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THE AFRICA WE WANT PROJECT



Mid-Evaluation Report

August 2019



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1. Introduction

The purpose of this Mid-evaluation report is to draw learning on successful programme strategies by identifying patterns of outcomes, planned for or not, on the Pan-African level and the national level of the Africa We Want project. This will provide important learning for the improvement of programme and advocacy strategies as well as future interventions and document the results of the Africa We Want project for a broader audience. The purpose of this report is thus for internal learning, to qualify and improve advocacy and program strategies for achieving impact.

The report is based on the methodology of Outcome Harvesting and will analyse data from outcomes harvested in the Africa We Want project. Outcome Harvesting is an innovative, flexible and participatory evaluation method, which measures progress not against predetermined outcomes and objectives, but rather by collecting evidence of achievements and working backward to determine whether and how the evaluated project or intervention contributed to the change. This approach is especially useful to evaluate activities undertaken in complex settings, like most policy and advocacy activities. Outcome Harvesting defines outcome as a change in the behaviour — actions, activities, relationships, policies or practices — of one or more societal actors. More information can be found at: <http://outcomeharvesting.net/>

2. Method and design of the harvest

An Outcome Harvest must be designed to be useful, and the Outcome Harvest of the Africa We Want project has been designed to be useful primarily for ActionAid Denmark as project managers and for the EU as project funders. The 13 partners, or co-affiliates of the project, are the change agents, who will be engaged in harvesting the outcomes.

The process of harvesting outcomes in the Africa We Want project began in the middle of the project period (October 2018), where implementation of activities started indicating progress towards the project's outcomes. In the following period 38 outcomes were harvested related to the Africa We Want Project. The process of data collection for this mid-evaluation has thus included to research missions in the end of 2018 to 2 project countries, Zimbabwe and Zambia, in which outcomes were harvested in a participatory manner with project co-participants and partners. It also included a workshop at the Annual Planning and Review Meeting in February 2019 with all the Africa We Want project's co-participants, during which a joint process of harvesting national and regional outcomes and learning was conducted. In March 2019, an outcome harvesting workshop for the Project Management Team of the Africa We Want project was held in March 2019 in order to harvest outcomes achieved through strategic advocacy interventions and at the regional and continental level. Finally, the Africa We Want project's annual narrative report for year 1 of the project has been analysed to draw out outcomes from the first year of implementation.





The Outcome Harvest was conducted by ActionAid Denmark's internal staff: Helene Bach (PME Coordinator), Stine Skøtt Thomsen (M&E Coordinator, The Africa We Want) and Astrid Wiborg Jensen (Project Officer, The Africa We Want). The report will be shared with project partners, ActionAid Denmark and EU, and will also feed data to the development of the project's End-Evaluation Report.

3. Scope and review questions

In the concept note for the Africa We Want Outcome Harvest, it is defined that the exercise will ultimately work towards answering and drawing learnings from the following 10 questions, which has been defined by the Project Management Team of the Africa We Want Project:

- a) Do the outcomes represent patterns of progress towards the overall objective of the project that AU member states are more democratic and accountable to their citizens?
- b) To what extent do the outcomes show that increased coordination of advocacy leads to the principles of ACDEG being enshrined in national legislation and institutions?
- c) To what extent do the outcomes show that increased coordination of advocacy leads to increased space for civil participation?
- d) To what extent do the outcomes show linkages between the local, national, regional and continental level?
- e) To what extent has increased and more effective CSO coordination on advocacy interventions contributed to the outcomes at the national level?
- f) To what extent has increased and more effective CSO coordination on advocacy interventions contributed to the outcomes at the regional level?
- g) To what extent do the outcomes show an increased demand from citizens of AU member states for the implementation of ACDEG?
- h) What is the significance of the outcomes in the national contexts and the regional and continental level?
- i) To what extent have young men and women contributed to the outcomes?
- j) To what extent have the project's knowledge products (Citizen reports, curricula, media and advocacy strategies) contributed to advocacy at all levels?

These ten questions will be the core analytical questions for the end-evaluation report to be developed at the end of the project period. For the purpose of this mid-evaluation exercise it has been decided to narrow the analysis to three questions, which will allow the report to focus on key elements of the project strategies, thus to a larger extent facilitating programmatic and strategic learning for the remaining period of project implementation, by identifying which change agents at which levels the project so far has been able to influence, and through which support modalities and contribution this influence has create change. The three key questions for analysis are therefore:

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- Who changed/who did the project influence?
- At what level did the change occur?
- How did the Africa We Want project contributed to this change?

