



## EU ROADMAP FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY IN UGANDA FOR THE PERIOD 2021-2027

### GENERAL INFORMATION

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### PART I – BRIEF ANALYSIS OF THE CONTEXT AND PAST EU ENGAGEMENT

#### A. THE STATE OF CIVIL SOCIETY: BRIEF UPDATE ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Uganda has a large and vibrant civil society with civil society organisations (CSOs) working across a range of thematic areas including: the promotion of accountability and transparency, citizens' participation, democracy, human rights, gender, youth, jobs and livelihoods, health, education, agriculture, migration and forced displacement, water and sanitation, and environmental protection. More broadly, CSOs have made strides in establishing a more conducive policy and legislative environment for social inclusion and protection, including for persons with disability.

Whilst CSOs constitute a range of groups and organisations including trade unions, professional associations, faith-based organisations (FBOs) and cooperatives, over the past few years NGOs as a sub-group of CSOs have been more visible and more or less become synonymous with the term CSOs. By May 2021, 2,249 NGOs were registered by the National NGO Bureau<sup>1</sup>. It should however be noted that some FBOs, faith institutions and faith leaders<sup>2</sup> have been playing an important role in shaping norms, in speaking out about injustices and violence and in the provision of social services, especially in health and education. Furthermore, Uganda has one of the world's youngest populations<sup>3</sup> and in the last few years has seen the emergence of an increasing number of youth groups and youth-led organisations, though disparate and with varied capacities<sup>4</sup>.

The space for civil society in Uganda has been receding in the last few years<sup>5</sup>. This is manifested in various ways including: the enactment of legislation that sometimes impedes the work of CSOs<sup>6</sup>,

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.mia.go.ug/resource/downloads>

<sup>2</sup> According to Uganda Census 2014 Final Results, there are; 84.5% Christians, 39.3% Roman Catholics, 32% Church of Uganda (Anglicans), 11.1% Pentecostals, 13.7% Muslims, 1.7% Seventh day Adventists, and 1.6% others. [https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion\\_in\\_Uganda](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_Uganda)

<sup>3</sup> According to UBOS End of Month Population Projections 2015-2040, there is an estimated population of 42,885,900 people in Uganda, 23,327,800 are projected to be below the age of 18 (11,433,600 are female while 11,894,200 are male), while 11,699,700 are between 19 and 35 (6,155,100 are female while 5,544,600 are male), making it one of the youngest populations in the world with 81.7% being 35 and below. 78% are below 30, and the median age of 16. Uganda Bureau of Statistics 2020 Statistical Abstract projects that; 52.6% of the population is less than 18 years of age, 17.2% is between 13-19 years of age, 21.7% is between 15-24 years of age and 23.5% is between 18-30 years of age. The median age according to World Population Review (Live) is 15.8, 15.7 male and 15.9 female – <https://worldpopulationreview.com/countries/uganda-population>

<sup>4</sup> During consultations for this roadmap, the need for leadership development and support to building strong institutions was emphasised repeatedly.

<sup>5</sup> Civil Space in Uganda, Twaweza, 2018. The study considered five dimensions: (i) Freedom of Information and Expression (ii) Rights of Assembly and Association (iii) Citizen Participation (iv) Non-Discrimination, and (v) Human Rights/Rule of Law. Of all five dimensions, none fell in the category 'protected', and the study concluded that two (Citizen Participation and Non-Discrimination) of the areas were partially protected while the rest

limitations on free media and infringement on rights of journalists<sup>7</sup>, threats and arrest of civil society activists and human rights defenders. CSOs that are active in the areas of democratic governance and human rights are also sometimes portrayed as agents of foreign powers with a subversive agenda. The Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) – a longstanding mechanism for support to governance-sector CSOs in Uganda funded by several European donors – faced a sustained smear campaign in 2019 and 2020 and was suspended by the Government in 2021.

As was the case before the 2016 elections, the period leading up to the January 2021 national elections saw an increase in restrictions placed on CSO operations. Some CSOs involved in election monitoring experienced delayed or partial accreditation, freezing of bank accounts on unsubstantiated allegations of financing terrorism, human rights defenders were arrested on account of money laundering and an informal NGO coalition on election monitoring was banned. Journalists also faced a violent working environment around the 2021 elections with reports of physical assault, detention by police<sup>8</sup> and challenges in accessing information and candidates particularly from the opposition.

Some NGOs also face internal challenges including limited financial sustainability, fragmentation, capacity gaps in internal governance and accountability. A mid-term review of the ongoing EU and Germany co-funded Civil Society in Uganda Support Programme (CUSP) pointed to the diversity of CSOs and capacity needs, hence the need for flexibility to address local needs and challenges. Reviews and audits conducted by the DGF also pointed to accountability problems within the civil society sector, and several partner organisations had their funding stopped due to financial mismanagement.

Although CSOs contribute to policy-making processes at national level, their capacity to influence seems limited in matters that seek to strengthen accountability in politically and economically sensitive issues. There seems to be more progress on policies that promote economic development such as youth skilling and promoting livelihoods, such as green jobs, where CSOs have been able to pilot models that the government is engaged in and willing to adopt. In addition, many CSOs operate at district level and engage regularly with local governments. However, the success of CSO interventions at this level is heavily reliant on the goodwill and cooperation of local government officials. The limited resources and capacities of local governments also affect the extent of their engagement with CSOs. Key lessons learned by CSOs on what can enhance their influence is the use of collective voice that resonates with issues that affect citizens, evidence-based engagement and advocacy, lobbying individual influencers, as well as formally engaging with target institutions.

The COVID-19 pandemic also had an impact on the CSO sector and further constrained CSOs' operations. A majority of CSOs had to adjust to digital technologies and virtual work, a new reality, which was hampered by a lack of equipment, limited connectivity, and in some cases, the need for a new skills set. On the other hand, the COVID-19 pandemic underlined an increased need for the

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were restricted. Similar findings are in the USAID (2019) Civil Society Organization Sustainability Index for Sub-Saharan Africa, 11th Edition, December 2020

<sup>6</sup> The Non-Governmental Organisations Act (NGO Act), 2016 requires NGOs to have approval from both the District Non-Governmental Monitoring Committee (DNMC) and the local government, and to sign Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) prior to conducting activities in districts. While these requirements are necessary to harmonize activities in the district, they could also limit the action of some CSOs especially those working in Governance and Human Rights related sectors. The Public Order Management Act (POMA), 2013 that makes provisions for Police to prohibit meetings and public gatherings has been used to block some civil society organizations gatherings. In addition to several instances where disproportionate force has been used to dispel such gatherings, the cumbersome procedures required for securing permission for such gatherings has also hampered civic events. In a positive development, on March 26, 2020, the Constitutional Court annulled the repressive Public Order Management Act, 2013 (POMA)<sup>6</sup> citing majority that the law which had been implemented for 7 years contravened the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda.

<sup>7</sup> Journalists is used as a holistic term to cover Journalists, reporters, correspondents, bloggers etc. and others engaged in frontline media.

<sup>8</sup> <https://cpi.org/2021/01/police-beat-detain-journalists-covering-opposition-candidates-ahead-of-uganda-elections/>

Government, the private sector and CSOs to work together to address COVID-19 impacts, create awareness, support communities and service delivery. This highlighted CSOs' critical contribution to development, their resilience and resourcefulness in the face of challenges.

CSOs that advance gender equality and women's rights are a core part of civil society in Uganda, and have been critical in shifting public awareness and political discourse to be more mindful of gender inequalities and other forms of discrimination and exclusion. Gender equality is explicitly recognized and upheld in the Constitution of Uganda, and the country has made progress in establishing policy, legal, and institutional frameworks for advancing gender equality including ratification of international and regional treaties that seek to advance the rights of women. Progress has been made against various indicators of formal equality for instance, increased visibility of women in leadership in political and public offices, an increase in the number of girls in school, and more women holding key responsibilities in corporations. However, there are still challenges to equality for women and girls. In particular, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) persists and has reportedly increased substantially during COVID 19 lockdowns and women and girls continue to be denied access to means of production like land and capital, yet they take the biggest burden in care and production especially at household level. Younger women are even much more disadvantaged as they have fewer spaces for decision-making, access to critical services, financing, skilling and employment.

Despite the above constraints and challenges, opportunities exist. In the third National Development Plan (NDP III), CSOs are considered important stakeholders to achieve the objectives of most of the NDP programmes. There is dialogue between CSOs and some Government agencies including the Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development (MFPED), the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD), among others. The existence of various formal and informal spaces like citizen service delivery monitoring groups for regular interaction between CSOs, citizens and local governments also provide platforms that can be leveraged for improved relations and accountability.

