

Civil Society in Egypt: A Literature Review

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A. Background

This literature review was commissioned by the Foundation for the Future to serve as a background paper for the upcoming regional conference the foundation is hosting in Jordan during January 2010 ⁽¹⁾. The purpose of this literature review as articulated by the Foundation for the Future is two-fold, namely to:

- i. Identify and document research conducted on civil society in Egypt during the past twenty years;
- ii. Assess the research gaps and recommend areas that require further research and support.

For this literature review the author has adopted the definition of civil society put forward by the foundation for the future. Civil society organizations are any “organizations that work in an arena between the household, the private sector and the state to negotiate matters of public concern”. The literature review covers all types of CSOs including non-governmental organizations, community groups, professional associations, trade unions, media organizations, research institutes/ think tanks as well as advocacy and human rights CSOs.

B. Research Approach

For the purpose of this literature review the author carried out desk studies of published materials on and by civil society organizations. A snowballing technique was utilized in identifying sources and researchers in the field in order to cast the net as wide as possible and document as many civil society related literature as possible. A short electronic perception based survey was administered among 30 civil society stakeholders and researchers to gauge their opinions with regards to gaps in civil society research.

Although the author attempted to identify and document all civil society related literature by consulting all available resource centers, libraries and internet based sources, it is important to point out that it cannot be claimed that this is an exhaustive literature review. Readers are

¹ The Foundation for the Future is hosting ‘The Regional Conference on Research on Civil Society Organizations: Status and Prospects’, 26th – 28th January 2010 at the Dead Sea, Jordan.

encouraged to bring to our attention any sources that might have been left out as this continues to be a living document that we will continue to expand on.

C. Introduction

The existence of civil society organizations (CSOs) in Egypt can be traced back to 1821 with the established of the Hellenic Philanthropic Association in Alexandria, whose primary aim was to serve the Greek expatriate community. Almost 40 years after, CSOs focused on serving the Egyptian people emerged all over the country, among the most notable, the Institut d’Egypte (1859), the Knowledge Association (1868) and the Geographic Association (1878).⁽²⁾ The documentation of civil society organizations also date back to the early 20th century with books covering the activities and achievements of the pioneer CSOs in the country published as early as the late 1950s. Despite the long history of civil society in Egypt, a surge in its activities started to take shape in the late 1980s and has continued to take center stage as the third pillar in the country’s development over the past 20 years. This literature review is focused on documenting civil society research during the period 1989 to 2009 in order to capture the significant achievements and challenges of civil society research over the past 20 years.

The following pages of this paper are divided into four main sections: Section I gives an overview of the existing CSOs and networks in Egypt. Section II summarizes the type and source of research generated on Egyptian civil society as well as the dominant themes covered. While Section III assesses the gaps and provide recommendations for future research areas. Finally, Section V of the report provides a comprehensive bibliography of sources covered in the review.

I. Overview of Egyptian CSOs

Egypt boasts a large number of CSOs, although the exact figures are inconclusive, it is estimated that as of 2007 a total of 21,500 CSOs are registered with the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MOSS). Other sources, such as the General Federation of Associations estimate the number of CSOs to be 15,151⁽³⁾. According the Egypt 2008 Human Development Report the

² Kandil, Amani. Civil Society in Egypt at the Rise of a New Millennium. Cairo: Al Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies, 2000, p. 15

³ UNDP Egypt Human Development Report 2008, P. 67

majority (70%) of CSOs are concentrated in urban governorates, while poorer governorates namely in Upper Egypt have much lower numbers of CSOs.

