CIVIL SOCIETY INDEX:
Presentation of Results

Caucus of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO)
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SEAMEO-INNOTECH, Quezon City

Outline

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  - Framework of Assessment
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- Recommendations

Definition and Nature

- There has been very little comparative information on 'civil society' across different countries
- Thus, a framework is necessary to:
  - Capture the multidimensional nature of civil society
  - Assess the strengths and weaknesses of civil society in a particular context
  - Undertake cross- country specific assessments of civil society
- The Civil Society Index was conceptualized in the late 1990s to:
  - Generate useful information on the state of civil society and its role in society
  - Use this information to strengthen capacity and commitment of stakeholders to strengthen civil society

Definition and Nature

- CSI design and methodology has been developed by *Civicus*, an international organization of civil society groups and leaders.

- An initial design was developed in the Civicus World Assembly in Manila in 1999.

- A pilot phase for a limited set of countries was undertaken in 1999 to 2000, followed by a first phase undertaken in 53 countries from 2003 to 2006.

- The Philippines is one of the 56 countries to implement a second phase which is being undertaken from 2008 to 2010.

- More information can be found on the CSI design and results in www.civicus.org/csi

Framework of Assessment

Definition of _Civil Society_
The arena, outside of the family, the state (specifically the formal institutions of government), and the market, which is created by individual and collective actions, organizations and institutions to advance shared interests.

More specifically, these include the following:
• Church-based organizations and religious groups,
• family foundations and clan associations,
• non-profit media organizations,
• and 'market-related' groupings, such as chambers of commerce and professional associations.

Characteristics:
• does not generate nor distribute **profit**;
• encompasses the ability of people to bond and relate to one another in order to **promote common/ shared values, norms, identities and other actions**,
• allows the **generation of additional political and socio-economic opportunities** for the general public, especially the marginalized sectors.

Framework of Assessment

- It is designed to measure the following aspects:
  - **Civic engagement**: The degree of individual participation in civil society organizations.
  - **Level of Organization:** The degree of institutionalization that characterizes civil society and sustainability of its resources.
  - **Practice of Values:** The extent to which civil society practices its core norms.
  - **Perceived Impact:** The extent to which civil society is able to impact the social and policy arena.
  - **External environment:** The conditions (e.g. socio-economic, political and cultural context) within which civil society operates.
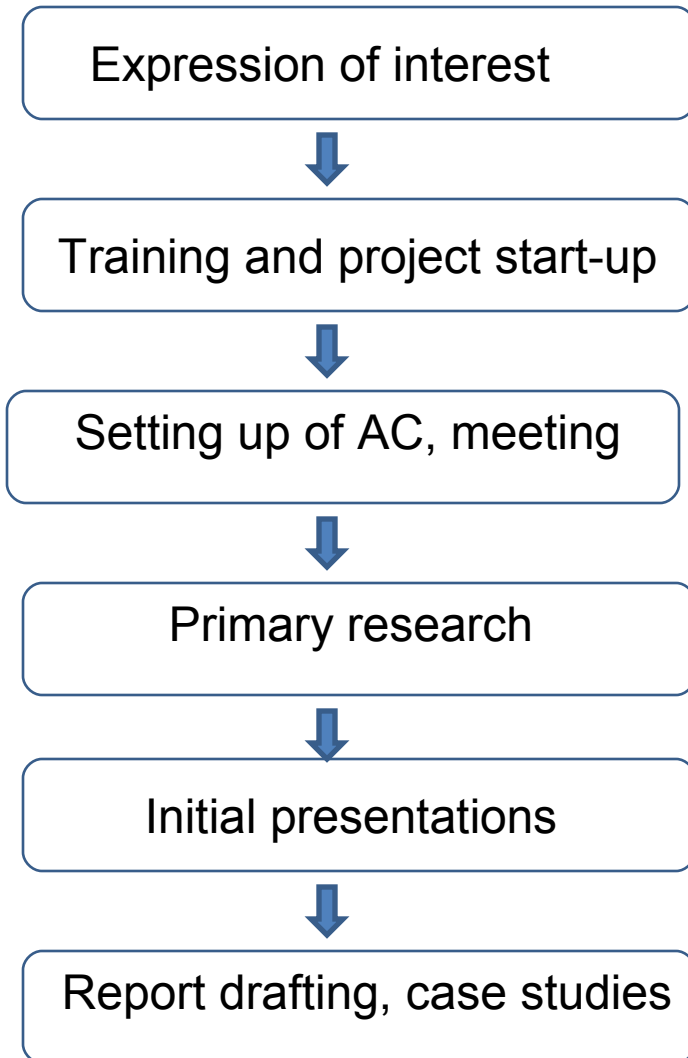- Uses quantitative indicators and measures these indicators according to a 0 to 100 scale

