

GENERAL Description

Online Interactive Guidance on CSO Development Effectiveness & Enabling Environment

Introduction

This Online Interactive Guidance is designed to build awareness on the need to engage civil society organizations (CSOs) in development processes. The scale and ambition of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires participation of all development actors, including CSOs, to ensure its implementation. Effective engagement of CSOs in development to achieve the SDGs is a shared responsibility: Governments, Donors, and CSOs all have a role to play to help maximize CSOs' contributions to development.

About this Interactive Guidance

CSOs are key actors in development that have valuable contributions to make. They play a multitude of roles - including in relation to humanitarian assistance, service-delivery, research and policy development, and pursuing accountability from governments and other stakeholders – all of which can significantly contribute to the realization of the SDGs. CSOs are expected to play a critical role in implementing the SDGs and in monitoring their progress. It is therefore urgent that CSOs meaningfully and effectively engage in development processes. But what is needed for CSOs to be able to do so? This Online Interactive Guidance offers some answers to that question. It takes participants through a history of the international commitments that call for this multi-stakeholder collaboration; what this means in practice for different development actors; and the benefits that can ensue through means of good practice examples from countries across the globe.

This Online Interactive Guidance is informed by the written [Guidance and Good Practice on CSO Development Effectiveness and Enabling Environment](#), as developed by the Task Team on CSO Development Effectiveness and Enabling Environment ([Task Team](#)). This Guidance amongst others draws from research commissioned by the Task Team through its Secretariat at the International Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University Rotterdam (ISS-EUR), as well as from the experience and practice of Task Team participants and beyond. The content of this Guidance does not necessarily reflect the views of ISS-EUR, individual Task Team participants or their institutions.

Target Audience

International development actors including representatives from: civil society; (national, regional, local) government; official development cooperation providers; multilateral organizations; inter-governmental organizations; academia; and others.

Learning objectives

Following the completion of the 5 modules of the Online Interactive Guidance, participants will be able to:

- Describe the rationale behind the need to engage civil society in development processes;

- Define the CSO enabling environment and CSO development effectiveness as key components to ensuring effective engagement of CSOs in development;
- Recall the international commitments on the CSO enabling environment and CSO development effectiveness;
- Distinguish the roles and responsibilities of different development actors in ensuring effective engagement of CSOs in development;
- Identify practical ways in which governments, donors and civil society can engage to create a CSO enabling environment and ensure CSO development effectiveness;
- Identify good practices for a CSO enabling environment and development effectiveness;
- Indicate the benefits that can ensue from implementing good practices;
- Translate the international commitments and apply these to their own context.

Methodology

This Online Interactive Guidance consists of five modules developed around the overall learning objectives. Each module starts with an animated video introducing the topic and is followed by in-depth readings; good practice examples; insights from the field in the form of video interviews; and an online activity.

Interactive Guidance set-up

This Interactive Guidance will be largely informed by the Task Team's [Guidance and Good Practice](#) including the practical [four-part framework](#) on CSO development effectiveness and enabling environment. The Interactive Guidance will lead participants through the modules that each play a part in creating an environment in which CSOs can meaningfully and effectively contribute to implementation and monitoring of international development processes.

Module 1 will examine the CSO-related commitments that the international community has subscribed to and will provide an introduction to the four ways in which these can be realized.

Module 2 will explore the means towards creating effective multi-stakeholder dialogue, which is one of the parts of the four-part framework towards effective engagement of CSOs in development.

Module 3 will examine CSOs' own responsibility in ensuring their effectiveness, accountability and transparency in their day-to-day operations.

Module 4 will delve into how providers of official development cooperation can effectively work with and for CSOs.

Module 5 is the concluding module of this Interactive Guidance and will examine how a country's rules and regulations can determine an enabling environment for CSOs to operate in.

Completion

Participants who have completed the 5 modules will be awarded with a certificate extended by the Task Team.

Any participants who wish to implement the learnings of the Online Interactive Guidance in the form of a workshop can seek further engagement with the Task Team for possible opportunities via the Secretariat at taskteamcso@iss.nl.