## **B. LESSONS LEARNT FROM THE PAST ENGAGEMENT WITH CSOs**

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### **B.1 Key lessons, challenges and opportunities identified in the EU (EUD and MS) engagement with CSOs**

#### **B.1.1 Lessons on CSO Engagement**

The following are key lessons on CSO engagement that inform this roadmap:

- Both formal and informal engagement between the EU and CSOs, including during the programming process, has been useful and appreciated in creating a common understanding of issues and challenges faced by CSOs.
- Support to the CSO sector should cover the sector in its diversity to include all CSO such as professional associations, trade unions and business associations, FBOs and cooperatives among others. Some of these have been very effective in influencing policy and practice.

- CSOs are most effective when they work collectively on key issues that resonate with citizens and communities and when their work is based on empirical evidence (e.g. from research).
- Whilst CSOs often invest in understanding and adopting EU procedures, it is also critical that the EU keeps abreast of the sector including the changing dynamics, emerging capacity needs and challenges in order to provide more appropriate and effective support.
- Support from the EU serves a key role in strengthening CSOs; however, some of the financial accountability requirements that accompany this support may be challenging to meet. Greater flexibility in this regard is requested by CSOs.
- Lessons from the ongoing CUSP include the need for a more flexible approach to CSO support, which takes greater account of the local context, and capacity needs. The absorption capacity of many partners, especially smaller CSOs, is limited and some CSOs require additional support to strengthen their administrative and financial systems in order to qualify for bigger grants. The decentralized structure of CUSP has been instrumental in developing dialogue between CSOs and local governments. However, the establishment of an institutionalized dialogue mechanism between state and non-state actors at the national level remains challenging. Support to umbrella organizations (e.g. women, youth, and persons with disabilities) needs to be sustained and deepened with enhanced coordination with government entities at all levels.
- Lessons learned during the implementation of DGF phase II (2018-2022) include importance of clear, regular and open communication with partners regarding financial management requirements; as well as the need for regular and open dialogue on support to the sector between development partners and the Government of Uganda. In addition, the Mid Term Review of the DGF II highlighted the importance of a communication strategy and taking a proactive role in communicating and informing about DGF's contribution to Government's national priorities as well as regional and international commitments. The DGF has been successful in achieving a large number of its expected outputs contributing to the following six result areas at local level: increased citizens' awareness; enhanced citizens' influence; increased spaces/opportunities for convening of key stakeholders; informed engagement by CSOs with policy makers; increased number of women and men accessing legal aid and increased number of NGOs engaging in policy discussions and seeking to influence enactment of legislation.

### B.1.2 Challenges with CSO Engagement

The following are key challenges with CSO engagement that inform this roadmap:

- CSOs' capacity needs vary greatly; therefore any support to their operations and capacity building should be cognizant of this diversity. Current funding modalities do not always recognise and/or address the unique requirements of CSO umbrellas/networks, FBOs and grassroots organisations.
- There seems to be more space for civic engagement by CSOs at grassroots level. However, there is a lack of funding mechanisms to provide appropriate support to such organisations. Some lessons on funding grassroots-based organisations could be obtained

from the experience of the Independent Development Fund (IDF)<sup>9</sup> that was set up for this purpose.

- Support to CSOs should, where possible, include advice on effective financial management and budgeting because a number of CSOs struggle with poor financial management and budgeting skills, which affects true cost recovery and financial accountability and sustainability.
- There has been limited engagement so far with some important components of the sector such as youth movements and youth-led organisations and FBOs.
- The new context with COVID-19 has resulted in several challenges for all CSOs, which need to be taken into account in future support.
- Support to CSOs in the democratic governance area should, to the extent possible, ensure proper involvement of relevant authorities to reinforce trust and avoid misperception.

### B.1.3 Opportunities for CSO Engagement

The following are key opportunities for CSO engagement that inform this roadmap:

- Programs supported by the EU, such as the DGF and CUSP, offers opportunities for facilitating strengthened dialogue between CSOs and Government entities as well as an avenue for dialogue between DPs and the Government. The NGO Bureau provides an entry point for dialogue between CSOs and the government, which could continue to be utilized and supported. Dialogue with APEX institutions (e.g. Office of the Prime Minister, National Planning Authority) exists and should be reinforced. Support should be provided to the NGO Bureau to report on the positive socio-economic impact of the CSOs over the past years. Such a report could make the civil society's role more visible and much more appreciated.
- There are examples of successful CSO interventions, for instance the national teachers' union, and the national medical workers' associations, that have been able to draw national attention and action on key issues. These good practices can be drawn upon for future support
- There are a number of CSO networks/umbrellas in Uganda, and whilst their effectiveness varies, some of these networks/umbrellas can be strengthened to foster a collective voice for CSOs in engagement with the Government, EU and other development partners. These also include networks of cooperatives, trade unions and professional associations which the EU should actively try to engage with.
- Some national CSOs that have previously had significant internal accountability and governance challenges have appointed new leadership and made efforts to introduce new systems and structures to foster greater accountability. In addition, DGF has had considerable success in terms of providing training to CSOs on financial management.
- Existing cooperation between CSOs and Local Governments could be further developed

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<sup>9</sup> The IDF was a fund set up by the DGF to provide support to grassroots based CSOs in Uganda. It was wound up after about 3 years of operations (2015-2018).

