



DATASHIFT

DataShift is helping civil society produce and analyse data, especially citizen-generated data, to drive sustainable development.

We do this by building capacity, powering campaigns and improving the monitoring of government, resulting in better accountability, policies and services.

We train people to use the latest data collection and analysis tools and undertake new research to shape global and national policy on the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals.

WWW.THEDATASHIFT.ORG



WHAT IS CITIZEN-GENERATED DATA?

Citizen-generated data is produced by people and organisations to monitor or campaign for change on the issues that affect them.

It can be collected using a simple mobile phone, analysed using free tools and then visualised to tell powerful stories. It is a building block of information, knowledge and understanding, which **can put power in the hands of people**.

As it is actively offered up by people, citizen-generated data can be seen as a direct representation of their perspectives, and as such is **a valuable alternative to governments datasets**.

New technologies offer exciting new possibilities for using citizen-generated data. We help civil society use it to identify new insights, shadow monitor their government's progress against its promises, and provide evidence to power campaigns that change policy and improve service delivery.

WITH THE CONFIDENCE AND CAPACITY TO CREATE AND USE DATA, ESPECIALLY CITIZEN-GENERATED DATA, CIVIL SOCIETY CAN HIGHLIGHT PRIORITY ISSUES, CREATE CAMPAIGNS AND OFTEN QUICKLY CATALYSE TANGIBLE CHANGES.

CITIZEN-GENERATED DATA POWERING CAMPAIGNS



DIRECT SUPPORT

The DataShift team provides **direct financial and technical support and training** to organisations to produce citizen-generated data to power campaigning and increase government accountability through shadow monitoring.

We are focusing first on helping build data-powered civil societies in **four pilot countries: ARGENTINA, NEPAL, KENYA and TANZANIA**. Through the first round of capacity building support in 2016, DataShift worked with ten organisations in these countries, campaigning on issues from electoral corruption to the rights of older generations.

After an initial assessment of data capacities, needs and challenges, we work with civil society organisations to identify and deliver the right package of direct support. Typically we provide a combination of people and resources to help with everything from improved data collection, analysis, responsible management, visualisation and use for campaigning.

ARGENTINA

In the run up to the 2015 Argentine elections a group of journalists, political scientists and NGOs built **Yo Quiero Saber**, a hugely popular **game that promoted informed voting by providing information about candidates**. DataShift supported Conocimiento Abierto Argentina to take the seed of this powerful transparency tool and scale up the database by building Policrowd, which is now a one-stop shop for information on over 2000 candidates, politicians and public servants in office.

NEPAL

Local Interventions Group (LIG) wanted to **use data to track how public and donor money was spent on the humanitarian response to the Nepal earthquakes in 2015**. We supported LIG to collect and clean data, and make it accessible in **an online platform** to show how much money was received in each of the country's fourteen districts. LIG showed significant gaps in the financial flows, then visualised the story to help communities previously left out of the decision-making process, demand change.

EAST AFRICA

In Tanzania and Kenya, DataShift helped disability rights groups Shivyawatta and UDPK design **a data collection system to gather perceptions on the two governments' implementation of services for people with disabilities**. Shivyawatta and UDPK then used the data as evidence for national campaigns for better access to services for disabled people.

To **SCALE UP THE IMPACT** of citizen-generated data, DataShift will support more organisations in our pilot countries to upgrade, scale or start up projects. **The next round of direct support launches in October 2016** and will focus specifically on supporting grassroots organisations in using citizen-generated data for campaigning, through a new online course and a series of workshops.

DataShift's direct support is helping to grow a global community of peers, partners and champions of citizen-generated data. We also go where Global South campaigners convene including: CIVICUS' International Civil Society Week 2016 in Bogota, Colombia; Campaigncon in Barcelona, Spain - the global activism and technology

skillshare; and we will be championing citizen-generated data and civil society perspectives at the first World Data Forum in Cape Town, South Africa, in January 2017.

