Civil Society Strengthening

A robust civil society contributes to a more inclusive, participatory, transparent, accountable and open society. Civil society can play an important role in fostering good governance resulting in improved respect for human rights and an enabling environment for economic and social development.

What We Do
Pact supports civil society organizations (CSOs), citizen groups, and grass roots community initiatives to provide basic services, undertake effective advocacy efforts, and serve as watchdogs of public and private sector investments in their communities.

Pact’s assistance to civil society includes: access to information campaigns; building capacity to do research and issue-based advocacy; protecting the legal rights of civil society organizations to exist and be actively involved in policy making; organizational development of nascent and growing CSOs; facilitating dialogue between civil society and government on laws, policies and issues of concern by the general public.

Our assistance helps to strengthen existing CSO networks and foster synergies among civil society groups to achieve a common goal. Where applicable, Pact also seeks to build linkages among CSOs, government to promote more effective, equitable, efficient and effective delivery of public goods.

Pact tailors its form of assistance to civil society to the political, social, cultural context in which we operate. In general practice, we aim to assist civil society groups to be fortified with robust civic knowledge, democratic values, and organizing and advocacy skills.

How We Work
Pact provides a combination of organizational assessments, training, mentoring and coaching in financial and human resource systems, and technical assistance to empower civil society. Training is provided in areas of grants management, financial management, program implementation, advocacy techniques, policy analysis, budget process, peace building approaches, public sector oversight, project monitoring and
reporting and evaluation through group workshops, mentoring, target technical assistance, strategic planning, compliance update visits and program update meetings.

Pact utilizes several tools in its work with civil society:

**Organization Capacity Assessment (OCA)**
The OCA helps organizations assess their strengths and weaknesses, clarify their vision, plan for success, and ultimately take greater ownership over their future. Pact’s approach is an adaptive, facilitated process that brings people together from all levels of an organization and uniting them to pursue their own concrete actions.

**Organizational Network Analysis (ONA)**
The ONA is a tool that strengthens networks. It can be used to map a network, understand the relationships between different groups, and provide a forum for coordination, collaboration, and mutual goal-setting.

**Advocacy Index**
The Advocacy Index is a component index for measuring CSOs capacity for and performance in advocacy for specific changes in policies, laws and practices of national and/or local institutions.

**Why it’s Effective**
Pact builds the groups’ capacity to successfully use participatory processes for decision making. Through the skills gained in Pact’s training, civil society organizations are better able to represent their communities and plan and implement development projects. This model allows communities to drive their development priorities and empowers them to take action in the future.

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**CASE IN POINT: UKRAINE**

Pact’s UNITER project’s primary goal is to strengthen and assist leading pro-reform Ukrainian civil society organizations to sustain and consolidate democratic gains. The project seeks to build civil society with a strong constituency which serves as a credible voice for its constituents in advocacy and monitoring activities; continuously creates innovative forms of participation which resonate with Ukrainians; carries deep networks within civil society, government and the private sector; and has the skills to manage operations and activities effectively, transparently, and sustainably.

**Law on Public Associations**, improving legislative environment for NGOs, adopted in 2012.

104 local organizations received support for their advocacy initiatives in such areas, as healthcare, ecological management, modernizing administrative services and increasing citizen participation to implement social development projects. 102 policies were changed, 24 of those – on the national level.

Pact facilitated the inception of the New Citizen Platform, a coalition of leading Ukrainian NGOs, uniting over 50 organizations.

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For More Information

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Pact is an international, nonprofit organization with forty years of experience. Our vision is: world where those who are poor and marginalized exercise their voice, build their own solutions, and take ownership over their future.