

The Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness At a Glance

What is the Open Forum?

The Open Forum is an international CSO-driven process to define a global development effectiveness framework applicable to civil society organisations (CSOs). To this end, the Open Forum will bring together, in the run-up to the fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in 2011, CSOs, governments and donors in consultations and multi-stakeholder dialogues at country, regional and international levels.

Three objectives to be achieved by end-2011

1. To build a common understanding of CSO development effectiveness, shared by CSOs from around the world, and to be set out in a holistic **framework including principles as well as implementation guidelines and mechanisms**.
2. To provide a **learning environment on CSO development effectiveness**, so as to facilitate the exchange of good practices and to raise awareness on existing tools and how they contribute to CSO development effectiveness.
3. To build support among governments and donors for an **enabling environment** for CSOs. This should translate into a multi-stakeholder agreement at the next High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in 2011.

What is CSO development effectiveness?

In their efforts to enhance effectiveness, CSOs have put in place a number of approaches and mechanisms, including working groups to facilitate information exchange, coordination bodies, codes of conduct or standards at platform level, specific evaluation methodologies and funding schemes etc.

For the Open Forum, development effectiveness is promoting sustainable positive change, within a democratic framework, that addresses the causes as well as the symptoms of poverty, inequality and marginalisation, through the diversity and complementarity of instruments, policies and actors.

The Open Forum seeks to shift debates away from a technical agenda focused on (official) aid and its management, to a more **holistic and impact-oriented agenda** which takes into account all CSO contributions to development.

CSO-driven, but multi-stakeholder ...

Governments and donors determine conditions under which CSOs contribute to development processes, and have hence a great influence on the effectiveness of CSO actions. The Open Forum will therefore seek a dialogue with governments and donors to, among other things, determine **minimum standards for enabling conditions**. At the third High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Accra, governments and official donors committed to support and engage in the Open Forum (Accra Agenda for Action, § 20b).

Who is invited to get involved?

The Open Forum will bring together in its consultations a variety of different CSOs from the development, relief and other sectors from both the North and the South: NGOs, trade unions, community-based organisations, grassroots organisations, faith-based organisations, social movements etc.

A **Global Facilitation Group (GFG)** of 25 CSOs from all world regions provides leadership to the Open Forum, seeking to ensure the inclusiveness and representativeness of the consultations. The GFG has delegated its day-to-day work to a **Consortium of six CSOs** which are, inter alia, in charge of mobilising CSOs for the Open Forum.

Activities between now and end-2011

More than 50 CSO country consultations to solicit CSOs' inputs into the global framework

5 regional workshops to raise awareness, build capacity and/or consolidate CSOs' inputs into the global framework

4 international consultations in the following areas: gender and women's rights, CSOs in situations of conflict, social movements of the most marginalised, trade unions

2 Global Assemblies in 2010 and 2011 to finalise consensus-building on the intended framework

Dialogues with official donors, governments and other stakeholders to build support for an enabling environment (see Accra Agenda for Action, § 20c)

Research on existing CSO approaches to define and promote effectiveness

Biannual GFG meetings to monitor and draw lessons from the consultations and dialogues

More on www.cso-effectiveness.org

Global Facilitation Group (GFG)

The GFG meets biannually to draw lessons from the consultations and multi-stakeholder dialogues and to set directions for the future agenda. GFG members represent their region/sector in the Open Forum.

Africa	Coordinadora Civil de Nicaragua (CC)
Federation of NGO Platforms of Mali (FECONG)	Middle East and North Africa
African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD)	Arab NGOs Network for Development (ANND)
Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR)	North America
Network of National NGO Platforms of Western and Central Africa (REPAOC)	InterAction - American Council for Voluntary International Action
Asia	Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC)
South Asian Network for Social and Agricultural Development (SANSAD)	Pacific
IBON International	Australian Council for International Development (ACFID)
Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN)	International CSO networks and NGOs
People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty (PCFS)	Plan International
Europe	CARE International
European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development (CONCORD)	International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)
Nordic+ Group	Action by Churches Together (ACT)
European Union Presidency Group	Caritas Internationalis / International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity (CIDSE)
Latin America and the Caribbean	CIVICUS - World Alliance for Citizen Participation
Asociación Latinoamericana de Organizaciones de Promoción (ALOP)	Women's Organisations
Unión Nacional de Instituciones para el Trabajo de Acción Social Bolivia (UNITAS)	Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APFWLD)

Consortium of supporting organisations

Each member of the Consortium takes care of a specific world region or sector:

Organisation	Region
All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) africa@cso-effectiveness.org	Sub-Saharan Africa
Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN) asia@cso-effectiveness.org	Asia and Northern Africa
European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development (CONCORD) europa@cso-effectiveness.org	Europe
InterAction – American Council for Voluntary International Action pacific@cso-effectiveness.org	North America and Pacific
Latin American Association of Development Organisations (ALOP) lac@cso-effectiveness.org	Latin America and the Caribbean
CIVICUS – World Alliance for Citizen Participation icsoc@cso-effectiveness.org	International CSO networks and NGOs

For general enquiries: info@cso-effectiveness.org

Website: www.cso-effectiveness.org

Who are in Bangladesh organizing Open Forum on CSO Development Effectiveness, how have they been attached to this process?

