

# SCS Global Update

Sharing Resources and Knowledge Among the Global CSO Community

Fall/Winter 2019

## US Ambassador, USAID Mission Director Launch SCS DRC Media Strengthening Project



US and DRC Dignitaries at SCS DRC Media Strengthening Project Launch Event (September 2019, Internews)

On September 19, dignitaries, journalists and guests gathered to launch USAID/Democratic Republic of the Congo's new Media Sector Development Activity (MSDA). Among those in attendance were DRC's newly appointed Minister of Communication and Media, Jolino Makelele, the Minister of Gender, Children and Family, Béatrice Lomeya Atilite, the United States Ambassador to DRC, Michael Hammer, and USAID's Mission Director in DRC, Paul Sabatine.

Ambassador Hammer's opening remarks highlighted the importance of media freedom and building the capacity of youth. He stressed the need for the DRC to improve its rank on the Reporters Without Borders Press Freedom Index, which is currently 154 out of 180 countries. Ambassador Hammer drove home the urgency of this project by stating, "We know that freedom of the press is important... because a government must be transparent and accountable, and the press plays the role of investigating and reporting on whether the government is doing a good job."

Following the Ambassador, USAID Mission Director Sabatine said that it was, "... essential that citizens receive the information they need to enable them to fully participate in

**"We know that press freedom is critical for a democracy."**  
*Michael Hammer,  
US Ambassador to the DRC*

civic and political life, to make informed decisions, to control the actions of elected representatives and institutions and to hold them accountable. All those are only possible through free, independent and pluralistic media that can find information, analyze it, cross-check it and freely present it to citizens."

MSDA focuses on promoting a more open and vibrant media sector that contributes to more responsive and transparent institutions. MSDA implementation is led by SCS Global Consortium Partner Internews with support from FHI 360.

**"Our commitment is based on the firm conviction that ... democracy is indeed the power of the people, by the people, and for the people. It depends on educated and informed citizens who know their rights and exercise them freely."**

*Paul Sabatine, USAID Mission Director in the DRC*

## SCS Kenya Promotes Peace and Conservation with Camel Caravan



Pastoralists leading SCS Kenya Camel Caravan for Peace and Conservation (August 2019, FHI 360)

Decreasing water levels in the Ewaso Nyiro River Basin in Kenya due to human activities and climate change have threatened pastoral communities living in northern Kenya and led to increased displacement and conflict. The river, which runs throughout 10 counties and provides 3.6 million people with water for their households, farms, and livestock, is one of the few sources of water flowing into the arid northern part of the country. Unregulated extracting of water by farmers has dried up large sections of the river.

To raise awareness of the importance of conserving the Ewaso Nyiro River for downstream pastoral communities, more than 200 pastoralists split into four groups and embarked on a 200-kilometer camel caravan trek through Laikipia, Samburu, and Isiolo counties in August 2019.

The four groups converged at Archers Post, where the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Forestry, Honorable Keriako Tobiko, gave remarks to more than 600 community members, local government officials, and other stakeholders.

Organizers of the camel caravan hope the event leads to improved water resources management, sharing of water resources more equitably between farmers and pastoralists, and fewer violent clashes among pastoralists for pasture and dwindling water resources.

Learn more about the camel caravan—supported by SCS Kenya’s project Safeguarding Democratic Space in Kenya (SADES-K), USAID, Cordaid, Isiolo Peace Link, and Merti Integrated Development Program—[here](#) and [here](#).

SCS Kenya supports the Kenyan government and CSOs to strengthen Kenya’s governance-reform agenda and to secure democratic gains enshrined in the 2010 Constitution. SCS Kenya implementation is led by FHI 360 with support from Internews.

## SCS Kenya and SCS Botswana Collaborate with Philanthropy University on CSO M&E Trainings to Test Blended Learning



SCS Kenya and SCS Botswana worked with Philanthropy University’s cutting-edge online capacity development platform to pilot a blended learning approach to the delivery of FHI 360’s *Planning for Monitoring & Evaluation* course created in 2018 with Philanthropy University. Both projects were ramping up grant agreements with local organizations and needed to train grantee teams on M&E essentials prior to the start of their activities.

Up to that point, all Philanthropy University courses (there are 17 currently covering topics ranging from strategic engagement to fundraising) had only been offered via the online platform. However, the SCS team and Philanthropy University realized the potential value of delivering the *Planning for M&E* course utilizing a mix of in-person facilitation and online self-guided review. The course includes five modules: Introduction to M&E; Linking M&E to Project Design; Identifying Indicators and Targets; Data Collection, and; Roles and Responsibilities.



