

Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness Angola Consultation Report

Dates: 27th - 28th January 2010.

- Venue: Union of Angolan Writers, Luanda - Angola.
- Number of Participants: 66. (See Attached List of participants with the following Information):

Name of participant–

Name of Organization– Represented

– Type of CSO (umbrella organization, community-based organization, NGO, INGO, professional association, farmers' association, social movement, faith-based organization, trade union, non-profit media etc.).

Gender–

Position within– Organization.

- Agenda for the consultation and the list of presentations made (see attached copies) NB: Presentations on an enabling environment and organization of national and thematic consultations followed the toolkit.

2. Highlights

Q. Any positive or negative aspect of the consultation, possibly making use of participants' comments and Evaluations

Positive: It was a unique moment in the lives of the participants, members of CSOs and churches, since the achievement of peace in 2000 never returned to live a moment like that. Most of the work in the emergency programs had failed to adapt to the new context of development programs. For this reason, some have lost their role in social intervention.

Participants came from various social backgrounds, but all were unanimous that the consultation is a common objective, which will meet, revive and give strength to intervene to all their stakeholders.

The discussions and the issues raised have been thoroughly analyzed. It was possible to find consensus around principles and environment. The vision of the forum was widely shared, which allowed us to trace common threads to achieve the stated objectives.

According to participants, one of the main obstacles has been the lack of strategy on the part of CSOs. In order to engage the governments in a frank, open and constructive dialogue on issues that concern all of society, there should be a methodology that facilitates greater engagements. Participants were also unanimous that there should be a national platform to bring together CSOs and churches and to serve as a mechanism for implementing the decisions and recommendations from the Open Forum.

Negative:

The need to reach a larger number of CSOs is frustrated with the scarcity of resources which also limited the days of the forum. Participants felt that two days were less to deepen the discussions.

3. Key issues discussed

Q. List of essential and discretionary agenda items discussed in the consultation

- i. Background of the Open Forum: From Aid Effectiveness to Development Effectiveness.
- ii. Reflections on the Social, Economic and Political Dynamics in Africa.
- iii. AACC's rationale for engagement.
- iv. The dimensions of the effectiveness of CSOs to development: internal and external factors.
- v. Principles for effective development of CSOs / FBOs.
- vi. Presentation of enabling environment.
- vii. Presentation of the Tool Kit
- viii. Multi-stakeholders dialogue

Q. Summary of particularly important issues that emerged from the discussion (eg Different views among Different types of CSOs, any differing views relating to the gender dimension of CSO development effectiveness, tone of multi-stakeholder dialogues - if applicable - etc.)

Participants felt that this program was a great challenge for our church leaders and civil society. They noted that the lack of internal democracy and the spirit of accountability both for CSOs and churches can create barriers to the process.

Participants believe that there are still CSOs in Africa, the courage to resist the impositions of international donors when their programs do not constitute a priority

for the development programs of our countries. Therefore, they hope that the Open Forum will open their mind.

Participants believed that the effectiveness of developing an arduous process in Angola, especially when it touches on sensitive issues like human rights based on social justice.

Participants noted that in the case of Angola, politicians have manipulated the universe of CSOs and today. Unfortunately, the CSOs appear divided into several blocks of action among organizations that are considered pro-government and those considered anti-government. Within this framework, CSOs have emerged with party political connotation. Those enjoying privileges from the government, it channels the aid it receives from international donors to these CSOs.

Thus, most CSOs are presented fragile institutional point of view.

The participants welcomed the commitment of the churches in Angola, as they enjoy a great reputation with the government. Their presence will help maintain a large balance on issues of advocacy and lobbying.

They agreed that there is a lack of transparency within CSOs in Angola, where some organizations are established as family businesses and nobody is accountable to anyone. It is necessary that this software works with these organizations to make them more democratic and serious.

Q. Summary of key challenges to CSO development effectiveness realizing possibly Identified during the consultation workshop.

