

Subject: Proposal on funding assistance to conduct country wide consultation to promote urge for SELF ACCOUNTABILITY and SELF COORDINATION among the Civil Society Organization (CSO) toward building an effective third sector to stand by to work for a humanitarian and democratic society in Bangladesh.

A. Background and Rationale

1. The Terminology

Civil Society Organization (CSO) : We are refereeing here all the foreign or locally funded or non-funded non-government organization from national and local level as CSOs. We will use the term International CSOs (ICSO) in respect of international non-government organization who are working in more than one countries even who are originated from Bangladesh.

Self-Accountability: Self accountability meaning in this project that, through a bottom up process the CSOs will develop a declaration and which will be signed and declared through a national convention. This self-accountability charter will contain the issues related to participation, transparency, accountability, gender relation, human rights, democratic principles, mitigation of conflict of interest, mutual accountability etc.

Self-Coordination: This is an alternative to overhead coordination, which is being happened through formal network relationship. In view of broader objectives for CSOs as agreed in Istanbul Principles there will be a charter on self-coordination, to strengthen informal coordination, avoidance of conflict as much as possible for the greater interest i.e., the interest to work for human right, social justice, humanitarianism and democratic principles in the society. This self-coordination charter might be integrated to self-accountability charter; lets see how it will be evolved.

Cooperation Agenda: Cooperation agenda meaning in this project is that the issues which is related to other stakeholders especially from government, donors and ICSOs, tailoring to sovereign, independent and sustainable growth of CSOs in Bangladesh

2. Theory of Trinity Factors in Developing Countries

It is all most an inference that due to the limitation or weakness of political party system who some time hardly represent appropriate people views, state agencies some time and somewhere or in some respect hardly able to reach people, which has created emergence of CSOs with private but as nonprofit initiatives. Now a days CSO works both in service delivery and also in advocacy. Popular theory in this regard is that for a balance development of a nation, there is a need of interplay between three factors, i.e. state, market and CSOs, especially in developing countries where democratic institutions and state responsiveness yet to get maturity.

3. The Reality : Bangladesh Need

Bangladesh is a country of multi drivers in development since its inception, i.e., from 1971, most of the CSOs have had started work with relief and rehabilitation approach. Gradually the role of CSOs has changes, advocacy through networking and mobilization has emerged. Reality is that future development of Bangladesh with its spirit of liberation war (i.e., democracy, socialism, secularism and nationalism) is somehow depended upon balance interplay of this trinity factors (i.e., state, market and CSOs). It is also imperative also for following two factors, first, there are some quarters of policy makers perceived and promote a wrong perception “development is first and democracy is later”. And in second, there are threats of religious terrorist group especially in recent time which is being propagated by related global groups too.

4. Aid effectiveness and development effectiveness : Istanbul Principles for CSOs

Paris Declaration (2005) has done by the state and different multinational organizations with the perspective of aid effectiveness. But in course of time it has become development effectiveness in the subsequent Accra (2008) and Busan (2011) declaration. In this respect they have recognized and given importance to the participation of civil societies. Taking this in perspective during 2008 and 2010 there were worldwide discussion among the civil societies and has developed CPDE (Civil Society Partnership in Development Effectiveness). Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness has come out with 8 principles (<http://cso-effectiveness.org/-istanbul-principles,067-.html>) from their Istanbul Assembly (2010), which are (i) Respect and promote human right and social justice, (ii) Embody gender equality and equity while promoting women and girls’ right, (iii) Focus on people’s empowerment, democratic ownership and participation, (iv) Promote Environmental Sustainability, (v) Practice transparency and accountability, (vi) Pursue equitable partnership and solidarity, (vii) Create and share knowledge and commit mutual learning, (viii) Commit to realizing positive sustainable change.

5. Global Humanitarian Platform, World Humanitarian Summit and Localization

Global Humanitarian Platform which has been adopted by 40 INGOs, UN agencies, IoM, World Bank and Red Crescent movements during 2006, in acknowledging the fact that there are some gaps in this regard especially neglecting the role of local and national organizations. Please see the link <https://www.icvanetwork.org/principles-partnership-statement-commitment> . In short these are Equality, Transparency, Result Oriented Approach, Responsibility and Complementarity. These principles have been widely reviewed by ICSOs especially ICVA (www.icva.org) an apex body of voluntary organizations and others in whole over the world during 2013 to 2016 on the eve of UN initiated World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) process. Such a participatory open review process also have had held in Bangladesh too, please see the link <http://coastbd.net/principles-of-partnership-learning-and-way-forward/> . There was a final outcome report from the UN Secretary General on after the WHS, please see the report in the link, <https://worldhumanitariansummit.org/sites/default/files/media/A-71-353%20-%20SG%20Report%20on%20the%20Outcome%20of%20the%20WHS.pdf> please see the section C, where it has been given importance on supremacy of local and national organization. On the basis of this, all most all the ICSOs have signed Charter4change (www.charter4change.org) with a commitment to respect greater and sovereign role of local and national organization and channeling

more direct fund to local and national NGOs. Please see this two outcome documents of Bangladeshi local NGOs demand in this regard, which was prepared jointly, presented both in national and international level <http://coastbd.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/WHS-Flyer Equal and Dignified Partnership1.pdf> , <http://coastbd.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Final-WHS-flyer 7-Oct-20151.pdf>.

B. What Bangladeshi CSOs Need to Understand and take Initiatives

Within above international and national perspectives, Bangladeshi CSOs need to realize as follows;

- (i) Need to play as effective third sector role both in service and advocacy issues, and
- (ii) Need to promote human right, social justice, equity and all above the principles of democracy.

But in this regard there are two major hindrances in this regard that Bangladeshi CSOs has to take self-initiatives, first one is self-accountability, which will promote CSOs credibility among the common public domain and the second one is self-coordination, with other fellow CSOs striving for common cause.

Formal coordination by networking via organization virtually is dormant or hardly working in Bangladesh because of following two major factors, (i) formal organizational structure of different networks in fact working little as the leadership position being occupied by the people who has little time to take initiatives, (ii) the network leaders pre occupied with the operational leadership syndrome, as they are busy with managing projects /micro finance operations, they hardly manage time to update their knowledge or linking to global CSO networks.

C. Objectives and Possible Outcomes

Here we are providing objectives and possible outcome structure of this project as follows;

Objectives	Possible outcomes
1. Initiate a participatory process to implement a participatory, inclusive and participatory dialogue.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Committee in national and divisional level - Advertisement and web based registration
2. Conduct dialogue on actualization of of the need on CSO development as third sector, identify action points for self-accountability and cooperation agenda from ICSOs, donors and government stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Orientation of local facilitators - Pilot implementation of dialogue and improvement in implementation - Conducive but low cost dialogue environment and facilitation process - Divisional declaration and national charter development
3. Prepare reference and easy reading materials from global development effectiveness, GHP and WHS discourse, which will be tested, finalized and printed for distribution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Material development - Test - Hard copy and web copy is available for wider distribution and dissemination
4. Conduct national conventions with all CSO stakeholders for dissemination of charter on self-accountability and self-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wider circulation of charter on self-accountability and self-coordination among the media and other relevant stakeholders

coordination.	especially among the ICSSOs, donors and governments.
5. Conduct national seminar with ICSSOs and government stakeholder on CSO expectations of cooperation agenda for effective and sovereign growth of CSOs	- At least two separate public seminar with ICSSOs, donors and government stakeholders.

D. Course of Actions for Implementation for the project during April to December 2017

Here we have tentative course of actions as we have planned to implement the project during April to December 2017

Activities	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
1. Communication for central coordination committee of the process, preparatory workshop and website development	*								
2. Material development, implementation planning workshop		*							
3. Pilot divisional dialogue and press conference, review and improvisation of rest of the dialogues			*						
4. Implementation of the other divisional and district dialogue.				*	*	*	*		
5. National convention on CSOs self-accountability and coordination.								*	
6. National seminar or dialogue with ICSSOs, donors and government stakeholders.								*	*
7. Project completion review, report and next course of actions, may be it will be extended up to January 2018									*

E. Tentative budget

Activities	Taka (in thousand)
1. Two preparatory workshop in Dhaka with divisional representatives who will be acting as central coordination committee	100
2. One dinner meeting in Dhaka with CEO of central coordination committee members	100
3. Three preparatory workshop with districts conveners in Dhaka in three batches	150
4. Advertisement, materials and website development	150
5. Seven divisional dialogue and press conferences including pilot one	700
6. Seven dinner meeting with CEOs of divisional steering committee during prior evening of	350

the open dialogue.	
7. National convention with newspaper supplement	1400
8. Two national dialogue with ICSOs, donors and government stakeholders	300
9. Travel, communication and stationaries	400
Sub total	3250
10. Contingency, 5 % on the cost from 1 to 7	162.5
11. Overhead and administration, 5 % on the cost from 1 to 7	162.5
12. Total	3975

F. Assumptions

Here we have following assumptions in respect of implementing the projects and there by possible strategy we will be considering in implementation.

Assumptions	Possible implementation strategies
1. If we go for the implementation of this project by big MFI CSOs, then small and right based CSOs might be left out	- Need to take balance approach to take mid-level MFI CSOs along with right based NGOs also. There should also be space for independent / individual CSO activists too.
2. There might be occupying attitude from some CSO leaders in respect of different responsibility in respect of implementation of this project in different level.	- There should full transparent and open process in all level. Existing leaders from existing networks might be considered not to be included in the leadership level of implementation. fresh and new leadership should be welcome.
3. There might be negative attitude toward ICSOs, donors and governments.	- Coordination committee members have to be trained on how to react positively and why it is necessary to avoid antagonistic relation. We have to develop understanding on necessity of all stakeholders in respect of achieving broader vision and mission and each other complementary in this regard.
4. Government and other networks might worry or misunderstand on the objectives of this project.	- Pre implementation face to face or one to one should be done with all important networks and government stakeholders, formal letter will be solicited from them for cooperation in all level.
5. There might be little attention in global level and which will have little impact in global policy makers label	- Regular implementation on this project will be given to different international CSO networks, OCHA, through newsletter etc. In final convention there should be invitation from OCHA, ICVA, NEAR and Amnesty. There will be try out on international media coverage in this regard too.
6. There might be lack of ownership among the involved CSOs as COAST is taking initiatives.	- For greater ownership in all level facilitation responsibility will be given to other then

	COAST. While COAST is working in background facilitating for quality implementation, learning accumulation and knowledge management.
7. There might be obvious urge from the participants for future progression in this regard and somehow a structure for network.	- COAST takes this as a learning project in ongoing implementation process. If the question comes up, then there will be informal coordination and networking will be worked out.

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