Between March 27-April 1, 2020 Pact carried out an online survey of Belarusian civil society organizations and informal groups to better understand the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on NGOs’ activities, plans and needs. The survey was carried out under the USAID/BRAMA activity.

The results presented below are based on 94 valid survey responses that were received from formal and informal groups across Belarus representing a whole range of civil society sectors.
The majority of Belarusian civil society groups have been affected, in one or another way, by the COVID-19 pandemic. Having faced challenges of organizing offline public events, declining outreach to constituencies and limited access to financial resources, most NGOs are in the process of adapting their operations and activities. Working remotely, rescheduling or moving management and programmatic activities online are most popular types of immediate response measures.

Further adaptation and future planning are complicated by the insufficiency of information about the development of the situation with COVID-19. Access to reliable information is among top needs of Belarusian NGOs.

Aside from challenges, a large majority of NGOs see in the pandemic an opportunity to go digital, experiment with new offline formats and better coordinate with each other. Most civil society groups would benefit from assistance to develop their digital competencies, while donors are expected to be flexible in terms of project work plans and timelines.
From which sources do you receive information about the situation with COVID-19 in Belarus and the world?

Multiple choice question.

Online survey results. April, 2020.

- Social network & messengers: 82%
- Online media publications: 80%
- Official sources (government agencies & international organizations): 60%
- Television: 24%
- Other: 9%
Do you have sufficient information about the coronavirus situation to make informed decisions about the work of your organization?

59% No, I have insufficient information
28% Yes, I have sufficient information
9% - other; 4% - hard to say
What challenges is your organization facing due to the pandemic?

Answers: Part 1

- Difficulties with organization of offline events: 74%
- Declining outreach to target groups: 52%
- Limited access to financial resources: 37%
- Deterioration of psychological atmosphere in the organization: 31%
- Lack of a plan in case of force majeure: 30%
What challenges is your organization facing due to the pandemic?

- Inability to honor commitments to donors: 24%
- Deterioration of internal communication: 18%
- Decline in productivity: 16%
- Other: 14%
- Our organization faced no challenges: 4%

Multiple choice question.
Online survey results. April, 2020.
How did your organization react to the pandemic from the standpoint of current activities?

- Cancelled or rescheduled public events: 73%
- Moved activities online: 67%
- Introduced remote work mode for staff: 58%
- Introduced new formats of activities: 38%

Answers: Part 1

Belarusian Civil Society in the Situation of COVID-19 Pandemic

Belarusian Civil Society in the Situation of COVID-19 Pandemic

How did your organization react to the pandemic from the standpoint of current activities?

- Introduced travel restrictions for staff: 27%
- Introduced new policies and procedures: 19%
- Suspended all activities: 8%
- COVID-19 had no impact on us – we continue to work as usual: 8%

Multiple choice question. Online survey results. April, 2020
Belarusian Civil Society in the Situation of COVID-19 Pandemic

Is your organization planning to revise plans because of the COVID-19 pandemic?

- **51%** We are already in the process of adjusting plans of the organization
- **35%** Will adjust plans in the near future
- **7%** We do not intend to adjust our plans
- **7%** - Hard to say

Online survey results. April, 2020
Belarusian Civil Society in the Situation of COVID-19 Pandemic

What windows of opportunity do you see in the situation of the pandemic?

- Opportunity to expand the use of ICT tools in organization's management and activities (60%)
- Opportunity to test new offline formats (36%)
- Opportunity to intensify coordination with other civil society organizations (30%)
- We don’t see any windows of opportunity (20%)
- Hard to say (6%)

Multiple choice question.
Online survey results. April, 2020.
Does your organization have any principally new needs caused by the pandemic?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Competencies of applying ICT tools to implement activities of the organization</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to reliable and regular information about COVID-19 pandemic and response measures</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjustment of donors’ rules and regulations</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competencies of managing organization remotely</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Does your organization have any principally new needs caused by the pandemic?

Answers: Part 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Competencies of planning organizational activities in circumstances of external shocks</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to best NGO practices of working during the pandemic</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional funding to adapt to new conditions</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competencies of managing people in stressful situations</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We don’t have any principally new needs</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Which assistance to Belarusian civil society organizations for adapting to new conditions are you expecting from donors?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assistance</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Possibility of adjusting work plans due to moving of activities online</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training on novel tools of civil society work under new conditions</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possibility of pushing back or extending reporting deadlines</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional funding to sustain organization (office rent, key personnel &amp; communications)</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Belarusian Civil Society in the Situation of COVID-19 Pandemic

Which assistance to Belarusian civil society organizations for adapting to new conditions are you expecting from donors?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assistance</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Procurement of necessary software for remote work</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procurement of additional equipment for remote work</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possibility of freezing project activities during the time of the pandemic</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training on how to manage office remotely</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>