## **B.2 Key lessons learnt from the process of implementing the previous RM**

### **B.2.1 Lessons from implementation of structured policy dialogue**

- Structured policy dialogue between CSOs and the EU is critical. However, for it to be effective, it should be conducted more regularly and there must be a complete feedback loop. Additionally, CSOs' participation should be more inclusive, taking into account the diverse composition of CSOs in Uganda and reach out to CSOs not based in the capital.
- Not all EU Member States were aware of the existence of a structured dialogue with CSOs. Staff of EU Member States should therefore be more directly involved, possibly in consultative processes in the lead up to and during the structured dialogue.
- The link between dialogue with CSOs at technical level and political dialogue between the EU and the government should be strengthened.

### **B.2.2 Lessons on EU and MS division of labour**

- EU's coordination and division of labour has mainly been through donor working groups to which CSOs are also formally engaged in all such forums that involve both government agencies and development partners. CSOs are also invited to intervene during the Government-led annual sector reviews. More deliberate efforts by donor working groups to engage CSOs could result into more strategic engagement.
- A common database on EU's and EU Member States' support to CSOs could enhance coordination.
- More regular dialogue should take place between major civil society actions (CUSP, DGF, DINU, EUTF etc.) funded by the EU and Member States to foster exchange of experience and greater synergies
- The EU's engagement with civil society should align with priorities of the Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategy (HRDCS) 2021-2024, agreed by the EU Delegation and Member States in April 2021. Indicative actions under each priority foresee engagement by the EU with civil society.

### **B.2.3 Lessons from operational support**

- Support is considered critical by CSOs, and should also contain an appropriate amount for institutional costs of running projects and/or activities. Additionally, some financial accountability requirements are considered not practical by some CSOs and opportunities to discuss these should be provided.
- Support to consortia to promote greater collaboration between CSOs could also be considered as way of reaching out to smaller CSOs especially those grassroots organizations.
- The CUSP MTR underlines the need for a more flexible approach adaptable to CSOs local contexts taking into consideration the specific needs of smaller and large network organisations.

C. THE STRATEGY FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH CSOS AND HOW IT RELATES TO THE EU COUNTRY ENGAGEMENT AND AGENDA 2030/SDG

OBJECTIVES FOR THE EU ENGAGEMENT WITH CSOs	RELATED SECTOR & COMMISSION PRIORITY	RELATED SDG
1. To promote a conducive environment for CSO operations in Uganda.	Democratic Governance	SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.
2. To promote supportive government actions and improved working relationship between CSOs and government.	Democratic Governance	SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
3. To facilitate meaningful and structured participation of CSOs in domestic policies, the EU programming cycle and in international processes.	Democratic Governance Social Inclusion Green jobs	SDG 1 – No poverty SDG 5 – Gender Equality SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities SDG 8 – Decent work and economic growth SDG 13 – Climate Action SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions SDG 17- Global partnership for sustainable development
4. To enhance social inclusion of vulnerable categories like women, youth and PWDs at all governance levels	Social inclusion Gender equality, women’s rights and empowerment	SDG 5 – Gender equality.  SDG 8 – Decent work and economic growth.  SDG 10 – Reduced inequalities.  SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
5. Invest in CSO capacity	Democratic Governance	SDG 10 – Reduced inequalities.

