CREATING LINKAGES BETWEEN RESEARCH, ADVOCACY AND MEDIA

Pro-Poor Policy Development and Accountability

Convening Report – South Africa, 27 June 2011

CIVICUS
World Alliance for Citizen Participation

Southern Africa Trust
Influencing Policies To End Poverty

Table of Contents

1. Background and Introduction

In October 2010, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (Gates Foundation) gave a grant to the Southern Africa Trust to implement a project aimed at creating linkages between research, advocacy and media. In the initial implementation of the project, a scoping study and a baseline survey were conducted from the end of March 2011 to the middle of April 2011.

During the month of June, 2011, the Trust convened a series of meetings at both national and regional levels. The first regional meeting that brought together leaders and practitioners from media, research and advocacy and from the six project focus countries was held on 7 June 2011. The purpose of this regional meeting was to provide further information about the project concept including the proposed strategies as well as proposed project implementation arrangements and to share the emerging findings of the scoping study and the baseline survey conducted between March and April 2011. The meeting agreed that national meetings be held as scheduled and organizations co-host the meetings with Southern Africa Trust and agreed. These were Civicus in South Africa, Malawi Economic Justice Network (MEJN) for Malawi, Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF) for Kenya, NGO Forum for Uganda, Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) for Tanzania and STAR-Ghana for Ghana. The national meetings were held on 15 June in Ghana, 17 June in Malawi, 20 June in Tanzania, 22 June in Uganda, 24 June in Kenya and 27 June in South Africa.

This report summarizes the deliberations of the meeting held in South Africa 27 June 2011 in Midrand, South Africa. Participants to the meeting were drawn from advocacy, research and media organizations in South Africa. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the project to stakeholders in South Africa and discuss how this project could be implemented in South Africa.

2. Opening Session

The meeting was opened by Mandeep Tiwana, the Policy Manager of CIVICUS. In his welcoming remarks, he thanked all the participants for their presence and highlighted the importance of the meeting in supporting linkages between pro-poor policy research, advocacy, and media work. He then introduced CIVICUS as an international alliance dedicated to strengthening citizen action and civil society around the world and highlighted the various projects of CIVICUS in South Africa.

Mandeep indicated that the Southern Africa Trust project, supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation on creating linkages between research, media and advocacy groupings, intends to develop opportunities and platforms to build innovative, scaled-up, more coherent and value-adding working relationships between different types of critical state and non-state actors including researchers, civil society advocacy groups, platforms of affected people, the media and policy makers.

Mandeep also pointed out that the project would cover the following thematic areas:
- Agricultural productivity for household-level food security,
- Resource mobilization and better allocation and distribution of resources (optimizing financing for development),
- Delivery of basic and social services, and inclusive, participatory, and transparent governance for better development results (cross-cutting).

3. Overview of the Project

Themba Mhlongo, who is the Head of Programmes at the Southern Africa Trust, gave an overview of the project. He explained that poverty reduction policies are often driven by political opinions, ideologies, and even donors. The poor people are rarely consulted and not given an opportunity to express their views. Hence, their views are not considered or reflected in policies.

With regards to civil society organizations (CSOs), he pointed out that while they are seen to give the voice to the poor, they struggle with several limitations that hinder the poor people's problems

Themba Mhlongo introducing the project

from being heard and, hence, from being addressed. Accordingly, civil society organizations are unable to hold their governments accountable in terms of service delivery. Even with financial support, civil society organizations are unable to be effective because of a lack of capacity.

He further emphasized that, since there is a push to make poverty reduction policies more evidence based and more linked to the poor, mounting support has been given to sustain
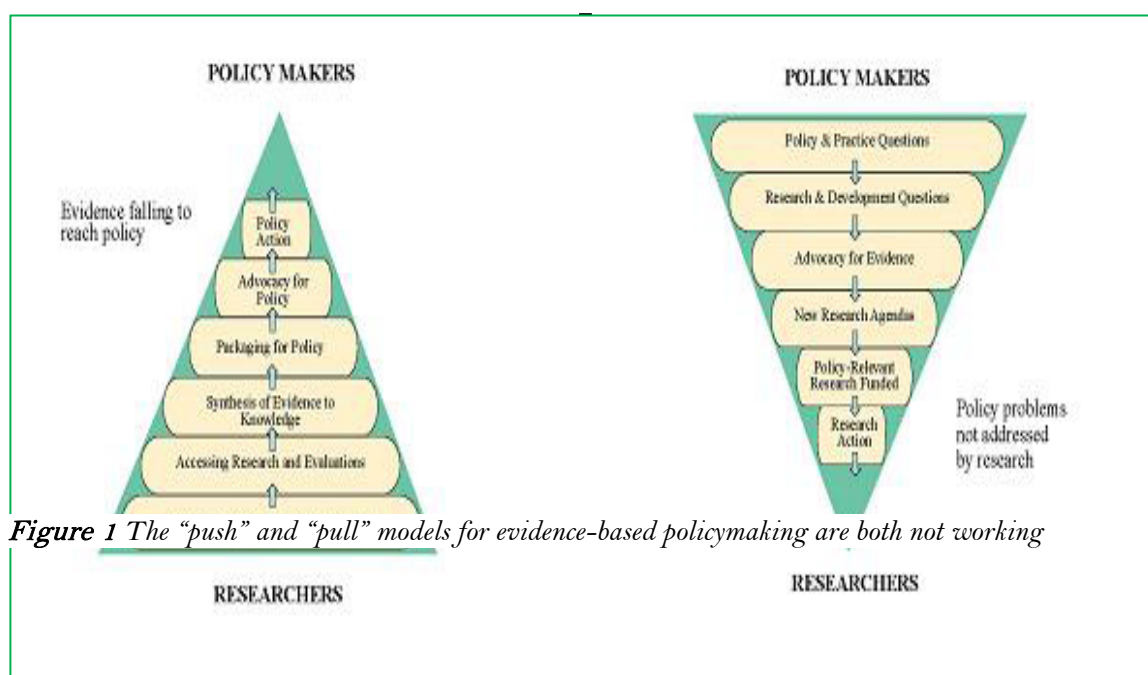

