



An Enabling Arab Civic Space for Resilience, Growth and Sustainability

Key Findings

- The inconsistent growth of civil society in the Arab region is correlated to the shrinking civic space, lack of sustainable funding and the incidence of crises.
- The unequal power dynamics in the donor grantee relationship is a commonly held concern of civic actors that reinforces dependency and curtails localization efforts.
- Civic actors consider building CSO resilience and long-term capacities intrinsic to recovery in the region.
- The flexible funding practices of donors and Arab philanthropy during the Covid 19 crisis has supported civil society agility and responsiveness to communities in need.
- Criteria for awarding contracts and excessive reporting practices by donors excludes a wide base of CSOs from accessing finance.
- Discretionary banking practices and the application of regulations influencing access to international funding are the biggest constraints facing civil society actors.
- Civic society actors believe that the lack of representative bodies for CSOs and effective coalitions restricts their capacity to effectually advocate for an enabling civic space.
- Investment in research capacities and sustained evidence generation is key to enhancing impact and advocating for an enabling civic space, according to civic actors.