Organisational Self-Assessments 2024

This presentation outlines the findings from the first organisationnal self-assessments conducted by Forus members in 2024. It provides insights into the strengths, competencies, and challenges faced by national civil society platforms across 24 countries.

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Methodology Overview

1

Assessment Structure

The assessment focused on three key areas essential for coordinating civil society networks: Strategic Management, Operational/Financial Management, and Communications/Advocacy.

2

Maturity Levels

Platforms self-evaluated their competencies across five maturity levels: non-existent, minimum, basic, moderate/established knowledge and competencies and strong enought to be a thought leader/ advisor for others.

3

Design Principles

The assessment was designed for simplicity and universality, respecting the diversity within the Forus network and time constraints of members.

Participation and Representation

32%
Response Rate

32% Forus members completed the assessment before December 2024

24
Total Responses

Platforms provided data for analysis

61%
African Representation

14 responses came from African platforms

5
Regions Represented

Africa, Latin America, Asia, Europe, and the Pacific

Key Findings: Strategic Management

Strategy Development

46% at Moderate level: Clear articulation of mission/vision, but rigid strategic plans limiting adaptability.

Monitoring and Evaluation

42% at Basic level: MEAL frameworks in place, but limited member feedback and data segregation.

Knowledge Management

46% at Minimal level: Essential systems established, but inconsistent use and limited training.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice

46% at Basic/Moderate level: Strong mix in governing bodies, but room for improvement in standardising DEIJ lens.

Key Findings: Operational Management

1

Funding

42% at Basic level: Few key partners provide project support, limited long-term resource mobilisation planning.

2

Resource Mobilisation

42% at Moderate level: Qualified leadership with partial success in fundraising, good donor relations with some communication challenges.

3

Digital Awareness

50% at Basic level: Equipped for online work, but limited resources for further digital integration.

Key Findings: Communications and Advocacy

Communication

29% at Moderate level: Coherent strategy for transparency, regular updates to members.

Data Collection

38% at Moderate level: Good tools and approaches, with 50% member input into priorities.

Advocacy Strategy

33% at Moderate level: Clear alignment with platform's purpose, some ad-hoc stakeholder engagements.

National Recognition

50% at Moderate level: Recognized by key stakeholders, sought for input and participation.

Overall Scores and Network Contexts

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Score Distribution

Most Forus members identified their organisational development competencies **between basic to moderate levels.**

Key Factors

Analysis considered region, membership size, coordination team size, and years of operation. **No strict correlation** was found between these factors and network strength.

Membership Engagement

Platforms with larger memberships (>1000) often face challenges with passive engagement, prioritizing improving membership management systems and strategies for 2025.

Root Causes and Self-Identified Priorities

Root Causes

Funding deficit, volunteer dependency, nonprofit starvation cycle, and assimilated underfunding culture identified as key challenges.

Priorities for 2025

Strategic planning and evaluation, digital awareness and knowledge/information management, resource mobilisation, and member management and accountability systems.

Funding Challenges

Reduced international funding and restrictive government policies necessitate adaptable and independent funding strategies.

Limitations and Opportunities

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Participation

70% non-response rate, but positive feedback from participants on the value of the self-reflection.

Terminology

"Assessment" perceived as judgmental by some. Future iterations to explore alternative terms like "diagnostic tool" or "self-reflection index".

Survey Depth

Some responses lacked evidence or supporting links. Future exercises to include dedicated questions for referencing strategies and materials.

Missed Areas

Critical aspects like human capital, team culture, and governance were absent and will be integrated in future iterations.

Conclusions and Next Steps

Key Learning

Underfunding challenges disproportionately affect overhead costs and weaken non-profit organisations, especially networks.

Capacity Strengthening Journey

Integration of various initiatives including Skills Sharing sessions, training workshops, and online reflection meetings.

2025 Initiatives

12 platforms to implement organisational development projects, 12 to enhance leadership skills. All members invited to Skills Sharing sessions, Mastermind Groups, Failures Clubs and more.

Engagement Opportunities

Detailed information available in the Forus Support pillar website.

Forus is a member-driven network of 72 national NGO platforms and 7 regional coalitions from all continents, representing more than 24,000 NGOs active locally and internationally on development, human rights and environmental issues.

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For more information

Website: www.forus-international.org