Figure 1 *The "push" and "pull" models for evidence-based policymaking are both not working*

innovation in knowledge transmission so that the interface between research outcomes and policy development is made easier and more likely. However, research findings rarely reach policy-makers. In fact, there is a general failure in the "push" model (see graph above) for policy influencing where researchers try to influence policy; and in the "pull" model where policy makers direct research agendas to get policy relevant research outcomes. The two groups – researchers and policy makers– lack the adequate skills and opportunities to influence each

other. And, as they rarely find common language and forums to interact, they seldom share common motivations that drive their primary interests.

During the discussions, the role of the media was debated. Some participants held the view that the media can be a great influence in pro-poor policy-making and advocacy and has the clout in terms of disseminating knowledge, data, truths, facts and realities of poverty in Africa. Others maintained that the media is too focused on controversial, "attention-grabbing" sensational and, at times, inane stories as opposed to research that has been done about overcoming poverty or show-casing the level of poverty in a particular community. The issue of media freedom was also raised and it was pointed out that the media in certain countries do not enjoy the freedom of expression that other countries enjoy. Hence, the information circulated to the public is not without censorship.

It was also pointed out that the missing component for conveying the experiences of people living in poverty into effective and sustained policy change is the "agency" of social organizations representing voices of the poor themselves. Civil society organizations that credibly represent interests and voices of poor people can introduce a shared vision between researchers and policy makers. This can bring the social capital to sustain the effectiveness of poverty reduction policies if there are structured relationships of cohesion and accountability between the different actors. These civil society organizations thus hold a key to unlocking the development and implementation of effective poverty reduction policies.
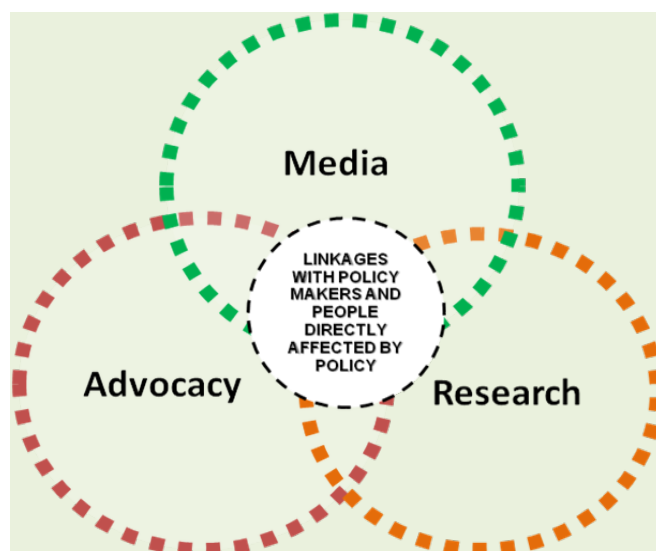
*Figure 2* *Linkages between Advocacy, Media and Research*

Overall, the opening session highlighted the weak relationship between all relevant constituencies including research, advocacy and media groups as one of the constraints to effective policy advocacy. The importance for the media, advocacy and research groups to interact, collaborate and influence each other in terms of formulating and implementing effective and sustainable pro-poor policy in Africa was emphasized. The introduction of "knowledge brokers" mediating between researchers and policy makers emerged as a solution to this problem. However, this is not a panacea to the problem.

As illustrated in Figure 2, when the three groups work effectively together and are able to influence each other, linkages with policy-makers and the people directly affected by poverty are built. Consequently, pro-poor policy advocacy ensues.

It was also explained that the circles are all porous because each of the groups carry out the different activity of advocacy, research and information dissemination to various degrees.

The advocacy value chain (see Figure 3) was also discussed. This value chain is between the different civil society groups and the need for a targeted initiative to create opportunities and platforms to build innovative, scaled-up, more coherent and value-adding working relationships between the different types of civil society formations doing policy advocacy work. These include researchers and think tanks, civil society campaigning and advocacy groups, platforms of affected people, the media, and other non-governmental organizations. All these need to link with access to the appropriate policy makers. A value chain involving different civil society formations for more effective policy advocacy outcomes needs to be deliberately developed amongst the research, advocacy, and media practitioners, as represented in Figure 3.
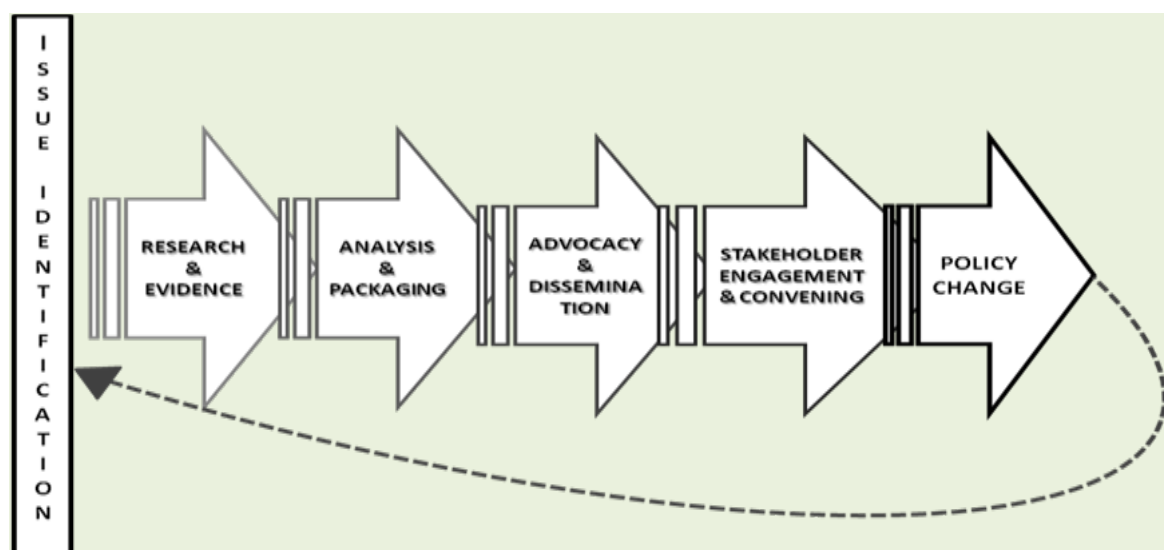
Figure 3 **The Value Chain Model**

