Shrinking Space for Civil Society and Philanthropy: New Reports and Trends

September 10, 2015
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Thank you for joining us. The webinar will begin shortly!
Agenda

• Welcome and Housekeeping
• Introductions by WINGS
• CIVICUS State of Civil Society Report
• Hudson Philanthropic Freedom Report
• Q&A
Introductions:
Helena Monteiro
Executive Director
WINGS

Mandeep Tiwani
Head of Policy and Research
CIVICUS

Carol Adelman
Director of Center for Global Prosperity
Hudson Institute

Moderated by Natalie Ross, Global Member Relations Director,
Council on Foundations
Global Mandate

Network of over 80 grantmaker associations and philanthropic support organisations in more than 30 countries. Together WINGS members and network participants represent over 22,000 philanthropic entities worldwide, mobilizing close to US $140 million.

Mission

To strengthen, promote and provide leadership on the development of philanthropy and social investment around the world. WINGS gives voice to the many cultures of giving and provides its members and other participants with information, knowledge, and peer exchange.
• To fulfil its role philanthropy needs an enabling environment
  – A legal framework that empowers, rather than shackles
  – A tax structure that provides incentives, rather than penalties
  – An accountability system that builds confidence in philanthropy and civil society
  – Sufficient institutional capacity to implement effective activities
  – Resources to undertake these activities

• Philanthropy infrastructure organizations play a crucial role in promoting such environment

• Worrisome trend at the global level, with profound implications for philanthropy
  – Countries adopting new laws and measures to hinder cross-border funding
  – Grantmakers are faced with increasing obstacles to supporting civil society organizations
  – Civil society organizations deal with increased control and undue restrictions on funding
Global Fund for Community Foundations
Charities Aid Foundation
Neelan Trust
Arab Foundations Forum
WINGS
About the Report

• Annual review of civil society and its conditions
• Draws on inputs from members of the CIVICUS alliance
• 2015 theme ‘resourcing of civil society’ draws on 27 expert contributions
The story in 2014/2015

*Impressive and sustained civil society response in a turbulent and contested time*

- As a frontline responder
- At the forefront of citizen action
- Civic solutions to broken governance
Frontline response

- Ebola in West Africa
- Essential services and succour in Syria, Gaza and Yemen
- Peace-building in CAR and S. Sudan
- Natural disasters in Vanuatu, Serbia and Nepal
Citizen mobilisations

- Challenging politics in Greece and Spain
- Hong Kong’s umbrella protests
- ‘Lwili’ revolution in Burkina Faso
- Mexico: from 43 to 4 million
- Response to black marginalisation in the US
- Election support in Malawi and Sri Lanka
- Responding to terror in Pakistan
Civic solutions to broken governance

- Arms Trade Treaty: child of civil society
- Civil society and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership
- Global response to climate change, local response to fracking
- Post 2015 Agenda – SDGs
Civil Society Under Attack

• Substantial threats recorded in 96 countries
• Take a variety of forms - legislation, physical attacks etc.
• Democracies and non-democracies
• Non-state actors – unscrupulous businesses and fundamentalists
Resourcing challenges

“Change seeking” CSOs most affected

- International funding restrictions
- ODA not working for CSOs
- Donor conservatism and ‘logframitis’
- Service delivery and larger CSOs prioritised
- Lack of comparable data to enable CSOs to ride the shocks
Resourcing trends

Renewed interest in non-state alternatives

• Private philanthropy remains robust
• Community initiatives growing
• Lessons from faith based giving
• Crowd funding as an option
• Growth of social enterprises
• Volunteerism as a key resource
Conclusion

• A fundamental rethink needed to move beyond a projectised model
• Autonomy can be asserted through diversified resources
• The politics of resourcing need further examination
• Accountability should be 360 degrees
The Index of Philanthropic Freedom

Presented to the
WINGS and Council on Foundations Webinar
Global Trends in Civil Society-New Reports and Trends

by
Dr. Carol Adelman, Director
Hudson Institute
Center for Global Prosperity
September 10, 2015
Why Measure Ease of Giving?

- Philanthropy and remittances are an increasingly important part of the financial flows from developed to developing countries.

- Ease of giving has not been systematically measured across a large sample size on specific philanthropic indicators.

- Organizing information on barriers and incentives makes it easier to recognize, study, and implement policy changes.
The Index of Philanthropic Freedom

- **Methodology**
  - Expert opinion surveys in 64 countries
  - Countries ranked on a scale of 1 – 5

- Qualitatively assessed social and cultural factors

- The Index and country reports can be downloaded at www.hudson.org/cgp
Survey Questions

Civil Society Regulations

1. To what extent can individuals form and incorporate the organizations defined?
2. To what extent are CSOs free to operate without excessive government interference?
3. To what extent is there government discretion in shutting down CSOs?

Tax Regulations

4. To what extent is the tax system favorable to making charitable donations?
5. To what extent is the tax system favorable to CSOs in receiving charitable donations?

Cross-Border Regulations

6. To what extent is the legal regulatory environment favorable to receiving cross-border donations?
7. To what extent is the legal regulatory environment favorable to sending cross-border donations?
Trends and Themes

- **Foreign exchange regulations and capital controls**
  - Listed as a significant barrier in 16 of 64 countries surveyed

- **Illicit Financial Flow (IFF) legislation**
  - Listed as a significant barrier in 33 of 64 countries surveyed
  - 57% of Financial Action Task Force (FATF) members not in compliance with FATF Recommendation 8

- **Discriminatory treatment of foreign donations**
  - Russia’s “Foreign Agent Law”
  - Drafting of similar laws in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

- **Restrictions on ability to incorporate and operate**
  - According to ICNL, 98 restrictions considered since 2012
  - Financial resources and time required for registration
Average CSO Registration Time

Days Required to Register

- 0 to 10
- 11 to 30
- 31 to 90
- 91 to 180
- 181+

Number of Countries

N = 42

Map showing the distribution of countries based on the average days required to register a CSO.
Average CSO Registration Fee

N = 44
Regional Analysis: The Middle East & North Africa

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Regional Analysis: Sub-Saharan Africa

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Questions?

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Council Resources on Global Grantmaking

Natalie Ross, Member Relations Director, Global
Natalie.ross@cof.org

http://www.cof.org/content/global-philanthropy
http://www.cof.org/resources/global-grantmaking

Learn more about WINGS here:
http://www.wingsweb.org/
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