Methodology

Dimension	Indicators
Civic engagement	Proportion of population who are part of CSOs
	Proportion of population who volunteer with CSOs
	Proportion of population who engage in CSO activities
	Proportion of population who engage in 'political activities'
	Diversity of engagement in CSOs
Level of organization	Proportion of CSOs with working boards
	Proportion of CSOs who are part of larger networks
	Sustainability of financial, human resource and ICT resources
Practice of values	Proportion of CSOs that practice 'democratic decision-making'
	Proportion of CSOs that have written gender equality policies
	Proportion of CSOs that have written labor and environmental standards
	Proportion of CSO staff that are members of labor unions
	Proportion of CSOs that practice financial transparency
	Proportion of CSO respondents who believe civil society practice non-violence, accountability and internal democracy

Methodology

Dimension	Indicators
Perception of impact	Proportion of CSO respondents who believe the sector has an impact onthree major concerns of the country
	Proportion of CSO respondents who believe that their sector has program and policy impact
	Proportion of CSO respondents who believe their organization has program and policy impact
	Proportion of external stakeholders who believe sector has an impact on three major concerns
	Proportion of external stakeholders who believe sector has program and policy impact
	Difference in trust, tolerance and public spiritedness between CSO and non-CSO members
	Proportion of population who trust civil society organizations
Environment	Basic Capabilities Index
	Indicators relating to inequality, corruption and external debt
	Indicators relating to political and social freedom and 'state effectiveness'
	Level of trust, tolerance and public spiritedness of the population

Process and Methodology

Expression of interest

⬇

Training and project start-up

⬇

Setting up of AC, meeting

⬇

Primary research

⬇

Initial presentations

⬇

Report drafting, case studies

- CODE- NGO submitted interest in undertaking CSI in 2008 to Civicus; Civicus approved in late 2008

- CODE- NGO staff attends training workshop in February 2009; NIT is convened

- NIT and experts develop initial analytical processes

- First AC meeting convened in June 2009; methodologies are finalized

- EP survey undertaken from July to Sept 2009

- Orgl survey undertaken from Aug to Nov 2009

- Population survey undertaken in Oct 2009 w/ SWS

- Initial presentation at CODE-NGO GA in Dec 2009

- Draft finalized in January 2010; presented at second AC meeting in February 2010

- Case studies starting in June 2010

- Revision of report starting in June 2010

Process and Methodology

- Research instruments utilized:
  - Population survey
  - Organizational survey
  - 'External perception' survey
  - Case studies
  - Feedback sessions with CSOs and other groups

Methodology

- Population Survey
  - Contracted to the *Social Weather Stations*
  - Rider to their fourth quarter regular survey which was undertaken during October 1- 4, 2009
  - Total of 1200 respondents nationwide
  - Results used to measure value dispositions of individuals, their activities within civil society, and their attitudes towards civil society
  - Data were also taken from Philippine dataset of the 2001 *World Values Survey* (also undertaken by the SWS); these were on volunteerism and time spent on different activities