CITIZEN-GENERATED DATA IMPROVING MONITORING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

DataShift's work takes place **against the backdrop of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. Ratified by 193 countries in September 2015, this comprehensive set of goals and targets, covering issues from poverty and health to forests and energy, aim to completely transform our world by 2030. The vast set of indicators required to track progress against the SDGs, combined with the limited availability of data and capacity of governments to use it, presents us with a huge challenge.

The SDGs provide an **unprecedented opportunity to adopt a new approach to monitoring and accountability** – with citizens at the core. To better deliver and monitor the SDGs, a **'DATA REVOLUTION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT'** has also been called for, to **leverage new sources of data, increase access to data, and ultimately support the policies and decisions that will improve outcomes for both people and the planet.**

Achieving this will take all parts of society working together. At the international level, governments will likely report on their progress every four years. From the global SDGs, national indicators and roadmaps are now being set. But this is a huge task particularly for middle income and developing countries. However, **citizen-generated data can potentially play a vital role by complementing and filling gaps in the data collected by National Statistics Offices** and therefore improve the monitoring of progress on the SDGs.

FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL: PUTTING PEOPLE AT THE CENTRE OF THE DATA REVOLUTION

DataShift is working to **ensure that civil society and citizen-generated data is included in the Sustainable Development Goals follow-up and review processes.**

This includes demonstrating how citizen-generated data can support the domestication of SDG targets and indicators, the creation of data baselines, and in national and local development strategies.

LOCAL

In Kenya and Tanzania **we have hosted forums bringing together communities, civil society organisations, statistical offices and other government actors, to share knowledge and explore collaboration, specifically investigating how citizen-generated data can help drive progress on SDG 5, 'to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls'.**

NATIONAL

The DataShift team continues to provide expert advice to Government-led national data revolution roadmap processes, including through **workshops in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Kenya and Tanzania.** Our **ongoing advocacy work with the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics** includes campaigning for the inclusion of civil society inputs and multiple sources of data, including citizen-generated data in the revised National Statistics Act.

At the global level, DataShift's research and learning from the local and national levels informs **advocacy to support the inclusion of citizen-generated data into the UN-led SDG follow-up and review process.**

GLOBAL

As part of our global work, we support the **Monitoring and Accountability Working Group** of the new **ACTION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT** platform, launched to enhance civil society coordination around the delivery of the SDGs and the new global climate agreement. We also supported the incubation of the **Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data** and continue to help ensure strong civil society participation in the initiative. As a founding Champion, we work to ensure civil society both contributes to and benefits from the Partnership.

ACCELERATING THE USE OF CITIZEN-GENERATED DATA

Our research and advocacy is helping to shape the sustainable development data revolution by influencing global and national data policy. We want to open up development processes, including to marginalised communities, so that people can better hold the powerful to account.

To increase citizen-generated data's (CGD) complementarity with more conventional data sets, DataShift is rolling out **a sequence of RESEARCH PIECES** with partners including Open Knowledge International, to explore **how to enhance the credibility and comparability of CGD**, so that it is considered reliable and usable at all levels, from the UN to local government.

First, we are looking at how **incentives like cost savings, more agile and responsive programme design and better monitoring** could encourage government, civil society and business to produce and use citizen-generated data and collaborate across sectors.

To understand the challenges and opportunities around using citizen-generated data alongside traditional statistical data, we are also conducting **an in-depth research piece looking at data availability, quality and complementarity in East Africa, to support the monitoring of progress on SDG 5 on gender equality.**

From these two pieces we will move to investigate the potential to harmonise CGD methods to enhance credibility and complementarity, looking at **options to build a CGD READINESS ASSESSMENT TOOL and a set of principles or STANDARDS FOR CGD PRODUCTION**, with a view to enabling its integration into existing platforms that are aggregating data to track progress on the SDGs.

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Join the DataShift Community of civil society organisations, campaigners and citizen-generated data and technology practitioners by signing up at **www.thedatashift.org** and follow us on Twitter via **#datashift**

DataShift is an initiative of **CIVICUS**, in partnership with **WINGU, THE ENGINE ROOM** and the **OPEN INSTITUTE**.

We are part of a growing global community of campaigners, researchers and technology experts that is using citizen-generated data to create change.