



# SNV Voice for Change Partnership



Civil society organisations (CSOs) represent citizens at local, national and international level. Through the Voice for Change Partnership, SNV strengthens CSOs to effectively voice their views in a dynamic and increasingly global context. Together, we contribute to structural change and effective solutions to ensure that the interests of low-income and marginalised communities are included in government and business policies and practices.

## Strategic partnership

With a long tradition of supporting CSOs operating in low- and middle-income countries, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS) set up a policy framework focusing on capacity strengthening of CSOs for 'lobbying and advocacy'. This framework aims to enhance the overall effectiveness of CSOs by joining forces with strategic partners to coordinate their lobbying and advocacy goals, instruments and methods.

Under the DGIS strategic framework, SNV - partnering with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) - leads the Voice for Change Partnership (V4CP). V4CP is a multi-country and multi-sector programme focusing on evidence-based advocacy to improve the enabling environment. Jointly, we contribute to country structural change by embedding community interest into policies and practice, and by improving the position of affected groups, or the organisations that represent them.

The V4CP programme empowers CSOs to engage with decision-makers, and those responsible for implementing decisions, by providing sound arguments and a solid evidence base, backing the proposed changes in their country. Together with IFPRI and other research partners, we enhance the capacities of CSOs in terms of leadership, the use of evidence and thematic knowledge, advocacy skills, and organisational sustainability. CSOs also gain access to broader research data and lessons learned from other projects, so that this evidence can support their advocacy strategies. As a result, they speak with a greater voice about

policy design and implementation and better provision of services, both in the public and private sector.

Within the V4CP project, we work with more than 50 CSOs in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia, Kenya and Rwanda; and address four focus areas: Food & Nutrition Security, Resilience, Renewable Energy, and Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH) – with close attention to gender interests and climate change.

## At a glance

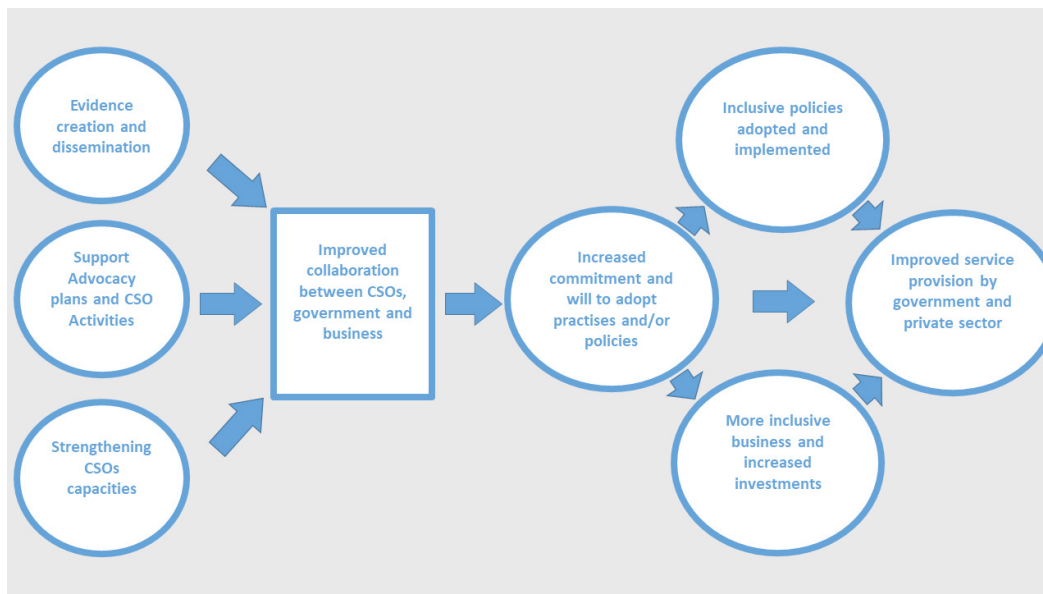
**Title:** Voice for Change Partnership (V4CP)

**Focus areas:** Food & Nutrition Security, Resilience, Renewable Energy, and Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)

**Countries:** Burkina Faso, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia, Kenya, Rwanda

**Partners:** Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS), Embassies of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), and 50 CSOs in the six project countries

**Duration:** January 2016 - December 2020



## Our objectives

- Empower CSOs to have a greater voice as advocates, and to effectively serve the interests of the people they represent.
- Influence agenda-setting, policy design and implementation by stimulating collaboration and accountability among CSOs, government, the private sector and other relevant players.
- Improve government and private sector service delivery towards inclusive development.

## Main intervention strategies

- **Strengthening of CSO capacities:** The programme offers selected CSOs a capacity development programme including training, external coaching, on the job coaching by SNV advisors, and peer-to-peer learning. In each country, V4CP strengthens the CSOs capabilities and offers a platform for exchanging experiences and taking action with other CSOs. CSOs are empowered to use evidence and data for advocacy, to form or join platforms and alliances, and to liaise with media.
- **Evidence creation and dissemination:** Through its partnership with IFPRI and in collaboration with other research institutes, the programme develops high quality evidence to be used by CSOs for advocacy and influencing efforts. CSOs are capacitated to use the evidence for advocacy by contextualising the results of the research and by translating them into targeted messages.
- **Support to advocacy plans and activities of CSOs:** CSOs are supported in the design and implementation of advocacy plans. Updating of these plans takes place during the capacity development and learning events, while advocacy activities are flexibly implemented to respond to external opportunities.

## Our advocacy approach is:

**Collaborative:** Building upon trusted relationships, and bringing together decision-makers in government, business, knowledge institutes and civil society, to collectively search for common ground and to jointly develop solutions.

**Evidence-based:** Using practical field experiences and local knowledge, and working with credible research institutes like IFPRI, we develop and share evidence in a transparent and accessible way.

**Solution-oriented:** Providing clear, feasible, tailor-made solutions that address concrete problems, and provide potential improvements in the enabling environment.

“Dear CSOs, the collaborative advocacy you have committed to under the Voice for Change Partnership Program, is a force of influence for decision makers, especially in terms of our accountability as public and private actors. You contribute to growth, inclusive development and the reduction of inequalities in our country, and even in the sub-region. I wish you all the best, and reiterate the full availability of the National Assembly to assist you in achieving your goals”

**- Advocate Bénéwendé Stanislas SANKARA, 1st Vice-President of the National Assembly of Burkina Faso**

## Contact

For more information, please contact: [v4cp@snv.org](mailto:v4cp@snv.org) .

Visit:

<http://www.snv.org/project/voice-change-partnership-v4cp>