



**HELVETAS**

Advocacy  
Works!

# CIVIL SOCIETY ADVOCACY AND SHRINKING SPACE

Trends and Strategies

Spiez

27 November 2018

**Bernd Steimann, PhD**  
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HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation

## **1** Enabling Environment for Civil Society

## **2** Reality Check: Shrinking Space

## **3** Possible ways to respond



부산 세계개발원조총회

**4<sup>th</sup> High Level Forum  
on Aid Effectiveness**

29 Nov – 1 Dec 2011, Busan, Korea

«**CSO play a vital role** in enabling people to claim their rights, in promoting rights-based approaches, **in shaping development policies** and partnerships, and in overseeing their **implementation.**»

# The International CSO Framework (2010)



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## Istanbul Principles



1. RESPECT AND PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE



2. EMBODY GENDER EQUALITY AND EQUITY WHILE PROMOTING WOMEN AND GIRLS' RIGHTS



3. FOCUS ON PEOPLE'S EMPOWERMENT, DEMOCRATIC OWNERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION



4. PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



5. PRACTICE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY



6. PURSUE EQUITABLE PARTNERSHIPS AND SOLIDARITY



7. CREATE AND SHARE KNOWLEDGE AND COMMIT TO MUTUAL LEARNING



8. COMMIT TO REALIZING POSITIVE SUSTAINABLE CHANGE

5

## Five Minimum Standards for an Enabling Environment for CSO

## **Minimum Standards for an Enabling Environment for Civil Society Organisations**

1. Fulfilment of human rights
2. CSO as development actors in their own right
3. Democratic political and policy dialogue
4. Accountability and transparency for development
5. Enabling financing

# Reality Check: Shrinking Space



**MONITOR** BETA  
TRACKING CIVIC SPACE

SEARCH

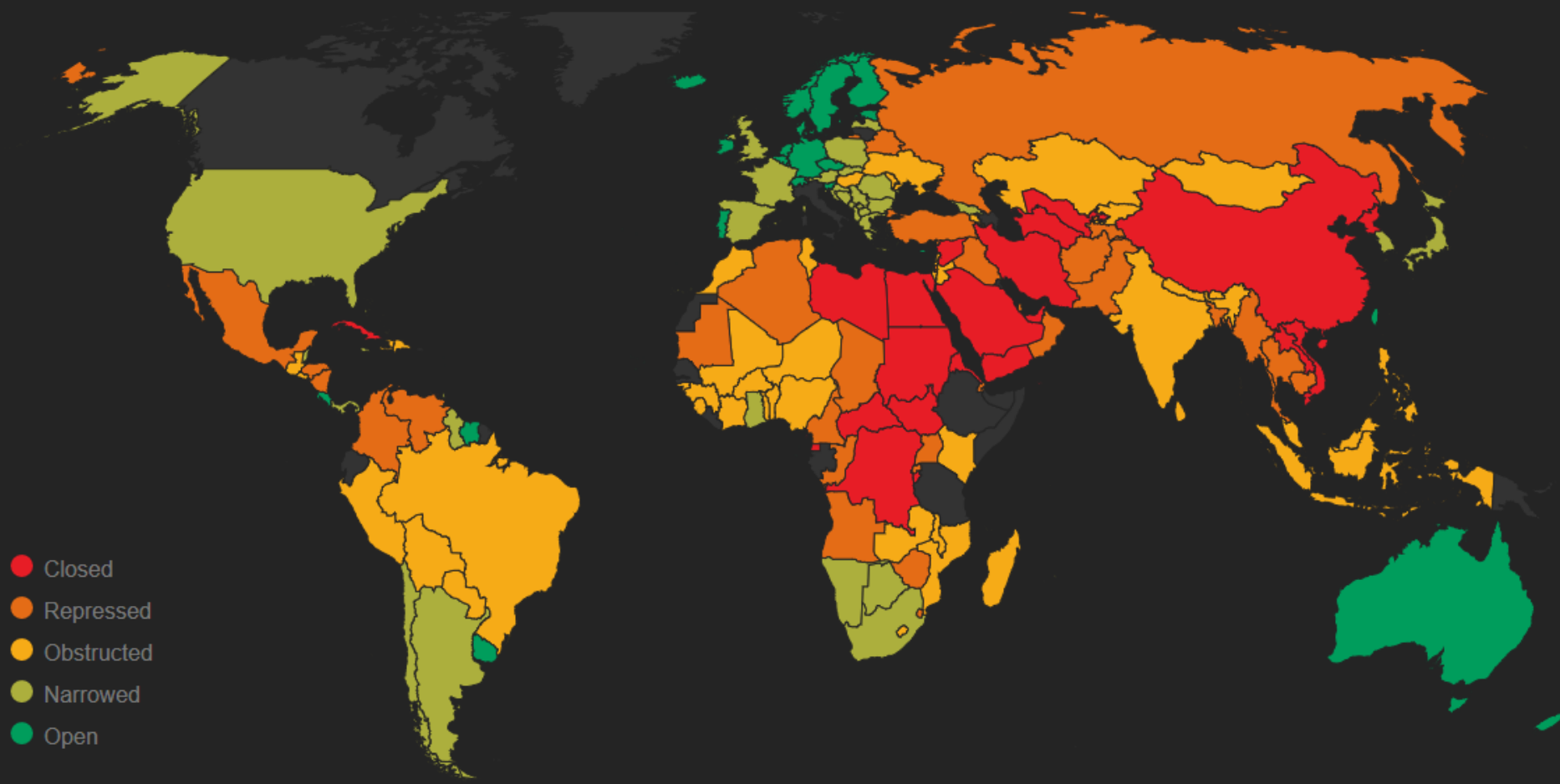
WORLD MAP

EXPLORE

HOW IT WORKS

ABOUT US

FINDINGS



(monitor.civicus.org 2018)

