

CISU's Theory of Change 2014

Our assumptions

A more fair and just world is possible - a world where all people have decent living conditions and choices in life, a world where human rights are respected, a world where voices are heard and influence is real. CISU believes that to achieve this change, the participation of civil society in long-term development is crucial. Given the history and tradition for active popular participation in Denmark, Danish civil society organizations working in development have valuable experiences to share.

Strong, independent and diverse civil societies and active citizens are an important balance to the state and the market. This is an important part of the basis for a functioning society and for sustainable and equitable economic growth. Civil society organizations and movements are part of the framework for citizens' efforts to secure their rights, fight for a just distribution of society's resources and improve their daily living conditions - according to their own priorities and targets. However, in many countries, civil society is under pressure from repressive regimes.

It is our common responsibility to help defend space for civil society and hold governments, on local, national and international levels, responsible and accountable for ensuring a fair distribution of resources and a sustainable development based on human rights for all.

The change we create:

Large numbers of diverse, Danish-based, popular organizations are working in mutually committed partnerships and are networking with civil society organizations in other countries as well as being visible and collaborative civil society actors in Denmark.

Decision-makers, professionals and the Danish population are supporting Denmark's engagement in development cooperation and acknowledge that strong civil societies with popular roots have a multiplicity of roles and responsibilities in development cooperation locally, nationally and globally.

Danish organizations and their partners are constantly developing themselves and are working actively for participatory development that secures people's rights, fosters global justice and combats the causes of poverty locally, nationally and globally.

How we create change:

In cooperation with member organizations, CISU creates a strong platform and sound environment for mutual learning, turning practice into shared knowledge and providing a strong professional foundation by means of capacity building.

Through its funding mechanisms, CISU supports Danish civil society organizations in their partnerships, interventions and networks around the world based on the principles of a strong civil society, human rights, global justice and sustainable reduction of poverty.

CISU works to secure good framework conditions and backing for civil society work at home and abroad. CISU disseminates knowledge of specific opportunities and limitations faced by civil society in those countries where CISU's member organizations and their partners are working. CISU promotes the continued broad popular participation in development cooperation in Denmark.

Creating change through synergy

CISU is constantly analyzing, processing and aggregating knowledge, experiences and learning from member organizations, their partners and other relevant sources as well as from the contextual development. CISU uses all its activities (funding, capacity building, travelling, participation in networks, relations to authorities etc.) to collect and draw on knowledge and experiences. These processes give synergy, enhancing the relevance, quality and usefulness of our activities and to develop shared understanding and approaches to the work CISU and the member organizations do.

CISU is a civil society organization which, at the same time, is working to strengthen civil society organizations. Using our own example, CISU promotes legitimacy, transparency and accountability in our member organizations. Member organizations promote these values in their own organizations and with their partners. This strengthens their partners and their constituencies to demand their rights to exist and take action to secure the rights of poor people.

Our Vision

Strong popular modes of organisation and communities work to secure people's rights, promote global justice and combat the causes of poverty.

Our Mission

CISU backs Danish organizations' national and global efforts for a just and sustainable world. CISU serves as a platform for exchanging experiences and sharing knowledge. We build capacity, promote mutual learning and innovative thinking, and strengthen popular participation in development cooperation. We administer public funds and seek to ensure resources for a multiplicity of organizations and interventions. CISU defends member organizations' shared interests and the space for civil society work.

Our VALUES

The values lay the groundwork for our day-to-day work. They frame the way we view the world and enter into relationships. Our credibility depends on our being seen to adhere to our own values.

Diversity

We wish to secure a wide array of approaches within civil society work, because an effective civil society is characterised by a variety of approaches and types of actors.

Openness

We strive for transparency in all our acts and decisions.

Accountability

We assume responsibility for our own acts and decisions, and expect the same of others.

Participation

We offer everyone equal opportunity to take part, because all people have something valuable to contribute.

Respect

We deal with people on their own terms and support them in working for their own objectives. We let our views be challenged and learn along the way.

Cooperation

We cooperate widely, because it is an inspiring, necessary and constructive path to sustainable results.

Volunteering

We create room for voluntary involvement in civil society, because people's free will and voluntary dedication is the driving force behind committed civil society work.