SCS Kenya M&E learners present their data flow map (July 2019, FHI 360)

On July 24-25, SCS Kenya delivered the *Planning for Monitoring and Evaluation* course to 29 individuals from 17 organizations. In addition to M&E staff, financial and other program staff from the grantee organizations also participated, because successful M&E requires buy-in and engagement from everyone. The material offered online was condensed and presented to participants in person by facilitators and was supplemented by periodic referral to online course videos and examples, along with time for self-reflection and group discussion and job-aid handouts. The Botswana cohort completed the course using a similar approach August 8-9 with 24 participants from 10 organizations.

**“This is a unique course. We will definitely encourage our colleagues to all register for the course as we did so that they get these skills.”**

*Fredrick Okado, Muslims for Human Rights (MUHURI)*

Combining immediate post-course survey results from Kenya and Botswana, the 53 participants from 27 CSOs valued the material and how it was delivered.

- 100% of survey respondents found the *Planning for M&E* course useful
- 100% of survey respondents felt the in-person facilitation was more impactful than if they had completed the course online only
- Regardless of their role (M&E, finance, program team), a comparison of pre/post course survey responses indicates that more than half of all participants found their M&E capacity improved as a result of their participation

The collaboration between Philanthropy University and SCS Global on these two blended learning *Planning for M&E* course pilots was truly mutually beneficial. The course provided a framework for ensuring all grantees thought about and clearly documented their project M&E plans prior to implementation. By completing the five-module course over the two-day training period with facilitators, the grantees left with rough drafts of M&E plans tailored to their projects. Delivering the course to grantees in person also allowed for rapid-feedback data collection on course quality, the perceived value of the blended-learning approach vs online-only, and suggested changes to materials and time estimated for the various modules and exercises.

Philanthropy University will use these data to strengthen the existing course and in designing new courses. Because SCS grantees in Kenya and Botswana will be supported for at least a year, we will periodically gauge the extent to which the topics covered are being used and what targeted support is needed to ensure high-quality data are collected – useful for both SCS and Philanthropy University. We will also assess the extent to which the CSOs improved their M&E capacity for their projects and organizations.

Philanthropy University is a nonprofit organization with a mission to deliver capacity-building resources to local civil society organizations (CSOs) to improve their performance. In furtherance of that mission, Philanthropy University has been developing a suite of technology products and services that can be accessed by CSOs globally, including a learning and course management system and online platform capable of delivering such capacity-building resources. FHI 360 has been working with Philanthropy University since 2016, particularly assisting with monitoring and evaluation (M&E) course development. Share the availability of Philanthropy University's free online platform and courses at [www.PhilanthropyU.org](http://www.PhilanthropyU.org).

**“The results from SCS Global’s testing of the blended learning approach for M&E with partner CSOs in Botswana and Kenya are impressive. Thank you for partnering with Philanthropy University to develop CSO capacity in this unique way.”**

*Dan Fang, Philanthropy University*

## SCS Azerbaijan Conducts Rare Joint Training with MoJ for CSOs

In April, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) of Azerbaijan requested support to train CSOs on their reporting obligations under new anti-money laundering (AML) and counterterrorism financing (CTF) legislation. In response, the SCS project in Azerbaijan - the Empowering Civil Society Organizations for Transparency (ECSOFT) activity - and MoJ officials met with representatives of 65 CSOs from Shirvan, Guba, and Ganja and trained them in the new reporting obligations and how to establish internal control systems and develop internal regulations. MoJ officials also answered questions directly from CSO representatives on organization registration processes, grant registration, and recent changes to bylaws.

The trainings were a rare instance of MoJ officials travelling to the outer regions of Azerbaijan to meet with CSOs and were an important first step to improving the trust and overall relationship between the MoJ and CSOs. Following the trainings, ECSOFT has worked with the MoJ and Financial Monitoring Service on drafting guidance documents on compliance and reporting obligations under AML–CTF legislation for CSOs.

Launched in 2018, this three-and-a-half year SCS Global program is implemented by FHI 360, the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL), and MG Consulting to improve the fiscal transparency, accountability, and anti-corruption measures of Government of Azerbaijan agencies. It also

assists CSOs to become more competent and sustainable in conducting anti-corruption, oversight, and advocacy activities.

