



Strengthening Civil Society

Organisation	Date	Reporting period
Department for Social Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Hague	May 2019	reports received between 15 sept 2017- 15 sept 2018

Result area 1	IMPACT/OUTCOME/OUTPUT	RESULT AREA
SCS	Outcome	- CSOs improve their capacity to lobby and advocate - SCSOs improve their legitimacy to lobby and advocate for the claims of societal groups

ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS				
Result question 1: To what extent did CSOs improve their capacity and legitimacy to influence decision makers in government, the private sector and society?				
<p>The Netherlands supports the political role of civil society organisations (CSOs) in Lower and Lower-Middle Income Countries (LLMICs). CSOs are constructive partners in development processes. They advocate for the rights and concerns of citizens that are otherwise excluded, and hold governments and businesses accountable for their responsibilities. Human rights defenders, climate activists, journalists and organizations hence play an essential role in achieving sustainable and inclusive development.</p> <p>The Dialogue & Dissent policy framework does this by supporting 25 Strategic Partnerships, i.e. international alliances, working on themes such as women's rights, conflict prevention, environmental protection and sustainable trade. A broad range of CSOs are supported from larger international NGOs with local offices, such as Oxfam Novib and Action Aid, to environmental activist organisations, trade unions, grass roots organisations of marginalised groups and global networks.</p> <p>In 2017, the Strategic Partnerships have reached more than 5986 CSOs in more than 60 countries. 3284 CSOs have strengthened their political role by gaining lobby and advocacy capacities. Capacity building and legitimacy of CSOs have increased through many different activities, such as: trainings that inform people on their rights and provide them with toolkits on lobbying and advocacy strategies; research to support advocacy claims; intensive co-operation between organisations with different capacities; building coalitions between like-minded CSOs; and through collaborating with media actors, public authorities and the private sector. An example of one of these strengthened organisations is the organisation <i>United Disabled People from Kenya</i> (UDPK). UDPK empowers people with disabilities and supports them in advocating for political participation and better health services. In doing so, they combat the discrimination, exclusion and injustice many people living with a disability face in their daily lives.</p>				
Indicator	Baseline + year	Target	Result	Source
# of CSOs included in programme	x	x	5986	IATI; 2017 annual reports
# of CSOs with increased L&A capacities	x	x	3284	IATI; 2017 annual reports

Result area 2	IMPACT/OUTCOME/OUTPUT	RESULT AREA
SCS	Outcome	- CSO advocacy: CSOs activate and educate citizens, mobilise support, and employ advocacy initiatives - CSO involvement: Advocacy activities of CSOs start having effect in the sense that their demands are being heard, are being put on the agenda and that they are involved in the relevant decision making processes.

ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS				
Result question: To what extent were civil society organisations engaged in transforming decision making and societal norms?				
<p>CSOs have contributed to social, economic and political transformative processes towards more inclusive and sustainable societies. This had been the result of a wide range of successful lobby and advocacy initiatives, such as publishing research, creating media attention and launching campaigns. This has been done in more formal settings, for instance by putting the topic of climate change or human rights on government agendas, or sparking national public debates on these topics. At the same time, many CSOs also operated at the local level and in a more informal way, for instance, by raising awareness among community members and leaders on the importance of women's rights or environmental protection. Besides agenda-setting, it is also important that marginalized groups and others affected by policy are included in decision making processes. CSOs and their constituencies therefore engaged in dialogues with governments, businesses and societal actors such as community or traditional leaders to voice their interests and protect their rights. Sometimes, more confrontational tactics such as demonstrations and campaigns were needed to gain a seat at the table or to influence decision making. These activities of CSOs have strengthened inclusive policy-making processes, ensuring that previously excluded people have an opportunity to voice their concerns and influence the decisions that affect their lives.</p> <p>In 2017, the Dialogue & Dissent Strategic Partnerships have been successful in supporting lobby and advocacy initiatives and creating space for CSOs demands and positions. 4.319 lobby and advocacy initiatives took place to strengthen inclusive and sustainable development. In addition, CSOs managed to set the agenda, influence the debate and/or create space to engage with decision makers at least 1762 times. Many concerns of people who face systematic discrimination were raised at the local level, but also in national and international fora. For example in India, the Count Me In! partnership has supported sex workers' mobilization and their demand to voice their concerns. This is especially notable, as sex-workers are frequently excluded from policy dialogues and criminalized by laws. By strengthening their movement and providing them with advocacy skills, sex-workers have been able to amplify their engagement and build cross-movement partnerships to challenge these harmful laws and policies. Their growing lobby and advocacy work at the national and international level is now influencing an anti-trafficking bill in India. Several of these sex worker activists are also working with Count Me In! in global policy advocacy, specifically in the context of the U.N. Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). In addition, CSOs mobilized communities and earned a seat at important decision making tables. In Kenya, for example, Partners for Resilience was able to create a dialogue between local communities, authorities and the private sector on the construction of a mega-dam. They informed local communities on the negative (social and environmental) consequences of the dam and gave them the tools to raise their voices. The subsequent dialogue between all actors led to the halting of the project because of the harm it would do to local communities and the environment.</p>				
Indicator	Baseline + year	Target	Result	Source
# of advocacy initiatives carried out by CSOs, for, by or with their membership/constituency	x	x	4319	IATI; 2017 annual reports
# of times that CSOs succeed in creating space for CSO demands and positions through agenda setting, influencing the debate and/or creating space to engage.	x	x	1762	IATI; 2017 annual reports

