

Overall Update

Completing Phase I

- ❖ Completed the research paper series, available at <http://sustainability.linclocal.org/research/>
- ❖ Set up full project website (<http://sustainability.linclocal.org/>)
- ❖ Distributed research via organizational networks, including blog post on Philanthropy New Digest (<http://pndblog.typepad.com/pndblog/2018/06/the-system-matters-in-cso-financial-sustainability.html>)
- ❖ Planning webinar for USAID in late July, larger community in late August
- ❖ Presented research back in Uganda and DRC, see: <https://chimpreports.com/civil-society-moves-to-improve-financial-sustainability/> for coverage of Uganda
- ❖ Have pitched a few industry news sources for more coverage (Devex, SSIR), and are working towards GrantCraft guide.
- ❖ **But still have some gaps in distribution, and need another “push” to wider community! More outlet suggestions or connections would be very much welcomed.**

Moving to Phase II

- ❖ Started with the six countries for the research, and in consultation with USAID Local Works office and USAID Missions selected three to establish “Acton Learning Groups” (ALGs): Colombia, DRC, and Uganda
- ❖ The idea is that these ALGs will take the research as a starting point, and then prioritize challenges to local sustainability and develop some activities that can help address these challenges.
- ❖ We have introduced the concept while sharing back the research in DRC and Uganda, as well as onboarding local facilitators to run these groups in each country.
- ❖ More details on the ALGs in the following sections.

Phase II: From Research to Action

Action Learning Group Objectives

Each Action Learning Group will:

- ❖ Collectively identify and prioritize activities that will have an impact on local organizations' financial sustainability
- ❖ Allow for information sharing among like-minded members on financial sustainability models and strategies
- ❖ Provide ongoing learning opportunities for members and stakeholders

The Action Learning Group process:



Action Learning Group Membership

Who will be engaged with the ALG?

1. Engaged Stakeholders

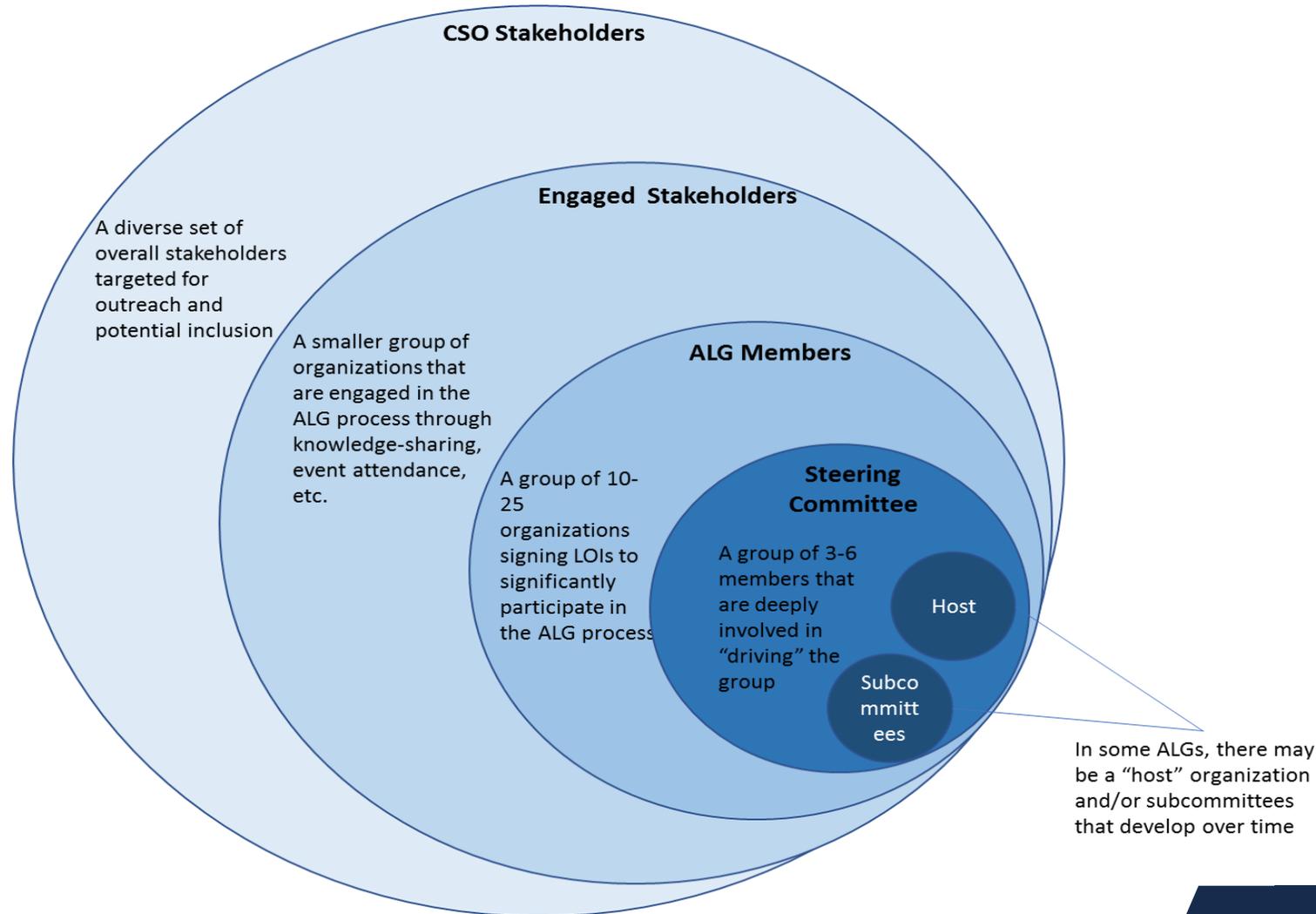
Occasional engagement in events and knowledge sharing

