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# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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#TowardsAnInclusiveSociety

[sivioinstitute.org](https://sivioinstitute.org)

# Executive Director's Note

## 2021 - A Watershed Moment

In January 2018 we came together to establish SIVIO Institute. We saw an opportunity for a different kind of 'Think and Do' organisation - one that would challenge the status quo and seek to answer the deep-seated questions to do with inclusive progress. In the process, we realized the opportunities that technology could offer if appropriately harnessed. We have not looked back ever since. It has been a tumultuous journey and the year 2021 has been our most successful since we opened our doors. It is perhaps the year that we opened up to the world.

Whilst there is indeed a lot to celebrate we still have to consider the context. First, we are still in the middle of a global pandemic and the infection numbers have been increasing since the beginning of June. African economies have gone through varying levels of lockdowns and many of them have shrunk. We are witnessing a coincidence between COVID-19 (across the globe) and an increase in authoritarianism across the continent and even globally. Governments across Africa seem to have taken advantage of the COVID-19 related lockdowns to clamp down on dissent, restrict participation of non-state actors in policy-related processes and also come up with measures that seek to limit or shrink the operating space for civil society based organisations. Zimbabwe has not been spared from this trend.

Secondly, the guns have returned. Perhaps our celebration of 'the silencing of the guns'

led by our friends at the African Union was premature. In one year alone we witnessed four successful military takeovers compared to 18 peaceful transitions based on elections. The military takeovers are currently confined to West Africa but there is no guarantee that other sub-regions will not be similarly affected. What does this mean for all the previous efforts aimed at nurturing democracy? Africa has to contend with the fact that these are not mere convulsions but worrying signs of an experiment that has gone wrong. Even more worrying is perhaps the fact that some of these military-led transitions have been widely supported by citizens. These shifts are very significant for many reasons; (i) they speak to the weaknesses of elite and dynastic forms of political succession which have not adequately opened up space for widespread participation in public policy beyond the mere act of voting, (ii) the relationship between democracy and a market-led economic development paradigm which has been unable to deliver tangible material benefits for the majority, (iii) and perhaps even more crucial the responses of citizens are crucial through protests that challenge the status quo and also aligning at times with military assisted transitions.

These are perhaps the defining questions for this decade. How will Africa return to the path of democratisation and economic growth? Almost every African country has adopted multiparty electoral democracy. What has been the overall effect? The majority of citizens across Africa are worse off, poverty is on the ascendancy and perhaps even more telling is the growing levels

of inequality. The divide between the politically connected elite within business and the broad masses suggest the failure of 'distribution of the national cake'. Perhaps now is also the time to revisit prevailing economic development. The majority of Africa has gone through economic stagnation ever since China's order book for raw materials was reduced. Democracy should not be limited to elections only but also in ownership of the means of production. There is need to widen the base of economic participation by creating and encouraging models that allow for many to participate as producers and also incentivise processes aimed at value addition. It is an embarrassing indictment on the current generation of leaders within government and business that Africa remains an outpost for exporting raw primary goods with very limited value chains. Africa still provides natural resources necessary for the 4th industrial revolution but it earns very little from its mineral base. In the absence of viable economic models that allow for broad participation, democracy as we know it remains vulnerable to different forms of capture.

Our work (detailed in the report below) has mostly focused on looking for new ways

of engaging with the wicked problems of democracy and development especially in Zimbabwe and across the continent. Our entry point remains that we need the full participation of citizens to achieve democracy and development. The participation under discussion includes but is not limited to a watchdog role over what officeholders do, is about bringing back citizens into co-production, co-creation and collaboration in the resolution of public problems. Furthermore, our understanding of democracy goes beyond elections, we see citizens as more than voters but instead as active actors in their own development through different forms of agency which include but are not limited to solidarity (peer to peer support), value creators through entrepreneurship and community builders.

We are excited to be part of the ecosystem that is contributing positive and lasting transformation in Zimbabwe and across the continent.

**Tendai Murisa**  
**SIVIO Institute Executive Director**

# 1. Introduction

The year 2021 will most probably be remembered in history as the year in which COVID-19 was active throughout the months of January to December. Like the rest of the world, Zimbabwe and Africa at large were not spared from the severe effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. We witnessed already struggling economies getting worse, social service delivery being over stretched and an acute increase in poverty. The tension between public health obligations (the state sanctioned rules and dictates on lockdowns, curfews and public gathering restrictions) and civil rights (especially freedom of movement and association) became more pronounced. These were and still remain times of uncertainty, and it is no small feat that humanity as a whole put on a brave effort in responding to COVID-19.

Many organisations, like ours, had no choice but to adjust the ways of doing our work so as to remain productive while also keeping our members safe. To begin with, we expanded upon the online working protocols that had previously been developed in the year 2020. Additionally, we were actively involved in sharing best practices for adjusting to COVID-19 affected work environments. At the same time, we decided to improve our program competencies and to strengthen the synergies across our centres to ensure meaningful co-creation and co-production of work. In light of the existent challenges associated with donor funding, we identified, across all our centres, strategic work that is not reliant on donor funding.

The operating environment in Zimbabwe (our current head office) as well as in some parts of

Africa continues to deteriorate. For example, there were attempts by the Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ) to enforce an illegal form of registration through the provincial coordination structures. These attempts were successfully challenged in the courts. However, the defeat has pushed the Government to revise the Private Voluntary Organisations (PVO) Act. The PVO Act is supposedly being revised in order to enhance compliance with the recommendations made by the Financial Action Taskforce (FATF) including recommendations on technical compliance raised under Zimbabwe's Mutual Evaluation Report. The recommendations are stated as follows:

- ▶ Streamlining administrative procedures for PVOs to allow for efficient regulation and registration;
- ▶ Prohibiting PVOs from political lobbying.

