

Making Regional Integration Work for the Poor

Interim Impact Assessment of the Southern Africa Trust

2006-2009

**Southern
AfricaTrust**
Influencing Policies To End Poverty



Southern Africa Trust

Highlights from launch to present

March '06

The Trust signs its first grant agreement. The grant was to support the Mail & Guardian newspaper to increase its in-depth coverage of regional poverty issues, working with journalists from across the region. Since then, the Trust has allocated about \$12 million to more than 120 organizations for almost 180 anti-poverty initiatives working in 15 southern African countries.

October '06

The inaugural Drivers of Change award is presented to Dr José Negrão from Mozambique. The award profiles innovative and effective initiatives by civil society groups, businesses, governments, and individuals in southern Africa to overcome poverty. It's now regarded as the premiere annual regional award for innovation in anti-poverty work.



DRIVERS OF CHANGE



March '07

The Trust holds its first donor forum in Gaborone, bringing together all the major regional donors and civil society organizations to discuss the impact that changes in the international aid architecture is having on civil society groups in southern Africa. The donor forum was formalized in March 2009 through follow up discussions.



December '07

The Trust's change4ever campaign is launched. Change4ever is the awareness raising, public participation, and direct-from-public fundraising campaign of the Trust. The former Deputy President of South Africa commended the change4ever campaign in her response to the President's state of the nation address in the national parliament in February 2009.



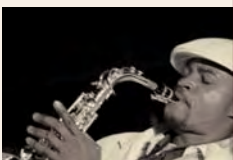
May '07

The Trust works with the Pan African Parliament (PAP) to convene the first PAP consultative dialogue with civil society organizations from throughout the continent. This started a process of ongoing dialogue between citizens groups and the Parliament.



May '06

The Trust is launched through a regional consultation in Johannesburg with about 100 representatives of civil society from across the region to inform the Trust's strategies and areas of work – and a celebration to get it off to a good start.



Southern Africa Trust
Monitoring & Evaluation Baseline
Survey Report

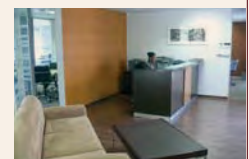


April '07

The Trust's baseline survey report is completed and published. Since then, it has been used to measure the Trust's progress in making the impact that it set out to achieve.

July '07

The Trust moves out of the Development Bank of Southern Africa to its own office.



November '06

The Trust's first national consultation with civil society and government representatives is held in Maputo, to develop strong partnerships at a national level and guide the Trust's work. These national consultations have continued throughout the period. So far, formal national consultations have been held in 10 countries.



April '08

The SADC International Conference and Summit on Poverty and Development was a high point in the Trust's work. Heads of State, government officials, civil society organizations, and business leaders from across the region held roundtable dialogues on strategies to overcome poverty. They drafted a regional poverty reduction strategy, decided to establish a SADC regional poverty observatory, and committed themselves to working together.



July '09

The Trust partners with likeminded African agencies from across the continent to launch the African Grantmakers' Network in Accra.

November '08

The Trust works with informal cross-border traders to establish a regional informal cross-border traders' association in Lilongwe. The forum is now formally convened and actively inserting the voice of poor informal traders from across the region in policy dialogue on regional trade integration.



September '09

The Trust signs its first national memorandum of understanding with a government. It was signed with the Mauritius government and the Mauritius Council of Social Services to support capacity development of civic groups working against poverty.



January '08

The Trust's first policy brief Building Bridges Out of Poverty, is issued. Several policy briefs have been regularly produced and issued since then.

February '09

For the first time, the Trust's annual review of performance is conducted jointly by DFID and CIDA, with an independent external consultant leading the review team. Reviews are conducted annually to assess the Trust's progress towards the purpose for which it was established.

October '09

The Trust launches the Business for Development (B4D) Pathfinder in partnership with the SADC Employers' Group. The B4D Pathfinder is a set of tools to make corporates more effective in working to overcome poverty in the region, through their core business value chain and the markets that they develop.

August '08

The Trust holds a Free to Be concert alongside the SADC summit in Johannesburg, to help counteract the violent attacks against migrants in South Africa. It included a Southern African youth orchestra, especially convened for the concert. This built on the Trust's efforts to mobilize regional civil society organizations to respond to growing xenophobic violence.



