

INTRODUCTION TO THE TASK TEAM

The Task Team is a multi-stakeholder coalition dedicated to enhancing the ability of civil society organizations (CSOs) to effectively engage in development worldwide, by promoting enabling environments for CSOs to operate in and encouraging CSO development effectiveness.

As a **convenor**, the Task Team brings together donors, partner country governments, and CSOs to engage in open and inclusive dialogue to find common ground.

As a **knowledge broker**, the Task Team raises awareness on international commitments on CSOs in development and offers guidance, evidence and practical tools to further their implementation. In practice this means we research topics and monitor progress to provide an evidence base for action and advocacy, we raise awareness on CSO-related commitments and what they mean in practice, and we advocate for changes in the policies and practices of different stakeholders.

As a **facilitator** we convene multi-stakeholder dialogue to enhance prospects of mutual understanding and partnerships.

OUR ORGANIZATION

Since its establishment in 2009, the Task Team has worked on these important issues through collaboration among its participants and with the wider international development community. The Task Team strives for equal participation from its three stakeholder groups, and has three Co-chairs, one from each of these stakeholder groups.

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STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

Partner Country Governments

Governments that receive development cooperation assistance

Donors

Governments that provide development cooperation assistance

CSOs

CSOs from recipient and provider countries affiliated with the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE)

TASK TEAM ON CSO DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

Going Further Together:
Inclusive Development through
Multi-stakeholder Action

Contact us

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TASKteam
CSO Development Effectiveness
& Enabling Environment



OUR OBJECTIVE

The Task Team believes CSOs are key actors in development. CSOs contribute to social, economic and democratic development and provide services from health and education to microfinance and agriculture. Filling gaps and complementing service delivery by governments and the private sector. They are also an important source of development financing. In addition, CSOs bring evidence and insight to public policy formulation through research, dialogue and advocacy. They serve as a channel for the diversity of voices reflecting varied needs, priorities and experiences across the globe. Often they work with individuals or communities that are poor, marginalized or otherwise under-served or represented.

CSOs are critical to helping ensure the 2030 Agenda's promise of leaving no one behind

How can CSOs effectively play their various roles?

Dimensions of the enabling environment

CSOs need environments that enable their work. Such an 'enabling environment' for CSOs has various dimensions.

- Access to spaces for dialogue and partnerships with governments and other development actors
- Legal and regulatory frameworks that support and promote CSOs' work, rather than constrain it
- Funding mechanisms for CSOs that allow them to operate in a way that is responsive to the individuals and communities they serve or represent

CSO development effectiveness

CSOs must also make continuous effort to advance their own accountability and effectiveness as independent development actors. This is known as 'CSO development effectiveness'.

Taken together, these factors can help promote vibrant CSO sectors, so that CSO contribution to development can reach their full potential.

Commitments to enhance effective CSO participation

Recognizing that these conditions need to be in place for CSOs to maximize their contribution to development, international commitments have been made on the CSO enabling environment and CSO development effectiveness. These commitments were first made at the 2008 Accra High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness and most recently reaffirmed in the 2016 Nairobi Outcome Document. The Task Team's core business is about raising awareness and advancing implementation of these commitments.



OUR KEY MESSAGES

The Task Team seeks to promote the effective engagement of CSOs in development. This is a shared responsibility that calls for a multi-stakeholder approach: donors, partner country governments, and CSOs all have a role to play. This is reflected in the Task Team's key messages.



Multi-stakeholder Dialogue

Deepen democratic ownership by recognizing CSOs as independent development actors in their own right and creating space for multi-stakeholder dialogue.



CSO Development Effectiveness Transparency and Accountability

Pursue enhanced CSO effectiveness, accountability and transparency, recognizing that CSOs have a responsibility for accountability to varied stakeholders.



Official Development Cooperation with CSOs

Implement official development cooperation with civil society and CSOs consistent with principles of aid and development effectiveness.



Legal and Regulatory Environment

Promote and protect enabling civil society-related laws, regulations, policies and practice, consistent with internationally and regionally agreed rights and associated good practice.

OUR AREAS OF WORK

Over the last decade, the Task Team has worked hard to promote and raise awareness on the commitments on the CSO enabling environment and CSO development effectiveness. At the global level, together with like-minded actors, the Task Team has generated attention for the commitments and contributed to their reaffirmation and further strengthening. Ultimately however, progress in implementing these commitments needs to be made on the ground.

The Task Team therefore also explores how it can bridge the global and local in order to contribute to progress at country level. New avenues include information sharing and awareness raising on the ground, as well as stimulating multi-stakeholder dialogue on these issues. The Task Team targets two key international policy arenas, while using country-level work to build bridges between the global and the local level.

Arena 1

Agenda 2030's Sustainable Development Goals

The globally agreed 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a universal plan of action for people, planet, prosperity, and peace. The Agenda's scale and ambition requires the engagement of all development actors to achieve the SDGs. Agenda 2030 foresees a significant role for CSOs, individually and in multi-stakeholder partnerships, in SDG monitoring and implementation. CSOs have the potential to be significant contributors to the SDGs' means of implementation, as represented by SDG 17 on partnerships for sustainable development. The Task Team advocates that CSO development effectiveness and enabling environments are critical to ensuring CSOs have opportunities to engage in these partnerships. Beyond SDG 17, the Task Team targets SDG 16 on peaceful and inclusive societies and accountable institutions, as enabling environments for CSOs are a key component of this SDG. Ultimately, CSO engagement is relevant to all SDGs, with CSOs being informal representatives of the individuals and communities worldwide whose lives the SDGs are intended to improve.

Arena 2

Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation

The GPEDC is a global multi-stakeholder platform. It convenes nations, business and organisations to better work together towards ensuring SDG progress. Through shared advice, shared learning and shared action, the GPEDC supports the implementation of four principles of effective development cooperation:

- Ownership by developing countries
- Focus on results
- Inclusive development partnerships
- Transparency and accountability to each other

In this arena, the Task Team works on advancing the principle of inclusive partnerships. Underpinning this principle is a belief that all development actors have a role to play to ensure inclusiveness, including in maximizing CSOs' contributions to development. This idea of shared responsibility for CSO engagement is reflected in the Global Partnership's Indicator 2 – CSOs operate in an environment that maximizes their engagement in and contribution to development. This indicator assesses progress in the realization of commitments on the CSO enabling environment and CSO development effectiveness. Indicator 2 is part of the Global Partnership's 10 indicators of effectiveness, which are subject to voluntary country-level monitoring approximately every two years.