Methodology

- Organizational Survey
  - This was undertaken by the *National Implementation Team*
  - A total of 108 respondents (out of 120 target) nationwide; stratified random sampling based on regional representation and type of organization (by legal type); sample was restricted to organizations with existing phone or mobile numbers
  - Survey undertaken from July to October 2009 via face-to-face and telephone interviews and mailing
  - Survey questionnaires were available in English, Tagalog and Bisaya

Methodology

- Organizational Survey
  - Farmers / Fishers groups   10
  - Traders / Business Associations   8
  - Professional Associations   1
  - Labor groups / trade unions   10
  - Homeowners' Associations   5
  - Religious or spiritual groups   5
  - Political groups or movements   1
  - Cooperatives   19
  - Education (PTAs, alumni assoc)   11
  - Social Service association (disabled, elderly, etc.)   8

Methodology

- External Perception survey
  - Used to measure perceived impact of civil society
  - Purposive sampling; mainly face-to-face interviews with a few respondents e-mailing and faxing their responses
  - 53 responses were obtained between August to November 2009
    - Academe Business   10
    - Media   6
    - Local Government   5
    - National Government   18
    - Church   2
    - Donors   6

Methodology

- Case studies on:
  - Civil society policy advocacy (CARPER)
  - Program (social) vs. advocacy (political) work
  - Fund raising techniques
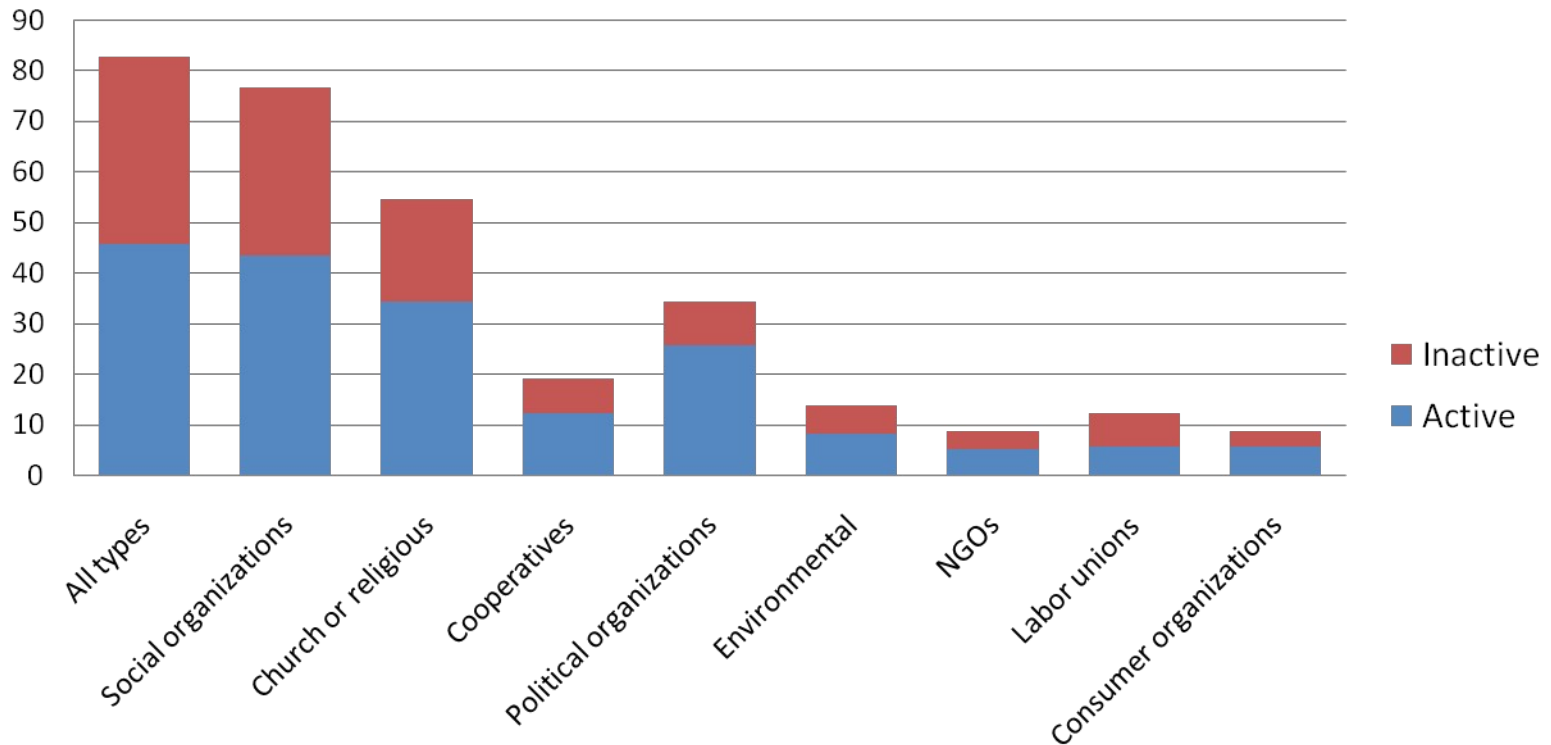 - Board accountability

