

CITIZENS FOR JUSTICE

Current and Future Activities

2015



This document provides a succinct overview of Citizens for Justice's (CFJ's) current and foreseeable future projects and activities in 2015. We remain committed to promoting good governance and economic, environmental and social justice. For details of our activities in 2014, please consult our Annual Report for 2014.

Responsive Mining Governance for Equitable and Sustainable Development (MWK 52,535,798.80), CFJ continues to work with ActionAid to implement the project funded by the Tilitonse Fund. The two-year project will conclude in August 2015. In the next two quarters, work will continue with mining communities, consolidating the Natural Resources Justice Network and promoting further dialogue around mining-related issues that affect Malawi. CFJ will also be involved in fundraising to continue our engagement in the mining sector.

Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) (MK22, 000,000.00) is a key target of efforts in 2015 as the President of Malawi publically confirmed Malawi's commitment to sign up to EITI in June 2014. CFJ has been lobbying for this since 2008 and was selected as a member for the multi-stakeholder group in December 2014. Reinford Mwangonde and Rachel Etter are CFJ's named representatives for the group and will contribute to ensuring Malawi meets the sign-up criteria for the EITI in the first half of 2015, including developing a fully-costed work plan and the terms of reference for the group.

Publish What You Pay (PWYP) (20,000,000.00) is expected to gain great momentum in 2015 with the anticipated approval by the International PWYP Secretariat for Malawi to join the global coalition and campaign. In 2015, we hope to see the structures and steering committee in place, the strategic plan finalized and implemented and will be actively engaged in sourcing funding for this campaign. CFJ currently houses the PWYP coordinator.

Implementation of the Legal Aid Act (USD 10,000) will continue under World Just Project (WJP) funding until June 2015. Before this time, we expect to conclude 400 more cases. This will build on the successes from 2014, where the project legally concluded (either through conviction, discharge, judgment, and fine) 219 cases and helped over 250 people.

Strengthening Accountability Institutions in Malawi (25,000,000.00) is a project we continue to implement with the support of GIZ, aimed to contribute towards a corrupt-free Malawi. Wilkinson & Associates is currently conducting an audit on behalf of CFJ and the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) of the key accountability institutions in Malawi, including the ACB, the Office of the Ombudsman, the Human Rights

Commission, the National Audit Office, the National Assembly, the Financial Intelligence Unit, Malawi Police (Fiscal) and the Malawi Judiciary. The results of the audit will be released in mid-2015 and this will be used to inform our future activities and approach going forward as well as provide a helpful tool of analysis for the audited institutions and other stakeholders. These activities will be implemented closely with the ACB as CFJ signed a three-year Memorandum of Understanding with the ACB in July 2014.

Budget and Expenditure Transparency (51,000,000.00) was one of CFJ's new projects in 2014. Through financing from GIZ to the Office of the President and Cabinet and in collaboration with CFJ, the project is being rolled out in nine districts, in all three regions. In 2015, the technical working group for this project will be set up, an inception meeting held, the information and material gathered for the orientation and budget analysis at each district council and a final report produced. The project is targeting the heads of departments in each district council, non-governmental organizations and community based organizations, traditional leaders, councilors, members of parliament and other special interest groups to improve the participation of citizens in public financial management and the accountability of district councils in public financial management and budgeting. The project will be completed in the second quarter of 2015.

Open Government Partnership (OGP) (Mk32, 000,000.00) 12 million from GiZ and 20 million from HivoS) was officially launched in October 2014 and CFJ has been part of the steering committee from inception. In 2015, CFJ will support the committee and government in meeting the OGP criteria of developing a national action plan.

Future projects

Mines and Minerals Act Advocacy –(\$49,000.00) is pertinent as Malawi reaches the final stages of its journey before tabling and passing a new Mines and Minerals Act to replace the current legislation dating from 1981. CFJ has been a leading advocate for this reform and in 2014 participated in review of the old legislation. This year, we hope to engage with parliamentarians through a project for training parliamentarians on the Southern Africa Resource Barometer with the SADC Parliamentary Forum and Southern Africa Resource Watch. In addition, we hope to secure funding through OSISA to lead a training on the draft Mines and Minerals Bill with parliamentarians in the Committee for Natural Resources and Climate Change to ensure that the new legislation aligns with best practice and international and regional conventions Malawi has ratified or signed, such as the African Mining Vision. In addition, CFJ will participate in the Alternative Mining Indaba held in South Africa in February to call on governments and mining companies to address injustices in the mining sector.

Oil and Gas Advocacy (MK 21,000,000.00) is high on the agenda for CFJ as oil exploration is underway in the country. In XX, CFJ conducted a legal and policy audit of the oil sector and drew a number of conclusions, including the urgency in addressing the outdated Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Act of 1983. CFJ is currently developing a proposal to submit to OSISA for funding to use the results of the audit to lobby decision makers including parliamentarians and government officials as well as other civil society organizations and development partners to ensure Malawi is ready to embark on oil exploration and production for the benefit of all Malawians.

Child Rights and Safety in the Extractive Industry-(\$380,000.00) is a project that CFJ commenced applying for in 2014. CFJ is applying to the Oak Foundation to conduct a project to analyze the impact of World Bank's funded extractive industry (Mining, Oil and Gas) projects on children's rights in Malawi, Tanzania and Uganda and to advise on specific actions to mitigate on the impacts. CFJ will be the lead organization and collaborate with a couple of other organizations in the respective countries. This objective will be achieved

by documenting the experiences of children in the three countries and exploring the link between extractive industry operations, products and services and delineate their actual impacts on children. The findings at the national and regional levels will be organized to support Bank Information Centre's national and international campaign. In this context, the project will generate global benchmarks that will be shared with other stakeholders involved in the promotion and protection of children's rights. The project will commence when funding is granted. This is expected to start mid-2015 and the project will run for 3 years.

Expansion of the Implementation of the Legal Aid Act-(Osisa \$180,000 and EU for the 11th EDF) is necessary because the WJP will come to an end in June 2015. Given the successes of the project to date and recognition of many stakeholders, CFJ intends to continue to offer the same legal assistance but on a larger scale. This will include targeting all districts for camp courts, building on the partnerships with the Womens Lawyers Association and Womens Judges Association of Malawi, advocating on human rights issues, enhancing civic education on newly implemented acts, such as the Child Care Protection and Justice Act (2010) and the Marriage Divorce and Family Relations Bill (2015) and providing capacity building for members of the judiciary. OSISA has been identified as a future partner.

Partnering with the Malawi Judiciary falls under our work of strengthening accountability institutions. In 2015, we will be partnering with U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre and GIZ to engage the Malawi judiciary on integrity and the current challenges facing courts in making progress on the over 60 cases associated with "cashgate", the looting of public coffers by government officials. CFJ is committed to supporting the courts in the role of fighting corruption in Malawi. We are also in discussions with Law and Development Partnership and hope to engage judicial officers this year in strengthening their capacity for the settlement of commercial disputes. We are also discussing the possibility of holding a symposium on the impact of limited resources on judicial independence and access to justice to inform necessary reforms.

Other Activities

CFJ's communication has been prioritized for 2015. We will re-launch the website, including a blog, and maintain a more active social media present on Facebook and Twitter. This is important to communicate to the country about what we are doing, to receive feedback and for our fundraising activities for projects.

Review of Strategic Plan is on the agenda this year for CFJ as the current plan is from 2011 to 2014.

Building on partnerships with the National Institute for Civic Education and Anti-Corruption Bureau.

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