In addition, the proposed Bill will bestow more power to the Office of the Registrar. The Registrar is in charge of the re-registration of organisations if there have been any major or minor material changes after the initial registration. Still, it is not yet clear how an organisation established through a Deed of Trust will be affected by these regulations. Besides the attempted revision of the PVO Act, there are also ongoing attempts to produce a Patriotic Bill which prohibits 'speaking ill' of the country. This controversial bill is subject to broad interpretations which may affect freedom of speech as enshrined in the constitution and the bill of rights.

## 2. Who are we? A Recap

SIVIO Institute was established to contribute towards the achievement of inclusive societies across Africa with an initial focus on Zimbabwe. For us, inclusive societies are characterised by the availability of conditions that enable the enjoyment of both political civil and socio-economic rights for all without any hindrance or marginalisation of others. At inception, we identified the following problems as negatively affecting the aspiration towards inclusive societies:

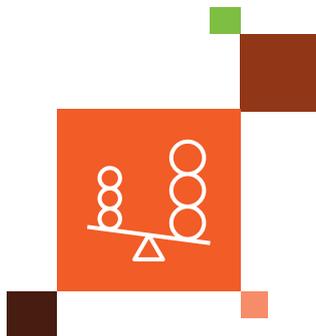
### Narrow framing of democracy



Democracy has been narrowly reduced to a system of elections and the quest for peace from one political regime to the other. However, there is more to the concept of democracy than elections. At the centre

of democracy as a concept and practice is the question of what citizens can do to fix public problems. Active citizenship is the engine that drives a successful democracy.

### Increasing poverty and inequality



Society is characterised by the inequitable distribution of resources and wealth and this has meant that the richer become richer while the poor continue to wallow in increased abject poverty. The continued poverty and inequality witnessed in both the rural and urban contexts are exacerbated by the broader development

paradigm which is dominated by the market, de-industrialisation and climate change induced recurrent droughts.

## Limited coherence of policies across sectors



There is weak to non-existent overarching frameworks for ensuring coherence between the different clusters of government. Moreover, governments are characterized by weak implementation and evaluation of policies

and this has resulted in inconsistent policy provisions.

## Communities' increased dependency on donors



The existing development paradigm is dominated by external actors in the form of official foreign development aid, international Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) and other related actors. These have contributed towards unequal power relations and increased dependency on project-based approaches to development. Consequently, the

agency of local citizens remains untapped and unrecognised. We subscribe to the idea that the agency and capabilities within communities need to be central to the process of development. International development processes should only play a complementary role to already existing internal development processes.

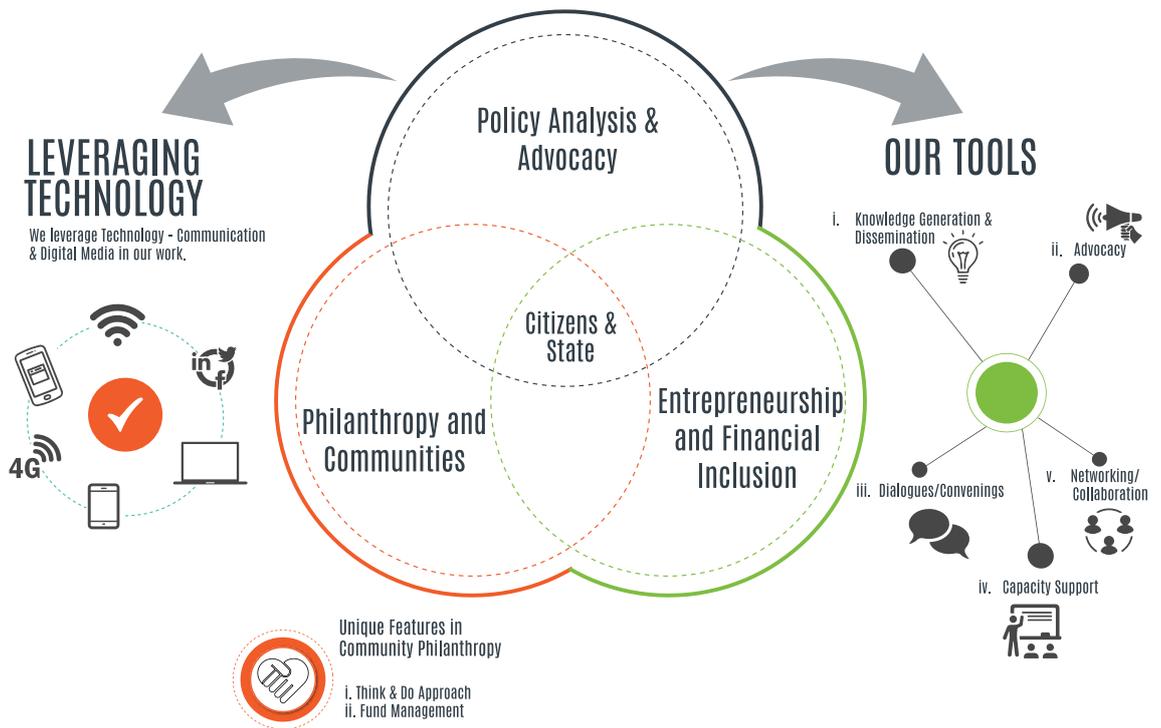
## Ineffectual participation in public policy processes



The models of citizen engagement are not yielding the required outcomes. There is need for deliberative efforts to reinsert the citizens into public policy making processes so as to give due recognition

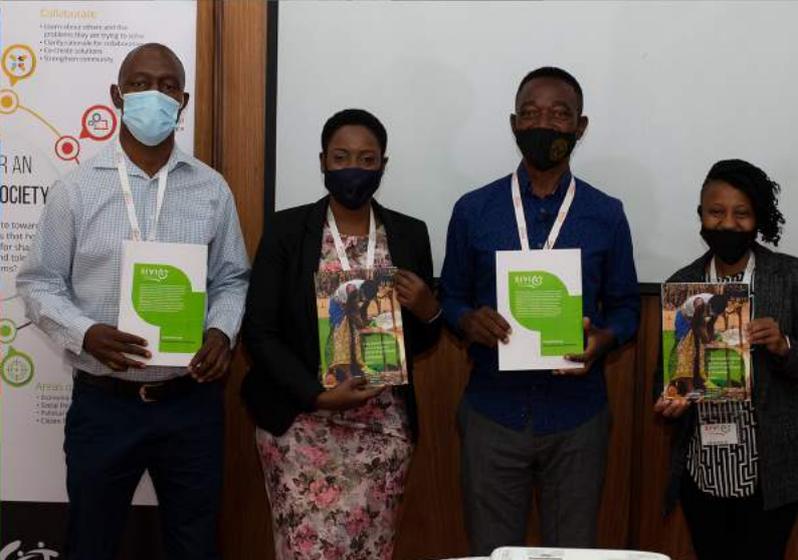
to the voice of the citizens and ensure the acceptability and applicability of public policy.

