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News release

Data for Governance Alliance concludes CSO training, forging ahead with its mandate to promote data-based advocacy

The Afrobarometer-led and EU-funded Data for Governance Alliance (D4GA) concluded its data analysis training for 20 civil society organisation (CSO) representatives from Southern Africa on Tuesday.

The two-day workshop brought together eight pan-African CSOs – CDD Mozambique, Center for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation, Democracy Development Program, Democracy Works Foundation, Good Governance Africa, Institute for Public Policy Research, Shikamo, and Sivio Institute. Pan-African Parliament (PAP) representatives also participated.

The training equipped participants with skills in research design, survey methodology, and data visualisation and interpretation as part of the D4GA project's objective of promoting data-based advocacy and engagement between pan-African CSOs and African Union organs. Participants were also introduced to Afrobarometer's free online data analysis tool, enabling them to analyse and translate data on public attitudes.

Reflecting on the importance of the training, D4GA project leader for Southern Africa Nyasha Mpani said, "The training of our CSO partners on data analysis by our lead organisation, Afrobarometer, not only strengthens the Data for Governance Alliance's mission, but also invigorates our project's essential objectives.

"Arming our CSOs with the skills to harness, analyse, and leverage data tools propels our collective goal: crafting evidence-based advocacy strategies that fortify democracy, uphold human rights, and foster good governance across Africa."

"The training has been an opportunity for networking and learning how to apply Afrobarometer data to strengthen my research and advocacy work in Mozambique," said Americo Maluana, programme coordinator for CDD Mozambique.

Rebekah Cross, coordinator at the Sivio Institute, commented, "It has been a pleasure diving deeper and gaining a fundamental understanding of the Afrobarometer data, and I am excited to use the data for my work projects."

Explaining the focus on civil society, Thomas Isbell, capacity building manager for Afrobarometer, said, "The Afrobarometer capacity building unit recognises that CSOs play an important role in providing information and advocacy, but also in holding those in power accountable, and we hope that Afrobarometer data can assist and embolden CSOs in this important role."

"The workshop was very interactive, and the diversity of professional backgrounds and perspectives that participants brought to the event added richness to the discussions," Isbell added.

The programme was hosted at the University of Pretoria's Future Africa, a pan-African research institute pioneering approaches to research and innovation on the continent and beyond.



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About Data for Governance Alliance

The Data for Governance Alliance is a four-year project that promotes data-based advocacy and engagement between pan-African civil society organisations (CSOs) and African Union organs. The project is led by Afrobarometer with partners including the Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana), the Institute for Development Studies at the University of Nairobi, the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation, and Laws.Africa. The project is funded by the European Union.

About Afrobarometer

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Nine survey rounds in up to 42 countries have been completed since 1999. Round 9 surveys (2021/2023) cover 39 countries. Afrobarometer's national partners conduct face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples of 1,200-2,400.

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Data for Governance Alliance consortium partners



Afrobarometer (AB) is a pan-African, non-partisan survey research network, headquartered in Accra, Ghana, that conducts surveys, analysis, outreach, and capacity building on democracy, governance, freedom, and related issues across Africa. AB's work is grounded in its vision of "a world in which Africa's development is anchored in the realities and aspirations of its people." Website: <https://afrobarometer.org/>



The Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana), based in Accra, Ghana, focuses on the promotion of democracy, good governance, and economic openness in Ghana and Africa through investments in research and advocacy, outreach, and strategic dialogue and engagement within and between government, the private sector, and other key actors. CDD-Ghana is also an AB core partner. Website: <https://cddgh.org/>



The **Institute for Development Studies (IDS)**, based at the University of Nairobi in Kenya, is a multi-disciplinary research and training institute. Its focus is on promoting socio-economic and political development in East Africa through the application of research findings to development policies and promoting dialogue across public, private, and non-state actors. IDS is an AB core partner. Website: <https://ids.uonbi.ac.ke/university-nairobi>.



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The **Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR)**, based in Cape Town, South Africa, is one of Africa's leading transitional-justice organisations. Born out of the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission, IJR uses inclusive and multi-stakeholder dialogue as a foundation to constructively engage on harmful legacies of the past. IJR is an AB core partner. Website: <https://www.ijr.org.za>



Laws.Africa, based in South Africa, focuses on addressing Africa's deficiency in access to reliable legal material on human rights, the environment, commerce, and technology. Laws.Africa develops legal technology solutions and digitises and publishes high-quality and accurate African government gazettes, updated legislation, and case law to partners and audiences in Africa and the world. Website: <https://laws.africa/>