This value chain model is a simplified illustration whereby each of the arrows in Figure 3 represents a function of a different type of core organizational competence that is required for more effective civil society policy advocacy. The illustration does not, by any means, expect that a civil society organization may be able to adequately perform the full spectrum of functions in the policy advocacy chain. When this occurs, weak policy advocacy initiatives by civil society organizations focusing on the above advocacy functions occurs. As a result, the expected policy change and government accountability outcomes cannot be delivered, the development of the civil society sector as a whole is weakened and different types of organizations are pitted against each other in a competition to perform the same functions rather than drawing on the unique strengths and comparative advantage of each different type of organization in a coherent whole. For more effective policy advocacy outcomes, a chain of value adding linkages between different types of partner organizations whose unique strengths in a particular dimension of the policy advocacy chain can be created and harnessed for more effective policy change outcomes.

It was then highlighted that the project aims to create, and strengthen cooperation and linkages between research, advocacy, and media partners for more effective policy advocacy in 6 countries (Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Ghana and South Africa) and that the project had several objectives, outcomes and strategies. The strategies basically aimed to increase the ownership, accessibility, quality, coherence, effectiveness, coordination and visibility in the policy advocacy work of different types of civil society formations.

Based on the objectives, the outcomes of the project were outlined. These included increased:

- knowledge of policy advocacy content issues and processes amongst partners;
- policy-relevant evidence on advocacy issues generated by partners that is based on the experience of people directly affected by the issues;
- use of evidence-based research for policy advocacy by partners;
- engagement between civil society advocacy platforms and policymakers in 6 target countries;
- access to mass media platforms by civil society advocacy platforms and policymaking people and forums in target countries;
- mass media coverage of policy advocacy work of civil society advocacy platforms;
- wider networks and alliances amongst civil society policy advocacy organizations in target countries for more effective policy advocacy outcomes;
- networks of people directly affected by the policy issue ;
- national platforms created for coordination of policy advocacy work by partners;
- shared policy advocacy interventions between research, advocacy, and media partners that draws on the unique resources of each partner; and
- regional network created for coordination of policy advocacy work by partners.

The project strategies to achieve the outcomes include developing policy-relevant knowledge amongst the civil society organizations, creating new linkages, platforms and alliances between different types of civil society formations and facilitating opportunities for policy advocacy engagement between civil society policy advocacy groups and policy makers at national and regional levels. Additionally, the strategies included the institutionalization and formal inclusion of credible pro-poor voice for policy advocacy partners in formal policy development processes, supporting the participation of policy advocacy partners in such forums and creating new opportunities in mass media platforms for pro-poor civil society advocacy voices to be heard and seen by the public.

4. Project Implementation Outline

Outlining the project implementation format, Lusungu Kanchenche, who is the Programmes Operations Manager at the Trust, talked through the specific envisaged activities to be undertaken in implementing the project. These were:

- Assess the context in each of the target countries to understand current initiatives (including specific policy advocacy themes being worked on by civil society organizations), map relationships, identify gaps and opportunities for policy advocacy successes, assess competencies and deficits (assets and needs), identify national lead partners, revise the project design, develop a monitoring and evaluation framework and document the baseline scenario.
- Convene regional thematic-focused platforms of existing partners for mutual information sharing, linking and learning, and improved coordination of efforts.
- Convene a regional platform of national lead partners that will continue for the duration of the project as a standing platform for further project design and implementation plan development.
- Work with national lead partners to convene all national partners to develop learning from current practice and identify policy-relevant advocacy issues for collaborative work.
- Develop additional evidence-based research for further knowledge development on specific policy issues, based on direct engagement with people directly affected by the issue, if significant knowledge gaps in the existing work of partners are identified.
- Establish and populate a standing communications platform for the initiative.
- Establish platforms of people directly affected by the advocacy initiatives being worked on.
- Establish media partnerships with mass media houses for mainstream media coverage.
- Undertake ongoing collaborative policy advocacy initiatives in targeted national (and, where possible, regional) contexts.

