**A Glossary for CSOs in Afghanistan**

**Introduction:**

This glossary is an essential resource for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) operating within Afghanistan, particularly those focused on justice, the rule of law, and legal services. Afghanistan's complex legal landscape and the vital work of CSOs and NGOs in addressing legal and humanitarian needs require a clear understanding of specialized terminology.

This glossary offers a comprehensive collection of terms crucial for organizations active in justice, the rule of law, and legal services within Afghanistan. For ease of use, terms are sorted alphabetically. The glossary weaves together a broad spectrum of concepts, including those applicable to the structure and operations of CSOs and NGOs, the unique elements of Afghanistan's legal system, and the principles of Islamic law. Additionally, it includes terms frequently encountered in the de facto authority documents published on the ARLO (Afghanistan Rule of Law Observatory) platform. The goal is to provide CSOs and anyone interested in these fields a resource to improve their understanding and effective use of these complex documents, ultimately supporting their valuable work in Afghanistan.

Please note: This glossary is a starting point. For more in-depth resources, including expanded glossaries on Afghanistan's legal system and tools for civil society organizations, please visit the ARLO (Afghanistan Rule of Law Organization) website. This platform provides extensive information designed to support the crucial work of CSOs and NGOs in promoting justice, the rule of law, and legal services in Afghanistan.

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| **Term** | **Definition** |
| **Access to Justice** | The ability of individuals to obtain a fair and equitable resolution of legal issues, both criminal and civil, within a timely and affordable framework. |
| **Accountability** | The obligation of organizations to explain their decisions and actions to stakeholders and to be held responsible for their outcomes. |
| **Accountability in Law** | The obligation of individuals, organizations, and government bodies to be answerable for their actions, particularly in the administration of justice and enactment of laws. |
| **Adjudication** | The legal process by which an arbiter or judge reviews evidence and argumentation, including legal reasoning set forth by opposing parties, to come to a decision that determines rights and obligations between the parties involved. |
| **Administrative Law** | The branch of public law that governs the activities of administrative agencies of government, including rulemaking, adjudication, or the enforcement of a specific regulatory agenda. |
| **Advocacy and Lobbying** | Activities undertaken by CSOs and NGOs to influence decision-making within political, economic, and social systems and institutions, with advocacy being more about public support mobilization and lobbying focusing more on influencing legislators and officials directly. |
| **Advocacy Campaigns** | Organized efforts by CSOs to influence public policy, public opinion, or specific legislation in alignment with their mission. |
| **Advocacy Ethics** | Upholding principles of truthfulness, accuracy, and respect for all parties when engaging in advocacy work. |
| **Advocacy Networks** | Collaborative partnerships between various organizations and groups to lobby for policy changes or raise awareness about specific issues. |
| **Appellate Court** | The second level of the court system in Afghanistan hears appeals against decisions made by the Primary Courts. |
| **Arbitration** | A form of alternative dispute resolution where a neutral third party (the arbitrator) is agreed upon by the disputing parties to make a binding decision on the dispute. |
| **Badal** | The principle of revenge or retribution is central to Pashtunwali, dictating that wrongs must be avenged to restore honor. |
| **Beneficence** | The ethical principle of working for the benefit of others, striving to do good, and contributing positively to the welfare of beneficiaries and the community. |
| **Beneficiary Feedback Mechanisms** | Systems put in place by CSOs to gather input and responses about the effectiveness and impact of their work from those they aim to serve. |
| **Board of Directors** | A group of individuals elected to represent stakeholders and oversee the organization's activities. The board makes key policy, planning, and financial decisions. |
| **Bylaws** | Written rules and regulations that govern the internal management of an organization. Bylaws cover topics such as the structure of the board, election procedures, and how meetings are conducted. |
| **Capacity Assessment** | A systematic process for identifying and addressing the gaps between an organization's current capabilities and those required to achieve its mission or to respond effectively to new challenges or opportunities. |