2. ALG Members

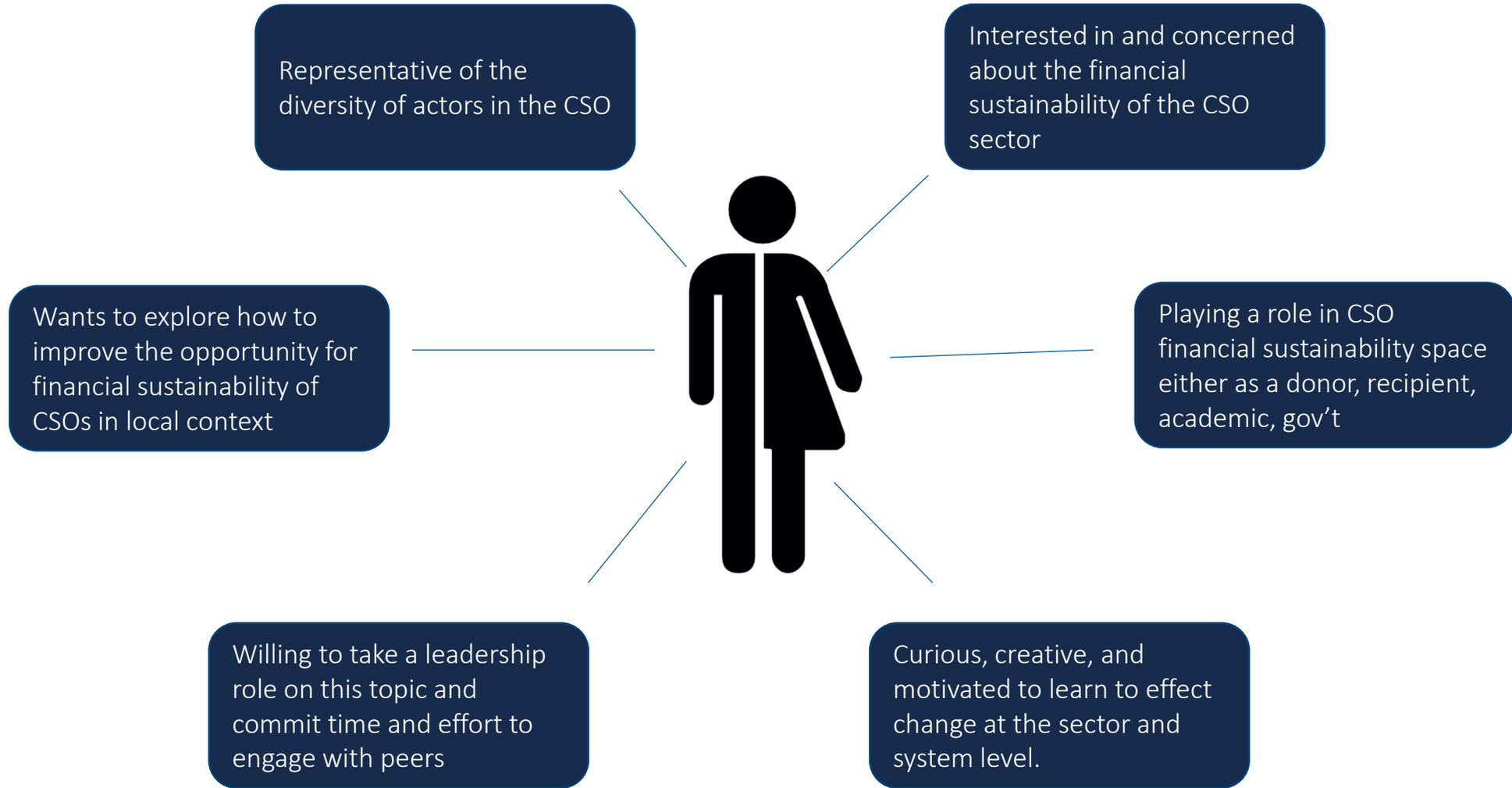
Regular meeting attendance and commitment to knowledge sharing and contribution of ideas

3. The Steering Committee (possible)

Potential sub-group based on ALG direction



ALG Member Profile



Funding & Learning from ALG activities

- ❖ The ALG process and facilitation is supported through the Facilitating Financial Sustainability Activity
- ❖ There is also some funding available to support the implementation of activities **collectively agreed upon** by ALG members → a large part of the group activities will be prioritizing and developing these activities.
- ❖ We are currently considering the best methods to ensure that we can capture learnings from the ALG process and understand the impact → considering principles such as outcome harvesting, most significant change, network mapping

Issues for Consideration

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- ❖ Are there other/past efforts that have tried to use a similar member-driven participatory approach to support sustainability that we could learn from?
- ❖ What are some best practices we can consider in ensuring that all voices are heard during the process through which the ALGs co-design activities (considering that these will be in-person meetings with groups of 15-30)?
- ❖ Are there any particular methods or tools we should consider in documenting the process and results of this sort of group?