# Reality Check: Shrinking Space



- Harassment, arrest, threats to activists
- Disrupted protests
- Shutting or slowing down of organisations
- Complex registration requirements
- ‘Gagging’ clauses
- Demonisation of (progressive) civil society
- Rise of populism & ‘uncivil society’
- Restrictions on foreign funding
- Anti money-laundering measures

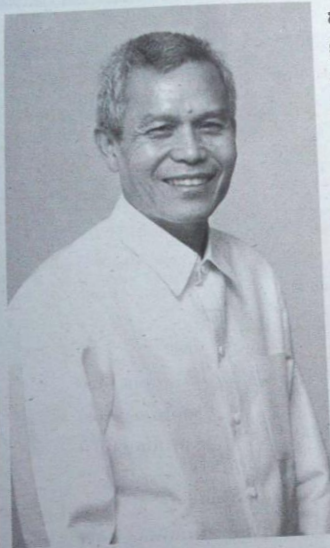




# Advocacy-Related Risks: Laos



## ປະກາດຫາຄົນຫາຍ



ທ່ານ ສົມບັດ ສົມພອນ, ອາຍຸ 60 ປີ, ຢູ່ບ້ານໂຄກນິນ, ໜ່ວຍ 02, ເມືອງສີສັດຕະນາກ, ນະຄອນຫຼວງວຽງຈັນ. ຜູ້ກ່ຽວໄດ້ຫາຍຕົວໄປພ້ອມດ້ວຍລົດຈີບ ເລກທະບຽນ ກຫ 2624 (ສີຂຽວເຂັ້ມ) ໃນວັນທີ 15/12/2012, ເວລາ 18.00 ທີ່ບໍລິເວນເສັ້ນທາງຫຼັກ 3 (ຕໍ່ໜ້າໂຮງຮຽນລາວເຢຍລະມັນ) ທາງໄປທ່າເດືອ (ຈາກການໃຫ້ຂໍ້ມູນຂອງພັນລະຍາຜູ້ກ່ຽວ ເນື່ອງຈາກຜູ້ກ່ຽວຂໍລົດຄົນລະຄັນກັບພັນລະຍາ) ຈົນເຖິງປັດຈຸບັນຄອບຄົວ ແລະ ອຳນາດການປົກຄອງຂອງຜູ້ກ່ຽວບໍ່ໄດ້ຮູ້ຂ່າວຄາວເລີຍ ຖ້າບຸກຄົນໃດ ຫຼື ອົງການຈັດຕັ້ງໃດ ຫາກຮູ້ ແລະ ພົບເຫັນຜູ້ກ່ຽວຢູ່ບ່ອນໃດ ຂໍຄວາມຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອແຈ້ງຂໍ້ມູນມາຍັງພວກຂ້າພະເຈົ້າດ້ວຍ  
ໂທ: 020 2241 9900, 020 2302 2091, 020 5566 8074.

Mr. Sombath SOMPHONE, who 60 years old and living in Khoknin Village, Sisattanak district, Vientiane Capital, is missing. He disappeared in his dark green Jeep (license number ກຫ 2624) at 18:00 on the 15th Dec. 2012. He was last seen on Thadeua road at km3 (in front of the Lao-German Technical School). Currently his family and the authorities do not have any more leads or sources of information about his whereabouts. If you know or hear any information about him, please contact one of the numbers below: 020 2241 9900, 020 2302 2091, 020 5566 8074. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

TagesAnzeiger

AUSLAND

ZÜRICH SCHWEIZ AUSLAND WIRTSCHAFT BORSE SPORT KULTUR PANORAMA  
Europa Amerika Naher Osten & Afrika Asien & Ozeanien Bildstreifen

## Schweizer Entwicklungshelferin aus Laos ausgewiesen

Aktualisiert am 09.12.2012 41 Kommentare

Wegen regierungskritischer Äusserungen wurde die Helvetas-Direktorin von Laos **des Landes verwiesen**. Die Regierung wirft ihr vor, mit einem kritischen Brief eine Kampagne gegen das Land lanciert zu haben.



Hat die Wut der Regierung von Laos auf sich gezogen: Helvetas-Direktorin Anne-Sophie Gindroz.  
Bild: Helvetas

Google Map

Eine Mitarbeiterin des Schweizer Hilfswerks **Helvetas** ist von Laos aus dem Land ausgewiesen worden. Die Behörden werfen der Leiterin des Helvetas-Programms vor, eine Kampagne gegen das Land lanciert zu haben.



# Possible Ways to Respond: Risks



## Know the Risks

Constantly reassess the political situation, the legal and institutional framework to identify advocacy-related risks, ideally together with your stakeholders, partners and allies.



## Build alliances

Never go on your own but use platforms, partnerships, alliances to

- spread the risks
- build on respective strengths
- protect each other
- build momentum



# Possible Ways to Respond: Tone of Voice

## **Tone of voice**

Adjust your approach and tone of voice according to your target group. Use the 'insider route' whenever possible, open doors with 'technical advocacy'. Build public pressure only when necessary and safe.



# Possible Ways to Respond: Transparency

## **Be accountable and transparent**

Whenever possible,  
share information with  
others in a regular and  
transparent manner,  
actively communicate  
with and listen to your  
opposition





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