CIVIL SOCIETY DIAMOND

CSI Diamond
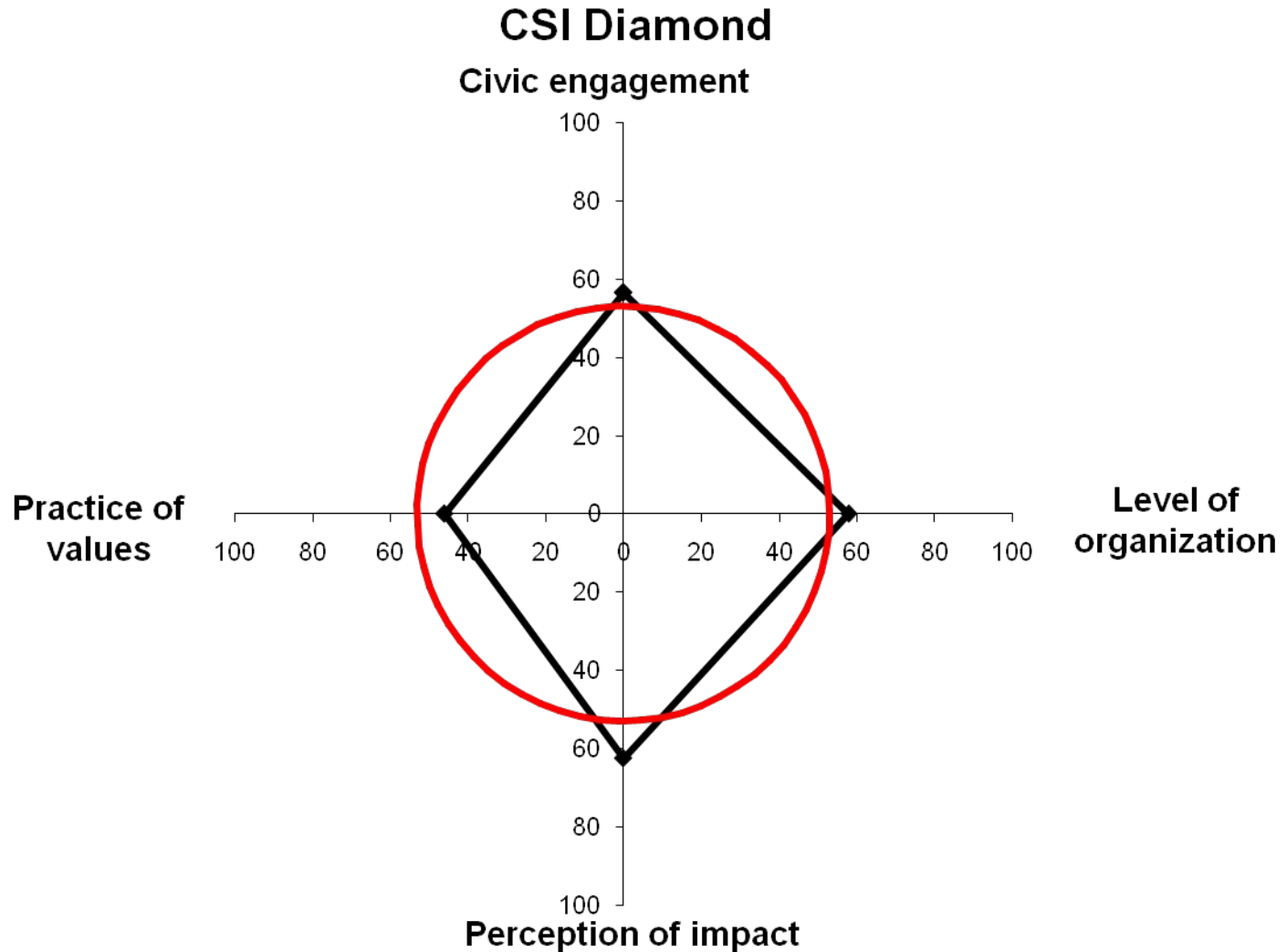
Opportunities and Threats

- Wide membership in civil society