CSO Website and Database

Replicable, zero-hosting cost web solution for CSOs
Overview

This is a presentation about an open source database and website available with no cost for civil society organizations.

It was originally developed in the context of Zimbabwe, in order to facilitate communication among partners and with the broader public to enhance transparency through accessible sharing of information. The database captures the mapped CSOs across the country and increases the access to information for better coordination.

Apart from the CSO database component, the website also enables sharing additional information and has placeholders for sections such as the community charter, UHC, SDGs and health, engagement and accountability frameworks, advocacy planning, resource mobilization, human rights, Key Populations and AGYW.
Problems to solve

1. Increases the access to information related to civil society organizations, their activities, areas for operations and other information about their work.

2. Provides a platform for CSOs engage with and find new potential funders.

3. Provides a solution for CSO umbrella organisations to engage members and easily manage and increase their visibility online.

4. Provides a light website and database technology solution that is free of hosting costs.
Target audiences

Different target audiences can be identified and they may slightly differ between countries and regions.

These can be for example

01  |  International, regional and local donors
02  |  Civil Society Organizations
03  |  Governmental organizations
04  |  Media
05  |  General public
Process for setup and maintenance
The website and database relies on a base set of information about the CSOs that can be populated to the database.

If information is not available, it can be acquired through a separate CSO mapping exercise.

Once data about the CSOs is gathered it must be harmonized through
Web setup

02

The website and database can be easily replicated, customized and published by any web developer.

The steps on high level are:

1. Get the website package
2. Make customizations locally
3. Upload to the free hosting service
4. Insert CSO data to free data hosting service
5. Setup a custom domain
Web administration

03

The website needs occasional or frequent administration, depending on the strategy.

This can be done by the same person who set up the website in the first place or someone else.

In either case, the role requires basic knowledge of web technologies (HTML, CSS, Javascript).
The technical solution

An open and replicable package to easily set up a website and database for national or regional CSOs with no hosting costs involved.
Technical architecture

The CSO website and CSO depends on free open source technologies as well as several web services that can be used free of cost.

In particular, the main technologies are:

1. Jekyll static website generator
2. Airtable for hosting CSO data
3. Netlify to host the website

In addition, some other third party websites are integrated to the package.
The package comes up with several pre-designed templates that can be modified and customized according to the local needs with basic knowledge in web development.
The search page pulls the CSO information from the Airtable cloud data storage. This can be easily edited by anyone who knows how to use Excel - it’s similar to any spreadsheet software.
Another way to search for the CSOs is provided by a map template. This pulls in all the CSOs headquarters coordinates and places them to a Google map. With a click one can get further information about the CSO.

The same page provides a listing of all CSOs categorized by what is relevant in given context, such as country provinces.
Knowledge Portal

The website provides various templates for adding relevant static pages for example about topics such as the health frameworks and capacity development.

Our knowledge portal

You can find several resources on this website about the national and global health frameworks as well resources for capacity development.

National Frameworks

- National strategy plans
- Legislation
- Registration as PVO & Trust
- Policies

Global Frameworks

- Human Rights
- Key Populations
- Sustainable Development Goals

Capacity Development

- What is Capacity Development?
- Advocacy

Human Rights

Introduction to HIV, TB and Human Rights in Zimbabwe

The Zimbabwe Legal Environment Assessment for HIV, TB and Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights provides a relevant and recent introduction to Human Rights.

Guaranteeing the rights of citizens is a key step towards attaining the SDGs for any country. It is also both a legal and moral responsibility of every government. Hence a human rights-based approach should be at the centre of health legal and policy formulation and the implementation of programmes for all people within the country.

People living with and affected by HIV are among those people whose rights should be guaranteed by the State, owing to their increased vulnerability as a result of their HIV and other related status. However, people living with HIV and TB, vulnerable and key populations, including young key populations are often stigmatized in society in a wide range of community contexts, including legal and structural, the family and immediate community, workplace, health services, religion and the media. Stigma enhances discrimination, violating fundamental human rights to fair and equal treatment and risking the health and development rights of these populations.

Thus, an efficient, effective and sustainable HIV, TB and health response system in any country requires full protection of fundamental human rights as a basic practice. This is only possible where a country has an enabling legal and policy environment for people living with and impacted by HIV and TB as well as vulnerable and key populations, including young key populations.

Focus on disadvantaged populations

Disadvantage and marginalisation seems to exclude certain populations in societies from enjoying good health. Three of the world’s most treatable communicable diseases – malaria, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis – disproportionately affect the world’s poorest populations, and in many cases are compounded and exacerbated by other inequalities and inequities including gender, age, sexual orientation or gender identity and migration status. Conversely the burden of non-communicable diseases – often perceived as affecting high-income countries – is increasing disproportionately among lower-income countries and populations, and is largely associated with lifestyle and behavioural factors as well as environmental determinants, such as safe housing, water and sanitation that are inextricably linked to human rights.
A page is automatically generated for each CSO added to the database. The page features information such as:

- Contact details
- Location
- Organizational documents
- Donors
- Services offered
Timeline

**Month 1**
CSO Mapping
The process starts with an audit and information gathering from the CSOs.

**Month 2**
Consolidate and import data
After getting the data, it needs to be harmonised and cleaned so that it's ready for structured sharing on the web.

**Month 3**
Web import and customizations
After the CSO data is ready, it can be imported to the web. This is also the moment to do relevant modifications to the website structure and design.

**Month 4**
Launch and publish
Ideally the launch of the website is done with communications campaign towards stakeholders and using different channels including social media.

**Month 4+**
Maintenance and updates
The website and database requires continuous updates, the amount depending on the strategy and needs. Web coordinator role is needed to implement this on a part time or full time basis.
Skills needed

Apart from getting support from the national coordination body and/or organization who is to take over the website and database, there are few other key roles that are needed for getting the product out and running in sustainable manner.
Gather information about CSOs

**Mapping specialist**

In case the relevant CSO data is not readily available, this needs to be gathered, possibly via onsite, regional workshops.

*Time of engagement: 1 month*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning and strategy</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop delivery</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Documentation</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Setup and customize the website

Web developer

A web developer with moderate experience needs to do the initial setup and customizations to the site.

*Time of engagement: 1 month*

- HTML: 90%
- CSS: 85%
- Javascript: 83%
- Tech documentation: 65%
Ongoing web updates

**Web coordinator**

This role manages basic updates to the CSO directory and to the website, and communications with relevant stakeholders.

*Time of engagement: ongoing (part / full time)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Web communications</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HTML</td>
<td>85%</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSS</td>
<td>83%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Web design</td>
<td>65%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The end result of implementing the CSO Website and Database package is a standalone and scalable web system that is easily managed by a local IT officer/web coordinator. The final costs and the needs for administration depend on the amount of customizations and how frequently the content is updated.

The software licenses and hosting are free of cost.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Costs for deliverables</th>
<th>Estimated starting cost (USD)</th>
<th>Local web admin (costs depend on the strategy and updating frequency)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Web development for setting up and customizing the website and database.</td>
<td>12K</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial research mapping, engagement, data management and documentation</td>
<td>12K</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Web admin needed for occasional content changes and database updates.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank you.

Further information on getting the package: nigel.coulson@undp.org