

# SCS Djibouti: Civil Society Organization Strengthening Project

## Overview

The Civil Society Organization Strengthening Project (CSOSP) (2018 – 2020, \$2.9 million) is a USAID/Djibouti-funded initiative to strengthen civil society organizations (CSO) to foster accountable governance and improve service delivery. Led by FHI 360, CSOSP supports Djiboutians to engage in constructive dialogue with government officials with the aim of improving service delivery in education and health, especially for women and vulnerable populations.

## Djibouti Context

Over 20 percent of Djibouti's population lives in extreme poverty, and indicators for individual and civic well-being are low. USAID has invested for a number of years in key sectors, including health and education; however, several factors have limited the extent to which interventions have achieved sustainable results for the population. These contextual factors include weak governance, persistent barriers to citizen participation, limited civil society capacity to effectively advocate for improved governance and inclusive service delivery, and cultural barriers to gender equality, youth empowerment and social inclusion.

## Major Program Components

### Improve governance in the education and health sectors through:

- Strengthening CSOs in the education and health sectors, by improving their strategic planning, project management and fundraising capabilities, their networking and advocacy skills, and their assessment of Parent Teacher Association and Health Committee needs and challenges
- Hosting multi-stakeholder engagements (Whole System in the Room (WSR) workshops) where civil society and public sector actors working in education or health can identify opportunities for action, collaboration or coalition building
- Financing CSO micro-projects in education and health, addressing priorities identified during the WSR workshops

### Promote more effective advocacy for gender equality, equitable service delivery, and protection of vulnerable populations by CSOs by:

- Strengthening CSOs dedicated to Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) by improving their strategic planning, project management and fundraising capabilities, their networking and advocacy skills
- Hosting multi-stakeholder engagements (GESI WSR workshops) where civil and public sector actors working in gender equality and social inclusion can identify opportunities for action, collaboration or coalition building
- Financing CSO micro-projects addressing priorities identified during the WSR workshop (gender-based violence, gender priorities in education and health, etc.)
- Fostering equal gender participation in trainings and capacity building activities and mainstreaming gender concerns in multi-stakeholder dialogues

### Improve the enabling environment for CSOs in Djibouti by:

- Developing the capacity of 12 CSOs to better serve the Djiboutian population
- Encouraging collaboration between international stakeholders and CSOs to implement activities defined in CSO strategic plans
- Fostering CSO coalitions in the health and education sectors and on GESI issues

## Achievements

- Securing buy-in of the Djiboutian government, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Women and Family for interventions to improve governance
- Selection of 12 local CSOs engaged in the health and education sectors and in GESI activities
- Establishment of a consultative committee made up of Government of Djibouti, USAID, and FHI 360 representatives to oversee project activities

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