| **Capacity Building** | Efforts to strengthen the skills, competencies, and abilities of CSOs and their staff to fulfill their missions effectively. |
| **Charitable Status** | A designation provided by the government that exempts qualified NGOs from paying certain taxes and allows donors to receive tax deductions for their contributions. |
| **Child Protection Laws** | Laws and regulations for the protection of children’s rights and welfare. |
| **Civil Law** | Non-criminal law dealing with the resolution of disputes between individuals or organizations and compensation to victims. |
| **Civil Law (Legal System)** | A legal system originated in Europe, characterized by comprehensive codified laws, in which the core principles are codified into a referable system serving as the primary source of law. |
| **Coalition Building** | The process of assembling a group of diverse organizations to work towards a common objective, often seen in advocacy and campaigning. |
| **Code of Ethics** | A set of principles designed to guide decisions and actions by outlining acceptable behaviors and practices for the organization and its staff. |
| **Collaborative Partnerships** | Strategic alliances between CSOs and other entities (government, private sector, other CSOs) to achieve common goals. |
| **Collective Action** | The collaborative effort undertaken by a group of individuals or organizations to achieve common objectives, such as social change or policy reform, often critical in the work of civil society organizations to amplify their impact. |
| **Commercial Law** | The body of law that governs business and commercial transactions in Afghanistan, designed to regulate corporate contracts, hiring practices, and the manufacture and sale of consumer goods. |
| **Common Law** | A legal system characterized by case law, which is law developed by judges through decisions of courts and similar tribunals. |
| **Community Development** | A process where CSOs/NGOs provide support to the community in order to improve the quality of life and economic well-being of people. |
| **Community Empowerment** | The process of enabling communities to increase control over their lives and assert their rights in the social, political, and economic spheres. |
| **Community Mobilization** | The process of engaging and motivating community members to participate in activities or initiatives for social change. |
| **Community-Based Organization (CBO)** | Local CSOs that are deeply rooted in the communities they serve often focus on meeting the immediate needs of those communities. |
| **Compliance** | The act of adhering to, and ensuring adherence to, laws, regulations, and standards set forth by legal authorities. |
| **Confidentiality** | The obligation to protect sensitive information obtained in the course of providing services, ensuring it's not disclosed without consent. |
| **Conflict of Interest** | Situations where an organization's or individual's personal interests could potentially interfere with their professional obligations or the organization's mission. |
| **Constitutional Law** | The body of law which defines the relationship of different entities within a state, namely, the executive, the legislature, and the judiciary, as well as the basic rights of citizens. |
| **Counter-Narcotics Law** | Specific legislation aimed at combating the production, distribution, and consumption of illegal drugs in Afghanistan. |
| **Criminal Law** | The body of law that relates to crime and the punishment of individuals who violate laws designed to protect public health, safety, and morals. |
| **Cross-Sector Partnerships** | Collaborations between CSOs/NGOs and entities from the private sector, government, or other non-profit organizations to achieve common goals. |
| **Customary Law (Urf)** | Traditional and culturally specific laws and practices that are recognized and enforced among local communities, often alongside formal legal systems. |
| **Dastar Bandi** | A ceremonial practice of turban tying, signifying the conferment of authority or responsibility, often related to leadership roles or graduation from a program. |
| **Data Ethics** | The ethical collection, storage, and use of data, especially personal or sensitive information, ensuring it is handled in a way that respects individual rights and privacy. |
| **Digital Advocacy** | The use of digital tools and platforms (social media, websites, email) by CSOs to influence policy, raise awareness, and mobilize support around their causes. |
| **Dispute Resolution Mechanisms** | Formal and informal methods used to resolve disputes, including mediation and arbitration. |
| **Diyat (Blood Money)** | Compensation paid by the perpetrator or the perpetrator’s family to the victim or victim’s family for bodily harm or murder, as prescribed in Islamic law. |