As for the legal framework governing Egyptian CSOs, it is important to point out that CSOs are governed by different laws, depending on their classification. For example voluntary non-profit organization -working in development, service delivery, charity, human rights -as well as foundations, business associations and self-interest groups are all governed by the same law: Law 84 of 2002. The Ministry of Social Solidarity oversees the implementation of the NGO Law and regulates NGO affairs. As for professional associations, they are regulated by their own law. On the other hand trade unions are regulated by the General Federation for Egyptian workers' unions, whose leadership is appointed by the government. Cooperatives are governed by separate laws depending on the ministry they are affiliated with. Youth Clubs are governed by the National Youth Council. A small number of CSOs namely Human Rights groups are registered as non-profit companies as it was allowed under the old law governing CSO, however under law 84 for 2002 they are expected to revise their status and register with MOSS.⁽⁴⁾

Different types of CSOs are operational in Egypt; different classifications are adopted by different agencies in listing the types of CSOs, namely focusing on the main activities carried out by the CSO. The following is a list of the main types of CSOs:

Service Delivery & Welfare Organizations: Service Delivery and welfare organizations make up the majority of CSOs, according to GFA there is an estimated 14,362 such organizations registered with MOSS and providing services to targeted groups such as children, family, health, motherhood/childhood, the elderly etc...⁵ These organizations exist at the local as well as national and governorate levels, some examples are: Community Development Associations, the Coptic Evangelic Organization, Resala , Al Orman and Friends of Cancer Patients.

⁴ Law 32 for 1964

⁵ UNDP Egypt Human Development Report 2008, P. 70

Women's Associations: These Associations are among the oldest within Egyptian civil society, their main role is to raise awareness about women issues as well as to advocate on women's behalf.

Human Rights Groups: These are advocacy groups working on raising awareness about human rights issues as well as defending basic human rights. A total of 61 Human Rights Groups are operational in Egypt as of 2007 according to GFA survey. Some prominent Human Rights Groups are The Egyptian Organization for Human Rights, The Egyptian Association for Personal Rights, Egyptian Center for Housing rights to name a few.

Environmental CSOs: Are registered with MOSS and work on building awareness around environmental issues. The overall number of Environmental CSOs is unknown however some estimates put it at 76.

Consumer Protection CSOs: Work on the protection of consumers and raising awareness about consumer rights. In recent years the number and level of activities of such CSOs has grown considerably especially the Consumer Protection Association based in Cairo which has gained recognition for its valuable work.

Business Groups: Have a long history within Egyptian civil society as they originated in the 1970s in the wake of Egypt's 'open door economic policy'. Their main role is to support businesses and economic growth. As of 2007 a total of 97 Business groups are operational in Egypt. These include Businessmen Associations, Businesswomen Associations as well as chamber of commerce (American Chamber of commerce, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce) and investors associations.

Philanthropic Foundations: One of the newest trends within Egyptian Civil Society is the rise in the number of grant making and operational foundations. These include foundations for wealthy individuals (Abou Al Anin Foundation, Sawiras Foundation, Khamis Foundation) as well as corporate foundations (Vodafone Foundation, EFG Foundation). The main aim of these foundations is to systemically contribute to development rather than pure charitable giving.

Professional Syndicates: One of the well established and highly politicized types of Egyptian Civil Society. For many years the literature had excluded political parties and professional syndicates from civil society, however in recent years researchers has included the later within the civil society discourse. Syndicates serve member's interests and provide services that fulfill their needs as well as help in drafting of laws that affect their professions. The following professional syndicates are currently operational in Egypt: the Bar Association (1912), Judges Club (1939), Physicians (1940), Journalists (1941), Engineering Professionals (1946), Dentists, Pharmacists and Veterinarians (1949), Agricultural Professionals, (1949) and Educational Professions (1951). Actors, Cinema Professionals and Musical Professionals (1955), the Accountants and Auditors Syndicate (1955), Scientific Professionals (1964), Social Professions (1973), Applied Arts Professionals (1974), Plastic Artists (1976), Applied Art Designers (1976), Nursing Professionals (1976), Tour Guides (1983), Sports Professionals (1987), syndicates of Customs Officers (1993) and Physiotherapy Practitioners (1994).

Trade Unions: Trade unions are housed under the Egyptian Federation of Trade Unions, which was formed in 1957. Trade unions boasts high membership levels, however they remain highly controlled by the Egyptian government. Check <http://etufegypt.com/> for more details.

Youth Centers & Associations: They are managed by the National Council for Youth and spread all over Egypt as spaces for youths to socialize, play sports and benefit from skills buildings initiatives. On the other hand youth associations (either youth- led or targeting youth beneficiaries) are operational in Egypt among the most notable are Nahdet Al Mahrousa and the Youth Association for Population and Development.

Religious Groups: Some of the oldest CSOs in Egypt are religious based CSOs both Coptic and Muslim that provide services as well support those in need. MOSS has shown concern for such religious groups as they are not able to easily assess their funding as they collect donations from mosque and church goers, which makes it difficult to keep track of use and amounts of these funds. Perhaps the most famous religious group is the Muslim Brotherhood which is active in service delivery and extremely organized in its operation throughout Egypt.

Federations: National, regional and thematic federations exist in Egypt, which is the only formal way for CSOs to network and work collectively. The law specifies that only one federation can exist per governorate and per thematic area. Some of the most well known federations are the General Federation of NGOs, the Egyptian Youth Federation to name a few.

Cooperatives: Egypt has a long history of cooperatives and different cooperatives are governed by different laws depending on the ministry they are affiliated with. The agricultural cooperatives are registered with the Ministry of Agriculture, housing cooperatives with the Ministry of Housing, and industrial cooperatives with the Ministry of Industry.⁶

When analyzing the level of cooperation and networking among CSOs it is clear that the majority of networking happens through federations, however it is still not clear how effective are these federations. On the other hand cross-sectoral cooperation is limited as has been found by the CIVICUS Civil Society Index Report. In recent years 'informal' networks and at times movements have been formed where CSOs choose to join for a specific period to advocate an issue and are free to leave the network whenever they want. An example is the informal network of human rights organizations which banded together during the presidential elections to monitor and raise awareness about importance of elections.

II. Civil Society Research at a Glance

Over the past twenty years civil society research has been exponentially growing to an extent that a plethora of publications of publications has accumulated forming a rich body of literature covering Egyptian civil society. Before delving into the details of this body of literature it is important to point out that civil society research covers a myriad of issues that tackle civil society's internal operations as well as societal issues of interest to the sector. The available civil society research is produced by different types of entities, including:

⁶ CIVICUS Civil Society Index Report Egypt 2005, P. 48

Entities Supporting Civil Society Research	Examples of these Entities ⁷
Civil Society Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Egyptian NGO Support Center – Association for the Development and Empowerment of Women (ADEW) – Alexandria Friends of the Environment Association – General Federation of NGOs – CARE Egypt
Donors operating in Egypt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – NGO Service Center (USAID funded project) – Participatory Development Project (CIDA funded project) – Friedrich Ebert Stiftung – United Nations Development Program
Academic Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – American University in Cairo – Cairo University – Al Azhar University – Johns Hopkins University
International CSOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Population Council – CIVICUS World Alliance for Citizens Participation – Freedom House – Ford Foundation
Government Bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ministry of Social Solidarity – The National Center for Criminal and Social Research – CAPMAS – Ministry of the Environment – Ministry of Economy – National Council for Childhood and Motherhood – National Council for Human Rights
Research centers/think tanks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ibn Khaldun Center for Development Studies – John D. Gerhart Center for Philanthropy and Civic Engagement – Center for Development Services – The Center for Egyptian Women’s Legal Assistance (CEWLA) – Earth Center (<i>Markaz Al Ard</i>)

Table 1: Entities Supporting Civil Society Research

⁷ These are only a few examples of organizations that have produced civil society related research in the past 20 years, they are chosen based on the author’s discretion.

In analyzing the innumerable civil society literature it was important to come up with a systemic classification that can assist the reader in getting a fuller picture of civil society research over the past twenty years. The following diagram sums up the classification and gives a snap shot of available types of civil society research.

