# The collaboration between CDOs and DPs and Civil Society

Primary development partners help Rwanda in its development vision. CDOs can therefore apply for funding individually or through the supervisory administration (sector/Ministry, MINICT or RISA), in collaboration with development partners. Whether they are investors, sponsors, or supporters, development partners play a pivotal role in providing financial and strategic support. Here are some strategies to enhance collaboration with development partners:

**Clearly define Goals and Expectations:**

Establish clear and transparent goals for the collaboration. Clearly articulate what you aim to achieve and discuss expectations from both parties. This clarity helps in aligning efforts and avoiding misunderstandings.

**Regular Communication:**

Foster open and regular communication with development partners. Provide them with updates on the progress of the project, key milestones, and any challenges faced. Regular communication builds trust and keeps backers engaged.

**Create a Collaborative Culture:**

Cultivate a culture of collaboration where feedback and input from development partners are valued. Encourage an open dialogue where they feel comfortable sharing their thoughts and ideas.

Actively seek input and feedback from development partners on various aspects of the project. Their insights can be valuable in refining strategies, improving products, or addressing challenges.

**Involve development partners in Decision-Making:**

Include development partners in important decision-making processes. Seek their input on key strategic decisions, service development, or other critical aspects of the project. Involving them enhances their sense of ownership.

**Transparency in Finances:**

Maintain transparency in financial matters. Clearly communicate how funds are being utilized and provide financial reports. Transparency builds trust and confidence in the way resources are managed.

**Showcase Impact and Results:**

Demonstrate the impact of development partners' contributions by showcasing tangible results. Whether it's service releases, business growth, or social impact, highlighting achievements helps development partners see the real-world outcomes of their support. The impact and results presentation must be orientated to the centres of interest of the development partners (UN sustainable development Goals, social inclusion, poverty reduction, gender equality, environmental issues…).

**Acknowledge and Appreciate:**

Acknowledge the contributions of development partners and express genuine appreciation for their support. Publicly recognize their involvement through social media, newsletters, or other platforms. Feeling appreciated strengthens the relationship.

**Provide Regular Updates:**

Keep development partners informed with regular updates through newsletters, emails, or dedicated communication channels. Highlight progress, share success stories, and address any setbacks transparently.

**Organise development partners' events:**

Arrange events or webinars specifically for development partners. This creates an opportunity for direct interaction, allowing backers to ask questions, share their thoughts, and feel more connected to the project.

**Offer Collaborative Opportunities:**

Explore collaborative opportunities where development partners can actively contribute to the project beyond financial support. This could involve partnerships, mentorship programs, or other ways to leverage their expertise.

**Secondly, collaboration between CDOs and civil society** is essential for building trust, promoting social good, and ensuring that data is used responsibly for the benefit of communities and society at large. It requires a commitment to inclusivity, transparency, and the shared goal of using data for positive social impact.

Civil Society can be involved in these ways:

**Open Dialogue and Engagement**:

- *Objective*: Foster open communication and engagement between CDOs and civil society organizations.
- *Activities*: Organize regular meetings, forums, or workshops to facilitate discussions on data policies, initiatives, and concerns. Create channels for feedback and input from civil society.

**Data Accessibility and Transparency:**

- *Objective*: Ensure that data is made accessible to civil society organisations in a transparent and usable format.
- *Activities:* Collaborate on initiatives to publish relevant datasets, adhere to open data standards, and provide user-friendly interfaces. Seek input from civil society on data priorities. The management of the open data set must be under the management of RISA.

**Capacity Building:**

- *Objective*: Enhance the data literacy and analytical skills of civil society organisations.
- *Activities:* Provide training sessions, workshops, or resources to help civil society understand and effectively use data. Collaborate on educational initiatives to build capacity within the civil society sector.

**Joint Advocacy and Awareness Campaigns:**

- *Objective:* Work together on advocacy efforts and awareness campaigns related to data rights, privacy, and responsible data use.
- *Activities:* Collaborate on public awareness campaigns, jointly advocate for policies that protect data rights, and address concerns related to data privacy and security.

**Project Collaboration:**

- *Objective:* Undertake joint projects that leverage the expertise and resources of both the CDO's organisation and civil society.
- *Activities:* Identify areas where collaboration can lead to positive social impact. Develop and implement projects that address social challenges using data-driven approaches.

**Inclusive Decision-Making:**

- *Objective:* Include civil society representatives in decision-making processes related to data governance and policies.
- *Activities:* Establish advisory committees or forums that include representatives from civil society to provide input on data-related policies, initiatives, and projects.

**Feedback Mechanisms:**

- *Objective*: Establish mechanisms for civil society to provide feedback on data-related initiatives and policies.
- *Activities:* Implement channels for receiving and addressing concerns, suggestions, and feedback from civil society. Regularly assess and respond to the needs and priorities identified by civil society organisations.

**Participatory Data Collection:**

- *Objective:* Engage civil society in participatory data collection efforts.
- *Activities:* Collaborate on projects that involve the collection of community-based data, ensuring that civil society is actively involved in the process. This can enhance the

relevance and accuracy of the data collected.

An example of collaboration with civil society can be:

**Set a first users community**: The concept means gathering a population of volunteers who will test Government services in advance, before they go online for the general public, and give feedback on the service to the CDOs before they start implementing the services.

The concept can be extended to build a platform to collect ideas from civil society on new government services to develop, suggestions of improvement areas on specific e-services…

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