Result area 3	IMPACT/OUTCOME/OUTPUT	RESULT AREA:
SCS	Outcome	- Inclusive legislation, policies, norms and attitudes in support of marginalized people to access their rights, services and opportunities - Adequate practice of new/improved laws, policies, and societal norms
ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS		

Result question: To what extent did civil society organisations contribute to more inclusive and sustainable laws, policies and practices?

Social, economic and political change towards inclusive and sustainable development are long-term processes. CSOs have played a crucial role in this by influencing laws, policies and societal norms. At the same time, CSOs have been able to act as watch dog; they held governments, private sector actors and communities accountable for laws, policies and norms that foster inclusive, sustainable development. CSOs also offered trainings to government officials to enable more coherent implementation of existing laws and regulations. Through advice or pressure, governments and businesses have changed their behavior, for example, by putting a stop to exploitation of workers, closing illegal mining operations and supporting land rights of women. In addition, communities have also changed their way of thinking and acting, for instance around the role and rights of women and girls in their community.

In 2017, the Dialogue & Dissent partnerships successfully contributed to at least 933 changes in laws, policies and norms to support inclusive and sustainable development. This accounts for the creation of new ones, as well as for the blocking of harmful ones and the improvement of existing ones. Even more important is that CSOs have been able to ensure proper implementation of such laws, policies and norms in 488 cases. The Civic Engagement Alliance, for example, was successful in influencing the implementation of human and children rights in the palm oil sector in Indonesia. Despite the fact that child labor is forbidden in national and international policies, it is estimated that around 1,5 million children between 10 and 17 years still work in this industry. The alliance has been able to connect local CSOs, private sector and trade unions to oversee implementation of the existing policies. Their work has led to 'child-friendly villages' in Sumatra, in which children are protected against violence and exploitation.

Indicator	Baseline + year	Target	Result	Source
# of laws, policies and norms/attitudes blocked, adopted, improved for sustainable and inclusive development	x	x	933	IATI, 2017 annual reports
# of laws, policies and norms implemented for sustainable and inclusive development	x	x	488	IATI, 2017 annual reports

Assessment of the results achieved across the entire result area 1-3

Assess achieved results compared to planning:

B. Results achieved as planned

Reasons for result achieved:

The Dialogue and Dissent framework had a successful second year, which can be seen at all of its result levels. The capacity and legitimacy of CSOs to fulfill their political role has increased (level 1) as well as the number of lobby and advocacy initiatives and opportunities for CSOs to engage with decision makers (level 2). This has contributed to more inclusive and sustainable decision-making processes, laws, policies and norms (level 3). The outcomes on level 1 form the basis for the outcomes of level 2 and 3. In other words, stronger CSOs are better able to engage in lobby and advocacy activities and are therefore also more often successful in changing laws, policies and norms for the better. In comparison to 2016, the results of 2017 especially show an increase on the second and third level. This was expected as it takes time to strengthen CSO capacities, also lobby and advocacy trajectories are usually long-term processes which need long-term investments. What has contributed to these results is that during 2017, stronger and more strategic partnerships between civil society organisations (CSOs) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have been established, and (inter)national coalitions with like-minded CSOs have been built. Access to flexible and long-term funds have supported CSOs to respond rapidly to unexpected opportunities and security risks.

