

Civil Society as a Reemerging Instrument of Foreign Policy After Covid-19

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Covid-19 Sonrası Dış Politikanın Yeniden Ortaya Çıkan Aracı Olarak Sivil Toplum

Öz

Günümüzde sivil toplumlar ister hayırseverlik ister insani yardım, isterse kalkınma odaklı olsun, kendi ülkelerinde ve hedefledikleri ülkelerde daha temel hizmetler sunmaktadır. Diğer ülkelerde çalışan sivil toplumlar, istisnai hizmetler sunarak kendi ülkelerinin dış politika hedeflerini ilerletmelerine yardımcı olabilir ve bu da onları uluslararası diplomatik ilişkileri geliştirmek için etkili bir yumuşak güç aracı haline getirir. Bu çalışma, günümüzün birbirine bağlı dünyasında, özellikle COVID-19 krizi ışığında, bir diplomatik strateji olarak sivil toplumun güçlendirilmesini incelemektedir. Burada amaç, sivil toplum, yumuşak güç ve dış politika arasında bir bağlantı kurmaktır. Ayrıca, küresel sivil toplumun dünya çapında artan öneminin dış politika mekanizmaları üzerindeki son etkileri de incelenmektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Sivil Toplum, Dış Politika, Araç, İşlevler, İlişkiler

Makale Türü: Araştırma Makalesi

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Abstract

In contemporary times, civil societies, whether focused on charity, humanitarian aid, or development, have been providing more essential services in their countries and the countries they target. Civil societies working in other countries can help home countries advance their foreign policy goals by providing exceptional services, making them an effective soft power tool for enhancing diplomatic relations between nations. This study investigates the strengthening of civil society as a diplomatic strategy in today's interconnected world, particularly in light of the COVID-19 crisis. The goal is to establish a connection between civil society, soft power, and foreign policy. It also examines the recent effects on foreign policy mechanisms due to the increasing significance of global civil society worldwide.

Keywords: Civil Society, Foreign Policy, Instrument, Functions, Relations

Paper Type: Research Article

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1. Introduction

Immediately after the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the novel coronavirus pandemic, the world succumbed to the most unexperienced scenarios in the near history of border closures, lockdowns, and travel bans. Consequently, states' economies, corporations' businesses, and individuals' incomes declined. Hence, the increase in the level of poverty and hunger serves as a prime mover in the rise in crime rates and lawlessness in most parts of the world. These natural, unexpected developments gingered the numerous social movement organizations, nongovernmental organizations, nonprofit organizations, voluntary organizations, and social economy organizations, as the case may be that are generally under the descriptor of 'third sector' (Dalton, 2014: 41) of the different developed world to take a new shape in rendering services in developing world, remarkable functions which make their home countries more relevant around the globe. These new approaches have metamorphosed the status of civil society once again from mere social and voluntary organizations to vital foreign policy instruments.

Civil society is described as a nongovernmental organization whose prevalence and impacts are part of what soft power consists of (Yavuzaslan and Çetin, 2016: 398). It is reemerging as a vital institution of soft power principle in the modern world. By so doing, it is positioning itself perfectly well as a zestful tool of states' foreign policy. Based on the mutually enriching interactions between state and civil society, the latter has now retaken the crucial role of enhancing the foreign policy objectives of the former. As a result of the widening gap left by the developing states in the area of human and community development, the magnificent role of civil society has now crisscrossed the local and global environment (Sfeir-Younis, 2023: 31). These roles can be seen in areas such as environment, human security, human rights, social and economic services, gender equality, discrimination, advocacy, and health improvement. In the current era, when several diseases such as HIV, Malaria, Ebola, and the novel coronavirus are or have been battling the world, civil society revigorated the pivotal role it has been playing in the global health sectors. In this way, it is shaping the preferences of some countries that would enhance the foreign policy goals of its home country.

