 5, emphasis was put on a participatory and transparent data analysis process, involving AA Denmark in developing a categorisation scheme adequate to address the evaluation questions, discussing hypotheses, and exploring interesting patterns and trends. The resulting Code Book and the outcomes database (both not published) can be viewed on request. The outcomes data were analysed using Excel and visualisation software (Power Bi, Tableau). In order to address EQ2, we constructed "outcome maps" using the collaborative software Mural[5], demonstrating linkages among outcomes and to some extent pathways of change (Annex 9.9). The initial maps were also shared with informants to obtain their views and harvest further outcomes.

The findings of this evaluation were presented by the evaluation team-lead at the AWW end of project meeting. It is planned that the end-evaluation report will be shared with project partners, AADK, AA International, and the EU, and will also be made publicly available.

4.2 Challenges and limitations

This evaluation was guided by widely acknowledged standards[6] which we believe we have successfully followed. However, the following limitations and challenges should be noted:

Timeline. Initially, the evaluation was scheduled to be conducted over the months of July to November 2020. However due to the complexity of the project, the scope of the evaluation questions, and the iterative process of OH, the final deadline was moved to 30 January for the final evaluation report.

Limited availability of sources. Due to the limited budget and time, it was agreed that the harvesting process would be supported by internal staff both at AA Denmark and the country offices, which was of tremendous help and essential for this evaluation. However, notwithstanding the intensive engagement during the harvesting interviews, the responses from many of the country offices, the follow-up interviewees, as well as the informants on regional or continental level were often slow, which delayed the harvesting process. For example, quite some time was invested in trying to set up an interview with EALA, which, however, in the end did not manifest.

The reasons for this slow or limited response may be manifold: For one, the capacity on OH and using the Podio database was lower than expected among AA country staff and thus training was needed. Although country staff were very willing to engage, they were also occupied with final project activities as well as financial and narrative reporting requests for the project. Furthermore, some staff who were employed at the AWW project had already left the organisation. In addition to the challenging Covid-19 situation across the countries, there were incidents in some of the countries creating a difficult environment for the harvest (e.g., the police protests in Nigeria, the general elections in Tanzania and the pre-election violence in Uganda).

Sampling: The peak of outcomes (69) was collected for 2018, with only 14 in 2017, and a decreasing number for 2019 (43) and 2020 (16). For the beginning of the project cycle in 2017, a plausible explanation could be that results at the outcome level did not yet manifest, especially since some informants noted that the project start was delayed in some countries. When only the outcomes harvested through interviews and input from country focal points were considered, the peak of outcomes in this data set actually was seen in 2019. Hence, the data showed a bias introduced

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[5] https://www.mural.co/
[6] https://www.betterevaluation.org/en/evaluation-options/evaluation_standards

through the outcomes harvested for the MTR and from the desk review of the annual reports 2018 and 2019. However, the harvesting of outcomes in general was not meant to be exhaustive, but representative of the type of changes achieved by the AWW project in order to identify the trends and patterns in the results of the AWW project.

Negative outcomes: Both positive as well as negative outcomes can be collected through OH. However, negative outcomes are more difficult to harvest and require more time investment as was possible here. This resulted in an appreciative approach focusing on positive outcomes. Nevertheless, the evaluation nevertheless examined what did not work well, as the evaluators carefully scrutinized the outcomes data for gaps during the analysis and interpretation phase..

Analysis: Outcomes differ in nature and therefore quantitative summaries must be interpreted with care. Some changes may be more significant than others, some are descriptions of overarching "umbrella" outcomes summing up several smaller changes in an actor, while others describe more fine granular changes. Further, the number of outcomes harvested from an intervention may be influenced by factors other than effectiveness, depending, e.g., on the availability of knowledgeable informants and time for the harvest. It must be understood that the data explorations and visualisations in this evaluation are not statistical analyses but are meant to provide an overview on the data reflecting the trends and patterns observed, and that the basis for our assessment is largely based on a rigorous, qualitative analysis of the outcomes evidence.

5   Overall signals and trends in the outcomes data

This section will summarise the outcomes evidence harvested in this evaluation and explore initial trends and signals that guided the evaluation. At the end of the chapter there will be a brief conclusion and a simplified Theory of Change (ToC) developed from the observed outcomes depicting the key stakeholders and key contribution strategies employed in the AWW project.

5.1 Summary of the overall outcomes evidence
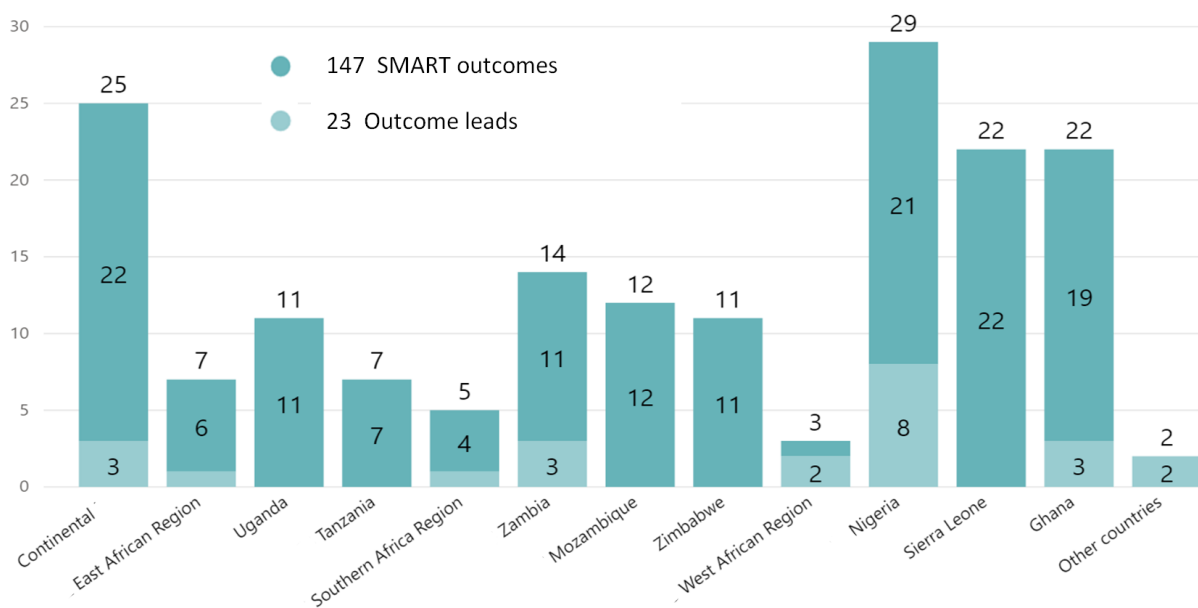
Figure 1: Distribution of outcomes (SMART and "leads") across countries, regions, and at the continental level.
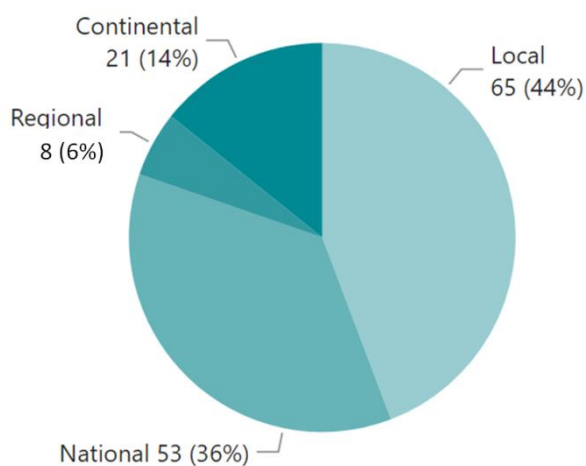
Figure 2: Distribution of the 147 SMART outcomes harvested across levels.

Geographic spread of the outcomes. Out of the 147 SMART outcomes, 21 (14%) concerned actors at the continental level, involving mainly AWW partner's interaction with the AU organs (18 outcomes) (Figure 2). In addition, there were two outcomes that related to a multilateral body (see below) and one concerning an actor from a different continent, the European Parliament. Only eight outcomes (6%) described changes at the regional level, five involving regional bodies (RECs) such as the EAC, SADC, and ECOWAS, as well as two "multi-stakeholder groups" (see below), and one addressing the members of SADC-CNGO's regional CSOs/NGO network as actors.

The low number of outcomes collected from the regional level should not be taken as evidence that the work at the regional level was less effective, rather that more emphasis was put on harvesting from the country and continental levels (as a choice in scope where time/budget limitations did not allow comprehensive sampling). The main bulk of data was collected from the countries, with 36% of the changes observed in <u>national</u> and 44% in <u>local</u> actors, constituting together <u>80% of the records</u>. It has to be noted that outcomes concerning youths as actors were considered as "local" even if when organised in a national or regional youth platform, the rational being that the change occurred individually.
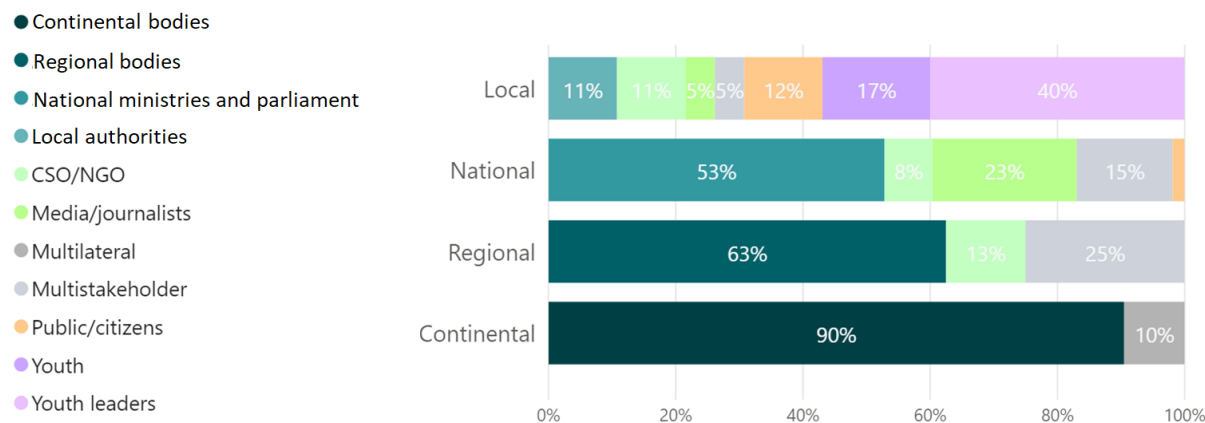
Figure 3: Proportions of various types of actors per geographic level.

Actors of the AWW project. The following presents the broad variety of actors influenced by the AWW project, i.e., those whose changes were described in the harvested outcomes. Youth, CSOs and media of course also played a role as contributors to outcomes, which will be discussed later.

Overall, <u>government bodies</u>, including local authorities, national ministries and parliament, regional bodies, as well as the organs of the AU, constituted the largest group of actors (59 outcomes, 40%) influenced by the project. <u>Youth</u> (37, 25%) presented the second largest group, here comprising both those trained by the project directly or through step down trainings, as well as those reached through sensitisation activities. This was followed by the number of outcomes for <u>media representatives</u> (15, 10%), <u>CSOs/NGOs</u> (11, 8%), <u>citizens</u> (9, 6%), and finally there were two outcomes concerning <u>multilateral</u> actors (1%). Finally, we defined a "<u>multi-stakeholder</u>" category to be able to identify and assess outcomes where the AWW project managed to bring together diverse players from different sectors. This is an important network development function identified by Ramalingam *et al.* to "*ensure the cross-fertilisation of ideas and the application of a multidisciplinary approach to issues of common concern*" (Ramalingam *et al.*, 2009). Such multi-stakeholder outcomes played a role in 14 SMART outcomes (10%) and were observed in actors from the local, national and regional level.

When comparing the proportions of the various types of actors across the different levels (Figure 3), it was evident that particularly at the local level, the AWW project was able to influence directly or indirectly a wide range of actors, including local government authorities, local journalists, CSOs and NGOs, youth leaders (ambassadors) trained by the AWW project and youths that were not trained by the project, as well as citizens. At the national, regional and continental levels the proportion of government actors increased notably.

The engagement with the multilateral actors was "unexpected", i.e., they were not foreseen as a primary societal actor in the AWW logical framework. Still, in June 2018, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) office assigned one of their economists to collaborate with the AWW project on the Citizens Report methodology [36], and in the following remained engaged, e.g., inviting AWW partners to present at the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in February 2020 [198]. These achievements in actors not targeted in the AWW logical framework were not further researched and assessed in the evaluation.

Observed types of changes. The outcomes fell into seven different categories of changes (Figure 4). The interpretation of the code varied slightly depending on the actor they mapped onto. For example, a government outcome coded with "ACDEG / laws, policies, norms implemented" could indicate that the authorities supported the supply side of ACDEG implementation (e.g., committing to start monitoring of the ACDEG). Mapped onto a citizen outcome the category would address the demand-side of the ACDEG (e.g., women demanding or using their right to vote).
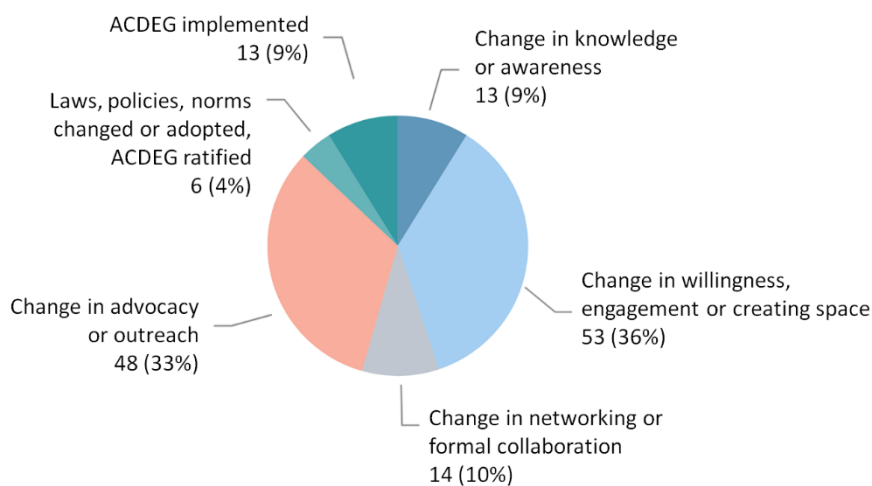
Figure 4: Proportions of types of changes observed in the various actors.

It is worth noting that the largest number of outcomes concerned changes in willingness, engagement, creating space (53 outcomes, 36%). These were outcomes that we would expect to see at the more immediate, "upstream" level of the impact pathway. Lumping these with other "upstream" changes, namely "Knowledge and awareness" (i.e., increased individual or institutional capacity to promote and advocate for the ACDEG) and "Networking and formal collaboration" resulted in 80 outcomes, i.e. more than half of all outcomes (54%). These immediate changes were found in all actors, except the media. Counting all intermediate changes such as "Changes in advocacy and outreach" and "Laws, policies, norms changed…" totalled to 54 (37%) outcomes. Changes in advocacy and outreach were seen especially in youth (25) and media (15), in fact for the latter this was the only type of change, namely that journalists began to publish or increased reporting on the ACDEG or related themes and events. There were only few impact-near changes concerning ACDEG implementation. For the supply side they concerned almost exclusively local authorities (four outcomes), and in addition one political party at national level, yet none was found in regional and continental governments (this will be detailed in section 6.1). For the demand side we observed three changes for citizens and trained and non-trained youths, but none for CSOs (section 6.2.2.4). The types of changes observed in the various actor groups will be assessed in more detail from the perspective of the duty bearers in section 6.1 and for the rights holders in section 6.2.2.

Significance of outcomes. The significance of the outcomes was rated by the informants (country offices and AA Denmark) to have the option to identify important outcomes and possibly weigh them differently in our assessment. The majority of outcomes was rated "Moderate" (90 outcomes, 61%), followed by 46 outcomes (31%) with minor significance and only 11 major outcomes (7%). Ten of the latter concerned government actors, for example local authorities in communities in Mozambique that are now organising regular hearings with the communities based on the community score cards to address their needs [237]. One concerned youths that were accredited as election observers by the National Election Commission (NEC) in Zimbabwe in 2018 [120]. Figure 5 shows that the proportion of outcomes with higher significance increased from immediate (upstream) to more impact-near (downstream) outcomes, as one would expect. In the following sections we will not consider the significance rating in a systematic way. While it was helpful to pay particular attention to the most significant outcomes, it did not seem to add value to segregate or weigh outcomes according to their significance, since throughout the report we present the individual outcomes and where needed discuss their relevance and importance.
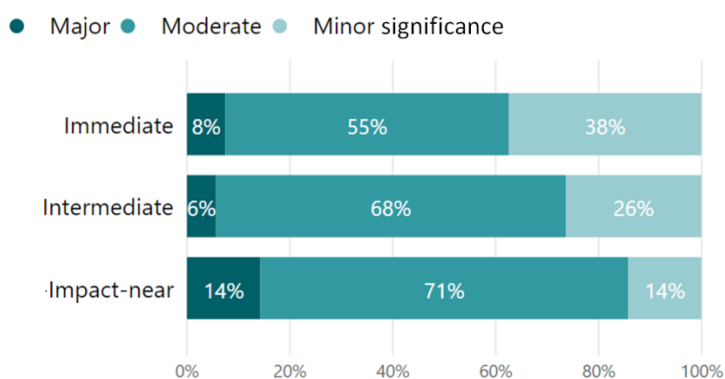
Figure 5:   Proportion of outcomes with minor, moderate or major significance and their occurrence in the pathway of change.

Types of contributors. During the project design phase, we defined 11 types of potential contributors, which we grouped into three categories (note that more than one contributor could influence an outcome):

- **Internal change agents:** the six types of partners in the AWW consortium, namely AA country offices (including also ActionAid's youth-led Global Platform in Ghana and Zambia), regional partners, the research partner, the media partner, the AWW team in Denmark, and AA International. One or more of the partners contributed to 138 (94%) of the outcomes.

- **Intermediaries:** CSOs/NGOs, media houses or journalists, and trained youths ("Youth leaders"), who embarked in outreach and public sensitisation, providing the evidence base (Citizens Reports), as well as policy advocacy (59 outcomes, 40%).

- **Rights holders:** (final "beneficiaries" of the AWW project) Youth and generally the public (citizens) who were not trained by the AWW project yet were reached through outreach and campaigns and were expected to start supporting the popularization of the ACDEG and demanding the Charter's implementation. Citizens did not occur as contributors in any of the outcomes, but "Youth" still featured in 10 outcomes (7%).
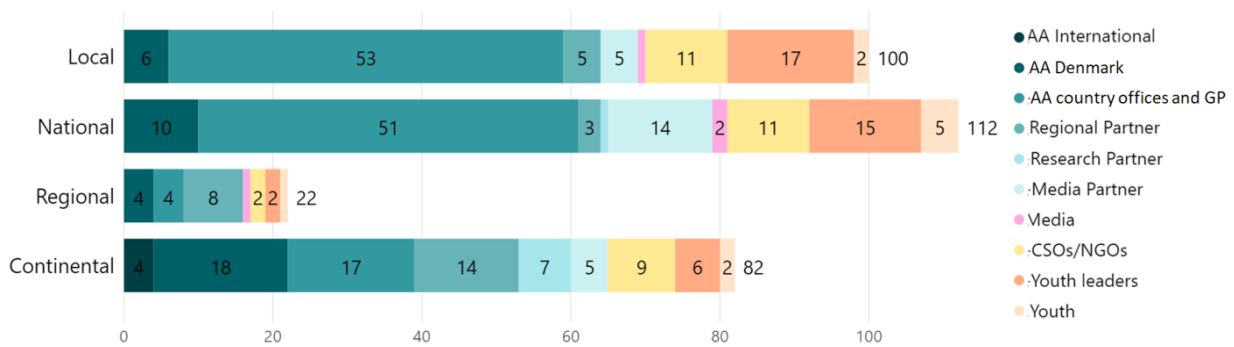
Figure 6:   Proportions of different types of contributors mapped onto the geographic scales. Note that there could be more than one contributor influencing an outcome, depicted is thus the proportion of tags, not the proportion of outcomes.

Most contributors were found to influence outcomes at all four levels (local, national, regional and continental), with the exception of the research and the media partner who did not contribute to outcomes at the regional level, and AA International only being involved in the continental results (Figure 6). Note that an outcome could be influenced by more than one contributor type. Dividing the total number of tags for contributors (316) by the actual number of SMART outcomes (147) gave a ratio of 2.15. Hence, on average there were more than two different types of contributors influencing a single outcome. This was taken as an indication that many of the outcomes emerged through the joint efforts of different types of contributors. This will be discussed further in section 6.3 (Contribution), and especially section 6.3.2.2 (Civil society coordination).

Types of contribution modalities. The AWW project was implemented through a wide range of activities which we grouped into six key modalities (Figure 7). As for the contributor categories, an outcome could be coded with multiple contribution tags. Those tagged most often on the outcomes were "Capacity development, training", which occurred in 93 of the 147 outcomes (63%).
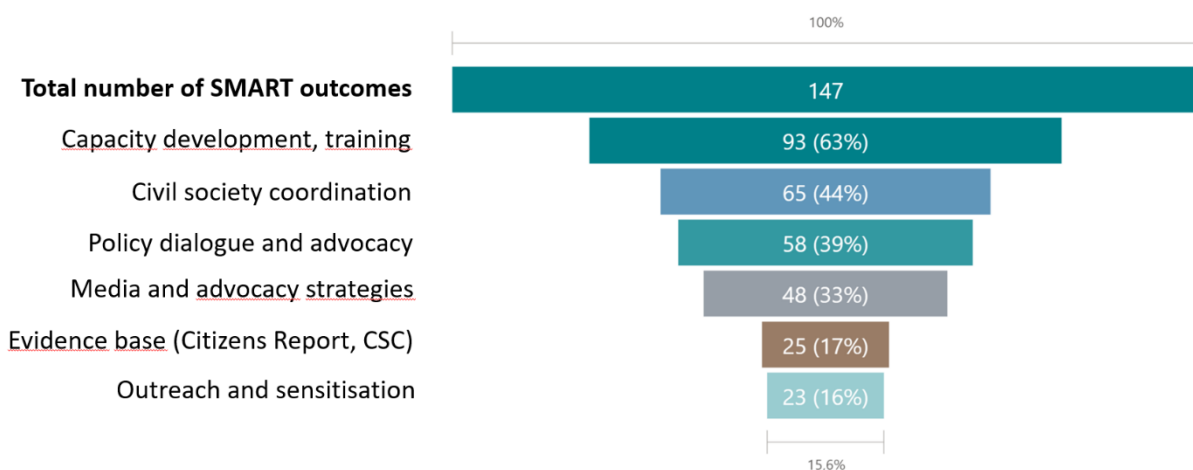
Figure 7:   AWW project's six types of contribution modalities, each of these comprising a variety of different activities and strategies. Note that there could be more than one modality influencing an outcome.

5.2 Conclusions on overall outcomes data

<table>
<tr><td>Overall conclusions on outcomes</td><td>The AWW project covered an enormous breadth of work, variety of actors, and resulting outcomes. The bulk of outcomes were achieved in government actors and youths (those trained by the project and those engaged by their peers). The two main types of changes were governments creating space for civil society, and youth, media and CSOs engaging in advocacy and outreach. The project used a broad bouquet of contribution strategies described in the logical framework. Grouping these into six main types, capacity building, civil society coordination, and policy dialogue and advocacy were the most prominent strategies influencing the observed outcomes.</td></tr>
</table>

The AWW project covered an enormous spread of work, types of actors, and resulting outcomes in various dimensions: from AU level down to local changes through town hall meetings and elections and individual capacity strengthened. Particularly on the local and national level the project worked with a diverse set of target groups, sometimes in a multi-stakeholder setting bringing together individuals and organisations of diverse disciplines.

The bulk of outcomes were achieved in government actors and youths (those trained by the project and those engaged by their peers). Many of the government changes involved their creating space and engaging with the AWW partners or intermediaries (youth, CSOs, media). The most frequent change observed in youths was that they took up advocacy and outreach. This signal in the data corresponds to the overall emphasis of the project increasing the capacity for advocacy and through this opening up spaces for policy dialogue. Still, there were also 13 impact-near changes, in the case of the government changes relating to the Impact statement of the logical framework: "*AU member states are more democratic and accountable to their citizens* "where governments met citizens demands. For citizens, these concerned participation in the political process, e.g., taking part in elections as observers or candidates.

When elaborating the classification scheme, we developed a **simplified ToC summarising the key actors and main contribution modalities of the AWW project**, which was then amended in line with the findings from the outcomes evidence (Figure 8). The framework was helpful to engage in a dialogue with the AA Denmark focal points on the implementation of the project and to visualize a shared understanding how the project was trying to contribute to change.

The following sections discuss different parts of this framework, as depicted in the Figure: section 6.1 (EQ1) addresses the changes in duty bearers, section 6.2 (EQ2) those in the rights holders, as well as linkages among different geographic levels (from local to continental), and section 6.3 (EQ3) turns to the contribution of the AWW partners and intermediaries and how these contributed to the emergence of outcomes in duty bearers and rights holders.
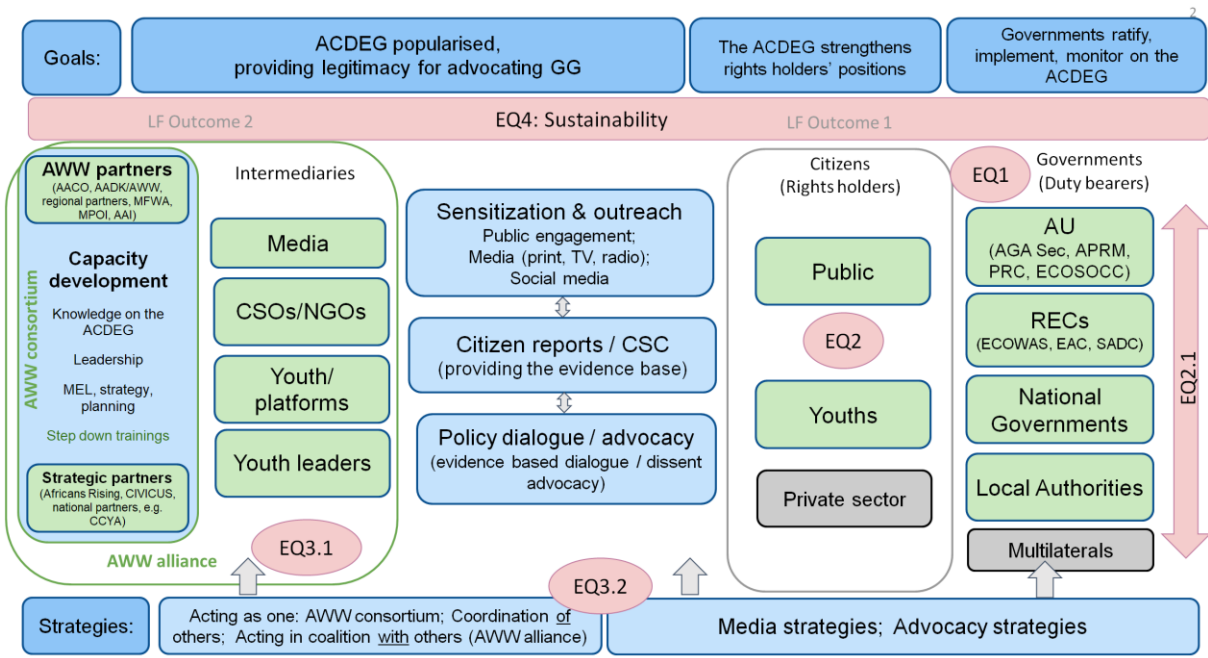
Figure 8: Simple Theory of Change for the AWW project, guiding the discussion in this report.

6   Findings and conclusions on the evaluation questions

In this chapter we will answer the evaluation questions. Per evaluation question, we will present the evidence we found for each sub-question followed by the conclusions for that sub-question and finally the overall conclusion for that evaluation question.

6.1 Progress towards good governance

Main EQ1	Do the outcomes represent patterns of progress towards "Good Governance", i.e., the overall objective of the project, that AU member states are more democratic and accountable to their citizens?

In order to understand the progress of the AWW project towards good governance, we analysed three sub-questions:

1.1. To what extent do the outcomes show <u>progress or regress in terms of increased space for civil participation</u>?

1.2 To what extent do the outcomes show that the <u>principles of ACDEG are being enshrined in national legislation and national and local institutions</u>?

1.3 To what extent do the outcomes show progress towards governments supporting the <u>implementation of law and policy changes</u> demonstrating increased democracy and accountability of governments.

To answer these questions, we discuss changes observed in governments only. Changes in other actors such as youth and CSOs will be examined in subsequent chapters.

The Project Document described that lobbying and advocacy on local, national, regional and continental level would be done by AA country offices with the trained CSOs, youth leaders and other CSO allies to advocate for the ratification and implementation of the ACDEG. The outcomes indeed showed that the AWW project influenced government officials on all these levels as depicted in Figure 9 below. A total of 59 outcomes were harvested related to the different types of governmental actors, though predominantly for national governments and continental bodies. For governmental actors we differentiate between:

- **Local authorities**: municipal, district, provincial and county authorities, i.e., all government structures below the national level
- **National government**: all national level government structures, such as the government, ministries, embassies, parliamentarians etc.
- **Regional bodies**: EAC, SADC, and ECOWAS
- **Continental bodies**: the African Union (AU)

In addition, there were 13 multi-stakeholder outcomes that in some cases included government actors, which will also be discussed in this section.
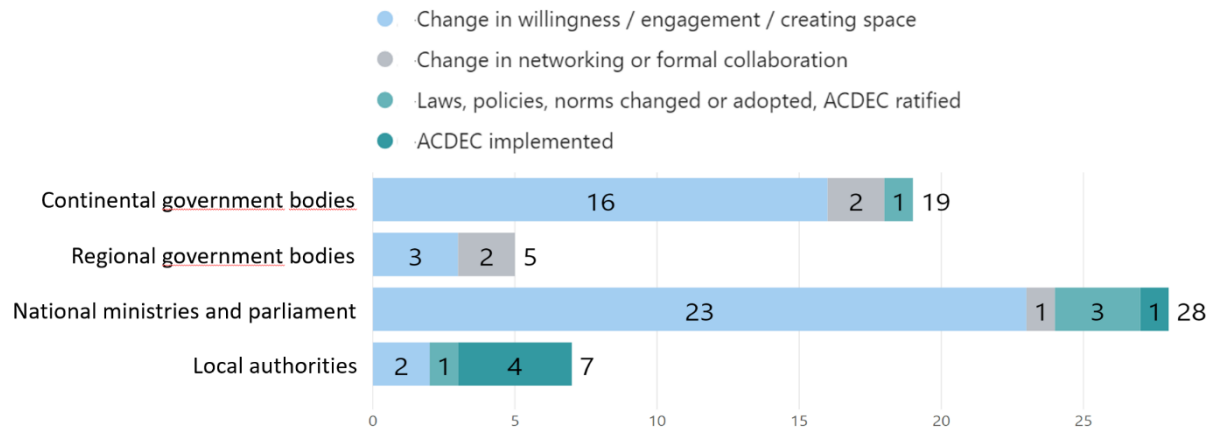
Figure 9: Number of outcomes per type of governmental actor and type of change. Governments participating in multi-stakeholder events are not included in this figure.

Figure 9 describes the four types of changes observed in governments: i) willingness/ creating space; ii) formal collaboration; iii) Laws, policies or regulations in relation to ACDEG changed or adopted, or ACDEG ratified; and iv) implementation of laws, policies or regulations relating to the ACDEG. The majority of outcomes observed for governments concerned changes in engaging, creating civic space, where we here include also the "formal collaboration" category (49 outcomes, 84%). From the remaining outcomes, five outcomes related to ACDEG being enshrined in legislation (8%, EQ1.2), and another five to implementation of the ACDEG (8%, EQ1.3)

In the following we will first describe the findings on the continental level, more precisely AWW's relationship and collaboration with the AU. We have structured the chapter in this way since the work with the AU facilitated the advocacy work in the countries and gave more legitimacy to AWW's work, and therefore the AU can be seen as a strategic partner to the AWW project. We will then continue to discuss the outcomes related to the regional bodies, followed by the observations on the three evaluation sub-questions (civic space, ACDEG in legislation, and ACDEG implementation) for the national and local government actors in sections 6.1.3 to 6.1.5.

6.1.1 AWW's interaction with the African Union

According to the Project Document the AWW project planned to have a coordinated programme of advocacy around the twice-yearly African Union summits in Addis Ababa. This would include engaging with the AU Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) ahead of the summits as well as with ambassadors, the Citizens and Diaspora Organisations Directorate (CIDO), the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and the Pan-African Parliament. In this section we will describe the changes we identified from the engagement of the AWW project with these actors.

We found 21 outcomes in continental government bodies including two outcome leads. Twenty of these concerned the interaction of the AWW project with AU organs which indicate space for participation of civil society, including two outcome leads (one related to the European Parliament). Twelve changes were about the relationship that the AWW project built with the AU Department for Political Affairs (AU-DPA) and the AGA Secretariat. In addition, the AWW project managed to engage other AU bodies such as the APRM, PRC, CIDO, and the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC).

6.1.1.1   Relationship of the AWW project with AU-DPA and AGA Secretariat

The outcomes with relation to the AGA Secretariat could be grouped in a) formal agreements b) AU-DPA and AGA Secretariat participating in all major AWW events and c) AU-DPA/AGA Secretariat inviting AWW partners, affiliates and youth to their high-level events.

a) **Formal agreements**

The AWW project managed to formalise its relationship with the AU already very early in the project by signing an **MoU** with the African Union Commission (through AA International, as a legal representative for the AWW project) in July 2017. This was done to realise the Agenda 2063 aiming at facilitating collaboration between AA International and the AU to jointly take forward the AGA and ACDEG. This included joint activities, exchange of information and participation in meetings facilitated by the other part [46].

In February 2019, an **Action Plan** was agreed between the AGA Secretariat and the AWW project. The joint action plan took the departure in the MoU signed earlier and took the next step in defining activities that the AWW project would support under the frame of the AGA mandate, e.g., expert missions on the ACDEG to countries, national stakeholder meetings on ACDEG ratification and reporting visits, training of government officials on state reporting on ACDEG, as well as other activities focusing on the implementation of the ACDEG [31]. Very recently for example, in December 2020 the AWW project supported a training of experts on ACDEG ratification and reporting where the AGA Secretariat namely the Acting Head of the AGA Secretariat Ambassador Salah S. Hammad also facilitated a session and validated the curriculum.

b) **AU-DPA and AGA Secretariat participating in all major AWW events**

The outcomes showed that the AWW project managed to engage the AU in the main events of the AWW project from the start of the project. Their engagement was not just as a participant, but they took on an active role during these events, for example by **giving presentations**. The Acting Head of the AGA Secretariat was involved already since the inception meeting in June 2017 in Kenya, where he gave a presentation on the status of the implementation of ACDEG [101] and the AU Director of Political Affairs participated in and gave a speech at the launch of the project in August 2017. In December that year, he also gave a speech at the SADC civil society forum in South Africa [95]. In April 2018 at the annual AWW review and planning meeting in Ghana, AGA Secretariat, the Principal Political Affairs Officer - EAC, a representative from the SADC REC and a representative for the Southern Africa regional governmental electoral commission presented perspectives from their regions and advocacy entry points [167].

The engagement of these AU bodies even went a step further by **taking on facilitation roles** during these events. The Acting Head of the AGA Secretariat facilitated several sessions and gave a keynote presentation on challenges on the implementation of the ACDEG in a workshop on electoral accountability organised by AA Denmark and the AWW project in Arusha, Tanzania (September 2017) [95]. During that same meeting, the Acting Head together with EAC Secretariat, participated in an AAW workshop where the CSO training curriculum was developed and also endorsed as well as policy entry points and advocacy strategies related to ACDEG discussed and validated [91].

c) **AU invites AWW partners, affiliates and youth to their high-level events**

Besides participating in AWW events, we found two outcomes that showed that **AWW project representatives were invited to high-level AU events** and two more outcomes specifically related to youth being engaged. The AGA Secretariat invited the AWW project to participate in the Sixth High-

Level Dialogue (South Africa December 2017) [103] and the Seventh High-Level Dialogue on Democracy, Human Rights and Governance (Botswana, November 2018) [29].