Lusungu explained the process of identifying the national lead organizations in the other project focus countries and the key considerations taken into account in nominating the organizations that were:

- Administrative Capacity
- National Standing
- Convening Ability
- Ability to Participate at Regional Level
- Deep Understanding of the Project
- Demonstrable Interest in the Project

She pointed out that the success of the project depends on a number of aspects including assessing the context in each of the target countries to understand current initiatives, relationships, gaps and opportunities for policy advocacy successes. It is also important to assess competencies and deficits, to revise the project design and to develop a monitoring and evaluation framework and to document the baseline scenario and convening regional thematic-
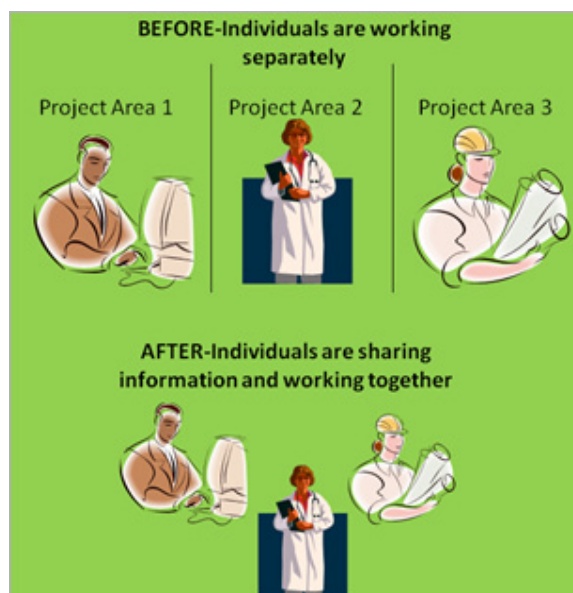
focused platforms of existing partners for mutual information sharing, linking and learning, and improved coordination of efforts.

It was also mentioned that it was important to work with and convene a regional platform of national lead partners that will continue for the duration of the project as a standing platform for further project design and implementation plan development, to develop additional evidence-based research for further knowledge development on specific policy issues and to establish partnerships with the mass media.

5. Opportunities, Challenges and Gaps in Linking Research, Advocacy and Media Work: Sharing Experiences and Ideas

The scoping study that was presented at the convening highlighted general findings concerning the strengthening of cooperation between Research, Advocacy and Media partners for more effective policy advocacy in the 6 countries. In South Africa, the study identified that:

Figure 4 Example of the effectiveness of collaboration

- there is some sense of a broader societal 'policy fatigue' and a questioning of the possibilities for fundamental change on key issues
- Several respondents perceive a closing down of civic and political space as well as reduced government openness to policy advocacy
- There is a general openness to greater collaboration between advocacy, research and media groups, as well as a growing recognition of the need to pool resources in a time of constrained financial resources
- There is a growing contingent of popularly based advocacy formations and alliances, such as the Treatment Action Campaign, Equal Education and the Right2Know Campaign
- Perceived threats to media freedom and rights of expression have rallied civil society around some key rights issues, but there is a sense of drift and lack of social consensus in the wider society

Participants debating on the various issues raised

- Much of the current community mobilization and protests about provision of basic social services is spontaneous or informal and not directly linked to organizations
- Many of the South African based organizations have a wider Southern African or Africa-wide focus and mandate.

There was a general consensus that there is a need for a general openness to greater collaboration between advocacy, research and media groups, as well as a growing recognition of the need to pool resources in a time of constrained financial resources in South Africa. Individuals representing each of the three groups shared cases whereby the need for the three groups to collaborate and work together was recognized and that there is a weak relationship

between all relevant constituencies. This was seen as one of the constraints to doing effective policy advocacy. An example of this weak relationship is illustrated in Figure 4 which shows that, at a specific organization, the three individuals/teams were predominately working within their own projects. Little collaboration and information sharing from each of the project areas occurred and, as a result, important information that could have been used to gain important results was kept (and eventually lost because the information was not effectively used to produce the intended results) within each project. When the individuals/teams began collaborating and building and sharing knowledge with each other, the overall situation improved considerably with better results.

It was agreed that in future this collaborative organizational structure should be the way forward for better co-ordination and maximization of benefits. Many of the organizations represented at the convening indicated that they have some mechanism in place to ensure co-ordination among their different units. However, in some cases it was clear that there was a tendency for organizations to undertake activities in which they had limited expertise instead of concentrating on their core area of competence. For instance, advocacy organizations maintained stating that they had a research unit/team and a communications unit/team. The issue of the capacity of smaller organizations to take on board various activities was raised. It was agreed that the way forward would be that small organization should build partnerships with bigger organizations and to build on the appropriate networks. They should also build partnerships with those groups that might be better placed to take the relevant issues forward.

It was pointed out that the sentiment of a general openness to greater collaboration between advocacy, research and media groups was generally felt across the five other countries whereby coalitions between the three groups have been formed and have been engaging and developing a relationship with policy-makers. However, the intensity of engagement is hindered by aspects such as the suspicion that exists between government and civil society, advocacy groups and the media and the adversarial mindsets among all the stakeholders.

When there is harmonization, a common interest and the formation of a common platform between the media, advocacy groups and research groups, a good working and effective relationship ensues

Another aspect that hinders the intensity of engagement in the six countries is the formation of informalised spaces and mechanisms for policy engagement. This issue was also debated at the convening. The consensus was that, whether the coalitions were engaging with policy-makers within formal or informal forums/platforms, there are many challenges to address. For instance, researchers, advocacy and media practitioners operate in different professional contexts with sometimes divergent frameworks and terms of reference. They may focus on the same socio-economic phenomena such as poverty but they approach it from perspectives with different sets of priorities.

In the case of the media groups for instance, the problem of sustainability in terms of information-sharing was addressed as well the weak media relationship and strategies to disseminate relevant information need to influence policy-making. Additionally, understanding of the media is lacking, hence, this makes collaboration difficult.

For research groups, the information generated needs to be credible, analyzed and demystified. Furthermore, the yielded information should include input by those affected by poverty at both, the national and provincial levels. For the most part, the voices of the poor are not included in the policy-making process; hence they are not adequately reflected in policy pronouncements.

For advocacy groups, the discussion pointed to the fact that the groups need to build on the results that research groups generate so that legitimate, essential and accurate information is disseminated to policy-makers and the public.

The way forward is to recognise these issues and respect these differences as an important basis for successful collaboration in future. These constituencies can create better value when they work together in a collaborative manner and, this opportunity needs to be recognized and exploited in South Africa.