We organised our work into three (3) interrelated but distinct centres which are illustrated in the following diagram:



Within each centre, we have a specific set of tools that we use to address the problems that we have identified. These set of tools are:





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# 3. Highlights of the Year (January to December)

We successfully held 12 dialogues which were mostly conducted online, we managed to publish 10 reports, we carried out four (4) training initiatives on policy analysis, advocacy, and entrepreneurship. These initiatives had a total enrolment of 151. We have experienced a remarkable increase in invitations by other organisations to make our contributions to processes and platforms aimed at transforming non-state engagement into policy processes. We have also been asked to make contributions in resolving the problems of polarization currently bedeviling

Zimbabwe and exchanging best practices on how to work within an increasingly changing environment. There is increased recognition of our work as a centre of excellence in research, dialogues and training. We developed and piloted our Pan African program through the Electoral Capture and African Citizenship projects. These projects covered a total of eight (8) countries. The table below provides a summary of our accomplishments to date. Annex 1 provides a summary of the key highlights of 2021, which are discussed in comprehensive detail in Section 4 of this report.

**Table 1: Summary of Accomplishments**

Initiative	Period			
	2018	2019	2020	2021
Strategy	Formulation and Launch	Implementation and Review	Implementation	Developed a new strategy
Staff Size	7	11	14	14
Board Size	5 (4 Male; 1 Female)	7 (4 Male; 3 Female)	8 (5 Male; 3 Female)	8 (5 Male; 3 Female)
Knowledge Generation (Publications)	6	5	16	12
Dialogues/Convenings	2	2	13	12
Trainings/Capacity Building	0	1	5	4
ITPs	5	2	5	2
No. of Projects Beyond Zimbabwe		1	2	2
Website Performance (no. of visits)	3,480	3,200	5,300	6,428
Social Media Performance (Twitter) - No. of followers	813	1,208	1,441	1,878
Social Media Performance (LinkedIn) - No. of Connections				311
Social Media Performance (FB) - No. of followers	271	510	726	1,867
Social Media Performance (Twitter) - Impressions	332,746	323,653	291,614	343,800
Social Media Performance (LinkedIn) - Interactions				1,061
Social Media Performance (FB) - Impressions	237	59,211	29,897	9,428*

\* As of 1 July 2021, Facebook stopped its analytics page. We started tracking Page Reach

# 4. Detailed Analysis of Performance

The following discussion provides a comprehensive analysis of the progress that we made in response to the five problems at the centre of our program work.

## 4.1 Narrow framing of democracy

As already mentioned, democracy has often been reduced to electoral issues and the administration of regular 'free and fair' elections. While the centrality of elections to the framing of democracy should not be underestimated, we insist that elections alone do not equate the full achievement of democracy. There are other equally important pillars to democracy which include, but are not limited to; effective public institutions; an active citizenry engaged in the day to day activities of government, and problem-solving citizens publicly working together to resolve community problems. Based on this, we carried out a number of initiatives that were aimed at fixing problems within our democracies and these are discussed below:

### 4.1.1 Knowledge Generation

Through a partnership with OSISA, we conducted an Electoral Capture study in Zimbabwe, Zambia and Mozambique which led to:

- i. Country reports that examine the extent to which elections have gone through varying forms of capture by different elements in society
- ii. A better understanding of the concept and dynamics of electoral capture, and in so doing we contributed to a body of knowledge about the present state and future direction of democratic governance anchored on competitive politics in Southern Africa.
- iii. Improved awareness among key political-electoral stakeholders in Southern Africa, about the scope and depth of electoral capture. This was meant to support them

to use the knowledge and understanding gained to exercise a targeted agency in the struggle for governance reforms.

- iv. A proposed set of intervention measures that could be useful for stemming and reversing electoral capture.

We also conducted an inaugural study on African Citizenship across five (5) African cities (Nairobi, Accra, Yaoundé, Harare and Lilongwe). The study led to the production of five country reports and an overview report that examines the extent to which citizens can take part in solving political, economic and social problems. These reports were published in the first volume of our new journal titled **African Journal of Inclusive Societies**. The theme of the inaugural journal issue was '**Citizens, Collective Action and the Public Space - Implications for Democracy in Africa**'.

## 4.1.2 Training

We were part of a collaborative network that designed and ran a short course on **Political Economy in Zimbabwe**. The course was targeted at actors within civil society who are engaged in advocacy and activism. Its goal was to contribute to the development of critical consciousness among activists, community organizers and civil society actors and to stimulate an understanding of contemporary

political economy issues that impact national and community development. The course included themes to do with good governance, participatory democracy, sustainable development and inclusive economy, pro-poor service delivery, social justice and cohesion. The course faculty comprised of established academics and activists in the field.

## 4.1.3 Leveraging Technology

From the study on African Citizenship, we developed an **African Citizenship Index** which measures and compares citizenship across the five (5) cities under study using the proxies of belonging to, participation in, democracy in, and benefits derived association (economic,

social and political benefits). Data gathered through the survey was analysed and used to develop the African Citizenship Index. Since its launch in November, the index has had 6,128 views and 369 users on the website.

