

# Needs of and Challenges Facing WCSOs in Myanmar

September 2022





# Research Objectives

- To better understand the operating conditions facing WCSOs and how these conditions impact their work.
- To provide partners with information on the needs of and challenges facing WCSOs when attempting to deliver on their mandates supporting marginalised women, men, boys and girls in Myanmar.

# Research Methodology

## Research Questionnaire

Comprised of 35 questions covering four thematic areas: organisation profile, current challenges, operations and finance, and relationships with development partners.

## Final Sample

84 full responses were collected over the month of August 2022 using Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI). Most WCSOs that responded were small and medium sized with budgets of up to 100M MK.

## Qualitative Data Collection

The research questionnaire was complemented by 15 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and 2 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) to provide qualitative insights.



# Summary of Key Findings



## Safety and Security

- 83% identified safety and security of personnel as the key issue affecting their work.
- WCSOs with more female managers perceive a higher risk to safety/security than in April 2021.
- Larger WCSOs perceive less risk; higher budget/# of beneficiaries may serve as protective shield.
- 78% of WCSOs feel the risks have increased since April 2021.



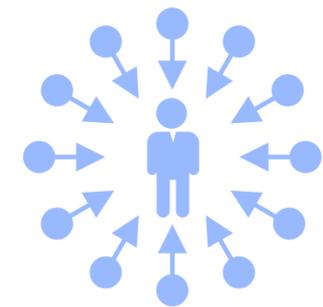
## Funding Challenges

- Key challenges facing WCSO funding include:
  - Limited capacity to meet donor requirements
  - Cumbersome proposal process
  - Mismatch between donor-WCSO priorities
  - Competition for funds
  - Delays in transfer of grants
  - Registration issues



## Partnerships

- WCSO registration requirements from development partners impede partnerships.
- Rigidity of donor guidelines, policies and reporting don't match the fluid context.
- Budget allocations from donors aren't reflective of WCSO work on the ground.
- Desire of smaller WCSOs to be able to connect with donor management.



## WCSO Needs

- 57% of WCSOs want the UN to facilitate dialogue and collaboration.
- 54% of WCSOs want technical support on capacity building of target groups.
- WCSOs need enhanced internet connectivity.
- WCSOs need to be able to ensure the safety/security of their staff and assets.

# Recommendations

**1** Create exceptions for working with unregistered civil society organisations.

**2** Enhance WCSOs access to emergency funds.

**3** Provide institutional strengthening support to small WCSOs with a focus on digital security, crisis leadership, safety and security, coordination and proposal development.

**4** Provide long-term funds to support WCSO core functions, rather than solely providing support to programmatic outcomes.

**5** Make funding proposal processes more accessible to enable smaller CSOs to access funds, i.e. accept proposals in Myanmar language, support NCEs when needed, allow more flexibility in budget allocations.



Thank you

