



MINDS REGIONAL CIVIC EDUCATION WORKSHOPS

The role and potential impact
of African youth in elections
and governance



The MINDS Youth Programme has been specifically designed to strengthen the quality of youth engagement in the electoral and political governance processes in Africa

ABOUT MINDS



The Mandela Institute for Development Studies (MINDS) is an Africa-wide think tank which provides an inclusive platform for dialogue, information dissemination and networking. Our programmes are underpinned by rigorous research into all aspects of African Heritage, in order to shape policy and practice on critical issues of governance, integrated economic development and the evolution of African institutions.

TRANSPARENCY

ignorance

exchange of ideas

SUPPORT

peer learning

RESPECT

challenge

democracy

diversity

LEGITIMACY

authority

credibility

fellowship

PARTICIPATION

tolerance

HELPING TO SHAPE AN AFRICA TO MEET OUR ASPIRATIONS

MINDS undertook to engage with African youth as part of our efforts to address the challenges hampering democratic governance on the continent. With the support of our ongoing partner the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (through the Royal Norwegian Embassy in South Africa) as well as additional support by the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA) and the Southern Africa Trust, MINDS launched a multi-year project on the role and potential impact of African youth in elections and governance.

Our Civic Education Project pushes African youth to engage in meaningful action to shape the future of Africa to suit their aspirations. It can be argued that African youth, because of their superior numbers, bear the main responsibility for ensuring that good governance, of which elections are a critical baseline, becomes a solid foundation of the whole edifice of development for the continent. Through this project, MINDS is working to raise levels of knowledge and engagement in current electoral and governance processes and systems among African youth.

YOUTH PROGRAMME

The MINDS' Youth Programme in Elections and Governance is one of our four core programmes developed to address the short medium, and long-term developmental challenges facing Africa in a holistic and comprehensive manner. It is an activity-driven programme aimed at empowering African youth, so they become engaged participants in elections and governance in their countries. This is built on our fundamental belief that active youth participation in governance, and on-going engagement with leadership and governance processes, can hasten the transformation of the continent to realise the socio-economic and political progress needed to improve conditions and living standards of the Africa society.

Youth have the potential, if used properly and intelligently, to define an African social, economic and political agenda which can contribute to a progressive and developmental Africa that can meet African needs.

Nkosana Moyo, Founder, MINDS

PLATFORM TO EQUIP AND MOBILISE AFRICAN YOUTH TO MEANINGFULLY PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS AND GOVERNANCE



African youth need an understanding of the workings of current governance systems to make informed choices regarding how, or if, these systems and structures can benefit their quest for a continent they envision. The training project was designed and developed for MINDS by the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy (EISA) with the aim of encouraging greater youth participation in governance by inspiring young people to become proactive in contributing to the enhancement of a democratic culture that they aspire to within their countries. The Regional Civic Education Training Workshops provides a platform where young Africans were able to share and discuss the main challenges they face and must overcome on a daily basis. The content covered in these workshops familiarises African youth with electoral and governance processes relevant to their countries. These workshops are designed in such a way as to equip attendants so that they become meaningful participants and mobilisers in election processes within their countries.

The content provided gives an overview of the eight regional training workshops undertaken by MINDS in East, Southern, West and North Africa between 2014 to 2018 inclusively, as well as a Train the Facilitator workshop in 2017.



WORKSHOP MATERIAL AND FACILITATION

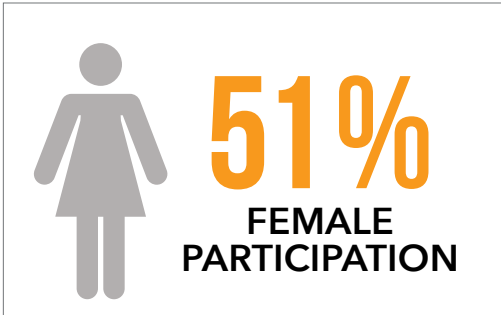
A comprehensive training manual was produced by EISA covering topics to be addressed in the training such as Democracy, The Electoral Cycle and Stakeholder Engagement. Through expert facilitation, participants were guided through activities that enabled them to engage with the concepts practically and in a contextually relevant manner. Each workshop was facilitated by skilled EISA facilitators under the guidance of the MINDS team. MINDS staff and leadership participated in and monitored the proceedings of each workshop to ensure that the workshop outcomes were achieved. EISA provided a final, consolidated report on the workshops conducted, summarising the key outcomes, highlights and lessons that could be drawn from the workshops.



