



IGNITE CSOs: Improving Governance, Networking and Inclusivity Towards Empowered Civil Society Organisations

ACTION OBJECTIVE

The Action aims to enhance the capacities, policy engagement opportunities and the legislative environment for civil society organisations, towards a more inclusive, participatory, empowered, and independent civil society in Trinidad and Tobago.

ACTION DESCRIPTION

IGNITE CSOs (Improving Governance, Networking and Inclusivity Towards Empowered Civil Society Organisations) is an urgent, localised response to the unintended consequences of the international shift in the nature and reach of state oversight of CSOs, driven by FATF compliance frameworks. Changes in perceptions of sector legitimacy and credibility by donors and financial institutions at a global level, amounting to increased requirements for institutional and staff education and training on operational competencies and skills, have been reflected regionally and, specifically, in Trinidad and Tobago.

This Action addresses three (3) overarching constraints:

- Lack of fit for purpose CSO legislation and the resulting consequences of bank de-risking and impacted CSO legitimacy;
- Lack of national CSO competency standards and associated accredited credentials that are co-designed by CSOs and trusted by external actors;
- Lack of a dedicated digital support ecosystem for CSOs, accessible to all, that require operational support but lack the capacity to fully utilise enhanced capabilities.

To mitigate these constraints, the Action relies on a multi-sectoral, collaborative approach involving state, private sector and CSO stakeholders alongside international civil society allies. Focused on removing barriers to civil society's legitimate participation in national development; holistically building their operational capacity and capability; and promoting the adoption of innovative and inclusive digital tools, the Action seeks to create an enabling environment for a more engaged, proactive, self-regulated sector.

LEAD AGENCY

The Cropper Foundation

PARTNER

Veni Apwann

FUNDING SOURCE

European Union

BUDGET

€356,580

DURATION

30 months

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LEARN MORE

- csogo.org
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KEY ACTION OUTCOMES

1. CSOs operate in a regulatory environment that enables ease of operation and financial inclusion.
2. CSOs have access to nationally-recognised and ongoing capacity building training on key operational areas.
3. CSOs have access to a sustainable and distributed network of resources, expertise and support.



PATHWAY 3: BUILDING A DISTRIBUTED VALUE NETWORK FOR CSO RESOURCES

Key stakeholders:

- Private sector companies
- Professional bodies
- Individual expert volunteers
- COSTAATT
- Civil Society organisations

Key activities:

- Establishment of in-person support clinics
- Upgrade of CSO Go to host digital support clinic
- Engagement of companies, individuals and professional bodies to support digital hub
- Promotion of support clinics for CSOs

PATHWAY 1: ENHANCING THE LEGAL AND FISCAL ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR CSOS

Key stakeholders:

- Office of the Attorney General
- Ministry of Legal Affairs
- Financial Intelligence Unit of TT
- Central Bank of TT
- Bankers Association of TT
- Civil Society organisations

Key activities:

- Legislative engagement
- Review of legislative amendments
- Banking policy engagement
- AML/CFT training for CSOs
- Drafting policy documents
- Sector oversight research

Accountability Is Everyone's Business

A National Framework to Strengthen Civil Society in Trinidad and Tobago

[Explore the Full Framework](#)



IGNITE CSOS

CSO Self Assessment

for Civil Society Organisations

A comprehensive accountability assessment tool designed to help Civil Society Organisations evaluate their governance, financial management, project management, and human resource practices for sustainable growth and sector leadership.

[Start Assessment →](#) [Learn more →](#)

PATHWAY 2: SUSTAINABLE AND RECOGNISED CAPACITY BUILDING

Key stakeholders:

- Project Management Institute
- Caribbean Corporate Governance Institute
- Human Resources Management Assoc. of T&T
- Institute of Chartered Accountants of T&T
- Ministry of the People, Social Development & Family Services
- Civil Society organisations

Key activities:

- Creation of National Accountability Framework
- Civil Society consultation
- Development of CSO self-assessment tool
- Roll-out of micro credential courses
- Awarding of scholarships to access courses
- Promotion of opportunities for CSO self-regulation