| **Donor Relations** | Strategies and processes used by CSOs and NGOs to manage their relationships with donors, including communication, reporting, and stewardship, to ensure ongoing support. |
| **Due Process** | A fundamental principle that ensures fair treatment through the normal judicial system, especially as a citizen's entitlement. |
| **Duty of Care** | The responsibility of organizations to act in the best interest of their beneficiaries, clients, and staff, ensuring their well-being and safety. |
| **Education Law** | Laws and policies concerning the education system in Afghanistan, including access to education, standards, and governance. |
| **Enforcement of Law** | The process by which the legal system ensures compliance with laws and statutes through the imposition of penalties for violations. |
| **Environmental Law** | Legal frameworks that regulate the interaction between humans and the natural environment, aiming to protect the environment from harm and manage natural resources sustainably. |
| **Equity** | A branch of law that developed alongside common law in order to remedy its rigidity, providing fairness and justice, particularly in cases where traditional legal remedies are inadequate. |
| **Equity and Fairness** | Ensuring all individuals and communities have equal access to services and resources and are treated without bias or discrimination. |
| **Ethical Fundraising** | Practices that ensure fundraising activities are carried out in an ethical manner, respecting the rights of donors and ensuring that funds are raised and used transparently and responsibly. |
| **Ethical Governance** | The system by which organizations are directed and controlled in a manner that is honest, transparent, and accountable. |
| **Family Law** | A section of Afghan law that deals with family-related issues such as marriage, divorce, custody, and inheritance, often influenced by Sharia principles. |
| **Fatwa (Legal Opinion)** | A non-binding legal opinion issued by an Islamic scholar on issues of Islamic law, often sought for guidance on religious matters. |
| **Fiqh** | Islamic jurisprudence, or the human understanding and practice of Sharia law, developed by scholars through interpretation of the Quran and Hadith. |
| **Fiscal Sponsorship** | A financial arrangement in which an established non-profit organization offers its legal and tax-exempt status to a group engaged in activities related to the sponsor’s mission. |
| **Freedom of Expression** | The right to express one's ideas and opinions freely through speech, writing, and other forms of communication. |
| **Funding Mechanisms** | Various sources and methods of financial support for CSOs, including grants, donations, and sponsorships. |
| **Fundraising Ethics** | Principles guiding the solicitation and acceptance of donations, ensuring practices are honest, respectful, and aligned with the organization's mission. |
| **Gender-Based Violence (GBV)** | Violence directed at an individual based on gender or sex, including legal responses and services. |
| **Grant Funding** | Financial support provided by governments, foundations, or corporations to CSOs and NGOs for specific projects or general operations. Grants do not need to be repaid, but they require detailed proposals and reports. |
| **Grant Writing** | The process of completing applications to secure funding provided by institutions like governments, foundations, and trusts. |
| **Grassroots Advocacy** | Mobilizing community members to press for changes at the local, state, or national level. It often involves educating the public and engaging with policymakers. |
| **Grassroots Organizing** | The practice of mobilizing community members to advocate for change or development at the local level, emphasizing direct action and active participation from the community base. |
| **Halal** | Actions or objects that are permissible according to Islamic law, in contrast to Haram, which are forbidden. |
| **Hanafi Jurisprudence** | One of the four major Sunni Islamic schools of legal thought, which is predominant in Afghanistan and places a greater emphasis on reason and analogy as sources of Islamic law. |
| **Hiba (Islamic Gift)** | A voluntary transfer of property or benefit from one individual to another, without any consideration, under Islamic law. It reflects a unilateral act of generosity intended to transfer ownership of an asset from the donor to the recipient. |
| **Hudud** | Fixed punishments under Islamic law for certain crimes considered to be against the rights of God, including theft, fornication, and consumption of alcohol. |
| **Human Rights** | Rights that are believed to belong justifiably to every person, with a focus on Afghanistan's human rights issues. |
| **Human Rights Law** | The body of international law designed to promote and protect human rights at the international, regional, and domestic levels. |
| **Humanitarian Assistance** | Programs and services provided by CSOs to save lives, alleviate suffering, and maintain human dignity during and after man-made crises and disasters. |
| **Humanitarian Relief** | Assistance provided by CSOs/NGOs aimed at saving lives, alleviating suffering, and maintaining human dignity during and in the aftermath of emergencies. |
| **Ijarah (Islamic Leasing)** | A contract under Islamic law whereby a service or asset is leased in exchange for a rent or wage. Unlike conventional leasing, the lessor retains ownership of the asset, and all terms must comply with Sharia principles. |
| **Ijma** | The consensus of Muslim scholars on a particular legal issue considered an important source of Islamic law. |
| **Ijtihad** | The process of making a legal decision by independent interpretation of the legal sources, the Quran and the Sunnah, used by a qualified jurist or scholar. |
| **Impact Assessment** | Evaluating the changes that can be directly attributed to an organization's project or service in terms of both intended and unintended outcomes. |
| **Impact Investing** | Investments made into companies, organizations, and funds with the intention to generate a measurable, beneficial social or environmental impact alongside a financial return. |
| **Impact Litigation** | Legal actions pursued to effect broader societal changes or reforms, beyond the immediate interests of the litigants. This strategy is used by CSOs to address systemic issues and set precedents that benefit wider communities. |
| **Incorporation** | The process of legally declaring a corporate entity as separate from its owners. CSOs and NGOs incorporate to gain legal recognition, which is essential for opening bank accounts, entering contracts, and ensuring liability protection. |
| **Informed Consent** | The process of ensuring individuals are fully aware of the implications and potential outcomes before agreeing to participate in a program or service. |
| **Integrity** | Upholding moral principles and being honest in all organizational dealings, ensuring actions are consistent with stated values and ethical standards. |
| **Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)** | Individuals or groups forced to flee their homes or places of habitual residence due to conflict or disaster. |
| **International Humanitarian Law** | A set of rules which seek, for humanitarian reasons, to limit the effects of armed conflict by protecting persons who are not participating in hostilities and by restricting and regulating the means and methods of warfare available to combatants. |
| **International Law** | A body of rules established by custom or treaty and recognized by nations as binding in their relations with one another. |
| **Jihad (Struggle or Effort)** | In the Islamic context, it refers to the spiritual struggle against sin; however, it has also been interpreted to mean an armed struggle for the protection or expansion of Islam. |
| **Jirga** | A traditional assembly of leaders that resolves disputes and makes decisions within Pashtun communities based on customary law. |
| **Judicial Independence** | The concept that the judiciary should be independent from the other branches of government (executive and legislative), ensuring impartiality and fairness in the administration of justice. |
| **Judicial Review** | The process by which a court examines the actions of the legislative and executive branches of government to ensure they are in compliance with the constitution or other governing statutes. |
| **Judiciary System** | Structure and function of Afghanistan's courts and legal system. |
| **Jurisdiction** | The official power to make legal decisions and judgments, often within a defined area of law or geographic territory. |
| **Jurisprudence** | The study or theory of law, aimed at understanding the origins, purposes, and complexities of legal systems, particularly the principles that govern the application and interpretation of laws. |
| **Justice** | The fair and impartial administration of law in which every individual seeks redress for grievances and disputes resolved by legal processes that are universally accessible and equally applied. |
| **Labor Law** | Regulations that govern the relationship between employers and employees, outlining rights and obligations in the workplace. |
| **Land Law** | Regulations governing land ownership, use, and transactions are crucial in Afghanistan due to issues surrounding land rights, titling, and disputes. |
| **Law** | A system of rules created and enforced through social or governmental institutions to regulate behavior, with its precise definition varying across jurisdictions but generally recognized as regulating standards of community conduct. |
| **Legal Advocacy** | The practice of promoting a legal cause or defending a legal right, often involving activities to influence public policy, legislation, or public opinion on legal issues. |
| **Legal Aid** | Services provided to individuals, typically those who cannot afford legal representation, to ensure access to legal advice, representation, and other legal services. |