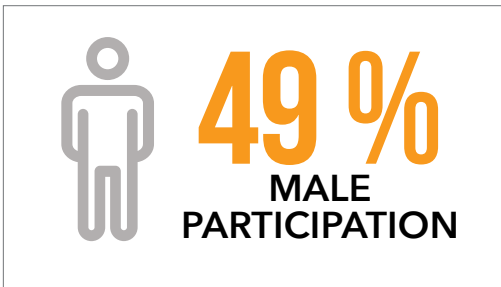
The solutions to Africa's
leadership and governance
challenges lies with us -
THE YOUTH OF AFRICA

PARTICIPANT SELECTION

Participants are selected on the basis of demonstrating leadership, community involvement, ability to mobilise peers, their involvement or interest in elections and governance, and a commitment to the development of Africa



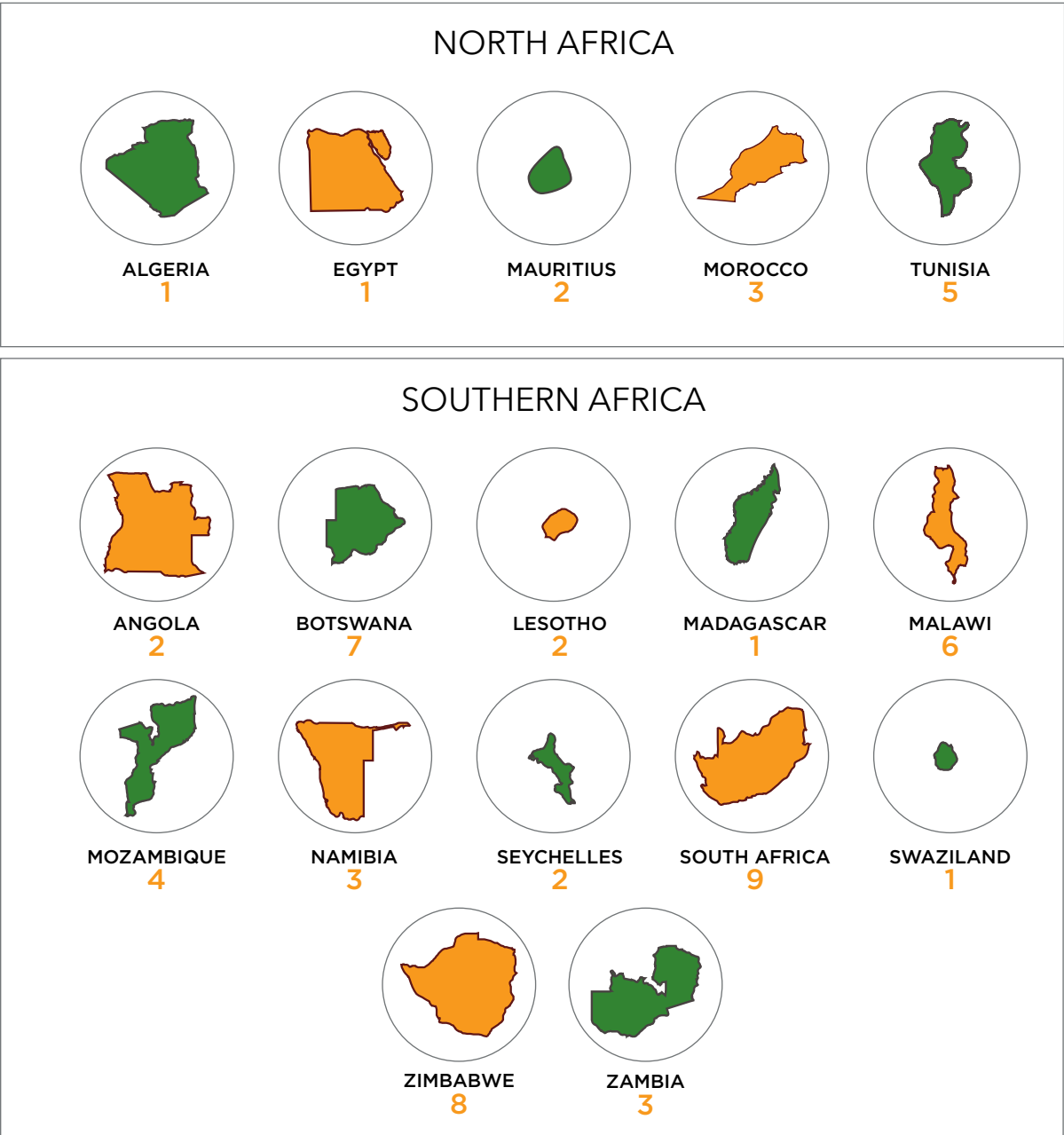
ENSURING EQUAL FEMALE AND MALE PARTICIPATION IS A PRIORITY



