



**BHUTAN CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORK**

# **Bhutan Civil Society Network (BCSN):** *Present Status and the Way Forward*

**Rinzin Rinzin, Tshewang Tashi and Needup Zangpo**  
Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Eminent Member respectively  
Executive Committee, BCSN



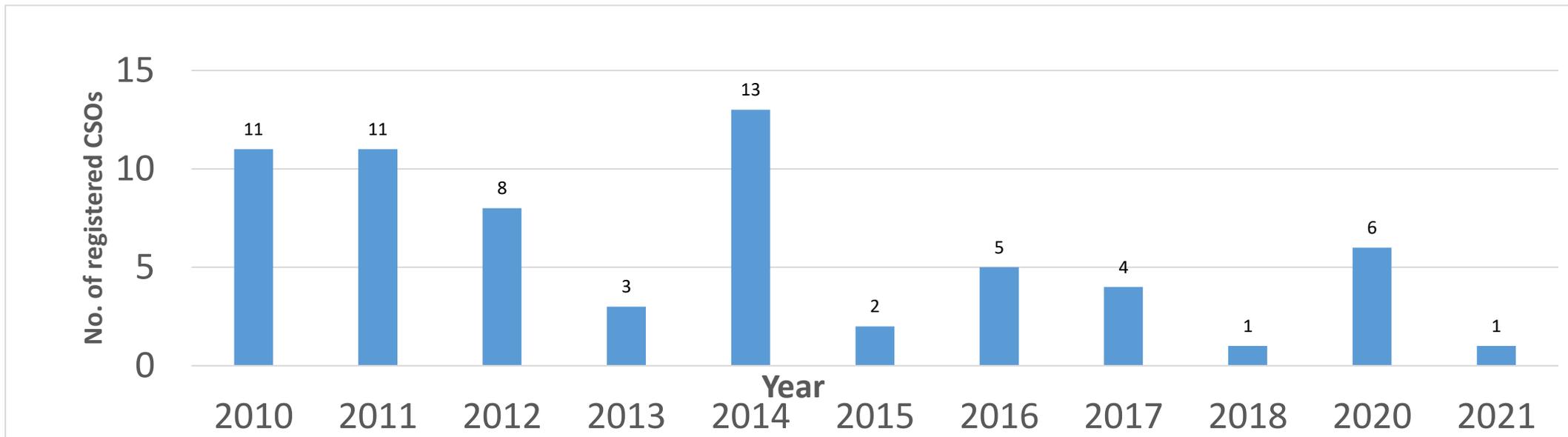
# Outline of the Presentation

1. Civil Society Organizations in Bhutan

2. Opportunities/Challenges

# Civil Society Organizations in Bhutan

- Civil Society Act 2007 of Bhutan, the then National Assembly of Bhutan
- Registrations began in 2010 during the First Parliament of Bhutan
- Currently there are 54 registered CSOs: 42 PBOs and 11 MBO
  - *25 new CSOs in the process of getting registered*



Source CSOA, 2022

# The Evolution

- Need for collaboration and coordination
  - Core Coordinating Committee(CCC) was formed in 2015
    - Poor ownership, cooperation and coordination
      - ✓ Came together and reorganized ourselves as the Bhutan Civil Society Network (BCSN) in November 2021
      - ✓ CCC rebranded as the Executive Committee of the BCSN
      - ✓ Set common Vision and Missions
      - ✓ We stand united and better coordinated now



**CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORK  
ANNUAL MEET**

**"Bringing CSOs Together"**

HELVETAS  
BRUNNEN



(2nd - 3rd December, 2021)

Lobesa, Punakha

Organized & Coordinated By:

Supported By:



# Our Services

## **BCSN works under eight (8) Thematic Groups:**

1. Arts, Culture & Entertainment (FAB, MBRC, RTAB & VAST Bhutan);
2. Education and Youth Development (BYDF, LF, LS & PSA);
3. Environment and Climate Change (RSPN, BES, BFL, BTA, CB, BES);
4. Health and Sanitation (BKF, BTO, BCS, BHA);
5. Gender and Vulnerable Groups (RSSC, ABS, RENEW, NL, DVTCSC, BNEW);
6. Good Governance, Media and Democracy (BCMD, BMF, BTI, JAB, GAB, EAB);
7. Socio-economic Development and Livelihoods (ABI, BAWE, ABTO, BTF, CAB, HAB, HRAB and SABAH); and,
8. Wellbeing: (BARCO, CARSPCA, CPA, and Lhak-sam)



# Our Contribution to Economic Development

Income generated between 2010-2019	Projection (2020-2030)
Nu. 3,315.31 Million	Nu. 3,829.18 Million
Total Employment between 2010-2019	Projection 2020-2030
507 staffs 6205 volunteers Value of volunteers work	5577 staffs 68,255 volunteers Nu. 4,200 Million

Source: Civil Society Contribution to Bhutan's 21th Century Economic Roadmap, CSO CCC, 2020



# Opportunities/Challenges

## 1. Building image, and gaining trust & confidence:

- a) Strategic Plan for EC of BCSN (2022-2024);
  - b) Communication Strategy for EC of BCSN (2022-2024);
  - c) Draft CSO-Government Collaboration Guideline 2021; and,
  - d) Assessment and Enhancement of Internal Governance Mechanism of CSOs
- CSO-Parliament Collaboration Guideline is in the pipeline
  - **We hope DPG will help develop a CSO-DP Collaboration Plan**



# Opportunities/Challenges

## 2. DPs can capitalize and leverage on CSOs' capacities

(HR, expertise, reach, information, facilities...)

- Explore for synergies and collaborations – help develop a comprehensive strategy/plan



# Opportunities/Challenges

## 3. Strengthen BCSN to enhance civic space, bridge gaps in public service delivery, promote GG...

- Help build as well as enhance capacity of CSOs (TA)
- Strengthen BCSN Secretariat for better coordination among the members of the network (office space, staff, equipment etc.)



# Opportunities/Challenges

## 3. ....Strengthen BCSN

- Help build platform for CSO-CSO networking at the regional and international level
- Difficult to sustain some CSOs
  - ✓ Help build an endowment fund for BCSN to work on sustaining CSOs in Bhutan



# Thank You!

