



Red Cross / EU Office
Bureau Croix-Rouge / UE

Red Cross / EU office comments on
Draft Multiannual Indicative programme of the Thematic programme
“Civil society organisations and Local Authorities” 2014 – 2020

The RC / EU office welcomes the draft as presented in the background note and congratulates the unit in DEVCO to share the document well in advance of the Policy Forum on Development with the relevant actors.

As most of the comments have been already brought forward in the Policy Forum on 18/19 October 2012 here some main points which are important for the future to achieve long term positive change in the sectors addressed and to achieve also a results based approach.

General remarks:

Whereas we understand and generally support the focus of the TP on CSO from the south / partner countries, the role and experience of CSOs from the “North” should also be well considered. Especially thematic groups and families of CSOs play an important role on knowledge exchange but also bring in substantial resources through peer exchange, technical assistance and funding support (often linked to long term framework partnership Agreements with EU MS governments!)

The role of the “roadmaps for CSOs” should be taken into account and probably be more described, especially for in country programming and interventions which should be reflected in the MIP.

Multi-country programmes should focus not only on supporting networks / platforms, but also on issue-specific programmes of common concern in the different regions. Therefore the possibility of multi country calls through DG DEVCO in Brussels should be kept as part of the portfolio of funding modalities for the TP CSO/LA.

Flexibility is important to allow programme adjustments from one year to another.

Experiences from evaluations of the current TP should be used for the upcoming programming period and also a focus shall be given to use appropriate Aid modalities as discussed in the Structured dialogue process. There is still a need for a variety of funding modalities, project, programme and organisational funding to ensure diversity and relevance.

An emphasis should be given on a support for long term partnerships with flexibility in funding modality to secure responsiveness and support ownership.

Component 1: Focus on Country level – Enhancing CSOs and LAs contribution to development and governance processes

Whereas it is the general common way of operating for the Red Cross to have a community based approach due to its roots and network through our branches and volunteers, it is also logic to have a close link on community level with the local authorities. A component supporting this link is strongly appreciated however caution should be made on a delicate balance between the different actors and their responsibilities and roles in the region / territory.

Strengthening the role of CSO for pro poor social service delivery should have at least the same in country priority as the role of “watchdog” for CSOs. From a point of view of the Red Cross it should

not only be activated in LDC and Fragile states as there are in all countries groups of vulnerable communities and persons which fall out of the support / safety net of the national systems and which need special support which is delivered by CSOs.

Therefore the TP shall be flexible in its approaches and not have geographical focus / limitation already in the MIP but respond to CSOs right of initiative related to pro poor social service delivery on a global level!

The TP should also define more the role of CSOs in the area of inclusive growth as we consider also the area of protecting livelihoods and strengthening communities in enhancing their means for their livelihood as a programme for inclusive growth on community level.

Component 2: Strengthening CSO and LA networks in the field of development at regional, EU and global level

Red Cross is recognising the importance of this objective as from the experience of previous years the use of networks on all level has played an important role and RC societies are engaging in an increasing number in various thematic and geographical networks.

Therefore in line with other CSO recommendations we want to stress that support to networks is not only given on geographical criteria but also taking into account thematic and sectoral setups. Networks are not only used to share and promote joint views for engaging in policy dialogues but can also help to form joint standards and principles eg Istanbul principles or SPHERE standards. The TP should therefore also consider the support of networks on enhancing the quality and exchange in the area of social service delivery as also promoted under component 1.

Component 3: Development education and Awareness raising

The Red Cross is glad to see a continuation of this objective from the previous Thematic programme and that the work and studies on DEAR have been taken into account. Whereas we see that the focus of this component should lie within the EU we also agree that possibilities should exist to use part of this objective also for global and regional initiatives outside of the EU.