



World Learning Europe

Education | Development | Exchange

CIVIL SOCIETY AND GOVERNANCE

Overview

Civil society engagement fosters good governance and representative democracy. Many countries lack strong civil society organizations that represent the interests of citizens to government and aid in community development. At the same time, government institutions often need assistance to transition to effective and accountable systems that better serve citizens and society. Strong cooperation between civil society and government is essential to solving complex issues such as poverty, conflict, human rights abuses, health crises, and social inequality.

Approach

Over the last two decades, the World Learning family has built the capacity of and linked more than 10,000 civil society and governance institutions in countries as diverse as Angola, Algeria, Egypt, Kenya, Mexico, Mozambique, and Myanmar (Burma). Our demand-driven approach is tailored to the local context through a highly-collaborative process that invites extensive and continual community input. Based on this information, we provide custom education, policy advocacy training, technical assistance, and small grants support that empowers people and strengthens institutions. We also work directly with governments to promote transparency, accountability, and financial compliance at the local and national levels.

World Learning Europe is a non-profit social enterprise that advances leadership through education, exchange, and development programs. It is founded by World Learning Inc, which works in more than 60 countries

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The World Learning family works across a range of countries and contexts.

- In **Algeria**, the Promoting Education, Altruism, and Civic Engagement (PEACE) program engages Algerian university students and select young leaders with disabilities in addressing social problems within their communities.
- In **Angola**, the Eye Kutoloka project is dedicated to strengthening NGOs through health services delivery and technical assistance by improving the capacity of these NGOs and local government to deliver quality basic services related to health, education, water, and other key technical areas to the Angolan population

- In **Egypt**, we trained Young Civic Leaders in the knowledge of democratic citizenship, including the concepts of transparency and accountability in governance, and provided them with the skills to participate in the civic life of their communities.
- In **Myanmar**, the Institute for Political and Civic Engagement in Burma (iPACE) project provides education and training courses to build the capacity of local democracy, labor, and civil society activists. Through courses such as civic education, human rights, voter education, and English for special purposes, as well as activities which support networking and consensus building among Burma's socio-political actors, iPACE increases the knowledge and practical application of fundamental democratic principles and promotes citizen engagement to inform more representative, accountable governance.

[World Learning Europe](#) integrates rights-based approaches into all of our programming to promote fundamental elements of civil society engagement, such as freedom of assembly, association, and expression. We work in authoritarian, transitioning, and democratic countries to provide civic education and empowerment programs to ensure the voices of under-represented populations—including women, youth, persons with disabilities, and minority groups—are heard within communities. Even in non-democratic countries, our programs advance the principles and practices of representative governance and the promotion and protection of human rights.

[World Learning Europe](#) believes strong collaboration with stakeholders and donors is essential to achieving development objectives. Our partners have included bi-lateral and multilateral institutions, host government ministries, civil society organizations, and private foundations and donors.

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