

The impact of COVID-19 on civil society organisations in Eastern Europe and Central Asia



Background of the participants

- The majority of these respondents work in Russia (21.4%), followed by respondents from Kyrgyzstan (20.4%), Ukraine (17.5%), Kazakhstan and Tajikistan (15.5%), Uzbekistan (13.6%), Georgia (8%), Belarus (4%), Armenia (3%), Azerbaijan (2%) and Turkmenistan (1%) and Moldova (1%).
- Most of it small organisations with <10 people.
- Main areas of focus: human rights, health related services and community development and 80% on KPs.

Key findings

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- Half of the respondents' staff tested positive.
- Feeling that CSOs can play a key role in national COVID response, but often not included.
- Continuation of the organisation is threatened (50%).
- Need to learn basic skills to work with clients, manage the organisation and do advocacy work.

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- Will emerge stronger and more agile.
- Addition of new activities.
- Funders will rethink the power dynamics and transform engagement with CSOs.

How do organisations see us?

- Source of information (60%)
- Online skills building (20%)
- Flexible partner (24%) and emergency support (27%)

Recommendations

- Some CSOs have been included in governments' national responses, but more can be gained here.
- Capacity building for staff to work in the digital world, in particular to facilitate online sessions and manage programs and staff.
- CSOs need to be trained in doing online advocacy and activism.
- CSOs need support with fundraising and technical support for fundraising.
- Provide good and reliable information to CSOs so they can anticipate on possible developments relating to the pandemic.
- CSOs need flexibility from their donors to answer urgent needs in terms of financing and communication.

Sparked your interest?

Check out the full report!

<http://afew.org/headlines/the-impact-of-covid-19-on-civil-society-organisations-in-eastern-europe-and-central-asia/>