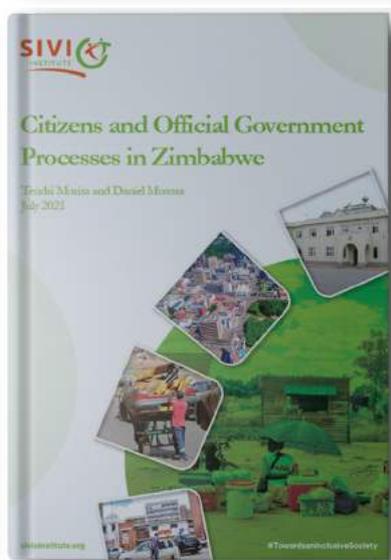
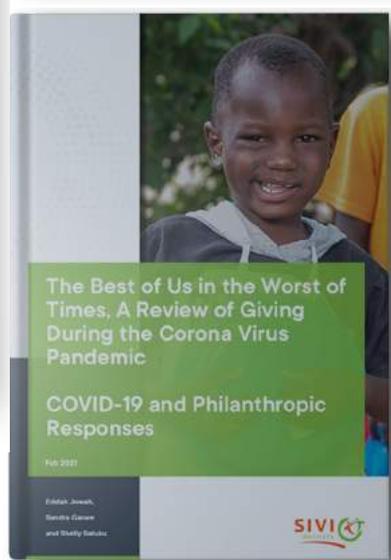
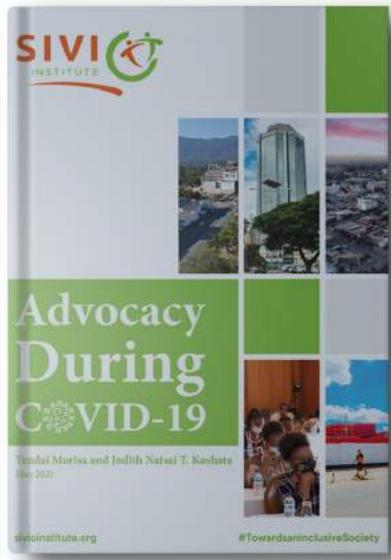
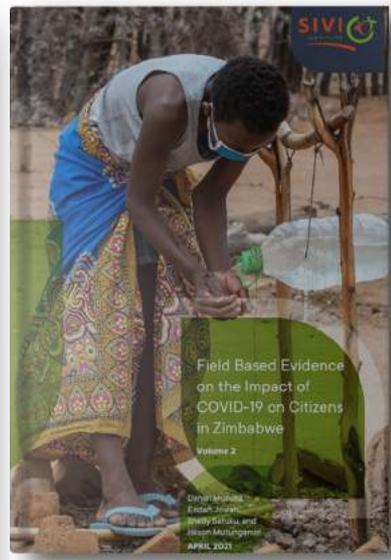
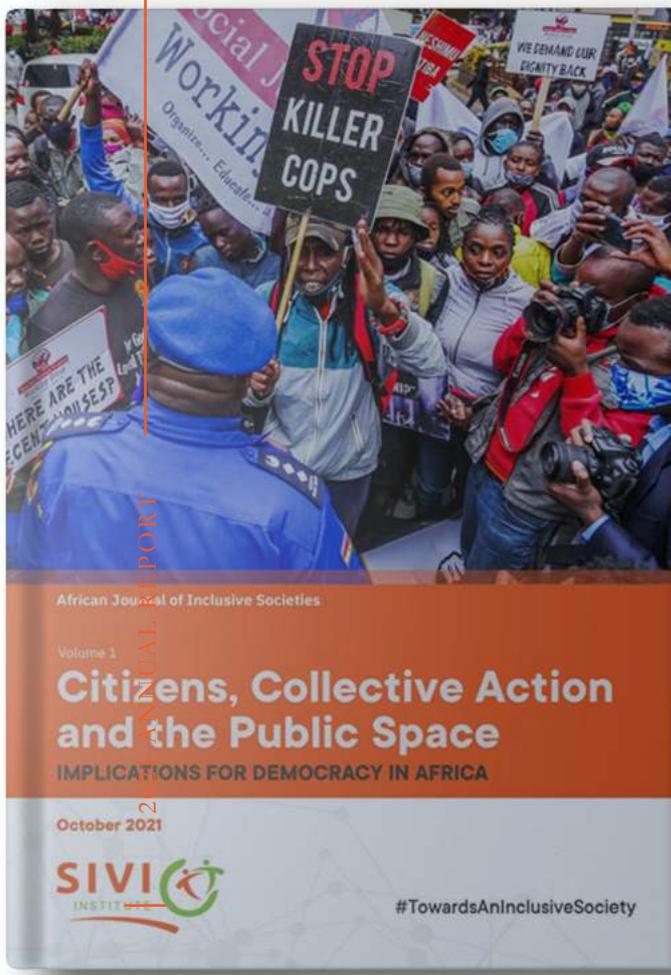
# 4.2 Increasing poverty and inequality

## 4.2.1 Knowledge Generation

At the Centre for Philanthropy and Communities, and by way of desktop and field-based research, we considered how COVID-19 affected the practice of philanthropy. The study found that a significant number of Zimbabweans contributed towards easing the effects of the pandemic. In the February 2021 report entitled '**The Best of Us in the Worst of Times, A Review of Giving During the Corona Virus Pandemic - COVID-19 and Philanthropic Responses**', we were able to map the various forms of giving which emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic in Zimbabwe. In September and October, we conducted a study on community philanthropy where we interviewed 25 philanthropy entities spread across the country. The survey covered all

10 provinces in Zimbabwe and a manuscript based on this study will be published in 2022.

Across all the 10 provinces, we conducted a survey on Financial Inclusion in Zimbabwe and this was facilitated at our Centre for Entrepreneurship and Financial Inclusion. The study measures the extent to which Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) are integrated within formal financial circuits and the financial habits of business owners. The study also examines the various ways in which policies affect the inclusion of small to medium scale enterprises. The data that was gathered is being used to produce a financial inclusion report and a Financial Inclusion Index.