organizations, especially those with 'social orientation'

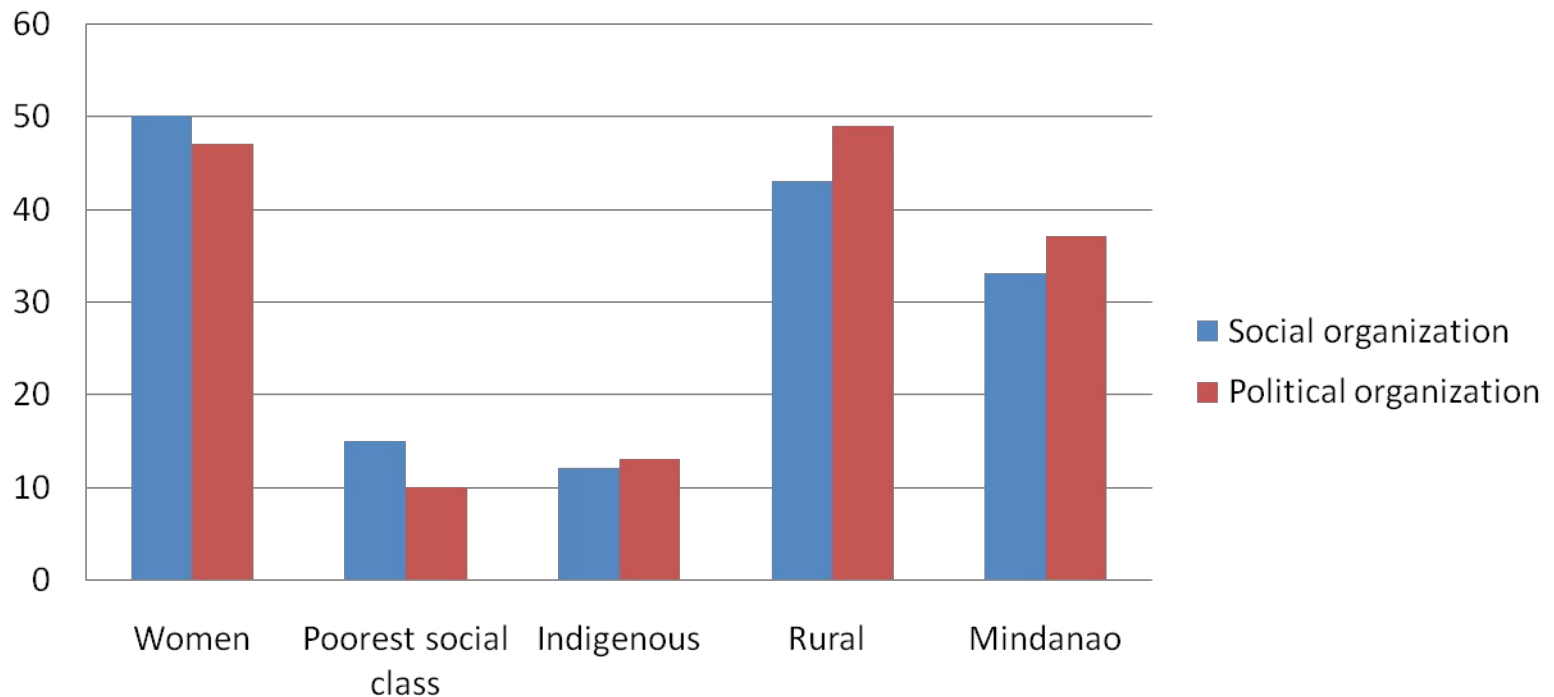Membership in civil society organizations, 2009

