Cultural and social analysis

Question grid elaborated for an expert panel

Example
This example is taken from the tool’s testing mission in Armenia.

Context of the example
The general topics to be developed in the cultural and social analysis tool have been settled as a result of this testing mission. This can explain why the topics presented in this document do not correspond to the ones presented in the final version of the tool.
**Relations between the political sphere and civil society**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions or points</th>
<th>Examples of indicators</th>
<th>Sources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is the concept of civil society acknowledged in the country?</td>
<td>Public expression by means of the press or other ways, by means of opinions from interest groups, about national challenge</td>
<td>Sociologists, NGOs, Historians, The Press</td>
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<tr>
<td>What does it imply?</td>
<td></td>
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<td>What sort of legal framework do civil society organisations benefit from?</td>
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<td>Is the political system multi-party or one party?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Electoral system</strong>: is there universal suffrage? In what kind of elections?</td>
<td></td>
<td>Legal experts, Texts of law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are some origins (geographical, ethnic, social) favoured for the recruitment of ministers? What role do women play in political life? What role do minorities play in political life?</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sociologists, Political experts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is the basic political and administrative unit? How are local councillors elected?</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sociologists, Political experts, Regulation texts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does association life exist? Under which legal regime? Which section of the population does it affect? Do political authorities consult associations or NGOs? In which case?</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sociologists, NGOs, Senior officials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is economic activity determined by professional associations and/or trade unions? Are they legal? Do the political and economic authorities consider them as legitimate interlocutors?</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sociologists, NGOs, Senior officials, Trade unions</td>
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**The development of the law in society**

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<td>Can the evolution of the law be considered as a sign of progress? Is the law imposed from outside, and is it accepted as such without real discussion? Is the law correctly published and sufficiently explained? Or, conversely, is it complicated and hardly understandable to the non-specialists?</td>
<td>Implementation of the law</td>
<td>Legal experts, Sociologists, Women’s associations, Minority representatives, Reports from associations of Human Rights, Legal texts, NGOs, Leaders of peasant organisations, Reports and research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What are the rights of women? of children? of ethnic and religious minorities? of handicapped people? Where are they codified? How rigorously are they respected? What are the principal denials of justice?</td>
<td>The place of the women, minorities and handicapped people in the working world, the political field, the association field, etc.</td>
<td>Legal experts, Women’s associations, Minority representatives, Reports from associations of Human Rights, Legal texts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What are the terms of the land law? Is land ownership individual or collective? Has the country experienced a land reform? When? What are the consequences of the reform on farm production? On the peasantry?</td>
<td></td>
<td>Legal experts, Sociologists, NGOs, Agronomists, Geographers, Leaders of peasant organisations, Legal texts, Reports and works in research</td>
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</table>
Are civil and religious laws distinct from each other, or do they overlap or conflict?  
Legal experts  
Religious leaders

### Social organisation

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| Characteristics of the family:  
Is there a system of single or extended families?  
By which familial obligations is life in society ruled? | | Anthropologists |
| Are there familial connections in Civil Services? In land ownership systems? In industry? In trade? | | Senior officials  
Economic actors |
| Are specific social groups (ethnic, gender or religious) specialised in specific professions?  
Are specific social groups forced to undertake specific economic activities? | | Sociologists  
Economists |
| Female and male functions:  
What are the dominant perceptions on the gender partition of activities in the domestic and professional area? | | Sociologists  
People’s associations  
Women associations |

### The historical background

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| Contemporary presence and weight of history:  
find out whether facts from the past are usually recalled to praise the Nation or to rationalise contemporary issues a posteriori  
Example: issues of under-development, poverty, suffering | References to meaningful historical facts in the press and in informal talks | The press  
Journalists  
Historians |
| Date of the country’s independence if it has been colonised  
Nature and relations with the former colonial power | Languages spoken  
Administrative system | History books  
Legal experts  
Economists  
International trade actors |
| Are there territorial disputes or modifications of frontiers in the country’s history which could have a strong meaning for its citizens? | | Historians  
Journalists |

### Beliefs, customs and cultural expressions

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| Religions in the country:  
What are the majority and minority religions?  
Are there religious persecutions?  
Are there ethnic conflicts? Religious conflicts? | The visibility of religious buildings  
The use of religious references in official speeches | Anthropologists  
Sociologists  
Religious leaders |
| Where do religious practices and economic activities interfere? | The content of religious prohibitions | Anthropologists  
Sociologists |
| Do national days have religious connotations? | | Anthropologists |
| **Cultural activities** | Sociologists  
| What are the areas of development, and the creators’ social and geographical origins?  
| What popular cultural expressions are there?  
| What reputation do they have?  
| **Traditional skills:**  
| In which areas are they commonly carried out? What is their place in the economic field? | Anthropologists  
| Sociologists  
| Artists  
| Museums  
| Street arts  
| Lists of economic activities  
| Are civil and religious laws clearly distinguished from each other or do they overlap or conflict? | Legal experts  
| Religious leaders |