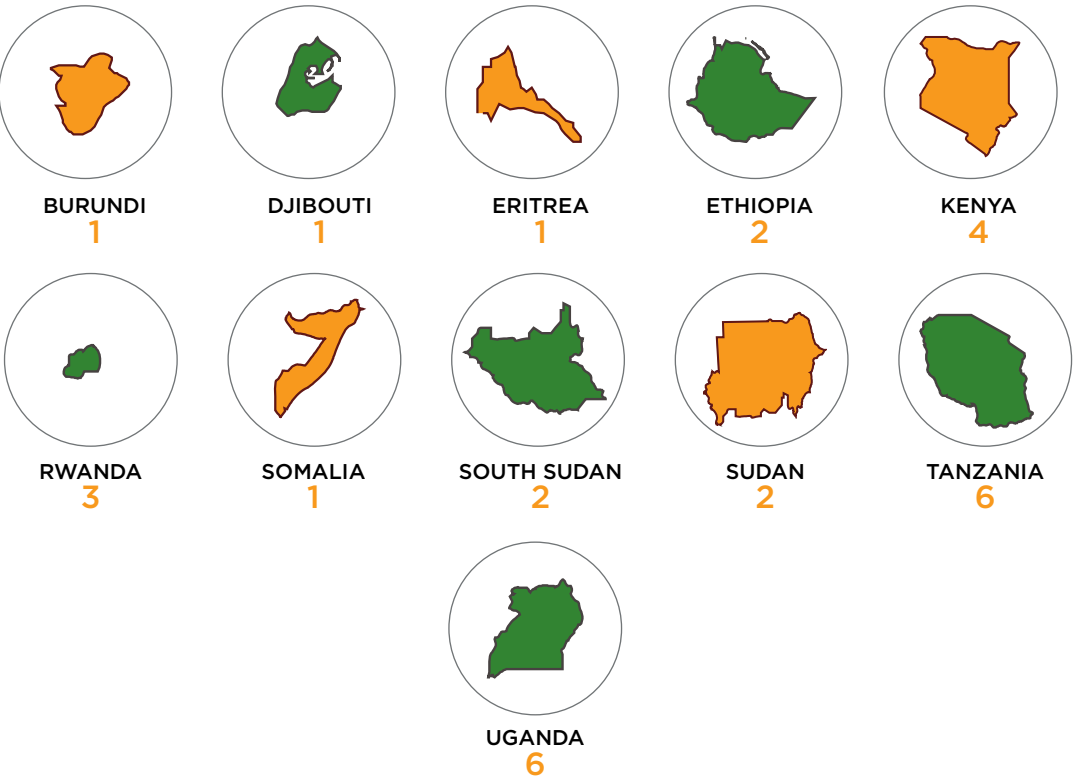
Understanding that we are the generation responsible for building the Africa we want

COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

*This list indicates countries represented in the workshop training between 2015 and 2018

