

**AGENTS FOR
CITIZEN-DRIVEN
TRANSFORMATION**

ACT Programme Closure

Reflecting on the Results and Lessons Learned

Abuja, 19th March 2024

Funded by the
European Union



Implemented by
the British Council



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ACT's Five-Year Journey:

Highlights of Results, Impact and Lessons Learned

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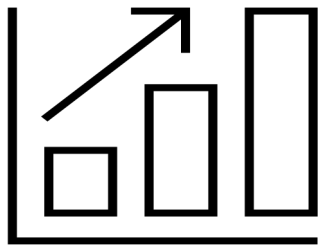


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Numbers and Results

(Programme
Outcome)



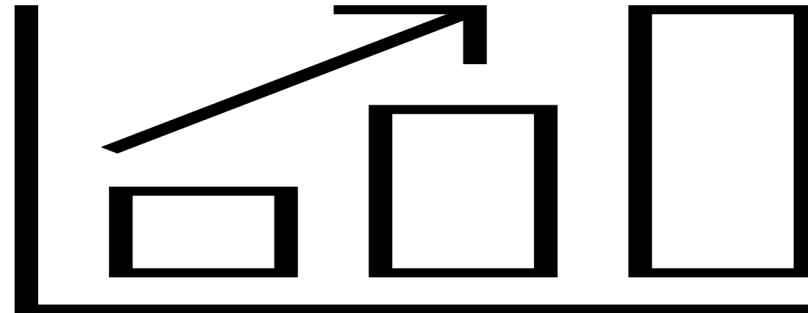
Key Lessons

Challenges & Opportunities

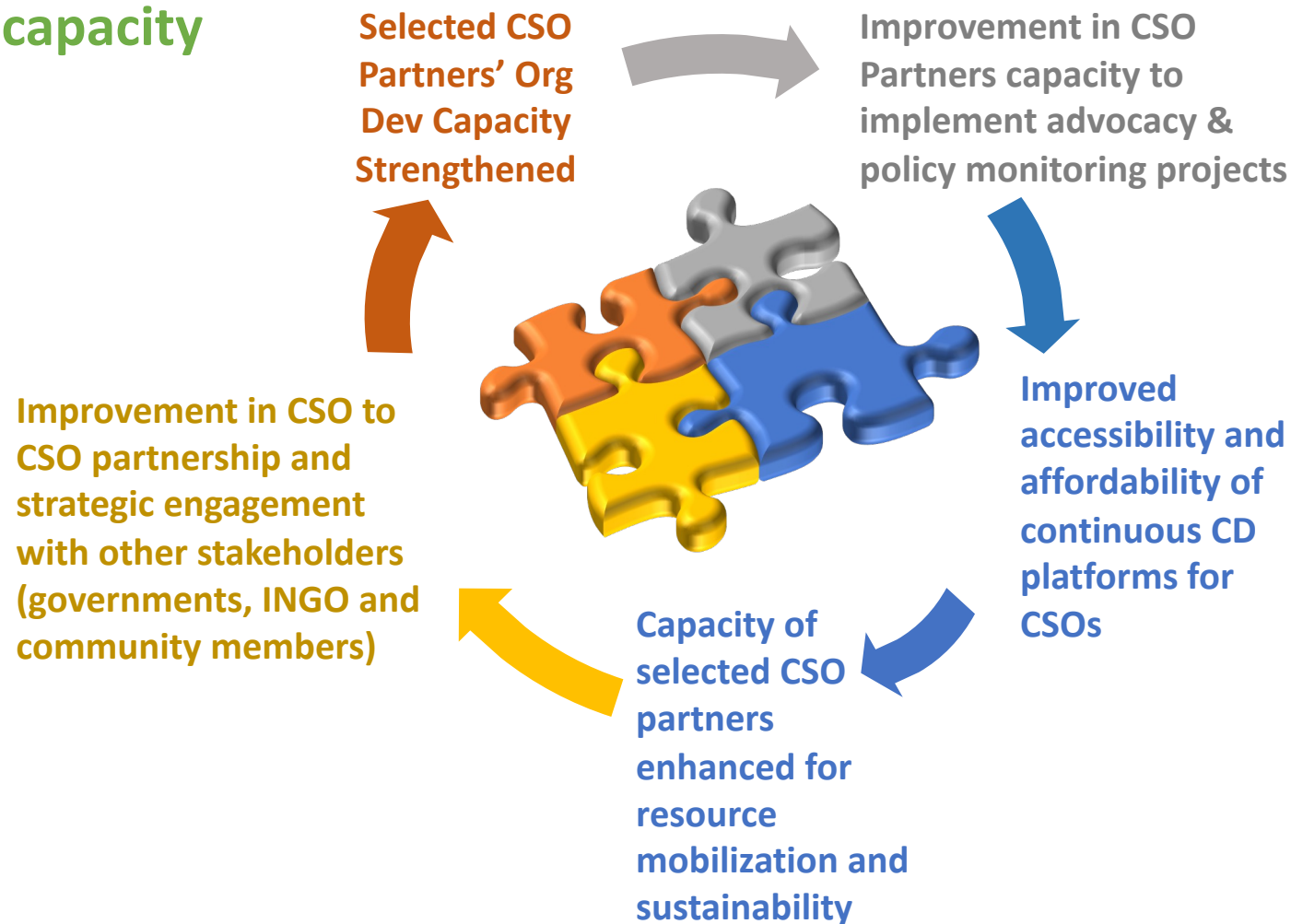


Numbers and Results

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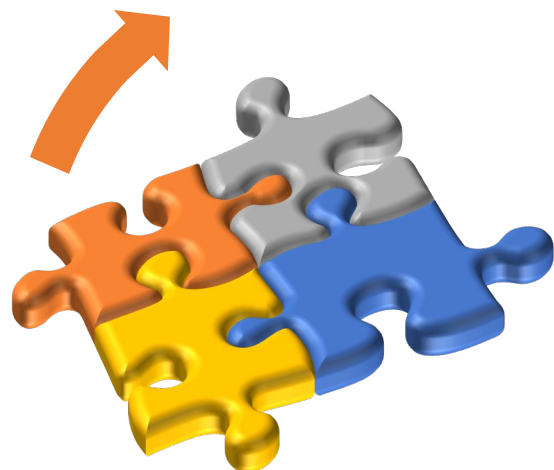


Strengthening CSO organizational capacity development (Result Area 1)



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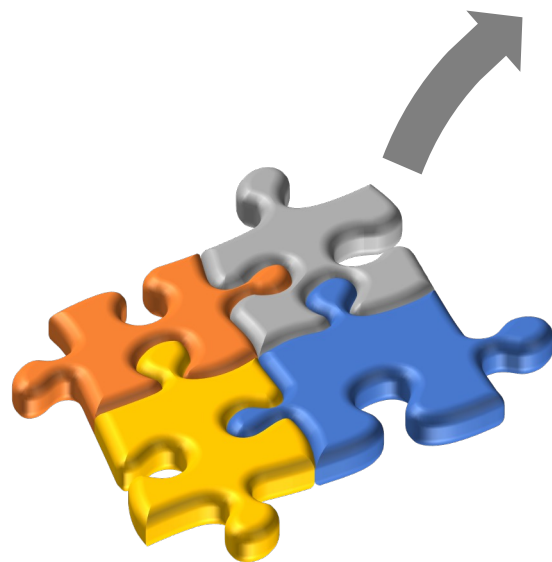
Org Dev Capacity of Selected CSO Partners Strengthened



- **233** CSOs engaged
 - 18 matured, 133 developing and 52 emerging CSOs
- **2,808** CSO staff trained
- **160** CD training completed
- **20** CD domains covered
- **1,302** CS Network leaders and members trained
- **8,800** hours of coaching/mentoring completed
- **167** developing and emerging CSOs participated in intensive coaching / mentoring support
- **203** CSOs participated in ACT facilitated PLP

In **Lagos**, the Freedom Foundation had existed for over 20 years without an organisational structure. Following its partnership with the ACT programme, it has now restructured its management approach and recruited its first ever CEO and a Director of Impact & Strategy.

Strengthening CSO organizational capacity development (Result Area 1)



Improvement in CSO Partners' capacity to implement advocacy and policy monitoring projects

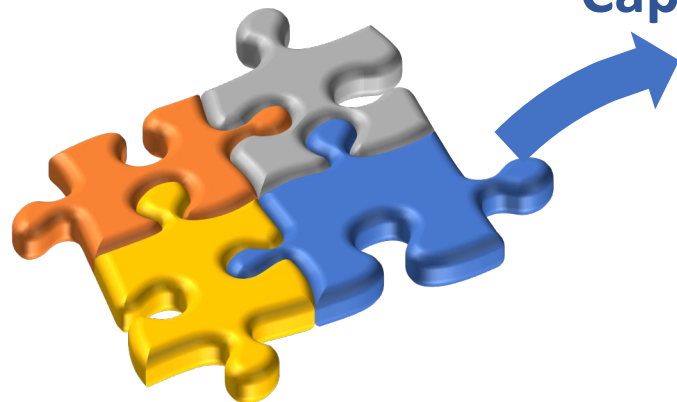
- 98 grants implemented successfully
- 146 CSOs benefitted and implemented advocacy/policy monitoring projects across diverse areas in 10 states:
 - ✓ Education, Health, Environment/CC, Governance, Livelihood Support, V&A, G&SI, Democracy/Rule of Law and Anticorruption, Peace and conflict mitigation, Migration and resilience, etc.

In **Kano**, Friends of Community (FOCO) used a grant from ACT to advocate for girl child education. The advocacy and sensitization in communities led to an increased enrolment and retention of girls in schools in the Tarauni and Ungogo LGAs.



Strengthening CSO organizational capacity development (Result Area 1)

Improved access and affordability of continuous Capacity Development platforms for CSOs



- **11** CDPs trained/supported
- **5** CDPs supported to host LMS platform
- **36** learning resources developed and host online
 - ✓ **16** OD toolkits
 - ✓ **10** animated video courses
 - ✓ Online course materials
- Over **100** OD consultants engaged and have continued to offer services to CSOs

CSO TOOLKIT

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ADVOCACY STRATEGY
DEVELOPMENT

Strengthening CSO organizational capacity development (Result Area 1)

Capacity of selected CSO partners enhanced for resource mobilization and sustainability



- **73** CSOs participated in ACT consortium grant experimentation
- **10** emerging CSOs/CBOs implemented donor-funded projects for the first time
- **20** ACT CSO partners have won new grants from local and international organizations
- ACT CSO partners are expanding and exploring new streams of funding

Strengthening CSO organizational capacity development (Result Area 1)

Improvement in CSO to CSO partnership and strategic engagement with other stakeholders (governments, INGO and community members)

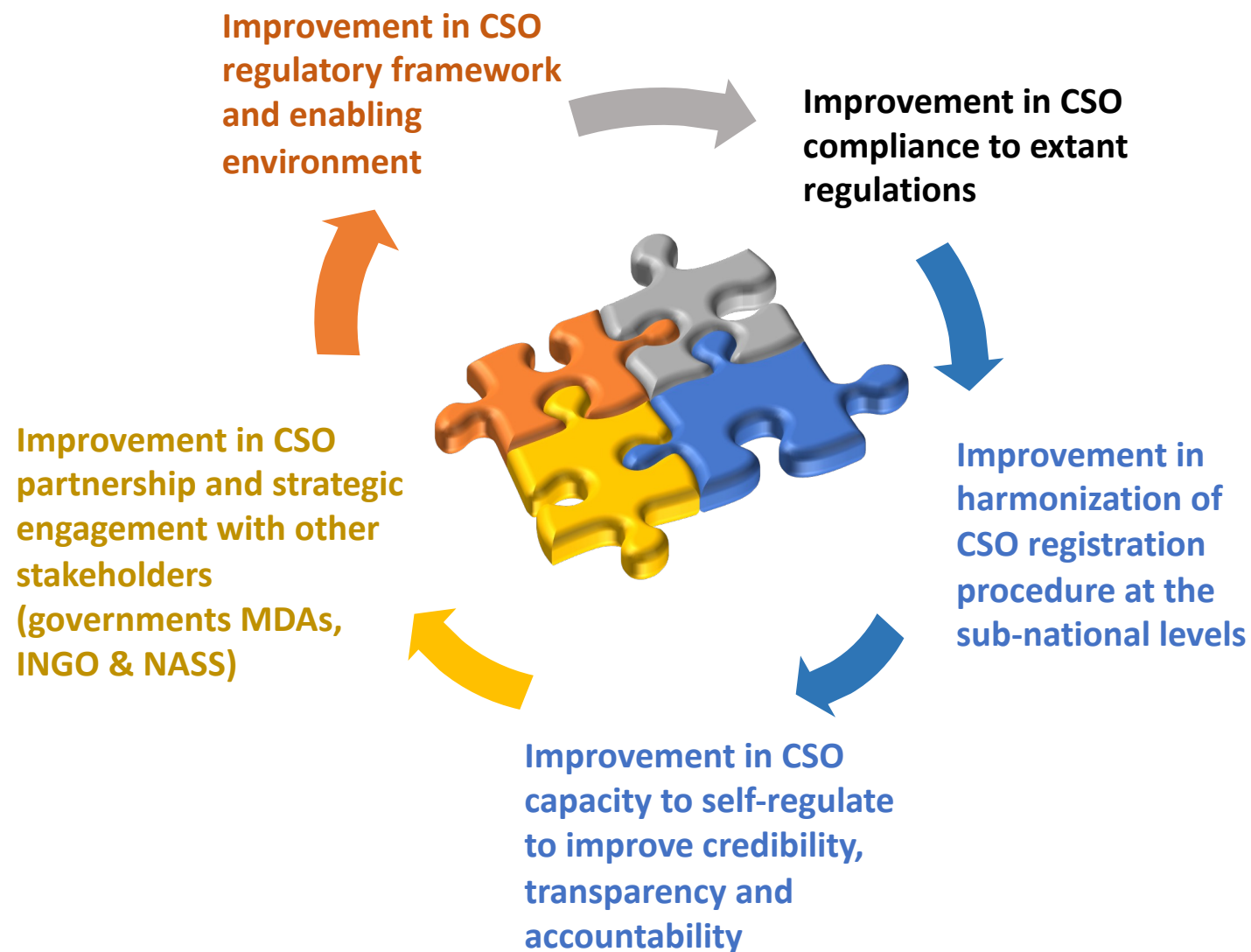


- **203** CSO have taken ownership and continued to engage through ACT facilitated virtual-PLP
- CSOs have maintained strategic collaboration with MDAs in 10 states
- CSOs are collaborating in to bid and implement projects in different thematic areas

In **Adamawa**, the Centre for Social Change and Economic Development (CSCED) sensitised over 600 farmers and herders to process farm wastes into animal feed through a simple urea treatment.



Facilitation of Appropriate and Inclusive Regulatory Frameworks (Result Area 2)



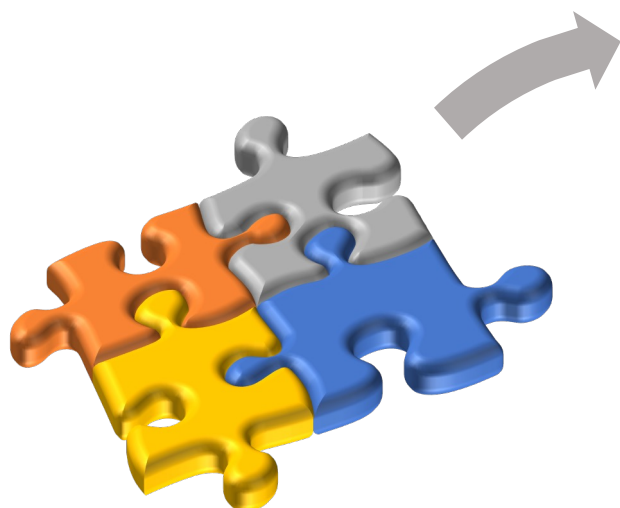
Facilitation of Appropriate and Inclusive Regulatory Frameworks (Result Area 2)



Improvement in CSO regulatory framework and enabling environment

- 5 Strategic MDAs engaged and supported to improve coordination on CSOs Regulatory frameworks
- 2 NASS committees engaged for better coordination/ understanding of CSO operational environment
- Strategic multi-stakeholder coordination facilitated to enable effective and better CSO operational environment
- donors, INGOs, CSOs, regulators
- 2 editions of CSO National Conference supported

Facilitation of Appropriate and Inclusive Regulatory Frameworks (Result Area 2)

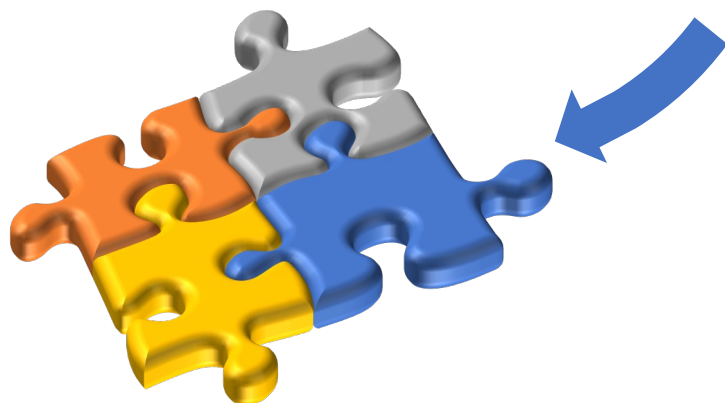


Improvement in CSO compliance to extant regulations

- **3** research studies conducted to enhance CSO understanding of compliance responsibilities to extant laws
- Over **300** CSOs sensitized on compliance requirements to extant regulations
- **203** CSOs trained/supported on regulatory compliance
- **2** platforms supported to enhance CSO regulatory compliance
 - (CAC-EFS, CSO CRP)
- **1** entity organically evolved to sustain the process (CATI)

In **Borno**, after five years of operation, the Network of Civil Society Organisations (NECSOB) is now registered with CAC – with a board of trustees and an organisational strategic plan in place.

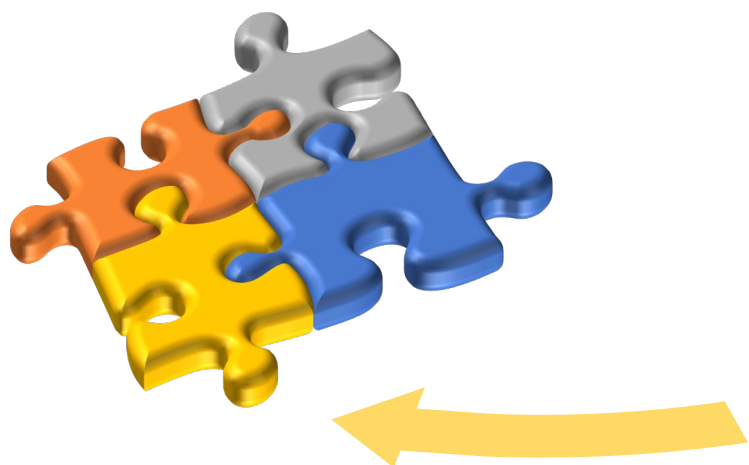
Facilitation of Appropriate and Inclusive Regulatory Frameworks (Result Area 2)



Improvement in CSO partnership and strategic engagement with other stakeholders (governments MDAs, INGO & NASS)

- 40 CSO networks trained/supported to engage sub-national stakeholders in 10 states
- 46 selected MDAs engaged in 10 states
- 5 SHoAs engaged in 10 states

Facilitation of Appropriate and Inclusive Regulatory Frameworks (Result Area 2)



Improvement in CSO capacity to self-regulate to improve credibility, transparency and accountability

- Over **40** CSOs (NGOs, networks) drawn nationwide and coordinated / supported to initiate modalities for self-regulation
- Over **260** CSOs have subscribed to SR initiative
- **1** organic entity evolved and supported to sustain the process (CNSRC)

Facilitation of Appropriate and Inclusive Regulatory Frameworks (Result Area 2)

Improvement in harmonization of CSO registration procedure at the sub-national levels

- Access and platforms facilitated for better coordination and engagement with critical stakeholders for continuous enablement of CSO regulatory environment at the state level
 - MDAs, SHoA

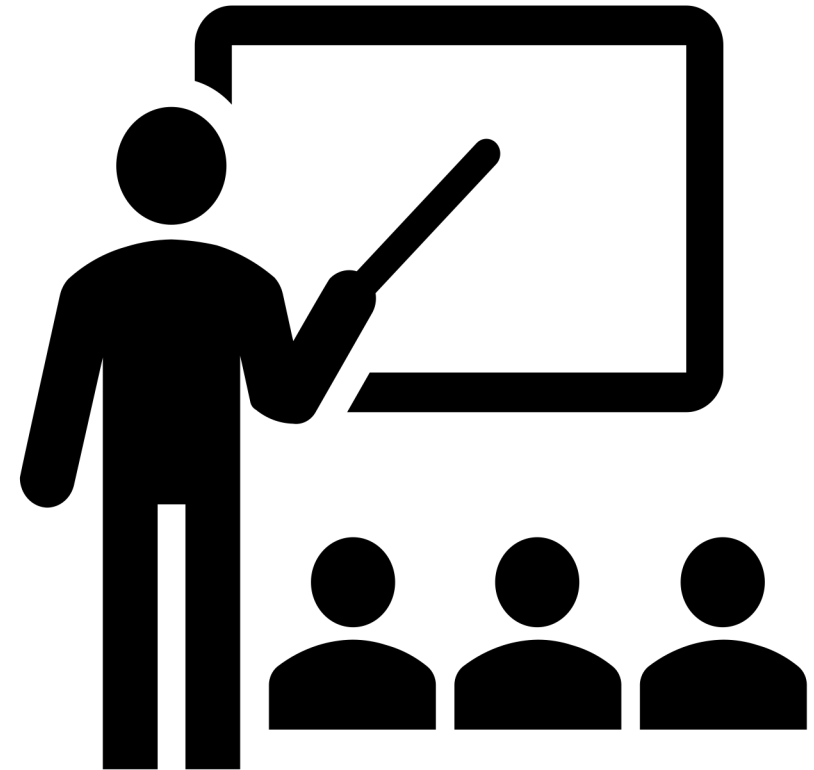
In **Enugu**, CSOs are now working together as a cluster to drive the process of harmonisation of CSO registration in the state, with the Enugu State Government establishing an 18-man committee to drive the harmonisation of CSO registrations.

Collaboration amongst critical actors is key to sustaining development

Adaptability and flexibility in programming and responsive planning

Implementation based on specific state contexts and agencies' needs

Finding the mutual benefits for all actors is important for buy-in and responsiveness



Some Challenges...

State of the nation – rising cost of living, insecurity, etc

Retaining and continuing capacity development support for CSO

Policy engagement is a long-term process which many stakeholders rarely want to give

Bureaucracy in government MDAs

Funding and donor support is shrinking



State of the nation

The desires for better and
improved governance

Prospects for greater good

Shared goal and collective
responsibility

Effective utilization of aid support





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Find out more

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Transformation (ACT)**

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