Opportunities and Threats

- Significant proportion of membership among marginalized groups, including women and those based in rural areas, Mindanao
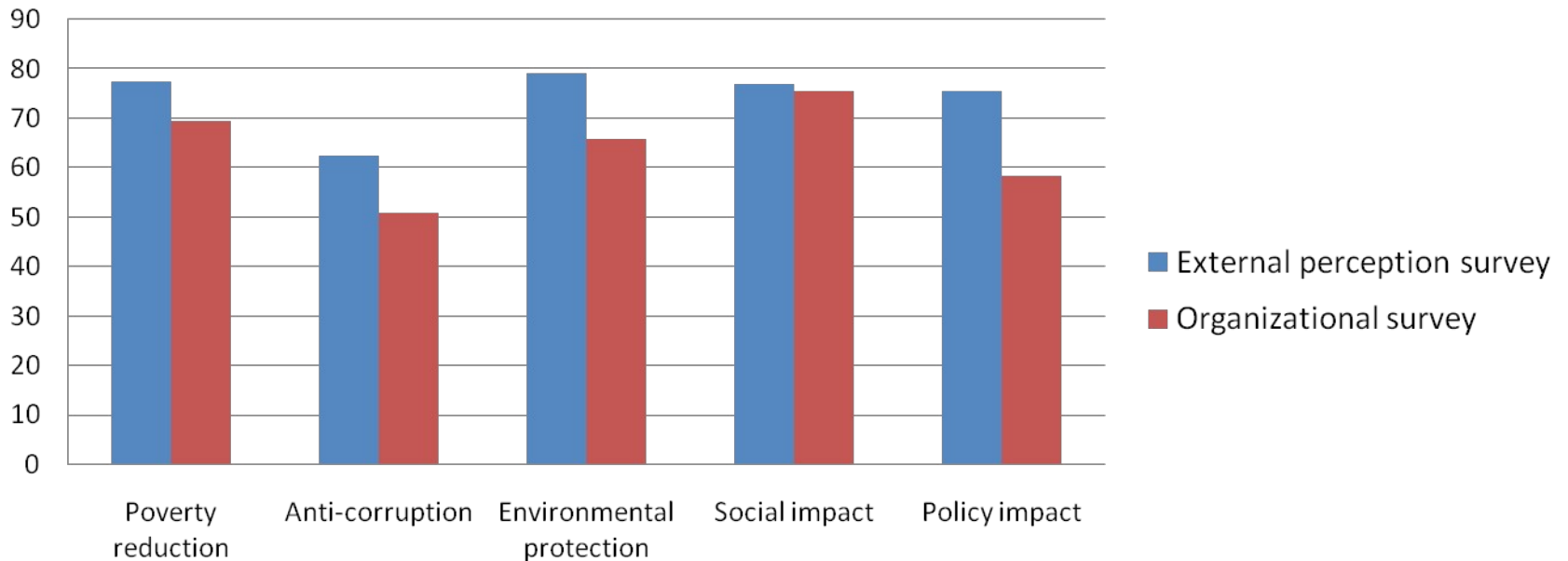
Proportion of CSOs coming from different social groups