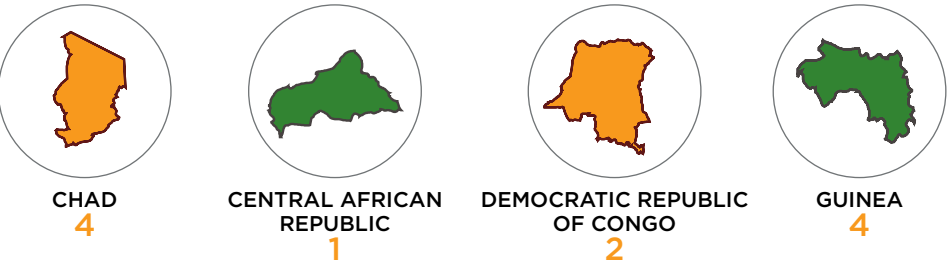


EAST AFRICA

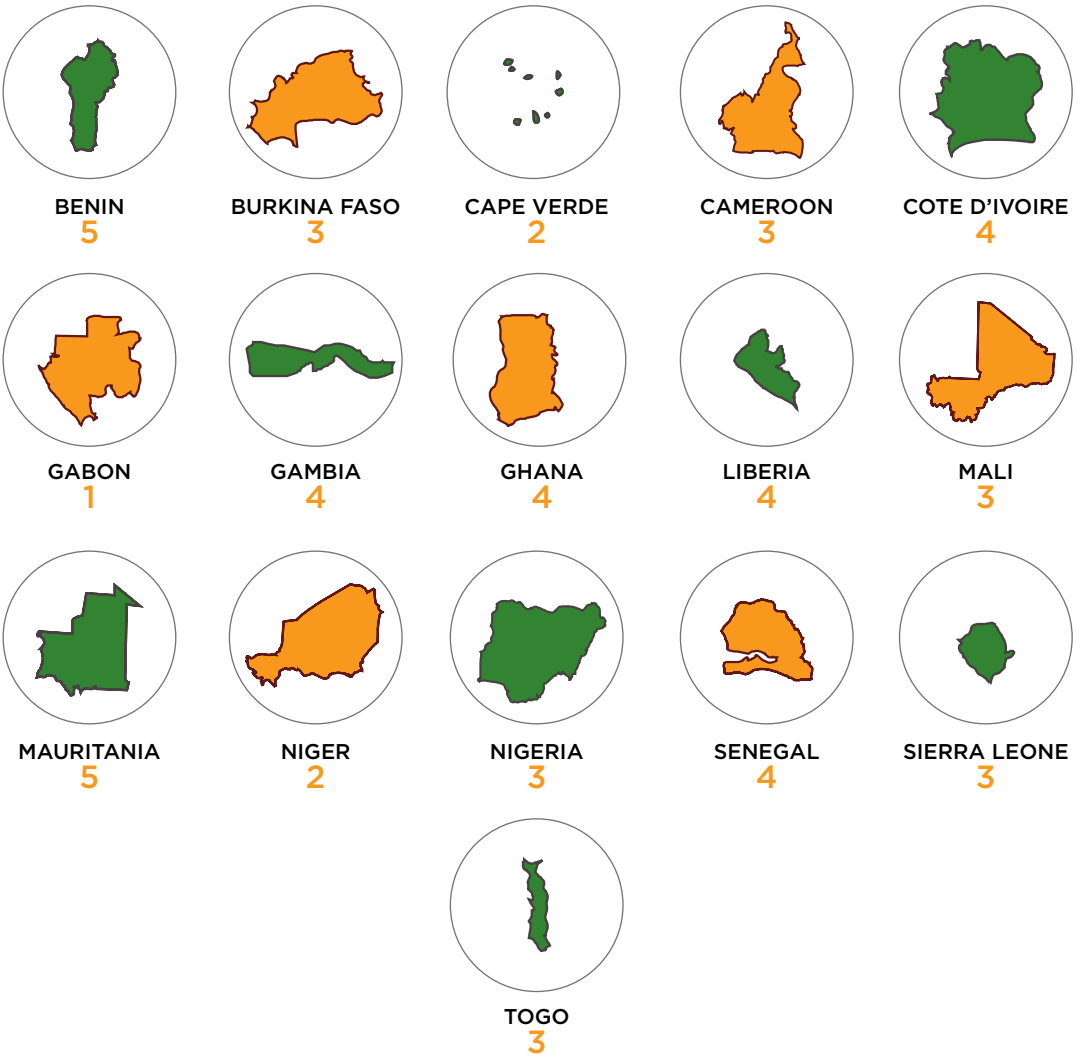


CENTRAL AFRICA

*(included in West Africa workshops)



WEST AFRICA



IN SUMMARY

CIVIC EDUCATION WORKSHOP TOPICS

Between 2014 and 2018 a total of 192 participants from 46 countries across the continent have come together to participate in a two-day civic education training session on Elections and Governance. The training comprised four modules to interrogate and challenge current development paradigms of the participants. Through these workshops MINDS provided a platform for youth to deliberate, debate and build consensus on how to participate and contribute in transforming the socio-economic and political situation of the African continent.

MODULE 1

BEHIND THE VEIL OF IGNORANCE

This exercise allowed each participant to realise the prejudices and challenges involved in governing a society and distributing social roles. Participants were encouraged to conceive a society that looks beyond the “veil of ignorance”, to generate a more egalitarian and fair society.

The session helped participants understand and appreciate that societies are diverse and that these differences are the drivers that create challenges on how to live together, share space, opportunities, resources and power, underpinned by the principles that:

- politics is about the capture, deployment and use of power
- power without legitimacy is tyranny
- power without credibility is simply force
- power and responsibility need to be balanced
- power and authority
- power exercised without responsibility can only be maintained by force
- power that lacks authority cannot govern, implement and administer
- there is a difference between formal power (authority) and influence that is exercised in society (by elders, the media, NGO's, opinion makers, the family, the school).



SESSION 1:

UNDERSTANDING DEMOCRACY

Participants were asked to share their initial understanding of democracy by taking into consideration their worldview that was shaped from a number of factors, such as their home country, personal experiences and their concept of what constitutes a democracy.