The consultation called this the key inhibiting factors for CSO Development Effectiveness. They include the following: -

- Enforcement of rules on the part of donors in relation to the implementation of projects
- Lack of transparency
- Lack of facilities in the acquisition of funds
- Lack of information
- Lack of trained human resources
- Poverty organizations
- Lack of donor coordination with CSOs
- Lack of knowledge of philosophy or modus operandi of donors
- Weaknesses in the creation of partnerships
- Discontinuance of funding

-Lack of regular communication with donors

Weaknesses-CSO accountability

- Political connotation

Low-credibility of the government regarding the OSC

-Lack of impartiality of the government in dialogue with CSOs

-Lack of interest in cooperating with civil society

-Excessive bureaucracy in dealing with CSOs

- Failure of legislation in coordination with CSOs

- Lack of access to public funds

-Strict criteria for access to public funds

-Misinterpretation of the government regarding the request for CSO accountability

-The government sees CSOs as hostile organizations

Prohibition-CSOs to develop profitable activities

4. Analysis and recommendations

Key Principles of CSO development effectiveness (not) ranked by Importance

R. Ongoing dialogue and information sharing.

S. Transparency.

T. Accountability.

U. Access to public funds

V. Institutional identity (legitimacy).

W. Participation.

Q. Suggested guidelines for Implementing AGREED Principles of CSO development effectiveness, with a short narrative describing the rationale for the guideline and how it relate to the given Principle in the given context and Suggested indicators for principle

AGREED

They agreed to hold regular meetings with CSOs and all churches, under the coordination of a group facilitator to be appointed.

To avoid the lack of transparency and abuse of power, the participants decided that the platform creates a mechanism for monitoring and evaluation of actions to be implemented by CSOs.

Participants also felt important to establish a common agenda of CSOs with workable plans and strategies.

Q. Suggested minimum standards and guidelines for an enabling environment for CSOs, with a short explanation of the issue in the enabling environment Addressed by the standard (This should also clearly indicate the stakeholder group to which indicators apply: donors, Governments, Local Authorities etc.).

IN RELATION TO THEIR OWN MEMBERS

-The organizations establish a platform for constructive internal dialogue and tolerant and there should be a plan of work inclusive and participatory.

-In the implementation of its actions, organizations should take to guide their objects and tasks in accordance with what is enshrined in its statutes and ensure their periodic review and full compliance of members with their obligations and responsibilities.

-Under the leadership still needs to be democratic leaders with the ability to delegate powers to other members of the organizations and have respect for rules of procedure is inclusive. The leader must also establish within the organization an environment of mutual respect

- It is the leader who should help the organization by making regular reporting and create a database in which all members have access. It should be clearly convinced of training and ongoing training of its staff and systematic and should encourage the members to make the payment of their quotas and other contributions.

-On the basis of transparency, should contribute to the organizations that regularly pass through processes of supervision and internal and external audit.

EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT

Organizations should aspire and emphasize its identity, without prejudicing the continuous search for consensus with other similar organizations and respect for difference.

The task required of CSOs and donor governments, to adopt fair policies in the relationship with civil society and promote a partnership based on mutual benefit. Thus, an efficient mechanism of communication that promotes the CSO a spirit of unity in diversity should be created.

The following minimum standards for the critical were AGREED upon for CSO Development Effectiveness.

i. CSO INDEPENDENCE / SELF REGULATION

Responding to CSOs recognition and operations. This relates to all the three aspects of recognition-political, legal and judicial - and related mechanisms and taxation as well as the administrative aspects by governments.

Participants are not detained largely on questions of law. They agreed that in case of Angola, the laws are very clear and good, but its implementation has not been effective. It is therefore the task of CSOs and the government to effectively implement the laws that are approved. Another major concern raised was on the statutes of the organizations that are never reviewed and mandates lifetime of those leaders who never cease.