OBJECTIVES FOR THE EU ENGAGEMENT WITH CSOs	RELATED SECTOR & COMMISSION PRIORITY	RELATED SDG
building	Social inclusion  Gender equality, women's rights and empowerment	SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
6. To promote a resilient, responsive and sustainable CSO sector in the Covid -19 context and beyond.	Democratic Governance  Social inclusion	SDG 9– Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure.  SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

#### D. THE ACTION PLAN

OBJECTIVES FOR THE EU ENGAGEMENT WITH CSOs	ACTIONS (including analysis, policy and political dialogue, operational support)	MEANS (EU programmes / instruments to implement the actions)
1. To promote a conducive environment for CSO operations in Uganda.	<p>1.1 Protecting civic space through pro-active promotion of democratic values for instance through issuing solidarity statements and joint public statements from the EU missions, maintaining the EU Human Rights Defenders Award, and commemorating various international human rights days</p> <p>1.2 Facilitate inclusive structured policy dialogue between EUD, EU MS, GoU and CSOs. Specific dialogues between CSOs and the EU will ensure participation of the diverse and regionally based CSOs. Other dialogues will include policy dialogue, diplomacy, and political dialogue specifically with CSOs and with government agencies under the HRDCS priority 3 on civic and political space.</p> <p>1.3 Support independent research and analysis on development and dynamics of the civil society sector, including tracking shrinking space issues, identifying its drivers and possible mitigation interventions. For instance analysis of the implementation of the NGO Policy and Act, with recommendations for the policy and/or revisions to the NGO Act. This research will inform critical CSO engagement with Government. Research will also involve country and regional comparison of trends</p>	<p>EU HoMs – Government political Dialogue</p> <p>Annual HRD Award and visibility events for international days.</p> <p>DGF - An active facilitator and convener for partners and stakeholders to work together on common issues of governance. The DGF Board and Steering Committee are forums where EU MS can engage with GoU at the highest level as well as technical level. DGF also provides technical assistance to partners and stakeholders to build their capacity in areas such as political economy analysis, M&amp;E, learning, financial reporting, accountability and sustainability.</p> <p>CUSP funded studies/research and dissemination activities</p>



OBJECTIVES FOR THE EU ENGAGEMENT WITH CSOs	ACTIONS (including analysis, policy and political dialogue, operational support)	MEANS (EU programmes / instruments to implement the actions)
	where applicable, and facilitate lesson learning and possible regional level strategies through convening key stakeholders at various levels.	
2. To promote supportive government actions and improved working relationship between CSOs and government.	<p>2.1 Foster informed and constructive engagement between Government and CSOs by funding more CSO - Government dialogues across the country including the joint technical assistance – support regular policy dialogue roundtables between Government, DPs and CSOs in Government’s accountability programmes and the JLOS sector.</p> <p>2.2 Strengthen accountability mechanisms of Government and CSOs and improve the dialogue between them by (i)facilitating the discussion and development of an effective, transparent and accessible registration system for NGOs, and (ii) providing resources that promote local level interventions towards enhancing district and sub-county NGO Monitoring Committees to foster sub-national CSO monitoring and engagement with local governments.</p> <p>2.3. Enhance understanding and appreciation amongst key stakeholders like ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs), private sector and NGOs, of the roles and diversity of civil society by funding and/or commissioning studies including from the NGO Bureau, to analyze the value of the CSO sector to Uganda’s socio -economic development and support dissemination/discussions on these studies.</p>	<p>CUSP support to NGO Bureau/registration department including district NGO monitoring committees.</p> <p>DGF has a mandate to facilitate partners - CSOs and state partners – to come together and work on common governance issues.</p>
3. To facilitate meaningful and structured participation of CSOs in domestic policies, the EU programming cycle and in international processes.	<p>3.1 Enhance CSO collective action by facilitating processes to enable them articulate their visions and amplify their voice - putting forward more unified and strategic messages in policy and advocacy processes in relation to prominent issues like accountability, service delivery, employment, youth, green jobs, digitalization, gender, climate change.</p> <p>3.2 Strengthen issue based, interregional and</p>	CUSP and DGF support to civil society capacity and engagement