Several definitions were given and through a collaborative process a general understanding was reached that defined a democracy as, “a political system in which sovereignty belongs to the people and can be exercised directly or through freely chosen representatives by clearly defined methods”, hence the existence of direct and indirect democracies.

The different types of democracies were also expanded on to ensure that the nuances of democracy: full democracies, hybrid democracies and flawed democracies were understood.

Despite significant democratic progress on the continent, greater efforts are still required to consolidate these achievements and broaden the scope. The participation of Africa’s youth in pursuing efforts to improve the state of democracy in Africa needs to be made a priority

SESSION 2:

INDICATORS FOR DEMOCRACY

Participants agreed that people have the right to decide who should rule them and that the elected rule on behalf of the electorate.

A genuine, quality and thriving democracy is associated with good elections

The participants compiled a list of democratic indicators that include:

Fundamental rights and freedoms which form the basis of democratic societies	Good governance which implies civic participation to satisfy the interest of society as a whole	Equality in the face of law and public services
Separation of powers: institutional balance and mechanisms which limit the abuse of power	Civic participation beyond elections/voting	Tolerance: above all respecting diversity within each society which constitutes an important pillar of democracy in so far as it confirms the will to live together
Accountability of elected representatives who have the responsibility to answer to the citizens whom they represent. Sanctions should be applied for those who fail to do so		

SESSION 1:

FEATURES OF FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS

Participants were asked to share their personal experiences of elections, whether it was as voters, candidates, national/international observers, party agents etc. This session focused on the importance of understanding that elections are not a once-off event but rather an "electoral cycle. Using this approach, participants could then understand the ongoing approach to the electoral administration and assistance needed. Participants were divided into groups to identify activities of the three phases of an election being the pre-election phase, election phase, and a post-election phase.

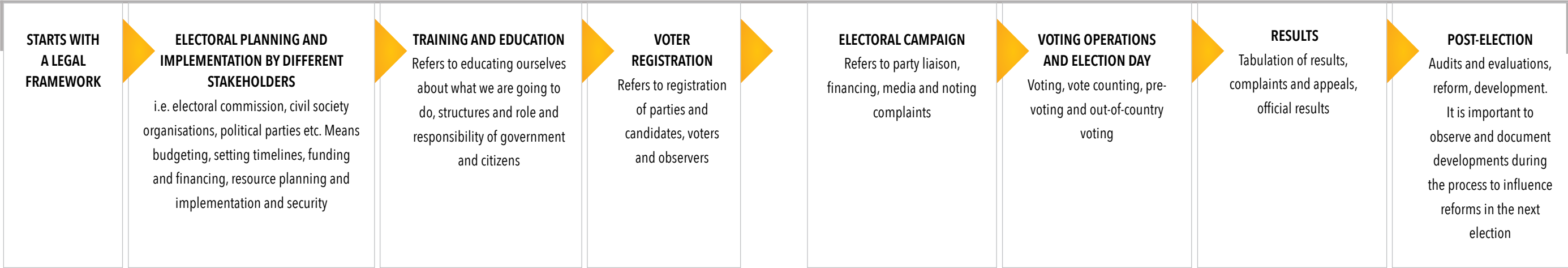
INTEGRITY
CREDIBILITY
TRANSPARENCY
IMPARTIALITY OF
THE PROCESS
INCLUSIVENESS
FREEDOM
(CONTESTANTS)
EQUAL
TREATMENT OF
CANDIDATES
LEGITIMACY AND
ACCURACY OF
RESULTS

SESSION 2:

ELECTORAL SYSTEMS

The second session dealt with electoral systems. Participants were individually asked to explain what types of electoral systems are used in their home countries. Electoral systems were explained as mechanisms through which the votes cast by citizens are translated into seats. The main electoral systems, namely the majority system, proportional representation and mixed systems were explored through the specific experience of each country represented. The advantages and disadvantages of these systems were highlighted. The session attracted attention of participants, including those who had already made inroads in the political field or who were preparing to run for elective office.

THE ELECTORAL CYCLE



SESSION 1:

POWER, INSTITUTIONS AND FORMAL AUTHORITY

The presentation on power, institutions and authority was an opportunity for participants to discover the various facets of power, reviewing aristocracy, timocracy, oligarchy, tyranny and democracy. This session looked at: What is power? Who has power? and delved into the elements of power, highlighting that there are various forms of power, distinguishing between power and influence and understanding that each of us has power.

ELIGIBLE VOTERS have power to elect their leaders and those elected with power bestowed upon them have power to govern.

POWER is something that you are entrusted with and is limited.

