

# JOHNS HOPKINS GLOBAL CIVIL SOCIETY INDEX



## A CHALLENGE.

The civil society sector plays a vital role in promoting economic progress and democratic government worldwide. It is therefore vitally important to track its health and gauge its impact.

## WHY AN INDEX?

Given the diverse dimensions of civil society, there is a need for some way to capture its multiple dimensions in a convenient, understandable form. An Index is the perfect tool through which to accomplish this objective.

## THE JOHNS HOPKINS GCSI.

The Johns Hopkins Global Civil Society Index (JHU/GCSI) provides a tested and reliable such tool for assessing the health of the civil society sector in countries throughout the world. It is **objective**, **understandable**, and **workable**.

## KEY CRITERIA.

Construction of the JHU/GCSI Index was guided by five key goals:

- ✓ **Conceptual clarity**—focusing on the most critical dimensions of civil society.
- ✓ **Validity**—using indicators closely connected to tangible features of civil society reality.
- ✓ **Reliability/objectivity**—relying on objective and measurable indicators rather than subjective perceptions.
- ✓ **Comparability**—providing a basis for making valid comparisons among countries and over time.
- ✓ **Feasibility**—easily implemented, understood, and used.

## HOW WILL IT WORK?

The Index was developed initially using empirical data that was gathered through the **Johns Hopkins Comparative Nonprofit Sector Project**. Now, with the publication and implementation of the **United Nations Handbook on Nonprofit Institutions in the System of National Accounts**, and the **International Labour Organization Manual on the Measurement of Volunteer Work**, governments throughout the world will begin generating the data needed to populate this index as part of their regular economic data-gathering. So far, sixteen countries have at least partially completed this implementation, and twenty others have committed to doing so. The JHU/GCSI will provide a vehicle for capturing the resulting data and presenting it to the world in a powerful and understandable way.

## WHAT WILL THE INDEX MEASURE?

The Johns Hopkins Global Civil Society Index measures three critical dimensions of a country's civil society sector. For each of these dimensions, the Index uses multiple indicators that capture the diversity of civil society patterns around the world while remaining manageable.

### CAPACITY.

The size of the sector, and the effort or activity it mobilizes.

### SUSTAINABILITY.

The ability of the civil society sector to sustain itself over time—legally, financially, and socially.

### IMPACT.

The contribution the civil society sector makes to social, economic, and political life.

## WHAT WILL THE INDEX ACCOMPLISH?

Implementation of the JHU/GCSI will provide a reliable and objective way to:

- ✓ Chart the health and vitality of the civil society sector in countries throughout the world.
- ✓ Compare the progress and strength of civil society among countries and regions.
- ✓ Spot areas of civil society weakness and initiate corrective action.
- ✓ Improve public awareness of civil society's role and potentials.
- ✓ Evaluate the effectiveness of efforts to strengthen civil society.

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SOURCE:  
Chapter 2 in  
Lester M. Salamon,  
S. Wojciech Sokolowski,  
and Associates,  
*Global Civil Society:  
Dimensions of the Nonprofit  
Sector, Volume Two*  
(Bloomfield, CT: Kumarian  
Press, 2004).

Country	Capacity	Sustainability	Impact	Total
Netherlands	79	54	89	74
Norway	55	82	59	65
United States	76	54	54	61
Sweden	58	56	67	60
United Kingdom	66	60	50	58
Israel	70	42	50	54
Belgium	65	45	60	57
Ireland	64	45	52	54
Australia	51	46	49	49
France	56	46	44	49
Finland	48	42	50	47
Germany	47	45	47	46
Spain	54	37	30	40
Argentina	48	35	36	40
Tanzania	45	32	38	39
Uganda	44	37	30	37
Japan	38	34	35	36
South Africa	44	35	33	37
South Korea	32	38	36	35
Austria	35	42	34	37
Kenya	41	28	29	33
Italy	38	37	25	33
Hungary	38	32	20	30
Czech Republic	34	35	25	31
Colombia	37	26	22	28
Brazil	30	31	26	29
Peru	32	30	22	28
Philippines	30	35	17	27
Poland	30	38	7	25
Slovakia	32	28	13	24
India	27	30	20	26
Mexico	23	29	19	24
Romania	27	26	14	22
Pakistan	26	19	12	19