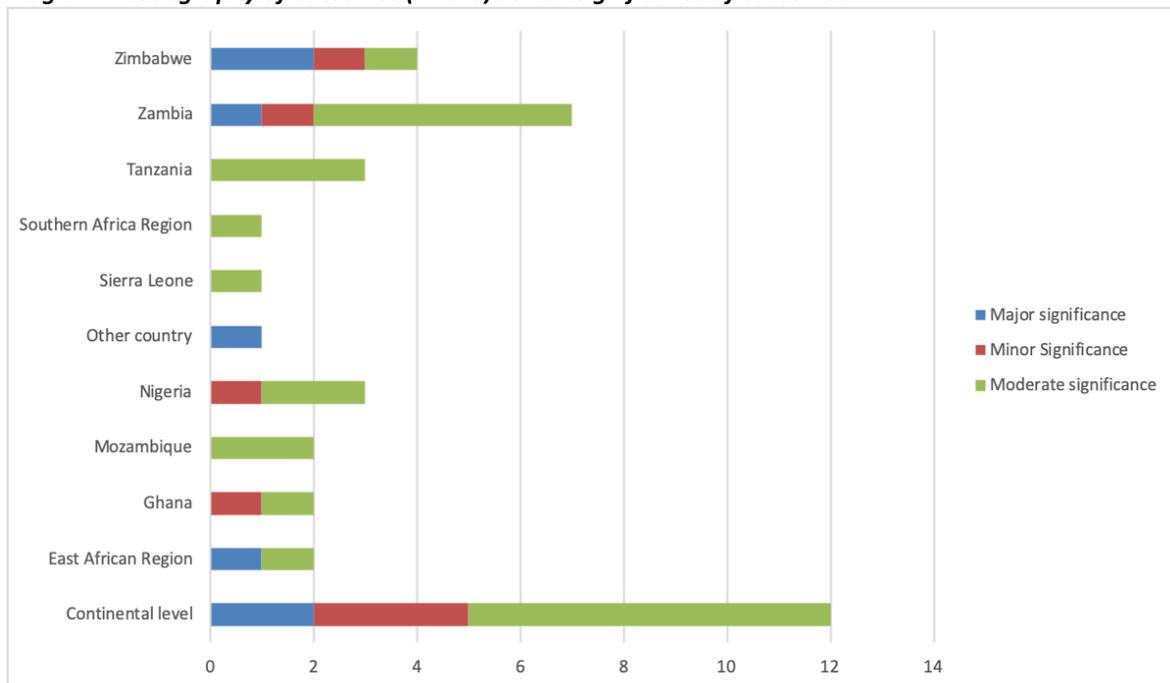
The analysis will touch upon most of the 10 evaluation questions indicating some patterns but based on the amount of outcomes and data it is not possible to distil anything conclusive.

The analysis of the findings below will be structured according to these headlines, and for each key question a set of conclusion and questions for reflection will be offered.

4. Analysis and findings

A total of 38 outcomes was collected during the Outcome Harvest process, and seven of these have been registered as taking place in 2019, whereas the rest have been dated as occurring in 2018. Of the 38 outcomes, 7 outcomes were assessed by the outcome harvesting staff to be of major significance, 24 was assessed to be of moderate significance and 7 of minor significance. The geographical spread of outcomes in the intervention area of the Africa We Want project can be seen below sorted by significance:

Diagram 1: Geography of outcomes (where) sorted significance of outcomes



As it is evident in the above diagram 1, there is a higher number of outcomes from Zimbabwe and Zambia, as well as from the continental level. This, however, reflects a bias in the outcome harvesting process so far, where harvesting missions have visited Zambia and

