

3.2 Capacity Strengthening - Overview

2 Blocks

- 1: to gather outcomes of January – June 2017 and reflect on current capacities
- 2. plan ahead for 2018.

Introduction

Strong advocacy capacity of national and local civil society is the primary objective of the PfR programme. Yes, we want to achieve our advocacy objectives. But even if we reach those and we have great IRM policies, budgets and practices in all 10 PfR countries, we will have failed unless we have strengthened the advocacy capacities of national and local civil society.

The contribution of CSO in their roles as critical friend, service provider, activist, facilitator, communicator and lobbyist serves to hold the government and the private sector accountable for their actions towards citizens, making their interest and will known. At the same time they make these citizens more aware and better informed. An active and well-functioning civil society greatly contributes to social cohesion, democracy and sustainable development, and enabling CSOs in this role is the central focus of the Dutch ministry of foreign affair's orientation regarding strategic partnerships.

The central premises of the partnership is to strengthen the ability of civil society organisations operating within PfR to lobby and advocate for IRM, so that stakeholders will address the needs and concerns, of all groups, in particular marginalized groups, they bring to the table.

Aims of block 1

1. Refresh: The why and what of Capacity Strengthening
2. Reflection: What capacities have we strengthened in January-June 2017 and how?
3. Reflection: Which capacities would we like to prioritise for strengthening in 2018?

Aims of block 2

1. Creative thinking: Possible activities to strengthen capacities
2. Capacity Strengthening Planning

How to

This session should be facilitated by someone from the Country Team (possibly the country lead or member of the Capacity Strengthening Reference Group) supported by NL staff.

There are choices to make, depending on what the country team has developed already and the priorities of the country team. This is indicated in the presentation.

For the interactive elements in this session, make sure you are capturing the outputs throughout the session on flip charts and make sure there is a note taker to take notes on a laptop.

The powerpoint and facilitators guidelines should guide you through this session. The relevant notes are also copied in the notes box below each power point slide.

Preparation

Make sure it is clear who within the CT/HQ will facilitate this session and ask the facilitators to go through the powerpoint and facilitation note together ahead of the session so that there is still time to ask for clarification is needed with the Advocacy Capacity Strengthening Coordinator, who is happy to answer any questions about this session!).

For the facilitators:

- Decide which parts of this session are most relevant and which parts you can spend less time on. You will need to prioritise to make sure you spend time on what you think is most important for your particular country team!
- Make sure you receive the most recent country level DCF (does not have to be perfect! In this session you will work on making it better and more relevant to the programme) to insert into the PPT.
- Talk with your co-facilitator about the broad scope of activities that can contribute to capacity strengthening (see below in this guide) and ask the co-facilitator/country team to make a list (or bring the log book) of all activities Jan-June 2017 that have contributed to capacity strengthening.

For the session itself you will need:

- Flipovers
- Markers
- Color print out of the DCF for all participants.
- Green Dot Stickers (HQ facilitator: Silke can give you these!)

Follow up of the CT

Make sure all parts of this session that are needed in the reporting are finalized by 30 September. These are:

1. DCF (including description of the elements)
2. Capacity Strengthening Reflection Table.
3. Capacity Strengthening Planning Table.