Opportunities and Threats

- But, political membership and activism is relatively low
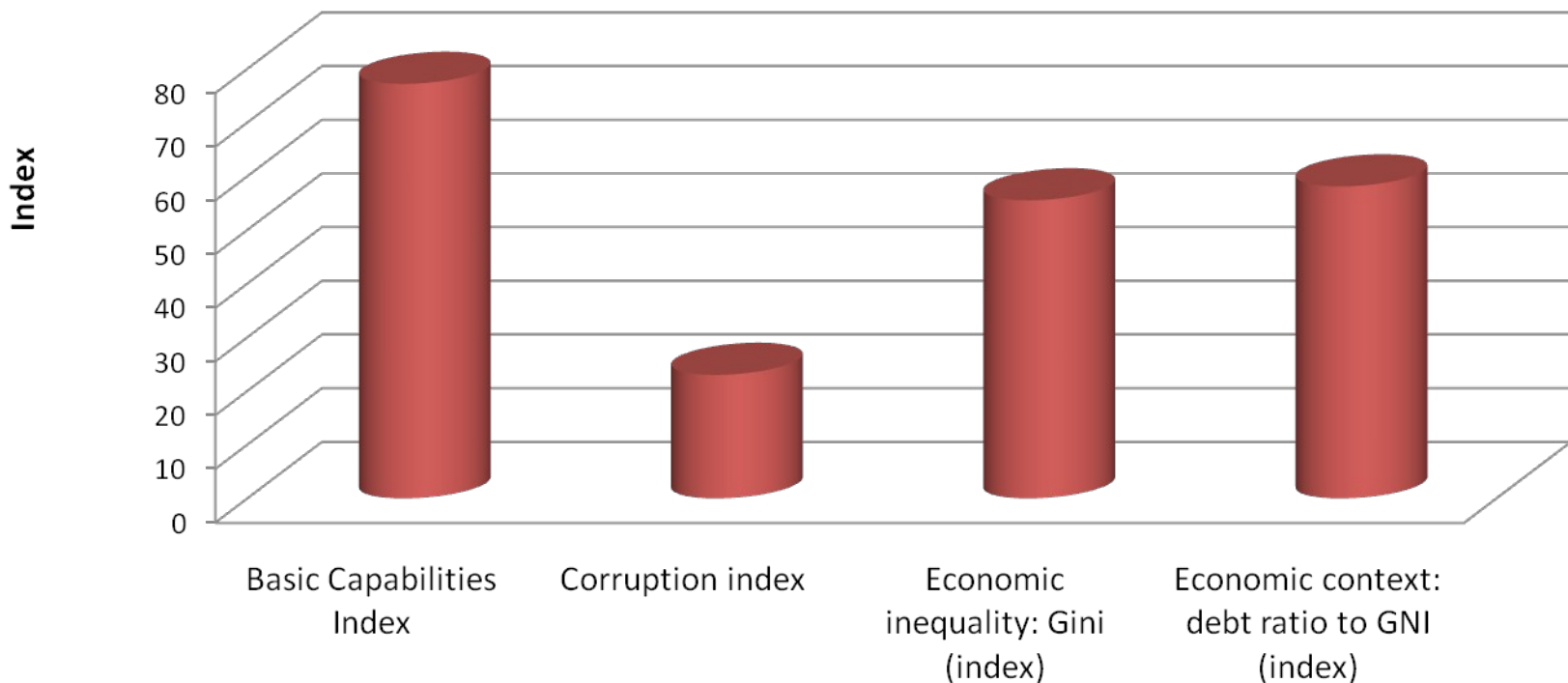- High perception of impact of CSOs in general

Perception of program and policy impact of CSOs

Opportunities and Threats

- Relatively good socio-economic, socio-political environment

Socio-economic context indicators

Source: Social Watch, Transparency International, World Bank.