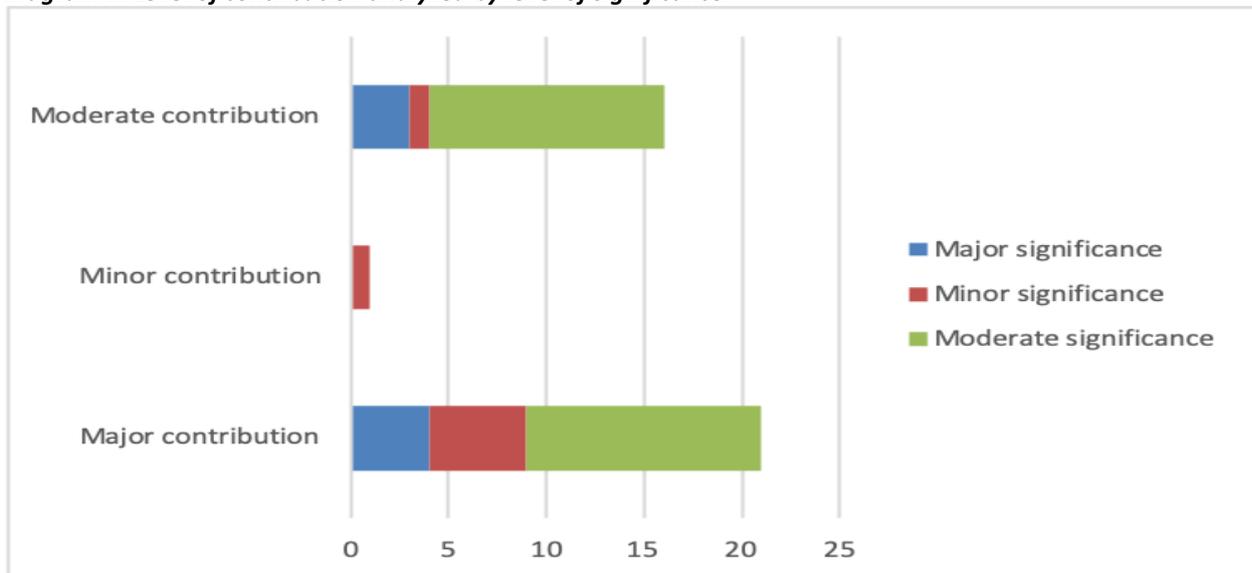




Zimbabwe, just as the as the Programme Management Team (PMT) of the Africa We Want project has held a workshop dedicated to collecting outcomes at the continental level. This bias which can be seen in the geographical spread of harvested outcomes will be remedied in the end-evaluation of the project, as the process for this will ensure to equalize the efforts to harvest outcome from all geographical regions and levels which the project works on and in. Also, the diagram shows that there currently are no outcomes registered for the West African Region, however it is notable the outcomes registered under “Other countries” represents Gambia and its ratification of the ACDEG in October 2018, which was an unexpected outcome not included in the log frame and planning matrix of the Africa We Want project. The project has thus through networking and advocacy linked up with and contributed to policy processes beyond the scope of the project.

Of the 38 outcomes, the Africa We Want Project has had different levels of contribution towards reaching the outcome, which can be seen in the below diagram, where the level of contribution by the Africa We Want project is analyzed by the significance of the outcomes:

Diagram 2: Level of contribution analyzed by level of significance.



4.1 Who changed/Who did the programme influence

The Africa We Want Project operates with a series of different social actors which the project is seeking to influence to gather support and mobilisation around the implementation of ACDEG. In the methodology of Outcome Harvesting, a social actor is an individual, group, community, organisation or institution that changes as a result of a change agent intervention¹. As defined above, the change agents of the Africa We Want is the project itself as well as the 13 partners of the project. Therefore, this section will focus

¹ Wilson-Grau, Ricardo and Heather Britt:” Outcome Harvesting”. Ford Foundation, MENA Office, May 2012.



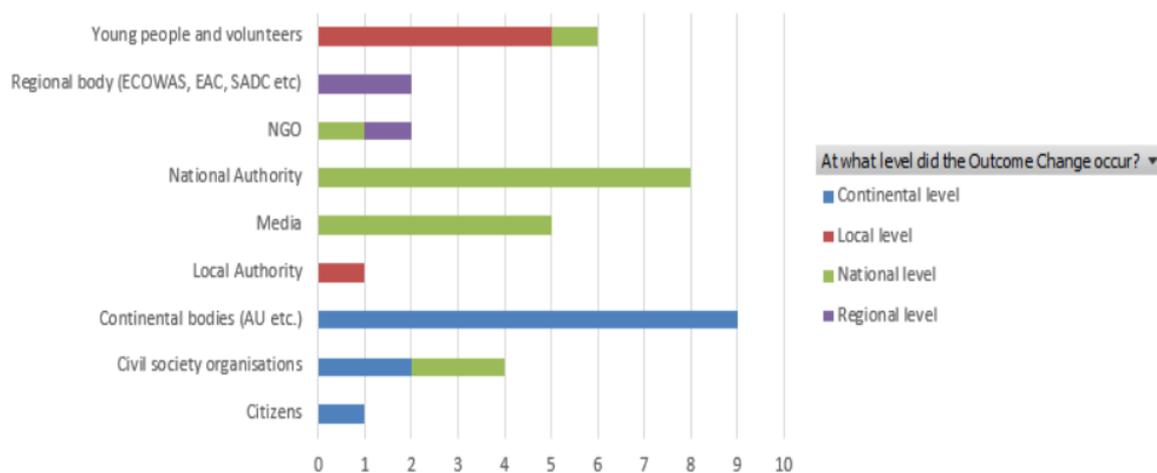


on analyzing which social actors changed as a result of the intervention of the change agents, that is the project and its partners. Below is an overview of the categories of social actor and the number of outcomes related to each social actor:

Social Actors	Number of outcomes
Young people and volunteers	6
Regional Body (ECOWAS, EAC, SADC, etc.)	2
NGO	2
National Authority	8
Media	5
Local Authority	1
Continental Bodies (AU, etc.)	9
Civil Society Organisations	4
Citizens	1

Analyzing the body of outcomes by who changed, it is evident that the project has most successfully managed to influence young people and volunteers, national authorities, media, continental bodies as well Civil Society Organisations. In the below diagram 3, the change in social actors is also analyzed by the institutional level of the change. Here it becomes evident that the project most successfully has achieved change on the national and continental level of the social actor, as there are 17 outcomes registered on the national level and 12 outcomes registered on the continental level, as opposed to 6 outcomes at the local level and 3 outcomes at the regional level.

