

Expert Seminar “The Future of Civil Society Development Organisations (CSOs)”
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CSO development effectiveness

Questions (for key-note-speech or/and workshop)

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1. how can we handle this bias of being independent, which is necessary for delivering what the cso call dev. eff (vs. the donor-driven vision of aid eff) and content the donors, which is necessary to get the work financed?
2. one step back: is it legitimate for donors to hold cso accountable at all? are cso really accountable to donors or just to their “beneficiaries”? do we feel we should be the one hold accountable (from both sides)?
3. there are unjust structures we are working in to get out impact – how should the enabling environment be changed so we can deliver good work? can we hold governments accountable for that?
4. and what about the results? do we want to stay with the established indicators dealing with numbers that may not be able to measure the impact we want to generate but do give us in hand useful information for our accountability to donors? if not, how can we measure or demonstrate “political participation” or peoples perception of social change (by filling out a logframe it is not possible)?
5. we have to take into account that change – our targeted aim – does not happen – if it happens – just because of us. many actors and factors can push development forward: so, is it important for us to see our specific attribution to a let’s say a positive result, a generated impact? or do we do it for the sake of it?
6. are we willing to accept other than our approaches and visions of different actors so working together with them will function?
7. and: it is not only about the different actors, it is also about the diversity of cso themselves – is it possible to generate common principles and guidelines for all csos (working in such different fields as lobbying, project implementation, development education – to name just a few)?
8. will we accept a “division of labour” in between our own cso-sector? coordinating between different actors may lead to focus one and letting go another field, country, aim. and also letting the lead to our southern partners and focusing our work on supporting their initiatives. do we want that or do we fear the loss of funding, power, experience?
9. and – to think it to an end – do we accept that reaching the aim there won’t be no necessity for ngo existence anymore: do we really want to get rid of ourselves in the future?