Foundation for Civil Society



Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC



Project full name: Contribution to the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS)

Phase IV: 2014 - 2018

SDC Phase Budget: CHF 4'000'000

Implementing partner: Foundation for Civil

Society

Co-Funders:

- DfID
- DANIDA
- NORAD
 Amorican
- American Jewish World Society
- Trademark East Africa

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Project overview

Tanzania's socio- economic conditions have changed dramatically over the past 20 years following the introduction of economic liberalisation and multiparty politics in the 1990s. It was then that civil society organisations (CSOs), independent from the state machinery, were allowed to develop. The CSO sector in Tanzania is therefore still relatively young. Initially, CSOs focused on the provision of service delivery to citizens. With the beginning of the 2000s, advocacy CSOs also became active. Currently, there are over 8,000 registered CSOs across the country. CSOs have come a long way in terms of professionalism and recognition by the Government as partners in development. Despite many successes, continued focus is needed to further develop CSOs to increase professionalism, accountability and financial sustainability.

The Foundation for Civil Society (FCS), Tanzanian non-profit organization, was founded in 2003. Its core mandate is to provide grants and capacity building services to CSOs. FCS currently has a very wide reach and extensive network of CSOs in the country seeking to ensure that the civil society sector becomes a meaningful contributor in setting the pace for the implementation and attainment of the country's five year development plan 2016-2020 and the Tanzania Vision 2025.

Overall goal

The main objective of FCS is to contribute to a sustained human and socio-economic wellbeing in Tanzania by addressing systems, structures and norms that entrench poor governance and restrict people's access to resources and opportunities.

Approach

 Grant-making: Through regular calls for proposals, FCS awards grants to mostly small and medium-sized CSOs in two key focus areas: 1. Good governance contributing to enhancing citizen voice, participation and inclusion in public life, and conflict and peace management; 2. Livelihood development - contributing to policies and systems that foster food security, market development and good natural resources management. FCS offers 3 types of grants: Small grants,

FCS offers 3 types of grants: Small grants, medium-sized grants and strategic grants. In 2015, FCS disbursed grants amounting to TZS 4 billion (around CHF 1.9 million).

• Capacity Enhancement: Alongside the grants, FCS provides training to CSOs to strengthen their capacities in good governance, organizational development, grant management and partnership building.

KEY RESULTS

- Land-related conflicts in target areas reduced by 72% through civic education on the Village Land Act and the national land policy, and by strengthening village land tribunals.
- Twenty two committees formed and trained on social accountability monitoring (SAM) and public expenditure tracking survey (PETS) resulted in notable improvements in health, education and agriculture service provision.
- Over 10 million people were reached directly and indirectly with civic and voter rights education in the run-up of the 2015 elections, contributing to a 23% increase of voter turnout.
- Thirty two peace platforms were formed at regional, district and ward levels and a total of 83 dialogues were conducted across the country during election period that helped to reduce tensions around the 2015 elections.

Beneficiaries

- Around 130 CSOs receive grants and capacity development support from FCS annually.
- Around 3 million citizens including women, people with disabilities and the elderly, are reached through interventions implemented by FCS grantees.