Diagram 3: Who changed (social actors) analyzed by institutional level of change.



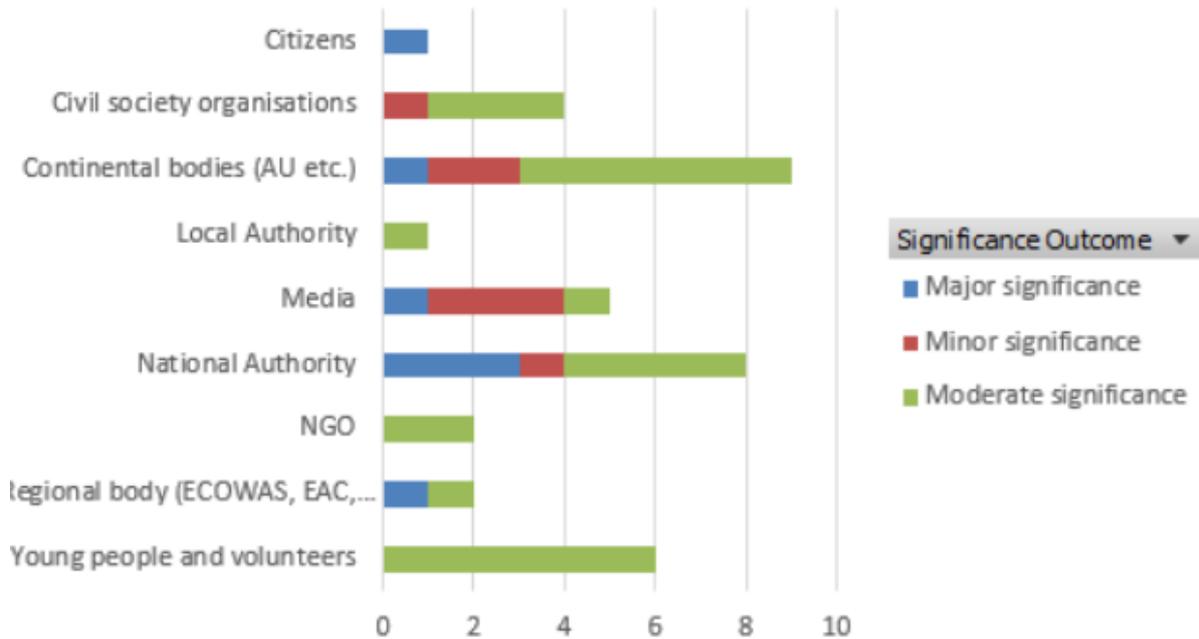
In diagram 4 below it is notable that the level of significance attached to each outcome is well represented across the different groups of social actors, so that outcomes of major significance is found in different groups of social actors, instead of only occurring in one





type of social actors. This documents that the Africa We Want project and partners have managed to influence formal decision-making structures and create relationship with authorities even in very difficult political situations at many different institutional levels, while at the same time targeting interventions to also mobilize the public, citizens CSOs and media around calling for the implementation of the ACDEG across the African continent.

Diagram 4: Who changed (social actors) analyzed by level of significance of outcome



Case: The Establishment of the East African Youth Parliament

This case serves as an example of demonstrating how a social actor at the regional level (Regional Bodies) has changed, in what is describes as an outcome of major significance.

In November 2018, young activists from Youth Councils in the East African countries established the East African Youth Council and held their first ever parliamentary session at the East African Legislative Assembly’s (EALA) Chambers in Arusha, Tanzania. Following this, in November 2018, The Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) allowed the Youths from East African country based Youth Councils to hold a parliamentary session at the EALA Chambers in Arusha where they presented a petition to the speaker, calling upon their leaders to sign and implement the African Charter for Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG), and calling for the establishment of the East African Youth Parliament.

This outcome is of a major significance, because it was the first time to ever hold an East African Youth Parliament at the EALA chambers. These engagements are significant, as they are creating a network of East-African young people that can consciously and persistently





push their own governments on commitments made at the African Union and East African community level, supporting the implementation of the ACDEG.

The contribution of the Africa We Want project was moderate and was seen in that before joining voices at the EALA, youth from all of East Africa had participated in an East African Caravan organised by the Africa We Want project. During this caravan, the youth was trained on ACDEG principles and participated in national symposiums to organise and prepare political positions. After the meeting at EALA, the youth activist participated in an East African Youth Convening, in which they issued a communique calling upon their leaders to be better at working across borders and to ensure free and fair elections.