Responding to the Promotion of CSOs voice:

Participants regretted that government mechanisms established to give voice to civil society, the fundamental issues of public administration, based on decentralization and devolution of administrative powers, an important step in addressing the municipal authorities, are being addicted to appointments of people who does not represent civil society organizations. The so-called CACs (Sounding Board and Social Dialogue) Agency consultation and local governments have yet to play their effective role for lack of effective representation. The laws states that, they should be composed of all living actors of society, but the election of its members do not represent an active civil society and free.

ii. CSO CODE OF CONDUCT

This question was discussed in Parliament and came to the conclusion that it is important to harmonize the values defended by civil society. However, its implementation was delivered again to the platform or energizing group to be created that will execute the resolutions and recommendations of the National Consultation of the Open Forum, as part of establishing a common agenda for the CSOs.

iii. TRANSPARENCY BY CSOs

Responding to the Promotion of CSO voice and the role of external partners and donors in Promoting CSO development effectiveness:

The cases raised about the lack of transparency within CSOs, are inhibiting factors for its promotion of institutional capacity, especially as it compromises their image in terms of accountability to its members. Coordination of efforts, the use of public spaces available, the question of legitimacy, access to public funds and inclusion of civil society in some public offices, is exactly a vision of transparency within our organizations.

iv. **FOCUS ON RESULTS**

There is a general feeling that the implementation of some recommendations that will lead us to achieving the results sought. First, remove the breast CSO dark elements that undermine its image and credibility.

For example, participants felt that without adequate funding to strengthen the institutional capacity is difficult to draw good results, since the organizations are struggling with the flight of its skilled staff due to lack of a decent wage to ensure their stay in the organization. But organizations also need rules and regulations to ensure participatory management of the funds they receive. This was very well established in the discussions. Without this capability is unlikely they will be able to access public funds as it wishes.

-Mutual respect '

-Better use of information sharing

-Putting the principles of internal democracy

-Provision-Improved knowledge of the object and mission of the organization

-Spirit of complementarily in implementing actions

This can of –transparency /delegation , was founded in discussions

-Creation

Account

-Creation of a database with access to all

-More interaction and exchange between the bodies

Acceptance of internal control

| -Compliance with obligations and responsibility _ integral and periodic review of statutes

Belief-clear self-interest to the organization

Training and capacity building systematic and permanent staff

Disclaimer-distribution of tasks

-Compliance with quotas and other

Existence of vested interests in relation to the organization

-Greed, ambition and easy profits

- Lack of transparency on the part of leaders
- Leadership Lifetime
- Dispersion of the tables by lack of funding
- Personal Interests
- Cult of Personality
- Difficulty in planning
- Agendas-invisible
- Lack of training in promotion .
- Conflict of interest
- Disability in the discussion about vision and mission of the organization
- Imbalance in gender-
- Paternalism
- Feeling of ownership of the organization
- Lack of sense of belonging

Q. Proposed good practices for Mechanisms That Assure CSO accountability and effectiveness

- i. Putting the principles of internal democracy.
- ii. New code of conduct discussed and approved by the CSO.
- iii. Training and ongoing and systematic training of staff.
- iv. Consistent planning of activities to be developed
- v. Diversify the source of revenue to avoid an extreme dependence on international donors.
- vi. Credible organizations to have access to public funds
- vii. Promoting gender balance within the CSOs.

Q. Additional information: for instance, areas where common understanding and Emerged areas where were there widely divergent views

There was a common understanding with regard to weak institutional capacity of CSOs achieve great results in implementing their programs and projects. Participants also noted that there is very little discussion between the various CSOs and because of that, they do not learn from the experiences of others.

Participants concluded that the results on the ground with communities have not been effective; because donors do not impose their priorities are priorities of the members of our communities. For example, a country like Angola, the first priority is to solve the problem of malaria which eliminates the lives of adults and

children daily in large numbers, they (donors) limits its funding to projects of HIV / AIDS, which does not yet have an impact to the devastating diseases like malaria.

Way Forward

The Following were AGREED as the way forward: -

- Creating a dynamic group of National Consultations
- National Consultations to be participatory and inclusive
- Think about fundraising and the sustainability of the CSOs.
- Establish a platform for dialogue with the government to improve relations with CSOs.
- Establish a communication platform between CSOs engaged in this initiative by the Open Forum.