ELEMENTS OF GOVERNANCE:

- ☐ Governance is the process of decision-making and what influences decision-making
- ☐ How decisions are implemented
- ☐ Inclusiveness of different stakeholders in a society in the process of making decisions
- ☐ How authority is exercised
- ☐ Relationship between those who govern and those who are governed
- ☐ Regulation, administration, execution, decision making, interaction, power, authority
- ☐ Management and administration of decisions.

Accountability keeps government power in check. It is a pre-condition for a just democracy and without it democracy is always at risk

SESSION 2:

OVERSIGHT, TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND PARTICIPATION

During the second session of this module, the discussion was focused around oversight, transparency, accountability and participation. Mechanisms by which citizens and especially young people can participate in the transparency of public affairs was explored and discussed in small groups. In addition to the institutional mechanisms of control of public action, namely parliamentary control of public action and judicial sanctions, citizens can participate in the transparency of public life through citizen oversight mechanisms, namely interpellation, public meetings, leaflets, and public protest.

ACCOUNTABILITY is one of the cornerstones of democracy and implies:

- ☐ Answerability
- ☐ Expectation of account-giving
- ☐ Responsibility to answer for performance expectations to specific stakeholders
- ☐ A way by which individuals or groups are held responsible for their actions
- ☐ Obligation to report on one's activity.

With respect to the decision-making process, accountability implies that public officials must be answerable to the country's citizens for their actions and behaviour. This implies that they should conduct their work in an open, transparent, and responsive manner. They must obey the law, not abuse their powers and serve the public interest in an efficient, effective and fair manner.

Governments have wide-ranging and significant power to intervene in the lives of citizens. The abuse of this power can have very negative outcomes, especially for the poorest and most marginalised, who are least able to seek redress. It is a necessary pre-condition for just democracy. Accountability helps to ensure that state power is exercised according to the will of the citizenry. Without it, democracy is always at risk.

SESSION 3:

AFRICAN CHARTER ON DEMOCRACY, ELECTIONS AND GOVERNANCE

The final session of the module on Governance focused on the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG). Participants were asked to familiarise themselves with the ACDGEG and were encouraged to adopt these principals as a basis of their commitment and contribution to the deepening of democracy in their respective countries.

SESSION 4:

LEADERSHIP

This session primarily focused around group discussions. Participants were divided into small groups to identify qualities of a good leader and name leaders that they believed shared these qualities. A discussion also extended to how African leaders are elected and highlighted the importance of questioning our own experience of choosing leaders.

Qualities of an effective leader:

- ☐ Visionary
- ☐ Accountability
- ☐ Prepared to take advice / criticism
- ☐ Team player
- ☐ Servant / leader
- ☐ Integrity
- ☐ Risk taker.



LEADERSHIP was defined as the power or ability to inspire others to get involved and take action to achieve a collective goal or achieve a common goal. It is the ability of a person to mobilise others around a unifying vision.

SESSION 1:

DEFINING STAKEHOLDERS

Participants were given a scenario and tasked with identifying key stakeholders and their roles. It was noted if you want your interest or concern to be heard you need to participate; leaders, or people in power (government) may not know about your needs hence the need to raise your issue. Timing and communication to your identified stakeholders is critical if you are to be successful.

SESSION 2:

POWER MAPPING

Utilising practical tools, participants were introduced to the concept of power mapping.

POWER MAPPING makes use of the idea that, any action to change a situation must be based on the identification of direct or indirect actors the development of an appropriate communication strategy. In their respective groups, participants were challenged to identify their intended targets and stakeholders and then where to plot them on the power map.

HOW TO IDENTIFY YOUR STAKEHOLDERS:

1. Think about what needs to be changed and set priorities
2. Identify various stakeholders involved in different projects
3. Measure the potential power of each stakeholder.

SESSION 3:

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

This session focused on the communication cycle, as well as principles and requirements for effective communication.

This session also looked at using a strategic approach for effective communication. The importance of initiators of change demonstrating empathy and showing a genuine desire for change was emphasised. They should also be consistent in their behaviour, in their ideas and show enough flexibility to adapt to a specific context.

SESSION 4:

COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

This was another group session, where participants were divided into equal groups to conceptualise and prepare a communication campaign. Each group was tasked with a different theme: Encouraging education for girls; putting an end to female genital mutilation and finally encouraging youth participation in politics. These campaigns were then presented as feedback to the larger group.





WORKSHOP TAKEOUTS

Participants from both workshops also provided rich, qualitative feedback on, amongst other things, the topics or aspects of the workshop they found most/ least interesting or useful, how the workshop could have been made more effective, and how they would apply the lessons learnt. Overall, participants expressed that they learnt vital, contextually relevant information about elections and governance processes. More importantly, the participants expressed a readiness to share with their peers the knowledge and skills acquired during the workshop.