At the peak of the COVID-19, from North America to South America, from Europe to Asia, and from Australia to Africa, economic, political, and social sectors have been grievously affected by the adverse effects of the virus. Civil society organizations (CSOs) worldwide, especially those from developed countries, have been trying to render services in developing countries to ameliorate the haphazard situations. In the course of doing so, CSOs promote the image and enhance the prestige of their home country abroad in an ancillary manner. It is observed that the current situation has positioned the developed countries' CSOs in developing countries with a solid link to the community in which they live through building broader participation, which makes them gain more incredible momentum for themselves and their home countries (Mullard and Aarvik, 2020:4). These developments have given more room for increasing diplomatic relations under the auspices of the functionality of civil society in the global environment.

The role played by CSOs in least-developed countries cannot be overemphasized, from the promotion of the rights of the less privileged to the rendering of essential services, the Finnish CSOs, for example, as indicated in its African Strategy, published in 2021, had a long history of development activities in some East African countries that consists Ethiopia, Uganda, Somalia, Kenya and Tanzania (Umfi, 2022). Likewise, American CSOs such as the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), in its effort to advance the United States Central Asia Strategy, reinforce regional connectivity and cooperation, the rule of law, respect for human rights, securing of regional autonomy and political, economic and security interests of the central Asian countries with the sole aim of building linkages with the United States and beyond (USAID, 2020: 19). After the coronavirus outbreak, the United Kingdom's soft power superpower CSOs have doubled the strategies they have been using to build

support for development in developing countries. Similarly, Australia has developed a transactional approach to buttress its international diplomacy through its international education strategy. For instance, the Australian Global Alumni Strategy is a vigorous strategy of public diplomacy initiative that builds on the success of the country's past educational development and will bring together ex-alums to promote and advance its national interest.

The CSOs have undoubtedly increased the level of acceptability of their home countries in the regions or countries they serve. As a benefit of this acceptability, the home countries of the CSOs can influence the policies of some areas and countries in which their CSOs are magnificently assisting economically, socially, educationally, and health-wise. This study examines civil society's invigoration as a foreign policy tool in the contemporary global village, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic. The aim is to draw an intersection between civil society, soft power, and foreign policy. It also analyses the new impacts on foreign policy machinery due to the growing importance of global civil society worldwide. This study adopts collaborative governance and descriptive analysis to justify the relevance of civil society as a resurgence tool for promoting foreign policy in the post-COVID-19 era. Considering the increasing need for a collaborative effort to wipe out dangers challenging the global village, which civil societies are championing worldwide, civil societies are incessantly becoming relevant in domestic and foreign policy, a point this article aims to justify.

2. Civil Society, Soft Power, and Foreign Policy

By definition, civil society is seen as a societal organization in the exterior of the family, market, and state. In other words, neither the government nor the business corporation supplements the functions of the state and, in some cases, serves as a corrective to the fallibility of authority through advocacy campaigns. In furtherance of the definition of civil society, the European Union sees it as "all forms of social action carried out by individuals or groups who are neither connected to nor managed by the State" (Cooper, 2018: 4).

Soft power, conversely, can be defined as the power of influence rather than coercion, the power of motivation instead of forces, or the power of enticement instead of enforcement. The father of soft power, Joseph Nye, defines soft power as the ability to attract and influence others to get what you want by utilizing political ideas, cultural norms, and policies. In another work, Nye sees soft power as a country's power momentum created by all the possibilities and opportunities a country has apart from direct military force (Nye, 2005). Whatever definition is given to soft power, it must be an attribute of upholding the foreign policy objectives of its state through non-military actors such as civil societies.

Foreign policy has been given several interpretations and definitions; in whatever case, it donates domestic invigorated foreign actions taken by the state to achieve specific interest in the international arena. A favorable definition of foreign policy for this article is given by Marijke Breuning, who sees foreign policy as "the totality of a country's policies toward and interactions with the environment beyond its borders" (Adamczyk and Rutkowska, 2020: 42). Several global civil societies have been performing tremendously far beyond their home country's borders, neighbors, and surroundings, and in doing these, they serve as tools for foreign policy.