August '09

The Trust gets its fourth consecutive unqualified audit report from independent auditors.



Acronyms

APRM	African Peer Review Mechanism
ASCCI	Association of SADC Chambers of Commerce and Industry
B4D	Business for Development
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CISANET	Civil society trade network in Malawi
CONGOMA	Council of Non-Governmental Organisations of Malawi
CONSADC	SADC National Committee of Mozambique
COSATU	Congress of South African Trade Unions
CSOs	Civil society organizations
CURES	Citizens United for Renewable Energy and Sustainability
DANIDA	Danish International Development Aid
DBSA	Development Bank of Southern Africa
DFID	Department for International Development (British)
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EJN	Economic Justice Network
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreement
FANRPAN	Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network
FDC	Foundation for Community Development
FOCCISA	Fellowship of Christian Councils in Southern Africa
FOPRISA	Formative Process Research on Integration in Southern Africa
GCAP	Global Call to Action Against Poverty
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ICBT	Informal cross border trade
ICP	International Cooperating Partners
IPS	Inter Press Service
JCTR	Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MISA	Media Institute of Southern Africa
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OAU	Organization of African Unity
OSISA	Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa
PACSA	Pietermaritzburg Agency for Christian Social Awareness
PAP	Pan African Parliament
PRS	Poverty Reduction Strategy
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
RISDP	Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan
RPO	Regional Poverty Observatory
SABA	Southern Africa Broadcasting Association
SACAU	Southern Africa Confederation of Agricultural Unions
SACU	Southern African Customs Union
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SADC-CNGO	SADC Council of Non-Governmental Organizations
SATUCC	Southern African Trade Union Coordinating Council
SAMCAF	Southern Africa Microfinance and Enterprise Capacity Enhancement Facility
SAPSN	Southern African People's Solidarity Network
SARDC	Southern Africa Research and Documentation Centre
SBF	SADC Business Form
SDC	Swiss Development Cooperation
SEG	SADC Employers' Group
SPII	Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute
TCOE	Trust for Community Outreach and Education
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Aid
ZAR	South African Rands

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Introduction

This report demonstrates that the Southern Africa Trust has delivered substantive progress in all of its planned strategic output areas and made significant progress towards the achievement of its planned outcomes, with clear progress in achieving its overall purpose. It has worked to increase the knowledge base and capacity of the sector, making civil society organizations more effective in their regional policy work.

It has created platforms for dialogue that allow civil society organizations to be active in regional policy processes. It has commissioned and funded research that is evidence based and informed by the experiences of poor people as part of informing the positions of civil society organizations and, in turn, regional policy statements on poverty. It is working to improve the legislative and broader enabling environment in which civil society organizations work. It has also provided significant resources into a sector that has been faced with funding cuts as donor strategies shift.

In the three-and-a-half years that the Trust has been active, significant progress has been achieved to create new opportunities and mechanisms for civil society organizations representing the voices of poor people to participate in regional poverty-focused policy development. And regional policy statements are increasingly reflecting poverty-related concerns put on the agenda through the participation of civil society organizations. On the whole, civil society organizations (including business) are increasingly being recognised by governments and inter-governmental institutions in the region as value-adding partners in poverty reduction and development, rather than adversaries. Through this work, the Trust is developing new approaches to building social cohesion and ensuring social accountability across the region, with governments increasingly becoming more attentive to being accountable and more closely engaged with the citizens of the region.

The report reviews the Southern Africa Trust's progress in achieving its stated impact, outcomes and outputs. It was compiled based on interviews with the Southern Africa Trust team, project partners and donors. Interviews have been supplemented with information extracted from project files and reports.

The report includes an overview of the Trust's strategy and approach, in Section 2. Section 3 details the monitoring, evaluation and impact findings in respect of the 5 strategies and output areas of the Trust, along with their related change objectives. Section 4 focuses on the impact of the Trust's work and its achievements in strengthening the capacity of the civil society sector in pursuing pro-poor change in the region. The report concludes in Section 5 with some indications of how the performance of the Trust will be strengthened in the future.