

# Monitoring government policies A toolkit for civil society organisations in Africa

## Description

[Tweet](#)

(identified via [Source](#))

[The toolkit](#) was produced by AFOD, Christian Aid, Trocaire

This project was started by the three agencies with a view to supporting partner organisations, particularly church-based organisations, to hold their governments to account for the consequences of their policies. This toolkit specifically targets African

partners, seeking to share the struggles and successes of partners already monitoring

government policies with those that are new to this work.

The development of this toolkit has been an in-depth process. Two consultants were commissioned to research and write the toolkit. They were supported by a reference group composed of staff from CAFOD, Christian Aid and Trócaire and partner organisations with experience in policy monitoring. The draft toolkit was piloted with partners in workshops in Malawi, Sierra Leone and Ethiopia. Comments from the reference group and the workshops contributed to this final version of the toolkit.

## Contents

### INTRODUCTION 1

#### CHAPTER ONE: GETTING STARTED

- 1.1 Core concepts in policy monitoring 5
- 1.2 Identifying problems, causes and solutions 8
- 1.3 Beginning to develop a monitoring approach 10

Interaction 13

#### CHAPTER TWO: CHOOSING POLICIES AND COLLECTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 Different kinds of policies 15
- 2.2 Which policies to monitor 18
- 2.3 Access to policy information 22
- 2.4 Collecting policy documents 24

Interaction 27

#### CHAPTER THREE: IDENTIFYING POLICY STAKEHOLDERS

- 3.1 Stakeholders of government policies 29
- 3.2 Target audiences and partners 31
- 3.3 Monitoring by a network of stakeholders 34

Interaction 37

#### CHAPTER FOUR: LOOKING INTO A POLICY AND SETTING YOUR FOCUS

- 4.1 Analysing the content of a policy 39
- 4.2 Defining your monitoring objectives 42
- 4.3 What kind of evidence do you need? 44

4.4 Choosing indicators 47  
4.5 Establishing a baseline 50  
Interaction 52

## CHAPTER FIVE: ANALYSING POLICY BUDGETS

5.1 Budget basics 55  
5.2 Resources for policy implementation 59  
5.3 Budget analysis 61  
5.4 Interaction 67

## CHAPTER SIX: GATHERING EVIDENCE ON POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

6.1 Interviews 69  
6.2 Surveys 72  
6.3 Analysing survey data and other coded information 77  
6.4 Workshops, focus group discussions and observation 84  
Interaction 89

## CONCLUSION: USING POLICY EVIDENCE TO ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE

Interaction 98  
RESOURCES AND CONTACTS 100

### Category

1. Uncategorized

### Tags

1. governance
2. policy

### Date

09/06/2026

### Date Created

15/06/2006

### Author

admin