## SCS Honduras Supports Tech Innovations in Anti-Corruption, Transparency



Winners of Honduras Digital Challenge at Abrelatam (August 2019, FHI 360)

On July 20–21, SCS Honduras' *ComunicAcción Ciudadana* project, which enhances the capacity of civil society and media to influence government decision making on anticorruption and transparency issues, participated in the Honduras Digital Challenge's (HDC) “Demo Day” at the University of San Pedro Sula (USAP). The HDC is an annual national competition in Honduras that promotes the use of ICT to address various issues that affect citizens throughout the country.

In partnership with the competition's private-sector organizer *Banco Atlantida*, SCS Honduras incorporated the topic of transparency into the annual competition. Competitors in the “Using Technology in Support of Transparency” category presented their digital applications (apps) and were evaluated by international technology experts, including Christian Anker from Chile, Juan I. Pane from Paraguay, and Juan I. Belbis from Argentina.

Out of eight competing teams, there were two winners:

- The creators of the Observatory of Power platform, won first place with their digital platform, which provides legislative information to citizens to strengthen government accountability and facilitate citizen participation.
- The creators of the web and mobile platform [Raise Your Voice](#)—which promotes citizen reporting on issues that affect their neighborhoods and municipalities through the uploading of pictures of the issues—won second place.

Following the competition, *Banco Atlantida* and *ComunicAcción Ciudadana* provided the winners with equipment and technical training and sent them to Ecuador to attend [Abrelatam](#), an international conference on open data and open government. At Abrelatam, the winners were able to meet other app developers from throughout Latin America who are focused on combatting corruption and promoting transparency in their own countries, join existing regional networks, gain insight from other contexts, and meet with experts in their field to discuss development of their apps and learn ways to promote the app and utilize the data they collect and share on their platforms.

In September, the Raise Your Voice team presented their app to the municipal government in Siguatepeque to promote its use and secure local government buy-in. Local officials agreed to contribute municipal information and consult for the development of the app so it can be pilot tested in their municipality. Multiple attempts by the Raise Your Voice team to meet with Siguatepeque officials to discuss the app had been unsuccessful prior to winning the HDC and receiving support from *ComunicAcción Ciudadana*. The Observatory of Power team has developed its web platform and plans to debut it in December 2019. The platform will allow citizens to view information on legislative decisions by members of Congress and write to representatives to request information. Observatory of Power will also publish monthly reports on laws that were passed and representatives who voted for and against that legislation.

*ComunicAcción Ciudadana* will continue to support both apps by promoting their use among CSO and media partners and will continue to explore partnerships with the developers for future activities that promote citizen participation for transparency and anti-corruption in Honduras. SCS Honduras is implemented by FHI 360 in partnership with International Center for Not-for-Profit Law and Internews.

## SCS Tanzania Prepares Journalism Students for Media Careers

The *Boresha Habari* (Better News) project in Tanzania, implemented by SCS Global partner Internews with support from FHI 360, supports an open, inclusive environment in which Tanzanian media and civil society can provide accurate and impartial information that promotes participation, inclusion, and accountability.

In 2018, *Boresha Habari* created a radio journalism training program for student journalists which provides them with practical, real-world technical skills - such as how to write a script, use audio recording devices, and produce and present radio programs - to prepare them for careers in radio journalism and media. The training program was initially piloted for 71 journalism students from the University of Dar es Salaam's School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Saint Augustine University in Mwanza, and the Zanzibar Journalism and Mass Media College. It was scaled up for 344 students from June to August. Students participating in the course also received gender-sensitivity training and worked to create audio productions of stories focused on women and youth political rights, participation, and leadership.

The radio journalism course is implemented in conjunction with a USAID impact evaluation being undertaken by NORC at the University of Chicago. The evaluation will measure the impact of the journalism trainings for student journalists on their media-production skills and career prospects relative to students who did not receive the training.

## SCS Tanzania-Trained Journalists Scoop Excellence in Journalism Awards



SCS Tanzania data journalist receiving Excellence in Journalism Award (Internews, 2019)

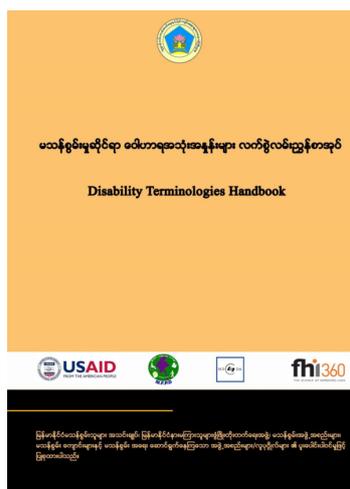
Data journalism is a journalism specialty reflecting the increased role that numerical data play in the gathering, producing and presenting of information for news stories in the digital era. Four journalists trained in data journalism by SCS Tanzania and local partner Nukta Africa won prizes in the 2019 Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT).