4.2 Change level and linkages between the local, national, regional and continental level

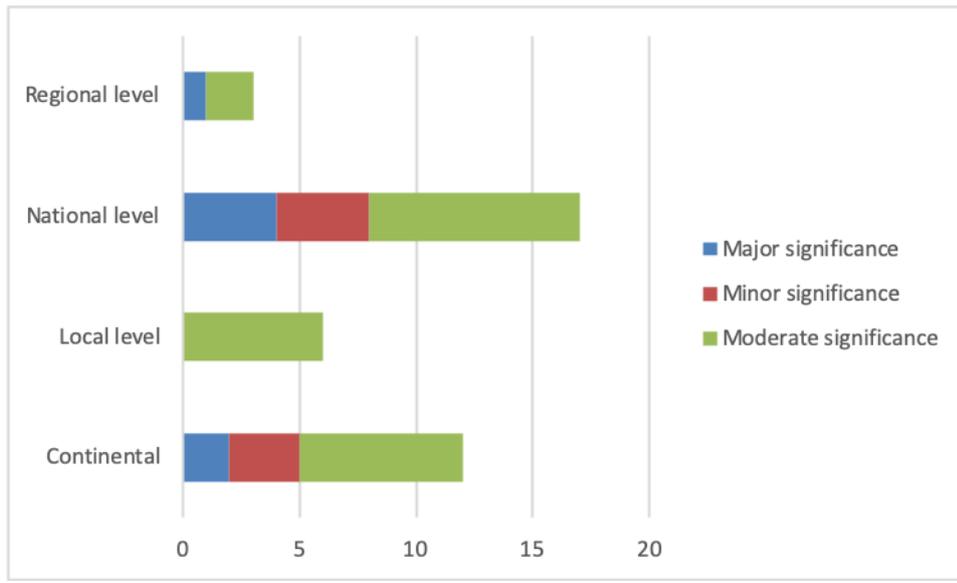
The Africa We Want project has interventions and target groups at the local, national, regional and continental level across Africa, and these four levels are defined as the possible change levels where the outcomes can occur in this analysis.

In diagram 5 below it is evident that the majority of outcomes which have been harvested are focused at the national level (17 outcomes) or the continental level (13 outcomes), and these two levels are also where the majority of outcomes of major significance can be found. This majority of occurrence and significance of the outcomes at the national and continental level is not unexpected, as this is directly linked to the intervention logic of the project focusing on these two change levels. As political authorities and institutions at the national and continental levels are those empowered with the mandate and opportunities to ratify and implement ACDEG, the outcomes at these levels indicates that the Africa We Want project is beginning to produce results which represent patterns of progress towards the overall objective of the project, aiming at the AU member states are more democratic and accountable to their citizens through the implementation of ACDEG.





Diagram 5: At what level did the outcome occur (change level) analyzed by level of significance of outcome

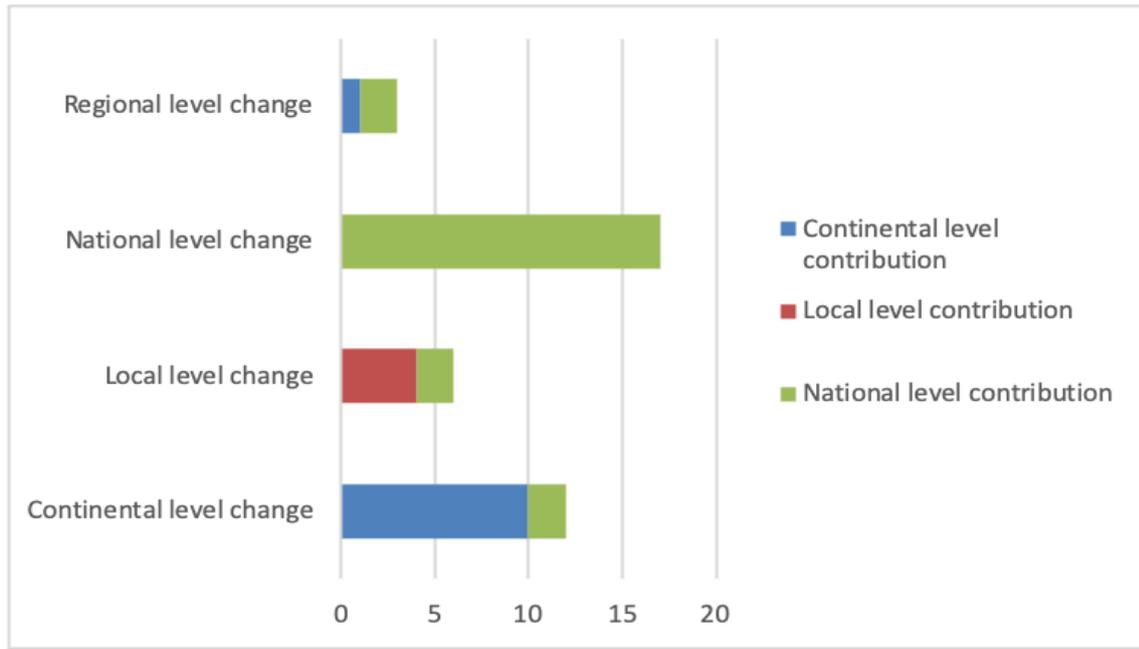


However, the multi-level intervention strategy of the Africa We Want project builds on the strategic approach that change at one level ignites, feeds into and supports change at the other level. It therefore becomes important to analyze to what extent the outcomes show linkages between change happening at the local, national, regional and continental level. This can be analysed in the outcomes harvested by comparing at what level the outcomes occurred with the level of where the contribution occurred. In the below diagram 6 this is visualised, demonstrating that for the majority of outcomes, the contribution by the project has happened at the same level as where the change takes place. Change on the national level is thus exclusively assessed to have been brought about by national level interventions, be it advocacy activities, trainings, coordination efforts, etc.