Another challenge that was brought up was that the channels of communication between researchers, advocacy and media practitioners often remain unexplored and underdeveloped because of poor relationships. The solution proposed to overcome these challenges is that, for collaboration to be successful, it must be gradual and preferably be issue or project-specific. One-way communication between researchers and end users/intended beneficiaries of the research output may not be adequate. A two-way engagement dialogue may have the desired impact but, at the same time, one should consider the fact that the information might be "watered down". To avoid such issues, an independent intermediary broker or bridging agency is required to facilitate the creation of these working relationships.

This brokering role and bridging agency could be undertaken by civil society organizations. But once again, there will be limitations to this because civil society organizations are polarized and they are in constant competition with each other. In addition, while their aim is to overcome poverty, civil society organizations often undertake research that is deemed to be not credible. Hence, it is not valued by the policy makers. For the other actors, the perception is that research generated by civil society organizations reflect the government's political aims and this seldom helps to develop effective policies that urgently address the socio-economic situations in the country. However, by adhering to best practices to overcome these limitations, by collaborating with each other and by allowing civil society organizations take the role of bridge-builders and

conveners, understanding between the diverse groups will occur and the importance of collaboration between the three groups to achieve their common agendas with regards to policy advocacy will be recognized.

The scoping study also identified that, while South African-based advocacy groups remain active and vibrant, there is some sense of a broader societal "policy fatigue" and a questioning of the possibilities for fundamental change on key issues. Additionally, a closing down of civic and political space as well as reduced government openness to policy advocacy is perceived and there is a growing contingent of popularly based advocacy formations and alliances (such as the Treatment Action Campaign and the Right2Know Campaign).

With regards to reduced government openness to policy advocacy, increasing the capacity of the groups to interact with decision-makers at all levels (national and provincial) is needed. This would also involve building the appropriate networks and partnerships with the groups that might be better placed to take the issues forward.

Moreover, in South Africa, the perceived threats to media freedom and rights of expression have rallied civil society around some key rights issues, but there is a sense of drift and lack of social consensus in the wider society. Also, much of the current community mobilization and protests is centred on the provision of basic social services as being spontaneous or informal and not directly linked to organizations. In addition to that, the study revealed many South Africa based organizations have wider Southern African or Africa-wide focus and mandate in the country. While these findings were accepted, it was pointed out that some of the challenges of coalition-building were absent. For instance, national coalitions no longer carry national mandates and organizations are undermining the national platforms by forming and carrying out their own mandates through the private sector. This issue needs to be addressed.

6. The Project Thematic Areas

The goal of the project is for civil society groups to be more effective in achieving pro-poor policy change by creating new opportunities for the different types of civil society formations to work together in policy advocacy, and innovation in how they do that, on:

- agricultural productivity for household-level food security,
- resource mobilization and better allocation and distribution of resources (optimizing financing for development),
- delivery of basic and social services, and/or
- inclusive, participatory, and transparent governance for better development results.

With regards to the proposed project thematic areas, the discussion pointed to the fact that agricultural productivity for household-level food security is important and relevant in the South African context. This is a result of its Constitution (Food Security is part of the section 27 Constitutional rights in South Africa), its adherence to the Millennium Declaration to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and the Economic, Social and Cultural rights to name a few. The discussion also pointed to the fact that the issue is so important that it needs to be addressed at the national and regional level. Issues surrounding food security in South Africa need to be emphasized and highlighted, especially by the three groups and, they need to be addressed by the relevant policy-makers.

Regarding resource mobilization and service delivery, the latter is too broad and all the issues involved are inter-linked and multi-dimensional. However, a new method of improving the quality and speed of services delivery is needed and information sharing about this issue needs to occur.

> *Every citizen has the right to have access to sufficient food and water. The state must by legislation and other measures, within its available resources, avail to progressive realization of the right to sufficient food*

7. Concluding Remarks and Way Forward

In conclusion, the meeting agreed on the following:

- There is a need for strategic partnerships of the three groups based on shared objectives to achieve shared interests of influencing policy;
- The differences of the three groups should be respected and perceived as an important basis for successful collaboration in future;
- Media and research groups should be present at such convening;
- The research, media, and advocacy groups have to reform their thinking, structures, and practices/strategies to tailor an inclusive working relationship and the financial support they might receive should be structured to promote this;
- Formal and informal relationship building between the research, media and advocacy groups is a necessity for the work of each constituency to be effective;
- Participating organizations should start working together voluntarily so that the participants can serve as an action group at national and regional levels;
- Communication should be maintained across the entire group in order to continue to share experiences and perspectives; and
- Organizations will be given an opportunity to consider and nominate a national lead organization that will coordinate the project at country level in South Africa.

Annex 1: List of Participants

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1	Amy Taylor	CIVICUS	amy.taylor@civicus.org	+27 11 833 5959
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Annex 2 – Event Evaluations

Evaluation report for the South Africa National Convening on linkages between Research, Advocacy and Media Work for Pro-Poor Policy Development and Accountability – 27th June, 2011.

The Trust co-hosted a convening with CIVICUS
The objectives of the convening were as follows:

- Discuss the project implementation strategies
- Discuss the findings and the recommendations of the recently completed scoping study and baseline survey
- To discuss project implementation arrangements including country and thematic coordination
- Inform the implementation of the overall project for sustainability purposes

The convening was attended by 12 members including 7 members from the Trust (Graph 1). Of this, 13 or 68% were women and 6or 32% were men (Graph 2).

