Key Facts and Figures

- Yemen is confronted with complex development challenges that need to be addressed collectively by Government institutions and CSOs.
- Civic movement in Yemen is vibrant and diverse and has a high capacity of mobilizing youth and volunteers. It is also represented in urban and rural areas. It is, however, constrained by a low capacity and remains fractured along several critical fault lines.
- The World Bank conducted a mapping and capacity assessment study of Yemeni registered CSOs in the governorates of Sana’a, Aden, Taiz, Hadramout, and Hodeidah.

Registered CSOs and Dates of Establishment (Source: MoSAL)

CSO Sector Growth

- **24% of CSOs were registered after the revolution.**
- This increase in civic activities is associated with the political openings during the transition, decline in Government supported service delivery, and increased donor presence in Yemen.

Civil Society Strengths

- Strong linkages with their constituencies who are also well represented in the CSO structure.
- Access to a large (although disorganized) base of volunteers and growing membership, particularly with youth.
- CSOs cover nearly all rural and urban areas of the five governorates. Increased number of CSO member receiving both broad and targeted “capacity building” from international and local organizations.

Geographic Distribution of Participating CSOs within the Five Governorates (some are active in more than one)

- 47% of CSOs in the study sample are located in Sana’a city.
- 37% of CSOs operate in more than one governorate.

Participating CSOs’ Current and Future Scopes of Work

- CSOs “drift” to areas and themes which are donor-heavy and where funding exists.

  **Most common focus areas:**
  - Gender equality and empowerment of women
  - Education
  - Poverty Reduction
  - Human Rights
  - Advocacy

- **Emerging areas of focus:**
  - Peace Building
  - Education
  - Governance
  - Gender equality

Media Coverage of CSOs

- 1114 news items on CSOs were published by 110 media outlets over the last 24 months.
FACT SHEET

CSO Legal Status

- Respondents suggest that lack of registration may be attributable to the complexities of the registration process.

Experience with International Organizations

- 74% of the surveyed CSOs reported that they have worked with international organizations OR partnered with them (inclusive of INGOs and international donors).

Budget

- 41% of respondents reported annual budgets below $50,000.
- The highest budget for a single CSO is $7,500,000, the lowest CSO budget is $200, and the average budget is $323,777.

CSO Networks

- No present legal framework recognizing a civic entity as a “network.” CSOs that choose to coordinate their action under a network structure cannot register as a “network.”
- There are presently no documented numbers of CSO “networks.”

CSO Registration Process

- The current established categories for registration are associations, foundations, and unions.
- Many informants expressed frustration with the registration process CSOs targeted by the study self-identified as:

Conclusion

This is a particularly important time in Yemen's history. The country is in the midst of a precedent-setting transition and there exists tremendous potential and opportunity. By strengthening and professionalizing the growing CSO sector, the Government of Yemen can help its CSOs act as valuable development partners and dynamic social intermediaries. Yemen's untapped resources are its strong civic movement, volunteerism, and the talents of its youth and emerging CSOs.

Additional information available on: