# FAQs for Participating in the Second Monitoring Round of the GPEDC:
# Indicator 2

This document presents frequently asked questions and answers on the second monitoring round of the GPEDC.

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The Monitoring Guide provides indicator factsheets (Annex II) and questions and definitions to guide data collection at the country level for each indicator (Annex III).

**Indicator 2: Civil society operates within an environment that maximises its engagement in and contribution to development**

The Monitoring Guide provides detailed information on this indicator in Annex III.

**What does this indicator focus on?**
This indicator seeks to assess the extent to which governments and providers of development co-operation contribute to an enabling environment for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and to which CSOs are implementing development effectiveness principles in their own operations.

**What is a CSO?**
CSOs can be defined to include all non-market and non-state organisations outside of the family in which people organise themselves to pursue shared interests in the public domain. They cover a range of organisations that includes membership-based CSOs, cause-based CSOs and service-delivery CSOs.

**What is a CSO enabling environment?**
The political, financial, legal and policy context that affects how CSOs carry out their work. It can include:
- Laws, policies and practices respecting freedom of association, the right to operate without state interference, the right to pursue self-defined objectives, and the right to seek and secure funding from national & international sources;
- Institutionalised, inclusive and transparent multi-stakeholder dialogue for a;
- Effective support from development providers to empower CSOs.

**What is CSO development effectiveness?**
CSO development effectiveness principles (also known as the Istanbul Principles for CSO Development Effectiveness) were agreed upon at the Open Forum's Global Assembly in Istanbul, September 28 -30, 2010. These Principles are the foundation of the Civil Society Partnership for Effective Development (CPDE)'s *International Framework on CSO Development Effectiveness,* which introduces and operationalizes the *Istanbul Principles.* These Principles are meant to guide the work and practices of civil society organisations in both peaceful and conflict situations, in different areas of work from grassroots to policy advocacy, and in a continuum from humanitarian emergencies to long-term development. According to these principles, CSOs are effective as development actors when they: (1) Respect and promote human rights and social justice, (2) Embody gender equality and equity while promoting women and girl's rights, (3) Focus on people's empowerment, democratic ownership and participation, (4) Promote Environmental Sustainability, (5) Practice transparency and accountability, (6) Pursue equitable partnerships and solidarity, (7) Create and share knowledge and commit to mutual learning, and (8) Commit to realising positive sustainable change.

**What does the indicator measure?**
The indicator consists in a four-module questionnaire (16 qualitative questions). The four modules in the indicator are: (1) space for multi-stakeholder dialogue on national development policies; (2) CSO development effectiveness: accountability and transparency; (3) official development co-operation with CSOs; and (4) legal and regulatory environment.

The questions included in each module draw on the work of the CPDE Working Group on CSO enabling environment and the Task Team on Enabling Environment and Development Effectiveness (modules 1 and 4), the Istanbul Principles for CSO Development Effectiveness and the International Framework for CSO Development Effectiveness (module 2), and the OECD-DAC 12 Lessons for Partnering with Civil Society (module 3).

The questionnaire responses will offer detailed qualitative information at the country level regarding the environment in which civil society organisations operate as well as the extent to which CSOs are engaged in development process and enabled to contribute in an effective way.

**What is the goal of this indicator in terms of outcomes on development behaviour?**
This indicator is primarily built to provide a useful tool to spark multi-stakeholder dialogue at the country level among governments, CSOs and providers, to identify progress as well as room for improvement in CSO enabling environment and CSO development effectiveness.

**How will the current monitoring round (2015-16) inform future rounds for this indicator?**
This monitoring round will provide the baseline scenario at the country level. Further monitoring rounds will allow tracing trends in terms of progress in strengthening the enabling environment for CSOs, and in refining and further simplifying the questionnaire into the key factors driving change across countries.

**How can my country engage?**
While the assessment of this indicator will be led by the developing country government, it is crucial that it be carried out in a multi-stakeholder manner. The national co-ordinator is encouraged to identify, in consultation with stakeholders at the country level, a focal point for CSOs and a focal point for providers. These will actively engage in the monitoring process.

The national co-ordinator is encouraged to (1) convene a multi-stakeholder dialogue to kick-off the process, (2) seek CSOs and providers' feedback on the questionnaire (CSO and provider focal points are invited to carry out consultations with their respective constituencies, and to provide consolidated feedback to the national co-ordinator) and (3) re-convene a multi-stakeholder dialogue at the end of the process to jointly discuss and validate the findings, before sending them to the JST. To the extent possible, the national co-ordinator will seek consensus in the responses. Where agreement between stakeholder groups is not reached, focal points are invited to flag any diverging view to the national co-ordinator. In those cases, the level of agreement of each stakeholder group regarding the responses compiled by the national co-ordinator will be registered in a table attached to the questionnaire (1. Question #; (2) Agree / Partially Agree / Disagree; (3) Comment).

Given that Indicator 2 is characterised by a relatively lengthy questionnaire and that the data collection and validation process will entail active participation of multiple stakeholders, developing country governments can decide, on a case-by-case basis, to use the services of a consultant and/or think tank to support the process. The intervention of such a third-party entity could help avoid overburdening the national co-ordinator and ensure that the process enables a neutral and balanced assessment which effectively captures all stakeholders' views. In such cases, the national co-ordinator is invited to inform the JST, who will, to the extent possible, facilitate the process through technical support (e.g. making available standard terms of reference, providing a list of possible consultants, providing technical guidance to steer the consultant's work, etc.).