Implications for planning:

All Strategic Partnerships work with a Theory of Change (ToC) which they adapt to different contexts and annually review in light of changing circumstances. This flexible approach is key for supporting advocacy processes, as advocacy can only partly be planned in advance, and advocates need the ability to quickly react to sudden opportunities and threats. The Ministry itself also has a ToC which guides the strategic direction of the policy framework. The underlying assumptions of this ToC are scrutinized in a research trajectory with NWO-WOTRO, and through an IOB evaluation on strategic partnerships. The outcomes of these researches are used to both improve the implementation of the current framework, and inform the design of the future one. To also stimulate learning between different partnerships and between the Ministry and CSOs, the Ministry hosts annual linking and learning sessions where the Ministry and partners exchange lessons-learned.

The results of the first two years of the Dialogue & Dissent policy framework have underlined the importance of further strengthening the partnership relations between the Ministry and CSOs. This process requires significant time and energy from both sides, but is important for jointly promoting more inclusive and sustainable societies through achieving complementarity and realizing strategic potential. This requires good communication and strategic thinking, especially because the partnership operates at different levels and involves multiple actors (i.e. Dutch CSOs, Ministerial departments in The Hague, local CSOs, Embassies). Currently, the partnership relationships are substantiated through in-country workshops at Embassies, videoconferences between parties in the Netherlands and abroad, strategic policy dialogues between CSOs and thematic departments of the Ministry, and many formal and informal meetings with individual or multiple partnerships.

Activity Name & Number	Actual expenditure in 2018	Name organisation	Implemented by Channel	Department/Embassy
Free from Fear Alliance - 27531	15000500	Pax	NGO	DSH
Fair, Green and Global Alliance - 27534	11904750	Both Ends	NGO	DSO/MO
Shared Resources, Joint Solutions - 27537	12072652	LUCN	NGO	IGG
Towards a World Influencing Network - 27538	16447989	Oxfam Novib	NGO	DSO/MO
Building Capacity for Sector Change - 27539	3600000	UTZ	NGO	DDE
Partnership for Rights, Inclusivity, Diversity and Equality (PRIDE) - 27540	3846150	COC	NGO	DMM
Strategic Partnership for Garment Supply Chain Transformation - 27541	6355631,19	Fair Wear Foundation	NGO	DDE
Health System Advocacy for Africa - 27542	6190979	Amref	NGO	DSO/GA
Conducive environments for effective policy - 27543	6540286	NIMD	NGO	DSH
No News is Bad News - 27544	6410250	Free Press Unlimited	NGO	DMM
Advocacy for Change - 27545	6575000	Solidaridad	NGO	DDE
Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA) - 27546	6410250	FCAM	NGO	DSO/TFVG
Count Me In! Consortium - 27547	6410250	Mama Cash	NGO	DSO/TFVG
Girls Advocacy Alliance - 27548	7868928	Plan Nederland	NGO	DSO/TFVG
Green Livelihood Alliance - 27549	0	Milieudefensie	NGO	IGG
Partnership to Inspire, Transform and Connect the HIV response (PITCH) - 27550	9037594	Aids Fonds	NGO	DSO/GA
Partners for Resilience - 27551	7386160	Rode Kruis	NGO	IGG
Citizens Agency Consortium - 27552	10054138	Hivos	NGO	DSO/MO
Prevention Up Front - 27553	1938000	GPPAC	NGO	DSH
Watershed - empowering citizens - 27554	6529293	IRC	NGO	IGG
Every Voice Counts - 27555	3321472	Care	NGO	DSH
Voice for Change Partnership (V4CP) - 27556	6933536	SNV	NGO	IGG
Capacitating Change: Empowering People in Fragile Contexts - 27557	6900000	Cordaid	NGO	DSH
Right Here, Right Now - 27558	6493900	Rutgers	NGO	DSO/GA
Civic Engagement Alliance - 27559	6933536	ICCO	NGO	IGG