OBJECTIVES FOR THE EU ENGAGEMENT WITH CSOs	ACTIONS (including analysis, policy and political dialogue, operational support)	MEANS (EU programmes / instruments to implement the actions)
	<p>cross-sectoral coalitions, platforms and networks to service their members and live up to their visions by supporting specific funding modalities for NGO/CSO networks. This includes (i) core/institutional support (ii) information sharing (iii) mobilization for collective engagement in policy advocacy and stakeholders' engagements (iii) capacity building for network members and ensuring engaged membership in networks.</p> <p>3.3. Strengthen the capacity of youth voice and participation by funding various formations at national and sub-national levels. Commission regular monitoring and studying youth CSO configurations, and providing support to strengthen youth organisations especially those dealing with national and sub-regional issues. Such formations include youth councils, youth platforms, associations, cooperatives and other youth formats to expand youth participation.</p> <p>3.4. Empower the capacity of CSOs in their various forms, including cooperatives, trade unions, professional associations to engage with the government at all levels through funding their coordination mechanisms, building capacity to use evidence-based advocacy, identification of champions amongst Government and other stakeholders, and strengthening their ability (through training, mentoring and exposure) to negotiate for realistic outcomes.</p>	
<p>4. To enhance social inclusion of vulnerable categories like women, youth and PWDs at all governance levels</p>	<p>4.1 Foster participation and consultation processes at national, district, sub-county and international level and strengthen CSOs role to hold the government to account. Interventions should include studies to better understand faith-based institutions. Based on this, consider support for their development and advocacy work.</p> <p>4.2 Support efforts to promote the enhancement, inclusion and contribution of women, youth and PWDs in development processes and policy dialogues at all</p>	<p>CUSP and DGF - support to enhance social inclusion and capacity of organisations of vulnerable groups</p> <p>DINU – economic empowerment programmes in the North including gender equality.</p> <p>Civil society and HR and democracy budget lines</p> <p>CSO thematic budget line -</p>

OBJECTIVES FOR THE EU ENGAGEMENT WITH CSOs	ACTIONS (including analysis, policy and political dialogue, operational support)	MEANS (EU programmes / instruments to implement the actions)
	<p>governance levels; including facilitating processes to analyse and address barriers and opportunities for participation of vulnerable groups. Support community led advocacy that promotes legitimacy and collaboration between CSOs and communities.</p> <p>4.3 Specifically, support further strengthening of the women's CSO sub-sector to promote gender equality through increased ability to mobilise, engage in advocacy, address SGBV and other barriers to women's empowerment.</p> <p>4.4 Support youth networks – focusing on strengthening existing structures and coordinating mechanisms as well as building mentoring and support systems. This support will be informed by a mapping of the youth movement and youth based organisations and identification of entry points for engagement.</p> <p>4.5 Support to leadership development initiatives, especially for young leaders, women leaders and PWD leaders, and empower women, youth and PWDs in policy dialogue and strengthen their economic empowerment.</p> <p>4.6 Develop support to grassroots-based organisations and explore sub-granting mechanisms while taking into account and mitigating associated fiduciary risks.</p>	<p>Calls for proposals for specific groups (e.g. youth, women, FBO, etc.)</p>
<p>5. To Invest in CSO capacity building.</p>	<p>5.1 Strengthen CSO capacity to fulfill their mandates and enhance their efforts towards enhancing legitimacy and accountability by resourcing interventions that aim to strengthening processes of CSO and NGO self-regulationn, including the Quality Assurance Mechanism (QUAM).</p> <p>5.2 Strengthen CSOs capacity to carry out evidence-based research and multi-stakeholder dialogues through funding projects with universities, think tanks and research institutions with civil society focused on research methods to increase the</p>	<p>CUSP and DGF -support to organization capacity assessments and required capacity building initiatives</p>

OBJECTIVES FOR THE EU ENGAGEMENT WITH CSOs	ACTIONS (including analysis, policy and political dialogue, operational support)	MEANS (EU programmes / instruments to implement the actions)
	<p>legitimacy and accountability of CSOs.</p> <p>5.4 Invest in studying/understanding CSO institutional dynamics that affect their procedural and substantive legitimacy, and provide funding to programmes to strengthen CSO leadership, organizational and institutional development</p> <p>5.5 Support zero tolerance actions to corruption in the CSO sector through transparency, learning and corrective actions</p>	
<p>6. To promote a resilient, responsive and sustainable CSOs in the Covid -19 context and beyond.</p>	<p>6.1 Strengthen financial sustainability of CSOs including local philanthropy and piloting innovative approaches to resource mobilisation. This will entail funding interventions to expand and diversify resource mobilisation including strengthening local philanthropy, social entrepreneurship and exploring innovative approaches in resource mobilisation.</p> <p>6.2 Promote digital and inclusive technology and citizen engagement debates by civil society by strengthening capacity (through training, purchase of equipment and required forms of technology) of civil society to develop and test innovations, including use of technology, for greater effectiveness and sustainability.</p> <p>6.3 Promote the development of cost-effective digital solutions for rural CBOs and CSOs in partnership with Government and private sector actors through funding the development and testing of applications, as well as the roll out of appropriate technology.</p> <p>6.4 Support to ensuring a conducive legal and regulatory framework that protects digital rights and related freedoms through funding organisations that advance these rights.</p>	<p>CUSP and DGF -support to research.</p> <p>Philanthropy for Development, a new Dutch-funded programme implemented by NGO Bureau in Uganda</p>