“UPON RETURNING TO YOUR ORGANISATION, HOW WILL YOU MAKE USE OF WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT?”

- ☐ Share the knowledge and skills with my organisation and team, but mostly to engage the skills with the community
- ☐ Replicate the workshop at grassroots level with youth
- ☐ Use and invite others to use the thinking and creative process to try to understand complex issues
- ☐ It will help me in my research and teaching work and in developing future projects
- ☐ I will use them in our advocacy work and during the voter education campaign
- ☐ It is my desire to work hand in hand with the electoral commission and also individually set up a youth platform through which effective participation in the electoral process can be facilitated. I also plan to network with fellow participants in shaping electoral reforms suitable for Africa
- ☐ I am currently working on a training for youth and political literacy/civic education and I believe this training has helped a lot and the manual will be used as a reference
- ☐ I will engage more in issues to do with democracy elections and leadership because as a youth the future is in my hands and I am responsible for change
- ☐ I am an online contributor for a platform that connects people with their elected leaders. This workshop will help me send more information to the public regarding elections
- ☐ I will share on social media, replicate the training and reproduce the manual.

TRAIN THE FACILITATOR WORKSHOP - 2017

Since 2014, MINDS has provided Civic Education on Elections and Governance to African youth through regional training workshops. The content covered in these workshops familiarises African youth with electoral and governance processes relevant to their countries and is designed to equip attendants so that they become meaningful participants and mobilizers in electoral processes within their countries.

As a progression of the civic education training, MINDS hosted a Train the Facilitator workshop to equip a group of the MINDS alumni who already possessed facilitation skills. MINDS re-engaged the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) to impart their facilitation skills as EISA had developed the training materials for the workshops and facilitated all of the MINDS civic education workshops on elections and governance to date.

The Train the Facilitator workshop was attended by 24 MINDS alumni (13 male, 11 female) from 21 countries representative of the 5 regions of the continent.

OBJECTIVE to equip participants with facilitation skills to enable them to run training workshops.

LEARNING OUTCOMES ADDRESSED INCLUDE:

- ☐ Developing facilitation skills for adult learners
- ☐ Understanding the benefits of taking a structured approach to facilitation and presenting
- ☐ Understanding how to elicit input from learners and how to create an interactive and engaging environment for them
- ☐ Developing an awareness of how non-verbal messages can be effectively communicated
- ☐ Evaluating peer facilitation skills.



The future belongs to young people and young people have a strong role to play in strengthening democracy and accountable governance in the region.

Rumbidzai Chisenga, Programme Manager, MINDS



COMMITTED TO AFRICA'S POSSIBILITIES

Nkulanga Enock - Uganda

Organisation: LeadMinds Africa www.leadmindsafrica.org

I had the opportunity to meet young people just like me from across Africa, who were involved in many projects back in their home country. This challenged me to think about what could do. I listened and began developing ideas and approaches on how to move forward. I was inspired to remain committed to Africa's possibilities. Dr. Nkosana Moyo reminded us of our great responsibility - of being the generation responsible for building the Africa we want. And that we needed to think deeply about whether we were ready to take on the mantle of leadership or if we would be the same leaders staying longer in power and promoting corruption.

Since attending the workshops, I have founded LeadMinds Africa a non-profit organization whose mission is to Engage, Equip and Inspire young emerging leaders to build, champion and drive Africa ahead. Our vision at LeadMinds Africa is a prosperous continent with Accountable leadership. We believe that Africa needs accountable leaders now more than ever, because a highly competitive continent on a global scale is needed more than before.

I remain committed to my advocacy and campaigning work as a Global Youth Ambassador at Their World, a global initiative advocating and campaigning for children's rights to education globally, where I speak in schools and communities to inspire students to stay in school and ensure that parents continue to invest in their children's futures, because education is the most powerful tool we have to build a competitive and prosperous continent. Because of this commitment, I was selected also by the Obama Foundation, to serve as one of the Obama Leaders in Africa.

I have come to believe that a better Africa won't be built by someone else from afar, but everything begins with me.



JOINING A NETWORK OF YOUNG AFRICANS TO SHARE KNOWLEDGE AND RESOURCES

Moses Bailey - Liberia

Organisation: Naymote-Partners for Democratic Development

My engagement with MINDS has taught me to understand that as young people of Africa, if we want a change that will truly work for us we need to take the lead. And the way we can take the lead is to arm ourselves with the laws and policies that govern our respective countries. We must also build integrity and seek for political leaderships in order to effect the positive changes that we want. My connection with MINDS has since set that basis for me to always want to aspire for democratic knowledge to help build the Africa that I want. MINDS also provided me the opportunity to join a network of young Africans across the continent that I can rely and count on in terms of sharing knowledge and resources.