Diagram 6: At what level did the outcome occur (change level) analyzed by what level the contribution (support modalities) occurred.



Nevertheless, the creation of linkages between social actors at different change levels takes time to develop and establish. Therefore, it is positive that the Africa We Want project is currently showing clear indications that the strategic approach of creating linkages between change levels is beginning to materialise, as for two outcomes it is demonstrated that change at the continental level is based on national level interventions and contribution occurring at that level.

Below the outcomes demonstrating the linkages between change levels is developed as a case, to showcase how national level contribution in the shape of advocacy efforts leads to outcomes at the continental level.

Case: The AU’s PRC ambassadors change their attitude to be collaborative at the continental and national levels.

The outcome can be described shortly as by the end of 2018, the AU's Permanent Representatives Committee ambassadors have become willing to meet with representatives from the Africa We Want project at continental and national level. Before the Africa We Want project started, Action Aid International (AAI) met with the PRC and had many issues to raise and experienced a negative attitude from several ambassadors. Also, the PRC ambassadors used to talk about the ACDEG as something foreign brought in by the EU. After the project, the meetings have become more focused dealing with one issue, focusing on the ACDEG. Also, the project represents an alliance of many civil society organisations, not just AAI, which gives much more leverage to representatives from the project. All this





together means, that the Africa We Want project now meets the PRC with more strength due to its clear message representing many CSOs voices. The change in attitude towards AAI and the project is witnessed by the fact that in June 2018, the PRC were not available to meet the Africa We Want project, but in October 2018 they prioritized time and ambassadors from Mozambique and Zimbabwe met with the project. In general, the ambassadors are now open to discussions and recommendations.

This outcome is significant because a respectful and effective relation to the PRC ambassadors is a strategic necessity for the project's national level work and advocacy towards the implementation of the ACDEG, just as the PRC is a necessary ally in the AU in order to achieve the objectives of the project.

The Africa We Want project has contributed directly to this outcome by strategically building relationships with the PRC ambassadors at national level. This has been done by the project partners in each of the 8 focus countries and regions of the project writing directly to the ambassadors. It is these country offices which maintain those contacts, and are engaging with their PRC ambassadors, so that the relationship is built and based on familiarity and relevance.

Case: Additional outcomes demonstrating outcomes at continental level and interlinkages with the national level.

In addition to the outcome of an emerging positive attitude of the PRC Ambassadors, more outcomes have been harvested from the project, which show linkages between the national and continental level. These outcomes demonstrate how the project has achieved access and good working relations and political support from the various branches of the AU, while also demonstrating how this good working relation is built and followed up at the national level. Some of these other outcomes will be briefly presented below to demonstrate the myriad of intervention strategies employed by the project in order to create change at the different institutional levels:

- The Permanent Representative Committee (PRC) of the AU has formed a committee on ACDEG implementation in November 2018.

This outcome is significant because it demonstrates the commitment of the PRC to working with the implementation of the ACDEG, as well as it embeds the work for implementation of the ACDEG in the institutional framework of the AU, showing its priority by allocating time and resources to the work. The Africa We Want project has contributed by having had a continuous engagement at national and continental level with the PRC advocating for the implementation of the ACDEG and for the PRC allotting resources to this work. The project has organized 3 PRC engagements and in each of these the project partners have met with over 10 ambassadors from the PRC. This has resonated some interest in the PRC members to discuss these issues, and understand the urgency of the issue. UNDP has also signed an agreement with AU to fast track





implementation of among other the ACDEG, and as a result the ambassadors wanted to set up this special committee.

- The Africa We Want project has engaged in regular meetings with the AU’s African Governance Architecture (AGA) Secretariat.

This outcome is significant, because when the project started, the response rate from AGA Secretariat was minimal, and even in June 2018 it was very troublesome to set a meeting with the Head of the AGA secretariat. However, by October a meeting was set, and following this, the AGA invited the project team to participate in the high-level political forum in Botswana in November 2018. In January 2019, the project also asked for a meeting and the AGA Secretariat accepted it, and following this, the AGA Secretariat were invited to and accepted to officiate the Africa We Want’s side event at the AU summit in February 2019, and their staff participated throughout the duration of the side event. The contact and interest are thus currently frequent and mutual.