PART III– FOLLOW-UP OF THE RM

OBJECTIVES FOR EU ENGAGEMENT WITH CSOs	OUTCOME INDICATORS	TARGET	BASELINE INFORMATION (if available)	SOURCES OF INFORMATION & MEANS OF VERIFICATION
1. To promote a conducive environment for CSO operations in Uganda.	<p>Positive Government response on key CSO concerns (e.g. shrinking of civic space, suspension of operations, freezing of bank accounts, unintended impact of the anti-money laundering/counter-terrorism financing legislation)</p> <p>CIVICUS rating</p>	<p>1. Civic space is discussed during high-level political dialogue between the EU/MS and the GoU</p> <p>2. EU public advocacy (e.g. statements, communication, remarks) is responsive to issues related to civic space</p> <p>3. Two CSO - Government dialogues per year and 5 regional dialogues with upcountry CSOs held</p> <p>4. Role of civil society is recognized in the events organized by the EU/MS for international days</p> <p>5. CSOs are engaged in the review of the NGO policy and/or revisions to the NGO Act.</p> <p>6. Improvement in CIVICUS rating</p>	No known	<p>Reports from the EU Delegation</p> <p>Minutes of meetings between the government and CSOs</p> <p>CUSP/DGF reports</p> <p>CIVICUS</p>
2. To promote supportive government actions and	CSOs' contribution to Uganda's development is	1. Support CSO and Government engagement in at least 30% of	Not known	CSO network and project reports

OBJECTIVES FOR EU ENGAGEMENT WITH CSOs	OUTCOME INDICATORS	TARGET	BASELINE INFORMATION (if available)	SOURCES OF INFORMATION & MEANS OF VERIFICATION
improved working relationship between CSOs and government.	better acknowledged  Interactions related to compliance to administrative requirements between the authorities and CSOs are more effective	districts  2. Report from the NGO Bureau to document the value of the CSO sector to Uganda's socio - economic development and roundtables organized around the report  3. Reports from CSOs on their contribution published  4. Registration process and other administrative requirements are streamlined		Reports from NGO bureau  Published Research Reports  Qualitative survey on perception of working relationship between CSOs and government
3. To facilitate meaningful and structured participation of CSOs in domestic policies, the EU programming cycle and in international processes	Increased participation and contribution of CSOs in government-led processes at national and local levels  Number of structured EU/MS-CSOs dialogues	1. At least 5 coalitions/platforms / networks strengthened to engage in policy processes  2. Number of CSOs engaged in collective policy dialogues at all levels increases by 20%  3. At least one EU/MS-CSOs structured dialogue per year	Not known	DGF/CUSP annual reports  Reports from CSO networks and partner organization  Minutes of meetings EU/MS-CSOs
4. To enhance social inclusion of	Number of youth, women and PWDs	1.Evidence of at least 10 diversity and inclusion	Not known	Project reports

OBJECTIVES FOR EU ENGAGEMENT WITH CSOs	OUTCOME INDICATORS	TARGET	BASELINE INFORMATION (if available)	SOURCES OF INFORMATION & MEANS OF VERIFICATION
vulnerable categories like women, youth and PWDs at all governance levels	organization and programs supported  Increase in support for small and community - based organisations at grassroots level	programs  2. Support to at least 5 faith-based institutions  3. Support to at least 10 youth organisations  4. Support strengthening of at least 20 CSOs to promote gender equality.  5. Mapping of youth movement and youth based organizations and identification of entry points for engagement		
5. To invest in CSO capacity building	Percentage of NGOs that report and can demonstrate evidence of improved capacities  Number of CSO networks supported that report improved capacities in their coordination function	1. 60% of targeted CSOs report improvements in their capacity /effectiveness  2. Specific support targeted to NGO networks developed and implemented	Not known	Project reports  Self-Regulation Reports
6. To promote a resilient, responsive and sustainable CSO sector in the COVID-19	Number of models/approaches of CSO innovative resource mobilisation supported	1. CSOs supported to develop interventions to expand and diversify their resource	Not known	Project reports and CSO reports

OBJECTIVES FOR EU ENGAGEMENT WITH CSOs	OUTCOME INDICATORS	TARGET	BASELINE INFORMATION  (if available)	SOURCES OF INFORMATION & MEANS OF VERIFICATION
context and beyond.	Number of CSOs supported to improve their use of digital technology	mobilisation 2. 10 CSOS supported to develop and test innovations, including use of technology for greater sustainability	Not known	