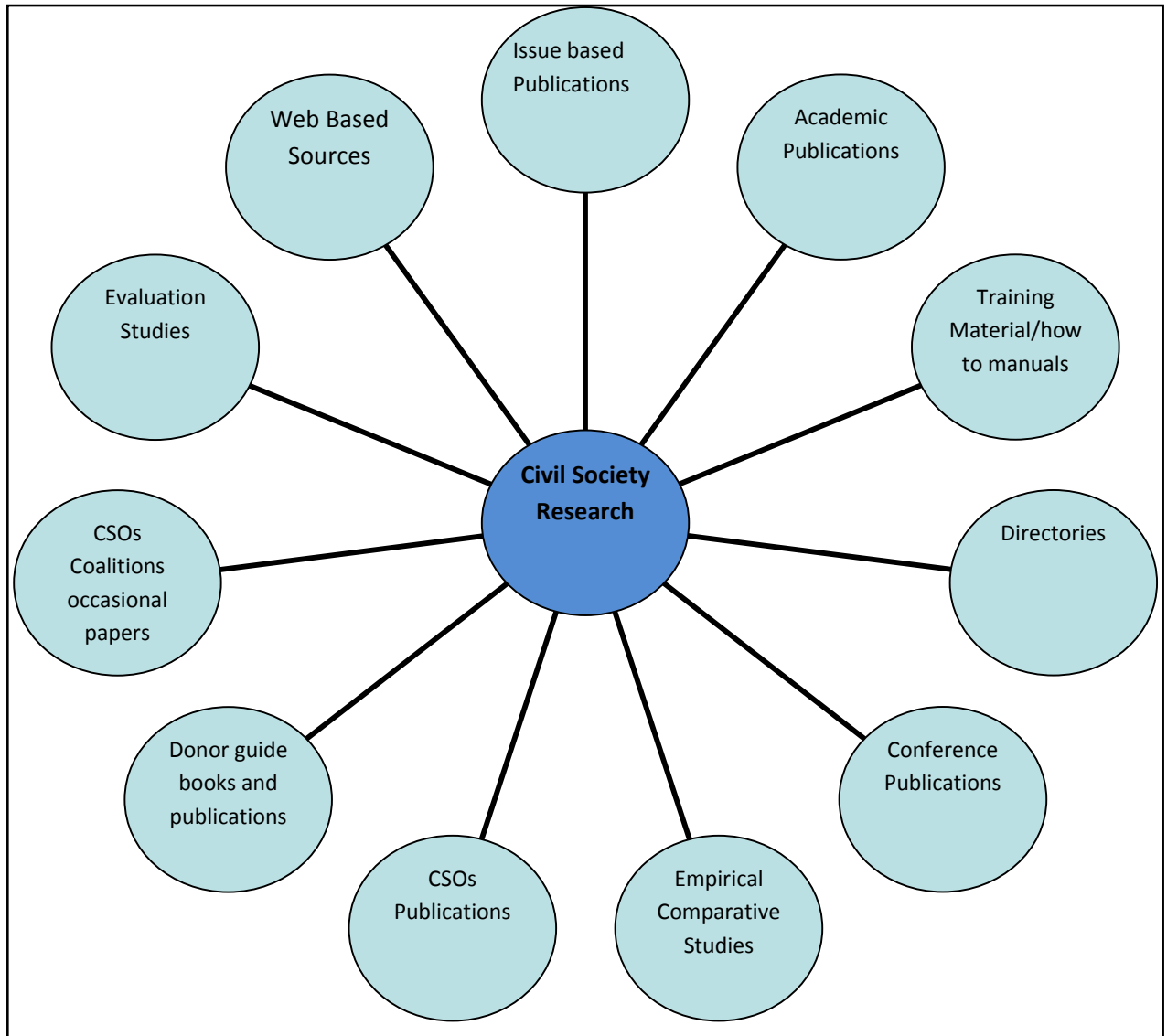


Figure 1: Egyptian Civil Society Research Classification

Academic Publications:

Academic research and publications was the first means by which Egyptian civil society was conceptually discussed and dissected starting early 1990s. Books, journal articles, chapters in edited volumes as well as dissertations have been published nationally and internationally by Egyptian academics focusing on civil society. Prominent academics such as Amani Kandil, Saad Eddin Ibrahim and Nafeesa to name a few were pioneers in conceptualizing Egyptian civil society and dissecting the historical as well as practical evolution of the concept in Egypt. These authors have continued their efforts to document civil society, however new academics have also continued to emerge and discuss specific aspects of civil society such as NGOs such as Maha Abd Al Wahab and Mariz Tadros.

Some Examples of Academic Publications:

- ☑ Ibrahim, Saad Eddin (1995). “Civil Society and Prospects of Democratization in the Arab World.” In Norton, Augustus (ed.) *Civil Society in the Middle East*, Volume 1. The Netherlands: E.J. Brill.
- ☑ Kandeel, A. & Ben Nefissa, S. *Civic associations in Egypt*. Cairo, Al Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies (in Arabic).
- ☑ Tadros, M (2004) *NGO-State relations in Egypt: Welfare assistance in a poor urban community of Cairo*. Unpublished doctoral thesis, University of Oxford, June 2004.

Conference Publications:

As the concept of civil society gained more prominence within Egyptian society donors started taking note of the important role played by civil society and more money targeting civil society capacity building started flowing into Egypt. USAID was a pioneer with its NGO Service Center, a \$35 million USAID-funded development activity to establish an independent NGO support center to serve the non-profit NGO sector in Egypt. One of the main activities of the center was to raise awareness among civil society organizations of the importance of reaching out to

their stakeholders and building awareness about their work. As a result starting 2001 the amount of conference publications increased tremendously.

Examples of Conference Publications:

- ☑ Conference Report "The Role of Civil Society Organizations in Consumer Protection."
December 2002, Cairo – Publication Supported by NGO Service Center
- ☑ The proceedings of the Second Annual Conference for the General Federation of NGOs and Civil Society, 23 – 24 April 2000
- ☑ First Conference for Youth Human Development and Economic Prosperity, Alexandria, 2003 – Published by Association for Christian Youth in Alexandria with funds from NGO Service Center.

CSOs Coalitions occasional papers:

In cases where CSOs form a network to advance a specific goal, usually occasional publications are issued in the name of the coalition/network. These papers usually explain the issue in which the coalition focuses on as well as the efforts of members of the coalition to deal with the issue. In many cases these coalitions are regional but in other cases they are Egyptian based, a case in point is the Arab Woman Association (Rabetat Al Maraa' Al Arabia), Independent Committee for Elections Monitoring and the coalition for supporting the rights of girls to name a few.

Directories:

Since the late 1990s and as CSOs and international donors started actively engaging with each other there became a need for more information about civil society as well as donors. This information needed to be precise and easily updated; as a result donors started supporting printing directories for areas they work in.

Example of Directories:

- PACT – NGO Resource Directory, 1998
- Friedrich Ebert Stiftung & Federation of Egyptian Industries Small & Medium Enterprises Directory Vol. 1 1996 (In Arabic) – Vol. 2, 2000 (In English)
- Directory for Government and Non-Government Actors working in the area of Small and Medium Enterprises in Dakahlia governorate - Published by the Businessmen Association for Development of Small & Medium Enterprises.
- Egyptian Donor Directory, 2001, NGO Service Center
-

CSOs Publications:

These publications take many forms including: newsletters, brochures, annual reports, occasional papers as well as websites. CSOs have taken upon themselves the responsibility of issuing publications to build awareness about their activities and in order to become more accountable to their stakeholders. Donor funded projects also produce similar types of project publications.