Graph 1: Overview of the Participants
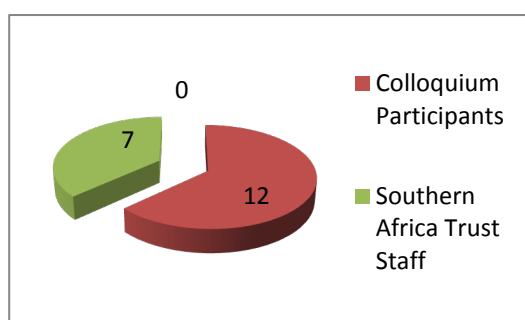
Graph 2: Overview of the Participants by Gender
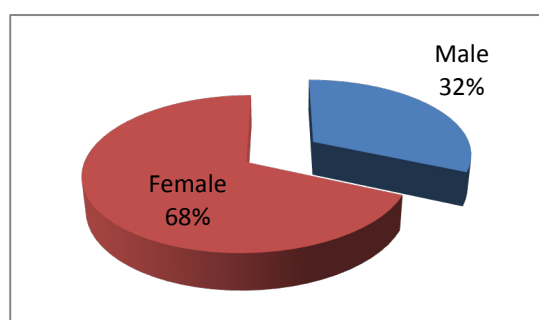
nt by answering questions such as rating the achievements of the objectives for the convening as well as the content, process facilitation, learning, approach, venue and planning.

The results from the evaluation forms have been captured below are presented in graphs with comments captured directly from their responses.

The evaluation was in two sections. _Section A_ (which participants were asked to rate the logistics, planning, facilitation process and whether they had learnt anything new) and _Section B_ (which participants were rating achievement of objectives of the convening)

<u>**SECTION A:**</u>
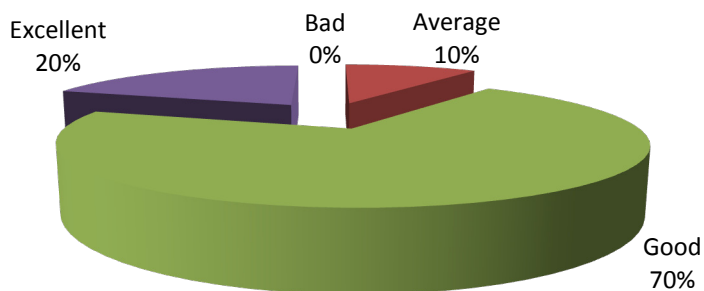A four level scale rating was used as follows:

"Bad"	"Average"	"Good"	"Excellent"

<u>Planning:</u>
On planning done for the convening from their experience as participants, **70%** said it was _**good**_, **20%** said _**excellent**_, and **10%** said _**average**_. None said _**bad**_ (see Graph 3 below)

Graph 3:

How Participants Rated the Planning

Excellent 20%   Bad 0%   Average 10%

Good 70%

Participants Comments

- All logistics were well managed and communicated.
- We need better communication between the organising bodies (i.e Civicus and the Trust).
- The program was a little late, but it did not compromise much.
- This meeting was properly planned prior.
- I think the planning committee for this meeting deserves an applause.
- No previous programme or clarity on objective.

Venue

On the facilities and venue**, 40%** said *good*, none said **average** and **60%** said *excellent*. None rated *bad* (see Graph 4 below).

Graph 4

How Participants Rated the Venue

Bad 0%   Average 0%   Good 40%

Excellent 60%
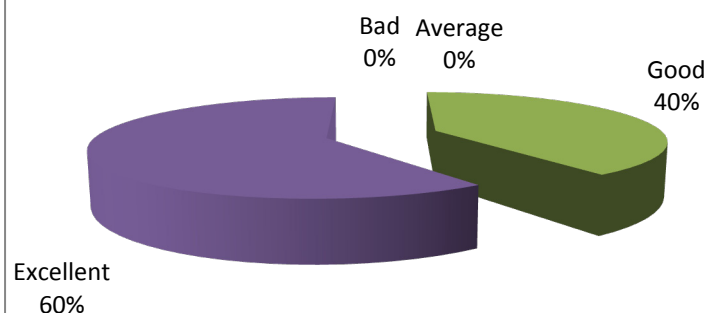
Participants Comments
- It was central enough
- Good location between Pretoria and Johannesburg, good food
- Very accessible to needs and it was really comfortable.
- Good conference facilities

Attitudes

With regards to the attitudes, availability and helpfulness of the conveners, **50%** rated _good_, **30%** rated excellent, **20%** rated _average_. None rated _bad_ (see Graph 5)

Graph 5:

How Participants Rates the Attitudes and Helpfulness of Convenors

Excellent
30%

Bad
0%

Average
20%

Good
50%
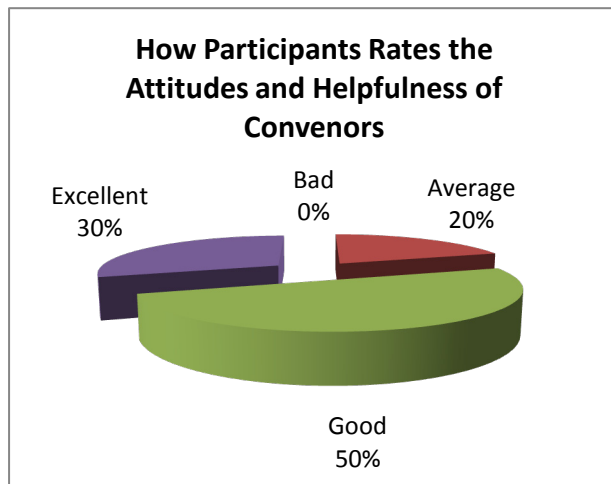
Participants Comments

- Senior management were a privilege to encounter, the logistics team were somewhat distant in terms of partner relations.
- I think they are very passionate about what they do and doing it right.
- I didn't have problems and my questions were promptly attended to in a helpful manner.
- Good planning team coordinated by Dr Mhlongo