#### 4.2.2 Dialogues/Convenings

We hosted our second dialogue on Giving in Zimbabwe, where various forms of giving were discussed. The panellists included business persons engaged in philanthropy and academics studying the practices of giving. We also discussed our findings from a five-country study on giving. The dialogue stirred conversations on how communities can fight poverty and inequalities through various forms of giving.

#### 4.2.3 Integrated Technology Platforms

The Entrepreneurship Lab has been significantly revamped to allow practising and aspiring entrepreneurs to access information on how to start, grow and sustain an enterprise. In 2021, we also commenced the development of the Financial Inclusion Index. The Index measures the level of financial inclusion of micro and small enterprises in Zimbabwe. To date, the initial phase of visualisations has been completed and more work will be carried out in early 2022 to ensure the Index is integrated with the SIVIO Institute website

### 4.3. Limited Coherence of Policies and Ineffectual participation in public processes by non-state actors

As already mentioned, government policies tend to inhibit synergy. In the current period, the social development thrust has been underemphasised for the benefit of big infrastructure development and balancing the budget at the behest of Washington Consensus issues. A good example of incoherence is perhaps the boasting of budget surplus by the GoZ whilst civil servants remain underpaid, the health delivery system is compromised and there are no sufficient mechanisms to ensure that public schools can adjust to existing COVID-19 challenges. Poverty remains the defining feature of the country despite declaring government budget surpluses. On the other hand, citizen participation remains curtailed due to COVID-19 related lockdowns and a general dearth of objective policy analysis and advocacy.

#### 4.3.1 Knowledge Generation

The Centre for Policy Analysis and Advocacy published two reports respectively titled **'Citizens and Official Government Processes in Zimbabwe'** and **'Advocacy During Covid-19'**. The 'Citizens and Official Government Processes in Zimbabwe' report examines citizens' levels of understanding of each public office that people are elected into, ranging from ward councillor, member of

parliament, senator and chief. The survey also shows the extent to which citizens participate in public processes such as voting, budget consultations and improvements of service delivery and public discussions on the performance of local authorities.

The 'Advocacy During Covid-19' report, highlights how advocacy focused organizations

responded to COVID-19 related changes such as lockdowns, funding constraints and limited room to conduct face-to-face consultations with citizens and other stakeholders. The report illustrates the effects of COVID-19 on the internal operations of advocacy organisations and various responses that have been made to government's ongoing policy processes

The Centre for Policy Analysis and Advocacy conducted research and produced reports on '**The Fate of Livelihoods Under COVID-19 Lockdowns and Neoliberal Restructuring**' and '**Field Based Evidence on the Impact of COVID-19 on Citizens in Zimbabwe**'. The Fate of Livelihoods Under COVID-19 Lockdowns and Neoliberal Restructuring report highlights the impact of COVID-19 on livelihoods and incomes and the report also examines the impact of welfare systems for ordinary citizens. The Field Based Evidence on the Impact of COVID-19 on Citizens in Zimbabwe report sought to understand the impact of COVID-19 on citizens in general, highlighting the pandemic's particular effects on the mental, financial and community systems. The two reports also tried to conceptualize the role played by other actors such as the GoZ and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in decreasing the adverse effects of COVID-19 on ordinary citizens.

### 4.3.2 Training

We ran our third Policy Analysis and Advocacy online course. The course contributes towards strengthening the capacities of non-state policy analysts and advocates to analyse policies, identify gaps within the policies, and to develop their capacity to suggest policy

The GoZ signed the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) in February 2020. This created an opportunity for a peer-review process that was led by the African Union's APRM. The Southern African Institute for International Affairs (SAIIA) partnered with us to develop a process leading to the production and submission of a Report on Zimbabwe by non-state actors. The CSO report has since been shared with the GoZ for their review.

We also worked with the Youth Empowerment and Transformation Trust (YETT) to carry out a survey on Youth Participation in GoZ COVID-19 initiatives. The study was carried out in all the 10 provinces of Zimbabwe and sought to find out the ways in which youth contribute or are unable to contribute towards national processes, particularly the national COVID-19 responses at the national, provincial, district and ward levels. In the study, we make recommendations on how youth agency and oversight in national COVID-19 initiatives and future emerging response activities can be further strengthened.

We have completed the collection of responses from across all ten provinces for the nationwide Citizens Perceptions and Expectations Survey. The survey studies the levels of citizens' satisfaction with the performance of both the national and local government. The findings from the survey will be launched in the first quarter of 2022.

alternatives. Through this course, trainees are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to improve citizens, non-state actors and civil society actors' participation in public processes. A total of 40 participants registered to join and 11 completed the training.

### 4.3.3 Dialogues/Convenings

We hosted a two-day online conference under the theme “Adapting in the Face of Change: Citizen Participation and the Role of Civil Society in Zimbabwe.” The conference’s main goal was to understand and unpack new patterns of citizen participation in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. The conference provided an opportunity to learn best practices from actors within civil society in the countries of Zimbabwe, Uganda and Zambia. The conference was hosted in partnership with the GlZ office in Harare.

We also hosted a six-part dialogue series which was aimed at interrogating the processes of developing a national vision and identifying gaps in the GoZ’s Vision 2030. The dialogues provided a platform for non-state actors to develop a common understanding on what it would take to make a national vision successful. The dialogues were a pathway to locating the role of citizens in nation building processes, creating awareness of government-led processes, building trust and broadening the voices involved in public policy advocacy.

