

Some of the challenges faced by SAMComs:

- Voluntary spirit / work has its limitations; How to cover SAMComs operational expenses;
- Turnover due to the withdrawal of members (lack of financial incentives / subsidies);
- Gender equity within SAMComs;
- How to ensure that in the future SAMComs do not lose their social accountability monitoring focus;
- Lack of clarity about the materialization of the Right to Information Law – access to activities, plan, budgets and others.

Municipal managers view of the SAMComs role:

"First time when I was invited to participate in a SAMCom meeting my colleagues said, where are you going, they will only raise problems. Even so I decided to go. I was welcomed and we discussed numerous issues related to the Municipality and I understood that SAMCom works for the wellbeing of every citizen including us. We think that it is necessary to advocate for the Municipal Council Presidents to participate in the training sessions about the Social Accountability Cycle because they are the ones who take decisions and they need to know about these concepts in order to better respond to the needs of municipal citizens."

(Altaf Yacub – Municipal Counselor for Economy and Development - Montepuez)



(Fernando Neves –President of the Municipal Council - Mocimboa de Praia)

Some ideas for the future:

- Undertake this kind of event twice a year and involve other key-actors such as ANAMM (National Association of Municipalities of Mozambique) and academic institutions;
- Reflect on how to institutionalize the citizens' participation mechanisms at the municipal level;
- There is a major opportunity for this initiative and its actors within PRODEM (Municipal Development Support Program).

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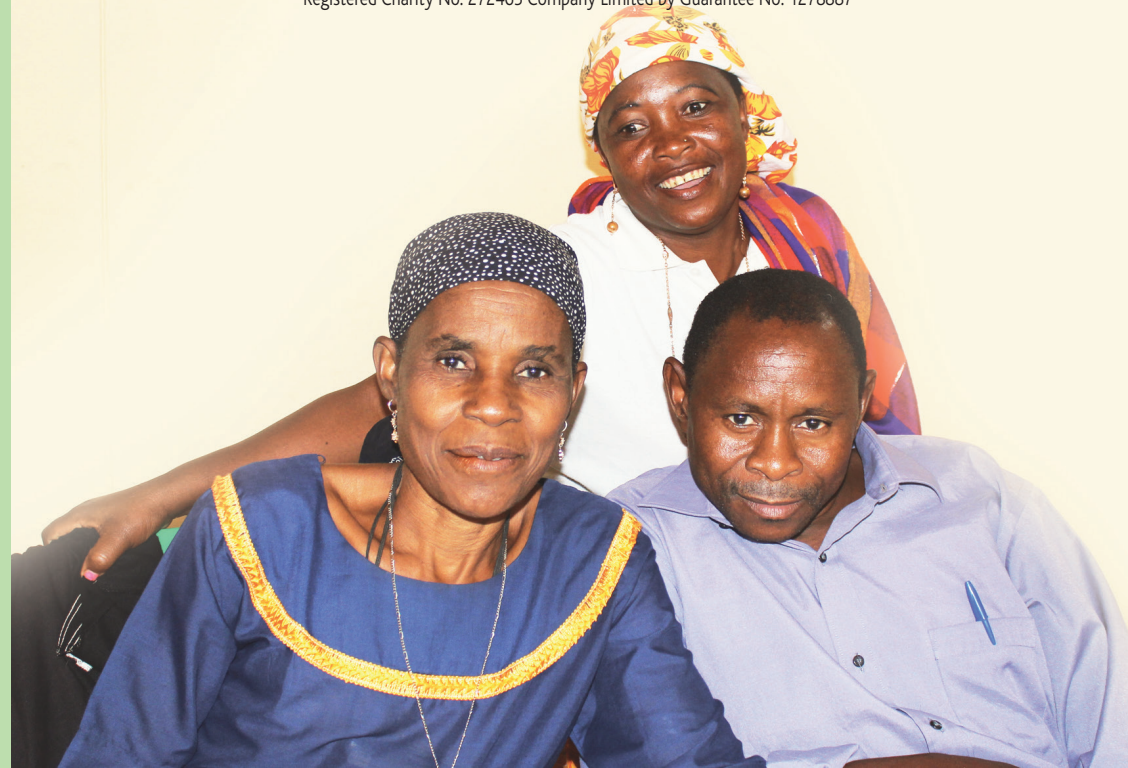
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1st SAMCom's Forum