Examples of CSOs Publications:

- Civil Society and Democratization in the Arab World – The Monthly Publication of the Ibn Khaldun Center for Development Studies
- Egyptian Organization for Human Rights Annual Report 2007
- Egyptian Businessmen Association Monthly Newsletter

Donor publications:

Over the past 20 years donors' publications have increased substantially as they attempted to reach out to more beneficiaries and to clearly state their objectives in Egypt. In the past 9 years donors have increasingly utilized web technology to disseminate information about their programs, regulations and achievements in Egypt, their websites are becoming increasingly sophisticated and user friendly at the same time. Besides their own publications and guide books donors have also collaborated with their partner CSOs in issuing different issue based publications as well as directories in print format.

Examples of Donor publications:

- USAID/EGYPT ANNUAL PROGRAM STATEMENT: CIVIL SOCIETY PROGRAM NUMBER: 263-09-04 Issued on June 29, 2009
- Canadian International Development Agency: Gender Equality Orientation Package CIDA Egypt Program
- Delegation of European Union to Egypt Website - http://www.delegy.ec.europa.eu/en/eu_funded_programmes/overview.htm

Evaluations:

Different forms of Evaluation studies and publications are available to a limited extent on civil society. These evaluations are commissioned by different entities including government, civil society organizations and donors. They range from fully fledged evaluations of sectors (e.g. women CSOs) on the governorate level to success stories and case studies published by donor funded projects. These evaluations vary in their depth of analysis and range from qualitative studies pulling out anecdotal stories from the field to more quantitative assessments with surveys and statistical analysis.

Examples of Evaluations:

Government sponsored evaluations: An evaluation of Women's Clubs and Ways to Improve their Performance.

- Published by the Committee for Research and Studies at Ministry of Social Affairs, Planning Unit.
- Surveyed all 629 Women's Clubs Operating in Egypt

Donor Sponsored Evaluation: Success Stories of Citizen Participation in Decision Making – Success Stories.

- Published by Egypt Private Voluntary Organizations Development Project, Funded by USAID and managed by NCWW.
- Evaluation was a result of a competition called for by the Project where awards were given to successful CSOs and documented in this publication.

CSO Sponsored Evaluation: Evaluating CSOs in Governorate of Dakahlia

- Published by the Regional Federation of CSOs and Private Associations in Dakahlia.
- Evaluation was an analytical study of the reality of CSOs registered with MISA up until the end of 1995.

Empirical Comparative Studies:

These types of studies are usually part of a larger global or regional study that focuses on assessing specific variables relating to civil society and based on that either coming up with an index or just as simple as an overview of Egyptian civil society in relation to other countries.

Perhaps the most prominent of these studies are John Hopkins University Comparative Non-Profit Sector (CNP) Project, the CIVICUS Civil Society Index Project, CDS's Philanthropy in Egypt Project, and the Gerhart Center for Philanthropy and Civic Engagement study of Arab Philanthropy.

- ☑ The John Hopkins University Comparative Non-Profit Sector (CNP) Project is facilitated in Egypt by Dr. Amani Kandil who is the institution's local Associate. The CNP assess the economic variables relating to Egyptian civil society and relied mainly on existing statistical information to find supporting data for the different variables. For more information about the methodology visit

http://www.ccss.jhu.edu/pdfs/CNP/CNP_Methodology.pdf .

- ☑ The CIVICUS Civil Society Index Project is another assessment project that takes an action oriented approach to assessing civil society. The Center for Development Services conducted the assessment in Egypt and produced a report in 2005. The CSI employed qualitative as well as quantitative research methods to collect data on 74 indicators along four dimensions, namely: Structure, Environment, Values and Impact. To access the report visit http://civicus.org/new/CSI_Egypt.htm .

In the past four years a theme very closely entwined with civil society has emerged and received research attention in Egypt and internationally, namely philanthropy.

