CIVICUS Report to Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
IATI upload narrative, 2020-2021

Introduction and Context:

Since 1 January 2015, CIVICUS has actively engaged in the Dutch MFA's Dialogue and Dissent Program supporting Strategic Partnerships. From 1 January 2021 this collaboration has continued in the form of a new core grant which supports our shared objective to strengthen civil society to play its vital role, including protecting and promoting human rights, through the next five years.

As such, this particular narrative report, spanning 2020-2021, straddles two Dutch MFA grants, namely the last 6 month period (July – December 2020) of our previous 5-year core grant, supporting the implementation of CIVICUS' Strategic Plan 2017-2022 under the Dutch MFA's Dialogue and Dissent Programme, and the first 6 months (January – June 2021) of the new 5-year core grant which was secured at the end of 2021.

As part of our accountability and transparency commitment to the Dutch MFA, we continue to publish our Dutch MFA related budget and expenditure against the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) standard. For this financial year, we report against two activities, expenditure between July – December 2020 under the previous grant (IATI Activity identifier: ZA-NPO-029-864-MFA-2015) and expenditure between January – June 2021 under our current active grant (IATI activity identifier: ZA-NPO-029-864-ZA-NPO-029-864-MFA-2021)

We have uploaded the mandatory financials for this period and are in the process of incorporating the new Dutch MFA basket indicators into our results framework, which we will report against in October 2022 (for the period July 2021- June 2022).

We have also uploaded information in relation to two out of the six Dialogue and Dissent indicators (specifically DD2 and DD4[1]), to provide an indication of how CIVICUS contributes to this Dutch MFA programme. This includes our core work around our UN engagement (e.g., UPR submissions and recommendations taken up by governments) as well as our many advocacy efforts which have contributed to policy or legislative changes.

In addition to what has been uploaded via AidStream, we would like to provide a brief narrative of the Dutch MFA financials that have been uploaded onto the IATI platform and highlight examples of successes and key results in relation to 2020-2021 expenditure.

It is important to note that the Dutch MFA grant forms approximately 26% of CIVICUS' total income. Therefore, CIVICUS formally reports on this (and its other grants) through its substantive annual report[2] which covers all CIVICUS activities over the last financial year. Dutch MFA funds (along with others) are also used to finance "enabling" initiatives such as revising research methodologies, partner capacity building, systems implementation, contribution to the convening of the International Civil Society Week (ICSW) and many more. The Dutch MFA grant is also used to fund (partially or wholly) strategic positions in relation to these initiatives, acknowledging that people are our primary asset and, without them, CIVICUS would not be able to implement its Strategy.

[1] DD2: # of laws, policies, and norms/attitudes blocked, adopted, improved for inclusive and sustainable development; DD4: # of advocacy initiatives carried out by CSOs for, by or with their membership / constituency

[2] The Annual Report 2020-2021 will be shared with relevant donors by 31 October 2021 and an external version of the report will be published by December 2021.

What follows are brief examples of where Dutch MFA funds were spent in the last financial year, as well as a summary of funded positions.

2020-2021 Highlights

1. Tracking civic space: CIVICUS Monitor

The CIVICUS Monitor is the alliance's research collaboration conducted with 20 research partners worldwide who monitor and report on civic space restrictions in close to real time. Its purpose is to track threats to civil society in each country and to use the data it gathers to hold decision-makers accountable through data-driven, effective advocacy. In 2020-2021, we saw an increase in the use CIVICUS Monitor data and analysis. Efforts to influence key stakeholders through research, analysis and the curation of global trends included the launch of major publications such as the annual CIVICUS Monitor report People Power Under Attack 2020, annual thematic report Solidarity in the Time of COVID-19 and the CIVICUS Monitor Watchlist which resulted in a peak in external citations, ranging from international and country-specific news outlets to the President of Taiwan on Twitter.

2. International Civil Society Week

International Civil Society Week (ICSW) 2020-21 was launched to promote a global, year-long conversation about people power – the collective power of people acting together to drive social and political change. In 2020, we hosted seven ICSW/virtual events that convened more than 700 civil society actors from around the world. The original ICSW plan was to follow these virtual conversations with a series of local and regional events that would culminate in a global gathering in one city, over one week in 2021. Unfortunately, this was not possible due to the COVID-19 pandemic health and safety restrictions. Instead, ICSW 2020-21 will close with an alternative celebration of people power in late 2021: the 2021 CIVICUS Nelson Mandela-Graça Machel Innovation Awards.

3. #StandAsMyWitness Campaign

We continued our efforts to provide support and solidarity to civil society stakeholders whose work is impeded by restrictions on civic freedoms and the undermining of democratic values. After its initial launch on Nelson Mandela Day in July 2020, CIVICUS relaunched the campaign #StandAsMyWitness on International Human Rights Day, calling for an end to harassment and imprisonment of human rights defenders. With alliance-wide support, CIVICUS proudly joined successful global calls for the release of several human rights activists (e.g., Loujain Al-Hathloul in Saudi Arabia).

