

Capacity development for Nigerian Civil Society Organizations

Framing the Issues in 2015-2016

Gates Foundation Workshop, Top Rank Hotel, FCT, 22nd December 2015

Defining Civil Society in Africa

“Civil society encompasses a constellation of human and associational activities operating in the public sphere outside the state. It is a voluntary expression of the interests and aspirations of citizens organized and united by common interests, goals, values or traditions, and mobilized into collective action either as beneficiaries or stakeholders of the development process. Though civil society stands apart from the state, it is not necessarily in basic contradiction to it, and both ultimately influence each other”

ADB

http://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Policy-Documents/Framework_for_Enhanced_Engagement_with_Civil_Society_Organizations-06_2015.pdf

Defining Civil Society Organizations in Africa

“CSOs are diverse in their constituencies, functions, size, resource levels, organizational forms, geographical scopes, historical experiences, cultural contexts, agendas, ideologies, strategies, and approaches. They have created civil spaces and have provided opportunities to bring communities together for collective action, mobilizing the society to articulate demands and voice concerns at local, national, regional, and international levels. They occupy important positions in the development dialogue and act on a number of national, regional, and global issues”

ADB

http://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Policy-Documents/Framework_for_Enhanced_Engagement_with_Civil_Society_Organizations-06_2015.pdf

Why the recent interest in building the capacity of local CSO?

Paradigm shift to Aid localization

- Falling official development assistance (ODA) to the global south - e.g. ODA to Nigeria from USA down by 14% for 2016
- Development effectiveness now linked with efficiency – results based development
- 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development , July 2015 (AAA) Mobilization of Domestic Financing (MDF)
- New Flexible development assistance providers

The case for engaging local CSOs

- Value for money investment
- More efficient than development partners in global North
- Engagement for sustainability, new USAID thinking on “100% sustainability”
- Local CSOs as effective advocates to ensure governments mobilize domestic financing
- 4 principles of aid effectiveness - ownership; accountability and mutual accountability; harmonization; and alignment and use of country systems

The case against engaging local organizations

CAPACITY CHALLENGES

- Local CSOs are not able to take projects to scale, do not have medium to long term sustainability plans, fail to use professional business approaches

THE ALTERNATIVE – Fund INGOs and Multilaterals

“These organizations provide economies of scale and of scope, making it easier for individual donors, such as Canada, to help many more countries than they could effectively help on their own....by thematic priorities”.

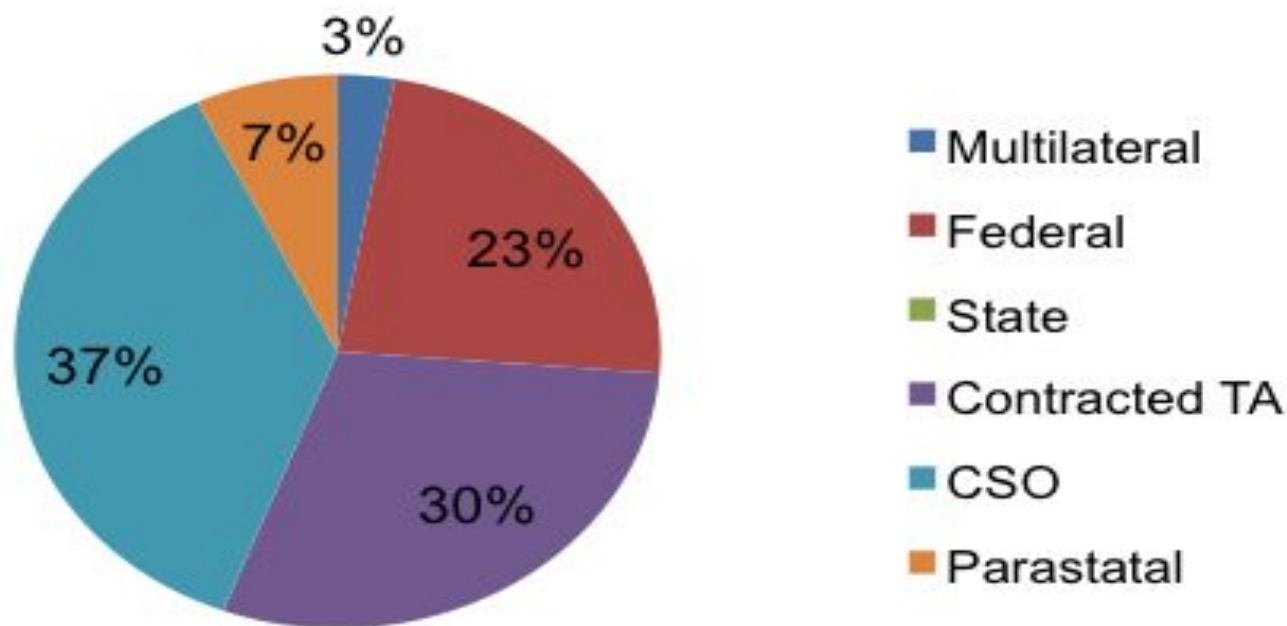
http://www.international.gc.ca/development-developpement/dev-results-resultats/reports-rapports/oda_report-rapport_ado-13-14.aspx?lang=eng

Engage local CSOs but build their capacity

- “To be sustainable, localized interventions must include a capacity development component” DEVEX :
<https://www.devex.com/news/sounding-off-on-foreign-aid-localization-86140>
- Training, mentoring, leadership development
- New mechanisms for local NGOs to negotiate overheads
- Exchange programs, learning tours
- New CSO partnerships with international organizations and domestic private sector

Local CSOs share of development funding in Nigeria

2009 Health Sector Disbursements by Channel of Delivery



What prospects for Nigerian CSO capacity building in 2016?

- Increased commitment to engage local groups in most bilateral and multilateral country strategies
- ECOWAS, AU and ADB now have CSO funding windows
- But no stand alone capacity building as an end in itself in Nigeria
- Mixed signals about the direction and purpose of capacity building
- CSOs under threat by the proposed legislation

<http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/education-plus-development/posts/2015/07/23-indigenous-leadership-aid-localization-nigeria-walker>

Last words??

“Today, because [ODA] is so dominant in so many countries, localization has led to real competition between implementing organizations that are truly local, indigenous, and organic, versus those that are affiliates of [international nongovernmental organizations].”

Devex Editor: <https://www.devex.com/news/sounding-off-on-foreign-aid-localization-86140>