**Table 2: Vision 2030 Dialogue Participation and Engagement**

Date	Theme	Panellists	Participants	Engagement
22 Sept	The Need for a Vision Process	Bishop Never Muparutsa Nicollate Matuku Dr Godfrey Kanyenze Stephen Brien	Zoom: 225 Facebook <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› SIVIO: 545</li> <li>› HSTV: 833</li> <li>› Newsday: 834</li> </ul>	Twitter Impressions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› SIVIO: 6000</li> </ul> Twitter Engagement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› SIVIO: 115</li> </ul>
6 Oct	Overview of Zimbabwe Today and the Prospects for Moving Forward	Nigel Chanakira Sekai Kuvarika Stephen Brien	Zoom: 234 Facebook: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› SIVIO:</li> <li>› HSTV: 1300</li> <li>› Newsday: 1400</li> </ul>	Twitter Engagement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› SIVIO: 302</li> <li>› HSTV: 87</li> </ul>
20 Oct	Stable Economy, Trade Relations and Re-engagement with the World	Tatenda Machirori Eddie Cross Tom Hill Stephen Brien	Zoom: 137 Facebook: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› SIVIO: 1796</li> <li>› HSTV: 1800</li> <li>› Newsday: 1900</li> </ul>	Twitter Engagement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› SIVIO: 649</li> <li>› HSTV: 1393</li> </ul>
3 Nov	Social Policy Frameworks for Inclusive Growth	Judith Kaulem Dr Percy Toriro Stephen Brien Dr Rekopantswe Mate	Zoom: 106 Facebook: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› SIVIO: 71</li> <li>› HSTV: 1400</li> </ul>	Twitter Engagement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› SIVIO: 193</li> <li>› HSTV: 323</li> </ul>
17 Nov	Agriculture and Mining in Zimbabwe to Achieve Vision 2030	Dr Ndakaripa Hungwe Tawanda Namusi Mutuso Dhlwayo Payne Kupfuwo Carlos Montes	Zoom: 95 Facebook: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› SIVIO: 384</li> <li>› HSTV: 1400</li> </ul>	Twitter Engagement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› SIVIO: 104</li> <li>› HSTV: 118</li> </ul>
1 Dec	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	Trust Mamombe Zenzele Ndebele Deprose Muchena Carlos Montes	Zoom: 93 Facebook <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› SIVIO: 82</li> </ul>	Twitter Impression: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› SIVIO: 7900</li> </ul> Twitter Engagement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› SIVIO: 76</li> </ul>

*Heart and Soul TV (HSTV) was the broadcast partner for the Vision 2030 Dialogue Series.*

## 4.4 Communities' Dependency on Donors

The prevailing paradigm of development in Zimbabwe and across Africa is largely dependent on the superiority and efficacy of the market at the expense of state-led approaches and citizens' agency. Such an approach consequently cripples local agency and engenders new forms of permanent poverty compared to temporary forms of poverty which in the past were due to temporary shocks. Given this situation, our approach is to identify ways of strengthening community philanthropy and other forms of agency as possible routes towards more sustainable approaches to inclusive development.

### 4.4.1 Knowledge Generation

We carried out a field study on trends and patterns of community philanthropy in Zimbabwe. The study sought to find out the internal and external constraints to the growth of community-based forms of resilience. The report is due for publication in the first quarter of 2022. We hope that the

findings will contribute towards amplifying community-based approaches to giving and also improve existing networks of actors and organisations working within the space of community philanthropy. The findings will be integrated into the Philanthropy School which will be launched in the first quarter of 2022.

### 4.4.2 Knowledge Generation

The Centre for Entrepreneurship and Financial Inclusion ran the Introduction to Principles of Entrepreneurship Course and the Advanced NextGen Entrepreneurship Course. The two (2) courses were modified from the initial 2020 Training Course to meet the needs of:

- i. Intender entrepreneurs characterised as school leavers, career change professionals, the unemployed and/or retirees. The intender entrepreneurs went through the Introduction to Principles of Entrepreneurship course

- ii. Early-stage start-ups characterised as businesses that are 1 to 4 years old operating in Zimbabwe. The early-stage start-ups went through the Advanced NextGen Entrepreneurship course.

The completion rate was 52% for the introductory course, and 15% for the advanced course. In addition, nine (9) peer mentoring sessions were conducted on the NextGen Business platforms and these sessions were specifically aimed at promoting learning, sharing ideas and trading within the network.

### 4.4.3 Dialogues/Convenings

We hosted a Giving in Zimbabwe Dialogue in October and through this dialogue, we sought to understand patterns and levels of giving among Zimbabweans. The dialogue provoked conversations on how communities can work together to combat poverty and inequalities through different forms of giving. We also took part in the 7th East African Philanthropy Conference whose theme was 'Re-engineering Philanthropy'. Specifically, we took part in the day two panel discussions where we provided insights on reassessing current philanthropy practices and how these practices respond to the demands of African development.

## 5. Big Bets for 2022 - The Year of the Citizen

“Citizens are pushing back against unpopular economic policies, poor economic performance, loss of service delivery and state efforts to suppress the will of the majority.”



Currently, the African continent continues to be defined by economic stagnation and the impossibility of the democratisation project. Coups or 'military assisted transitions' threaten the possibilities of election-based transitions. It is important to stress that in the first and second decades of the 21st century, election-based transitions had become the norm in most African countries. On the other hand, citizens are pushing back against unpopular economic policies, poor economic performance, loss of service delivery and state efforts to suppress the will of the majority. In the year 2022, there will be 17 rounds of elections in Africa: (8 presidential elections and 9 legislative elections). Similar to past elections, we foresee the continuation of the old order election campaigns that are characterized by grand rhetoric. It is the possibilities of increased citizens headed actions that we see as potentially contributing towards a much-needed rethinking of the sterile formulaic approaches to national development and an elite based consolidation of democracy. Citizens' actions can help to contribute towards the framing of more realistic electoral promises by would be office holders. When citizens are allowed to activate democratic practices there will be improved accountability on the part of governments and this resultantly enhances possibilities for reformed governance.

Although Zimbabwe will officially run elections in the year 2023, it is most likely that electoral politics will dominate public discourse throughout the year 2022. We anticipate that public conversations will mostly focus on elections preparedness and intra-political party struggles. Policy related analysis and discussions face the threat of either being overlooked or further falling victim to partisan based analysis. On the other hand, the ruling

party is likely to ramp up on its developmental (populist) thrust by highlighting completed infrastructure projects, success in agriculture performance and claims around economic recovery. There will be few opportunities to objectively analyse and discuss government performance and the progress made towards the achievement of the national Vision 2030 goals. If the proposed legislation on governing NGOs is passed, the civic space may shrink significantly, and yet, this will be a time when independent analysis, advocacy and election conducive contexts are an absolute necessity.

Thus, the year 2022 is loaded with opportunities for our organisation. We have noted several problem policy areas that remain neglected by governments and fellow policy organisations to the extent that they have become acute problems. We will initiate further research and conversations so as to conceptualise the factors that constrain broad-based accumulation from below. Specifically we aim to focus on:

- ▶ Influencing the dominant approaches to democracy: 'a government of the people, by the people, for the people' towards 'a government with the people', putting emphasis on co-creation, collaboration, and co-production
- ▶ Understanding the ways in which land and other natural resources are held, especially the extent to which customary tenure constrains equitable participation in the economy and its effects on democracy and citizenship
- ▶ Re-asserting asset-based approaches to philanthropy, ensuring that communities are actively engaged in resolving local problems through self-mobilisation of resources.

- › Showing the extent to which bureaucratic processes hinder/promote entrepreneurship.

Moreover, we will focus on consolidating and improving the initiatives that we piloted in 2021. We are excited about the prospects of expanding into the Southern African region. From the onset, ours has been a journey of incremental innovation. Our initial bet was on technology and its growing widespread use. Several non-profit organisations have, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, realized the need to make concerted investments in technology in terms of software procurement and training. To add on, the consumption of technology related products has significantly grown over the past two years, thus, debunking myths about low internet penetration in Africa. The target population for our products is mostly urban-based, engaged in policy, philanthropy, and entrepreneurship related work and civil society based advocacy practitioners and activists. Based on previous piloting, we are confident that our suite of existing integrated technology platforms will contribute to addressing questions of limited framing of democracy, increasing poverty and inequality, policy

incoherencies and donor dependency. In the year 2022 we will develop and refine Integrated Technology Platforms in the following areas:

- › Regional Financial Inclusion Tracker which will contribute to comparative knowledge on inclusion
- › Increase the number of study countries on the **African Citizenship Index**
- › Ensure that the **Philanthropy and Entrepreneurship Labs** are applicable to communities in the region
- › Develop policy trackers such as **[www.zimcitizenswatch.org](http://www.zimcitizenswatch.org)** for countries within the sub-region.

Finally, we are making a big bet that donors: (official development aid agencies), and private philanthropy will, based on lessons learnt in the past two years, focus more on supporting institutional strengthening and processes that enhance the voice of communities

# Annex

## Annex 1 - Overview of Program Performance 2021

Problem	Centre	Knowledge Generation	Training	Dialogues/Convenings	Integrated Technology Platforms
Narrow framing of democracy	Policy Analysis and Advocacy (supporting the Sustainability Unit)	Coordinated the production of the <b>Civil Society Submission to the APRM in Zimbabwe</b> <b>Study:</b> Electoral Capture in Southern Africa	Political Economy Master Class	Electoral Capture in Southern Africa Dissemination Seminar	
	Philanthropy and Communities	<b>Study:</b> African Citizenship: Five Country Study		Launch of the <b>African Journal of Inclusive Societies</b> and the <b>African Citizenship Index</b>	<b>African Citizenship Index</b>
Increasing poverty and inequality	Philanthropy and Communities	<b>Publication:</b> <i>The Best of Us in the Worst of Times. A Review of Giving During the Corona Virus Pandemic - COVID-19 and Philanthropic Responses</i> <b>Study:</b> Community Philanthropy in Zimbabwe		Giving in Zimbabwe: Practices and Trends	
	Entrepreneurship and Financial Inclusion	<b>Survey:</b> Financial Inclusion Study			Financial Inclusion Index (Creation in progress) Updated <b>Entrepreneurship Lab</b>

Problem	Centre	Knowledge Generation	Training	Dialogues/Convenings	Integrated Technology Platforms
Limited coherence of policies across sectors and Ineffectual participation in public processes by non-state actors	Policy Analysis and Advocacy	<p><b>Publication:</b> <i>Advocacy During COVID-19</i></p> <p><b>Publication:</b> <i>Citizens and Official Government Processes in Zimbabwe</i></p> <p><b>Publication:</b> <i>ZIMCITIZENSWATCH Half Year Review 2021</i></p> <p><b>Study:</b> <i>The Fate of Livelihoods under COVID-19 Lockdowns and Neoliberal Restructuring</i></p> <p><b>Study:</b> <i>Field Based Evidence of the Impact of Covid -19 on Citizens in Zimbabwe</i></p> <p><b>Study:</b> <i>Citizens Perceptions and Expectations in Zimbabwe</i></p>	Policy Analysis and Advocacy Online Training Course	<p>Independence: The Promise, The Betrayal and Salvaging the Future</p> <p>Dialogues on the Impact of Covid-19 on Citizens in Zimbabwe (Gweru and Mutare)</p>	<p><a href="http://www.zimcitizenswatch.org">www.zimcitizenswatch.org</a> ongoing tracking and analysis</p> <p><b>COVID-19 Tracker</b></p>
	Policy Analysis and Advocacy supporting the Sustainability Unit	<p><b>Study:</b> Assessment of Youth Involvement in COVID- 19 GoZ Initiatives</p> <p><b>Study:</b> Impact of COVID-19 Lockdowns on Youth in Zimbabwe</p> <p>Coordinated the production of the Civil Society Submission to the APRM in Zimbabwe</p>		<p>Adapting in the Face of Change: Citizen Participation and the Role of Civil Society in Zimbabwe (in partnership with GIZ)</p> <p>6 Dialogues around Vision 2030</p>	
Communities' Dependency on Donors	Philanthropy and Communities	<b>Study:</b> Community Philanthropy in Zimbabwe		<p>Presented on "Re-assessing current philanthropy practices –exploring their responsiveness to the demands on the plate of African development" at the 7th East African Philanthropy Conference</p> <p>Giving in Zimbabwe: Practices and Trends</p>	

Problem	Centre	Knowledge Generation	Training	Dialogues/Convenings	Integrated Technology Platforms
Communities' Dependency on Donors	Entrepreneurship and Financial Inclusion		Introduction to Principles of Entrepreneurship Course  Advanced NextGen Entrepreneurship Course		

## Annexe 2 - 2021 Outputs by SIVIO Institute

### (a) List of 2021 SIVIO Institute Publications

Publication	Date of Publication	Link
SIVIO Institute 2020 Annual Report	February 2021	<a href="#">View Publication</a>
Murisa, T. (2021) - The Fate of Livelihoods Under COVID-19 Lockdowns and Neoliberal Restructuring	February 2021	<a href="#">View Publication</a>
Jowah, E. Garwe, S and Satuku, S. (2021)- The Best of Us in the Worst of Times - A Review of Giving During the Corona Virus Pandemic - COVID-19 and Philanthropic Responses	February 2021	<a href="#">View Publication</a>
Mususa, D., Jowah, E., Satuku, S. and Mutungamiri, H. (2021) -Field Based Evidence on the Impact of COVID-19 on Citizens in Zimbabwe	April 2021	<a href="#">View Publication</a>
Murisa, T. and Kushata, J.N.T. (2021)- Advocacy During COVID-19	May 2021	<a href="#">View Publication</a>
Murisa, T and Mususa, D. (2021) - Citizens and Official Government Processes in Zimbabwe	May 2021	<a href="#">View Publication</a>
African Journal of Inclusive Societies Volume 1 - Citizens, Collective Action and the Public Space - Implications for Democracy in Africa	October 2021	<a href="#">View Publication</a>
Mususa, D. (2021) Exploring Citizenship: The Lived Realities of Associational Life in Zimbabwe	October 2021	<a href="#">View Publication</a>
Nkhono-Mvula, T. (2021)- Participation, Democracy and Citizenship in Malawi	October 2021	<a href="#">View Publication</a>
Mwita, J.M. (2021)- Voices of Democracy - The Citizens' Role in Kenyan Democratic Spaces	October 2021	<a href="#">View Publication</a>
Garr, E.Q.A. (2021)- Citizenship and Democracy in Ghana	October 2021	<a href="#">View Publication</a>
Tamasang, C.F. (2021) -Citizen Engagement and Networking in Cameroon - An Economic, Socio-political and Legal Perspective	October 2021	<a href="#">View Publication</a>

### (b) List of 2021 Training Courses

Names of Training Course	No. of Participants
Introduction to Principles of Entrepreneurship Course	68 33 completed
Advanced Nextgen Entrepreneurship Course	38 5 completed
Policy Analysis and Advocacy	40 11 completed
Political Economy Masterclass	46 5 completed

### (c) List of new ITPs Developed in 2021

Name of ITP	Link
African Citizenship Index	<a href="https://africacitizenshipindex.org/">https://africacitizenshipindex.org/</a>

**(d) List of 2021 Dialogues Held by SIVIO Institute**

Name of Dialogue	Date	Link to Recording
Independence: The Promise, The Betrayal and Salvaging the Future	18 April 2021	<a href="#">Watch Recording</a>
The Impact of COVID-19 on Citizens in Zimbabwe Dialogue	28 April and 5 May 2021	Face to Face in Gweru and Mutare
Adapting in the face of change: Citizen Participation and the Role of Civil Society	2 - 3 June 2021	
The Need for a Vision Process	22 September 2021	<a href="#">Watch Recording</a>
Overview of Zimbabwe Today and the Prospects for Moving Forward	6 October 2021	<a href="#">Watch Recording</a>
Launch of the Zimbabwe APRM Civil Society Submission	14 October 2021	<a href="#">Watch Recording</a>
Electoral Capture in Southern Africa: Origins, Dimensions and Trajectories- Dissemination Webinar	19 October 2021	<a href="#">Watch Recording</a>
Stable Economy, Trade Relations and Reengagement with the World	20 October 2021	<a href="#">Watch Recording</a>
Giving in Zimbabwe: Practices and Trends Dialogue	27 October 2021	<a href="#">Watch Recording</a>
Social Policy Frameworks for Inclusive Growth	3 November 2021	<a href="#">Watch Recording</a>
Agriculture and Mining in Zimbabwe to Achieve Vision 2030	17 November 2021	<a href="#">Watch Recording</a>
African Citizenship Index Launch	30 November 2021	<a href="#">Watch Recording</a>
Peace Justice and Strong Institutions	1 December 2021	<a href="#">Watch Recording</a>



SIVIO Institute (SI) is an independent organisation focused on ensuring that citizens are at the centre of processes of socio-economic and policy change.. It aims to contribute towards Zimbabwe's inclusive socio-economic transformation. It is borne out of a desire to enhance agency as a stimulus/catalyst for inclusive political and socio-economic transformation. SIVIO's work entails multi-disciplinary, cutting edge policy research, nurturing citizens' agency to be part of the change that they want to see, working with communities to mobilize their assets to resolve some of the immediate problems they face.

SIVIO institute has three centres/programs of work focused on; (i) public policy analysis and advocacy (ii) philanthropy and communities (ii) entrepreneurship and financial inclusion. In the process SI addresses the following problems:

- Inadequate performance of existing political and economic system
- Increasing poverty and inequality
- Limited coherence of policies across sectors
- Ineffectual participation in public processes by non-state actors
- Increased dependence on external resources and limited leveraging of local resources

**[sivioinstitute.org](http://sivioinstitute.org)**