1. Joyce Shebe, Chief Editor of Clouds Media, won first prize in the Data Journalism for TV category with a story on why girls' schools have performed better than their co-ed or boys' counterparts. This was Shebe's first award as a journalism practitioner.
2. Adrian Mgaya of Mlimani TV won an award in the Safety and Quality of Food, Medicines and Cosmetics Reporting category for a data-driven story on women using hazardous cosmetics despite a government ban. The 26-year-old Mgaya was among the first reporters receiving data journalism training from SCS Tanzania.
3. Yohani Gangway, a presenter at Radio SAUT in Mwanza, TZ, won first prize in the Education category with a radio program about three street children in Mwanza who were attending primary education while living on the street. Gangway's story led the school administration to find a house and other necessities for the pupils. Yohani also came in second in the Data Journalism category with a story on the capacity of government to employ recent graduates.
4. Gaspar Charles from Micheweni Radio in Pemba Island, TZ, won first prize in the Agriculture and Agri-Business category with a story about a monopoly of the vanilla market that compels farmers to sell their produce at a low price. Gaspar also came in on top in the Business, Economy and Finance Reporting category with a program on the Zanzibar Bureau of Standards issuing barcodes through a cumbersome process alleged to deny small-scale entrepreneurs the opportunity to sell their products to national and international markets.

Congratulations to all the winners!

## SCS Myanmar Helps Create First-Ever Handbook on Disability Terms

Myanmar now has its first government-sanctioned handbook on disability terminology. With contributions from the SCS Myanmar's Civil Society and Media II Project, the booklet was developed jointly by Myanmar Deaf Community Development Association (MDCDA), Myanmar Federation of Persons with Disabilities (MFPD), and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement (MSWRR). *The Disability Terminology Handbook* was launched at an [official ceremony](#) in Yangon on October 24.



The handbook includes national standards to promote greater sensitivity to preserving the dignity of people with disabilities in language and image. Among the topics covered in the booklet are appropriate language for depicting all four types of disabilities (hearing, learning, motor, visual), terms related to inclusive education, and media guidelines for the portrayal of people with disabilities. SCS Myanmar also supported MDCDA to print and distribute 10,000 copies of the handbook to relevant civil society organizations, government agencies, and media organizations.

SCS Myanmar works with civil society and media to:

- 1) increase the prevalence of high quality reporting about democratic reforms, intercommunal harmony and religious freedom, and peace processes; and
- 2) bolster efforts in legal and policy advocacy while increasing understanding of and engagement in a peaceful, inclusive, democratic transition.

SCS Myanmar is implemented by FHI 360 with Internews, Voluntary Services Overseas, and Public International Law and Policy Group.

## SCS Myanmar Prompts Actions Against Copycat Media

SCS Myanmar worked closely with Myanmar Press Council (MPC) and Myanmar media sector to take a significant first step in tackling the copycat media. The fifth SCS Myanmar Media Sustainability Roundtable, held on April 10, focused on how to deal with copycat media—whereby media houses republish and re-post news stories and information without permission.

Copycat media is a lucrative business, while legitimate media are struggling for their financial survival. Representatives from the Ministry of Information, MPC, Myanmar Media Lawyer's Network, media development organizations, and individual media houses discussed possible strategies for combatting copycat media at the roundtable and articulated follow-up actions: engaging with the cyber law drafting

committee for intellectual property and engaging with civil society groups which are doing work in fact-checking and monitoring of hate speech and fake news.

The roundtable participants also recommended that the MPC support efforts to act against copycat media, and some media representatives shared the lists of copycat media they had compiled. As a result, the MPC released a statement warning media organizations against the practice of large-scale copying of content without permission. The MPC also issued a warning that it would act against websites that violate the guidelines. On May 27, the MPC issued a [notification](#) identifying [30 websites and social media pages](#) that have regularly posted fake/false news or plagiarized news stories. This list was expanded to identify 48 copycat media organizations in a [second announcement](#) in August 2019. These announcements have already started to have an impact, with high-profile businesses withdrawing their advertisements from producers that support copycat media.

## SCS Botswana Launches The Cookie Jar Videos and Vlogs to Engage Young Women



The Cookie Jar is a social media platform for young Botswana women aged 18-25 years to discuss issues that are most important to them. The issues they have identified and frequently post about on social media include sex, sexuality, gender-based violence (GBV), HIV risks, navigating relationships, access to contraceptives, and access to PrEP. The Cookie Jar is run by young women for young women. Five content managers facilitate discussions on Facebook, and the group has grown to more than 800 members in Botswana.

In August, SCS Botswana (also known as APC 2.0) conducted a series of workshops in Gaborone, Botswana, to advance the project's work of engaging youth to enhance community-based youth-friendly HIV and related services. Following this, members and staff from the project, Tebelopele Wellness Clinics, and Botswana Gender-Based Violence Centre attended a three-day workshop to learn the fundamentals of video production from pre-production through post-production and promotion, teaching participants to make engaging Facebook images and videos and posting using phones. Three pre-production videos for youth on the use of PrEP were created and are being refined for posting. Additionally, the group developed responses to FAQs on PrEP and GBV. Recognizing a similar opportunity to engage young men on issues of concern, SCS Botswana also brought together a group of young men to co-design the male version of The Cookie Jar, called The Ultimate Bonfire, which will be launched in 2020.

## SCS Zambia Youth Uses YPAT to Incorporate Youth Feedback



Youth-serving organizations (YSOs) provide critical services and support to youth, but some lack knowledge of positive youth development (PYD) and/or view these concepts as abstract and difficult to operationalize.

To help YSOs reflect on their programming and institutional practices and identify areas for improvement, SCS Global developed the [Youth Programming Assessment Tool \(YPAT\)](#). The tool sets standards of best practice against which YSOs can evaluate their own practices and guides YSOs through reflecting on their programming and creating actionable priorities to improve their youth programming.

In June, the YPAT was used to determine strengths and weaknesses of the SCS Zambia Youth Lead Activity. During a reflection group and subsequent assessment, many of the youth participants noted that there was room for improvement in creating an inclusive environment, especially to ensure that all aspects of the program are accessible, and that all youth (regardless of gender, religion, and sexual orientation, among others) feel included and safe.

Based on this feedback, the program added an additional ramp at a training site to ensure that all youth could reach the lunch tables, revised the Youth Lead's civic engagement curriculum to include more sessions addressing diversity, and decided to invite parents to major Youth Lead activities, such as the youth participants' capstone presentations. In addition to making these concrete suggestions, the youth participants remarked that they had never previously had the experience of providing direct feedback and designing solutions, and that being involved in the assessment process and seeing positive changes further motivated them in the program.

SCS Zambia, implemented by FHI 360, has two interrelated components: 1) to build youth's civic-engagement skills through an internship and training program that culminates in grant-funded youth-led projects, and 2) to establish structures and systems for engaging youth as leaders in government agencies, non-profit organizations, and private businesses.

## SCS Global Associate Awards

### USAID/AZERBAIJAN

Anti-Corruption, Transparency, Citizen Engagement

### USAID/BALKANS

Media and CSO Strengthening

### USAID/BOTSWANA

PEPFAR HIV/AIDS Services, CSO Strengthening

### USAID/BURMA

Civil Society and Media Strengthening, Peacebuilding

### USAID/CAMBODIA

Citizen Engagement and Participation, Local Government Transparency and Accountability

### USAID/CHAD

Civil Society Strengthening

### USAID/DJIBOUTI

CSO Strengthening, Community Development

### USAID/DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Media and CSO Strengthening

### USAID/DRG

CSO Sustainability Index

### USAID/GUINEA

Civic Activism, Strengthening Health Governance

### USAID/HONDURAS

Civil Society and Media Strengthening, Anti-Corruption

### USAID/INDONESIA

CSO Capacity Development, Governance

### USAID/JAMAICA

Local Partner and Social Enterprise Development, Youth Engagement, Countering Violence

### USAID/KENYA

Governance Reform, Institution Strengthening, Rule of Law

### USAID/KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

Media and CSO Strengthening

### USAID/RDMA

Network Strengthening, Analytical Research

### USAID/TANZANIA

Media Strengthening, Gender and Youth Integration

### USAID/ZAMBIA

Youth Engagement, Civic Leadership

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