CIVICUS Civil Society Index Shortened Assessment Tool (CSI-SAT)
A Summary of the Chile CSI-SAT Project Evaluation

**Background: Purpose and Objective**

This evaluation provides CIVICUS and the Fundacion Soles (SOLES), the CSI country partner in Chile with an assessment of the implementation of the Civil Society Index - Shortened Assessment Tool (SAT) project. It is hoped that the evaluation will be used to generate lessons that will inform current and future phases of the project as well the final global evaluation undertaken by CIVICUS. It is also expected that SOLES will gain out of this evaluation through the process of self reflection as well as gauging any important lessons learned. The evaluation might also assist in developing strategies for future civil society strengthening initiatives.

The evaluation attempted to assess the outputs and outcomes of the project as developed by SOLES and CIVICUS. Besides, it also assessed the project against other key criteria, such as relevance, validity, participation, capacity building, CIVICUS assistance, project sustainability, effective use of project resources, and unintended changes and early impacts.

The evaluation included a mix of self-assessment surveys by the project partners as well as their evaluations of the outputs and outcomes of the project. The report was shared with the country partner. This document presents a brief summary of the key findings.
Key Findings

Project Outputs

A body of knowledge on the state of civil society and civil society strengthening practices at national level

According to SOLES, this output has been mostly been achieved. The rationale behind this assessment is that there was no full CSI undertaken in Chile, and therefore the project mainly relied on secondary sources.

Shared understanding of the state of civil society among a broad range of stakeholders

SOLES evaluated this output as mostly achieved. At the time of writing, SOLES was in the process of distributing and disseminating the country report and thus, it was difficult to assess how far the report will reach society at large. Nevertheless, SOLES has made efforts to make the report available to interested stakeholders and it has also posted the report on various websites used by civil society actors.

Improved self-understanding of civil society and better appreciation of its roles

SOLES evaluated this output as mostly achieved, and that civil society in Chile will benefit tremendously from this as it presents an aggregated view of civil society literature.

An assessment of civil society's strengths and weaknesses as well as priority areas for policy and action

According to SOLES, this output has been mostly achieved. Because the Country Report primarily relied on secondary sources, such as reports, academic papers and articles, newsletters, etc, it was difficult to assess the strengths and weaknesses of civil society.

Project Outcomes

Increase in knowledge based actions by civil society stakeholders

SOLES evaluated this outcome as somewhat achieved. Although the Country Report has been heavily distributed among relevant stakeholders and uploaded to strategic websites used by civil society actors, at the time of writing SOLES was not aware of any stakeholders that were making use of the CSI findings.

Project Relevance

How relevant is the project for SOLES, the civil society, and other stakeholders in the country?

SOLES evaluated the CSI project as completely relevant to their work while other members of civil society (those included in the NAG) ranked it as completely and mostly relevant. SOLES noted that the different dimensions and themes examined in the country report are completely relevant to their work. Another member noted that, the national, regional, and global comparative elements of the project were very useful and beneficial. It was also noted that the CSO project was able to complement other civil society projects in the country.
According to SOLES, the CSI project is completely relevant to the goal of strengthening civil society in Chile. This ranking is based on the positive feedback that SOLES received from the various organizations that participated in the project.

Project Validity

*Did the project succeed in providing an accurate picture of the status of civil society in the country?*

SOLES held that the project’s methodology was able to *somewhat* generate an accurate assessment of the state of civil society in Chile, while CIVICUS was of the view that the methodology was *completely* able to assess the state of civil society. Regardless of the limitations of the CSI-SAT (e.g. the reliance on secondary data), both CIVICUS and SOLES noted that the project yielded good findings and results.

Capacity Building

*Have any specific skills been gained as a result of implementing the CSI project?*

According to SOLES, specific skills were gained in the course of implementing the CSI-SAT. These included: secondary data gathering, training and facilitating skills, as well as convening and networking capacities. Overall, SOLES noted that they learned the most during the NAG meetings, as they had to learn how to convene and manage large groups.

CIVICUS Assistance

*What was the quality of CIVICUS’s support to the NCO as well as the NCO’s role in executing the project?*

1. According to SOLES, the most helpful assistance provided by CIVICUS were the systems and procedures put in place and the guidance of the toolkit. SOLES was *completely* satisfied with both of these support systems.
2. It was noted that SOLES was *completely* satisfied with the Country Support Person’s assistance.
3. CIVICUS was *mostly* satisfied with the project implementation in Chile. It was noted that the NCO was particularly skillful at fundraising and dissemination. However, the report-writing process proved to be the most difficult.

Sustainability/Replicability

*What is the NCOs perception regarding implementation of the project in the future?*

According to SOLES, it is relevant and important to implement the full CSI project. It was observed that the CSI-SAT implemented in Chile had raised relevant questions regarding CSOs which would only be explored and answered through the full CSI project implementation.
Project Resources

*To what extent has the human and financial resources been appropriate for the implementation of the project?*

1. The financial resources were deemed to be *completely* adequate for the implementation of the project. The project was very cost effective and therefore the funds that were raised were able to cover all the expenses.

2. The human resources for the project were considered to be *mostly* adequate for the successful implementation of the project by all parties asked. However, SOLES noted that they would have benefited from more experienced staff while CIVICUS noted that an additional research assistant would have been helpful.

3. Both CIVICUS and SOLES were of the view that the time allocated for the project was *mostly* sufficient. SOLES noted that the most time consuming elements of the project were the editing and revision process for the country report.

Short/Long Term Impact

*What are the early signs of impact of the project? Have there been any unintended changes (negative and/or positive)?*

1. SOLES noted that there had been changes within its own staff. Generally speaking, the staff at SOLES is more aware about the realities of civil society in Chile.

2. SOLES also noted that relations with partner organizations have improved, especially with those that were directly involved in the CSI process. A stronger sense of trust has also been established with these partners.