Among the APRN members of Bangladesh, that BAPA, CDP, EquityBD and SUPRO has participated in a preparational regional workshop that organized by APRN. Hence these four organizations formed the Bangladesh Core Consultation Group (BCCG) which has been organizing the open forum Bangladesh part. BCCG has assigned EquityBD to act as coordination secretariat point.

What are the complementary objectives in this Bangladesh process?

1. At least all CSO activists are informed on the process to bring possible largest number of CSO players in a dialogue process so that there will be a possibility of informal coordination and common minimum position among CSOs in Bangladesh.
2. To discuss and identify (a) CSO work principles, (b) good examples and challenges for gaining credibility, (c) challenges and principles in partnership with others, and (d) aspects and issues for creating appropriate and necessary enabling environment.
3. To discuss above expectations among other stakeholders, especially government policy makers, political leaders, donor and INGO representatives.

How this process is being implemented in Bangladesh?

In fact these four organization working since the last part of 2009, They have been following step by step process in this regard.

1. There are **two advertisements** on the issue on 12th April in 'Daily Star' and 14th April in 'Prothom Alo' to arise primary interest and to seeking application for participation.
2. Meantime the BCCG selected around **80 CSO organizations** from the applicants and also from the organization that did not apply. There were four primary criteria have been followed in this regard (a) selected CSO organizations are active, (b) non partisan, (c) no faith based organization (d) balancing the group of national level and wide spread grass root level, and (d) preference to the women and networking organization. Budget restrictions bound us to limit the number of participants. 80 participants will be given subsidy and others are encouraged to participate with their own cost.
3. There are **71 organizations has confirmed** their participation so far. Among them 22 from Dhaka, 13 from Chittagong, 15 from Khulna, 5 from Barisal, 12 from Rajshahi / Rangpur, and 4 from Sylhet division. Among them 14 women and 56 men. Still there are more confirmation is coming, there is representation of NGOs, non donor funded CSO activist organizations, farmer's organizations, labor organizations networks etc.
4. All those participants will go under a **residential workshop** in Proshika HR Training Center, Koitta, Manikganj during 14th to 16th June, which has crafted in a careful process with participatory methodology for specific dimension of output. The output will be presented in a **multi stakeholder dialogue** to be held during 17th June, 10.30 am to 2 pm at CIRDAAP auditorium, Dhaka. Government officials, political policy leaders, donors and INGO leaders will be invited in the multi stakeholder consultation.
5. A **press conference** has been held on 6th June a briefing media on the total process, a press release both in english and Bangla has also widely circulated.

6. There will be **14 local CSO leaders** will be invited as resource persons to facilitate the residential workshop of 14th to 16th June . The BCCG have had a briefing meeting with some of them. Apart from them **another group** of Government, Political Leaders, Donors and INGO leaders will be invited in the multi stakeholder workshop 17th June.
7. All those information like;
 - (a) Advertisement both in English and Bangla
 - (b) Open forum tool kit both in English and Bangla
 - (c) Participants list
 - (d) Draft program for 14th to 16th June 8, 2010, National Workshop
 - (e) Draft program for 17th June, Multi stakeholder dialogue.

All information is available in www.equitybd.org

8. APRN has given us \$ 13,056 in this regard, **details of the budget** is being available in www.equitybd.org , expenditure has been planned in to ensure the largest number of participation.
9. In both of these events there will be **two international facilitators** will participate, they are (i) Maria Thersa Lauren, Secretary General, APRN, and (ii) Anil K Singh, Secretary General, SANSAD, Delhi, India.
10. In all of those events **English translation service** will be provided to English speaking resource person, guest and observers. This will be done through either by translator or by FM short cut transmitter devise.
11. Following two people in EquityBD secretariat have been **assigned for all communication** in this regard.

Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, Mobile +8801711529792, reza@coastbd.org
Mostafa Kamal Akanda, Mobile + 8801711455591, kamal@coastbd.org

EquityBD, House# 9/4, Road# 2, Shyamoli, Dhaka 1207 Bangladesh.
Tel: (+88 02) 812 5181, 815 4673, Fax: (+88 02) 9129395.
Email: info@equitybd.org, web : www.equitybd.org