Graph 6:

Content

With respect to quality of the event based on content, **90%** rated _good_, none rated _average_ and **10%** rated _excellent_. None rated _bad_ as illustrated in graph 6

How Participants Rated the Content

Excellent
10%

Bad
0%

Average
0%

Good
90%
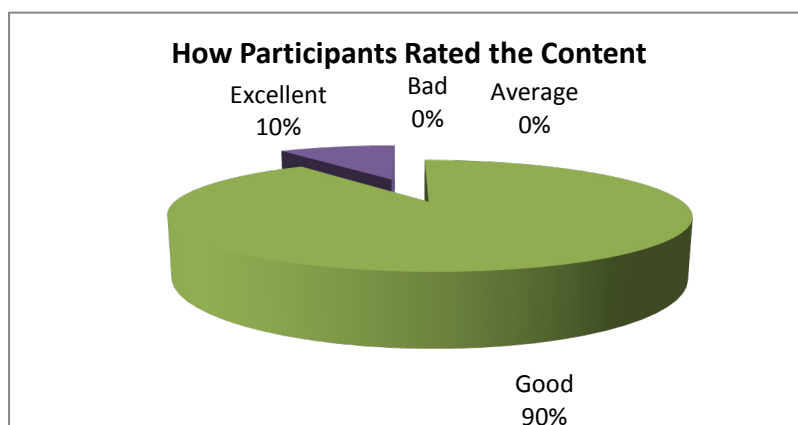
Participants Comments

- Could have been improved with input on experiences from other national meetings.
- Interesting project.
- A unique opportunity for networking and harnessing shared knowledge for change.
- I feel that the content quality was great.

Process

On how the participants experienced the process used to facilitate the event, **56%** rated **_"good"_**, **22%** rated **_excellent_** and another **22%** rated **_average_**. None rated bad (see graph 7)

Graph 7:

How Participants Rated the Process (Overall)

Excellent 22% · Bad 0% · Average 22% · Good 56%
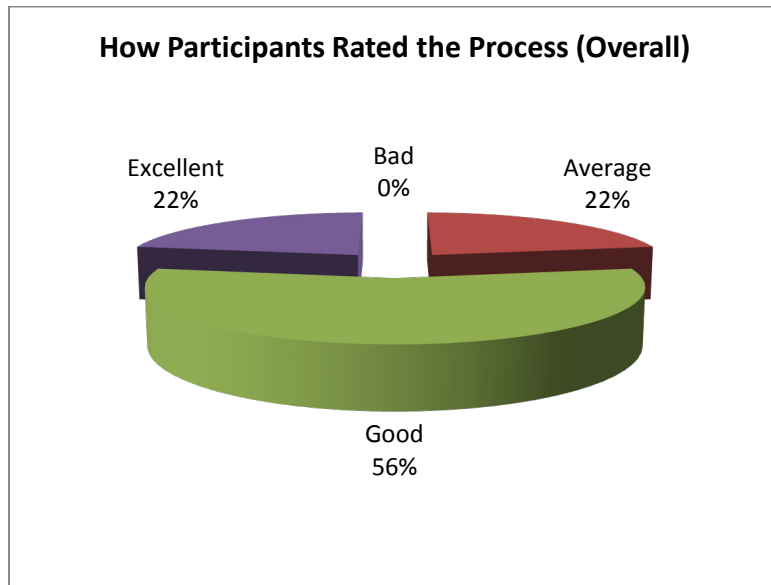
Participants Comments

- Two participants did not fill in the Evaluation forms.

- There was a problem about clarity of objectives between Civicus and the Trust

- There were no time delays which was important.
- Some lapses in linking the presentations, agenda items, the flow of the process and contextual background. Needed more clarity

Learning

The question on whether the participants have learned anything new, **70%** rated **_"yes"_** and **30%** rated **_"no"_**, while another **10**% did not respond (see graph 8)

Graph 8:

Did Participants Learn Anything New?

No 30%

Yes 70%
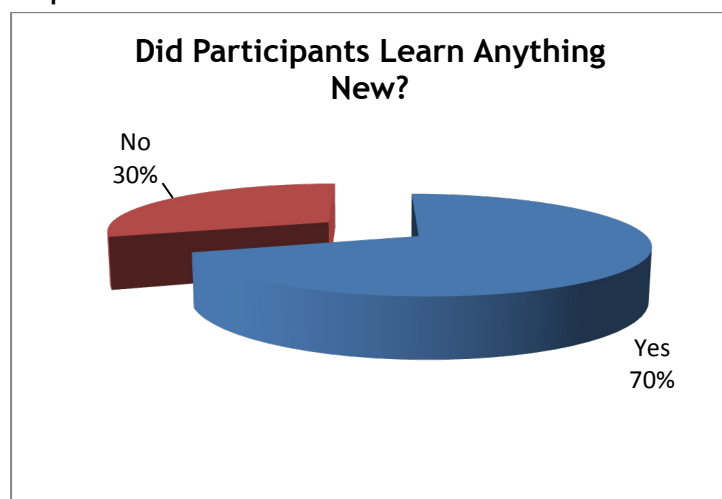
Participants' comments:

- Deeper understanding of challenges in working in a cross sector of civil society within South African context.
- I learnt about pragmatic implementation interventions
- Really interesting and though provoking by a nature of it being a pilot project
- Valuable for surfacing the ongoing needs, efforts and objectives of development advocacy

<u>**SECTION B:**</u>

In this section of the form, participants were asked to rate the achievements of the objectives of the convening. The following four level scale was used:

Yes, fully	Mostly but not fully	Not really	No, not at all

<u>**Objective 1:**</u> **To discuss the project implementation strategies.**

29% of the participants rated *__"yes, fully"__* and **71%** rated *__"mostly but not fully"__*. None rated *__"not really"__* or *__"no, not at all"__*. See graph 9