- ☑ A Ford Foundation funded project to study Islamic Philanthropy was launched in Egypt as part of a select group of countries including Indonesia, Turkey and the United Kingdom. The study was carried out by the Center for Development Studies in Egypt and involved a comprehensive popular survey of individual giving in Egypt. The result is

a rich book authored by Marwa Al Daly, lead researcher of the project. A summary of the book can be accessed on <http://www.nearcast.org/phil/en/page.asp?pn=23> .

- ☑ The American University in Cairo's John D. Gerhart Center for Philanthropy and Civic Engagement has also launched a study documenting Philanthropic Efforts in the Arab World in 2008, focusing mainly on highlighting success stories and unique practices from Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Lebanon, Kuwait, Qatar and United Arab Emirates. A summary of the book titled From Charity to Change: Trends in Arab Philanthropy can be downloaded from <http://www.aucegypt.edu/ResearchatAUC/rc/gerhartcenter/Pages/Publications.aspx>

Issue based Publications:

Over the past decade civil society organizations working typically in the rights sector have engaged Egyptian society by issuing various issue based publications to raise awareness and publicize specific issues. The most prominent civil society sub-sectors that issue such publications are the: Human Rights CSOs, Women's groups, Children Rights groups and the Environmental CSOs to a lesser extent. These publications are usually commissioned by CSOs and the actual research is outsourced to another institution or academic who is an expert on the subject matter. The publications range from being short leaflets mainly in the form of opinion pieces or concept notes to fully fledged books with quantitative and qualitative data collection methods to support the findings of the author. In most cases these books are distributed by the CSOs for free as part of their awareness raising campaigns.

Examples of Issues based Publications:

- ☑ *Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Violence Against Women (CEDAW) and Shariaa: “ A vision to what extent CEDAW is compatible with the Fundamental of Islamic Shariaa”* By: Dr. Amna Nosseir, Prof. of Islamic Philosophy, Al Azhar University. Published by the Center for Egyptian Women Legal Assistance.
- ☑ *Monitoring the performance of Members of the Egyptian Parliament from April 2008 to April 2009.* Authored and Published by Ibn Khaldun Center for Development Studies.
- ☑ *Facing Environmental Crimes through Legislations.* By: Counselor Mohamed Abd Al Aziz Al Gindi. Published by: Friends of the Environment Association in Alexandria.
- ☑ *Freedom of Religion and Belief in Egypt Quarterly Reports (Four Volumes).* Authored and Published by the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights.

Training Materials:

Up until 2000 training materials for CSOs were nearly non-existent and in most cases they were produced outside of Egypt (mainly in the west) and provided no case studies from the actual Egyptian context. As donors started more actively engaging in the capacity building of Egyptian civil society they started commissioning the ‘Egyptianization’ of CSOs training materials, this did not only mean the translation of training materials but also including case studies depicting the reality and challenges of Egyptian society. The NGO Service Center (USAID funded project) was the first to introduce a series of how to manuals covering management as well as sector specific materials.

Web based Sources:

In the last five years civil society organizations and donor funded projects have invested considerable amounts of resources in setting up web based resources for the benefit of civil society stakeholders, researchers and all those interested. Many websites have been developed in a way whereby they function as clearing houses for civil society related news either sector based or across all sectors. These websites alerts the users to civil society related news, events, jobs, publications and in some cases allows them to upload their own information thereby creating online databases.

Example of Web Based Sources:

- ☑ The Center for Development Services offers CSOs and companies the opportunity to upload their information and activities free of charge on their directory, it also allows users to browse and search the constantly expanding database.