Coming from a country where almost 65 % of the population are youth, I have since developed the passion to work with young people in particular. Helping them understand our democratic governance system and laws governing our country, their roles and responsibilities in improving the system, community service, among others. I have organised capacity building training sessions for youth across our country in leadership, advocacy, peace-building, facilitation skills, elections and journalism, amongst several others.

Since engaging with MINDS as I have come to understand that as African countries, we must begin to relook at some of our laws and policies that hinder development to ensure that they are crafted from independent and informed standpoints that suit our context as Africans.

Individually we need to understand that the solutions to the leadership and governance challenges in Africa, lies with us. We must be individually sincere and work hard to improve Africa.



UNDERSTANDING THAT AFRICA'S YOUTH
FACE THE SAME CHALLENGES AND SHARE
THE SAME DRIVE TO SOLVE PROBLEMS

Dr. Mariem Touraif - Morocco

Paediatric Surgery
Chirurgie pédiatrique Générale, CHU Med VI, hospital mère enfant, Marrakech

MINDS is one of the important think tanks working across Africa in reuniting young Africans and driving their political and social engagements, by inspiring them to actively create the change that is needed in our continent.

I have been involved with MINDS for four years and I have hugely benefited from multiple workshops and sessions that have not only changed my way of thinking but has changed how I engage with the social problems facing Africa. I have learnt that the youth from Morocco and the youth from Rwanda are the same and face the same issues. That youth from Tunisia and Zimbabwe have the same drive to solve problems in their countries. I have witnessed the change in myself and then in my fellow alumni, in the way we create the change needed in our societies through more effective processes and structured initiatives.

I important skills I have gained not only help me daily as a Paediatric surgeon but also as an African leader. These go beyond facilitating discussions, leading workshops and implementing social engagement projects into simply becoming a better human being.

This training goes beyond facilitating discussions, leading workshops and implementing social engagements, but I am able to use the skills learnt both in my daily life as a paediatric surgeon as an African leader.

The training I have received from MINDS has helped me become a better human being, in my daily life and as an African leader.



CREATING A MASS MOVEMENT TO CHANGE THE FUTURE OF THE NEXT GENERATION OF AFRICANS

Grace Mageka – Kenya

**Organisation: Sisterhood for Change and
Empowerment Centre**



MINDS is an important think tank in Africa because it has served as a catalyst for ideas and action, which directly and indirectly shaped policy agenda for various governments in Africa and beyond. MINDS has built networks and communities through which former participants in their various programmes nurture and spread MINDS ideas that catalyses action at different levels ranging grassroots to global level. I believe that MINDS is creating real impact by engaging vibrant young leaders who are raising awareness and advocating for the rights of young people to run for elected offices and inspiring young people everywhere to run for an elective position which sounds incredible. I have been privileged to join other incredible change makers across Africa, who are doing fantastic work to shape the youth policy agenda and youth participation in governance.

MINDS has made a great contribution to young people across Africa since its inception concerning a wide range of areas ranging from advancing education for young leaders by offering them scholarships to pursue master programme for new knowledge to face Africa's challenges. The MINDS Train the Facilitator Workshops is another great platform as helps to develop facilitation skills for adult learners, regional civic leadership trainings on elections and governance in Africa and

annual youth dialogues which facilitate leaders of tomorrow, the current generation and youth leaders to get exposure from our leaders of today what they are doing successfully.

Opportunity comes once in a lifetime and as young people criticism should not scare us, after all you all know we are very resourceful, innovators, economic drivers, hope builders, policy makers and community changers. However, if we are going to make a difference, we need to do things in the right way by following our passion and using our brain not emotions to create a mass movement that will change not only our future but the futures of the next generation. Africa is presented globally as a laughing stock to the whole world and we need active and empowered citizens to change that.

There are so many tasks to be performed in Africa and this is a journey to the job description as youth. This makes young people to be aware of our responsibility in the current state of Africa elections and outcome, there is need to mobilise ourselves and chose youth leaders among ourselves with qualifications to lead us from one point to another, who can lead us and experience with youth leadership even though we have different categories of young people with different interest and experiences we must put our interests aside.

To have a chance of succeeding in building a better future for Young Africans, we must remove all obstacles confronted by young people and invest into their health, wellbeing, Leadership and Education and livelihoods to unleash and leverage their full potential as citizens.

Kaviri Ali



COMMITTED
TO CREATING
THE AFRICA
WE WANT

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