

ICoCA Working
Group Meeting
24 June 2020

Jamie Williamson
Executive Director



Operational Update



- New Board Members: Caleb Wanga (CSO Kenya), David Hornus (PSC France), Michelle Quinn (PSC/US) Frédéric Chenais (Gvt/CH), Cliff Johnson (Gvt/US).
- 2019 Annual General Assembly: Adoption of Affiliate Category for PSCs
- Issuance of Prevention against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse guidelines and tailored feedback/capacity building for member companies
- Annual Company Self Assessment: July 2020

COVID-19 : Response & Impact PSCs



- Major impact due to lockdowns, curfews and no international movement: evacuation of clients, limited staff rotations, local staff support.
- Security personnel at the front line, in some contexts deemed essential workers, risk exposure to COVID-19 increased, duty of care, medical coverage etc...
- Medium to long term economic impact on PSCs still uncertain but possible consolidation, new actors, new services offered e.g. technology, risk management pandemics etc...

COVID-19 : Response & Impact CSOs



- Major impact due to lockdowns, curfews and no movement.
- Increased difficulties for CSOs to monitor human rights and security concerns in-country as a result of COVID-19.
- Medium to long term financing outlook negative with Government donors holding back funds and suspending projects, and major Foundations likely to be impacted by economic slowdowns/recessions.
- Feeling that support from States too focused on large humanitarian & development organisations at the expense of small/medium sized local CSOs.

COVID-19 : Response & Impact Gvts



- All media and public attention focus on COVID-19 at the expense of other issues and redirecting of funding to COVID-19 response to the detriment of other programs.
- Risk of COVID-19 leading to heightened insecurity, creating security vacuums, increasing human rights abuses, and limiting oversight in contexts with weak governance.
- Major question marks regarding fulfilment of Duty of Care owed to security personnel – responsibility of Gvts as Donors/Clients/Regulators.

Recommendations



- Strengthened engagement required by States to address security and human rights concerns arising out of COVID-19 and improve oversight of PSCs.
- Renewed efforts required by States to promote responsible security and respect for the international code of conduct (statements, procurement, Donor requirements, due diligence, reference to Code of Conduct, regulatory).
- Build on statements of intent and positioning to pragmatic and impactful actions and solutions.