4. Enhancing diversity and inclusion @CIVICUS

The Diversity & Inclusion Group for Networking and Action (DIGNA) brings together change-makers and thought leaders from all around the world, passionate about strengthening an inclusive and diverse civil society. This working group seeks to understand, conceptualise, and identify innovative practices on what diversity and inclusion (D&I) can look like within different thematic areas and operating models. DIGNA now counts over 1800 followers, and is growing. During the year in review, the Diversity and Inclusion Pilot Programme, engaged eight organisations from different regions to capture their experiences in the D&I Diaries. To build on the learnings identified through the pilot programme, an interactive, multi-lingual D&I Diagnostic Tool was co-created to assist CSOs in their D&I journeys.

Summary of funded human resources

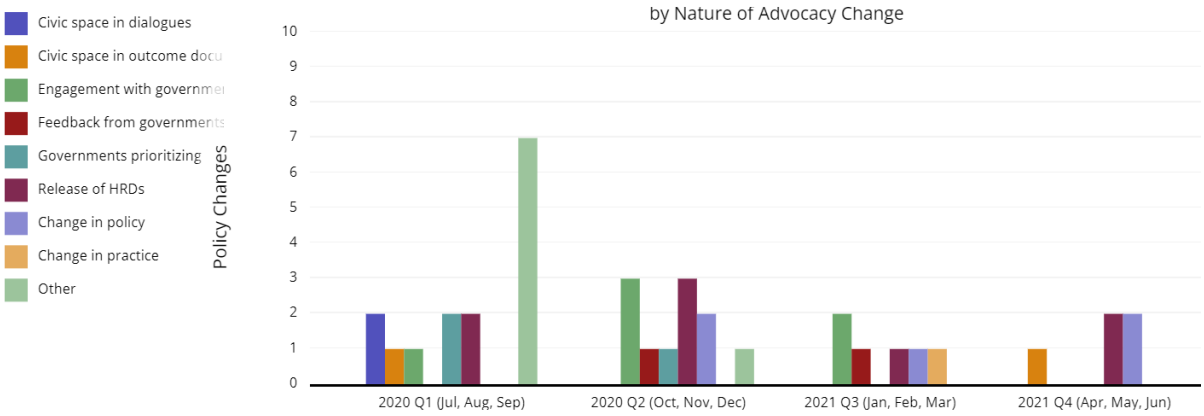
As mentioned, the Dutch MFA contributes to our core funding and therefore several positions are partially or wholly funded through this grant. This includes funding (partial or wholly) positions across the following teams:

- Senior Leadership Team
- Innovation, Capacity Development and Impact and Accountability
- Advocacy and Campaigns, Civic Space Research and our International Offices
- Communications, Membership and Networks and Events
- Operations

Dutch MFA Dialogue & Dissent Indicators

DD2: # of laws, policies, and norms/attitudes blocked, adopted, improved for inclusive and sustainable development

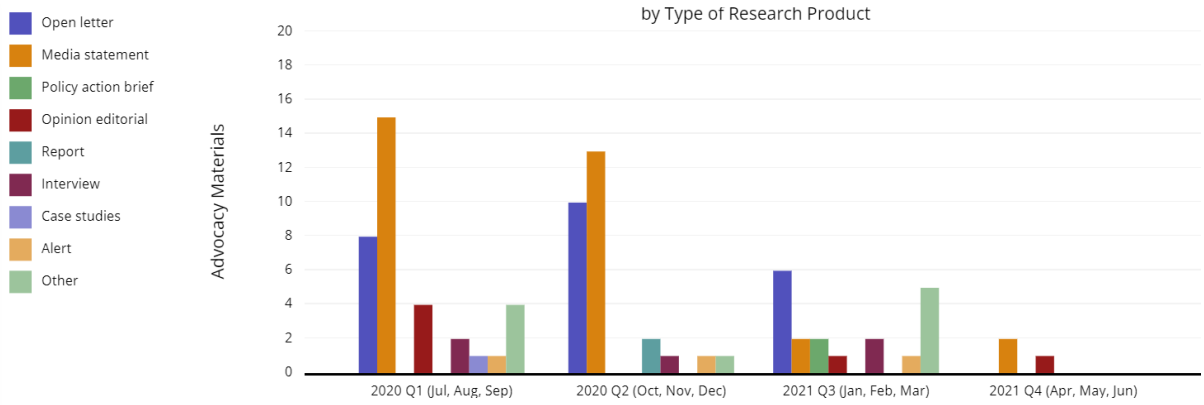
- # of policy/legislative changes linked to research product: 37



Source: DevResults, July 2020 to June 2021

DD4: # of advocacy initiatives carried out by CSOs for, by or with their membership / constituency

- # of advocacy materials published: 85
- # of UN submissions: 46



Source: DevResults, July 2020 to June 2021