ANNEX 1: THE PROCESS

How were MS/EU+ present in the country involved in the drafting of the RM?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All EU MS/EU were given the opportunity to engage in the drafting process and were contacted for bilateral consultations. Interviews with the following EU MS took place: Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Denmark and Belgium.</li> <li>• All MS were then invited for a workshop to reflect on key issues and build consensus on objectives and key interventions. Belgium, Germany and Denmark participated in the workshop.</li> <li>• All MS received the draft for their comments (written submissions were received from Belgium and Germany) before consolidation and sharing with Heads of Mission for endorsement.</li> </ul>
What mechanisms are set up to ensure the involvement of MS/EU+ in the implementation and follow up of the RM?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Donor working groups</li> <li>• Database of EU/MS to coordinate interventions</li> <li>• Engagement of technical staff of MS and CSOs in regular review of progress in the RM implementation, including annual reviews</li> </ul>
What consultations with CSOs were organised? What type of actors were involved? What mechanisms, if any, were used to ensure the inclusiveness of the process?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSO consultation and survey on EU programming, including a dedicated consultation and survey with youth/youth-based organisations (online survey and discussion groups)</li> <li>• Key informant interviews and focus group discussions with CSOs including key networks like the National NGO Forum, National Association of Women Organisations in Uganda ( NAWOU), the Uganda Youth network ( UYONET) and the Development Network of Indigenous Voluntary Associations(DENIVA) in Uganda. As well as CSO supported by various EU projects</li> <li>• Engagement in launch of a national CSO study by the NGO Forum</li> <li>• Engagement in the CUSP mid-term review and with the management of DGF</li> <li>• All interviewed stakeholders were invited to the consensus consultative workshop</li> </ul>
What mechanisms, are set up to continue the dialogue with CSOs? What mechanisms, if any, will be used to ensure the inclusiveness of the dialogue?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Structured policy dialogue at least once a year</li> <li>• Regional consultations to inform the structured policy dialogues</li> <li>• Regular informal consultations with CSOs</li> <li>• Focused formal and informal consultations with Youth organisations through a Youth Sounding board</li> </ul>

How is the RM integrated /coordinated with the JP process?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation with civil society took place in the context of the new EU 2021-2027 programme with the EU RM process borrowing heavily on outputs from focused consultations with CSOs and Youth</li> <li>• Key issues from the RM have been incorporated in the programming exercise and will inform the design of new actions</li> <li>• Cooperation colleagues at the Delegation working with CSOs were consulted on the EU RM</li> </ul>
How does the RM relate to other country processes including human rights and democracy country strategies, the gender action plan, etc.?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The HRDCS 2021-2024 integrates the civil society component. Civil society is and will continue to be a crucial partner in terms of both dialogue and programming. In the implementation of the strategy, the EU will engage with a wide variety of civil society groups, including umbrella bodies, registered NGOs, CBOs, individual human rights defenders, trade unions and faith-based organisations. In particular priority 3 (Civic and Political Space) seeks to promote an enabling environment for CSOs.</li> <li>• The GAP III CLIP will guide support to civil society with a view to ensuring freedom from all forms of gender-based violence, promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights, contributing to economic and social rights of girls and women, promoting equal participation and leadership and advancing the women, peace and security agenda.</li> <li>• The 3<sup>rd</sup> National Development Plan refers to the important role of civil society in the country's development and its interaction with the government</li> <li>• The Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) and the Parliament Human Rights Committee also recognise the important role of CSOs in promoting and protecting human rights</li> </ul>

## ANNEX 2: RELEVANT REFERENCES AND SOURCES TO DEEPEN THE UNDERSTANDING ON THE STATE OF CS AND EU ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY IN UGANDA

- National Development Plan III (NDP III) 2020/21 – 2024/25
- CIVICUS Annual Global Surveys of the State of Civil Society
- Civic Space in Uganda: A Review of International and National Reports, January 2010 – June 2017, Twaweza, March, 2018
- John De Connick and Arthur Larok , Uganda's Civil Society: History, Challenges, Prospects
- Advocates Coalition on Development and the Environment (ACODE), Annual Local Government Score Cards
- Human Rights Network of Journalists- Uganda (HRNJ-U), Annual Press Freedom Index reports
- Great Lakes Institute of Security Studies (GLISS), Uganda Governance Pulse ( Annual reports)

- Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), Annual Status of Human Rights Reports
- Human Rights Centre Uganda (HRCU), Annual Reports on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) in Uganda