

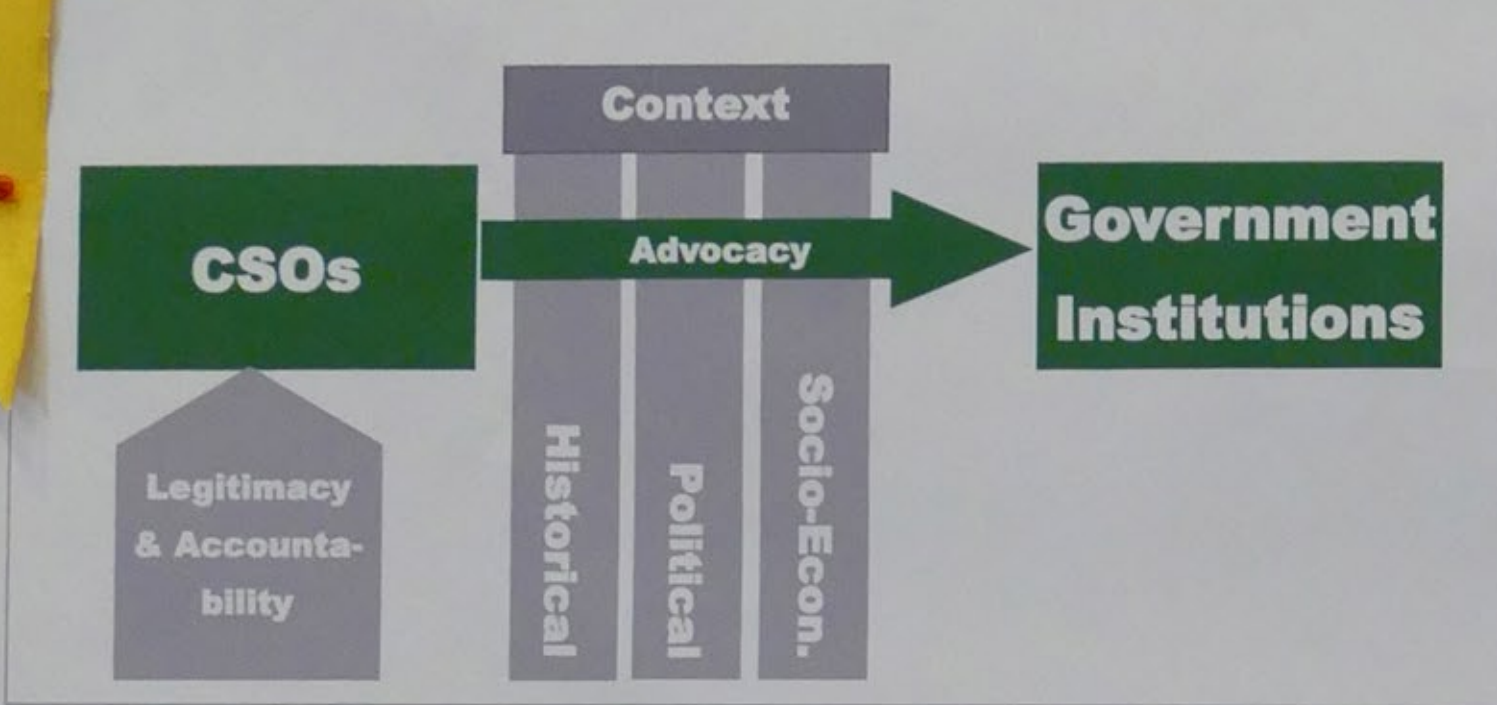
Advocacy in Fragile States -

Is Effective Advocacy Possible in Liberia?



For a world without hunger

Precondition for Effective Advocacy



Capacity Building of CS has to grow from inside (takes time!) The context matters

Context: Liberia

Historical:

Civil War, long history of violence between several social classes (American-Liberians & Indigenous Liberians), no history of collaboration, strong peace movement at end of civil war (women's movement), recently constitutional review process

Socio-economic:

Small middle class (mainly located in Monrovia), high emigration rate of educated population, high poverty rates and low Human Development

Political:

Low Political Space for Civil Society, State lacks capacity including financial, human and technological resources, weakness of judicial capacity, strong dependency on external resources

Government mainly assigns CSOs a **service delivery** role, however **advocacy is possible**. CSOs rather tend to respond to opportunities provided by the government rather than driving the policy agenda. Topics: Women's rights and development.

Strong state capacity	Service Delivery and Advocacy Activities	Service Delivery, Advocacy in certain areas that increase state legitimacy	Service Delivery, Advocacy not tolerated
Weak state capacity	Service Delivery, Advocacy may be restricted	Service Delivery, Advocacy not tolerated (but may be possible)	Service Delivery and Advocacy not tolerated (but may be possible)
	Democratic	Hybrid	Authoritarian

Political Space: State Capacity & Regime Type (Borgh/Terwindt 2009)

Legitimacy & Accountability of CSOs in Liberia

Legitimacy — The Right to speak on behalf of their beneficiaries:

- Weak link to beneficiaries, especially in rural areas
- Advocacy CSOs often based in Monrovia
- Often donor-driven or hijacked by government or foreign interest (diaspora)
- Seldom membership organizations
- Not representative of public interest
- Low commitment to causes, elitist professionals

Creating Legitimacy and Accountability:

Legitimacy: Topics around fundamental rights (solidarity by international actors), specific demands, collaboration/alliances of different CSOs that represent different constituencies

Accountability: Organizational Capacity building (finance, HR, project management, procedures, structures & assets), Technical Capacity Building (evidence-based & people centered advocacy, communication)

Accountability — Proper use of money, following of genuine procedures, qualitative work and relevance of work:

- Compliance to NGO regulations low
- No internal democratic procedures, poor HR, financial and organizational capacity
- Strong donor dependency



CSO Strategy Welthungerhilfe Liberia

Today

- Strong Focus on **Service Delivery**: Emergency Relief, Basic Infrastructure, Water, Sanitation & Hygiene, Agriculture and Health
- Capacity Building for local CSOs and county authorities within **self-implemented projects**
- Few Partner-Implemented projects**

Tomorrow

- Service Delivery** by CSOs Partners: Water, Sanitation & Hygiene, Agriculture and Health
- Advocacy** by CSOs Partners: Land Rights, Concessions, Development Strategies and Decentralization
- Capacity Building for local CSOs within **partner-implemented projects**
- Capacity Building for local authorities by CSO partners
- Only Partner-Implemented projects**

Service Delivery Activities by national CSOs can build legitimacy for effective Advocacy.

Combined approaches, where evidence for Advocacy is created through service delivery activities can be a useful strategy for Advocacy in states with weak state capacity.

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