| **Legal Authority** | The lawful right granted to a body or individual to make legal decisions, enforce laws, and administer justice. |
| **Legal Documentation** | Processes and requirements for official legal documents, including contracts, deeds, and court filings. |
| **Legal Education and Training** | Education programs for legal professionals and the general public on legal matters. |
| **Legal Empowerment** | Strategies aimed at enhancing the capacity of individuals, groups, and communities to understand their legal rights and to use the law effectively to advance justice and development goals. |
| **Legal Ethics** | The code of conduct governing the behavior of those in the legal profession, ensuring integrity, impartiality, and the faithful representation of clients' interests. |
| **Legal Framework** | The structured set of legal standards, rules, and principles that form the basis for the creation, application, and enforcement of laws within a specific jurisdiction. |
| **Legal Norms** | Standards of behavior that are enforceable by legal institutions. They guide actions and set the parameters for conduct that is legally acceptable within a society. |
| **Legal Obligation** | A duty imposed by law where an individual or entity is required to perform or refrain from performing a specific action. |
| **Legal Pluralism** | The existence and interaction of multiple legal systems within a single jurisdiction or geographic area, including formal statutory laws, religious laws, and customary laws. |
| **Legal Precedent** | Decisions made by courts that are used as a point of reference for future cases involving similar facts or legal issues, especially relevant in common law systems but less so in Afghanistan's civil law tradition. |
| **Legal Principle** | Fundamental truths that serve as the foundation for a system of laws and legal processes, guiding judicial decisions and legislative actions. |
| **Legal Representation** | The act of a lawyer or other legal professional acting on behalf of a client in legal proceedings, ensuring the client's rights are protected and voice heard. |
| **Legal Research** | The process of identifying and retrieving information necessary to support legal decision-making. |
| **Legal System** | An organized framework of legal principles, rules, and procedures within a geographic or governmental jurisdiction, including institutions responsible for creating, interpreting, and enforcing the laws. |
| **LegalTech** | The use of technology and software to provide legal services and support or enhance the practice of law. This can include document management systems, legal research tools, and platforms for legal services delivery. |
| **Legislative Process** | The series of steps through which a proposed law (bill) is considered and possibly becomes a law, involving debate, amendments, and voting in a legislative body. |
| **Logic Model** | A tool used by CSOs/NGOs to plan, implement, evaluate, and communicate the effectiveness of their programs and interventions. |
| **Loya Jirga** | A "Grand Assembly" in Afghanistan, a larger gathering of tribal leaders for making major decisions regarding constitutional affairs, declarations of war, or the deposition of kings. |
| **Mahr** | A mandatory payment, in the form of money or possessions, paid by the groom to the bride at the time of marriage for her exclusive use. |
| **Maraka** | Local dispute resolution gatherings where community issues are debated and resolved, often led by elders. |
| **Mediation** | A voluntary process in which a neutral third party (the mediator) assists disputing parties in reaching a mutually acceptable agreement. |
| **Melmastia** | The Pashtunwali code of hospitality and protection to every guest, regardless of differences. |
| **Military Law** | The legal norms that govern the armed forces, including discipline, conduct, and military justice. |
| **Mission Statement** | A formal summary of the aims and values of a CSO or NGO. It guides the organization's strategies, operations, and decision-making processes. |
| **Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)** | A systematic approach to collecting, analyzing, and using information to track a project's progress and its impact on beneficiaries. |
| **Muamalat (Islamic Transactions)** | Refers to Islamic commercial and financial transactions, governed by Islamic law, encompassing all aspects of economic activities and aimed at ensuring fairness, transparency, and equity in dealings. |
| **Nanawatai** | A tenet of Pashtunwali that refers to the granting of asylum or sanctuary to a person who requests it; a profound expression of the sacredness of hospitality. |
| **Narkh** | A customary practice related to setting bride prices or compensation rates in disputes, reflecting community standards and economic conditions. |