"Sharing Experiences, Challenges and Good Practices"



Name of intervention	MuniSAM – Municipal Social Accountability Monitoring Program
Overview	Social Accountability Monitoring actions in 6 out of 13 municipalities covered by the Municipal Development Program (PDA): Metangula, Cuamba, Montepuez, Mocimboa da Praia, Mocuba and Quelimane Donor: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) Implementing Organization: Concern Universal Mozambique in collaboration with local Civil Society Organizations Duration: 4 years (February 2012 - December 2015) Budget: US\$ 1,994.600.00

MuniSAM Results

<p>1. Increased capacity of municipal officials and service providers to produce evidence-based justifications and explanations for the use of available resources in meeting social needs, and to engage with citizens and social groups</p>	<p>2. Increased capacity of citizens and social groups to engage in PRM processes, articulate social needs, recommend actions to realise needs, call for justifications, evaluate the evidence-base for justifications and explanations received, and secure corrective actions in response to evidence of the ineffective use/abuse of available resources</p>
<p>3. Increased capacity of supply and demand-side stakeholders to ensure more effective systemic integration between municipal PRM (public resource management) processes and those in other tiers of governance</p>	<p>In the medium and long term it will increase the efficiency and accountability of public resource management and service delivery</p>

Improved the quality of life of citizens

Social Accountability Monitoring Committees (SAMComs)

The SAMComs are groups composed by community members, elected by residents from different municipal neighborhoods and composed by a President, a Vice-President and a Secretary. Each SAMCom is organized into sub-committees, which are formed in correspondence with the work areas of the respective Municipal Council. The SAMComs meet regularly with the Municipals Councils (Presidents and Councilors), Municipal Assemblies, Local and Traditional leaders and, most importantly, with their own communities, in an attempt to create opportunities to express citizens needs and worries to the Municipal Authorities, serving as a link between all municipal actors. The SAMComs are composed by members of civic groups, municipal neighborhood residents interested in the realization of social and economic rights (e.g. health care, housing, water, employment, right of children to basic education, etc.) and concerned with the economic development and management of public resources at the level of the respective Municipality. SAMCom members are governed by a Code of Conduct that defines a set of norms, rules, procedures and behavior accepted by all in order to promote greater efficiency and impact in the implementation of the SAMCom activities.



1st SAMCom's Forum "Sharing Experiences, Challenges and Good Practices"

With the objective of strengthening and consolidating the actions undertaken during the first implementation phase of MuniSAM (2012-2014), the 1st SAMCom's Forum took place in the Municipality of Montepuez, Cabo Delgado Province, between the 04 and 07 of May, 2015. The forum created a space for interaction and constructive dialogue between representatives of the six target SAMComs, the implementation team as well as

representatives of the Municipal Councils of Montepuez and Mocimboa da Praia

"This is the first SAMCom's Forum and its main objective is to share good practices that can inspire the work of other monitoring committees and also share the challenges faced that can help fine-tune methodology in the future social accountability initiatives."

(Imbwanga Mapoko – Program Director during the Forum's opening)



This event main objectives were:

- Promotion of a space for the discussion of different ideas, successes, challenges, creation of partnerships and synergies among SAMComs and debate around future perspectives;
- Identification of advocacy topics and strategies to influence changes of municipal development participation policies;
- Documentation of good practices, challenges faced by SAMComs and the lessons learned so they can serve as an incentive for future civic groups who want to engage in Social Accountability at the Municipal level.

Results Achieved:

- Consolidated partnerships and synergies between SAMCom members as well as between SAMComs of Montepuez and Mocimboa da Praia and their respective Municipal Organs;
- Shared experiences and challenges and identified mechanisms that aim to improve collaboration between SAMComs and Municipal Organs;
- SAMCom members with a better notion about the importance of the observance of gender aspects;
- Created a space for dialogue where Citizens, represented by SAMComs, and Municipal organs share ideas, experiences and come up with strategies to solve Municipal problems;
- Collected information about each SAMCom history as well as challenges and strategies adopted during MuniSAM implementation that may be used as a guide for the future.