Remarkable is however, that the AU invited **youth to these high-level meetings** and be effectively involved by them which is not common (see section 6.3.1 for more information on youth involvement). In November 2017, AU/UN delegation in Zimbabwe invited young people and Activista to present at the summit in Harare leading up to the 5th African Union - EU Summit [119]. In 2019 youth leaders were invited by AGA to present a position paper at the 2018 regional Youth Consultations [118] Finally, in May 2020, the African Union Special Envoy on Youth invited SAYoF-SADC (a coordinating body and a regional platform for youth and youth organizations in SADC) to represent SADC Youth within the Africa Youth Front on Covid-19 (AYFC). This is a high-level policy and advocacy framework set by the AU for young people to co-lead Africa's response to Covid-19 [214]. The AU Youth Envoy is mandated to serve as a representative of and advocate for the voices and interests of African youth to the relevant African Union decision-making bodies and hence a crucial counterpart for the AWW project to get the youth involved at the AU level.

6.1.1.2   AWW's engagement with AU-PRC as the link to the AU member countries

The Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) is composed of Permanent Representatives of all AU member states. "*The PRC conducts the day-to-day business of the African Union (AU) on behalf of the Assembly and Executive Council*"[7]. The Permanent Representatives for each African country are hence the official connection between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs in each country and the AU. They have an important role to promote the AU instruments on national level and represent their country at AU. The PRC needs to approve the ratification of the ACDEG before it is signed by the national governments and they are therefore an important point of contact for the AWW project to influence the ratification of ACDEG across the continent. The Project Document outlines that the AWW project planned to have a coordinated lobby effort in Addis Ababa including lobbying the PRC members ahead of the twice-yearly AU-Summits, in order for the PRC members to address issues pertaining ACDEG implementation at the Summit.

Based on the outcomes data, we have evidence that six of the eight countries of the AWW project managed to **meet with the AU-PRC members** of their country for the first time in June or October 2018 to discuss ACDEG [33, 190, 168, 169, 19, 192].[8] Only for Uganda and Tanzania, there is no data on meetings with their ambassadors. The visits to the PRC members were done by the AA country offices, AA global staff and in some cases representatives from the AA youth network Activista. In addition, we have outcomes on three additional meetings of the country offices with their PRC members in following years.

During these meetings, the PRC members gave advice to the country office on how to engage their governments at national level (for example in Mozambique [168] and Nigeria [192]. The country offices reported that this helped to open doors for advocacy on the national level, since national government authorities were more open to receiving them when they knew they had met with the PRC. Nevertheless, the country offices could not report many outcomes that happened because of these meetings. Some of them indicated that this was "out of their reach", as governments do not provide information on that or, in Sierra Leone, the PRC ambassador left office after the visit. Only one outcome could be linked directly to the meetings with the PRC's. In June 2018, the Nigerian Minister of Foreign Affairs committed to start the reporting process on the implementation of the

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[7] https://au.int/en/prc
[8] In addition meetings were organised with the Gambia PRC, but this falls outside of the scope of this evaluation.

ACDEG after receiving a letter from the PRC of Nigeria at the AU in Addis Ababa [21]. In essence this is a limitation due to the sensitivities in lobby work, governments will not always admit they have been influenced by CSOs. Although we only found evidence for one country in the outcomes and could not get hold of letters that had been sent between the Permanent Representatives and ministries in other countries, we did find indications that the process was similar in the other countries. Six of the country offices confirmed that the lobby visits to the PRC helped advocacy efforts on the national level.

In addition, there was an outcome lead suggesting that these lobby meetings with the PRC members contributed to the establishment of a committee on ACDEG implementation by the PRC in November 2018, which would demonstrate their commitment to work on this issue [32-lead].

6.1.1.3   Relationship of the AWW projects with African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)

a) On continental level

"*The APRM is a mutually agreed instrument voluntarily acceded to by AU member states as an African self-monitoring mechanism. The primary purpose of the APRM is to foster the adoption of policies, standards and practices that lead to political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated sub-regional and continental economic integration through sharing of experiences and reinforcement of successful and best practice, including identifying deficiencies and assessing the needs for capacity building.*"[9] The APRM, mandated by the AGA platform, developed the African Governance Report (AGR) in collaboration with the AGA in 2019, and are thus an important lobby target for the AWW project. The AGR is the first continental governance report undertaken by the body. Previous assessments have been undertaken by multilateral institutions and aid agencies. Therefore, this provided a great opportunity for the AWW project to have an influence on this report. In March 2019, the APRM invited the AWW coordinator Lacerda Lipangue to participate in the AU-DPA meeting for the launch of the 2019 AGR [38] The objective was to get the APRM more engaged and discuss how best to link the countries, where APRM structures are already established with the AWW project. The AWW project representative received the verbal agreement that data from the consolidated Citizens Report would be considered for the next African Governance Report in 2021 and thus could influence the future agenda.

This first engagement with the APRM led to further collaboration with this body. The AWW project engaged with the APRM by inviting them to their events where the APRM was not just present as a participant but took on an active role. For example, when the AWW project organised its two-day regional journalist training in Addis Ababa on 18 and 19 July 2019, the AU-APRM helped facilitate the first day and participated in the workshop as a resource person [224-lead]. In February 2020, Ambassador Salah from the AGA Secretariat opened the AWW two-day pre-summit side event hosted by the AWW project together with the AU-APRM and the AWW project leads [136].

b) APRM engagement on the national level

The AWW project also engaged the APRM National Chapters in Sierra Leone and Uganda. **In Sierra Leone,** in 2019, the APRM Executive Chair gave a speech as an invited speaker at the second day of the "Youth Convergence" on ACDEG and SDG 16 on the status of ACDEG implementation and reporting in Sierra Leone [206] and he received AASL and its strategic partner Centre for Coordination of Youth Activities (CCYA) to discuss ACDEG monitoring and reporting [181]. In Uganda, in 2020, the APRM Secretariat agreed to collaboratively work with the AWW project on advocating

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[9] https://www.aprm-au.org/page-about/

for ACDEG in Uganda [230]. The APRM Secretariat is the focal point for the AGA/ACDEG in Uganda and collaborating with them is a good foundation for engagement on the ratification process of the ACDEG.

6.1.1.4 Engagement with other AU bodies: ECOSOCC, CIDO and Pan-African Parliament

We identified outcomes that demonstrated engagement with three additional AU bodies indicated in the Project Document: ECOSOCC, CIDO and the Pan-African Parliament. ECOSOCC is an AU advisory body made up of civil society organisations aiming to give CSOs a voice within the AU institutions and decision-making processes. **CIDO** is ECOSOCC's Secretariat charged with mainstreaming the participation of non-state actors in the civil society affairs of the Union and acts as the official liaison office of the AU Commission in particular and the AU system in general for CSOs including the African Diaspora community all over the world[10]. The AWW project aimed to lobby at annual CIDO events to feed messages of the implementation of the ACDEG into policy statements. The engagement with CIDO happened early on in the project (June 2017) and focussed on discussing the support of CIDO for the domestication and implementation of the ACDEG through engaging the member states as well as on the need to review the current operations of ECOSOCC in order to make it more accessible to CSOs in Africa [105]. No further outcomes were available with relation to CIDO and it seemed there was no follow-up to this process. On the contrary, an outcome lead indicated that the engagement with **ECOSOCC** intensified in the last years of the project and ECOSOCC became increasingly interested in cooperating at country and regional level on ACDEG [226-lead]. In November 2019 for example, the AU-ECOSOCC Ugandan National Chapter host and CSOs developed a popularization and advocacy strategy for ratification of ACDEG in Uganda [229]. One outcome resulted in relation to the engagement with the **Pan-African Parliament,** the legislative body of the AU. The Nigerian representative at the Pan-African Parliament committed to discuss the steps to take for the implementation of ACDEG leading up to the Pan-African Parliament forum in South Africa in September 2019 [51]. Finally, there was an outcome lead on an engagement with an additional AU body, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), at their 63rd ordinary session in Banjul, Gambia in October 2018 [17].

Conclusions AAW project & AU	**The AWW project managed to engage the AU as an important ally on the ACDEG.**

At **continental level**, the outcomes show us that the AWW project has been able to work with the relevant AU bodies in relation to ACDEG as set out in the project planning: **AGA Secretariat, AU-DPA, APRM, PRC, ECOSOCC and CIDO.** The AWW project managed to formalise its relationship with the AU already very early in the project, in July 2017, by signing an MoU with them to collaborate on ACDEG and subsequently in February 2019 agreeing on a joint action plan in defining activities that the AWW project would support under the frame of the AGA mandate. The time between the MoU and the action plan was rather long. This was in line with the project plan, scheduling the engagement with the AU was only for year 2 of the project. The AWW project first focussed on getting civil society organised around ACDEG through the training of youth and CSOs. In addition, there was further delay in engaging with the AU in the last year of the project due to Covid-19. Altogether, the AU can be seen as an ally to the AWW project to achieve changes on ACDEG in the

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[10] See https://au.int/diaspora-civil-society-engagement for further info

AU member states that are targeted by the project. **The AGA Secretariat/AU-DPA** participated in all major events of the AWW project and the AGA Secretariat on their turn also invited the AWW project to key events around ACDEG. The AWW project was hence instrumental in linking the AWW organisations with the AU institutions and even succeeded in bringing youths into the AU high-level events, which was seen by the AU as a remarkable achievement. In addition, the AU gave more legitimacy and credibility to the work of the AWW project, by participating in AWW meetings or endorsing their knowledge products (e.g., curriculum).

For some of the other AU bodies the strategy for engagement did not really become clear from the outcome data, such as for example the link between the work with National Chapters of the **APRM** and the continental one, and how the engagement with **CIDO** fits in.

The AWW project also engaged with the **PRC members** of their countries. The country offices pointed out it was easier for them to engage with their Permanent Representatives than before because the project represented an alliance of different civil society organisations, and not only ActionAid. They could bring a clear message reflecting many CSO voices. The engagements with the PRC members proved to be useful in opening doors for engaging with national governments on ACDEG. AWW country offices indicated that the national government representatives were more open for lobby visits if they knew they had met with the PRC ambassadors. The ambassadors were also instrumental in pointing out who the AWW project needed to engage with on ACDEG on the national level and how. This was very helpful for the country offices as one of the challenges had been for the country offices to identify who at the national level had which responsibilities around ACDEG. The AGA Secretariat on their turn confirmed in an interview that they appreciated the AWW project as a handle for them to work in the countries and hence it was a win-win situation, with the AWW project forming the link between the national and continental level. The AGA Secretariat in an interview rightly called the biggest achievement of the AWW project the extremely good relationship they have with national governments, especially in difficult settings like in Uganda, and the fact that the project managed to put ACDEG on the national agenda.

6.1.2 The relationship of the AWW project with regional bodies (RECs)

Before we go into the findings on this section, we would like to emphasise again that due to the scope of this evaluation, the focus of harvesting outcomes was on the national level and only minimally on the regional level. Therefore, the number of outcomes collected on this level is by no means exhaustive.

The Regional Economic Communities (RECs) are regional groupings of African states, which have as a main purpose to facilitate regional economic integration between their members. The Project Document does not specify clearly the purpose of the AWW project for engaging with the regional bodies, but only indicates that through the project, CSOs will be able "*to engage more effectively with African regional institutions*". Although it was not specifically planned for, we found a number of important outcomes indicating that the AWW project managed to achieve good results at the REC level. The AWW project managed to engage effectively on ACDEG with especially the DPA at the **East-African Community (AEC)** and this could help to get buy in on the national level in East-Africa countries. In February 2018 for example, they invited the AWW team, the partner EACSOF and members of the social movement Africans Rising for a meeting at the EAC headquarters in Tanzania to discuss ACDEG [97] and even officially committed to collaborate on advocating for the implementation of ACDEG [44-lead]. This was a result from continuous advocacy from the AWW project especially EACSOF. Later that year, the Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) allowed 78 youths from five East African country-based Youth Councils to hold a

parliamentary session at the EALA Chambers in Arusha and invited media practitioners and youth organizations trained in the project to give a presentation on ACDEG in the EALA chambers in Tanzania [115]. In 2019, the EALA parliament invited EACSOF to present their petition focusing on the need for the budget to follow the priorities of ACDEG. After that, EALA sent out a press statement, where a lot of space was given to EACSOF [193]. All these initiatives by EALA added to the credibility of the work on ACDEG by the CSOs. More detailed information on the results achieved with EALA can be found in the case study in Annex 9.8.

We also found two further outcomes which indicated that the AWW project managed to create visibility for the project on the regional level with RECs. In relation to **SADC**, 45 participants in the SADC Civil Society Consultative Forum in 2017, which included youth organisations, parliamentary forums, electoral commissions, trade unions and faith-based organisations, released a statement demanding the attention to the ACDEG from member states and Regional Economic Forums [94]. In the same year, the president of the **ECOWAS** met a delegation from the AWW project in Nigeria to introduce the project and discuss cooperation around the implementation of the ACDEG [98].

Conclusions AAW project & regional governments	**The AWW project managed to create visibility on the level of the Regional Economic Communities.**

The strategy for engaging with the RECs was not spelled out in the Project Document. According to the information we received on the outcomes, the AWW project had for example not from the outset specifically targeted the EALA [193]. Nevertheless, they made good use of the opportunities that were arising and managed to establish a good relationship with EALA which provided a way to engage with the government of Tanzania and Uganda, as well as broadened out the influence of the AWW project to Kenya and other countries in the East African region. EACSOF, the regional partner in this region, especially pointed to the engagement with the EALA as a key result as the AWW project opened the doors to further engagement with the EALA parliament, where the annual youth parliament session will be an on-going event carried out by the EALA parliament.

Nevertheless, now that the added value of engaging with these institutions has become apparent, the further work on ACDEG would benefit from defining the strategy for engaging with the RECs and how they fit within the ToC.

6.1.3 National and local governments creating civic space (EQ1.1)

EQ1.1	**To what extent do the outcomes show progress or regress in terms of <u>space for civic participation</u>?**

In this section we explore the progress in terms of the space for civil participation for national and local government institutions in the AWW focus countries. The **role of national and local governments** according to the Project Document is to: "*engage in dialogue with CSOs on specific measures to sign, domesticate, and implement the ACDEG and to offer specific responses based on Citizens Report evidence and recommendations, including identification and implementation of*

alternatives." The national governments of the AWW countries are at different stages in signing, domesticating and implementing ACDEG. The rational for engaging local governments was to make international concepts relevant to local people.

The outcomes relevant to this section were those categorised as i) "Change in willingness/ engagement / creating space, and ii) "Change in formal collaboration" of national governments and local authorities. A total of 26 outcomes demonstrated that the AWW project was successful in opening up space for civil participation in national or local governmental authorities. This change was achieved predominantly on the national level (24 outcomes) (Figure 9) In the sections below, we describe how governments have collaborated with the AWW project, first for the national and then for the local level. For this we divided the two categories above further into three nuanced types of behaviour: a) engaging with civil society, b) collaborating formally, and c) making commitments on the ACDEG.

6.1.3.1   National governments creating space for civil society

Figure 9 above showed that although the project achieved different types of outcomes on all geographic levels, the type of change most frequently observed was national governments creating space for civil society. The graph below depicts that all AWW countries managed to engage their national authorities in one way or the other. [11]
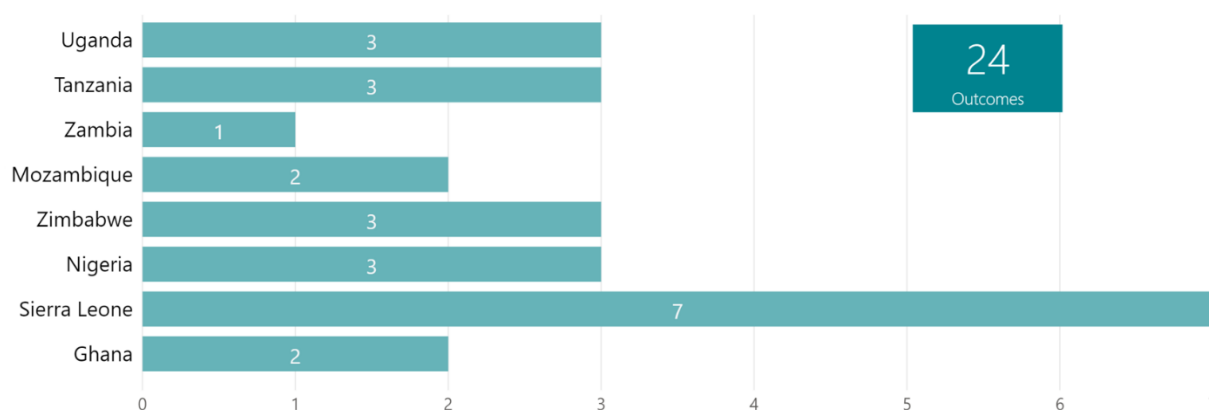
Figure 10: Number of outcomes per country for national authorities within the category 'creating space'.

In addition to the 24 outcomes in Figure 10, national governments also played a role in four multi-stakeholder outcomes. In total we observed changes in opening civic space in 23 ministries and five in parliaments. These engagements were often achieved by AWW partners acting together with affiliates such as partner CSOs and/or young people trained through the project (see section 6.3.1 and 6.3.2). It has to be noted that Figure 10 also includes the outcomes related to the National Chapters of the AU-bodies, such as the PRC members and APRM National Chapters who were willing to meet with the AWW project team as described under 6.1.1.2.

a) **National governments meeting with AWW staff or youth**

For example, outcomes could be harvested for Sierra Leone, Tanzania, and Uganda where AWW project representatives were able to meet with national government authorities to discuss the ACDEG. In **Sierra Leone,** after months of waiting**,** the Ministry of Political and Parliamentary Affairs

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[11]   Please note again, that the number of outcomes per country are not an indication for the success of the project in a specific country, but rather an indication for the resources they were able to put into the harvesting process.

(MoPPA) met twice in 2019 with AA Sierra Leone and youth leaders to discuss the national Citizens Report and the challenges identified therein [148, 195]. In the same year, the Sierra Leone MFA received a cross section of CSOs including AA Sierra Leone to discuss responsibilities for the monitoring of ACDEG implementation and reporting of the Charter, as well as to deliver the draft 1st Citizens Report [149]. The MFA advised the CSOs to reach out to the APRM Secretariat in Sierra Leone, with whom they later in the year indeed met (see section 6.1.1 [181]). Youth leaders and CCYA also met with a representative of the National Youth Commission (an agency within the Ministry of Youth Affairs, MoYA) to present the results of the 1st Citizens Report [187]. He assured the youth leaders of making their concerns known to the President of Sierra Leone. In **Tanzania**, the first engagement of the national government was with the parliament in 2018, when a member of parliament agreed to be an ambassador for ACDEG in the parliament. She also participated in an AWW workshop where she shared her experience of demanding for the ratification of ACDEG in the parliament of Tanzania [147]. In 2019, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs held a meeting with AA Tanzania to discuss the status of Tanzania in the process of signing and ratifying ACDEG [113]. In **Uganda**, the engagement was with the Ugandan parliament who allowed 430 young people from across the country to spend the whole day in parliament debating critical issues affecting young people in governance. This gave them the opportunity to sensitise Members of Parliament on ACDEG and the need for its ratification [142].

b) Formal collaboration:

In **Zimbabwe**, these informal meetings materialised into formal cooperation. Very recently, in September 2020, while this evaluation was being carried out, the parliament of Zimbabwe signed an MoU with AA Zimbabwe to cooperate on the implementation of ACDEG [175]. This happened after Members of Parliament had requested to be trained on ACDEG by the AWW project [99], which is quite impressive in a situation of shrinking space. That outcomes emerged so late in the project cycle can be taken as an indication that further results related to the AWW project are likely to emerge after the project has ended.

c) National governments making commitments on ACDEG

In Ghana, Zimbabwe and Uganda the outcomes showed that the national government authorities went a step further and also made commitments on the implementation of ACDEG. In **Ghana,** the chief Director at the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (MoPA) committed to collaborate with AA Ghana on ACDEG and had a staff from the Ministry dedicated to this collaboration and working relationship [199]. In **Uganda and Zimbabwe,** Members of Parliament committed to discussing the charter in parliament [158, 99] and in Zimbabwe they even took part in a training on the ACDEG in September 2020. During the same month, in Uganda at the Elections and Good Governance Symposium organised by AA Uganda, four political parties committed to join support to push for the ratification of the ACDEG in Uganda [207]. In addition, we found two outcomes that are an indication of changes that might happen at the level of ACDEG implementation in the future. In **Nigeria and Mozambique**, the MFA announced that they will start the reporting process on the implementation of ACDEG [19, 21].

6.1.3.2   Local authorities

From the seven outcomes we harvested on local authorities, two of these concerned changes in creating space. In addition, there were two multi-stakeholder outcomes where local governments were involved. In **Mozambique**, these outcomes happened very recently, in 2020, when the new District Government of Chibuto in the Gaza province invited AA Mozambique partner Christian

Council Mozambique (CCM-Gaza) and members of the CSO Platform of Chibuto for a meeting to reintroduce ACDEG to them [185], and when the Permanent Secretary at Gaza district level asked to engage him in the next training course on ACDEG [236]. In 2018, local authorities in Bo, Makeni and Freetown in **Sierra Leone** participated in town hall meetings on ACDEG with community representatives and engaged with youth and women discussing the ACDEG [130-multi]. Finally, in **Ghana** local authorities from the Talensi District Assembly (TDA) attended the validation meeting for the 2nd Ghana Community Scorecard report [201-multi].

Conclusion on EQ1.1 – Civic space	The AWW project successfully created space for civil society organisations at local and national level to work on ACDEG. Governments in the different AWW countries received AWW representatives to discuss ACDEG, even engaged in formal collaboration in some cases and made commitments on ACDEG.

6.1.4 ACDEG in legislation (EQ1.2)

EQ1.2	To what extent do the outcomes show that the <u>principles of ACDEG are being enshrined in national and local legislation</u> and national and local institutions?

We found four outcomes that showed that ACDEG has been enshrined in national and local legislation, three on the national level and one on the local level in Zambia and Nigeria. On the national level in **Zambia** this concerned the Minister of Justice announcing in 2019 that the Public Order Act bill would be submitted to Cabinet for approval of proposed amendments by the citizens [14]. We have however no evidence that it has indeed been submitted to Cabinet. In the same year and after lobbying by trained youth, the government approved the revised Local Government Act of No.2 2019 that provides for the establishment of Ward Development Committees whose membership should also include youth [112]. This outcome is a nice example of how a change in legislation led to implementation of ACDEG principles, as this allowed the councillor in Kapwepwe ward 25 in Zambia to increase youth participation in public meetings (see below [27]). In **Nigeria** President Muhammadu Buhari signed a constitutional amendment in 2018 to reduce the age for running for elective office and increase youth participation in the electoral process [52]. On the local level, the Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly approved the Akwa Ibom Youth Development Fund (AKYDF), a sustainable policy framework for youth economic development, creating jobs, attracting donor support and further increasing the state government's revenue base in Akwa Ibom State [66].

Conclusion on EQ1.2 – AGDEC in legislation	Although only few changes were observed on this level, these outcomes provide evidence that the advocacy by the AWW project led to actual changes in legislation related to ACDEG.

6.1.5 ACDEG implementation (EQ 1.3)

EQ1.3	To what extent do the outcomes show progress towards governments supporting the <u>implementation of law and policy changes</u> demonstrating increased democracy and accountability of governments?

This section discusses changes related to governments supporting democratic processes being more accountable to their citizens and following ACDEG principles. Although we only harvested five outcomes on the implementation of ACDEG and mainly at the local level in Mozambique, Zambia and Ghana, they demonstrate very well how implementation of law and policy changes on ACDEG can look like. In **Zambia**, this concerned changes in local governments leading to more youth involvement in democratic processes and included the outcome that followed from the revised local government act which enabled the <u>councillor</u> in Kapwepwe ward 25, in 2019, to increase youth participation in public meetings providing opportunities to voice their demands [27]. In **Mozambique**, the local partner CCM-Gaza reported that the community scorecards made it easy for them to engage with the local authorities. As a result, since January 2019, the local governments in 19 communities in Gaza Province are organising regular hearings with the communities based on the community score cards to address their needs. They are now for example planning to build a dam in one of the communities and two health centres in other communities [237]. In **Ghana**, the electoral commission in Mbala made improvements to their policies based on the Citizens Reports (for example they started providing sanctions to political parties who breach the electoral code) [35]. Also in Ghana**,** the Social Welfare Department in Krachi East made the regulations on how a disability fund is disseminated more accessible to the community by being prepared to meet with citizens at the Municipal Assembly Hall and explain the processes they employed at the local authority for the disbursement [232]. Finally on the national level, the **Zambian** United Party for National Development (UPND) adopted an Activista from Nakonde to be the youth district chairperson for the UNDP youth league [231].

Conclusion on EQ1.3 – ACDEG implementation (supply side)	There were only few changes harvested on governments supporting ACDEG implementation, possibly due to the fact that these constitute downstream results while the AWW project had a relatively short project cycle. Nevertheless, the outcomes provided good examples of what ACDEG implementation on the local level can look like.

6.1.6 Overall conclusions on EQ1

Conclusion on EQ1 – Progress on good governance	The AWW project succeeded to work with the AU as an ally to successfully create space for civil society especially with national government authorities. Engagement strategies differed, notably parliaments were involved in countries where the ACDEG was not yet ratified and with shrinking civic space. Limited examples of governments changing laws and policies and supporting ACDEG implementation can be taken as signal that more downstream results of the project may still be emerging.

Overall, on the governmental level, we can conclude that the AWW project managed to establish a good working relationship with the relevant AU bodies working on the ACDEG, and with them as an ally they successfully managed to create space for civil society especially with national governments. We could identify fewer changes with regards to ACDEG being enshrined in legislation and for the implementation of ACDEG. This is however in line with the set-up of the programme. Although of course the ultimate goal of the project is to see ACDEG being implemented, the focus of the project was to increase CSO coordination to open doors at government institutions and put ACDEG on the agenda, which the outcome data show they managed to achieve.

Although it was challenging for the countries to identify who to engage with on ACDEG in each of their countries, since the responsible entities for ACDEG differed between the countries, the outcomes clearly demonstrated that the AWW project was able to **open doors for civil society** at national and local governments institutions to engage them on the ACDEG, even in countries experiencing shrinking civil space such as Zimbabwe, Uganda and Tanzania. All AA country offices engaged with relevant national governmental bodies on the ACDEG and to a lesser extent also with local governments. The latter could however also be a sampling bias: additional interviews with further CSOs might have yielded more results for local governments and ACDEG implementation. The following country overview shows that the AA country offices engaged with different government bodies indicating that the approach needed to be adapted to the country context.

Sierra Leone: The team in Sierra Leone was able to engage with the MFA and MoPPA to discuss the Citizens Report. Also, there was engagement of local authorities in outreach and advocacy events such as local town hall meetings. The country office also confirmed that the space for reporting on ACDEG issues has changed and there have been no restrictions in that regard. No outcomes with relation to ACDEG in legislation or implementation were harvested.

Ghana: The country sets a good example in the protection of freedom of expression measured on the basis of its legal frameworks, practices and the perception of its citizens, which has made project implementation easier. The country team in Ghana nevertheless had to try hard to get a meeting with the national government institutions. After having engaged with the MFA, they discovered the relevant body to engage with on the ACDEG was the MoPA. This ministry then committed to collaboration and even dedicated a staff person to this work. On the local level, authorities were involved in the Citizens Report approach. Also, there was a sign of ACDEG implementation when the Ministry of Social Welfare in Krachi East collaborated to make the disability fund more accessible.

Nigeria: The Nigerian PRC member had sent a letter to the MFA as a result of the meeting with the AWW team in Addis Ababa, after which the AWW country team managed to meet with them. The MFA committed to reporting on the implementation of ACDEG. However, we didn't find any

evidence that this reporting has actually started. Still, two outcomes were found where ACDEG was included in national and local legislation as presented earlier in this chapter.

Zimbabwe: Zimbabwe has signed the ACDEG in 2018 but has not yet ratified the Charter, and civic space has been shrinking which made implementation challenging. AA Zimbabwe staff, and youth activists trained by AA Zimbabwe, worked in a high-risk environment experiencing continuous crackdowns and were often blamed for the violence that rose from protests on rigged elections and violence against human rights defenders. For example, the November 2017 presidential election caused uncertainties and a volatile political situation in which the AA Zimbabwe had to tread carefully in terms of project implementation. In this instance, however, it also opened an opportunity for AA Zimbabwe, along with other CSO partners, to push and advocate for Zimbabwe to ratify the ACDEG, which the new president did in March 2018. In Zimbabwe, the project mainly engaged with the parliament. The parliament got interested after a joint press statement by CSOs on ACDEG. They asked to be trained on ACDEG by the AWW project and later on formalised the relationship with the AWW project in an MoU. We could however not identify outcomes on ACDEG in legislation nor implementation of AGDEG.

Mozambique: In Mozambique, there were multiple incidences of threats against civil society organisations, which hampered the implementation. Here, we found little evidence of governments engaging on the national level. The MFA did announce that they would start the reporting process on the implementation of ACDEG. However, this announcement already dated from 2017 and we could not find any evidence that this reporting had actually started. Nevertheless, in Mozambique we found two outcomes relating to creating civic space on the level of local authorities. In the interviews, one of the CSOs on local level indicated that the greatest achievements of the project were the invisible ones: the mind-set of the local government had changed a lot. They were now open to receiving and talking to the communities and were conscious that they should follow community agendas. Previously, the local governments were not aware of ACDEG or what it meant on the local level. These outcomes occurred in 2020 and may be an indication that more outcomes may emerge on this level after the project end. We realise as well, that more harvesting from CSO partners could have yielded more results on the level of local governments.

Zambia: In Zambia, the political environment became more hostile during the project period. For example, political violence was widely spread during the 2019 parliamentary by-elections and freedom of expression still faces challenges as people are arrested following expression of their views on transparency and accountability. AA Zambia has throughout the project been bold in demanding the government to be accountable and calling for the principles of good governance, which has led to multiple and severe harassments of AA Zambia staff. Nevertheless, they were able to achieve results with relation to national and local governments. We were not able to harvest any outcomes for creating civic space in Zambia. However, we did find five outcomes for ACDEG being enshrined in legislation and on ACDEG implementation. These included a good example of how a change in legislation led to the implementation of ACDEG principles, as described earlier in the section.

Uganda: The government signed but has not yet ratified the ACDEG. In Uganda, project implementation experienced significant delays, because of the government's interruption in AA Uganda's operation when the country office was closed in September 2017 and accounts frozen until 22nd December 2017 as the government was provoked about the AA Uganda engagement on elections and youth demands and dissatisfaction with the presidents attempt to change the age bid. Albeit the office reopened, civic space has continued shrinking and the political environment has been difficult to navigate in for AA Uganda. In the first year of the project, local government officials

still intervened in community outreaches. Despite this, advocacy activities and lobby for the ACDEG were very successful for AA Uganda. In Uganda, the outcomes showed engagement only with the parliament at national level for creating civic space, and an outcome lead indicated possible engagement with the Electoral Commission around the electoral guidelines. The AWW team suggested that this showed that the government was listening, but due to the upcoming elections, their focus then shifted.

Tanzania: In Tanzania, the AWW project managed to engage on the ACDEG with the parliament and the MFA. Tanzania has neither signed nor ratified the ACDEG, upholding the justification that the signing and ratification of the ACDEG contradicts with the Constitution of the country. In Tanzania, shrinking civic space has been increasingly threatening democratic freedoms. It is thus a step towards a potential opening that the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs engaged with the project. Since Tanzania has not signed the ACDEG, outcomes on the ACDEG in legislation or implementation could of course not occur. Nevertheless, the CSO interviewees indicated that the AWW project contributed to opening civic space. For example, people in the community can now talk if they need something critical to be done or if they would like to demand for something. The youth can interact more easily with leaders and they can advocate for what they need in the community. The government will now allow to a higher degree for citizens to campaign, and some CSOs are given the opportunity to sensitize citizens. However, these CSOs are chosen according to government interest and a lot of conditions are provided for this to happen.

From the outcome data and the interviews, it became clear that the government authorities, specifically on local level, but also the for example the AU National Chapters appreciated that the CSOs were not approaching them with individual or scattered requests, but that it was a comprehensive process that was steered continentally. This made it easier for them to engage with civil society.

Most outcomes were found with relation to creating civic space. Not many results were harvested demonstrating that the AWW project was able to contribute to enshrining ACDEG principles in national and local legislation, or influenced the implementation of such legislation. As mentioned above, this however resonates with the project set-up. These types of outcomes are rather impact-near results and these take time to emerge. Nevertheless, we found a few of these outcomes which emerged while the evaluation was being carried out which can be taken as an indication that more of these outcomes may materialize after the project has ended. Interestingly, while we detected only few outcomes involving local governments, a considerable proportion of these related to ACDEG principles in legislation and ACDEG implementation, whereas for the other levels the results mainly concerned creating civic space.

6.2 "Feedback loops" and alignment of supply and demand

Main EQ2	Do the outcomes indicate feedback loops and alignment of supply and demand for better governance?

It was already shown in Chapter 5 that the AWW project was implemented on multiple levels and with various stakeholders. In this chapter we examine first in how far there were linkages and cohesion among the various geographic levels, i.e., the local, national, regional, and continental (section 6.2.1). The subsequent section 6.2.2 then looks at the changes in stakeholders, mainly the intermediaries (CSOs, youth, media), assessing to what extent the project has succeeded to influence these in order to enhance the demand for the implementation of the ACDEG principles. We harvested only few concrete examples for governments responding to such demands, which were already described in section 6.1.4, therefore we focus here exclusively on the demand side.

6.2.1 Linkages among geographic levels (EQ2.1)

EQ2.1	To what extent do the outcomes show linkages between the local, national, regional and continental level?

In this section we draw from the eight country "outcome maps" and the one for the continental and regional level to identify a number of outcomes building on each other. In addition, we assessed outcome and contribution descriptions of the single outcomes for evidence that there were linkages among levels. We observed three types of linkages, which will be discussed below.

1. In-country linkages among local and national level activities and outcomes.
2. Activities and results from the countries influencing outcomes at regional or continental levels.
3. Continental and regional activities and outcomes influencing national and local level results.

1. In-country relationships among local and national activities and outcomes

Several outcomes showed how linkages between the local and national level were established through the implementation of the Citizens Report approach including the Community Score Card (CSC) methodology (see section 6.3.2.1). The outputs of CSC surveys at the community level were sometimes disseminated in multi-stakeholder meetings convening also national level governments, CSO, and other experts [60, 112, 201, 205]. The CSC reports or Citizens Reports consolidating the findings from the ground were also used as evidence base for lobbying with national level ministries and institutions [35, 148, 149, 199].

Further, we found connections between local youth or CSO outcomes with national level changes in ministries or agencies. For example, in Sierra Leone, where youth leaders from three districts who were trained on the ACDEG organised and facilitated the two-day "Youth Convergence" convening over 60 youth for learning and coordination. They prepared position papers that on the second day were presented to four ministries together with AA country office staff and other stakeholders [186, 195, 187].

An example from Zambia showed how local advocacy for youth participation led to the national government revising a government act. Trained youth leaders started lobbying for participation in local ward committees, which contributed to establishing the local government act number 2 of 2019, which was approved by the national government [87, 112].

2. Activities and results from local/national level influencing regional/continental levels

Linkages between countries and the regional/continental level were evident from the meetings where local or national CSOs and media houses with local or national reach were convened through the AWW project to participate in AU level meetings, such as the AWW side event in the margins of the AU summits, which was also attended by representatives of the AGA Secretariat or the APRM [11, 136].

An impressive example linking local, national, and regional levels was observed in a set of outcomes describing how through coordinated efforts of youths together with other stakeholders a strong relationship was formed with the East Africa Legislative Assembly (EALA). This included mobilisation of young people from across the East African focus countries supported by, e.g., the AWW partner EACSOF, forming of the regional East African Youth Council, the youth-led organisation of the first ever parliamentary session at the EALA Chambers in Arusha, Tanzania, and the invitation of the EALA to present their views on the ACDEG to them in their Chambers (see outcome story, Annex 9.8).

The Citizens Report methodology also was an effective instrument to channel the results from the ground to the continental level. We found five outcomes on this, four involving the AU and one a multilateral body (United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, UNECA). These linkages will be discussed at length in section 6.3.2.1.

3. Activities and outcomes at regional/continental level influencing the national/local level

Linking overarching, cross-regional activities to generate learning that could be implemented within countries was integral to AWW's approach. Evidence for such exchange were the annual AWW reflection meetings for the partners of the AWW consortium, i.e. the country offices, regional partners, research and media partner, and AA Denmark. Sometimes these were attended also by international actors, e.g., the AGA Secretariat, EAC and SADC-REC thus embedding the country activities in the larger regional and pan-African context [167]. The interviews with Project Officers in the countries confirmed that these meetings were highly informative and useful to share experience and learning for what works in which country context. It also provided space to explore collaborative activities with the regional partners and possible engagement with the RECs.

The RECs provided an alternative entry point to national level advocacy. The youth-led engagement with the EALA [144], and AA Tanzania and EACSOF's effective collaboration with EAC paved the way for engaging the Deputy Minister of the MFA in Tanzania ([113] and Annex 9.8).

Similarly, linking with the AU organs could lend weight to national interventions. As described in section 6.1.1.2, the AWW project made a strategic decision to connect the country offices with their AU-PRC representatives. Also, the AGA Secretariat took part in several AWW workshops and meetings, including that on electoral accountability in September 2017 [96]. The resulting strategy informed several country level activities and advocacy such as youth and CSO engagement in electoral processes through civic awareness raising and shadow monitoring. [25, 120, 138].

Conclusions on EQ2.1 – Linkages	The project worked across all geographic scales successfully establishing linkages i) among local and national levels within countries, ii) countries with the regional and continental level, and iii) vice versa, the continental and regional level with the countries.

The AWW project was implemented by a consortium of country, regional and international partners, who collaborated in a cohesive way to progress the popularisation, implementation and reporting on the ACDEG, learning from sharing their experiences and supporting each other in the realisation of the activities. The consortium has led a multi-tiered approach through which it managed to mobilise a considerable movement on the ACDEG (see following chapters) for which it functioned as a hub organising activities and events, providing support, bringing people together, and sharing relevant, filtered, and adequately prepared information (see Conclusions on EQ3.1 for a discussion on AWW functions building and fostering the ACDEG movement).

Distinctively, the AGA Secretariat in an interview noted that the AWW project was the link between national and continental levels, providing them with a handle they did not have. Among the strategies the AWW used to achieve this were:

- Getting advice, legitimacy and mandate from continental/ regional levels, thus giving national and local implementation more weight.

- Organising multi-stakeholder events on national, regional and continental levels, bridging not only among different types of stakeholders, but also bringing in people from local levels such as the youths to EALA, or inviting them to the Youth Consultations of AU, to make their voices heard.

- Strengthening intermediaries through exposure at the national, regional, continental level, so that they bring back the knowledge and capacity to the local level.

In the next section we will explore how this connected work has led to an increase in demand for the implementation of the ACDEG.

6.2.2 Demand from the public for ACDEG implementation (EQ2.2)

EQ2.2	To what extent do the outcomes show a demand from the public (understood as citizens, media, CSOs as well as young men and women) of AU member states for the implementation of ACDEG?

This section looks at the demand side of good governance and democracy, under the assumption that these are attained when public actors in a bottom-up process can freely make use of their rights and successfully hold officials accountable. It links to expected Outcome 1 of the AWW project: "*Increased demand from citizens of AU member states, particularly young women and men (rural and urban) in 8 focus countries for the implementation of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) by African Governments*".

Section 6.2.2.1 briefly assesses the changes observed in youth with respect to creating demand (note that youth in their role as intermediaries are further discussed in section 6.3.1). Sections 6.2.2.2 and 6.2.2.3 then focus on CSOs and media, respectively. Finally, section 6.2.2.4, discusses youth, CSOs and media engaging in participatory and democratic public affairs and governance.

As for the government actors, the 72 changes observed for youth, CSOs, media and citizens fell into categories aligned with a stepwise, somewhat modified "Knowledge, Attitude and Practice" framework. We will look at the complete range of these changes for the youth in section 6.3.1. Here we focus on the **54 practice changes in citizens, youth, CSOs, media** – i.e., outcomes concerning advocacy and outreach, and implementation of the ACDEG – which provided evidence for the public demanding implementation of the Charter or actually taking advantage of its principles.
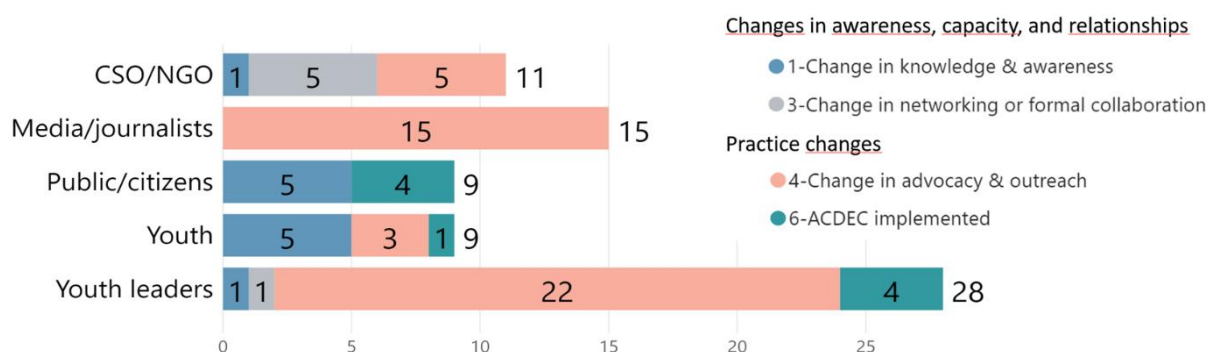
Figure 11: Types of changes observed in various types of public actors.

Changes in "Advocacy and outreach" were by far the most frequent (45 outcomes) and occurred in all public actors except the citizens (Figure 11). Most of these were observed in young people (25 in youth leaders and non-trained youth together), 15 in media, and five in CSOs. **For "ACDEG implementation" there were nine outcomes** observed in citizens, trained and non-trained youths.

6.2.2.1   Youth

Youth played a major role as intermediaries popularising the ACDEG, which will be described in detail in section 6.3.1. With respect to assessing the demand side for the implementation of the ACDEG principles, it has to be noted here that the types of engagement and policy advocacy behaviour described below for CSOs were also seen in youth, working individually or under the umbrella of youth networks, as well as in coalition with the CSOs. In the context of this section, it should be noted that the predominant change observed for youth leaders was in "Advocacy and outreach" (22 out of 28 outcomes, 79%, Figure 11). Also, several of the outcomes for youth that were not directly trained by the project indicated that a considerable number could be engaged through the outreach of the youth leaders to participate in ACDEG sensitization events [67. 132, 173, 213, 223]. Inspired by the AWW training and outreach activities, young people engaged in major movements such as the ACDEG 55 social media campaign initiated in Nigeria that spread across 55 African countries [56]; at the national level they supported the "Not too Young to Run" Movement in Nigeria [52]; and at the local level they campaigned for the passing of laws such as the Akwa Ibom Youth Development Fund bill [203].

6.2.2.2   Media

In the baseline report conducted across the eight AWW implementing countries in 2017. the media partner MFWA specified that there was minimal mentioning of the ACDEG and AGA, as generally of AU protocols and mechanisms. There was no previous publication on AGA/ACDEG in Ghana, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia; in Zimbabwe there was "*minimal coverage*"; in Nigeria "*very low/little mention*"; and in Mozambique

"*moderate mention of AU instruments and events*". The highest incidence seemed to have occurred in Sierra Leone, with 37% of media houses reporting on AU, 14.3% on ACDEG, and 5.7% on AGA.

A general media strategy and a journalist training curriculum were developed by MFWA in March 2018 together with AA Denmark. In some countries, the strategy was adapted to the country context with the help of the country offices and/or national media experts, or together with the journalists during the AWW training (Annex 9.6). The training aimed to build journalist's knowledge of the ACDEG and AGA and to raise awareness of the need for governments to implement its principles and thus strengthen democratic practices. After the training, the country offices sometimes provided resource persons to be interviewed by journalists or appeared on radio or TV shows ([5, 61, 125] [59]). In one case, the training concept was replicated by one of the trained media institutes (Media Institute for Southern Africa, MISA) through their own funds, adapting it to the needs of the provinces in Mozambique and thus broadening the discussion on the ACDEG principles to include a wider group of journalists [128]. One outcome lead described that at the regional level, there was a two-day workshop organised and facilitated by MFWA (and an AU-APRM representative, section 6.1.1.3) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in July 2019, with journalists selected across Africa [224-lead]. Apart from the training on the ACDEG, this resulted in the creation of a regional media network made up of 12 journalists from seven of the AWW implementing countries (all except Mozambique, plus Ethiopia) to assist in the production and publishing of stories on the Charter.

MFWA also created three social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram), including the official Twitter hashtag of the AWW project #TheAfricaWeWant, #ImplementACDEG, that trended in several of the countries and also through the development of derivative hashtags of the project [7] (see section 6.3.1.3 for the role of these platforms in fostering the ACDEG movement).

We identified 15 outcomes where through the joint efforts of the MFWA and the other AWW partners, journalists were mobilised to increase their engagement for the popularisation of the ACDEG; all of these changes were of the type "Advocacy and outreach", i.e., dealt with the publication of print, online, radio or TV messages. For our assessment we also use information from outcomes where media were actors in multi-stakeholder outcomes, and where they contributed to outcomes. We identified three groups of results:

a) Media houses starting or increasing publications on AGA/ACDEG at the local or national level

There were 11 outcomes of this type, identified across all implementing countries **except Mozambique**. For example, in **Nigeria**, from February 2019, after the ACDEG training by the AWW project, radio stations with wide reach including Federal Radio Cooperation of Nigeria, Rhythm FM, Cool FM, Radio Nigeria Network News, News Agency of Nigeria, started to report on the ACDEG and to broadcast consistent media conversations on the need to implement ACDEG in Nigeria [5]. In **Sierra Leone**, from May 2018, Radio Maria, a faith-based national radio station with coverage in Freetown (Western Area), Bo (Southern Region), Kenema (Eastern Region) and Makeni (Northern Region) and their environs, increased their coverage of issues related to the ACDEG and AU in their weekly talk shows on governance after increased demand from listeners [12]. Also, after the two-day regional training organised by the regional partner WACSOF in Freetown in August 2018, five major Sierra Leone daily newspapers published pieces on ACDEG (e.g., The Standard Times and the Concord Times), and a subsequent press conference was broadcasted on radio by the Gambia Radio and Television Service [134]. In **Ghana**, from April 2018 to December 2019, five media houses including Ghana News Agency (GNA), The Finder, Ghanaian Times, Daily Graphic and Daily Guide published 10 different articles in AGA/ACDEG through the print media in Ghana, all of these with a nationwide reach [16]. In **Zimbabwe**, from March 2018 online platforms (e.g., www.spiked.co.zw) and state-owned print media started to publish articles on ACDEG, including vernacular newspapers like

Kwayedza and Newsday, Daily News, The Herald, The Chronicle. There were also radio programmes on Capital FM's Deep Dive [28]. In **Zambia**, in the first quarter of 2018, two national newspapers (News Diggers and Daily Mail) covered the ACDEG through five newspaper articles, two radio programmes, one community blog and a YouTube dialogue [74]. At the local level in **Tanzania**, the newspaper Mwananchi published an article in March 2018 on the ACDEG featuring an interview with the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and regional integration on why ACDEG has not yet been ratified in Tanzania [77]. In **Uganda**, since January 2019, trained journalists from online media (Watchdog Uganda, Uganda Radio Network, Soft Power News) and mainstream media (press: Daily Monitor, The Independent, New Vision: radio stations: e.g., Radio One, Capital FM, KFM, CBS FM; television: e.g., Bukedde TV, Urban TV, NTV, NBS TV) published stories related to the ACDEG [209].

b) Media, AWW partners, and/or other stakeholders joining forces to popularise the ACDEG

In some instances, **AWW project staff** were interviewed or appeared on radio shows to present on the ACDEG themselves, sometimes without having to pay for airtime (Radio Nigeria on the "Women agenda" [59]; 96.9 Cool FM Abuja, Nigeria, on "Democracy, Rule of Law and Human Rights" [60]).

There were also shows where the AWW project brought together media with other stakeholders such as youths and/or CSOs. For example, in August 2018, the national television station NBS TV for the first time broadcasted a debate on ACDEG where 400 young people were discussing contents of ACDEG with an aim to push for ratification in **Uganda** [139]. The **Nigerian** national radio station Rhythm FM in February 2019 broadcasted a six-week daily radio program (45 sessions at prime time) titled "BEYOND THE BALLOT" on youth participation in governance, where young people (particularly women and persons with disability) discussed the ACDEG as guest speakers [62]. In **Ghana** in February 2019, the national TV station Ghana Television broadcasted a show, where four students from two tertiary institutions were contesting on their knowledge on the ACDEG, which was simultaneously aired on 10 regional radio stations of the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation (GBC) to remote communities [126]. In **Sierra Leone**, media and CSOs engaged to hold six radio discussion programmes each at local radio stations in Bo (Kiss 104), Bombali (Mankeh), and in the Western Area (98.1 Radio Democracy) to popularise and increase awareness on the Charter. Also, some CSOs such as the "Network Movement for Youth and Children's Welfare" (NMYCW) and "Bambara Town Women Organization" were given the opportunity to attend radio talks on Lion Mountain Waterloo, Culture Radio in the Western Area [189]. Similarly, in **Ghana**, from October 2018 to March 2019, 21 community radio stations started to broadcast radio debates on the ACDEG (one per week), inviting two to three panellists from CSOs, youth leaders and AA Ghana staff [125].

c) Media houses assisting in policy dialogue (including communication of Citizens Report results)

One outcome from **Tanzania** described how a journalist from the local newspaper Mwananchi, after participating in the AWW media training in Dar es Salaam in March 2018, secured a rare opportunity to interview the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, East Africa and Regional Integration, Hon. Dr Susan Kolimba, for the first time on ACDEG status, and published an article quoting her views on the signing and ratification of the ACDEG [13]. In March 2019, a journalist from Radio Maria and three ACDEG youth leaders joined a delegation of the AA country staff **Sierra Leone** and the strategic partner CCYA in a visit to the Deputy Director, Max Charley, and the Policy Analyst, Marian Jalloh, of the African Division of the Sierra Leone MFA, to inquire about the responsibilities and mandate for ACDEG monitoring and implementation, as well as to share a draft of the 1st Citizens Report [149].

Media also engaged with policy officials at key events of the project, including meetings to disseminate the results of the Citizens Reports (section 6.3.2.1). For example, in **Nigeria** in September 2020, various stakeholders participated in the one-day "National Stakeholder's Forum and Policy

Documents Dissemination" event organised by the AA Nigeria/ AWW team, on the domestication of the ACDEG, where the Nigeria Citizens Report and other policy documents such as the legal analysis and electoral audit were shared. The participants included journalists, CSOs, and youths, as well as the Nigeria MFA, the Trade Union Congress, and the Nigerian Labour Congress, among others [205]. On the **regional level,** the media participated in the launch of the AWW project at the 13th Civil Society Forum in Johannesburg, South Africa, attended by 300 representatives from faith-based organisations, non-governmental organisations, think-tanks, and trade unions, where the AU Director of Political Affairs presented a 20-minute keynote lecture on the ACDEG [221]. Also, media and youths trained by the AWW project joined forces giving presentations on the ACDEG in the EALA chambers in Tanzania in December 2018 [115].

Further, media participated in **AU-level events** such as the two-day pre-summit side event hosted by the AWW project in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in February 2020. Journalists trained under the project reported and broadcasted the side event in national TV such as prime TV in Zambia [136]. Media were part of such events early on in the project: outcome [12] mentions a journalist from Sierra Leone giving a broadcast on the AWW meeting in Addis Ababa November 2018, including an interview with the Deputy Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the AU and United Nations Economic Commission of Africa UNECA, Embassy of the Republic of Sierra Leone, His Excellency Atumanni Dainkeh.

Conclusions on public demand – media	The AWW project sensitised a considerable number of journalists across the eight focus countries to the ACDEG and strengthened their capacity to popularise the ACDEG. They were successfully mobilised to advocate for the ACDEG, also joining forces with other intermediaries in the AWW alliance.

According to the AWW Project Document, *"… the project aims to reach the public at scale and thus media- both mainstream and social media- are key to expanding the reach to people in focus countries*". We found that media were indeed important intermediaries communicating on the ACDEG with a wide reach in all countries, thus enhancing the visibility of the ACDEG and the project. AWW succeeded to increase the capacity of journalists to report on the ACDEG, and there was evidence for the ready uptake of information in journalists' work, which could be enhanced further when citizens responded to shows or broadcasts.

Increased capacity and willingness in media to report on ACDEG and AGA. Many of the outcomes stated explicitly that there was limited media coverage on the ACDEG previously [74, 76, 77, 125, 134, 141], that the AWW ACDEG training had been the first exposure of the journalists to the Charter [5, 16, 59], and that it was an "*an eye opener to an African led pro-democracy document which has not been reported on*" [5]. The general interest and buy in from the journalists in the ACDEG was evident from the broad participation of national and local media houses across all focus countries, including also e.g., management staff from national media houses such as the principal news editor from the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria, Africa's largest radio network [61]. In an email interview, a journalist from Radio Maria, a faith-based national radio station in Sierra Leone with a regular governance programme, confirmed that "*media houses in Sierra Leone today are more aware and can discuss on ACDEG now more than they were before the AWW project*".

Ready uptake of ACDEG information in journalists' work and publication, emphasized through interest of citizens. After the journalist training, many of the journalists started to broadcast for the

first time on the ACDEG [59, 139]. Some of the initial publications were based on ideas or action plans developed at the journalist training or sprang from AWW staff actively engaging the journalists, and some of the radio and TV shows were even funded by the AWW project. In a strict sense, these could be seen as very output-near results. However, some media houses contributed their own resources to the publication, offering air shows for a reduced price [62] or supporting the organisation and production of the show [126]. Some stations offered free airtime [59, 60] and in Mozambique the media institute MISA replicated the journalist training with their own means. Taken together, this provided strong evidence for the relevance of themes relating to the ACDEG for media and their willingness to integrate these in their reporting. There were also examples where the relevance of the theme was emphasized through increased demand from citizens for information on the ACDEG, which led to an increased ownership of the media. For example, Radio Maria in Sierra Leone started integrating discussions on the ACDEG in their governance programme based on the interest of citizens [12]. In Nigeria, Rhythm FM Nigeria broadcasted a six-week daily radio programme at 50% reduced costs, demonstrating their interest in the ACDEG. When after this time callers requested to continue the discussions, the radio continued the episodes, this time without payment by the AWW project. Although the broadcast specifically on the ACDEG ended, Rhythm FM still broadcasts shows or newscasts today where the ACDEG is referred to and invites AA Nigeria to present on the ACDEG for free airtime, e.g., in September 2020 [62]. Finally, there is also evidence that media houses started approaching AWW staff on their own initiative to receive input and resources for publications or broadcasts on the ACDEG, e.g., in outcome [6].

Media are important intermediaries popularizing the ACDEG (reach and impact on citizens). As the discussion above shows, media publications on the ACDEG have succeeded in creating an important platform for increasing visibility of the ACDEG, sensitising and educating citizens, and encouraging their feedback and participation at the local and national level. The journalists trained by the project reached citizens at the community level, sometimes adapting the programme accordingly, others had wide national reach. For example, the national radio station Cool FM in Nigeria has a music format with a target audience of over a million listeners, predominantly people between 13-45 years old. About 266,000 people listen daily to the shows from four states, on the digital platforms (www.coolfm.ng), and through the Cool FM Lite App [60]. The national station Rhythm FM reaches app. 500 000 people with 14 to 45 weekly shows across six states of Nigeria [62]. The press conference following a two-day regional ACDEG training in Freetown was broadcasted by the Gambia Radio and Television Service and covered by 18 major media organizations in Sierra Leone and was estimated to have reached at least two million Sierra Leone citizens [134].

Some of the formats on radio had indeed active participation of the audiences: Over 100 people from the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and its metropolis called in on the "Road Show" featuring ACDEG broadcasted by Cool FM Abuja, Nigeria, between August 2018 and May 2019; and in addition, people engaged through social media and over 150 people sent messages on WhatsApp reacting to the topics and discussion in relation to election and governance. Among those messages, a number of young people expressed their intention to vote and contest in the 2019 elections [164]. There were similar call-in shows held by other Nigerian stations [62], and in other countries including Ghana [125] and Sierra Leone [160].

Media were seen as an important channel sensitizing and engaging the public also by the other stakeholders of this project. A youth (Activista) from Tanzania said in an interview that *"media was pivotal in creating awareness among citizens; especially through the radio talk shows"*, and an informant from a radio station in Sierra Leone believes that "*the space for reporting on ACDEG issues has been changed drastically as Sierra Leoneans developed more interest on it*".

6.2.2.3   Civil society organisations

CSOs in all eight countries were trained on the ACDEG following a curriculum developed jointly by the AWW partners with input from the AGA Secretariat in August 2017 [91] (Annex 9.6). During the training, the overarching advocacy strategy developed by the AWW team was contextualised by the country offices and participating CSOs to the specific country environment and action plans were developed. The CSOs were encouraged to form partnerships for the implementation of these actions (see section 6.3.2.2). CSOs/NGOs trained through the AWW project featured as actors in only 11 outcomes, five involving "Advocacy and outreach", another five "Changes in networking", and one in "Knowledge and awareness" (Figure 11). In the following we also draw from outcomes where multi-stakeholder groups including CSOs embarked on ACDEG advocacy (labelled "-multi"), and we screened the contribution descriptions of outcomes where CSOs helped to influence governments through advocacy and lobbying. We observed that the outcomes fell into two main groups related to the role of the CSOs in mobilising and showing a demand for the implementation of the ACDEG:

a) Popularisation of the ACDEG

Several outcomes concerned CSOs embarking on <u>community sensitisation events to increase demand for the ACDEG</u>, including the organisation of road shows using forum theatre and songs to inform about the ACDEG, sometimes together with the trained youths and youth platforms. In **Mozambique**, the Tax Justice Coalition together with Youth Activista organised several street caravans in 2018, reaching a total of 2,302 citizens [82]. In **Sierra Leone**, a total of 100 sensitization events were carried out facilitated by 20 CSOs reaching a total of 5,000 people (2,700 men and 2,300 women) in the three districts. For example, collectively in the district, they organised six district town hall meetings (two per district) in July 2018 and in April 2019. At these meetings songs were aired, jingles were transmitted, and the skits dramatized in the three local languages, followed by discussions with the participants, to enhance the level of understanding of citizens on the Charter and its implementation [189]. In a specific outcome describing such a town hall meeting, it was stated that the participants promised they would share the knowledge gained with their communities and people and that there were insufficient copies of the simplified versions of the Charter as participants were asking for more copies that they could share with others [130]. In **Ghana**, the founder from "Development for Life Foundation" (DfL) and a representative from "Persons Living with Disabilities", after a training by AWW project, engaged in educating on elections for Susu group[12] women in monthly visits [219].

CSOs also started to <u>engage with media or deliver joint press statements</u> to advocate the ACDEG. In **Ghana**, a specific example described the collaboration of four CSOs trained by the AWW project organising a radio show on the ACDEG on the local station Oti Radio 101.5, aimed at increasing participation of the community in universal adult suffrage [200]. In **Zimbabwe**, after the signing of the ACDEG on 18 March 2018 by the new President various CSOs as well as Activista and other like-minded organizations published a joint press statement highlighting the importance of the procedures of ACDEG and the importance to ratify and domesticate it [43].

b) Direct engagement and lobbying with policy bodies on the ACDEG

At the regional and continental level, CSOs played an important role in several key events of the AWW project organised by the AWW partners, which served as an opportunity to speak in a unified voice promoting the importance of the ACDEG to invited policy officials. Already at the start of the

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[12] Susu groups are traditional, semi-formal financial intermediaries in Ghana providing an informal microfinance mechanism.

project in August 2017, 300 participants from CSOs took part in the launch of the AWW project at the 13th Civil Society Forum in Johannesburg, South Africa, that was also attended by policy officials including the AU Director of Political Affairs [221]. CSOs participated in AU side events organised by the AWW project [11] [136], and the AWW project and the ACDEG were also thematised at the regular Civil Society Forums organised by the regional partners that were attended by policy officials [94] [95]. Outcome [121] demonstrated CSO mobilization as a response to the shrinking civic space in Zimbabwe: In January 2019, in the context of the state's coordinated and systematic attack on CSOs, a large group of national, regional and international civic society actors coordinated by SADC-CNGO contributed to a joint statement that was then sent to the Zimbabwean embassies in Lusaka, Maputo and Gaborone, referring to the ACDEG and calling for an end of the constraints.

At the national level, CSOs joined conferences and meetings organised by the AWW partners that served to advocate the Charter. For example, in **Zimbabwe**, at an AWW ACDEG progress review meeting with CSOs, media, youth representatives, as well as parliamentarians and government officials, six Members of Parliament expressed their commitment to discuss the Charter at ministry and parliament level and asked AA Zimbabwe to further train the parliament on ACDEG, which took place in September 2020 [99]. In **Uganda**, at the Elections and Good Governance Symposium organised by AA Uganda in September 2020 that convened CSOs, youth, media and political party representatives, politicians from four political parties committed to push for the ratification of the ACDEG, and the president of one of the parties promised to present the ratification of the ACDEG on the floor of parliament. **In Sierra Leone**, a CSO trained by the project, NMYCW, engaged the AWW partners to help disseminate the outputs of the Bintumani 3 conference on Peace and Unity in July 2019. A meeting with high-level civil society activists, community stakeholders and a ministry, the MoPPA, served to tie this with a dialogue on the ACDEG Citizens Reports/ sensitization of AGA [217].

At the local level, town hall meetings were held by CSOs to communicate the ACDEG message to communities and engage with officials, e.g., in Sierra Leone where the attending councillor stated that "*democracy and governance needs such commitment and implementation*" [216]. In **Ghana**, a CSO trained on the ACDEG, the "Development for Life Foundation" (DfL), engaged the Social Welfare Department in Krachi East for a meeting at the Municipal Assembly Hall, which addressed the rights of persons with disability and the ratification of the ACDEG. A representative of the Social Welfare Department explained the processes they employed at the local authority for the disbursement of 3% Disability Common Fund to the citizens present at the meeting [232].

CSOs have also been joining AWW partners in using the **Citizens Report process or outputs for advocacy and lobbying.** Particularly in **Sierra Leone** and **Ghana**, this was a useful instrument for engaging in face-to-face policy dialogue [150, 180, 201, 202] (section 6.3.2.1).

Conclusions on public demand – CSOs	**CSOs gained capacity and acted as intermediaries facilitating ACDEG popularisation, supporting lobbying and advocacy for ACDEG implementation, and started to incorporate the ACDEG into their own work. The Charter was seen as a fall-back document providing legitimacy also for their own work.**

We found CSOs to have two roles, as envisaged in the AWW Project Document, first popularizing the ACDEG and fostering the demand-side of ACDEG implementation and, second, contributing through advocacy and lobbying to changes in governments supporting ACDEG implementation (supply side). In the following we present conclusions on how the AWW project and the ACDEG enabled the CSOs to fulfil these roles.

First, the AWW project successfully increased the capacity of CSOs for ACDEG advocacy and outreach. The outcomes described above demonstrated that the project contributed to developing CSOs capacity for sensitising communities on the ACDEG, engaging with the media to jointly communicate the Charter and related themes, and using the ACDEG as an instrument for policy dialogue. Interviews with selected CSOs supported the conclusion that the knowledge of the ACDEG had strengthened their capacity. In **Uganda**, an interviewee from the "Centre for Policy Analysis" (CEPA), a not-for-profit think tank engaged in parliamentary democracy, confirmed that they did not know about the ACDEG before working with the AWW project and that the knowledge helped to engage in civic advocacy and interacting with international agencies and the AU. An informant from the "Christian Council of **Mozambique**" (CCM) felt that the CSO training had enabled them to "*have a broad knowledge on how the governments in Africa should act and how they should implement policies. ACDEG is a desire of the whole continent and this helps us to convince governments. It's not just something from us alone*". The founder of the non-profit organization "Development for Life Foundation" (DLF) in **Ghana**, stated that while he had been working on human rights issues before, the exposure to the ACDEG first through AWW project gave them the legitimacy for what they do and say, for example when educating about elections. In **Sierra Leone**, the founder of NMYCW confirmed that "*the training organized by AA/CCYA on AGA-ACDEG promotes the work we do especially in achieving our Vision. […] Having gained such knowledge from the ACDEG project is adding value to other national campaigns*". The founder of the "Youth Leadership Initiative for Social Justice" (YLISJ), in **Nigeria**, felt inspired by the Charter "*because everything was very clear, governance, responsibility, citizens' rights, democracy, which helped to think deeper about the content*". She said that before the training, she focused more on the UN documents, but it was good to remind the government to implement a document that is agreed and signed by African leaders, specifically for Africa. In sum, we conclude that the project successfully raised awareness of and engaged CSOs on the ACDEG and that the Charter offered organisations working in the field of human rights, democracy, elections and good governance a **"fall-back document" and the legitimacy of a treaty signed by up to date 46 African states** to back their objectives, thus strengthening their lobbying and advocacy capacity.

Second, the **AWW project inspired CSOs to integrate the Charter into their own work** supporting ACDEG implementation. As for the media, many of the activities the CSOs engaged in were conceptualized, organised and financially supported by the AWW project, so some of the above outcomes may be considered by some as being quite output-near. In addition, it has to be noted that many of the CSOs previously worked in areas relating to the ACDEG, in fact, this was one of the criteria of selecting organisations for the training. That the training indeed made a change to how the CSOs worked, is shown by the fact that they started to integrate the ACDEG into their own projects, and that this was conceived as being helpful to achieving their objectives. For example, the founder of one of the implementing CSOs in Ghana confirmed in an interview that none of his projects were funded by AWW (only the initial training), including the voters' awareness raising among the Sulu women [219], and that it had made a difference knowing that Ghana had ratified the ACDEG: "*Knowledge of the Charter […] helps us to see that our laws are in alignment with the ACDEG. We incorporate ACDEG in our daily work*." In **Sierra Leone**, the founder of NMYCW confirmed that "*The training organized by AA/CCYA on AGA-ACDEG promotes the work we do especially in achieving our Vision. […] Having gained such knowledge from the ACDEG project is adding value to other national campaigns*". There may be additional outcomes of this type, yet, to our knowledge, such practice changes in CSO members of the wider AWW alliance – as well as the results of their own work relating to the ACDEG – were not systematically reported by the project itself, which admittedly may be a difficult task and often out of reach of the AA country offices monitoring radar.

6.2.2.4 Public actors implementing ACDEG principles

In the above we described outcomes where the intermediaries of the AWW project – trained youths, media and CSOs – engaged in the popularisation of and advocacy for the ACDEG. There were also nine outcomes providing evidence for citizens, youth leaders and youths starting to **participate in democratic processes and the governance of public affairs** after being exposed to the project directly or indirectly (Figure 11).

For **youth leaders and youth**, this included their engagement as observers in elections, i.e., monitoring whether the pre-election environment was free, then during the elections whether the code of conduct was adhered to, and after the elections submitting electoral observation reports. For example, in **Zambia**, 47 youths (Activista) from five political parties jointly monitored the mayoral election and by-elections for councillors in six wards in Lusaka district in July 2018 [25]; in **Mozambique** 120 Activista observed the municipality election in Maputo, Inhambane and Cabo Delgado provinces in October 2018 [138]; and in **Zimbabwe**, in June 2018, 50 Activista members, five from each of the 10 provinces of Zimbabwe, were accredited as election observers by the National Election Commission (NEC) and were observing the national election process at polling stations, watching the counting of the votes and reporting on election conduct [120]. Further outcomes involved youths standing up and/or winning elections following their engagement or capacity development under the AWW project: two youths from **Ghana** trained by AWW project contested for two district level elections and won in December 2019 [171]. Also, in Ghana, Ms Vera Fafali Agbenya, a 27 year-old student of Ho Technical University, contested and won the Student Representative Council elections as the first female president of the student union in Ho Technical University in the Volta Region of Ghana, after participating in youth-led ACDEG awareness raising activities at the university [39].

Outcomes involving **citizens as actors** who started to participate in democratic processes were reported from Nigeria and Ghana concerning mostly women's suffrage. In **Nigeria**, between March and October 2018, 250 women from six religious women groups in Lagos for the first time collected their voters' cards for the 2019 general elections after a public engagement training provided by AWW trained youths and CSOs [57]. After the talks the women asked questions, about how, why and when to join political parties, and committed to use their right to vote by signing a pledge form. Twenty of the 250 women who before had never obtained their permanent voters' cards and voted during the elections, came back to the CSOs and youths later and showed their voters card. One result from **Ghana** reported that, in December 2019, about 70 women from the Susu groups at Yariga No.2 community participated in a voting process for district level elections and the candidate from their community won the election [219]. Also, in December 2019, 22 women contested for the district assembly elections in Kadjebi district of the Volta Region, the highest number that ever contested in this district (less than 10 women contested in 2015, and before less than five), after a door-to-door campaign by ACDEG youth leaders, sensitising citizens that women should be given the opportunity to lead [165]. An outcome lead from Ghana also showed how community education events empowered women to approach their community leaders about their needs. In an interview with AA Ghana one women stated that "*We are no longer afraid to confront our leaders and ask them what they are using our taxes for*" [182-lead]. This signals that further similar outcomes may have emerged from the project which were not possible to harvest within the scope and timeline of the project.

Conclusions on ACDEG implementation (demand)	The AWW project managed to achieve a small number of outcomes even at impact level, where public actors were encouraged to implement ACDEG principles.

As described above, a large emphasis of the AWW project was put on i) increasing awareness and mobilising demand from citizens of AU member states for ACDEG implementation (OC1), and ii) the increased, effective and coordinated engagement of CSOs (OC2). Through this, the project succeeded to achieve a number of downstream, impact-near outcomes in public actors that were plausibly linked to AWW interventions. This included, for example, youths acting as election observers and citizens engaging in the voting process.

Notably, five of the nine outcomes involved gender transformative changes, such as the Susu group women in Ghana, or the women from religious groups in Nigeria starting to participate in electoral processes, which may reflect the strong gender component in ActionAid's work.

These impact-level outcomes in citizens were unexpected, i.e., not in the scope of the project and hence not foreseen explicitly in the logical framework of the AWW project. However, in order to accomplish the overall objective of the AWW project – that "*AU member states are more democratic and accountable to their citizens in alignment with legal instruments, institutions and processes of the African Governance Architecture (AGA)*" – an important building block in the pathway of change are citizens increasingly participating in policy processes. Unpacking and describing the theory of change in a slightly deeper detail may have helped to put additional focus on the more downstream outcomes and might have encouraged a more systematic reporting. Having said this, it is remarkable that such changes have emerged and could be captured at all during an ambitious capacity development and advocacy programme that was implemented across eight countries and covering all levels from local to continental within a relatively short project cycle. Finally, due to the scope of the evaluation the number of CSO and youth informants was limited, and it cannot be excluded that with a larger sample additional downstream outcomes may have been detected.

Nevertheless, one of the interviews with a youth leader from Sierra Leone working with communities brought up a challenge to making the advocacy on the ground more effective and sustainable: Right after the awareness raising events, the interest and motivation of the people was high, sometimes reaching out to the youths asking how to stay in contact and possibly even engage actively in the project themselves. Her idea was to create additional feedback platforms where citizens could connect directly with the project and stay in contact. While this may be a question of resources, it would help to reinforce the ACDEG message and potentially keep track of results on the ground.

6.2.3 Overall conclusion on EQ2

Conclusions on EQ2 – Feedback loops, supply & demand	The AWW project has successfully mobilised civic actors across eight countries and three regions to demand ACDEG implementation. This was achieved through a multi-pronged approach working across different scales and through different channels (youth, CSOs, media) with complementing qualities.

The AWW consortium has engaged a large number of stakeholders of different types (media, youth, CSOs) who acted as intermediaries mobilising in turn a considerable number of people, thus bringing the ACDEG to the attention of the public and the government. Section 6.2.1 showed how experience, knowledge, relationships transgressed from local to continental, and back to local levels, and how linkages were used for coordinative action. Section 6.2.2 provided examples how AWW combined contribution channels (youth, media, CSOs) with different qualities, across different scales, improving cohesion and creating feedback loops. In a somewhat simplified way, this is in depicted in Figure 12.

The multi-pronged approach working with youth, CSOs, and media was a mutually reinforcing strategy, drawing from the complementing qualities of the different channels.

Youth were involved in the majority of outcomes (54%, see section 6.3.1) and in terms of individuals involved may have developed into the largest group of intermediaries. They started organising themselves, through powerful outreach to their peers, using social media campaigns and forming networks and social movements (e.g., the pan-African ACDEG 55 campaign [56]).

Media were important intermediaries communicating on the ACDEG with a wide reach, creating visibility in the public domain for the project and the ACDEG. AWW succeeded in increasing the capacity of journalists to report on the ACDEG. There is also evidence for ready uptake of ACDEG information in journalists' work, which was emphasized through the interest of citizens in the topic (e.g., a radio station in Nigeria extending their radio show series on the ACDEG when callers requested continuation of the programme [62]).

CSOs contributed to an increased public demand as intermediaries facilitating ACDEG popularisation and also supported lobbying and advocacy for ACDEG implementation with governments. They started incorporating the ACDEG into their own work acknowledging that it provided legitimacy for their own objectives. With their thematic expertise from the ground, they are powerful partners in promoting ACDEG implementation in communities, i.e., the participation of citizens in democratic processes.

A typical mode of implementation in the AWW project was that the **above stakeholders joined forces**, with AWW partners, CSOs of the wider AWW alliance, youth platforms and youth and media working together for example in multi-stakeholder meetings or joint advocacy and lobbying activities (see section 6.3.2.2). This "bridging" is certainly **a great strength of the project**.

Citizens engaged in the public sensitisation events and were encouraged to implement the ACDEG principles (e.g., women voting for the first time; youth acting as election observers; motivated to stand up for elections), thus contributing to the demand side of ACDEG implementation. Engaging citizens not only in the democratic processes (as the ultimate impact of the project), but also in the policy advocacy process along the way can be an important element of social transformation and can furthermore lead to a positive feedback loop motivating the intermediaries in their work (see radio station investing own resources in ACDEG broadcasts after citizens showed interest in the show).
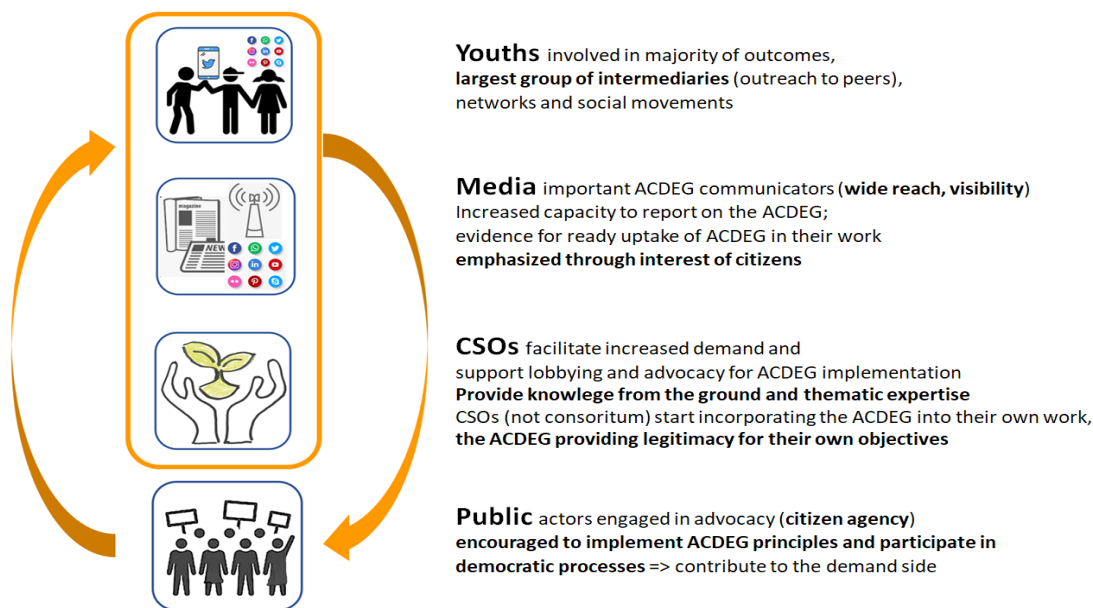
Figure 12: Positive feedback loops through a useful combination of contributing intermediaries.

6.3 AWW's contribution

Main EQ3.1	How did the AWW project contribute to the observed results?

The AWW project made use of a multitude of contribution strategies, which could be categorised in six broader groups: i) strategic planning, ii) capacity development of youths, media and CSOs, iii) creating an evidence base through the Citizens Reports; iv) civil society coordination, iv) outreach and sensitisation; and vi) policy advocacy and dialogue (see Chapter 5, Figure 7). The evaluation questions concerned, first, the role of one of the intermediaries, namely youth. In section 6.3.1, we explore how ActionAid has managed to draw from their large and active youth network (Activista) to build an active force knowledgeable on the AGA/ ACDEG and capable of acting as intermediaries in their pursue of achieving AWW' goals. Second, two specific contribution instruments are assessed: Citizens Reports and coordination of civil society (section 6.3.2).

6.3.1 Youth as intermediaries for the ACDEG (EQ3.1)

EQ3.1	To what extent have young men and women contributed to the outcomes, and how?

According to the Project Document, the AWW project "*recognises the potential of young people as drivers of change and will raise their awareness and foster their understanding and engagement with the ACDEG, creating a youth movement actively involved in local and national awareness raising, mobilization and campaigns demanding implementation of the ACDEG.*" Supported by the Global Platforms Zambia and Ghana, the objectives were to train at least 100 youths per focus country and an additional 250 with focus on regional and continental level youth campaigning and advocacy. The youths were supposed to organise local level campaigns and reach at least another 50 youths each, with the goal to have mobilised at least 52,000 young people across the three regions around the ACDEG agenda.

Types of actors
influenced by youth leaders or youths

Number of outcomes to which
🔴 youth leaders or ⚪ youths contributed
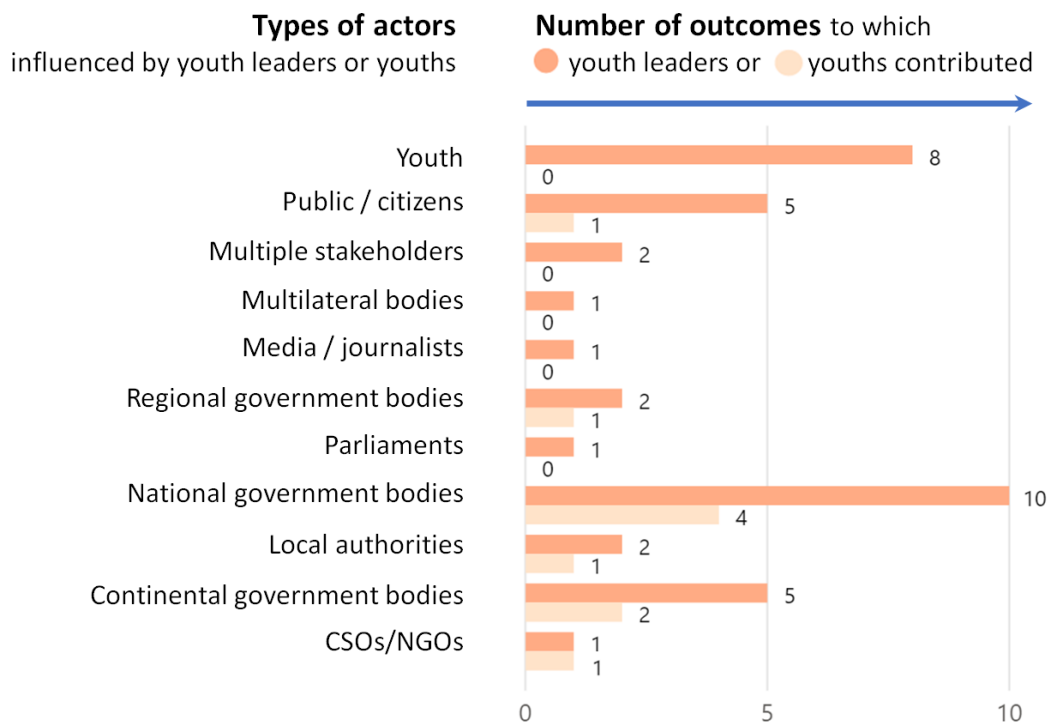
Figure 13: Young people contributing to outcomes involving the various types of actors influenced by the AWW project. Note that youth leaders and non-trained youths may have contributed jointly to outcomes.

An outcomes evaluation assessing a project of this size cannot comprehensively capture all results involving youths across eight focus countries and three target regions, nor assess the total reach of their activities and engagements. Here, we looked for evidence that the AWW project has successfully influenced youths to act as intermediaries in line with the vision (see ToC, Figure 8), and we examine to what extent and how they filled their role as contributors to changes observed in other actors within the AWW intervention logic.

The ACDEG youth leaders and untrained youths were actors in 37 (25%) out of the 147 outcomes (youth leaders 28, non-trained youth 9, Figure 11). They also featured **in multi-stakeholder outcomes** (e.g., participating in the launch of Citizens Reports products together with other stakeholders such as CSOs, media, and government representatives; preparing joint press statements with others; or teaming up with media to participate in radio or TV shows). Trained and non-trained youth further comprised the largest group of contributors to outcomes, after the AWW partners, **contributing to 41 outcomes** (28%), and youth leaders and/or youths contributed to changes in all types of actors (Figure 13). Counting all outcomes where youths featured either on their own or together with others (multi-stakeholder outcomes) as actors, or where they acted as contributors showed that young men and women were **involved in more than half of all results in this evaluation (54%, 79 of 147 outcomes).**

As described in section 6.2.2 and Figure 11 the **range of behavioural changes** observed in public actors was categorised into four groups. These include changes in i) "Knowledge and awareness", ii) "Networking and collaboration", iii) "Advocacy and outreach" and iv) "ACDEG implementation". The latter involved youth leaders or youths participating in democratic processes such as election monitoring which was already discussed in section 6.2.2.4. In the following we will thus examine the first three types of changes, drawing from the outcomes where youth leaders or youths were actors (including in multi-stakeholder results), and complementing this with information from youth

contributions to outcomes in other actors, as well as from interviews. We will put a particular emphasis on "Networking and collaboration" to explore how young people were inspired to become part of the ACDEG movement (section 6.3.1.2). Section 6.3.1.3 then summarises the largest category of changes for youth leaders and youth, namely "Advocacy and outreach" with 25 out of 37 outcomes (Figure 11), which we segregated in five types of activities that the youths embarked on to promote ACDEG ratification and reporting.

6.3.1.1   Increased knowledge and awareness on the ACDEG in youths

One outcome captured the testimony of a **youth leader on the added value of the AWW Youth Leadership training**. Responding to the evaluation survey August 2020**,** a youth from Ghana stated that "*Participants like myself came out of the meeting well-armed with knowledge on the right approaches in demanding accountability and leading change*" [159]. A further survey respondent, from Sierra Leone, said that the training and engagement in activities "*opened my eyes to a lot of gaps in our governance system and state institutions and motivated me as a youth to engage in numerous developmental spaces at various levels in society*" [153]. Interviews with other young people also confirmed that the training for the first time introduced the ACDEG to the youths and offered new information and insights on themes around democracy, elections and good governance, as well as on leadership and advocacy:

- *Before the trainings, most of the participants were unaware of AGA and ACDEG. Through these trainings, young people were equally exposed to the different skills/strategies for mobilization, facilitation and advocacy which are required for the AWW project*." (Nigeria)

- "*I did not know about democracy in detail, now I know and many others like ACDEG principles. I used the knowledge for advocacy in street caravans and community meetings. And radio shows as well.*" (Pemba, Tanzania)

Not only the workshops, but also the practical experience and meeting a diverse range of stakeholders enabled the youth leaders to improve their knowledge, skills and relationships for outreach, advocacy and policy dialogue on the Charter:

- *"I learned in the training how to talk in public and how to engage communities; got lots of practical experience; when engaging with the communities, I learned about the issues that matter to them; I got connected to people such as CSOs and governance people. Being able to reach people at different levels is important to get ideas on how to achieve goals, people who are knowledgeable about issues that can help."* (Sierra Leone)

The knowledge was appreciated not only for supporting the implementation of the AWW project, but was also seen to add personal value:

- "*Even when you work in different sectors, what is different is the knowledge. The training will help you in every aspect of life."* (Sierra Leone)

Apart from the direct training the AWW project also **indirectly engaged young people** spreading knowledge and awareness of the ACDEG to a wider audience, e.g., through youth-led outreach activities and social media campaigns. For example, a pan-African campaign between July and September 2018 engaged 2,231 youth across the 55 countries of Africa in the Twitter trend ACDEG 55 [56]. As an example of a local sensitisation event may serve the youth-led engagement activity at the University of Ho in **Ghana** that reached over 500 students [173]. In Sierra Leone, such **outreach activities engaged nationwide** about 6,000 youths in 120 ACDEG campaigns led by youth ambassadors in Sierra Leone in 2019 [223].

6.3.1.2 Forming and strengthening of youth collaboration, networks and movements

As described in the Project Document, the AWW project saw young people as important drivers of change and thus integrated a strong component of youth involvement. For this they could rely on an extensive existing network of young activists in Africa including AA Denmark's Global Platforms (youth training hubs), and AA International's global youth network Activista. In the following we describe observations how the AWW project has triggered or fostered the development and maintenance of youth collaboration, networks and movements as a broad base for promoting the ACDEG.

Youth forming collaborative structures to facilitate ACDEG/AGA outreach and advocacy

One goal of the AWW youth training was to encourage the participants to team up and connect on implementing the action plans developed during the workshop, **forming collaborative groups or networks**. Several of the AWW project officers confirmed that this had happened, including one from Nigeria: "*youths organised themselves [..] requesting support from the AWW team [...] and even when AA Nigeria could not support, the events would still happen. After the second training they had organized in groups, worked on elections, four groups working on specific themes*". There were several outcomes describing that trained youths among themselves or together with other stakeholders established informal or formal groups, some of which developing to or feeding into larger networks or social movements. At the **local scale,** this started with the forming of groups initiated at the AWW youth trainings, which were used as platforms to share information and experiences and plan activities implementing the agreed action plans. For example, in **Ghana**, youth leaders from four regions (together with other stakeholders) established local WhatsApp groups after participating in the ACDEG training by the AWW project, to enable them to engage more easily [170]. In some focus countries, trained youth leaders established local youth clubs to link young people and provide opportunities for participation, exchange, learning and professionalisation of advocacy skills: In **Zambia** in July 2018, 67 trained youth leaders organised youth club events (called Paasaka) in Nakonde where ACDEG was discussed with 50 youths in order to mobilise them on ACDEG [87]. In **Tanzania**, 44 participants of the youth training established youth clubs in 13 villages in September 2018, engaging 128 young people within the Pemba district. The youth clubs are driven by volunteer engagement and are still active. One developed into a more formal youth organisation ("Sauti ya Vijana Pemba", SAVIPE) [135].

Collaborative structures were also observed to have formed at national and regional levels: In April 2018, a group of 20 young people representing eight NGOs in **Mozambique** formed a task force which was monitoring ACDEG implementation in the country. It was specifically created to advocate the ACDEG, e.g., through meetings with government members, and one participant met with the Mozambique representative of the PRC in Addis Ababa [15].

Remarkable were the efforts **across the EAC region** (see outcome story, Annex 9.8). Already during the launch of the AWW project by EACSOF in December 2017, trained youth network leaders established the Youth Working Group on the ACDEG implementation and the role of youth in influencing more democratic states during a workshop. The goals were to reinvigorate the youth voice in the EAC Consultative Dialogue Framework at national level through their participation in the National Dialogue Committee (NDC), the National Dialogue Forums (NDF) and the newly established Presidential Roundtable meeting with the NDC. The informants reported that the group meets regularly and stays in contact through WhatsApp. The Youth Working Group also engaged with the Westminster Foundation (WFD) to work together on raising more awareness on the ACDEG across the EAC region [152]. A year later, in November 2018, young activists from Youth Councils in the East

African countries (Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda) then established the East African Youth Council and held their first ever parliamentary session at the EALA Chambers in Arusha, Tanzania. Moreover, the youth urged partner states without National Youth Councils to follow their example (South Sudan, Tanzania and Burundi). The agenda of the youths was for the states to implement the ACDEG to ensure democracy and youth participation, implementation of uniform tuition policies and rejuvenate Institutional/ student exchange program across the EAC and harmonization of regional tax policies and protocols [10].

Apart from offering ACDEG/AGA and leadership trainings to youths and supporting the development of longer-term collaborative structures, the AWW project also provided **opportunities for connecting and collaboration on specific occasions**, bringing together youths in events to share, plan and work on themes relating to the Charter. For example, at the <u>local level</u>, 220 youths from Kogi, **Nigeria**, convened for the Democracy Summit on May 28 2018, and on the next day, 57 representatives from 15 Kogi youth groups and organisations gathered at the Round Table. The "Democracy Summit" and the "Democracy Round Table" Youth Meet-up were organised by Activista Kogi State to discuss Nigeria's democracy and the imperative for the Nigerians to domesticate and implement the ACDEG in Kogi state also as a preparation of the Nigerian "Democracy Day" on June 12 [67]. In **Sierra Leone**, youth leaders facilitated a national **"Youth Convergence"** on ACDEG and SDG 16 on 14/15 August 2019, hosting 64 ACDEG youth leaders from the three project districts, as well as project staff and youths in other organisations that had been previously engaged in ACDEG outreaches. The youths presented their respective district CSC reports, made recommendations on the issues learnt, and prepared four position papers which were then used for lobbying at relevant ministries and agencies at the national level (see below) [186]. That large groups of trained and untrained youths were willing to gather and collaborate actively to popularise the ACDEG also on the <u>regional level</u> was shown in outcome [213]: more than 1,200 youths across the SADC region attended the virtual 2nd SADC Youth Forum in August 2020. They jointly developed the 2nd SADC Youth Forum Mozambique Declaration on peace and stability, youth participation, climate and specifically on the implementation of the ACDEG, and adopted an Action Plan on the ACDEG. The annual SADC Youth Forum is convened by the Southern Africa Youth Forum (SAYoF-SADC), a coordinating body for youth and youth organizations in SADC. SAYoF-SADC engaged the youth from across the 16 SADC member states through the Civil Society Forum 2018 and 2019. The AWW project and especially the partner SADC-CNGO, through their presence at the Forum and engagement with SAYoF-SADC, contributed to strengthening the capacity of the SAYoF-SADC highlighting the Charter. SAYoF-SADC also sits in the SADC-CNGO regional task-force on the ACDEG representing young people in the region.

Youth engaging with other stakeholders on the ACDEG ("multi-stakeholder bridging")

In some instances, events organised as part of the project convened individuals and groups from different disciplines, practices and functions – such as youths, CSOs, media, community members, and policy officials – facilitating the sharing of different perspectives and experiences and hence the "bridging" among different audiences. On the second day of the "Youth Convergence" in **Sierra Leone** mentioned above, the APRM Executive Chair Dr Charles J. Silver as an invited speaker gave a speech on the status of ACDEG implementation and reporting in Sierra Leone. The presence of the APRM representative lent weight to the event and gave the youths the opportunity for face-to-face discussions with officials. This was seen as a valuable experience by a youth from Sierra Leone, who felt that both were important: knowing the issues from the work with the communities, as well as getting connected to people who have the power to help [206]. A further multi-stakeholder event where youth got exposed particularly to policy officials was the "Elections and Good Governance Symposium" organised by AA **Uganda** in partnership with NBS TV in September 2020, which was

attended physically by 50 participants including youth, media, CSOs, as well as representatives of four political parties. The latter promised to join support to push for the ratification of the ACDEG in Uganda, and the president of one of the parties committed to present the ratification of the ACDEG on the floor of parliament [207].

Several of the multi-stakeholder events were organised around the validation or dissemination of the national CSC or Citizens Report results. The data validation workshop for the second CSC report in **Ghana** in October 2019 convened 49 participants including members of the communities from which the data was taken, traditional leaders, National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE), Electoral commission, the district assembly, and youths [201]. Similarly, various stakeholders participated in the one-day "National Stakeholders' Forum and Policy Documents Dissemination" event organised by the AA **Nigeria** in September 2020, to popularise the CSC research findings and provide a platform for policy dialogue among CSOs, youth platforms, media houses, and government officials [205]. Finally, the launch of both the first and second **Sierra Leone** Citizens Reports in March 2019 and in September 2020 respectively saw representatives of CSOs working on human rights and governance, political party representatives, women and youths from communities, as well as ACDEG youth leaders. At both events, representatives of the National Commission for Democracy (an agency under the MoPPA that is responsible for progressing the ACDEG principles), presented a keynote and gave support to the popularisation of the Citizens Report and the ACDEG.

At the **regional and continental levels**, too, the AWW project offered youths the opportunity to participate in the political debate on the ACDEG and to voice their perspectives: In December 2017, youth organisations (including the Southern African Youth Movement) participated in the SADC Civil Society Consultative Forum taking place in South Africa for two days. Together with the other participants such as parliamentary forums, electoral commissions, trade unions and faith-based organisations they released a statement demanding the attention to the ACDEG from member states and Regional Economic Forums [94]. Young people were also present at some of the side events in the margins of AU sessions organised by AWW, for example the 63rd ordinary session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, where among the 40 participants there were also youths who gave a presentation on the ACDEG [34]. Further, as already described in section 6.1.1.1, selected youths were invited by the AU to speak on the ACDEG at their summits and high-level policy dialogues [118, 119]. Finally, a young person trained through the AWW project participated in a panel at a high-level side event at the UN General Assembly in September 2020. The event was co-organised by AA International and others and drew attention to the challenges and threats posed to civic space in the context of the Covid-19 crisis. The youth leader, Juliana Makonese, provided a strong youth perspective and addressed current issues related to youth participation and shrinking civic space in Zimbabwe and an appeal to UN and governments to respond to threats to civic space and ensure a more enabling environment for civil society and human rights defenders [196].

ACDEG youth collaboration expanding to other youth networks and movements

While the above are examples of the structures and opportunities created and/or supported directly by the AWW project for youths to connect and collaborate, there is also evidence that some of the youth leaders channelled their skills and knowledge through to other youth platforms, thus creating a **"ripple effect"** amplifying the information and engagement indirectly and without direct support by the AWW partners.

This was exemplified by the pathway of changes depicting how the advocacy of **Nigerian** youths led to the passing of the Akwa Ibom Youth Development Fund (AKYDF) bill in March 2019 (see outcome map Nigeria, Annex 9.9, [157, 203, 66]). Akwa Ibom is among the states with the highest

unemployment rates in the country, despite being one of Nigeria's richest states because of the oil drilled in the state. The AKYDF bill is a sustainable policy framework for youth economic development, expected to create jobs, attract investor support and increase state government's revenue base in Akwa Ibom State. The bill was passed as a result of citizen's pressure in Akwa Ibom, including young people from the region and particularly members of the Youth Advocacy Cluster (YAC[13]) who were advocating for the passage of the bill already since 2015, before the start of the AWW project. In February/March 2018, youth leaders trained by the AWW project passed on information on the ACDEG/AGA in so-called "step down" trainings (section 6.3.1.3) to local youths in several districts in Nigeria, including Akwa Ibom (Annex 9.6) [157]. More than ten of these local youths were also part of the YAC. Under the auspices of the Youth Alive Foundation (YAF), the YAC youth including those that participated in step-down trainings engaged in advocacy activities relating to the AKYDF bill: e.g., on 11 April 2018 they held a policy dialogue at Duellaz event centre with policy makers from different ministries and youth organizations attended by about 400 people; and on 18 September 2018 there was a public hearing organised by YAC and Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly [203]. In March 2019, the Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly approved the bill at their 6th assembly – as a first of its kind in Akwa Ibom State [66]. One of the youths participating in the step-down training and advocating for the AKYDF bill confirmed that during the AWW trainings, participants were taught the skills required for mobilization, facilitation and advocacy, and that this information was shared with other YAC youths, being "*brought to fore during the YAC planning meetings and when applied yielded results*". She stated that "*as a coalition, YAC was open to new knowledge and ideas that could positively enhance the passage of the AKYDF bill*" [203].

Potentially, a similar scenario was found in the case of the Nigerian Kogi Youth Development Commission (KYDC) Bill, although one of the linked outcomes is still only a lead [69, 204-lead]. In March 2018, trained youth leaders from Activista Kogi initiated and led advocacy for the passage, signing and implementation of the KYDC bill – again as part of the YAC. They organised other youth of the Kogi YAC to push for the passing of the bill, initiating various social media engagements and paying advocacy visits to executive and legislative bodies. On 14 November 2018, the KYDC bill was passed by the Kogi State House of Assembly with an overwhelming majority.

Finally, outcome [52] concerned the Not Too Young To Run bill that sought to reduce the age limit for running for elective office in Nigeria, thus permitting more youths constitutionally to run for elective office and represent youth voices in decision making spaces[14]. Based on previous failed attempts to get a constitutional amendment to enable young people to run for public office[15], the bill was conceived under the new title "Not Too Young To Run" and pushed by several civil society groups including YIAGA Africa, from May 2016. AA Nigeria was one of the movement's supporters, integrating support through the Activista networks to strengthen the movement's engagement in political processes. AA Nigeria and the Activista youths supported rallies, debates and town hall meetings as part of mobilisation efforts for the NTYTR bill and supported young people to engage stakeholders in the constitution amendment process to advocate for passage of the bill. In 2017, the bill was passed in 33 of the 36 states of the federation, surpassing the two-thirds vote required by the State Houses of Assembly. A key moment for the campaign was the National Day of Action in

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[13] Youth Advocacy Cluster (YAC) is a coalition of over fifty civil society organisations led by Youth Alive Foundation (YAF) https://yafnet.org/.

[14] Specifically, it reduces the age of running for elective positions for House of Assembly and House of Representatives from 30 year old to 25 year old, Senate and Governorship from 35 year old to 30 year old and office of the president from 40 to 30 and independent candidature in Nigeria.

[15] https://thetilt.org/nigerian-activists-chioma-agwuegbo-and-ibrahim-faruk-on-the-political-wisdom-of- youth-5323a89dd3eb

April 2018, where young Nigerians marched to the Presidential Villa to demand that the President signs the bill. AA Nigeria mobilized about 50 persons from its youth group Activista Nigeria for this march. On 31 May 2018, President Muhammadu Buhari signed a constitutional amendment to reduce the age for running for elective office and increase youth participation in the electoral process. The NTYTR Twitter hashtag (#NotTooYoungToRun) is still active today and on 24 December 2020 was used to announce the re-launch of the spin-off "Ready to Run" group (#ReadyToRunNG) for young people interested in running for office in 2023. The movement was taken up by the UN already in 2016[16] and is said to have evolved into a global initiative promoting youth political inclusion in democratic politics particularly in Africa[17]. While the evidence gathered in this evaluation did not allow saying if and how the capacity developed in youths through the AWW project influenced the NTYTR movement, the outcome demonstrated clearly that the project fostered close linkages among AA's network of youth leaders and other important youth movements.

6.3.1.3   Youth outreach and advocacy for the ACDEG principles

Working through the formal and informal structures described above, the youth passed on information on the ACDEG through several ways – thus amplifying the messages to reach a large number of peers and other stakeholders. "Advocacy and outreach" was the largest category of outcomes observed for youth actors. Below we present examples, grouping these into five main types of activities. Many of these activities were conceptualised during the youth trainings and also supported by the AWW project, yet some were organised and implemented by the youths alone.

a: Outreach to peers. Young people from the focus countries reached out to their peers in various ways. For example, in **Nigeria**, the 39 youths initially trained in Abuja, FCT, in February 2018, in the following months engaged 305 youths from their five respective districts through "step-down" trainings, i.e. workshops for youths, tertiary and secondary school children on democracy, election, governance and human rights. These step-down trainings were not funded or otherwise supported by AA Nigeria [157]. In **Sierra Leone**, 87 youth leaders, i.e., a large majority of the 100 youths trained on AGA/ACDEG, embarked on 120 one-to-one or group campaigns (with presentations, discussions, Twitter messages, jingles etc. on the ACDEG principles) in schools, colleges, hospitals, universities, vocational centres, marketplaces, lorry parks and streets in the three focus regions (Bo, Bombali, Western Area) and managed to engage 6,000 of their peers [153, 186, 223]. In **Ghana**, six youths (five trained through the project and the facilitator of the training from the Global Platform Ghana) led an awareness raising campaign at Ho Technical University, Volta region, on ACDEG, focusing on youth and women participation in governance, engaging over 500 students between February 2018 and February 2018 [162]. In **Zambia**, 50 youths were reached through the youth clubs discussed above [87]. In **Tanzania**, 207 young women and 222 young men in Pemba, Tanzania, participated in community meetings in October 2018 [132].

b: Community sensitization events on the ACDEG. Youth leaders (sometimes together with CSOs) engaged in local community sensitisation events such as debates, focus groups, road shows and street drama. They also participated in the data collection for the Citizens Reports following the CSC method, which allowed them to discuss and capture the views of communities on the ACDEG principles. In **Zambia**, 167 citizens from Mpulungu, Lusaka, and Mbala participated in community debates on the implementation of the ACDEG in October 2018. The people were mobilised by AWW trained Activista in these regions, and AA Zambia facilitated the focus groups and community

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[16] https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Democracy/Forum2016/OSGEY_IPU_UNDP_SideEvent.pdf
[17]   https://thespindle.org/project/not-too-young-to-run-movement/

debates to discuss and validate the results of the Citizens Report [133]. In **Zimbabwe**, Activista from Manicaland, Buluwayo and Matebeleland North provinces from Zimbabwe translated the ACDEG into three local languages (Shona, Ndebele, Tonga), to facilitate awareness raising in citizens that do not have a strong appreciation of the English language [174]. In section 6.2.2.2 we described that after sensitisations events by youth leaders, 20 young women in Lagos, **Nigeria**, for the first time obtained their voters' cards for the 2019 general elections [57], and in Kadjebi district, **Ghana**, an increased number of women (22) contested for the district assembly elections in December 2019 [165]. Several reasons may hinder women to participate in elections, including culture and perceptions of their environment, their own perceptions of themselves as women, their lack of trust in the system, or lack of knowledge of electoral processes. Raising the awareness that there is a backing of the law where ACDEG provides for women inclusion in democracy and development is important in this context. In Ghana, the AWW Project Officer supported the youth leaders in these sensitisation events, using dramatization to educate on women participation in governance.

c: Publication of articles on the ACDEG, press statements, and radio or TV broadcasts. As a way to raise awareness of themes related to the ACDEG, youth leaders embarked on publishing articles, e.g., in **Uganda** via blogs and websites such as the parliamentary forum on youth affairs, and PML daily, and in **Zimbabwe** in newspapers including the Herald (national reach), Manica post, and Newsday [176], or [208][18]. Youth leaders also joined other stakeholders in publishing press statements, e.g., in Zimbabwe, after the signing of the ACDEG on 18 March 2018 [43]. Further, in several of the focus countries we found outcomes where youth leaders featured in radio shows as panellists [125] or participants of live debates [139], or in live broadcasts of youth contests on the ACDEG [126] (these outcomes were described in section 6.2.2.2 on media).

d: Digital activism through social media platforms. Apart from the print, radio and television media, social media presented an important avenue through which the youths recruited peer participation, raised awareness on ACDEG themes in broad audiences, and put pressure on government stakeholders. Hence, in the following we list in an exemplary way some of the digital campaigns that were initiated or supported by youths and their reach as reported by the informants during the outcome harvest (a full assessment of the success of the digital media strategy was out of scope).

The AWW partner MFWA created three social media platforms on Facebook[19], Twitter[20] and Instagram[21]. According to MFWA these engaged together 3,742 followers (as of 25 August 2020) and reached nearly 8,000 audiences (impressions) on average every month. The official hashtag of the AWW project became #TheAfricaWeWant and this or derivative hashtags trended in several of the focus countries. For example, between August 2019 and September 2020, over one million people engaged with the #RatifyACDEGUG created by AA **Uganda** [230], and according to MFWA was among the topmost trending issues in the Ugandan Twitter space on July 22, 2020. In **Ghana**, the hashtags #AfricaWeWant #ImplementACDEG were used by the youths after the AWW training in social media blasts to support their sensitisation and public engagement campaigns [215-lead], for example at the awareness raising at Ho University described above [162], and MFWA stated that the hashtag was twice among the topmost trending issues in the Ghanaian Twitter space. In **Nigeria**, between

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[18] https://www.upfya.or.ug/2019/12/acdeg-the-continental-solution-to-unconstitutional-changes-of-government-in-africa/
https://www.pmldaily.com/oped/2020/08/brighten-abaho-acdeg-is-the-only-hope-for-youth-to-achieve-democratic-governance.html
https://www.parliament.go.ug/news/3536/youth-want-african-charter-democracy-elections-and-governance-ratified

[19] Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/WeWantAfrica/

[20] Twitter: https://twitter.com/africa_wewant

[21] Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/theafricawewant/

December 2018 and February 2019, 50 people from 12 organisations (including AA Nigeria) and youth platforms participated in a fortnightly Twitter conversation #The AfricaWeWant #ACDEGSeries on the ACDEG linking it with other frameworks on elections, human rights and the rule of law. There were seven Twitter conversations that lasted two hours each and generated 312 tweets in three months with 23,490 Tweet impressions and 1,853 Tweet engagements online [55]. A further hashtag, #Youth4ACDEG was created during the youth training in February 2018 and used, e.g., by two Nigerian Activista in October 2019 calling for the implementation of the ACDEG in Nigeria [64].

Apart from the social media platforms initiated through the project, some of the youths also used their own social media channels for advocacy on the ACDEG. A youth from **Sierra Leone** stated in an interview that she posted on the ACDEG on her Facebook and WhatsApp pages out of her own interest. She was very excited to learn something new and to reach out to more youths. She also prepared an advocacy video with a jingle right after the training in 2018 that was for example used at the Youth Convergence [186], and also engaged people in her church [179].

Finally, the ACDEG 55 Youth Campaign 2018, initiated by the youth platform Youngstars Foundation from Nigeria led to a **continental social media blast on the ACDEG** where between 16 July and 28 September 2018, 2,231 young men and women across the 55 countries of Africa engaged, demanding the implementation of the Charter in their countries. The ACDEG 55 Campaign included a website, a cartoonised youth friendly version of ACDEG, an ACDEG Facebook page, and the Twitter hashtag #ACDEG55. It aimed at galvanising African youths to support advocacy for ratification, domestication and implementation of the ACDEG in their respective countries. A staff of Youngstars Foundation had been trained by AA Nigeria and there had been a meeting between AA Nigeria and the Executive Director of Youngstar Foundation on how to advance the demand for the operationalisation of the ACDEG.

e: Direct policy dialogue on the ACDEG through petitions, position papers, presentations and interface meetings. The youth leaders were encouraged to formulate their reflections on the ACDEG implementation and present these at local, national, regional and continental levels directly to policy officials. Generally, the AWW teams at country, regional and continental levels aimed to invite youth representatives to the key events of the project to share their grass roots views and evidence with multiple stakeholders including policy and authority officials.

At the **local level** in **Ghana**, 34 trained youth leaders from Ho, Volta Region, as part of their action plan mobilized 100 additional youth from the region to join the commemoration of the International Youth Day on 12 August 2018. The Activista drafted a joint communique raising issues concerning the youth and organised a float through the main street of Ho municipality sensitising on ACDEG which ended at the regional minister office. The Honourable welcomed the youth and the communique was read to him [171, 140]. In **Mozambique**, 30 trained Activista in Maputo Province developed a position paper on ACDEG implementation and on 18 September 2020 submitted it to the Maputo Provincial Government requesting the provincial government to take in consideration provisions in the ACDEG in all processes of accountability, plan and budget, as well as participation in dialogue spaces [184]. In **Zambia**, 20 Youth Action Zambia members after their AWW training met with the councillor of a community ward and requested participation in the Ward Development Committees. The councillor later increased participation in public meetings which can serve as a channel for information and holding the councillor accountable [27].

At the **national level**, there was an example where youth activities contributed to specific changes in government practice and legislation relating to youth participation: In **Zambia,** as mentioned in an earlier section**,** the lobbying of the Activista at the local level contributed to establishing the Local Government Act number 2 of 2019 which provides for young people to participate in the Ward

Development Committees [112]. There were also other national level debates on the ACDEG and related themes. In **Mozambique**, 15 trained Activista carried out two interface meetings with election candidates from all participating political parties (Renamo, Frelimo and MDM) presenting youth/women manifestos leading up to the municipal elections in October 2018 to influence pro-youth agendas. [137]. In **Uganda**, 430 young people from across the country received the permission of the parliament of Uganda to hold a moot parliamentary session in the presence of the Members of Parliament on 10 August 2018 (as described in section 6.1.3.1). Uganda signed the ACDEG already in December 2008 yet has not yet ratified the Charter. The youths presented a petition on the ratification of the ACDEG to the Speaker of Parliament. AA Uganda mobilised the young people and supported them in drafting the petition [142, 143]. **Tanzania** has not even signed the Charter yet, and hence the AWW project aimed to lobby the signing with the MFA, making sure to also include the voice of the youth. For example, in February 2019 a youth accompanied an AWW delegation in the visit to the MFA to discuss the status of the ACDEG [113]. In **Sierra Leone**, where the ACDEG was ratified already in 2009, AWW delegations finally were received after months of trying to visit the MoPPA on 26 March 2019 and the MFA on 27 March 2019. The delegations were joined by two and respectively three youth leaders [148, 149]. Later the same year, the participants at the Youth Convergence in August 2019 [186] prepared youth positions on the challenges highlighted in the Citizens Report and presented these in person to two relevant Sierra Leone ministries or agencies, the MoPPA and the NaYCOM, as described above [195, 187].

On the **regional level**, too, youths participated in the political debate, for example in the two-day **SADC** Civil Society Consultative Forum in 2017 [94]. In the next year, trained Activista from nine SADC countries including Zimbabwe, Zambia and Mozambique developed a joint position paper on the political participation of youth and women, namely the SDGs 5, 10 and 16, based on an analysis of the ACDEG. In August 2018, with the help of the regional partner SADC-CNGO, the youths presented the paper at the council of NGOs in the SADC region and subsequently at the SADC Head of State Summit [22]. According to AA Denmark the same was done in Western and Eastern Africa, yet, we did not collect outcomes on this. For the **EAC region**, there were several outcomes that followed a pathway of change and provided further insights in how the advocacy and lobbying activities of the youth (and AWW partners and allies) can open doors at regional level policy forums: the establishment of the East African Youth Council [10], the Youth Caravan through several East African states and the joint development of a petition in November 2018 [114], which led to the invitation of the youths by the EALA Speaker to hold a parliamentary session at the EALA chambers in Arusha, Tanzania, and the permission to give a presentation at the chambers on the ACDEG in December 2018 [115] (outcome story, Annex 9.8).

The involvement of youths at the **AU level** was already discussed in section 6.1.1.1. In November 2017, the AU/UN delegation in Zimbabwe invited young people and Activista to present their views on youth in the context of African demographic trends creating major challenges for young people in terms of migration, security and employment at a summit in Harare leading up to the 5th African Union - EU Summit in Ivory Coast in November 2017. The National Association of Youth Organizations (NAYO Africa)[22], a youth umbrella body for youth organizations working in Zimbabwe and an ally of the AWW project, facilitated the engagement of the youths. Activista did a preparation and a road map in several provinces. The "Leave No Youth Behind" campaign/project was a central contribution, which both NAYO and Activista participated in. The presentations and assessments leading up to the summit were fully led by the youths. They formed a national task force representing a diverse range of young people which spearheaded the national consultation and

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[22] https://www.nayoafrica.org/

developed a road-map for the EU-Africa Summit in order to make sure that all views were included and consolidated. From the main group, 36 were chosen to work closely with AU and EU in the lead up of the actual AU-EU Heads of State Summit leading the Governance and Political Participation thematic area [119]. A further set of outcomes described how the AU as part of its contributions to the activities of the African Anti-Corruption year 2018, convened three Regional Youth Consultations for West and Central Africa (Senegal, Dakar, 29-31 August 2018), East and Southern Africa (Botswana, Gaborone, 15-17 August 2018), as well as North Africa (Tunisia, Tunis, 12-14 September 2018) [118]. Youth from Tanzania [234], Sierra Leone [235], and Zambia [236] were invited to attend the Consultations and present a position paper on the ACDEG. The young people who participated in the event were trained in their respective countries by the AWW project and selected in cooperation between the AA country offices and the AWW/AA Denmark team. AA Denmark in collaboration with the AA country offices supported the young women and men in preparing the position paper and built the relationship with the AGA Secretariat as the host of the conference.

Conclusions on EQ3.1 – Youth as intermediaries	The AWW project managed to interest young people in popularising the ACDEG, to develop the knowledge and leadership capacity needed, and to mobilise them as intermediaries/multipliers, thus mainstreaming youth successfully making their voice heard to contribute to changes in other actors including government actors and citizens. Within and across the focus countries youths connected and started to form youth movements on the ACDEG, as well as influence other movements passing on information on the ACDEG principles.

As pointed out in the AWW Project Document: youth form a majority of the population in Africa and have great potential as agents of change. Nearly 60% of the population is under the age of 25. Mobilising a critical mass of African youth and engaging them more strongly and adequately in the political processes on the continent can thus have a large momentum. An informant from Mozambique pointed out that "*there is a general fatigue among young people to engage in politics, it is thus important not just that young people engage, but also take a lead*" [137].

The outcomes showed that the **AWW project managed to interest youths in the political debate and develop the knowledge, skills and capacity that the young people needed to engage and lead as intermediaries on all levels** – local, national, regional, and continental. The evidence comes not as much from the number of outcomes in these categories of change. There were only few results concerning increased awareness, knowledge, or capacity in youth. Yet, we put this down to a lack of reporting these as results, since often such immediate, output-near changes are difficult to evidence and/or not considered outcomes. What supported the point was that i) a sufficiently large number of the trained youths subsequently participated in the activities planned at the workshops[23], which ii) lead to the bulk of youth outcomes concerning outreach and advocacy changes, and many of these iii) successfully contributed to changes observed in other actors. The benefits from the knowledge and skills gained in the training were also confirmed by interviews and survey feedback (section 6.3.1.1). According to the AWW partner SADC-CNGO "*the enthusiasm amongst the youth to take the issues of ACDEG forward was amazing, the youth organisations are hungry to be active and with our guidance and support nothing is impossible*" [94]. The knowledge on the Charter made their

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[23]   For example, a youth leader from the Western Area in Sierra Leone, stated that from the 41 youths trained from this region initially by the AWW project, approximately 25 engaged in outreach activities.

advocacy and demand for participation much more concrete and targeted. Notably, it was not only the information on the ACDEG, nor the training in advocacy or leadership skills itself that was appreciated by the young people, but also the exposure to practical experience and engagement with their peers as well as other stakeholders ranging from the communities, CSOs, media to the policy officials. As a young person from Sierra Leone said, appreciating the broader experience the AWW project offered: "*getting connected with other ambassadors was very good for us as a society. Being able to reach people at different levels is important to get ideas how to achieve goals, [...] knowing the issues and getting connected to people who can help*".

Drawing from their existing network of young Activista in the focus countries, **the AWW project successfully mobilised youths to engage and take leadership in outreach and advocacy activities in all focus countries** (section 6.3.1.2). In most of the countries we observed a clear multiplier effect where the trained youths passed on their knowledge to other young people through the step-down trainings (e.g., Nigeria) or youth clubs (e.g. Zambia, Tanzania), or through the sensitisation and education events at secondary or tertiary schools (e.g. Ghana). Together the trained youth leaders and the non-trained youths reached through these formed a strong force sensitising the public, advocating implementation of the ACDEG, and lobbying directly with governments and authorities at all levels (section 6.3.1.3). In fact, **young men and women were involved in more than half of all outcomes in this evaluation either as actors or as contributors** (54%). The AWW project fostered the development of this ACDEG youth movement through a wide bouquet of different means and strategies reflecting some of the typical network functions (adapted from Ramalingam *et al.,* 2008).

With a strong component on youth learning and facilitating capacity development, the AWW project interested the young people in the ACDEG, showed them the relevance to their own lives, and helped them to take leadership and implement the planned activities more efficiently and effectively. Note that this process was supported through youth, namely AA's Global Platforms Ghana and Zambia. The importance of such "peer-to-peer facilitators" has already been pointed out e.g., by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC, 2012).

Investing and providing opportunities to engage in protest and advocacy gave the youths the structures and resources needed to undertake their activities, e.g., by connecting donors, thematic experts (such as the media partner MFWA) and strategic partners. Elliot and Earl (2018), too, emphasised the role of social movement organisations[24] to supply opportunities for action, including tactical and framing advice as well as the resources to plan events.

AWW has also been strong on community building, i.e., bringing youths together in informal or formal platforms to connect, share experiences, work on shared themes or values, or collaborate on specific projects – not only at the "Train the Trainers" workshops and their outreach to other youths (e.g. through step downs or sensitisation events), but also later at "Youth Conferences" or in task forces. One outcome explicitly stated that during the community sensitisation activities the youths supported each other because "*they knew that the Charter could not be exhausted by one person*", dividing the tasks at the event among each other [174].

Importantly, the project had also a remarkable emphasis on "multi-stakeholder bridging", including youths in collaborative sensitisation and advocacy activities, such as conferences or summits with a variety of players relevant to promoting ACDEG implementation, thus exposing them to different perspectives and practices, including at high-level policy events. These are unique opportunities for

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[24] We understand that ActionAid is taking on at least partly the role of a social movement organisation, coordinating and supporting members of a mostly voluntary network or movement, i.e., not employing or directing the members.

youths to engage in politics, and to see political activism modelled by adult members (Elliott & Earl, 2018). These experiences and learning at the different levels were then carried back to their local environments. Through this, ACDEG youth leaders were able to function as the bridge between different stakeholders, as one young person stated.

Through the fostering of youth collaboration, the ACDEG messages were then often amplified through the immediate collaborators to their partners and networks, thus multiplying them. This "**ripple effect**" could be observed, for example, where youths were part of other youth networks (e.g., YAC [203]), or formed larger umbrella type networks such as the East African Youth Council that can persistently push commitments made at the African Union and EAC level, supporting the implementation of the ACDEG in the countries ([10], Annex 9.8). Further, this was especially evident where the AWW project made use of the digital media and online activism. Youth protest may be long-established, yet social media gives youth-led activism a new dimension. African young people are more connected than older citizens, more frequently owning mobile phones and using the internet (26% of the 18 to 35 year old use the internet everyday) (McMahon & Kalantaryan, 2020). Digital platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram thus have the potential to enormously scale the reach of youth digital activism. They were an integral part of the AWW media strategy and the outcomes data provided clear evidence that the **social media approach helped to scale-out the ACDEG movement to national and transnational levels** (section 6.3.1.2).

Individually, through their networks, or in collaboration with other stakeholders, the **youth succeeded in influencing both the demand and supply side of ACDEG implementation**. Section 6.3.1.3 provided ample evidence how young women and men supported advocacy through publishing articles, press statements, and radio or TV broadcasts. They **scaled-down messaging on the ACDEG principles to the grass roots level**, translating the Charter to local levels, sensitised citizens in community meetings on the ACDEG and related themes, e.g., empowering women to engage in electoral processes. Youths also **scaled-up the demand for ACDEG implementation**, actively helping to open up civic space through advocacy and lobbying with policy officials; and their activism even contributed to changes in legislation (e.g., the AKYDF bill in Nigeria [66]).

We conclude that the AWW project has contributed to creating "*a youth movement actively involved in local and national awareness raising, mobilization and campaigns demanding implementation of the ACDE***G"** as envisaged in the Project Document. In interviews the AWW Project Officers saw the youths as being very effective, some saying that they took the process beyond their expectation. CSOs working with the project, too, highlighted the motivation of the young people and the usefulness of working through this channel. Even without the direct support of the project these youths are still engaged in recent political events. For example, they were involved in Nigeria's anti-police brutality protests in October 2020 (pers. comm. AWW Project Officer Nigeria).

For future governance and democracy work, the structures and networks built in this project will be useful to maintain. One of the **challenges** will be to keep the youths engaged after the project, without funding or other support through the AWW project that provides opportunities for the young people to meet, collaborate, and lead on ACDEG advocacy and outreach. Another challenge will be to foster inclusiveness in an increasingly digital social movement. McMahon and Kalantaryan (2020) pointed out that "*there are significant digital divides between rural and urban residents and those with lower or higher education levels. Whereas 60% of young urban residents access the internet a few times a week or every day, only 25% of rural residents do*". The sustainability of the ACDEG (youth) movement developed through the AWW project will be discussed in section 6.4, and recommendations for fostering and leveraging the movement will be found in Chapter 7.

6.3.2 Insights on two specific AWW contribution modalities (EQ3.2)

EQ3.2	To what extent and at what scale did AWW's contribution strategies, especially "Citizens Reports" and "CSO coordination", influence the outcomes?

Chapter 5 and Figure 14 below describe six broad categories of observed contribution strategies. The figure shows that most modalities were used in all countries and at all scales. However, while, e.g., civil society coordination played a role in all eight focus countries, three regions and at the continental level, outcomes to which the Citizens Report methodology contributed were not reported from three countries in the harvest, namely Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe (Figure 14).

In this section we focus on the above two of the six modalities that the AWW project used, i) the **Citizens Reports** processes and outputs, including the CSC methodology, and ii) **civil society coordination**. We examine to what extent and how these were implemented and contributed at the different scales to the achievement of the observed results.
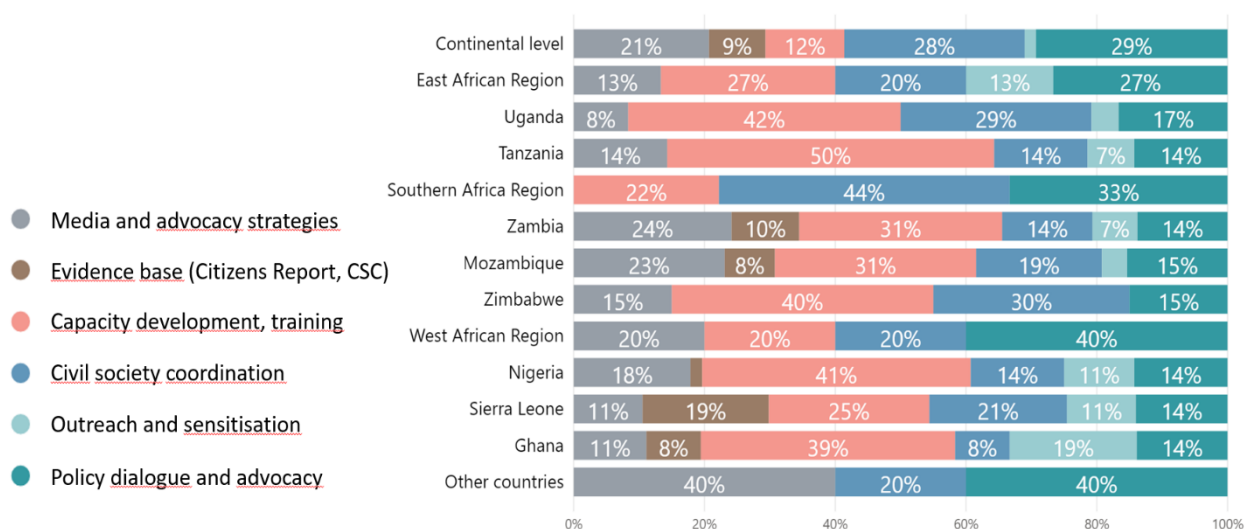
Figure 14: Proportional use of contribution modalities for outcomes harvested in the focus countries, regions and at continental level.

6.3.2.1 Citizens Reports

The intended outcome OC2 "*Increased, effective and coordinated engagement of CSOs, including youth and women's organisations with member states in the SADC, ECOWAS and EAC regions for implementation of AU legal instruments especially the ACDEG*" had two outputs for which the Citizens Report methodology was envisaged as a key instrument:

OP2.2: "E*nhanced monitoring of implementation of the ACDEG for more informed dialogue/advocacy with AU member states and institutions*", and

OP2.3: "*Increased CSO advocacy and engagement with AU institutions and governments for implementation of the ACDEG*"

The methodology developed by AWW research partner MPOI for this combined three participatory tools or processes to assess the level of implementation and compliance with ACDEG in the eight focus countries: i) information collected from communities using the Community Score Cards (CSC) methodology[25]; ii) participatory workshops for experts to judge the state of legal compliance; and iii) literature analysis including the Afrobarometer from which public perceptions data was drawn about the performance of governments with regard to the principles in the Charter.

The **CSC methodology** was implemented locally in their districts by CSOs or youth trained by the AWW project. According to AA Denmark, the CSC was then conducted in at least three districts in each of the eight focus countries, prioritising relevant provisions of ACDEG. Community members were divided into focus groups of 10 to 15 people and asked to give a score on the extent to which their governments meet their obligations. According to the Continental Citizens Report, 14,492 citizens (6,899 females, 7,593 males) were interviewed in total during the project. In some countries, the results from the CSC methodology were then synthesised and published as distinct CSC reports.

The national Citizens Reports were informed by **legal analyses** reviewing and rating in each of the focus countries the relevant legal and policy frameworks at the national level and their link to the overall implementation of ACDEG. In some countries there were workshops with legal practitioners, members of civil society, academia, think tanks, human rights lawyers, researchers, journalists and trade union members, in other consultants took on the responsibility.

Finally, information for the Citizens Reports came also from relevant literature, especially integrating the perspectives of citizens gathered in the **Afrobarometer index**[26]. The mapping of the Afrobarometer data for the eight countries was under the responsibility of MPOI. For the AWW project, the latest two Afrobarometer surveys from 2014/2015 and 2017/2018 in the eight focus countries were considered capturing the perspectives of citizens on the implementation of key provisions of ACDEG.

In some countries the process involved further participatory steps, including multi-stakeholder **CSC validation meetings** at local or national levels to share results and provide further input before finalising the CSC or Citizens reports. In some of the countries, the consolidated **national Citizens Reports were publicly launched,** again engaging a variety of actors.

The Citizens Report methodology was rolled out to the eight countries in the beginning of 2018, and by the end of March 2019 all countries had concluded the first round of CSC processes and Afrobarometer analyses (Annex 9.7). During the project, the original target of 28 national Citizens Reports and 11 regional overviews on implementation of the ACDEG was reduced to producing two national rounds and one consolidated AWW Continental Citizens Report; the continental report was finalised at the time of drafting the evaluation report.

From our interviews with the country focal points, we got the impression that the methodology was implemented to quite varying extent across the countries, although it has to be emphasised that we may not have the full information on this. To our knowledge, the complete process was rolled out, e.g., in Sierra Leone and Ghana, where two Citizens Reports were produced as planned, while in other countries only one (e.g., Nigeria) or no report was produced at the time of this evaluation

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[25] Developed by Care Malawi in 2002, the CSC methodology is a participatory, community based monitoring and evaluation process that enables citizens to assess the quality of public services process, used to elicit social and public accountability and increases the responsiveness of service providers (see https://www.civicus.org/documents/toolkits/PGX_H_Community%20Score%20Cards.pdf)

[26] https://www.afrobarometer.org/

(Zimbabwe). In Zimbabwe, two rounds of CSC data collection and legal analyses were done (Annex 9.7), and it is likely that outcomes emerged to which the Citizens Report methodology contributed, however, none were reported to us (Figure 14). As explained before, it is difficult to assess whether this is a sampling issue, i.e., informants not knowledgeable on outcomes related to the Citizens Report implementation, or an indication that the Citizens Report methodology was less useful in the Zimbabwean context.

In the following we explore how exactly the methodology contributed to the results, drawing from the five countries where outcomes relating to the Citizens Report could be harvested, namely Mozambique, Zambia, Ghana, Nigeria and especially Sierra Leone, where 11 out of 22 outcomes were related to the Citizens Report. In addition, we discuss results at the AU level. Overall, there were 25 outcomes to which the Citizens Report methodology had contributed, nine at the local, 11 at the national, and five at the continental level. Most of these outcomes, concerned changes in government actors (14) or the "multi-stakeholder" group (7).

Influence of the Citizens Report methodology at the local level

At the local level, changes were observed in CSOs, citizens, governments and in the multi-stakeholder group. There were two outcomes where **CSOs** started to use evidence from the CRC or Citizens Report for advocacy and outreach (Figure 15). Outcome [189] described that from 2018 onwards, 50 CSOs across **Sierra Leone** started engaging in public awareness raising events following context specific advocacy strategy plans for district engagement that they developed at the AWW CSO Capacity Development trainings and CSC trainings. In outcome [217], the CSO NMYCW from Sierra Leone, that was also involved in the CSC data collection from communities, was inspired by the work and experience and integrated knowledge on the ACDEG in their own project.
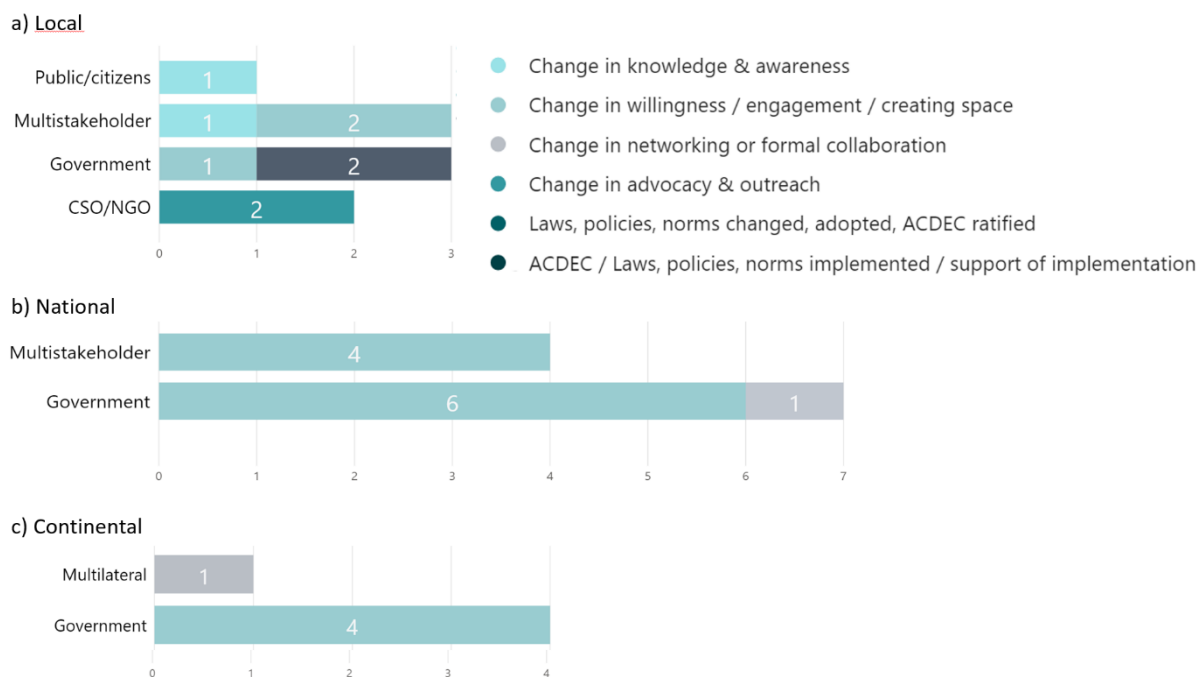
Figure 15: Number of changes influenced in the various actors at a) local, b) national, and c) continental levels. The colours indicate the six types of contribution modalities influencing the observed changes.

For citizens, there was one outcome concerning awareness on the ACDEG. This resulted from sensitisation events, where trained youth leaders in **Zambia** mobilised 167 citizens in three regions to discuss the findings of the Citizens Report and validate them [133]. While this is the only outcome we could harvest for citizens, AWW Project Officers from other countries confirmed that the CSC process at the community level was an effective tool. An informant from **Nigeria** said: "*The process was good because it gave us the opportunity to speak to various communities and local stakeholders on the ACDEG, democracy, their rights*".

In the **multi-stakeholder group,** we found two changes in knowledge/awareness and one in willingness/creating civic space observed in multi-stakeholders related to town hall meetings and a validation meeting with local participants where the CSC or Citizens Report findings were disseminated. Apart from community members, there were always also local authorities involved in these. Outcome [216] cited a councillor in **Sierra Leone** expressing his commitment to support implementation of the AGA/ACDEG and stating that he "*will always support the team whenever they intend to organize such valuable meeting in my ward*". Outcome [130] summarised similar results from a further town hall meeting in Sierra Leone. An outcome from **Ghana** presented a validation workshop for the second CSC report organised by AA Ghana which was attended by a wide range of stakeholders including representatives from the District Assembly, as well as traditional leaders, the Electoral Commission, and the NCCE [201].

Finally, there were three outcomes for **local authorities**. One from **Mozambique** was a change in civic space, where a new district government invited AWW partners to reintroduce the ACDEG, after being engaged through the CSC data collection [185]. Notably, two outcomes described a local authority supporting ACDEG implementation: Following a Citizens Report validation meeting in Mbala, **Zambia**, in October 2018, the Mbala delegation of the Zambia Electoral Commission agreed with the findings, took forward discussions on the Citizens Report to their National Office, and subsequently made improvements accordingly (for example they started providing sanctions to political parties who breach the electoral code) [35]. The second, remarkable case from **Zambia** described how, since January 2019, the local governments in 19 communities in Gaza Province are organising regular hearings with the communities based on the CSC methodology, and are responding to demands resulting from the process, e.g., building a dam and health centres. The authorities learned about the CSC during interface meetings with the AWW partner CCM-Gaza [237].

Influence of the Citizens Report methodology at the national level

At the national level, seven changes were observed in governments and four in multi-stakeholders relating to the Citizens Reports methodology. The multi-stakeholder outcomes all involved events or workshops where Citizens Reports were launched or developed and described changes in willingness/creating space. In outcome [202] from **Ghana**, a group of experts drawn from political party representatives as well as CSOs and other stakeholders committed time and offered their expertise for the legal analysis. Outcomes [150] and [180] concerned the launch of the first and second Citizens Report in **Sierra Leone** where members from the National Commission for Democracy gave keynote lectures. Outcome [205] referred to the "National Stakeholders' Forum and Policy Documents Dissemination" in **Nigeria** where outputs of the Citizens Report methodology were presented.

Six of the government changes also concerned changes in willingness/creating space, five of these from **Sierra Leone** were on the engagements of various ministries and institutions – namely the MFA [149], MoPPA [148, 195], NaYCOM [187], and the National Chapter of the Sierra Leone APRM [181] – by AWW partners, youth and CSOs, presenting the Citizens Reports or other outputs relating to

these. Interestingly, it took months of trying until the first meetings with the MFA and MoPPA were granted. The sending of the draft Citizens Report with the request to discuss it and obtain a shared understanding on the status of ACDEG implementation in Sierra Leone may have helped to open the doors at the MoPPA, demonstrating their interest in the Citizens Report on ACDEG. The sixth change was from **Ghana** describing how their attempts to meet with the MFA in the Citizens Report process failed, and they therefore adapted the strategy and reached out to the MoPA and there received the commitment to collaborate [199].

Finally, there was one outcome in a national government flagged as change in law relating to the ACDEG principles: On 15th January 2019, the Minister of Justice in **Zambia** announced that the Public Order Act bill would be submitted to Cabinet for approval of proposed amendments by the citizens. During the legal analysis done in course of the Citizens Report development, AA Zambia managed to develop a recommendations paper on the proposed amendments to restrictive legal frameworks such as the Public Order Act and the NGO Act, which was submitted to the Minister of Justice in November 2018 [14].

Contribution of the Citizens Report methodology at the regional and AU level

As emphasised previously, less effort was put on harvesting from the regional level due to the scope of this evaluation. Only eight outcomes in total were collected. For none of these there was a linkage to the Citizens Report outputs or processes as a contributing modality was reported, although interviews confirmed that Citizens Reports were presented both at regional and AU level.

At the continental level, where in total 21 outcomes were harvested, we identified five outcomes influenced by the AWW Citizens Reports work, four of these concerning AU organs as actors, and one with a multilateral organisation, UNECA. As mentioned above, the findings and issues raised in the Citizens Reports were presented at the AWW side events in the margins of the AU summits in February 2019 [11] and February 2020 [136], that were attended also by the **AU-DPA or AGA Secretariat** representatives. The AWW project also engaged with the **AU-APRM**, the AU organ that is now the lead actor in monitoring state compliance with the ACDEG principles on behalf of the AGA-platform [38, 224] (section 6.1.1). The AWW project was invited to participate in the AU-DPA meeting in Pretoria, South Africa, in March 2019 for the launch of the 2019 African Governance Report (AGR), the first pan-African report prepared on behalf of the AU, where the several AWW partners gave presentations on AWW's Citizens Reports. The meeting served as an opportunity to discuss complementarity of the Citizens Report approach and the AGR, and how the design of the Citizens Report could be made more relevant to the AGR in future. There was a verbal agreement that the APRM would involve the AWW partners in the elaboration of the next AGR 2021, based on their experience with the CSC and Citizens Reports methodology at country level.

Finally, during the AU-PRC engagement in 2018, the AWW/AA Denmark project team had a meeting at the UNECA office with the resident delegation and UNECA staff. The AWW/AA Denmark project team gave an overview on the AWW project and specifically the development of the Citizens Reports methodology. UNECA showed their interest in the approach and committed to cooperate with the AWW/AA Denmark team and the research partner. They assigned one of their economists to be the focal point for the AWW project on the Citizens Report methodology. While this was a significant change in an important actor, that potentially could disseminate the methodology more widely among CSOs or UN institutions, we did not receive any evidence for follow up since 2018 [36].

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Conclusions on EQ3.2a - Citizens Report

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The Citizens Reports methodology proved an effective instrument in various dimensions at local and national levels, at least in some country contexts. It helped to strengthen capacity of youths and CSOs, engaging communities, identifying gaps at the local level, delivering effective advocacy products, as well serving as a policy engagement tool and door opener, transporting the message of the ACDEG. At the local level the methodology was even adopted by local authorities to meet citizens' demand. At the continental level the outputs of the approach added value channelling the views from the ground to an international audience and served as an instrument for outreach to international NGO forums and CSO platforms. With respect to exploring complementarity of the processes of the Citizens Report and the African Governance Report, it might have been useful to intensify the collaboration with the AU earlier in the project cycle.

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The full cycle of Citizens Report development was implemented to a varying extent in the countries. This may have different reasons, ranging from the country specific political context and variation in civic space, to insufficient involvement of the research partner, limited capacities of the country offices to support the full-scale methodology, and/or insufficient funds, especially when consultants had to be sourced to facilitate the process (legal analysis, consolidating findings, drafting the report). In the countries where the Citizens Report methodology was implemented, it led to a range of different types of outcomes, some adding to those pointed out in the Project Document, and **hence the approach proved an effective instrument in various respects at local and national levels**:

- The Citizens Report methodology served as a **useful capacity development tool, engaging youth leaders, youth platforms and CSOs** in the process, imparting skills on the ACDEG principles in a practical way by engaging them in the CSC process, providing the experience of conducting citizen surveys and interacting with the communities and local authorities, thus learning the needs at the grass roots level.

- The process served as an **effective ACDEG sensitisation tool, raising the awareness of community members** to the principles of elections, democracy and good governance.

- Both the legal analysis and the CSC approach **identified concrete gaps that in some cases were met by the local authorities**, responding to the demand and following the recommended action. Taking this a step further, the methodology was even adopted by a local authority and is now regularly implemented as a tool for communication among community members and local government [237].

- As conceptualised in the Project Document, the **outputs of the CSC and Citizens Report process were effective advocacy products** to share and discuss widely through various channels and means (media, youth networks, multi-stakeholder events launching the outputs, etc.), thereby both popularizing the ACDEG among the public, and pressurizing in an outside strategy the implementation of ACDEG principles and monitoring of the ACDEG in the political landscape.

- As an inside strategy, the results and outputs of the Citizens Report methodology served – at least in countries such as Sierra Leone and Zambia – as **policy dialogue tools, and a door opener** to involve policy officials in the discussion around the implementation and monitoring of the ACDEG.

Therefore, even when implemented only partially, e.g., with only one round of the cycle completed, or only the first step involving the training of youth or CSOs in the CSC methodology and its use in the communities, there was an added value. While the CSC approach may not be new to this project, it was used successfully to capture citizens' perspectives and served as an instrument to transport the message of the ACDEG, especially at the local level.

This notion was also conveyed by several AWW partners. CCM-Gaza from Mozambique felt that "*The community score cards have enabled us to engage easily with the communities on this issue. We were able to engage with communities and civil society with the community score card. This makes them understand better their roles in ACDEG*". They also stated that local authorities now would better understand the CSC process and start engaging with the communities. Previously they would have used to see the demands by citizens as a threat, yet the attitude had changed, and they would "*respect the communities more and allow them to express their grievances without being dismissed*". AWW staff from Sierra Leone also confirmed that the CSC was useful as a process, first training CSOs and youth, getting them to understand the ACDEG, and enabling them to interpret it to the communities in focus group discussions, involving also the political parties in the districts. This would be "*bringing development to their doorstep*".

The Sierra Leone informant further mentioned that it was useful to carry the citizens voice then to the higher national level, where in the subsequent steps of the process, e.g., the legal analysis or validation meeting, experts of different disciplines were engaged, stimulating a broad discussion of the ACDEG and its implications in the specific country context. Similarly, the Project Officer from Nigeria found the CSC methodology really helpful on the ground during the state elections in 2019. In the following, the CSC report and some position papers were then disseminated to various national and local stakeholders. The initial expectations were that these government officials would be hard to reach because of the change in power. Yet, the CSC outputs facilitated this and especially after disseminating the outputs of the CSC at the "National Stakeholders' Forum and Policy Documents Dissemination", there were "*a lot of commitments*".

At the continental level, the outputs of the Citizens Report methodology added value providing a tool to channel voices from the ground to an international audience for sharing and learning. It also served as an instrument for outreach to the wider CSO landscape at summits and events, thereby helping to promote the project, popularise the ACDEG, and at least for specific occasions and activities unite civil society under the ACDEG umbrella. This can be expected to have fostered a growing movement around shared interests regarding ACDEG implementation at the international level, as envisaged in the Project Document, yet the extent was not possible to assess within the scope of this evaluation.

With respect to collaboration with the AU, the Citizens Report methodology presented a further opportunity for exchange with the AU organs, less as an instrument promoting the ACDEG – which is at the heart of the AGA platform – but for connecting the local and national with the international level, and vice versa (section 6.2.1). Getting the backing for the report from the AU level would also provide the legitimacy for national level Citizens Report work. However, the strategic approach here seemed not fully clear to us or at least to have changed over the project cycle. The Citizens Report was conceived as a shadow report by the AWW project to monitor the status of countries on ACDEG implementation in a civil society approach independent from governments, thus emphasising a CSO watchdog role. This may have been a needed game plan to demonstrate through the voices of citizens the demand for regular reporting and monitoring of ACDEG implementation, as well as for improved coordination from the RECs and the AU. On the other hand, the Citizens Report and the

ACDEG reporting mandated to the AGA platform are to some extent parallel processes, and a close exchange between AU and the AWW project on their complementarity very early on in the project, perhaps even in the conceptual phase, might have provided opportunities for shared learning and identifying synergies. As outcomes [38, 224] showed, the project and the AU bodies involved in the AGR process (APRM and AGA Secretariat) started to engage in more concrete terms since March 2019, with the potential of aligning the processes and feeding results from the Citizens Report into the AGR 2021. To make sure that both benefit from each other, i.e., are complementary, mutually enriching and reinforcing, an on-going close relationship and active communication between ActionAid and the AU – especially with the AGA Secretariat and the APRM – is essential.

6.3.2.2   Coordination of civil society

In the AWW Project Document it was conceived that "*the programme of youth leadership training, mobilisation and support to build CSO coordination and linkages especially women's and youth organisation will forge partnerships within and across countries and at continental level*". However, the specific types of these partnerships and their nature were not defined in more detail in the Programme Document or the Logical Framework. The related Output intended to be achieved through the AWW project was OP2.1. (linked to Outcome OC2): "*Greater capacity of CSOs and their platforms to plan and coordinate advocacy on the AGA and especially ACDEG*", with the Indicator OP2.1.2: "*Number of CSO platforms established, strengthened and capacity built on AGA and ACDEG at local, national and regional levels*" Annex (9.3).

In the ToR for this evaluation the term "CSO coordination" was also used without defining it further. "CSO coordination" is in fact a simple term for a rather complex strategic partnership approach followed by ActionAid generally and especially in this project. In Chapter 5, we already calculated that on average there were more than two different types of contributors involved in the emergence of an outcome, indicating a high-level of collaborative effort in the project across various stakeholders. The description of youths working together in groups or networks in section 6.3.1.2 added to this picture and supported the notion that AWW activities were often implemented in a collaborative approach. In this section we use the term "Civil society coordination" and widen it to encompass all forms of CSOs, youth platforms, formal and informal networks and movements of public actors.

"Civil society coordination" was the second largest category of contribution modalities, influencing 65 out of the 147 outcomes (44%), after "Capacity strengthening, training" (93 outcomes, 63%). It was linked to results from all levels. Interestingly, an increasing proportion of outcomes was classified with this contribution category from the local (37%), to national (43%), regional (50%), and continental (67%) levels (Figure not shown), indicating that coordination played an important role especially on the latter two levels.

In the following we analyse to what extent the project has acted in coalition or fostered partnerships and how this contributed to the outcomes. Overall, only 58 of the 147 SMART outcomes (40%) were influenced by **AWW partners acting on their own**. That means they did not collaborate with any other AWW co-affiliate or partners from the wider AWW alliance. In most of these cases this concerned the AA country offices (45 outcomes), or the countries implementing the project together with AA Denmark (8) [27]. Out of the 45 outcomes to which the country offices had contributed on their own, a majority (31; 69%) were flagged as "Capacity development, training". It has to be noted that

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[27]   AA country offices and AA Denmark working together is not considers a consortium or a coalition, since its internal and part of same federation.

the concept and manuals for the CSO and youth training were developed by AA Denmark following the overall advocacy strategy of the AWW project, and the media training was contextualised in line with the media strategy developed by the partner MFWA. Hence, these outcomes, too, resulted from collaborative efforts of the AWW project, even when the implementation was done by the country offices alone. Notably, there was not a single outcome in the data set of this evaluation to which the AWW team at AA Denmark had contributed on its own.

Assessing the contributors to the remaining outcomes, we identified a wide variety of coalitions, alliances, partnerships, networks or movements of different types, pursuing varying purposes. For the purpose of this evaluation, we used a somewhat simplified approach looking at three principal dimensions of AWW's partnership approach:

1. **AWW partners acting in consortium**, where several of the 14 co-affiliates worked together to contribute to an outcome in other actors. The consortium also included ActionAid's youth-led Global Platform in Ghana and Zambia, as well as close strategic partners of ActionAid on the international (CIVICUS, African Risings) or at the national level, who were paid through the project to support strategic planning, management and coordination of the AWW implementation, such as CCYA in Sierra Leone, CCM-Gaza in Mozambique, or CEPA in Uganda. Fifty out of the 147 SMART outcomes (34%) were influenced by AWW working in consortium, in 20 of these the AWW consortium contributed together with other stakeholders.

2. **AWW partners or the AWW consortium collaborating with other stakeholders on specific activities, i.e., as the wider AWW alliance,** were observed also in 50 cases (34%). This involved CSOs (other than the strategic partners), media, or youth, often in a multi-stakeholder context.
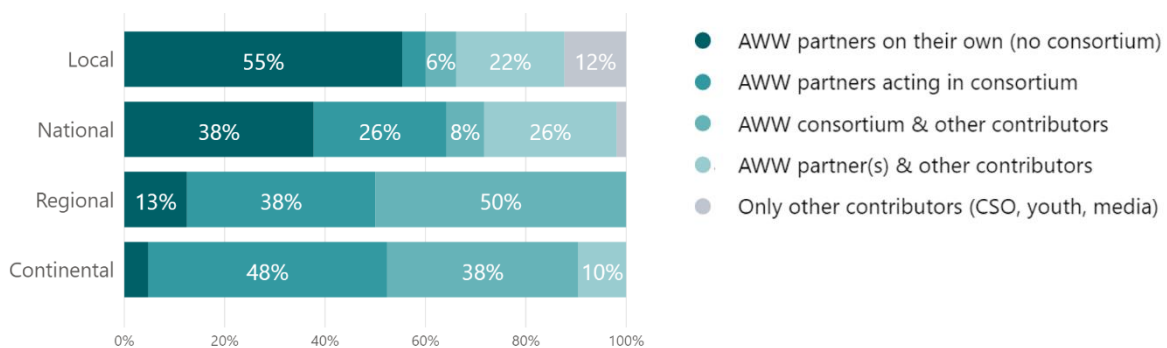
Figure 16: Proportion of AWW partners acting alone or as a consortium, with or without other stakeholders across levels. At the regional and continental levels there were proportionally more outcomes influenced by AWW partners acting in consortium or with other actors.

3. **AWW partners taking the lead in coordinating the collaboration of other civil society groups** (external to the AWW consortium), e.g., initiating, organising, fostering CSO coalitions, youth platforms, networks and (homo- or heterogeneous) social movements at local, national, regional and continental levels.

Figure 16 visualises clearly that the proportion of outcomes to which AWW partners contributed on their own (not in consortium or partnership with other stakeholders) decreased from local to national, regional and continental level. Conversely, **acting in a concerted way (as a consortium or in coalition with others) increased from local to continental levels**, with 88% of the outcomes at the regional level being supported by the AWW partners or the consortium working together with other

contributors (note, however, that there are only eight outcomes at this level). At the continental level (21 outcomes) almost all results were achieved by acting as a consortium or in coalition with others (95% of the results). In the following we look at the three dimensions separately.

a) AWW acting as a consortium
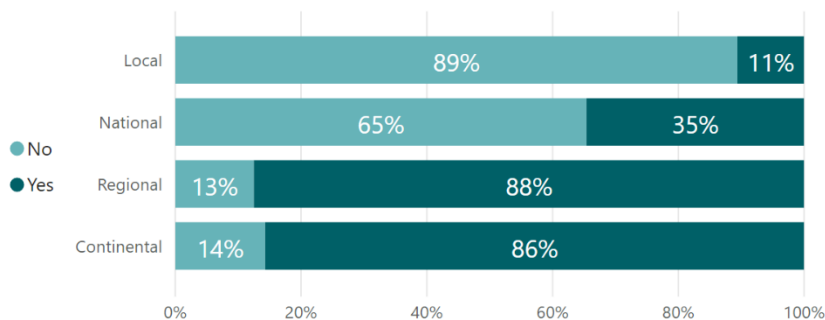
Figure 17: Proportion of outcomes with AWW partners acting in consortium across levels.

For this analysis we pooled all outcomes where AWW partners worked with their AWW co-affiliates, and either with or without other stakeholders. This showed that **acting as a consortium was particularly relevant at the regional and continental levels**, where more than 85% of the results were achieved in this way (Figure 17). These included mainly the conferences, summits and meetings at the AU and REC level (section 6.1.1), e.g.:

- Partners of the AWW consortium facilitated two workshops that were supported by the AU in Arusha, Tanzania in September 2017, i) on electoral accountability [96] and ii) on the development of the CSO training curriculum, stakeholder and power analysis [91]. Further, AU, EAC and SADC representatives took part in the AWW annual reflection meeting in Ghana in April 2018 [167]. A strategic choice was made early on in the project to allow for extensive internal and external stakeholder involvement by the AA Denmark, AA country offices and regional partners, not only to ensure relevance and increase the quality of the outputs from the workshop, but also to enhance ownership to the planned actions, giving it weight and credibility also through AU's attendance and developing a sense of shared purpose and mutual supportive agendas.

- AA Denmark, regional partners, and AA country offices participated jointly in the AU High-Level Policy Dialogue on "Enhancing Youth Participation and Representation in Governance in Africa" in Pretoria, South Africa in December 2017 [103], and on "Democracy, Human Rights and Governance" in Botswana in November 2018 [29]. Attending as a consortium may have given more weight to the AWW campaign and emphasised to a broad audience the pan-African, yet cohesive and structured approach of the AWW consortium.

- The regional partner WACSOF together with AA Nigeria jointly presented the AWW project in a meeting with ECOWAS in 2017 [98], and EACSOF together with AA Denmark and Africans Rising visited the EAC headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania, in February 2018 to present a position paper on the implementation of the ACDEG in East Africa [97]. Through existing institutional cooperation, the regional partners could establish contact with the RECs, and the joint participation in these meetings provided peer support allowing to draw from each other's experience, expertise and perspectives.

b) AWW project working in alliance with other stakeholders
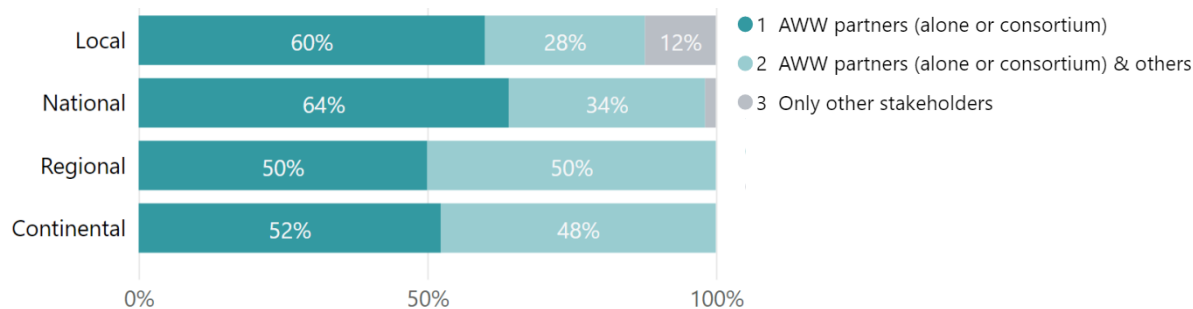
Figure 18: AWW partners / consortium teaming up with other stakeholders.

To visualise more clearly the role of collaboration with external stakeholders that the AWW project fostered to achieve results, we grouped the outcomes depending on whether they were influenced i) solely by AWW partners; ii) by AWW partners (alone or in consortium) in collaboration with other CSOs, youths, or media; or iii) solely by other contributors (i.e., where the AWW project only indirectly contributed to the outcome, for example by training the contributor in the past). Similar to the finding for the AWW consortium, the proportion of outcomes where AWW partners worked together with other stakeholders was larger at the regional (50%) and continental level (48%) than at the national level (34%) and local level (28%).

The below provides some examples for collaborative advocacy and lobbying of AWW partners and other stakeholders:

- The AU summits side events, e.g., in Banjul, Gambia, in October 2018 [34], and those in February 2019 [11] and February 2020 in Addis Ababa [136] were collaboratively organised, facilitated and/or attended by the AWW partners including country offices, regional partners, the research (MPOI) and the media partner (MFWA), and AA Denmark, yet also convened a broad variety of CSOs, youth platforms, media and other stakeholders for joint advocacy. The latter two side events were also attended by AU representatives and served as an excellent platform to raise a joint CSO voice on the ACDEG ratification and implementation, broadening the base of support and giving strength in numbers to the demand.

- A similar purpose served the multi-stakeholder local and national level meetings to validate or disseminate findings of CSC or Citizens Reports, that were attended by AWW staff, CSOs and youth involved in the development of the outputs, community representatives, as well as policy officials [150, 180, 205].

- AWW partners also teamed up with other CSOs, media and youths for joint lobbying on the ACDEG during visits to national ministries or agencies, e.g., presenting the outputs of the Citizens Reports, together providing a broader perspective of views [148, 195, 187].

- As a result of the CSO, youth and media trainings, the AWW project managed to mobilise and coordinate within a short space of time a diverse range of representatives to participate in press conferences or formulate joint communiqués. For example, in March 2018, after the signing of the ACDEG by the new president of Zimbabwe, AWW partners together with several CSOs, youths, and media representatives published a statement highlighting the importance of the procedures of ACDEG and the importance to ratify and domesticating it [43].

- Finally, youths also played a role in AWW project's work with the European Parliament. Following the crackdown on activists in Zimbabwe in 2019, civil society including youth organisations and CSOs were mobilised through the AWW project and created coalitions across countries to jointly conceptualise a resolution that the European Parliament then voted through as their position, expressing clear commitment to civic space and concern reflecting international recognition of the problematic situation in Zimbabwe [123].

c) AWW coordination of external actors

We emphasise that the analyses above do not say anything on the type of relationship or collaboration among AWW partners and other actors for these specific events or activities. Within the scope of this evaluation, we cannot research systematically the nature of each of the potential partnerships depicted in the outcomes – some were brief engagements only for the purpose of a joint multi-stakeholder meeting, others may have drawn from existing or emerging longer-term collaborative partnerships with external AWW stakeholders. For example, outcome [136] stated that at the AWW side event to the AU summit in February 2020, CIVICUS and Africans Rising, two close strategic partners of the AWW project, gave presentations, thus creating a platform for broader CSO coordination, also with external stakeholders outside the AWW project, yet we could not follow up what connections were actually built. Still, especially from the local and national level, there were a number of outcomes describing concretely how the AWW project aimed to initiate, mobilise and coordinate the outreach and advocacy efforts of their intermediary partners – the youth platforms, CSOs and media.

For the **youth** this was discussed at length in section 6.3.1, first demonstrating how the AWW project succeeded to interest and mobilise youth, train these on the ACDEG, leadership and advocacy skills, team them up already at the training, develop and support their collaboration, platforms or youth movements to amplify the messages on democracy and good governance. Examples were, e.g., the youth clubs emerging in Zambia [87] and Tanzania [135], or the establishment of the Youth Working Group on the ACDEG across the EAC region [152]. As one of the youths from Nigeria said: "*After the training [...] I met other young people in Nigeria interested in ACDEG, the training inspired a lot of collaboration*". It was also shown how ACDEG youth collaboration expanded to other youth networks such as the youth advocating for the AKYDF bill in Nigeria [203, 66].

Similarly, the AWW project successfully built up and strengthened **coalitions among CSOs** external to the AWW project to popularise and advocate the ACDEG. This was particularly evident at the local and national levels.

On the **local level**, one example was provided by an outcome from **Sierra Leone** describing that proactive and functional CSOs platforms had formed in all three focus regions after the CSO capacity development trainings on AGA/ACDEG in June 2018 and October 2019. The teams were spearheaded by group leaders, held physical meetings and agreed on activity plans and strategies. These plans and strategies were then shared through the district and national groups [188]. A CSO informant from Sierra Leone confirmed, that that the Western Area CSO platform, as well as the national level WhatsApp group and that of the Western Area that was formed after the AWW trainings are still active. In Enugu State of **Nigeria**, after the CSO training on ACDEG held in January 2019, 30 CSOs established a Technical and Advocacy working group and an ACDEG Partnership Forum to promote and engage with the Enugu State House of Assembly-State Parliamentary wing on the implementation of ACDEG. The group set up a WhatsApp group and physically met about once a

month for about three to four months. The group and its Secretariat in Enugu are still active in the sense of sharing information and meeting on other themes than ACDEG [50]. Sometimes, there were also less structured groups emerging after the training, e.g., among five CSOs in **Ghana,** where it was reported that they supported each other drawing resource persons for specific activities to share information and experiences with the implementation of ACDEG [200], and that the groups were useful for information and knowledge sharing and to stay up to date (interview).

On the **national level**, there was the forming of a national coalition among 19 NGOs from **Uganda** to advocate for the ratification, domestication and reporting of ACDEG. This is significant not only because a collective voice may be heard more loudly. The members of the coalition also have been mainstreaming the call for the ratification of ACDEG in their own work, thus institutionalising and amplifying the outreach and advocacy efforts of the AWW project. The CSOs were trained by AA Uganda, who also inspired the idea for the coalition and supported its forming [145]. In **Mozambique**, several CSOs as well as Activista established a task force with the purpose of doing coordinated advocacy for domestication and implementation of ACDEG. Again, the idea to work together on the ACDEG emerged at the CSO training facilitated by AA Mozambique [146]. The AWW strategic partner CCM from Mozambique said in an interview that *"working in coalition can boost advocating to governments, as they respect you more if you come from a group"*. In **Nigeria**, too, c. 30 individuals of different disciplines from 11 CSOs, four youth platforms and two media houses coordinated their ACDEG social media advocacy to upscale the conversation on the importance of the frameworks on the social media on other media platform following an action plan resulting from and Advocacy workshop held by AA Nigeria in November 2018 [9].

On the **regional and continental level,** the mode of outreach and collaboration was to unite CSOs under the AWW umbrella, forming an international "AWW alliance". There was ample evidence that the project created or used existing spaces for exchange, information sharing, engaging CSOs in joint advocacy on the ACDEG. For example, already at the launch of the AWW project 300 participants from CSOs and other organisations including youth platforms, unions and media took part and were introduced to the ACDEG information, and a keynote lecture by the AU Director lent weight to the new endeavour [221]. The ACDEG was thematised at the side events organised by the AWW project at the AU [11, 136], and at the annual regional Civil Society Forums [94, 95], as was summarised previously. We also already mentioned the coordinative efforts of the project to mobilise CSOs in response to the shrinking civic space in Zimbabwe in January 2019 through ActionAid's national, regional and international CSO partner networks. A joint statement from a large group of civil society actors under the umbrella of SADC-CNGO and the AWW alliance was sent to three Zimbabwean embassies in three West African countries, asking the government and the people of Zimbabwe, amongst other, to "*Respect and uphold the rule of law as enshrined in the constitution of the country and other regional and continental instruments such as the African Charter on Democracy Elections and Governance*" [121].

With respect to **media**, the outcomes harvested in this evaluation were all typed as changes in "Advocacy or outreach", and there was none where the change explicitly concerned the development of media networks or collaborative actions among solely media partners. However, there were two changes observed in other actors that also mentioned media coalitions: Outcome [224] described that AU-APRM helped facilitating the first day of a two-day regional journalist training in Addis Ababa, where journalists from 16 media houses from SADC, East Africa and West Africa participated. These journalist increasingly shared articles on the ACDEG at continental level. In an interview, the media partner reported that after the workshop a network with 12 journalists from seven of the AWW implementing countries (all except

Mozambique, plus Ethiopia) was set up to assist in the production and publishing of stories on the Charter. Further, at the national level it was mentioned in outcome [126] that several journalists from **Uganda** formed a media group on the ACDEG which started to publish stories on ACDEG. It is not clear to what extent these networks are still active today in terms of sharing articles and information on the ACDEG. Yet, similar to the engagement of CSOs for the regional and continental ACDEG agenda, we observed that throughout the project trained journalists could be sourced to report key events or join advocacy activities and thus they were an integral part of the "AWW alliance".

Conclusions on EQ3.2b – Civil society coordination	**AWW succeeded to create a strong consortium of AWW partners (i.e., the project co-affiliates) that mutually strengthened their capacity, facilitated collaborative action, and helped to connect to regional and global level stakeholders. Convening external (non-AWW consortium) CSO representatives through specific advocacy activities or events gave further weight to civil society's voice on the ACDEG. The project also successfully coordinated the collaboration of CSOs external to AWW, initiating and fostering networks and platforms especially at the local and national level. Considering the importance of the coordination and networked approach, a clearer definition of the different types of partnerships and networks through which the AWW project worked, and their respective purpose might have been useful.**

Civil society working in partnership or coalition may have various benefits bolstering their success in lobbying and advocacy, particularly when a broad set of skills and resources is required. This may include resource sharing, broadened exposure to learning and maximisation of skills and expertise; a louder, more credible voice; expanded access to decision makers; and lessened risk through unity of voice (adapted from Stuart-Watt 2017, unpubl., cited in Oxfam Australia, 2017).

For the internal partners of the **AWW consortium** we saw **evidence for collaboration and cohesion on the ACDEG on all levels**, including "horizontally" across country offices and regional partners, as well as "vertically" among national, regional and international AWW partners, and bringing in the expertise of the research and the media partner. Strongly engaged in this consortium were also strategic partners such as CIVICUS, African Rising and several national CSOs (CCYA, CCM-Gaza, CEPA). The AWW consortium fulfilled several purposes, ranging from strengthening the capacity of its members through sharing of knowledge and practice (e.g., at the annual reflection meetings); similarly strengthening the regional partners in supporting and coordinating CSO capacity development; connecting to regional and global level stakeholders (e.g., linking national offices with their AU Permanent Representatives in Addis Ababa); to coordinating joint advocacy on the ACDEG. This was also confirmed by the Project Officer from Nigeria explaining that the learning and sharing meeting with AWW partners on what is useful in different country settings was really engaging, and that it helped in the planning of further advocacy efforts. Also, one could always call on other countries to share experiences. The consortium thus served as a strong knowledge sharing hub. Acting as a consortium (either alone or with other stakeholders) played a role in a large number of outcomes and we infer that this increased their effectiveness as well as created higher visibility and credibility of partners at different levels. As an informant from Sierra Leone said: "*For advocacy meetings the numbers count*".

Similar to what we observed for the youth above (section 6.3.1) an **important function of the AWW project was to convene CSOs** (and other stakeholders), not only to communicate the ACDEG principles to a broad audience and share experience and knowledge, but also to engage them in advocacy and increase civil society's weight. At the regional and continental levels there were several events where the AWW team could draw from their existing networks and platforms to engage civil society actors, e.g., at the launch of the AWW project, in the Civil Society Forums, and in AU side events on the ACDEG. The project also successfully managed to mobilise and coordinate CSO engagement around the ACDEG agenda for joint communiqués or press statements within short periods of time.

These efforts to unite civil society's voice through specific, one-off events and activities were taken a step further by **successfully initiating and supporting CSO collaboration platforms and thematic networks around the ACDEG agenda**. While AWW's influence on the forming and fostering of youth collaboration and movements could be evidenced at the local, national, regional and even pan-African level, the outcomes for the CSOs indicated that the project was especially effective on the local and national level. This included, for example, on the national level the establishment of a national coalition of NGOs in Uganda, a multi-stakeholder ACDEG task force with several CSOs in Mozambique, and a diverse group of civil society actors in Nigeria collaborating on their social media advocacy. On the local level, the CSO training and advocacy workshops were a key element of success not only strengthening the capacity of participants but also linking local CSOs, thus initiating shared planning and implementation of collaborative advocacy activities. An interviewee from a CSO in Nigeria found that "*It was important to bring different organisations together and coordinate their activities, which encouraged them and helped to keep the momentum".* Hence, these CSO alliances served as reservoirs of knowledge and expertise, providing resource persons and mutual support, and were an important step towards making their ACDEG work sustainable and independent from the project. In how far these coalitions were a successful strategy to open doors and engage with local or national level authorities could not be concluded from the available outcomes evidence.

A challenge in assessing the contribution of AWW's coordination of civil society was that there were no clear definitions of the types of collaborations, partnerships, networks and movements through which the project worked. This is admittedly not easy in such a complex multi-stakeholder project, implemented across diverse countries and from local to continental levels. Still, considering that coordination and a networked approach was a key strategy in the AWW project, a clearer definition of the different types of partnerships and networks and their respective purpose and roles and responsibilities of partners would have been useful for monitoring and learning, to inform a well-defined strategic approach on network development.

6.3.3 Overall conclusion on EQ3

Conclusion on EQ3	On multiple levels, the AWW project managed to foster an impressive ACDEG movement engaging especially youths and CSOs acting as powerful intermediaries to achieve results. The Citizens Reports have been an effective instrument not only to create the needed evidence base, but also for capacity building, and engagement.

The AWW project has successfully increased the capacity and coordination of youths and CSOs to advocate for the signing, ratification, domestication and reporting of the ACDEG and to demand

greater accountability from governments. They have been doing this by providing, amongst several other, two effective support functions:

The Citizens Report methodology not only provided the youth and CSOs with the concrete evidence base for the ACDEG advocacy and lobbying, the engagement of CSOs and youth in the process itself enabled a deep understanding of the ACDEG principles, the relevance to the communities and their own work and life and offered opportunities to get in dialogue with citizens and government.

AWW's coordinative role worked on multiple levels, encouraging networking and task forces at the local, national, regional and international level, and not only among peers but also across disciplines, thereby greatly enriching the sharing of learning and experience. The AWW consortium employed various functions nurturing, organising, supporting, inspiring the AWW alliance and the networks and movements linked to it.

6.4 Sustainability of results

Main EQ4	To what extent do the outcomes indicate that AWW's achievements are sustainable?

In this chapter, we discuss the potential for the outcomes achieved by the AWW project to be sustainable. We started from the definition of sustainability as described by AA Denmark in the AWW Project Document[28] which separates between financial sustainability, institutional sustainability, policy level sustainability and environmental sustainability. We excluded environmental and financial sustainability, as this is information which could not be gathered through the outcome harvesting in this evaluation. On the other hand, we added an additional category which emerged from the data: sustainability related to individual capacity. The explanation of these different aspects of sustainability will be given in the respective sections below.
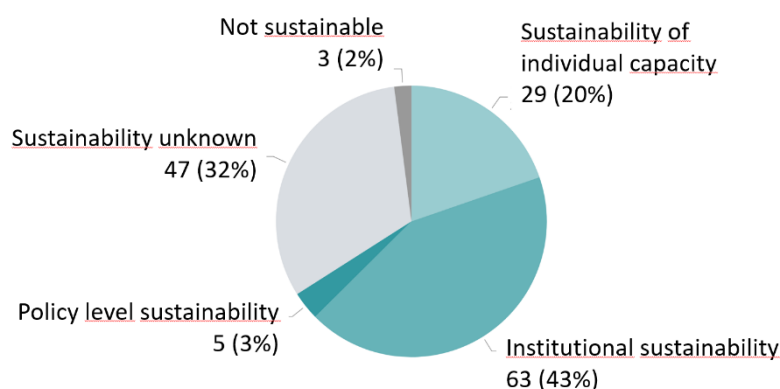
Figure 19: Number of outcomes per category for sustainability

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[28] See Chapter 4 of the Project Document for an elaborate description on the categories for sustainability.

In OH, the sustainability of outcomes can be described as part of the significance statement of an outcome statement. In this evaluation we added an additional, specific question on sustainability in the outcome template to encourage informants providing this information. However, for 32% of the outcomes we did not receive a response on this ("Sustainability unknown", Figure 19). The assessment in this section is therefore based on the remaining 68% of outcomes.

Figure 19 shows how the outcomes were distributed over the different categories of sustainability as defined by the AWW project. In 66% of the outcomes, we found an indication that they would be sustainable. The sustainability concerned primarily institutional sustainability (43%) and individual capacity (20%) and to a small extent policy-level sustainability (3%). Only three outcomes were found in the whole dataset that were not sustainable. This included the result in Mozambique where a task force of 20 Activista was created to monitor the implementation of ACDEG. Although this was done to ensure sustainability of actions beyond the project period, this taskforce does not exist anymore now, because of a lack of funds [15]. We also classified the outcomes from Mozambique and Nigeria which described that their MFA's committed to start the periodic reporting on the implementation of ACDEG as not sustainable, since these outcomes date from 2017 and 2018 respectively but no evidence was found that this reporting is indeed happening. In addition, the outcomes related to Prime TV in Zambia broadcasting about ACDEG were classified as not sustainable, since Prime TV, the only independent station, was closed down in April 2020 [183-lead] as an evident result of closing civic space. However, the individual capacities of the journalists and their knowledge of the ACDEG is still evident and will continue to exist despite the closing down of Prime TV. The journalist mainly reporting on ACDEG has continued his engagement in the AWW alliance and has latest been part of a voter's registration campaign to ensure youth engagement and participation in the upcoming Zambian elections.

a) Institutional sustainability:

Institutional sustainability is defined as building lasting institutional and campaigning capacities of partners and key stakeholders, including access to knowledge products and tools that can be used after the end of the project as well as cooperation between the project partners which exceeds the lifetime of the project. Starting with this largest category, we can see that most of these outcomes relate to creating civic space and advocacy and outreach action.

For the **media,** this means they are still broadcasting on ACDEG after the project ended [5, 59, 60, 62, 15, 125], or have regular engagement on the Charter [12]. In Mozambique, the Media Institute for Southern Africa (MISA) replicated the training of journalists developed by MFWA on the ACDEG for 25 more journalists, which shows that knowledge products developed by the AWW project are used outside the scope of the project [128].

In the case of **CSOs**, they were replicating the training for others [58] or formed coalitions/task forces on ACDEG which will continue to exist [9, 145, 146, 188]. Nevertheless, in some cases the focus of these groups on ACDEG got moved to the background due to Covid-19 [e.g., 170].

With regard to **youth**, we identified outcomes that demonstrated that lasting relationships, networks and formal structures have been built [143, 10, 152, 162]. In Sierra Leone for example the social media platforms that were established under the project are still used for advocating ACDEG, but also for other purposes, such as demanding for transparency and accountability for the Covid-19 emergency fund [153]. In Tanzania, youth clubs were established by volunteers and are hence not depending on funding to continue [135]. In some cases, existing structures were used, for example in Tanzania, where young activists organised a session on ACDEG at the EALA Chambers in Arusha, Tanzania [10]. This network of activists was organised by the national Youth Councils and is an

independent structure not depending on the AWW project. Even without formally established structures however, youth indicated they would keep on advocating for ACDEG [132, 153, 171].

At the continental level, the relationships with the **AU-bodies**, AGA Secretariat/DPA will continue to exist, as the MoU with ActionAid covers a period of five years. ECOSOCC has indicated to remain interested in continuing the cooperation after the AWW project ends. As for the APRM however, it is unclear how the relationship will continue after the end of the project. In addition, material developed through the AWW project has been endorsed by the AU [91, 96], which gives it credibility that ensures that the organisations will use it also after the end of the project period. The trainings based on the CSO training curriculum [91] are also expected to continue after the end of the project with Danida funding. The initiative has shown possibilities for the AU for how to continue engaging productively with ActionAid and civil society on different aspects of the ACDEG implementation in member states. Furthermore, the committee on the ACDEG created by the AU-PRC will continue to exist as it is a permanent structure [32-lead]. Importantly, we found evidence that the relationship developed with the AWW project partners is continuing on issues not related to ACDEG as well, for example in the case of SAYOF-SADEC who was appointed to sit in the AU group on Covid-19.

The outcomes related to **governmental actors** in this sustainability category mainly relate to creating civic space and the level of sustainability is more diverse. In some cases, the engagement is regular or continuous [161, 158, 232, 237] or they had discussions on how to engage after the project ended, e.g. [149]. In the case of Ghana, the MoPA even dedicated a staff person to the collaboration, which shows it will be structural. In Zimbabwe, the parliament signed an MoU with AA Zimbabwe to cooperate on the implementation of ACDEG only very recently, in September 2020 [175], which indicated that the work on ACDEG will definitely continue.

Lastly, three outcomes showed the continued engagement of **citizens** in advocacy activities after AWW events [8,160, 210].

b) Sustainability of individual capacity

The AWW project is embedded in the broader work on governance by ActionAid. This means that individual capacity that has been built under the AWW project can be used in other governance projects and vice versa. This mix of projects and use of the same methods increases the sustainability of the work and means both youth volunteers and paid staff continue working on these issues.

Sustainability with regards to individual capacity was mainly found on the level of **youth**. We found evidence in the outcome data that young people were continuing to use the skills and knowledge they acquired both for advocating on ACDEG as well as broader governance issues [69, 157, 159, 196, 208, 211, 233, 234, 235]. One of the young people interviewed in Sierra Leone for example stated that she *"developed the confidence to talk to officials"* and the event helped to *"work on public speaking skills".* The AWW project seemed to have awakened an interest amongst young people in governance and democracy in general. Through the interviews we experienced an enormous enthusiasm amongst the young people to continue fighting for these issues in the longer term which greatly enhances the sustainability. For all the young people we interviewed it seemed natural that they would continue holding their governments accountable on ACDEG related issues. As described in earlier chapters, Activista have been monitoring elections, showing that they were recognized as partners related to the observation of elections. This recognition and the capacity of Activista to undertake election observations will last also after the end of the AWW project [25, 120, 138]. In addition, Twitter hashtags were established for governance issues by youth as well as CSOs which are still active and used by them [64, 55].

The **CSOs** we interviewed stated that the knowledge on the ACDEG that the project equipped them with was something that they would be able to use in their future engagement with their governments, because as one interviewee from Mozambique said: *"It has enabled us to have a broad knowledge on how the governments in Africa should act and how they should implement policies".* Or, to put it in the words of an interviewee in Ghana: *"We incorporate ACDEG in our daily work."*

Media are continuing to use the skills they acquired during the project to report either on ACDEG or broader governance issues [28, 74, 209]. AA Nigeria for example stated that "*Media often call AA Nigeria to speak about ACDEG and democracy. They ask us to be on top time shows and make reference to ACDEG in their publications".*

c) Policy level sustainability

Outcomes that fell within this category were those demonstrating that further commitments for the implementation of the ACDEG were made and pressure was put on decision-makers to translate those commitments into action. We identified only 5% of the outcomes that related to this category. These mainly included the higher-level outcomes on ACDEG principles being enshrined in legislation and policies and the outcomes on ACDEG implementation. Legislations are likely to be put into action and most of the outcomes around implementation of ACDEG concern structural changes.

d) Additional factors that influence sustainability

Covid-19 made it harder to judge the sustainability of the results as several AWW project meetings and activities that were planned could not take place. For example, in Ghana, the meeting with the parliamentary sub-committees on the Citizens Report that was planned for March 2020 has not yet been held [199]. Nevertheless, it may only cause a delay in the achievements and not necessarily influence the long-term sustainability.

Some activities on ACDEG seemed to have stopped when they were **no longer financially supported** by the AWW project. For example, an AWW training participant in Ghana indicated that "*The CSOs have continuously used their WhatsApp platforms till **Covid-19 set in**, the **group is dormant** since the CSOs are not engaged because the project is ending and there are no **resources to continue the project**"* [170]. Another example was the outcome related to 30 CSOs in Enugu State of Nigeria, who established a Technical and Advocacy Working Group and an ACDEG Partnership Forum to promote and engage with the Enugu State House of Assembly-State Parliamentary wing on the implementation of the ACDEG. The group set up a WhatsApp platform and physically met about once a month for three to four months working on ACDEG themes. However, due to lack of financial support from the AWW project they were unable to fully and continuously engage the State House of Assembly [50].

Lastly, there was a **high staff turn-over** in the country offices, sometimes even three to four coordinators in a project during the project cycle. Several interviewees indicated that this hindered the continuation of the activities and knowledge.

e) Future of the work of the AWW project

As for the exit strategy, the AA Denmark team confirmed that the work on ACDEG will be continued. This will be done by i) integrating it into other existing work such as the ActionAid working group on civic participation and democratic space, and ii) delegating coordination of regional activities in 2021 to two of the involved countries (Zambia and Zimbabwe). In addition, it will be included in new funding proposals as is currently being done, such as the Strategic Partnership agreement with Danida. The latter still remains challenging as only six countries from the AWW project are also under the Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA).

6.4.1 Conclusions on EQ4

Conclusion on EQ4	The AWW project has built the necessary knowledge, capacity, and structures that provide a solid basis for continuation of the work and follow-up work on popularising and advocating for the implementation and monitoring of the ACDEG.

Overall, the outcomes showed that the AWW project provided a good foundation for the work on the ACDEG. There is now a good basis for follow-up work which could lead to more downstream impact. Knowledge has been built amongst the AWW country teams and partners on ACDEG, which, as they stated in the interviews, they will continue using. Many of the **CSOs** that were involved in the project were working on governance issues before and hence they have an interest to continue working on these issues. Apart from the evidence we could find in the outcomes, it became clear from the interviews with the CSOs and **youth**, that the work of the AWW project was embedded in existing (for example Activista/ Global Platform) or newly formed structures (for example task forces) which will continue to exist beyond the lifetime of the project. These structures are used for other work under the governance and democracy theme of ActionAid and the informants made clear that the work on the ACDEG would therefore continue. In Sierra Leone for example, an interviewee explained that the project provided an incentive to the youths to connect and support each other. In Nigeria, the country office indicated that their other projects leverage on the good relationships built through the AWW project for example the "Youth organizing and leadership project" (YOL), or the Breaking Barriers Project. In addition, the partnership with the AU was confirmed by both sides to be sustainable. As the AGA Secretariat said in the interview: "*The reason for us to put more effort into supporting this partnership to go forward is because it touches on something that is really important to the African people and something also very important to the AGA and the AGA team and platform. We will try to do everything we can to put things in the right direction, so that we can ensure that the partnership is progressing. A partnership is an ongoing process. One of the positive things is that both sides are willing to sit down and discuss issues of concern which makes this partnership unique".*

It is quite remarkable that the AWW project managed to make young people enthusiastic for such a complex issue. In most of the interviews with youths we experienced high engagement from the young people to continue the work around ACDEG and stay politically engaged. They indicated that the information from the training was easy to digest and to use for advocacy and outreach and that they would continue doing so. One interviewee in Sierra Leone for example mentioned that the training helped her "*to exercise her full potential*" and that they "*ignite you to become more engaged*". This showed that the project had not only equipped the youth with content knowledge on ACDEG, but also gave them the confidence to engage with their governments. Nevertheless, ActionAid should reflect on how to keep the momentum and make sure the youths will continue to be engaged as well as the people in the communities. One of the young people who were interviewed for example suggested creating a platform for communities enabling them to reach out to the youth leaders and to stay in contact.

While some funding from other sources is dedicated to the continuation of AWW activities, follow-on funding specifically for the work on the ACDEG has been applied for but has not yet been secured. This will of course be crucial to continue the many important relationships the project has built on all different levels and to build on the outcomes that were achieved to ensure the popularisation and domestication of ACDEG.

All in all, the sustainability of the results was harder to judge for this evaluation than usually due to Covid-19 as we do not know which effects would still have taken place if the pandemic had not happened. Nevertheless, based on the outcomes which were still emerging during the evaluation, the embeddedness of the work of the AWW project in the general work of ActionAid on governance and the use of existing structures as well as the enormous drive amongst the young people and CSOs involved, we can conclude that it is quite likely that the results will be lasting and the work on the ACDEG will continue. The movement that the AWW project has been able to build around the ACDEG on a diversity of levels and with a variety of actors is more than impressive, to say the least.

7   Recommended points for consideration

The AWW project has been very successful in strengthening the partners of the AWW consortium at national and regional level. It also has done very well building up the complex "AWW alliance" and ACDEG movement, and future AA projects can leverage from the good relationships built through the project. The project has thus achieved many of its very ambitious goals.

The MTR already noted that "*Acknowledging that the creation of linkages between social actors at different change levels takes time to develop and establish, it is worth pointing out that the project could gain leverage by focusing on developing its strategic approach to creating these interlinkages between social actors, organisations, institutions and stakeholders at the different change levels.*"

We realise that in a complex multi-country and –scale pan-African project, it will not only take time but also be generally difficult to identify the manifold types of existing and potential partnerships, collaboration, networks, movements and their precise nature. Yet distinguishing in a more systematic way among different partnership strategies would be helpful for monitoring and learning what works in which contexts, thus better informing future strategies. Many of the discussion points below address this area. Considering that funding for the continuation of the AWW project is not currently secured we suggest the following points for consideration to maintain the momentum around popularizing the ACDEG and advocate for its implementation and monitoring:

Positioning ACDEG advocacy within other pan-African or regional frameworks and instruments

- The work on the ACDEG may gain from underlined linking it to further pan-African Shared Value Instruments such as the Transitional Justice Policy Framework

- Similarly, there are underlined regional instruments such as the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections which would be worth exploring for alignment and complementarity.

Partnerships and the ACDEG movement

- The partners of the AWW consortium can underlined leverage from relationships built during project, especially those with governments on the local, national, regional and AU level.

- Future work on the ACDEG would benefit underlined from further refined and explicit strategies for engaging on the regional level, with the RECs, and on the continental level with AU entities such the APRM; now the lead actor on the African Governance Report, the new AU-PRC sub-committee on Human Rights, Governance, and Democracy; the Pan-African Parliament; as well as AU's civil society engagement platform AU-CIDO housing also the AU-ECOSOCC Secretariat.

- On the national level, it could be discussed whether it would be helpful and desirable to expand the partnership concept to more formal relationships, where the country context allows this. Government bodies were not considered members of the "AWW alliance" in the AWW project, although for example on the continental level the AU AGA Secretariat grew to be a strong ally in popularising the ACDEG and there were mutual benefits in the relationship. In countries where governments open up space for civil society participation in the policy processes, underlined more formalised CSO-Government co-operations might be conceivable to progress shared objectives (see e.g. Pompidou Group, 2016).

- With respect to the organisations, institutions, and people involved in building ACDEG networks and movements, the AWW project provided a perfect learning arena to test underlined network development and social movement strategies. In the next phase ActionAid and partners can draw from this experience to develop underlined optimized, creative and inclusive strategies – also

addressing digital divides – to develop the ACDEG partner network and the youth movement further. A great strength lies in ActionAid's already strong and broad ecosystem of linked CSOs and youth platforms (Activista, Global Platforms). Through these and with the appropriate set of strategies, ActionAid can develop social interactions that affect situations not directly related to the initial intervention (social ripple effect).

- Generally, there should be clear advocacy strategies developed including on the role ActionAid wants to play in its partnerships and in fostering (youth) movements (is ActionAid a social movement organisation?). Questions that might be useful to address, also to enhance monitoring and learning from results, would be on

    o Type of relationship (CSO-CSO, CSO-youth, CSO-media, multi-stakeholder partnership, network, movement, etc.).

    o Purpose and added value of the different types of relationships.

    o Roles and responsibilities of partners.

    o Key strategies used in this partnership, e.g., explicit use of inside or outside strategies, in which context.

Monitoring & learning

- Consider developing a Theory of Change (overall and country specific) for the ACDEG popularisation, mapping the types of partnerships / movements and visualising key strategies employed.

- Consider increasing monitoring efforts, collecting results on the outcome level and encouraging staff to use a database for this.

- Improve monitoring of capacity development effectiveness, i.e., use of the ACDEG amongst participants of trainings (e.g., through surveys), which also constitutes an opportunity of bringing the ACDEG back to attention ("refresher").

- Improve monitoring on different policy influencing strategies (e.g., dissent / dialogue).

- Improve monitoring of ACDEG implementation, designing methods to increase reporting of impact near outcomes. This would increase opportunities to capture more gender transformative and inclusion outcomes that are to the heart of ActionAid.

- Learn from the outcomes on ACDEG implementation at national and local levels in order to achieve more downstream outcomes for the next level in the work on ACDEG.

Exit and sustainability

Related to the exit strategy and sustainability, we recommend AA Denmark to discuss how to:

- Maintain the focus on the ACDEG using ActionAid's extensive partner and collaboration network, building also on the new structures developed through the AWW project.

- Keep the momentum of engagement going especially at the level of youth and communities by creating incentives and teaming up youths. For example, create a platform for communities enabling them to reach out to the youth leaders.

- Integrate the work on ACDEG in on-going and future ActionAid projects and try to find linkages to projects of partners and allies to ensure that the popularisation of the ACDEG is sustained.

8   References

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9   Annex

9.1 Definitions

AWW abbreviations and definitions	
AWW partners, co-affiliates	The 14 organisations that are co-affiliates, or co-beneficiaries of the AWW project, namely the eight AA country offices, three regional partners, the media partner MFWA, the research MPOI, and AA Denmark
AWW consortium	Two or more of the 14 co-beneficiaries of the AWW project working together to implement the AWW project. This includes also "strategic partners" of the AWW project.
AWW strategic partners	This included ActionAid's youth-led Global Platform in Ghana and Zambia, as well as close strategic partners of ActionAid on the international (CIVICUS, African Risings) or at the national level, who were paid through the project to support strategic planning and coordination of the AWW implementation, such as CCYA in Sierra Leone, CCM-Gaza in Mozambique, or CEPA in Uganda.
AWW alliance	AWW partners working in coalition with other stakeholders, e.g., AA country offices with other CSOs, media, youths, and social movements (young activist groups), e.g., jointly lobbying at ministries.
AWW team	AWW partner representatives: any staff of one or several AWW partners working together, e.g., lobbying with the national government, organising an event, regardless of working as a consortium, or not.
AA Denmark AWW lead	Overall management of the AWW project; Leading cross-cutting activities including development of Citizens Report methodology and training through the Global Platforms; Leading on engagement with AU bodies at continental level
AA country offices	Leading the implementation of subnational and national level activities in respective countries (note that the Centre for Coordination of Youth Activities, CCYA, will work together with AA Sierra Leone at the country level to implement country activities).
AWW regional partners	These umbrella organizations are legitimate coordination and convening bodies for dialogue between CSOs and government at regional level, with various degrees of formal and informal recognition by relevant RECs.
AWW research partner MPOI	Leading development and implementation of methodology for applying citizen perception survey data to measure perception of AU member state performance on ACDEG articles
AWW media partner MFWA	Providing an overall communications strategy; technical advice on national media strategies; curriculum for journalist training and advise on identification of journalist participants and co-trainers
ACDEG youth leader	A youth, often from the ActionAid youth network Activista, who has been trained by the AWW project on the ACDEG and leadership
Youth	Here youths who were not directly trained by the project but were engaged in the AWW project, e.g., through youth-lead outreach activities.
Public, public actors	Understood as citizens, CSOs, youth, media.
Government local authorities	This includes municipal, district, provincial and county authorities, i.e. all government structures below the national level.
Government national	All national level government structures, such as the government, ministries, embassies, parliamentarians etc.
Government regional bodies	This includes regional East African Community (EAC), West African (ECOWAS), and

	South African (SADC) regional bodies that worked with the project.
Government continental bodies	The African Union (AU)
Social movement	A loosely organized effort by a large group of people to achieve a particular goal, typically a social or political one https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_movement

Monitoring and Evaluation abbreviations and definitions

Social change outcomes, i.e., the results gathered in this study	Observable changes in the behaviour, relationships, actions, activities, policies or practices of the individuals, groups and organisations influenced by an intervention in a small or large way, directly or indirectly, intentionally or not, negatively or positively. This corresponds to the definition in Outcome Harvesting as defined by Wilson-Grau & Britt, 2013.
SMART outcome	Outcome Harvesting outcomes where the descriptions need to be SMART: Specific (formulated in sufficient detail), Measurable (providing objective, verifiable quantitative and qualitative information), Achieved (establishing a plausible relationship between the outcome and contribution), Relevant (presenting a significant step towards the impact that is strived for), Timely (emerging within the time period being evaluated).
Outcome lead	Brief statements describing AWW results that potentially can be turned into SMART outcomes, but where specific, verifiable, plausible information is still missing.
Upstream outcomes	Outcomes that are more activity/output-near, i.e., occur 'earlier' in the impact pathway and/or are more directly influenced by the AWW project
Downstream outcomes	Outcomes that are more impact-near, i.e., occur 'later' in the impact pathway and/or are indirectly influenced by the AWW project (e.g., through other outcomes in the causal chain).
Case studies, outcome stories	A narrative describing results observed in the evaluation that are related directly or indirectly with respect to a particular theme and context, often with causal linkages among them.
Significance	The extent of progress towards the intended objective of the project (AU member states are more democratic and accountable to their citizens in alignment with the ACDEG); the degree to which the outcome represents a systemic change/ breakthrough in reaching the objective; contributing to sustainability (Financial, Institutional, policy); seen in relation to the specific context in the country (e.g., shrinking space)

Other terms used in the evaluation

Societal actor	The target audiences, i.e., the individuals, groups, organizations, institutions, who did something differently (partly) influenced by the activities, research outputs or outcomes of interventions to which the AWW project contributed to.
Contributor, change agent	Individuals, groups of individuals or organisations who influenced in a small or large way the results (mostly the behavioural changes) of the societal actors.

9.2 SMART criteria

These Outcome Harvesting SMART criteria are slightly adapted from those originally defined by Ricardo Wilson-Grau: http://outcomeharvesting.net/outcome-harvesting-smart-me-outcomes/

Specific: Each **outcome** and **contribution** component is formulated in sufficient detail so that a reader without specialised subject or contextual knowledge will be able to understand and appreciate what is described. Who has changed, in what way, when and where; and ii) who did what, when and where to help bring about the change.

 Measurable: The description of **outcome** and **contribution** provide objective, verifiable quantitative and qualitative information, independent of who is collecting data. For example:
   ● How much, many, big, far, fast?
   ● What size, weight, age, shape, colour?

Achieved: This relates to the **plausible relationship, a logical link between outcome and contribution**. The outcome was achieved by the change agent's activities, albeit perhaps not fully attributable to these alone, but the activities have contributed to this outcome. What was done, when and where that contributed — wholly or (probably) partially, directly or indirectly, intentionally or unexpectedly?

Relevant: The **outcome** represents noteworthy progress towards a programme's theory of change, or, other, more specific objective (the overarching goal in the respective key evaluation area , i.e. the theme/sector relevant to MFA's goals). It has to represent a distinctive, intended or unintended, positive or negative change (progress or regress) with respect to this goal.

Timely: The outcomes have emerged within the evaluation period, after the influence (activities, outputs other outcomes) took place. The outcome may have occurred months or even years after the activities but not before.

9.3 The Logical Framework of the AWW project

Overall objective (Impact): AU member states are more democratic and accountable to their citizens in alignment with legal instruments, institutions and processes of the African Governance Architecture (AGA)

Outcome 1 (OC1): Increased demand from citizens of AU member states, particularly young women and men (rural and urban) in 8 focus countries for the implementation of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) by African Governments

- Outputs (OP 1.1. - related to OC 1): Awareness of citizens of AU Member States of the AGA and ACDEG increased

- Op 1.2. (related to OC 1) Effective mobilisation of citizens, especially young people to demand implementation of the ACDEG.

Outcome 2 (OC2): Increased, effective and coordinated engagement of CSOs, including youth and women's organisations with member states in the SADC, ECOWAS and EAC regions for implementation of AU legal instruments especially the ACDEG.

- Op 2.1. (related to OC 2) Greater capacity of CSOs and their platforms to plan and coordinate advocacy on the AGA and especially ACDEG

- Op 2.2. (related to OC 2) Enhanced CSO monitoring of implementation of the ACDEG for more informed dialogue/advocacy with AU member states and institutions.

- Op 2.3 (related to OC 2) Increased CSO advocacy and engagement with AU institutions and governments for implementation of the ACDEG.

9.4 Users, uses and management of the evaluation

The **primary users** of this evaluation (i.e. users with the capacity to affect change) are the AA Denmark project managers of the AWW project. The findings of the evaluation will be presented by the AA Denmark evaluation management team and discussed with the AA Denmark international cluster leadership, the AA Denmark leadership as well as with the AA Denmark board, who has the responsibility of the overall AA Denmark international strategy. They will use the findings for future management decisions on the overall intervention design and strategies, as well as accountability towards their funder. Also, the partners (co-affiliates) in the AWW consortium may use the evaluation as an opportunity for participatory learning that may influence future decision-making processes on the country level.

Secondary users: These are users who will use the findings to take action, but have not been involved in the design of the evaluation process. In this case, this is the EC as the main donor of the project who may draw lessons from the successes and challenges, as well as use the independent and objective documentation and judgement of the project's results as a basis for future funding decisions.

Further audiences of the evaluation include other stakeholders active in the field of Good Governance particularly in Africa including key partners such as SADC, EAC, and AU. Learning about the achievements of the AWW project may help them to better understand the potential benefits of engaging or supporting its activities.

User committee

A small committee of primary users and consultants was established to participate in the Outcome Harvest and coordinate the evaluation. This committee was led by Helene Bach on behalf of AA Denmark, who served as the first line of contact with the overall team lead and focal point of the consultants, Kornelia Rassmann. The committee consisted of

AA Denmark Evaluation Management Team

1. **Helene Bach**, AADK, Monitoring & Evaluation Coordinator provided technical support, was the focal person for content and final decision maker. In addition, Helene assisted with the categorisation and harvesting of outcomes on the regional level as well as the document review.
2. **Dorte Tietze**, AADK, AWW Project Manager: was the project owner and provided content information on the project.
3. **Nick Ockenden**, AADK, AWW Monitoring & Evaluation lead, responsible for the management of the consultancy contract and primary point of contact for the consultant. As the person responsible for the final report to the European C he ensured the linkage between this report and the evaluation report.
4. **Lacerda Lipangue,** AADK, AWW Project Coordinator: provided support for the coordination with partners and project staff, as well as the provision of documentation from the project

Consultant Evaluation Management Team

5. **Kornelia Rassmann**, consultant, Germany, focal point external evaluation team and overall lead of the project.
6. **Goele Scheers**, consultant, Belgium, co-lead
7. **Patrick Sando**, consultant, Uganda, co-evaluator with a focus on harvesting and country expertise.

Biographies of the evaluators

Kornelia (Konny) Rassmann, is an independent consultant with a multi-disciplinary background in monitoring, evaluation and learning, strategy/ business development, and academic research, based in Germany. She took the lead in this evaluation being responsible for overall management of the evaluation and communication to the client. She is highly experienced in participatory, actor-focused, qualitative evaluation approaches such as Outcome Mapping (OM) and Outcome Harvesting (OH). She has led teams on large international, OH or mixed methods evaluations (e.g. Finland gender evaluation), and her thematic experience included areas relevant to this evaluation, e.g., having supported the assessment of the initiative 'Twaweza' that aimed to enhance education and strengthen citizen-agency and Good Governance in East Africa. With her academic background she has excellent data analysis skills, communication and writing skills in English, and experience to draw from qualitative data to obtain valid and realistic conclusions and points for discussion.

Goele Scheers is a Belgium-based independent consultant with 20 years of experience in international development. She supported Konny in evaluation management. Goele is particularly specialised in Outcome Mapping (OM) and Outcome Harvesting (OH). Goele began working with OM in 2005 as the PM&E Coordinator at the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC). In 2007, she contributed to developing OH and integrated it into GPPAC's monitoring system. For 10 years she has been working as a consultant to support organisations worldwide through training and coaching in using OM and OH. In addition, she has led large evaluations using OH as well as mixed methods. Goele is a steward of the Outcome Mapping community and a facilitator of the Outcome Harvesting Community.

Patrick Sando is a monitoring and evaluation professional based in Uganda and supported the evaluation bringing in ten years of experience in designing and implementing results-oriented M&E systems as well as managing and conducting evaluations in East-Africa, using amongst others social impact assessment, OH, adaptive Theories of Change and mixed-data analysis (qualitative and quantitative). He was the Impact Assessment and Shared Learning Officer at AA International Uganda before becoming an independent consultant. Patrick is an enthusiast OH practitioner trained by Goele Scheers and has experience in facilitating OH workshops as well as sensemaking workshops based on OH data.

9.5 List of key informants

Name, Institution, Location	Function	Interviewed when, by (1)
AWW consortium including close strategic partners		
Aminata Kelly-Lamin, AA Sierra Leone	Policy and Advocacy Manager and Acting Head of Programmes and Policy AWW Project Lead	October 22, 2020, and several harvesting sessions (KR)
Auguster Ademokula Sankoh CCYA, Sierra Leone	AWW Project Officer, Strategic partners of AA Sierra Leone	October 22, 2020, and several harvesting sessions (KR)
Celestine Odo, AA Nigeria	AWW Project Coordinator	September 17, 2020 (KR)
Paulette Eigbedion, AA Nigeria	AWW Project Officer	October 22, 2020, and several harvesting sessions (KR)
Michael Oyinlola AA Nigeria	ActionAid staff	September 17, 2020 (KR)
Margaret Brew-Ward, AA Ghana.	AWW Project Coordinator	October 12, 2020, and several harvesting sessions (KR)
Rosemond Kombat. AA Ghana	AWW Project Officer	Several harvesting sessions (KR)
Michael Aboneka AA Uganda	AWW Project Coordinator	Several harvesting sessions (PS)
Prosper N. Mubaangizi, CEPA, Uganda	Strategic partner AA Uganda; Policy Analyst; Governance, youth and inclusion	October 24, 2020 (PS)
Elias Mtinda Tanzania	AWW Project Coordinator	Several harvesting sessions (PS)
Kundai Chikoko AA Zimbabwe	AWW Project Officer	Several harvesting sessions (GS)
Musonda Kablinga AA Zambia	AWW Project Coordinator	Several harvesting sessions (GS)
Filipe Sambo AA Mozambique	AWW Project Coordinator	Several harvesting sessions (GS)
Armenio Langa, CCM-Gaza, Mozambique	Strategic partner AA Mozambique	October 23, 2020 (GS)

Lilian Alex EACSOF	AWW regional partner	September 30, 2020
Komlan Messie WACSOF	AWW regional partner	October 1, 2020
Glenn Fared SADC-CNGO	Executive Director AWW regional partner	September 19, 2020
Kwaku Krobea Asante Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA)	AWW Project Lead Media Partner	September 25, 2020
Stephen Ndoma Mass Public Opinions Institute (MPOI)	AWW Project Lead Research Partner	October 30, 2020
Dorte Tietze, AA Denmark	AADK Senior Program Manager; AWW Project Manager	November 03, 2020; (KR), and several harvesting sessions (KR, GS)
Lacerda Lipangue AA Denmark	AWW Project Coordinator	November 09, 2020; (KR)
Nick Ockenden AA Denmark	Project and M&E Coordinator	Several harvesting sessions (KR, GS)
Astrid Wiborg Jensen AA Denmark	Programme Officer	Several harvesting sessions (KR, GS)
AU informants		
Amb. Salah S. Hammad, AGA Secretariat	Head of the AGA Secretariat	November 10, 2020 (KR)
Makda M Tessama, AGA Secretariat	Democracy and Governance Expert	November 10, 2020 (KR)
Hagar Azzozz, AGA Secretariat	Project Officer	November 10, 2020 (KR)
Regional level informants		
MacDonald Munyoro NAYO, Zimbabwe Member of SADC-CNGO	Programs Manager	October 27, 2020 (GS)
National level informants		
Hajie Bah, NMYCW, Sierra Leone	Founder CSO	October 10, 2020 (KR)
Ruth Nenneh Conteh, Sierra Leone	Youth leader	October 20, 2200 (KR)
Massah Nyanga, Sierra Leone	Radio Maria	November 11, 2020 (KR)

Carolyn Gordian, Nigeria	Youth Leader	November 21, 2020 (KR)
Chinenye Nwevo, Youth Leadership Initiative for Social Justice, Nigeria	Youth Leader and founder of CSO	October 29, 2020 (KR)
Clement Kwesi Mamadu , Development for Life Foundation, Ghana	CEO and Founder of CSO	October 28, 2020 (KR)
Harry Simuntala, Nakonda Activista, Zambia	Youth Coordinator	October 30, 2020 (GS)
Larry Shitima Activista, Voice of seske youth advocates, Zambia	Director	October 30, 2020 (GS)
Rukia Ibrahim Kombo Pemba youth voice organization, Tanzania	Youth Activist	November 13, 2020 (PS)
Said Musa Rashid Pemba youth voice organization, Tanzania	Chairman	November 13, 2020 (PS)

1: *KR = Kornelia Rassmann, GS = Goele Scheers, PS = Patrick Sando*

9.6 AWW trainings on the ACDEG and AGA

This table consolidates information provided to the evaluators by the AA country offices and AA Denmark during the outcome harvest. It was developed to get an overview and a basis for assessing the contribution of the AWW partners to capacity development on the ACDEG. We do not claim that the data are complete.

Country	Youth leaders / Youths reached in step downs	CSOs/NGOs[1]	Journalists (media houses)
Sierra Leone	**100** Mar 2018, Sep 2018, Jan 2019 **>6700** youth led outreach & Youth Convergence [223]	**60** Jun 2018 & Oct 2019 **50** Advocacy training Jan 2019 & Aug 2020	**50** (28 media houses) May 2018 & Apr 2019 Facilitation: Consultant from Sierra Leone)
Ghana	**102** Dez 2017 – Feb 2018	**83** May-Jun 2018 **68** Refresher Sept 2019 (62 organisations)	**30** (13 media houses) Sep 2018 & Mar 2019 Facilitation: MFWA
Nigeria	**39 youths** Feb 2018 **31** youths refresher Mar 2019 **305** youths step down	**187** (133 CSOs) Jan-Mar 2019 **30** Advocacy training Nov 2018 (11 CSOs, 4 youth platforms and 2 media houses)	**34** (22 media houses) Aug 2018 Facilitation: MFWA
Zambia	**20** youths, Oct 2017 **82** youths step downs Nov 2017	15 (9 CSOs) 15- 17 August, 2020	
Zimbabwe	Through Global Platform Zambia, youth were trained on digital programming. There were capacity sessions how to make videos and engage on digital platforms.	NAYO hosted a national 1 week training together with AA Zimbabwe for NAYO members and a few Activista. NAYO hired a legal consultant who facilitated and prepared the material. AA Zimbabwe sub-granted to NAYO for this. It was supposed to cascade to the provincial level which did not happen. Yet, youths took it back to their communities, they talked on community radios.	
Mozambique	Reflection meetings to discuss ACDEG issues with CSOs (regular AWW partners) and Youth Activista - March 2018. CSO training manual developed, but no physical training		MISA received the curriculum and manual for the media training from AADK and contextualised it.
Uganda			**34** in year 2 and 3 of the project (2018, 2019)
Tanzania			March 2018
Regional			November 2018

(1) CSO training sometimes included also youth platforms, media houses, trade unions.

9.7 Citizens report implementation

This table consolidates information provided to the evaluators by the AA country offices and AA Denmark during the outcome harvest. It was developed to get an overview and a basis for assessing the contribution of the AWW partners to capacity development on the ACDEG. We do not claim that the data are complete.

Country	CSC data collection	Legal analysis / literature review (Afrobarometer)	CSC report validation	Launch of CR
Sierra Leone [150] [180]	CSC training: 30 CSOs & youth (fac. by MPOI) for CR1: Jun 2018 CR2: Oct 2019 Step down training in 6 districts by trained CSOs CR1: Jun 2018 CR2: Jul 2020	Report: consultant with feedback from AASL/AADK (submission: CR1: 30 Jul 2018 CR2: 21 Jan 2020	National level meetings CR1: 30 Nov 2018 CR2: 2 Jun 2020	CR1: 2019-03-28 [150] CR2: 2020-09-24 [180]
Ghana [199]	CSC training by consultant 11 July 2019, 12 youth in 4 regions. Data collection Sept-Oct 2019	CR1 Legal analysis led by two consultants, workshop on 18.11.2018. No new legal analysis was conducted for CR2 [199]	District level validation workshops and two CSC draft report by consultant	CR1: CSC & legal analysis report by 2 consultants CR 2 consolidated by consultant Expected to be launched February 2021
Nigeria [205]	Data collection by AWW Staff youths, 6 districts CR1: Sep 2018 CR2: Oct-Nov 2019	Legal analysis report October 2018	No information	Report: by a consultant Launch 24 Sep 2020 Nat. Stakeholder forum [205]
Zambia [35]	150 trained youths from 3 districts	Legal results report 2018	Validation meeting Oct 2018 [35]	Consolidated CR 28.11.2018
Zimbabwe *No outcomes in database*	CR1: Jun-Jul 2018 CR2: Nov 2019	CR1: Aug 2018 CR2: Jul 2019	CR1: 2019 CR2: n/a	Not published at time of writing
Mozambique [237]	Jun 2018 local authorities do CSC since 2019 [237]	Aug 2018	No information	No information
Uganda	No information	Aug 2018	No information	Jun 2018
Tanzania	CR1: no information CR2: Mar-Aug 2020	Afrobarometer Aug 2018 Legal analysis early 2019	No information	No information

9.8 Outcome case study EALA

Youth raising awareness of the ACDEG with the East Africa Legislative Assembly

Summarising outcomes [152, 10, 114, 116, 115, 193, 113]

The project formed a highly productive relationship with the East Africa Legislative Assembly (EALA) which led to important outcomes that effectively connected young people, CSOs and media organisations to the Assembly and to their national governments. From the start, the Africa We Want Alliance recognised EALA as an important mechanism through which to influence and inform East African leaders and to amplify the voices of young people across the region. This was taken forwards primarily through the work of three co-affiliates, EACSOF, AA Tanzania and AA Uganda, alongside youth movements throughout the region. The youth involved have moved from a position of limited knowledge, awareness and interest in the ACDEG before the project to one where they've successfully organised in to a productive and influential network that has frequently and effectively engaged with EALA and the governments of East African countries to further the ambitions of the project.

In November 2018, youth activists from Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda established the East African Youth Council and held their first ever parliamentary session at the EALA Chambers in Arusha in Tanzania. These young people had previously been trained on the ACDEG as part of the project, taken part in a Youth Caravan which had been organised by AA Uganda, AA Tanzania and EACSOF, and attended the ULead summit at MS-TCDC. At the session, the young people urged partner states that had not yet established National Youth Councils to do so as a precursor to the establishment of a Regional Youth Council. The attendees also presented a petition to the EALA speaker calling for the implementation of the ACDEG and ensuring improved youth inclusion in governance processes. This inaugural youth assembly was a major success as it allowed young people to formally engage in the policy process. EALA has since committed to holding it as an annual event, ensuring longer term opportunities for young people to engage in dialogue with the governments of their countries, and a steering committee has been formed to follow-up on the outcomes of the summit.

The following month, in December 2018, the EALA Speaker invited media and youth organisations – which had been trained in the project – to give a presentation on the ACDEG in the EALA Chambers. The meeting was initiated by EACSOF and AA Uganda and was an important opportunity to inform EALA legislators of the importance of ACDEG, enabling them to influence East African leaders in the longer-term and to continue to advocate for the ACDEG's implementation throughout the region.

EACSOF in particular developed a highly productive relationship with EALA during the project, the result of a series of meetings and sustained dialogue with them and the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution. This paved the way for a direct – and new – relationship with the Tanzanian government, and in February 2019 the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs held a meeting with EACSOF and AA Tanzania to discuss the status of Tanzania in the process of signing and ratifying ACDEG. This represents significant progress given Tanzania's resistance to signing the ACDEG and the trend towards shrinking political and civic space, with the Deputy Minister commending EACSOF and the AA team as well as committing to support CSO work in the area and to facilitate the linking up of relevant Ministries and Members of Parliament. At the meeting a Comparative Legal Analysis of the Compatibility of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance of 2007 with the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania of 1977 was also submitted to the Minister. This paper was produced by the AWW project by EACSOF in collaboration with AA Tanzania. Furthermore, in September 2019, the EALA Parliament invited EACSOF to present a petition on "Matters of Crucial Importance to the Community" to the Assembly. EALA subsequently published a press statement which considerably raised the profile of EACSOF, creating further space for CSOs to engage with policy-makers and legislators in the region.

9.9 Visual presentation of the outcome maps (Murals)

Sierra Leone AWW outcomes

Target Group "Government/Parliament/Authorities"

AU (continental)
Continental bodies: e.g. AU engaging, supporting advocacy for ACDEG

[118] **2018-08: AGA** inviting youth leaders to participate and present a **position paper** at the **regional Youth Consultations** for EA, SA and West Africa in Dakar, Senegal, and Gaborone, Botswana. — S1

SL-APRM Secretariat

[206] **2019-08-15: Sierra Leone APRM Executive Chair , Dr. Charles J. Silver** presents a speech at the Sierra Leone **"Youth Convergence"** — S2

[181] **2019-11-26 Sierra Leone-APRM Executive Chair, Dr. Charles J. Silver** meets with AASL and CCYA to discuss ACDEG monitoring and reporting — S1

National Government

[190] **2018 & 2019 Sierra Leonen PR to AU in Addis Ababa** met with AASL and committed to support the work of AWW — S1

[148] **2019-03-26: MoPPA Minister and Deputy Minister** participates in a meeting with AASL and partners on the 1st Citizen Report — S1

[149] **2019-03-27: Sierra Leone MFA** receives CSO, media and youth representatives to discuss implementation of ACDEG — S2

[195] **2019-08-15: Deputy Minister of the MoPPA** participates in a meeting with youth leaders, AASL and partners on the findings of the 1st Citizen Report — S1

[187] **2019-08-15 NaYCOM** participates in a meeting with youth leaders, AASL and partners on the findings of the 1st Citizen Report — S1

Local authorities

[216] **2019-06-15: Councillor** at town hall meeting commits to supporting implementation of the AGA-ACDEG — S1

Final "beneficiaries"

Public/Citizens

[160] **2018-05:** : **Citizens in Sierra Leone** request ACDEG information during radio broadcast — S1

Youth

[223] **2020 : 6794 youths participated in awareness raising campaigns** facilitated by AWW trained youths — S1

[211] **2018: 400 young people** start advocating for the implementation of the ACDEG

Multi-Stakeholder groups

Multi-Stakeholder : CSO-Youth Leaders

Multi-Stakeholder : Media-Youth
Outcomes exist, but no evidence

Multi-Stakeholder : CSOs-Public-Government

[130] **2018-07:** : Sierra Leone **local authorities and community members** participate in town hall meetings on ACDEG — S1
Concepts for street theater, ACDEG song and jingles, …

Multi-Stakeholder : Media-CSOs-Public-Government

[150] **2019-03-28: 112 representatives of CSOs, government bodies, and youths,** participate in the launch of the 1nd Citizen Report in Sierra Leone — S2

[180] **2020-09-24: 60 representatives of CSOs, government bodies, and youths,** participate in the launch of the 2nd Citizen Report in Sierra Leone — S2

National CSC training: 30 CSOs & youth ambassadors (1. CR: Jun 2018 // 2. CR: Oct 2019)
District step down training in 6 districts facilitated by trained CSOs (24. Jun 2018 // 1. Jul 2020)
Data collection & CSC Report (CCYA)
Session / FGD on **legal indicators**
Session on **literature review (Afrobarometer**
Consolidation / Report: Emmanual Saffa Abdulai with feedback from AASL/AADK (report submission: 30 Jul 2018 // 21 Jan 2020)
Validation meeting (30 Nov 2018 // 2 Jun 2020) — S1

Target groups "Civil Society"

CSOs/NGOs

[188] **2018-06: CSOs platforms** established in three Sierra Leone districts that can now champion ACDEG issues based on local contexts. — S1

[189] **2018-07: Trained CSOs** develop district advocacy strategies and start engaging in public awareness raising, e.g. town hall meetings — S1

[217] **2019-07: Trained CSOs** start using the ACDEG knowledge for their own projects — S1

2018 (5-6 Jun) CSO CD training (30part, c. 15 orgs)
2019 (16-17 Oct) CSO CD training (30 part, c. 15 orgs)
2019 (11 Jan) CSO Advocacy training (30 part.)
2019 (14 Aug) CSO Advocacy training (20part.)

Youth Leaders

[153] **2018-2019:** : **Youth leaders across 3 regions** start leading district and national level campaigns on ACDEG (100 youths trained) — S2

[179] **2018-03: trained youths from the Western Area of Sierra Leone** start ACDEG campaigns — S2

[186] **2019-08-14/15: Trained youth leaders from three districts** in Sierra Leone organise and facilitate the Youth Convergence including visits to MoPPA and NaYCOM — S2

[234] **2018-08-29 to 31 : A youth from Sierra Leone** presents a position paper on the ACDEG at the AU Youth Consultations for West Africa in Dakar and for Central/North Africa in Tunis. — S1

2018 (15-23 Mar). 1. batch Youth training (26): J&M Motel, Bo
2018 (18-28 Sep), 2. batch Youth training (36): SLTU- Hotel, Freetown
2019 (21-29 Jan) 3. batch Youth training (36): Sahara Hotel, Makeni

Concepts for street theater, ACDEG song and jingles, …

Media / Journalists

[12] **2018-05:** Sierra Leone **Radio Maria's** weekly governance talk show incorporates ACDEG advocacy messages — S1

[134] **2018-08: Five Sierra Leone daily newspapers and a radio station** report on ACDEG after a press conference following a regional ACDEG training organised by WACSOF **[WACSOF]** — S1

2018 (28-29 Mar) Media training, Consultant (not MFWA), 25 journalists / c. 20 orgs
2019 (17-18 Apr) Media training, Consultant 25 journalists / c. 20 orgs (partially the same as 2018)
2018-08-09 WACSOF two -day regional ACDEG seminar Freetown

AWW contributors

- AWW/AADK (also Lacerda in Mozambique)
- AWW country staff (plus Global Platform)
- AA country offices (not AWW staff)
- AA International
- Regional Partner SADC-CNGO
- Regional Partner ECOWAS
- Regional Partner WACSOF
- Research Partner MPOI
- Media Partner MFWA

Strategic Partners

- CCYA (Project Officer AWWI)

SMART

S1: substantiated by one source   S2: substantiated by two sources;   White background: outcome leads

Ghana AWW outcomes

AWW contributors

- AWW/AADK (also Lacerda in Mozambique)
- AWW country staff (plus Global Platform)
- AA country offices (not AWW staff)
- AA International
- Regional Partner SADC-CNGO
- Regional Partner ECOWAS
- Regional Partner WACSOF
- Research Partner MPOI
- Media Partner MFWA

Target groups "Civil Society"

CSOs/NGOs

[200] 2019-11: CSOs in the Oti region start public engagement campaigns, e.g. collaborating to engage in radio education on the ACDEG in Dambai

2018 May-June: 4 trainings, 62 CSOs, Youths platforms, media, unions in four regions: Volta, Upper East, Brong Ahafo, Greater Accra

March 2019 "Refresher training "for CSOs

11 Sep 2019: 1 day CSO training in Kajelbi, Oti district

Youth Leaders

[159] 2017-12: Youth leaders from Activista Ghana feel more knowledgeable on ACDEG principles and advocacy after PANAF/AWW training

[162] 2018-02: Youth leaders from Volta region, Ghana, start supporting tertiary schools' awareness raising activities on AGA & ACDEG at University of Ho

[140] 2018-08-12: Youth leaders from the Volta region in Ghana held a rally and presented a communique to the regional minister

[171] 2019-12-17: : Two youth leaders trained by the AWW project contested and won the District Assembly Elections in Ghana (the second time after 2016).

2017, 12-22 Dec: (34) Youth training on ACDEG, Volta

2018, 14-16 Jan: (34) Youth training on ACDEG, Brong Ahafo

2018, 28.01-09.02: (34) Youth training on ACDEG, Upper East

Media / Journalists

[125] 2018-10: 21 Ghanaian community radio stations start broadcasting radio debates with panellists on ACDEG

[16] 2018-04: Five Ghanaian print/online media houses start publishing articles on ACDEG in Ghana

2018, 12-13 Sep: (14 journalists) Media/Journalist training, Mensvic Grand Hotel, Accra

2019, 13-14 Mar: (16 journalists) Media/Journalist training, Monarch Hotel, Accra

Multi-Stakeholder groups

Multi-Stakeholder : CSO-Youth Leaders - Media

[170] 2018-05: CSOs, youth platforms, media houses, and unions from four regions in Ghana established platforms for closer collaboration on ACDEG in their regions

Multi-Stakeholder : CSO-Youth Leaders - Media - Public

[212] 2019-12: 110 participants from CSOs, media and public attend the Public Awareness Forum in Accra, Ghana

Multi-Stakeholder : Media-Youth Leaders

[126] 2018-02: Ghanaen TV station **"Ghana Television" and 10 regional GBC radio stations** broadcast a youth contest on ACDEG

Multi-Stakeholder :

[201] 2019-10-31: Local level authorities, community members, government officials and youths participate in the valiadation meeting for the Citizen Report

[202] 2018-11-18: National level key political actors, government institutions, academia, and CSOs engage in legal analysis for Citizen Reports

Citizen Report 2018 report: shared with AADK, but not launched, or used in lobbying or advocacy

Citizen Report 2019 not launched, first slow response from ministries, then COVID, now no funds (project end)

2019-08-11: 12 Youth leaders trained on CSC (for CR), in Kadjebi district, Volta

Government workers committing their time for rating

Final "beneficiaries"

Public/Citizens / Associations?

[165] 2019-12: Increased number of women contest for 2019 district assembly elections in Kajelbi, Volta Region

[219] 2019-12: About 70 women from the Susu groups at Yariga No.2 community participated in a voting process for district election.

[182] 2019-12-11: Women in Binduri district, Upper East Ghana, demand for accountability

[218] 2019: Village Savings and Loans Association in Ghana rekindles the use of their constitution

[215] 2018-11-16: Ghanian citizens engage in AWW ACDEG hashtags resulting in 3,211 mentions on Twitter

#AfricaWeWant #ImplementACDEG (MFWG)

Youth

[173] 2018-02: Ghanaian students participate in tertiary schools' awareness raising activity in Ho Technical University (500 by 2019-02)

[39] 2018-05: Student becomes first female president of the Student Representative Council (SRC) of Ho Technical University in Ghana.

Target Group "Government/ Parliament/Authorities"

Continental bodies: e.g. AU engaging, supporting advocacy for ACDEG (OC2.37)

AU-PRC

[191] 2018-11-08: Ghanaian representative to the AU-PRC meets with AA Ghana in Addis Ababa and provides advise

Regional government bodies

National Government

[199] 2020-02-04   MoPA dedicates Ministry staff to collaborate with the AWW project and mobilizes Members of Parliament to discuss the Citizen Report

Lobbying with ministries was the most challenging part! Despite repeated letters to MFA / MoPA no response for a long time

National Parliament

Local authorities

[232] 2019-11-28: The Social Welfare Department in Krachi East, Ghana, is increasing the accessibility of the regulations on the Management of Disability Fund

SMART   S1: substantiated by one source   S2: substantiated by two sources;   White background: outcome leads

Nigeria AWW outcomes

AWW contributors

Target groups "Civil Society"   **Multi-Stakeholder groups**   **Final "beneficiaries"**   **Target Group "Government/ Parliament/Authorities"**

Target Group "Government/Parliament/Authorities"

Continental bodies: e.g. AU engaging, supporting advocacy for ACDEG

[51] **2019-06: Nigerian Representative at the Pan-African Parliament** commits to discuss ACDEG implementation

AU-PRC

[192] **2018-11: PRC ambassador from Nigeria** engages with the AWW project and sends letter to Nigeria MFA AU Devision

Regional government bodies

National Government

[21] **2018-06 Nigeria MFA** confirms commitment to start reporting on ACDEG and organise a National Stakeholders State Reporting Workshop

[52] **2018-05:** The **President of Nigeria** signed a constitutional amendment (Not too young to vote bill) to reduce the age for running for elective office

[49] **2019-05:** The **President of Nigeria** asks to examine policies and frameworks on good governance for implementation

National Parliament

Local authorities

[66] **2019-03: Akwa Ibom State Assembly** approves the Akwa Ibom Youth Development Fund (AKYDF), a youth development bill

[204] **2019-02-26: Kogi State Assembly** passes Kogi Youth Development Commission (KYDC) Bill.

Final "beneficiaries"

Public/Citizens

[57] **2018-03: 20 women** from 6 religious women groups in Lagos use their right to vote in 2019 elections

[164] **2018-08: Citizens** engage through social media after radio station Cool FM Abuja, Nigeria, broadcasts on ACDEG

[Not in Podio] **2019-02: Citizens** engage increasingly on the AAN, AWW and Rhythm FM's social media during the broadcast time of the Rythm FM.

Youth

[56] **2018-09: Youth across 55 countries of Africa** get engaged in the continental social media campaign (ACDEG 55 Campaign) initiated by Nigeraín youth PAN AFRICAN

[55] **2018-12: 50 youth in Lagos** engage in twitter discussions on ACDEG organised by youth organisations

[67] **2018-05: Youth from Kogi** convene for the Democracy Summit and Democracy Round Table Youth Meetup in Kogi State

[203] **2018-04: Akwa Ibom youths** including some trained by AAN engage the Akwa Ibom House of Assembly on the AKYDF

[151] **2020-07: Youth in Enugu State** use social media to demand governance accountability from Enugu State House of Assembly-State Parliamentary wing

Multi-Stakeholder groups

Multi-Stakeholder : CSO-Youth Leaders

[84] **2018-??: Youth and CSOs** collaborate on **training for civil servants**

[9] **2019-02: CSOs and Youth Leader platforms** coordinate on social media advocacy to organise joint engagement of duty bearers

2018-02: #Youth4ACDEG campaign.

Dec 18- Feb 2019 #TheAfricaWeWant #ACDEG series

2019-41: Advocacy training for CSOs, youth, and media Lagos

Multi-Stakeholder : Media-Youth Leaders

[80] **2018-??: Local radio in Kogi** broadcasting interviews with youth leaders on ACDEG

Multi-Stakeholder : Media-CSOs-Public-Government

[205] **2020-09-24 CSOs, goverment officials, media, and youths** participate in the "National Stakeholder's Forum & Policy Documents Dissemination" and commit to advocate for the domestication of the ACDEG

2020-09-24: Citizen Report launched, data from 24 communities collected in Oct-Nov 2019, Policy briefs.

#AfricaWeWant campaign, twitter, facebook, instagramme, using synergies with the Rythm FM 6 weeks show

Target groups "Civil Society"

CSOs/NGOs

[83] **2018-01: Nigeria Labour Congress** publishes a position paper on ACDEG

[54] **2018-02: 133 Nigerian CSOs** participate in capacity building on ACDEG

[58] **2018-02: CSO JCI in Lagos** provides a training on the ACDEG

[65] **2019-02: CSOs in Akwa Ibom State** sensitize voters on electoral malpractices and observe 2019 elections

[50] **2019-02: 30 CSOs in Enugu State** of Nigeria create an advocacy group to engage with the State House of Assembly Parliamentary wing.

2019 Jan to Mar: CSO training, 133 orgs in 5 states (FCT, Akwa Ibom, Lagos, Maiduguri, Enugu)

Youth Leaders

[157] **2018-05: Youth leaders in five regions** train 305 youths and secondary school children on ACDEG (unpaid step down trainings)

[69] **2018-05: Trained Kogi Youth Leaders** from the Youth Advocacy Cluster initiated advocacy for the Kogi Youth Development Commission (KYDC) Bill.

[64] **2019-10: Nigerian youth leaders in Kogi** faciliate twitter chat on ACDEG (#Youth4ACDEG campaign)

2018 Feb to 2019 Feb: Youth training, (182) in 4 states (FCT, Lagos, Ondo, Abuja)

Media / Journalists

[5] **2019-02: More than 4 local radio channels across 5 regions** in Nigeria start coverage of the ACDEG and on the need for its implementation

[59] **2018-08: Journalists from Radio Nigeria Network News** reports on the implementation of the ACDEG in Nigeria (electoral commissioner, women, AAN PO interview)

[60] **2018-08: Local radio station Cool FM Abuja, Nigeria,** starts to broadcast information on ACDEG, providing free airtime to AAN Staff

[61] **2019-01: National radio station** Nigeria-FRCN publishes for the first time a neews commentary on the need to adopt the ACDEG in Nigeria

[62] **2019-02: National radio station Rythm fm, Abuja,** broadcasts the daily radio program "BEYOND THE BALLOT" against election malpractice

2018-08: Media training (print, TV, radio), Abuja

AWW contributors

AWW/AADK (also Lacerda in Mozambique)

AWW country staff (plus Global Platform)

AA country offices (not AWW staff)

AA International

Regional Partner SADC-CNGO

Regional Partner ECOWAS

Regional Partner WACSOF

Research Partner MPOI

Media Partner MFWA

SMART   S1: substantiated by one source   S2: substantiated by two sources; White background: outcome leads

Uganda   AWW outcomes

AWW contributors

Target groups "Civil Society"

Multi-Stakeholder groups

Final "beneficiaries"

Target Group "Government/ Parliament/Authorities"

Continental bodies: e.g. AU engaging, supporting advocacy for ACDEG

[230] 2019-01: The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) collaborates with ACDEG (S1)

[229] : 2019-11: AU-ECOSOCC National Chapter and CSOs in Uganda develop a popularization and advocacy strategy framework for ACDEG. (S1)

National Government

[207] : 2020-09-28: Ugandan Political Parties commit to support the ratification of the ACDEG at the Elections and Good Governance Symposium (S1)

National Parliament

[142] 2018-08-10: Parliament of Uganda allows youth leaders to hold a moot parliamentary session (S1)

[158] 2019-12-03: Members of Parliament commit to support motion on ACDEG in parliament (S1)

Local authorities

Public/Citizens

[210] 2020-09: Over one million people engaged with the #RatifyACDEGUG twitter hashtag created by AA Uganda. (S1)

Youth (Not directly trained by AWW)

CSOs/NGOs

[145] 2019-03: Ugandan NGOs form a national coalition to advocate for ACDEG (S1)

Multi-Stakeholder : CSO-Youth Leaders

Youth Leaders (trained by AWW)

[143] 2018-08-10: Youth leaders present a petition for the ratification of ACDEG to the speaker of parliament (S1)

[208] 2019-09: Youth leaders lobby for the ratification of the ACDEG on various media platforms (S1)

Multi-Stakeholder : Media-Youth Leaders-CSOs- Gov

Media / Journalists

[139] 2018-08: National TV (NBS TV) in Uganda broadcasted a debate on ACDEG for the first time (S1)

[209] 2019-01: Trained Journalists write feature stories on the ACDEG (S2)

Multi-Stakeholder : Media-CSOs-Goverment

AWW contributors

AWW/AADK (also Lacerda in Mozambique)

AWW country staff (plus Global Platform)

AA country offices (not AWW staff)

AA International

Regional Partner SADC-CNGO

Regional Partner ECOWAS

Regional Partner WACSOF

Research Partner MPOI

Media Partner MFWA

Local Strategic Partners

CEPA

SMART (green circle) S1: substantiated by one source   S2: substantiated by two sources; White background: outcome leads

Tanzania AWW outcomes

Target Group "Government/Parliament/Authorities"

Continental bodies: e.g. AU engaging, supporting advocacy for ACDEG

Regional government bodies

[161] **2018-11-03: Speaker of EALA** allows youth from East African Youth Councils to hold a parliamentary session at EALA chambers (S1)

[115] **2018-12-17:** EALA inviting EACSOF to present their petition at EALA chambers (S1)

National Government

[113] **2019- 02: Tanzania Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs** discusses ACDEG with AATZ and EACSOF (S1)

[13] **2019-02: Tanzanian Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs** agrees to be interviewed on the ACDEG by the newspaper Mwananchi (S1)

National Parliament

[147] **2018-11: Member of Parliament from Tanzania** agreeing to promote ACDEG (S1)

Local authorities

Final "beneficiaries"

Public/Citizens

Youth

[132] **2018- 10: Tanzanian Pemba youth** participates in community meetings on ACDEG (S1)

Multi-Stakeholder groups

Multi-Stakeholder : CSO-Youth Leaders

Multi-Stakeholder : Media-Youth Leaders

Multi-Stakeholder : Media-CSOs-Public-Governent

Target groups "Civil Society"

CSOs/NGOs

Youth Leaders

[135] **2018-09: Youth leaders** establish Youth Clubs in 13 villages in Pemba district, Tanzania (S1)

[114] **2018-11-17 70 East African youths** develop a petition to EALA at the conclusion of the EA Youth Caravan (S1)

[233] **2018:08:** **A youth from Tanzania** presents a position paper on the ACDEG at the AU Youth Consultations for East and South Africa in Botswana (S1)

Media / Journalists

[77] **2018-03: Local newspaper Mwananchi** publishes an article on ACDEG in Tanzania (S1)

AWW contributors

| AWW/AADK (also Lacerda in Mozambique) | AWW country staff (plus Global Platform) | AA country offices (not AWW staff) | AA International | Regional Partner SADC-CNGO | Regional Partner ECOWAS | Regional Partner WACSOF | Research Partner MPol | Media Partner MPWA |

Strategic Partners

SMART   S1: substantiated by one source   S2: substantiated by two sources; White background: outcome leads

(S1) = green circle

Zambia AWW outcomes

AWW contributors

Target groups "Civil Society"

Multi-Stakeholder groups

Final "beneficiaries"

Target Group "Government/ Parliament/Authorities"

AWW contributors (boxes)

- AWW/AADK (also Lacerda in Mozambique)
- AWW country staff (plus Global Platform)
- AA country offices (not AWW staff)
- AA International
- Regional Partner SADC-CNGO
- Regional Partner ECOWAS
- Regional Partner WACSOF
- Research Partner MPOI
- Media Partner MFWA

CSOs/NGOs

No outcomes here. Maybe because the CSO training on ACDEG only took place in August 2020?

Multi-Stakeholder : CSO-Youth Leaders

Youth

[87] 2018-03: 67 youth leaders organised youth club events in Nakonde in Zambia where ACDEG was discussed with 50 youth in order to mobilise them on ACDEG. S2

[25] 2018-07: 47 Activista from 5 different political parties jointly monitored the Mayoral Election in Lusaka. S1

[235] 2018-08: A youth from Zambia presented a position paper on the ACDEG at the AU Youth Consultations for East and South Africa in Gaborone, Botswana.

[231] 2019-01: The United Party for National Development (UPND) adopted an Activista from Nakonde to be the youth district chairperson for the UNDP youth league.

Multi-Stakeholder : Media-Youth Leaders

Media / Journalists

[74] 2018-1: 2 Zambian news papers covered the ACDEG through 5 newspaper articles, two radio programmes, one community blog and a YouTube dialogue. S1

[141] 2018-1: The Zambian independent TV station "Prime TV" reported twice on ACDEG. S2

Multi-Stakeholder : Media-CSOs-Public-Government

Public/Citizens

[133] 2018-10. 167 citizens participated in community debates in Lusaka, Mbala and Mpulungu on the implementation of the ACDEG. S1

Youth

Target Group "Government/Parliament/Authorities"

Continental bodies: e.g. AU engaging, supporting advocacy for ACDEG (OC2.37)

AU-PRC

[33] 2018-10: The **PRC ambassador in Addis Ababa** from Zambia met with the AWW Zambia team to discuss the ACDEG.

Regional government bodies

National Government

[75] 2018-10: The Minister of Justice Mr. Given Lubinda publicly supported the implementation of legislation (which legislation precisely?) that is in line with the ACDEG.

[35] 2018-10 The **Electoral commission in Zambia,** delegation in Mbala, agreed with the observations in the Citizens report, took forward discussions on the Citizens Report to their National Office and made improvements accordingly.

[112] 2019-01: The Zambian government approved the revised Local Government Act of No.2 2019 that provides for the establishment of Ward Development Committees (WDCs) whose membership should also include youths. S2

[14] 2019-01: The Minister of Justice in Zambia, announced during a press briefing at Ministry of Justice that the Public Order Act bill would be submitted to Cabinet for approval of proposed amendments by the citizens.

Local authorities

[27] 2018-11: The councillor in Kapwepwe ward 25 increased youth participation in public meetings where the Councillor receive ideas. In this he has applied the draft national policy clause requiring 50% participation of young people in decision making platforms. S1

SMART   S1: substantiated by one source   S2: substantiated by two sources;   White background: outcome leads

Zimbabwe AWW outcomes

AWW contributors

Target groups "Civil Society"

Multi-Stakeholder groups

Final "beneficiaries"

Target Group "Government/ Parliament/Authorities"

AWW contributors

- AWW/AADK (also Lacerda in Mozambique)
- AWW country staff (plus Global Platform)
- AA country offices (not AWW staff)
- AA International
- Regional Partner SADC-CNGO
- Regional Partner ECOWAS
- Regional Partner WACSOF
- Research Partner MPOI
- Media Partner MFWA

CSOs/NGOs

[43] 2018-03: After the signing of ACDEG on the 18 of March 2018 by the **new president in Zimbabwe,** various CSOs as well as Activista published a joint press statement highlighting the importance of the procedures of ACDEG and the importance to ratify it and domesticating it. [S1]

Trained Youth

[120] 2018-06: 50 Activista members were observing the election process at polling stations, watching the counting of the votes and reporting on election conduct. [S2]

[176] 2018-02: Trained Activista wrote articles on ACDEG [S2]

[174] 2019-06. Activistas from Zimbabwe translated the ACDEG charter into 3 languages namely Shona, Ndebele and Tonga. [S2]

[196] 2020-09: A Zimbabwean youth activist, participated in a panel at the high level side event at the UNGA [S1]

[28] 2018-03: Online platforms and state-owned print media started to publish articles on ACDEG [S1]

Multi-Stakeholder : CSO-Youth Leaders/youth

Multi-Stakeholder : Media-Youth Leaders

Multi-Stakeholder : Media-CSOs-Public-Governent

Public/Citizens

Youth

Continental bodies: e.g. AU engaging, supporting advocacy for ACDEG

AU-PRC

[169] 2018-10: The PRC ambassador from Zimbabwe in Addis Ababa met the AWW/AADK project team and representatives from AA Zimbabwe to discuss the implementation of the ACDEG.

National Government

National Parliament

[175] 2020-09: the **Parliament of Zimbabwe** (PoZ) signed a memorandum of understanding with ActionAid Zimbabwe (AAZ) to cooperate on the implementation of ACDEG. [S1]

[99] 2019-07: 6 Members of Parliament expressed their commitment to discuss the charter at parliament and ministry level and asked AAZim to further train the parliament on ACDEG. [S1]

Local authorities

SMART　S1: substantiated by one source　S2: substantiated by two sources;　White background: outcome leads

Mozambique AWW outcomes

Target Group "Government/Parliament/Authorities"

Continental bodies: e.g. AU engaging, supporting advocacy for ACDEG

AU-PRC

[168] 2018-10: The **PRC ambassador from Mozambique** met with the AWW team to update him on ACDEG and raise the voice of CSOs, for example on sharing information with CSOs on ACDEG.

Regional government bodies

National Government

[19] 2017-11: The **Director in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mozambique** announced in his cabinet in a courtesy meeting with Mozambique that they will release periodic reports on the progress of the implementation of the ACDEG and other protocols or conventions.

National Parliament

Local authorities

[185] 2020-11: The new **District Government of Chibuto** invited AAMoz partner Christian Council Mozambique (CCM-Gaza) and members of the CSO Platform of Chibuto for a meeting to reintroducing ACDEG for them.

[236] 2020-7 In Gaza Province, the **Permanent Secretary António Luciano Mucavele (government official at district level)** has asked CCM-Gaza to engage him in the next training course on ACDEG.

[237] 2019-1 The **local governments in 19 communities** in Gaza Province are organising regular hearings with the communities based on the community score cards to address their needs.

Final "beneficiaries"

Public/Citizens

Youth

Multi-Stakeholder groups

Multi-Stakeholder : CSO-Youth Leaders/youth

[146] 2019-1: Several CSOs as well as Activista established a task force with the purpose of doing coordinated advocacy for domestication and implementation of ACDEG in Mozambique.

Multi-Stakeholder : Media-Youth Leaders

Multi-Stakeholder : Media-CSOs-Public-Governent

Target groups "Civil Society"

CSOs/NGOs

[15] 2019-4: A **group of 20 Activista representing 8 NGOs** in Mozambique, established a task force which is monitoring implementation of ACDEG in Mozambique.

[82] 2018-11: 8 CSOs, members of the Transparency and Tax Justice Coalition organised road shows using forum theatre and songs to inform about the ACDEG, raising awareness to 2302 citizens.

Youth Leaders

[137] 2018-09: 15 members of Activista carried out 2 interface meetings with election candidates from all participating political parties where they presented youth/women manifestos leading up to the municipal elections in October 2018 to influence pro-youth agendas.

[184] 2020-11: 30 trained Activista developed a position paper on ACDEG implementation and submitted it to the Maputo Provincial Government to influence provincial government to take in consideration provisions in the ACDEG

[138] 2018-10: 120 Activista members were participating as electoral observers during the municipality election in Maputo, Inhambane and Cabo Delgado provinces

Media / Journalists

[128] 2018-11: The **Media Institute for Southern Africa (MISA)** replicated the training of journalists developed by MFWA on the ACDEG for 25 more journalists with participants from the provinces of Maputo, Gaza, Inhambane and Cabo Delgado in Mozambique.

AWW contributors

AWW/AADK (also Lacerda in Mozambique)

AWW country staff (plus Global Platform)

AA country offices (not AWW staff)

AA International

Regional Partner SADC-CNGO

Regional Partner ECOWAS

Regional Partner WACSOF

Research Partner MPOI

Media Partner MFWA

Strategic Partners

CCM Gaza

SMART   S1: substantiated by one source   S2: substantiated by two sources;   White background: outcome leads

"Continental" and regional AWW outcomes

Country outcomes contributing at regional / continental levels

AWW contributors

- AWW/AADK (also Lacerda in Mozambique)
- AWW country staff (plus Global Platform)
- AA country offices (not AWW staff)
- AA International
- Regional Partner SADC-CNGO
- Regional Partner ECOWAS
- Regional Partner WACSOF
- Research Partner MPOI
- Media Partner MFWA

Strategic Partners
- CIVICUS
- Africans Rising

AU

AU / AA / AWW Formal agreements

[46] 2017-07-14: **AU AGA Secretariat signs MoU with AA** International in July 2017 — S1

[31] 2019-02: **AU-DPA agrees Action Plan with AAI** representing AWW project [EACSOF, SADC-CNGO, WACSOF] — S1

AU DPA / AGA Sec participate in key AWW events

[101] 2017-05: **AU DPA / the AGA Secretariat** participate in the AWW project inception meeting in Kenya [EACSOF, SADC-CNGO, WACSOF] — S1

[91] 2017-08: **AU-DPA** participates in conceptualizing the CSO training on ACDEG and endorses the CSO training curriculum — S1

[96] 2017-09 : **AU-DPA and EAC Sec** participate in a **workshop on electoral accountability** organised by AADK [EACSOF, SADC-CNGO, WACSOF] — S1

[95] 2017-12: **AU-DPA Director** participating in SADC civil society forum [SADC-CNGO] — S1

[167] 2018-04: **AGA Secretariat, EAC and SADC-REC** participate in the AWW annual reflection meeting in Ghana [EACSOF, SADC-CNGO, WACSOF, MFWA, MPOI] — S1

[11] 2019-02: **AU-DPA Directors and AGA Secretariat** participate in the AWW side event, AU summit, Addis Ababa [EACSOF, SADC-CNGO, WACSOF, MFWA, MPOI] — S1

[136] 2020-02: **AGA Secretariat and AU APRM** engage in the **AU pre-summit side event** hosted by the AWW project [EACSOF, SADC-CNGO, WACSOF, MFWA, MPOI] — S1

AU invites AWW to key events

[103] 2017-12: **AU** invites AWW to participate in HLPD in South Africa, on youth participation and representation in governance [EACSOF, WALSOF, MPOI] — S1

[29] 2018-11: **AGA Secretariat** invites the AWW to participate in a high level political forum (HLPD) in Botswana [EACSOF, SADC-CNGO, WACSOF] — S1

AU invites youth / Youth Consultations

[118] 2018-08: **AGA** invites youth leaders to participate and present a **position paper at the regional Youth Consultations** for EA, SA and West Africa in Dakar, Senegal, and Gaborone, Botswana. — S1

[214] 2020: **AU** appoints Southern Africa Youth Forum (SAYoF-SADC) to represent SADC Youth within the Africa Youth Front on COVID-19 (AYFC) — S1

Collaboration of AU organs APRM, ECOSOCC, CIDA

[38] 2019-03: **AU-APRM** invites AWW project to collaborate within the APRM process and contribute to the development of the African Governance Report [MPOI] — S1

[224] 2019-07/18/19: **AU-APRM** helps facilitate a regional journalist training in Addis Ababa Gaps in outcome and contribution — S1

[230] 2020-01: **AU-APRM** agrees to work with the AWW project on advocacy for ACDEG in Uganda. — S1

[119] 2017-11-29: **AU-UN** delegation in Zimbabwe invites Zimbabwen youth to AU/EU summit — S1

[105] 2017-07-06: **AU-CIDO** meets with AWW team to discuss their support of ACDEG domestication — S1

[226] 2020-06: **AU-ECOSOCC** shows interest in a closer cooperation between AA offices and national ECOSOCC counterparts

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Regional governments

Regional government bodies EAC

[97] 2018-02: **EAC** invites AWW partners and Africans Rising to a meeting and commits to collaborate on advocating for the implementation of ACDEG [EACSOF] — S1

[161] 2018-11-02 : **Speaker of EALA** allows youth from East African Youth Councils to hold a parliamentary session at EALA chambers (East African Youths Parliament) — S1

[115] 2018-12-17: **EALA** invites youth and media practitioners to present their petition at EALA chambers — S1

[193] 2019-09-26: **EALA invites EACSOF** to present a petition verbally before the General Purpose Committee and realease press statement mentioning EACSOF [EACSOF] — S1

Regional government bodies SADC

[22] 2018-08: **CSO members of SADC-CNGO** include demands from ACTIVISTA in their position paper — S1

[106] 2018-??: **SADC Electoral Commission Forum (ECF)** engages in AWW activities [SADC-CNGO]

Regional government bodies ECOWAS

[98] 2017: **ECOWAS** president meets AWW delegation introducing AWW project and ACDEG implementation [WACSOF]

[220] ??: **ECOWAS** requests AWW team to facilitate a stakeholder meeting in Senegal convening journalists, civil society and government officials [WACSOF?]

AU-PRC

[32] 2017-08: **AU Director of Political Affairs Dr. Kabele** AU-PRC has formed a committee on ACDEG implementation in November 2018. [EACSOF, SADC-CNGO, WACSOF] — S1

[33] 2018-10: **PRC ambassadors from Zambia** are willing to meet with AWW team at continental &national level.

[168] 2018-10: **PRC ambassador from Mozambique** engages with the AWW project — S1

[169] 2018-10: **PRC ambassador from Zimbabwe** engages with the AWW project — S1

[190] 2018-07 & 2018-10, & 2019-10 **AU-PRC in Addis Ababa** met with AA Sierra Leone and committed to support the work of AWW — S1

[191] 2018-11-08: **Ghanaian representative to the AU-PRC** meets with AA Ghana in Addis Ababa and provides advise — S1

[192] 2018-11: **PRC ambassador from Nigeria** engages with the AWW project and sends letter to Nigeria MFA AU Devision (linked to [21]) — S2

Civil society

Public/Citizens (across Africa)

pan — [8] 2019-02: **African citizens** engage in ACDEG discussions on **twitter in relation to an AWW side-event** at the African Union [MFWA] — S?

Youth leaders & youths (regional or across)

pan — [56] 2020-08: **Youth across 55 countries of Africa** get engaged in the continental social media campaign (ACDEG 55 Campaign) [Activista Nigeria] — S1

EA — [152] 2017-12-11: **Youth network leaders** across the EAC region establish an EACSOF Youth Working Group on ACDEG implementation [EACSOF] — S1

EA — [10] 2018-11-17 **Youth activists from country Youth Councils across East Africa** establish the regional East African Youth Council [EACSOF]

EA — [114] 2018-11-17 **70 East African youths** develop a petition to EALA at the conclusion of the EA Youth Caravan — S1

SA — [213] 2020-08: **1200 young people** participate in SADC youth forum

WA — 2018 OH8ND2?1 **Increase in the WA region in number of youths** advocating for the implementation of the ACDEG [Nick]

CSOs/NGOs (pan-African or int. NGOs)

pan — [104] 2018-01: **GIMAC (thematic CSO network)** inviting AWW team and AA Nigeria and AA Zimbabwe in AU annual summit side event — S1

pan — [34] 2018-10-24: High interest from **CSOs in AWW's side event** at the African Commission of the Human and Peoples Rights in Banjul, Gambia. [WACSOF] — S1

SA — [12] 2019-01: **CSO members of the SADC-CNGO** sent a statement to the Zimbabwean embassies in Lusaka, Maputo and Gaborone the calling for an end of the attacks on civil society — S2

Multi-Stakeholder : Media-CSOs-Public-Government

pan — [221] 2017-08: **AU Director of Political Affairs Dr. Kabele Metlosa and 300 CSO participants** take part in the launch of the AWW project at the 13th Civil Society Forum [SADC-CNGO] — S2

SA — [94] 2017-12: **CSO/NGO, policy and trade union representatives** participate in SADC-CNGO consultative meeting [SADC-CNGO] — S2

Multilateral bodies (UN)

pan — [36] 0218-06: **UNECA demonstrates interest in Citizen Report Methodology** during AWW-PRC engagement in Addis Ababa [MPOI] — S1

pan — [198] 2020-02: **UNECA** invites AWW to present at The Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development — S1

Europe

EU — [120] : 2019-02-14: **The European Parliament** adopted a position calling for an end of the attacks on civil society in Zimbabwe — S2

Country outcomes contributing at regional / continental levels

National Youth Leaders

[196] 2020-09: **Youth Activist from Activista Zimbabwe** participates in high level side event at the UNGA in 2020 — S1

[22] 2018-08: **Activista from 9 SADC countries** put forward demands in a position paper on the SDGs

2018-08 -15co17 : OH8ND235 A youth from Zambia presents a position paper on the ACDEG at the AU Youth Consultations for East and South Africa in Botswana — S1

2018-08 -15co17 : OH8ND233 A youth from Tanzania presents a position paper on the ACDEG at the AU Youth Consultations for East and South Africa in Botswana — S1

2018-08-29co31: OH8ND234 A youth from Sierra Leone presents position paper on the ACDEG at the AU Youth Consultations for West Africa in Dakar and for Central/North Africa in Tunis. — S1

National Media / Journalists

[76] 20??-??: **Zambian TV station MUVI-TV** participated and covered the SADC-CNGO side event at the SADC summit

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Other national countries (not AWW focus)
Not in scope of evaluation

WA — [17] 2018-10: The **Vice President of The Gambia** announced ratification of ACDEG [WACSOF]

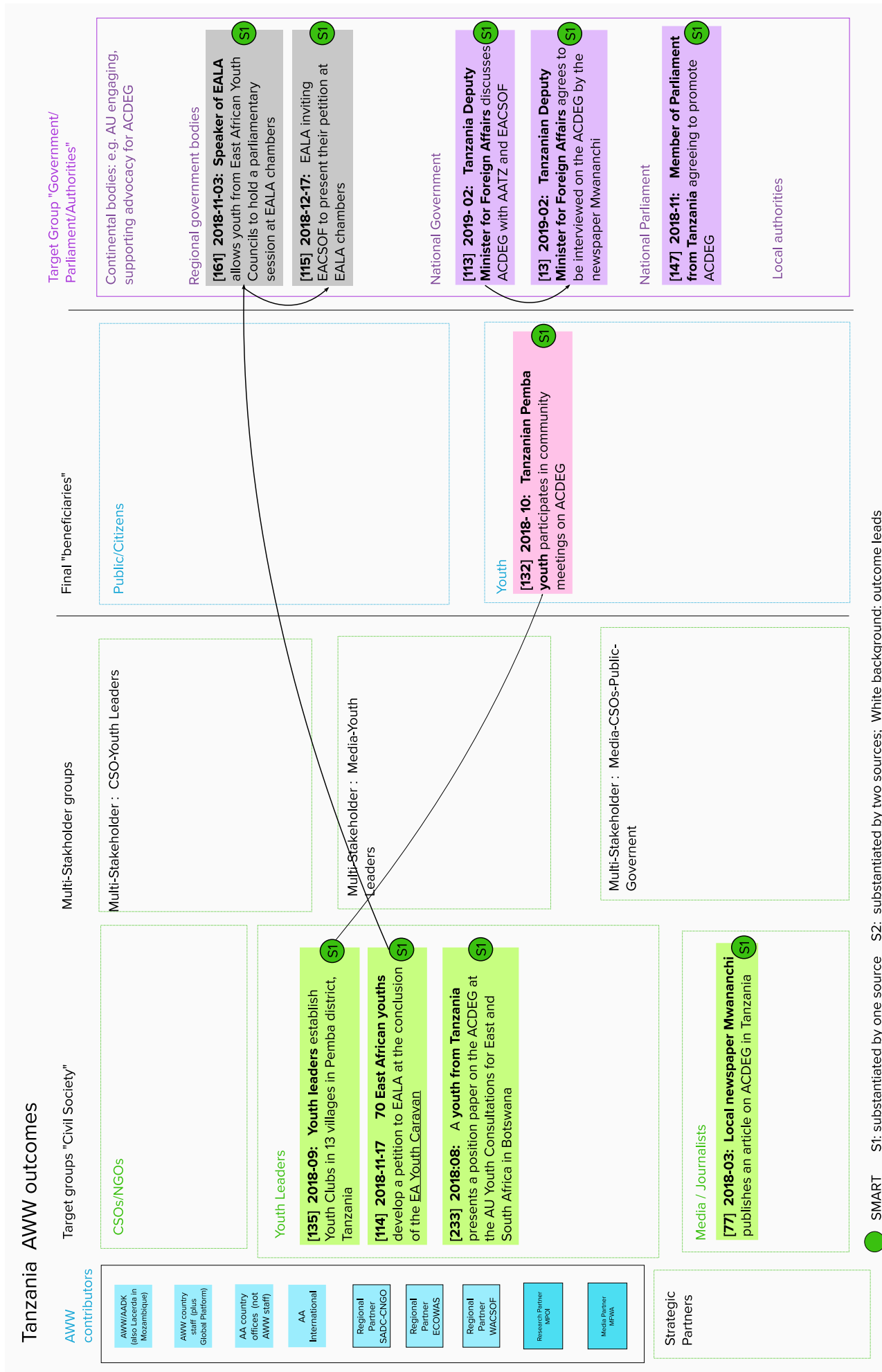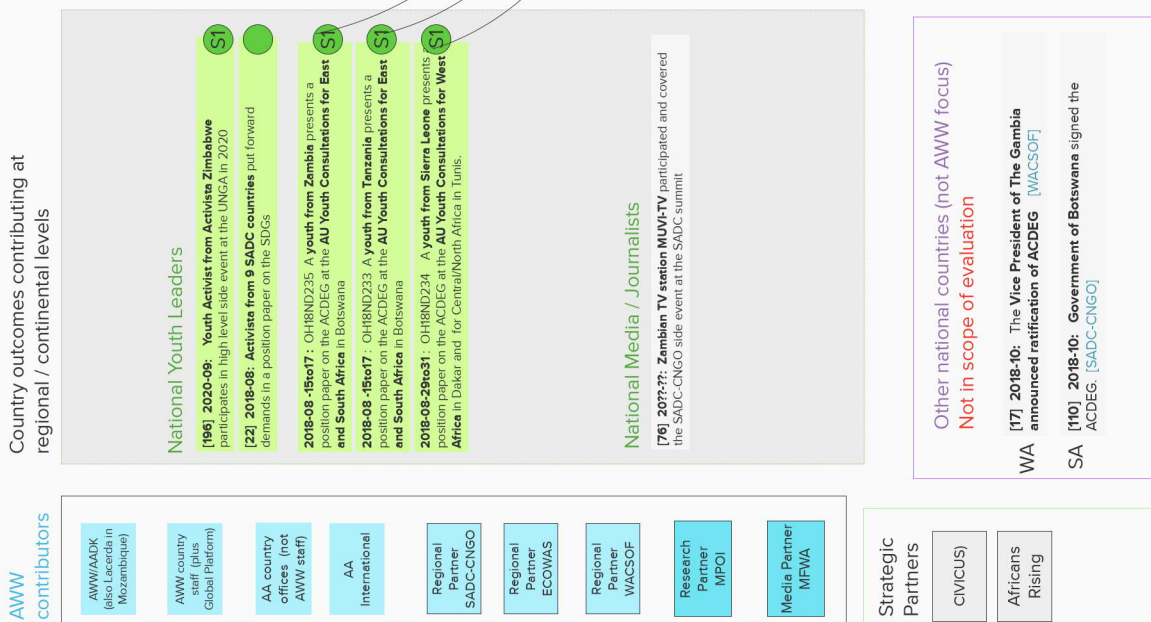SA — [110] 2018-10: **Government of Botswana** signed the ACDEG. [SADC-CNGO]

SMART   S1: substantiated by one source   S2: substantiated by two sources;   White background: outcome leads

Unframed area: substantiated by two sources; White background: outcome leads