| **Needs Assessment** | A systematic process used to determine and address the needs or gaps between current conditions and desired conditions or wants, often employed by civil society organizations to tailor their programs effectively to community needs. |
| **Negotiation** | The process by which parties in a dispute communicate directly to resolve their differences and reach a settlement. |
| **NGO Governance** | The framework of rules, systems, and processes that ensure the overall direction, effectiveness, supervision, and accountability of an NGO, with a focus on fulfilling its mission while adhering to legal and ethical standards. |
| **Nikah** | An Islamic marriage contract between a man and a woman outlining the rights and responsibilities of both parties. |
| **Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)** | Organizations that operate independently from any government, including those providing legal services. |
| **Nonmaleficence** | The obligation to avoid causing harm or suffering to individuals or communities through the organization's activities or decisions. |
| **Nonprofit Governance** | The framework of rules, practices, and processes by which CSOs are directed and controlled, including boards of directors and advisory committees. |
| **Non-Profit Management** | The administration of non-profit organizations, including strategic planning, fundraising, marketing, and financial management. |
| **Organizational Ethics** | The principles and standards governing the behavior of individuals within an organization, including integrity, accountability, and transparency. |
| **Outcome Measurement** | The systematic tracking of the extent to which targeted outcomes are achieved as a result of the intervention or services provided by CSOs/NGOs. |
| **Participatory Approaches** | Methods that involve stakeholders, especially local communities, in the planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of projects and programs. |
| **Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PM&E)** | An approach that involves all stakeholders, especially beneficiaries, in the process of monitoring and evaluating projects, policies, or programs, facilitating accountability and learning. |
| **Pashtunwali** | The traditional lifestyle and code of conduct for the Pashtun people, encompassing principles such as hospitality, justice, and revenge, serving as a non-written legal and moral code. |
| **Philanthropy** | The desire to promote the welfare of others, often expressed by the generous donation of money to good causes by individuals or foundations. |
| **Policy Advocacy** | Efforts to influence legislative and regulatory decisions at various levels of government, usually through direct engagement with policymakers and stakeholders. |
| **Policy Analysis** | The examination and evaluation of public policies and how they affect organizations, with the aim of developing recommendations for policy improvement. |
| **Primary Court** | The first level of the court system in Afghanistan, where most civil and criminal cases are initiated and heard. |
| **Privacy Protection** | Ensuring the personal information of clients, beneficiaries, and staff is collected, stored, and used in a manner that respects their privacy and complies with relevant laws. |
| **Private Law** | A part of a civil law legal system which is part of the jus commune that involves relationships between individuals, such as the law of contracts or torts. |
| **Professional Competence** | The necessity for individuals providing legal services or working in NGOs/CSOs to maintain a high level of knowledge and skills in their field. |
| **Professional Development** | Activities and programs designed to enhance the knowledge, skills, and abilities of an organization's staff and volunteers. |
| **Programmatic Funding** | Financial support directed towards specific projects or programs within a CSO, as opposed to general operational costs. |
| **Project Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)** | The practice of tracking the progress and assessing the outcomes of projects to ensure they achieve their intended goals. |
| **Property Rights and Land Disputes** | Legal rights related to the ownership and use of land, including dispute resolution. |
| **Public Awareness Campaigns** | Efforts by CSOs/NGOs to educate and inform the public on critical issues to inspire action and change. |
| **Public Benefit Organization (PBO)** | Organizations recognized by law as existing for the benefit of the public, engaging in activities that promote social welfare, development, and philanthropy without the primary motive of profit. |
| **Public Interest Litigation** | Legal action initiated in a court of law for the enforcement of public interest or general interest in which the public or a class of the community has a pecuniary interest or some interest by which their legal rights or liabilities are affected. |