Graph 9:

Objective 1

No, not at all 0%
Not really 0%

Yes, fully 29%

Mostly but not fully 71%
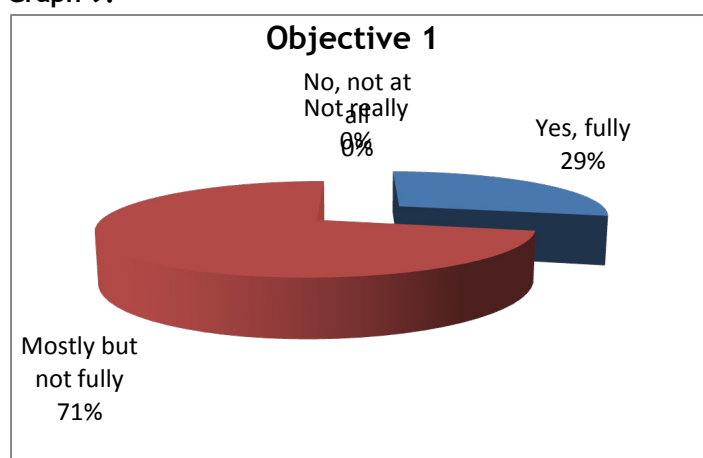
Participants Comments

- Most participants felt that the event was run successfully, and participants were given the opportunity to freely express their views etc.

Objective 2 : **To discuss the findings and the recommendations of the recently completed scoping study and baseline survey**

43% of the participants rated **_"yes, fully"_** and **57%** rated **_"mostly but not fully"._** None rated **_"not really"_** or **_"no, not at all"._** See graph 10

Graph 10:
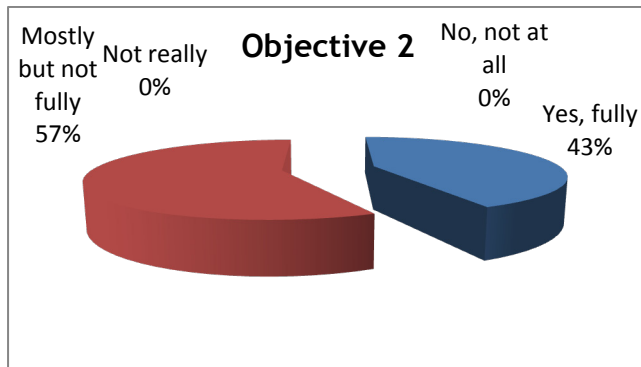
Participants Comments
- Participants felt tables could have been moved or switched more so that they can meet different or new people, with the aim of exchanging ideas and experiences.

Objective 3 : **To discuss project implementation arrangements including country and thematic coordination**

33% of the participants rated **_"yes, fully"_** and **67%** rated **_"mostly but not fully"._** None rated **_"not really"_** or **_"no, not at all"._** See graph 11
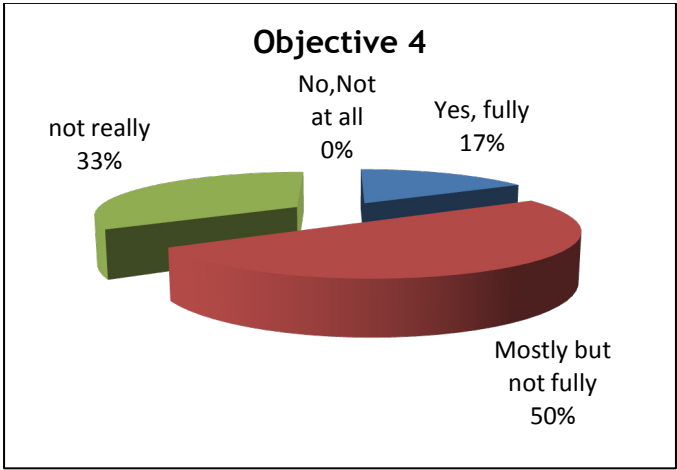
Graph 11:
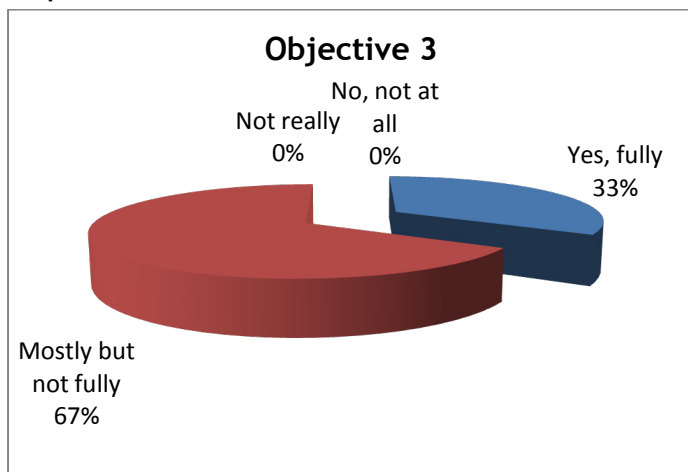
Participants Comments
- Participants felt this needed more analysis as groups produced a list which is not prioritised and not objectively analysed. However, this was deemed as a good start by the participants.

Objective 4 : **To Inform the implementation of the overall project for sustainability purposes**

17% of the participants rated _**"yes, fully"**_, **50%** rated _**"mostly but not fully"**_ _**and 33% rated "not**_ _**really". None rated "no, not at all".**_ See graph 12

Graph 12:

Summary:
Graph 13 below shows the overview of the rating of achievement of objectives. A small proportion indicated negative response of "not really". However, this rating indicates a level of understanding of the project.

Graph13: