



Capacity Building Training Programme

Module 1 - Unit 1 | Worksheet 1



Activity: Role play

Scenario

John: We hear the term NGO more often than the CSO. So, what's their difference?

Susanne: Well, NGOs are actually a subset of CSOs. Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) are voluntary organisations, independent from government and commercial for-profit actors, as are NGOs. However, CSOs can take other forms such as professional associations, independent research institutes, etc. CSOs can be grouped based on either their type or category.

John: Interesting! Could you please elaborate on this?

Susanne: Of course! There are two types of CSOs; the operational and the advocacy. An operational CSO is involved in the implementation of development-related projects, whereas an advocacy CSO is focusing on policy changes and influencing policies, practices, and the views of the government, the media, key actors and the public in general, on a particular matter.

Now, when it comes to CSOs grouping based on categories, we need to consider both their orientation and level of operations. Let me explain; when assessing based on the orientation you will need to consider whether they have charitable, service, participatory or empowering orientation. On the other hand, when assessing based on the level of operations, you should focus on whether they are community-based organisations (CBOs), city-wide organisations, national and international.

John: Wow, so much information to grasp! Thank you for this. I will have a closer look at it later.

Susanne: My pleasure, I hope it was helpful. Let me know if you need anything else.



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