| **Public Law** | That part of law which governs relationships between individuals and the government, and those relationships between individuals which are of direct concern to society. |
| **Qadi (Islamic Judge)** | A judge ruling in accordance with Islamic Sharia law, who is responsible for settling disputes, executing legal judgments, and interpreting Islamic law in both civil and criminal matters. |
| **Qanun (Secular Law)** | Refers to secular laws or statutes that operate alongside or are incorporated into Islamic law within a legal system, particularly in contexts like Afghanistan where both secular and religious laws coexist. |
| **Qisas** | The Islamic principle of retribution or equitable retribution, allowing for a victim or victim's family to seek a justly equivalent punishment for a proven offense. |
| **Qiyas (Analogical Reasoning)** | In Islamic law, the use of reasoning by analogy to apply principles or rulings from known cases to new cases when the Quran and Hadith do not directly address the situation. |
| **Rahn (Islamic Collateral)** | An Islamic financial term for secured lending or collateral, where an asset is pledged against an obligation. Rahn ensures the creditor's security without resorting to interest-based transactions. |
| **Refugee Law** | Laws and regulations that govern the protection and rights of people fleeing persecution from other countries. |
| **Resilience Building** | Activities and programs designed to strengthen the capacity of communities to withstand and recover from crises and shocks. |
| **Resource Mobilization** | The process of securing new and managing existing financial resources in a way that aligns with a CSO's or NGO's mission and objectives. |
| **Riba** | The Islamic term for usury, referring to unjust, exploitative gains made in trade or business, which is prohibited under Sharia law. |
| **Rule of Law** | The principle that all individuals, institutions, and entities, public and private, including the state itself, are accountable to laws that are publicly promulgated, equally enforced, and independently adjudicated, and which are consistent with international human rights norms and standards. |
| **Sadaqah (Voluntary Charity)** | An act of charity in Islam that is voluntary, driven by benevolence, aiming to provide assistance without expecting anything in return, distinct from the obligatory zakat. |
| **Sharia Law** | Islamic law derived from the Quran and the Hadiths, covering all aspects of day-to-day life, including politics, economics, banking, business law, contract law, and social issues. |
| **Shura** | An advisory council or consultation body that debates matters of governance based on the Islamic principle of consultation. |
| **Social Accountability** | The practice of holding public officials, politicians, and service providers to account through civic engagement by CSOs and NGOs. |
| **Social Accountability Mechanisms** | Tools and approaches used by citizens, CSOs, and other civil society stakeholders to hold public officials, government institutions, and service providers accountable for their actions. |
| **Social Enterprise** | An organization that applies commercial strategies to maximize improvements in human and environmental well-being rather than maximizing profits for shareholders. |
| **Social Entrepreneurship** | The use of startup companies and other entrepreneurs to develop, fund, and implement solutions to social, cultural, or environmental issues. |
| **Social Impact Assessment** | The process of analyzing the effects of organizational activities on the social fabric of the communities in which they operate. |
| **Social Innovation** | The process of developing and deploying effective solutions to challenging and systemic social and environmental issues in support of social progress. |
| **Social Justice Advocacy** | Efforts to create equitable access to opportunities, rights, and resources for all people, especially those marginalized in society. |
| **Social Justice Initiatives** | Efforts by CSOs to create a fair and equitable society by challenging injustice and valuing diversity. |
| **Social Responsibility** | The commitment of organizations to act for the benefit of society at large, beyond their direct interests or profit margins. |
| **Stakeholder Engagement** | The process by which CSOs involve individuals, communities, partners, and donors who may be affected by or have an interest in their projects and initiatives. |
| **Statutory Law** | Law enacted by a legislative body, such as Congress or a state legislature, as opposed to case law or common law. |
| **Stewardship** | The careful and responsible management of resources entrusted to the organization, including finances, human resources, and information. |
| **Strategic Alliance** | A formal agreement between two or more organizations to work together on a project or achieve a particular goal while remaining independent entities. |
| **Strategic Planning** | The process used by CSOs and NGOs to define their strategy or direction and make decisions on allocating their resources to pursue this strategy, including capital and people. |
| **Sulh** | A customary practice of peacemaking or reconciliation, often involving negotiations or mediation to settle disputes. |
| **Sunnah** | The body of traditional Islamic customs and practices is based on the sayings and actions of the Prophet Muhammad. |
| **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** | A collection of 17 global goals set by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015 for the year 2030, which many CSOs and NGOs align their projects and initiatives with to address global challenges. |
| **Sustainable Practices** | Adopting and promoting environmental, economic, and social practices that protect the planet and ensure the long-term viability of projects and initiatives. |
| **Takaful (Islamic Insurance)** | A system of Islamic insurance based on the principles of mutual assistance and voluntary contribution, where risks are shared collectively by the group in compliance with Sharia law. |
| **Tazir** | Discretionary punishment under Islamic law can be administered for offenses not fixed by the Quran or Hadiths. |
| **Tazir (Discretionary Punishment)** | In Islamic law, punishment for offenses at the discretion of the judge or ruler of the state is for crimes that do not fall under the Hudud or Qisas categories. |
| **Tegin** | A traditional leadership or chieftainship role within tribes, with responsibilities including the administration of customary law. |
| **Tor** | A custom related to the concept of 'honor' in Pashtun society often involves issues of female chastity and family honor. |
| **Transitional Justice** | The ways countries emerging from periods of conflict and repression address large-scale or systematic human rights violations. |
| **Transparency** | The practice of openly sharing information about the organization's operations, finances, and decisions with stakeholders. |
| **Transparency and Accountability** | Principles that demand CSOs and NGOs operate in an open manner, providing stakeholders with clear information about their activities, funding, and results and holding themselves accountable for their outcomes. |
| **Transparency in Law** | The principle is that legal processes, decisions, and laws themselves should be open and accessible to the public, ensuring accountability and public trust in the legal system. |
| **Ulema (Islamic Scholars)** | A collective term for Muslim scholars recognized for their knowledge and interpretation of Islamic law and theology. Ulema play a critical role in guiding religious practice, education, and jurisprudence. |
| **Voluntary Sector** | A segment of society that includes non-profit organizations and entities that operate independently from the government. |
| **Volunteer Management** | Strategies and practices for recruiting, training, and retaining volunteers to support the organization's goals and activities. |
| **Volunteer Rights** | Recognizing and respecting the rights of volunteers, including their right to a safe environment, appropriate training, and clear communication about their roles and responsibilities. |
| **Wakalah (Islamic Agency)** | A contract where one party appoints another to act on its behalf in transactions based on mutual consent. It's widely used in Islamic banking and finance for the representation and management of funds. |
| **Waqf (Endowment)** | A charitable endowment under Islamic law, where property is donated for religious or charitable activities, creating a trust for a specified purpose. |
| **Whistleblower Protection** | Safeguards for individuals who expose unethical or illegal practices within their organization, ensuring they are not retaliated against. |
| **Workshop and Seminars** | Formal gatherings focused on specific topics where participants are engaged in discussions and activities designed to enhance their understanding and skills. |
| **Youth Advocacy** | The practice of supporting and promoting policies, programs, and initiatives aimed at safeguarding and enhancing the interests and well-being of young people often involves their active participation and leadership. |
| **Youth Engagement** | Strategies and programs aimed at involving young people in meaningful decision-making processes and activities within CSOs and NGOs. |
| **Zakat** | One of the Five Pillars of Islam refers to the obligatory act of giving a set percentage of one's wealth to charity. |
| **Zakat al-Fitr (Charity of Fast-Breaking)** | A form of alms-giving is treated in Islam as a religious obligation or tax, which, by its nature, is due from every Muslim at the end of Ramadan. |
| **Zero-Based Budgeting (ZBB)** | A budgeting process in which all expenses must be justified for each new period, starting from a "zero base," often used by NGOs to ensure efficient use of resources. |