Strengths

- Formal governance processes are present
- CSOs have extensive networks and regular communication with other CSOs
- Some access to information and communication technologies

Organizational resources
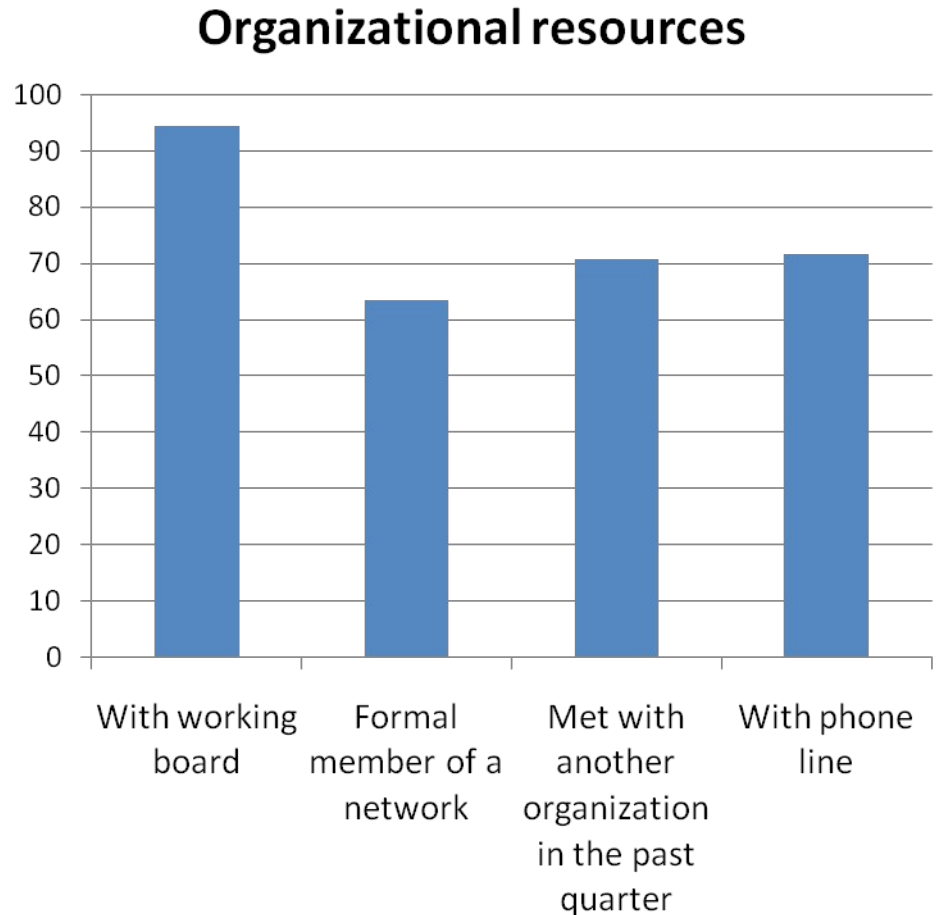
Strengths

- Large proportion are dependent on membership and service fees
- Financial transparency, especially for small organizations
- Relatively good levels of practice of values; majority of CSO respondents believe that
  - They know of no violent forces within civil society
  - They know of no explicit examples of discrimination within civil society
  - Civil society promotes non-violence and peace

Weaknesses

- Substantial minority of boards meet irregularly
- NGOs (as a sub-sector of civil society) are dependent on grant funding; POs have unstable funding sources
- Corruption as seen to be somewhat pervasive in civil society
  - 32 percent that corruption in CSOs is 'frequent' or 'very frequent'
- Marginally lower regard for tolerance and public spiritedness
  - Marginally higher proportion of CSO membership don't want homosexuals, unmarried couples as neighbors, and believe that accepting bribe, cheating on taxes is 'acceptable'

Weaknesses

- Lack of formal equal opportunity policies
- Lack of formal labor and environmental policies

Organizations with written rules