

# SCS Global Update

Sharing Resources and Knowledge Among the Global CSO Community

SUMMER 2018

## CSOs Combat Government Overreach that Imperils Freedom of Expression

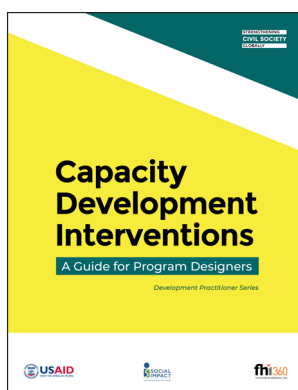
Press repression is a disturbing trend that continues to dog CSOs worldwide. SCS Global Associate Award projects are battling a range of official challenges including legal action, close monitoring and intimidation, direct attacks, isolation, rhetoric, and finance and tax penalties.

In Tanzania, online content providers must now filter, block or monitor prohibited or sensitive content, which is costly and time consuming. The law vaguely defines bloggers to include journalists, social media users, and CSOs, and requires they register or face a \$2,000 fine. To exert additional pressure and encourage self-censorship, independent bloggers must pay \$440 annually if they choose to register.

In Serbia and the Kyrgyz Republic, government action has been more blatant. A partner organization in Serbia was targeted with its sixth audit in five years for alleged tax fraud, a tactic used to scare off potential advertisers. In the Kyrgyz Republic, government is requiring media outlets to manage their income through authorized Treasury accounts.

With SCS Global support, these CSOs continue to ensure that citizens are well informed about the actions and performance of government institutions and officials.

## SCS Global Launches New Resource



Regardless of where an organization sits on the capacity spectrum—nascent, emergent, or mature—SCS Global's new *Capacity Development Interventions (CDI) Guide* offers USAID partners, working in any sector, ways to identify the best approaches to shaping an intervention and achieving meaningful results.

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## Enhanced Civil Society Organization Sustainability Index (CSOSI) in the Works

Recent evaluations of the CSOSI identified shortcomings in its 20-year-old methodology, including an over-reliance on small groups of experts, its cost and time inefficiencies, and the unsustainability of the current model. However, the USAID-funded appraisal reinforced that the Index remains a useful resource for donors, implementers, intermediary support organizations, and local CSOs. To enhance the Index's utility, SCS Global is working with USAID and stakeholders to implement both quick fixes as well as larger reforms of the methodology to be piloted in the fall.

The annual CSOSI measures the civil society sector across seven dimensions that take account of the overall levels of development of the CSO sector as a whole rather than the sustainability of individual CSOs. In each of 71 countries, a local implementing partner convenes a panel of local experts to discuss and score indicators' dimensions. Then the implementing partner drafts a country report based on an expert panel's assessment, as well as outside knowledge of the sector. The country reports are then released in compendiums by region.

If you would like to offer suggestions for how the Index's methodology might be improved, contact us at [SCSGlobal@fhi360.org](mailto:SCSGlobal@fhi360.org).

## SCS Global Associate Awards

**USAID/JAMAICA**  
Local Partner and Social Enterprise Development, Youth Engagement

**USAID/DJIBOUTI**  
CSO Strengthening, Community Development

**USAID/GUINEA**  
Civic Activism, Strengthening Health Governance

**USAID/HONDURAS**  
Civil Society and Media Strengthening, Anti-Corruption

**USAID/TANZANIA**  
Media Strengthening, Gender and Youth Integration

**USAID/BOTSWANA**  
PEPFAR HIV/AIDS Services, CSOs Strengthening (pending)

**USAID/BALKANS**  
Media and CSO Strengthening

**USAID/BURMA**  
Civil Society and Media Strengthening, Community Peacebuilding (pending)

**USAID/KYRGYZ REPUBLIC**  
Media and CSO Strengthening

**USAID/WEST BANK & GAZA**  
Youth Engagement, CSO and Media Strengthening (pending)

**USAID/DRG**  
CSO Sustainability Index

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