<http://www.neareast.org/phil/en/page.asp?pn=10>

- ☑ Mogtamaana website is a USAID funded project managed by AUC's Kamal Adham Center for Journalism and Research and provides comprehensive and frequently updated details of civil society news all over Egypt.

http://www.mogtamana.org/who_we_are.php

III. Gaps in Civil Society Research & Recommendations for the Future

As apparent from the previous section civil society research is alive and well in Egypt. The documentation of the sector's activities has been constantly evolving over the past 20 years very much in line with the actual development of civil society itself. During the early 1990s academics were grappling with the conceptual and historical development of civil society

especially in comparison with the west and post communist Europe. As the sector started maturing and more efforts were put into growing its institutional capacity through donor efforts in the late 1990s and first two years of 2000 the shift in research was made to understand the actual magnitude of civil society and hence the proliferation of directories. By 2002 more efforts were being exerted to produce training materials to benefit all kinds of civil society organizations and help in their development. Around the same time CSOs started practicing what they have learnt from donors by putting out their own publications and raising awareness about issues of relevance to society at large. Towards 2004 and as donors started to finish their civil society support work they started to develop their own publications by documenting their own guidelines and systematically reaching out to partner CSOs. As CSOs started to understand the importance of cooperation and networking in early 2000, the number of publications by coalitions increased considerably. Also with the increase in the interest of International CSOs in comparative civil society research, Egyptian civil society was seen as a unique example that needs to be studied and documented leading to the participation of Egypt in many CSOs assessment in the past 10 years.

With this ever growing body of literature on Egyptian civil society it is not easy to pin point gaps especially that it is important that we do not reinvent research wheels but rather build on the rich tapestry of existing knowledge. The following are gaps and recommendations to fill these gaps that the author has identified that are related to areas where more research is needed:

- The systematic evaluation of CSOs activities individually and per sub –sector is an area that requires more research. The evaluation should focus not only on the achievements but more on the challenges and the impact of CSOs work.
- Updated statistical information on number of CSOs is lacking and despite an online database on the Ministry of Social Solidarity's website including names of CSOs per governorate more details and qualitative information about CSOs need to be added.

- Assessments such as the CIVICUS Civil Society Index and the Philanthropy study by CDS need to be repeated every few years. This would be a cost effective investment as the tools have been tested already and the methodology has been implemented and yielded interesting knowledge that could be used as a benchmark for the improvement of civil society.
- Issues relating to participatory governance and the involvement of civil society in decision making at the local level has not been researched much in Egypt despite the fact that in recent years a few respectable CSOs have worked on the issue. Documenting success stories in this field is necessary.
- CSOs Laws and regulations have been heavily documented in the past 10 years especially with the different changes that took place in the law since 2001. However the way in which the documentation is written is very technical and mainly targeting larger CSOs executives rather than small local level CSOs staff. Simplified and potentially illustrated versions of legal books needs to be produced.
- An impact assessment of all new development organizations is needed given the increase in the number and outreach of such CSOs. They have also employed innovative and technologically advanced outreach methods to fundraise and recruit volunteers. It is important to carry out a comprehensive impact assessment of their activities, especially in light of allegations of mismanagement of funds and announcing national audit by the Auditor General of all such organizations.
- Egyptian government and civil society have been receiving donor funding for over 30 years an assessment of aid effectiveness to Egypt is lacking from the literature. There is

a need for such a study in order to shape the future of aid to Egypt. It is important that the study is undertaken by Egyptians government and civil society rather than being imposed by donors.

- From an operational perspective this research has shown that there is a huge amount of research on civil society, however getting hold of this research has proved very difficult and required a lot of searching and guidance from colleagues and informal tips from fellow researchers. As a result it is highly recommended that a Civil Society web based portal is established to house all the existing civil society literature and facilitate the access of research through one main frame rather than it being scattered all over resource centers, CSOs and libraries throughout Egypt.
- The use of visual research in the form of documentaries, posters and story boards is very limited and is only carried out by UN agencies in Egypt. It is highly recommended that CSOs utilize this accessible research medium in order to reach out to a wider range of stakeholders especially those who cannot read, as well as those who have no access to resource centers which are mainly located in Cairo or other major urban centers of Egypt.

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