- An Action Plan between the Africa We Want project and the AU-DPA has been developed and is ready for implementation.

By August 2019, an Action Plan has been elaborated with activities towards the implementation of the ACDEG, to be jointly developed and implemented by AU-DPA and the Africa We Want project and its national level partners. The development process has included coordination with and input from the national level partners and it contains activities directly linked to the implementation of the ACDEG, especially on supporting the signatory countries in reporting on the ACDEG. This outcome is significant because the action plan is updating and operationalising the MOU between the AAI and AU. Activities and country visits will be co-organised, and the project will provide technical support to countries in ACDEG implementation and reporting. It will also bring legitimacy to the Africa We Want project, as the project will be visiting countries together with the AU, advocating for the implementation of the ACDEG.

4.3 Contribution and support modalities

The Africa We Want project employs a range of different support modalities, or intervention strategies, in order to instigate the change, the project aims at creating. These different support modalities are seen as the contribution by the project to the outcomes harvested, and the contribution can take place at different levels, ranging from the local level to the continental. The different support modalities are those listed below, and an outcome can be attributed with any one or any combination of these support modalities. Therefore, below in the table showing the different support modalities and their number of outcomes, the total is more than the total number of outcomes (38), as an outcome can have more than one support modality. In the table below it is also evident that the contribution of the Africa We Want project in producing change is centering on the support modalities of advocacy strategies, CSOs coordination and youth training.

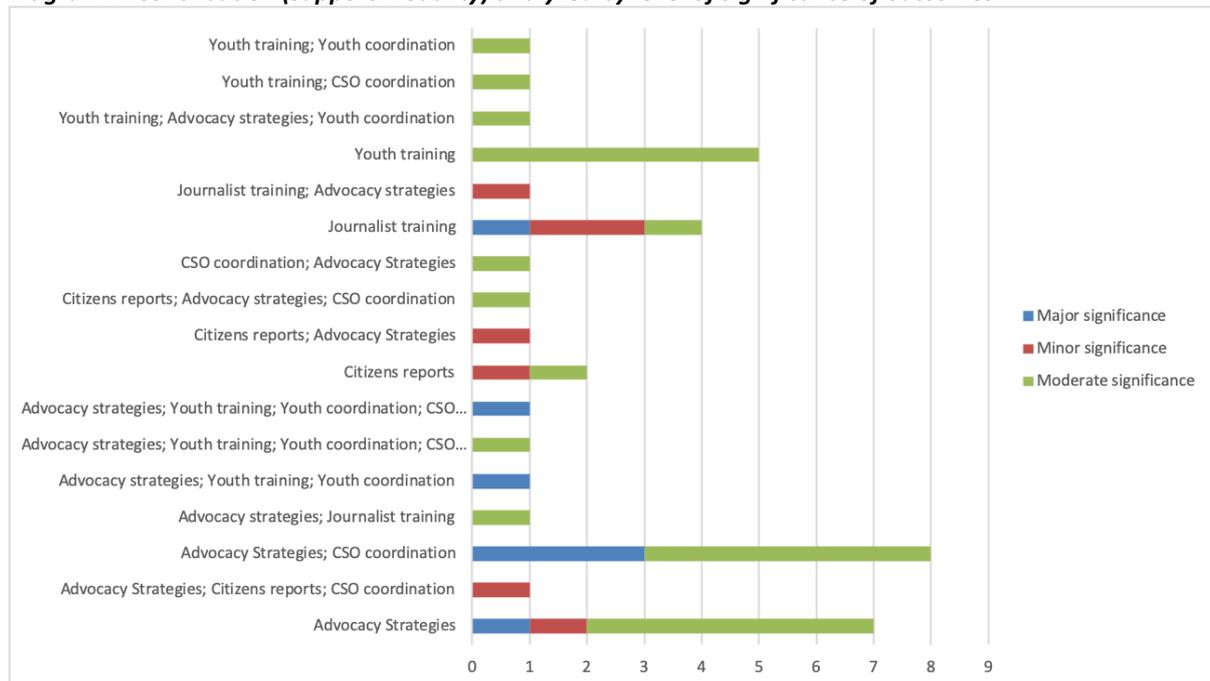




Contribution/Support Modality	Number of outcomes
Advocacy Strategies	25
Citizens reports	6
Media Strategies	0
Journalist training	6
Youth training	11
Youth coordination	5
CSO coordination	14
CSO training	0

Below in diagram 7 it is evident that the most successful contribution to outcomes from the project comes through advocacy strategies, as all outcomes of major significance has registered the contribution as advocacy strategies, as the only support modality or in combination with any other support modality, most often in combination with CSO coordination. While support modalities such as youth training, citizens report and journalist training have a fair amount of outcomes, the level of significance of these outcomes are most frequently at the moderate or minor level.

Diagram 7: Contribution (support modality) analyzed by level of significance of outcomes



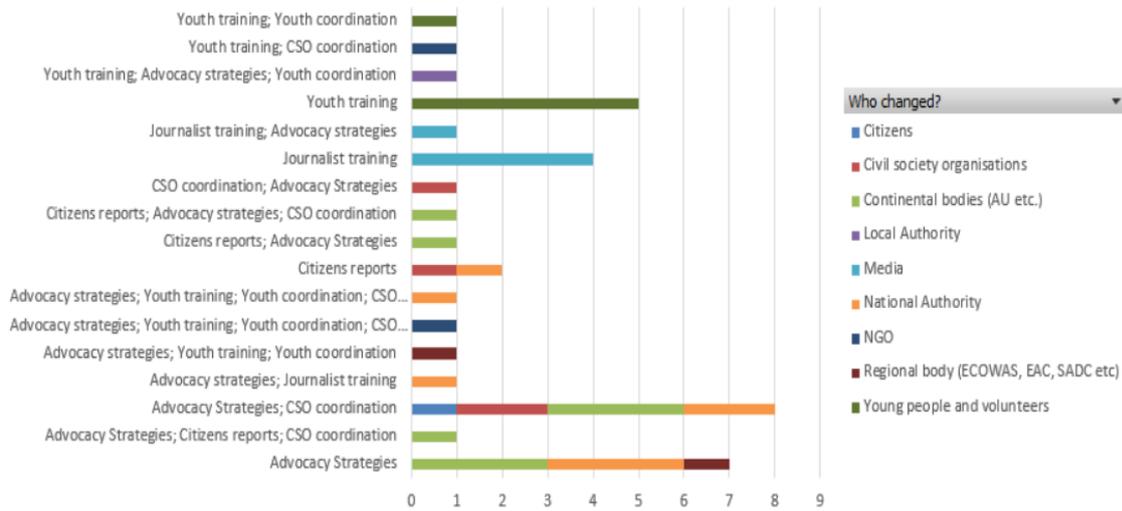
In the next diagram 8, the analysis focuses on who changes as a consequence of which support modalities. In the diagram below it is evident that some support modalities such as youth trainings and journalist trainings lead directly to change in the target group, either the youth themselves or the media. For other social actors the picture is more complicated, as the same social actor can be influenced by a variety of different contributions or support modalities. This is the case for the national authorities, who below can be seen to be influenced for change by support modalities such as advocacy strategies, citizens report,





CSO coordination and journalist trainings. The same complexity is the case for continental bodies, that are also subject to influence and change from a variety of support modalities. This supports the strategic choice of the Africa We Want project to employ many different intervention strategies and support modalities, as opposed to a narrow focus on one or two intervention strategies.

Diagram 8: Who changed (social actors) analyzed by contribution (support modality)



Case: Young people organise electoral monitoring for Mayoral Election 2018 in Zambia

In 2018, 47 young people from 5 different political parties jointly organized to monitor the Mayoral Election in Lusaka. This included pre-election monitoring of the environment for the election and whether it was free. It also included during the election to monitor whether the election code of conduct was adhered to and the election was free, fair and credible. Finally, it included the post-election submission of their electoral observation reports through AAZ to a civil society consortium.

The outcome is significant because it has rarely been seen before that young people come together to do electoral monitoring and participate in the electoral cycle in other ways than as party cadres, whereby they contributed to advance youth contribution to free, fair and credible elections in Zambia.

The Africa We Want project had a major contribution to the outcome by building the capacity of the young people concerning electoral accountability and in building and sustaining social movements through youth trainings and youth coordination.





5. Learnings and conclusions for further reflection

- Methodologically, the outcome harvesting process for the end-evaluation should include a more balanced collection of data than the current mid-evaluation outcome harvesting report. This should be done by enabling the harvesting of outcomes from all the different geographical regions and levels of the project.
- The Africa We Want project manages to successfully influence the targeted social actors, showing change across the different types of social actors and the institutional level they operate in. Also, the significance of the outcomes varies in a balanced manner across the different groups of social actors. This demonstrates the ability of the project to successfully influence different types of social actors to create change.
- The analysis of who changed and how significant the changes were documents that the Africa We Want project and partners have managed to influence formal decision-making structures and create relationship with authorities even in very difficult political situations at many different institutional levels, while at the same time targeting interventions to also mobilize the public, citizens CSOs and media around calling for the implementation of the ACDEG across the African continent.
- 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.
- The contribution of the Africa We Want project in producing change is in this outcome harvest concluded as being most successful when centering on the support modalities of advocacy strategies, CSOs coordination and youth training. These support modalities create the outcomes of major significance.
- The contribution by the Africa We Want project in creating change in the national authorities and the continental bodies is based on the employment of a variety of different support modalities such as advocacy strategies, citizens report, CSO coordination and journalist trainings. This supports the strategic choice of the Africa We Want project to employ many different intervention strategies and support modalities.