Civil societies are categorized as soft power agencies and regarded as foreign policy instruments because they can influence their clients to act in a manner they would otherwise not have done - through carrots rather than stick methodologies. The nexus of civil society, soft power, and foreign policy can be best explained by paraphrasing Robert Putnam's idea (1993); in the contemporary global village, civic associations and organizations in civil society are not only vital for democracy but also serve as an essential instrument for foreign policy. However, they reinforce "habits of the heart" crucial to a stable and effective democratic institution that ensures a vibrant foreign policy under the auspices

of soft power principles of their home state (Putnam, 1993: 11). This article interprets and analyzes relevant literature to justify the notion that civil societies are rising instruments of foreign policy for several countries around the globe.

3. Methodology

This research aims to analyze the emerging relevance of CSOs in foreign policy in the contemporary global village. This study examines the roles of global civil societies and how these functions enhance their appeal to the institutions they serve and, most importantly, their home countries. It shall also respond to the question of how vital civil societies are as revival instruments of foreign policy after the COVID-19 pandemic that renders countries vulnerable to one another and underscores the need for collaboration and togetherness in the contemporary rubrics of international relations.

We gathered and analyzed data on the critical factors of civil society in global diplomacy from articles on the Clarivate Web of Science database, as well as from books, websites of civil societies and International Organizations, and websites of well-known soft power organizations worldwide.

In order to sincerely justify the magnificent contribution of civil societies in promoting the foreign policy objectives of their home country, this article adopts collaborative governance as a vital methodology that facilitates the collaboration of both public and private stakeholders in joint forums with public agencies to participate in decision-making processes that aim to reach a particular national or international goal (Ansell and Gash, 2007: 543). The states worldwide have to collaborate with non-state actors to achieve their foreign policy objectives in the contemporary international environment, considering that the world is increasingly becoming complex and actors are highly becoming interdependent in what might be termed a symbiotic relationship. Nonprofit organizations in most developed states partner with state entities to provide social amenities and developmental infrastructures and collaborate intensively to promote their home countries' diplomatic goals abroad (Carboni et al., 2017: 135). Based on this assumption, this article analyzes the relevance of CSOs as vital instruments of foreign policy, especially after COVID-19, when the benefits of humanitarian gestures and the need for cordial relations between states become much more apparent.

The current world governments are networking with non-state actors to be able to resolve complex internal issues such as poverty, inequality, insecurity, and unemployment as well as major international issues such as global warming, human trafficking, financial crises, human rights abuse, drug trafficking and terrorism (Ojo and Mellouli, 2018: 106). Moreover, the massive failure of the hard way, in other words, military strategy in sustaining and increasing states' relevance in the global community, gives way to the rise and adaptation of soft ways of inducement, such as collaborative governance, which denotes the synergetic approach of states and non-state actors such as civil society in promoting and protecting the former's interest in the international environment. To justify our assumption, we selected seven outstanding civil societies working in different parts of the world in at least one of the three focal areas we determined: advocacy, development, and humanitarian. These three areas are vital as they are the areas through which the hearts and minds of the people can be easily touched. In selecting these civil societies, first, we randomly choose seven countries to represent the world's four hemispheres: Southern, Northern, Eastern, and Western. Australia represents the southern hemisphere, America represents the western hemisphere, Finland and Türkiye represent the northern hemisphere, the UK and Switzerland represent the northern and eastern hemispheres, and Kenya represents the north and southern hemispheres. In each of these countries, we randomly select one civil society organization among the numerous in the country that are rendering services at least in one of the three identified focal areas in at least two continents. We testify to this by analyzing the functions and services published on their websites that were posted during and after the COVID-19. We then analyzed how their roles in the global climate help promote their home countries' foreign

policy objectives. We consider these civil societies outstanding in their contributions to the management of coronavirus and their humanitarian and developmental services worldwide. We testify to this by searching several articles written about them after the Corona pandemic, which were published in journals under TR Dizin and Web of Science. To balance thought, at least one civil society from different regions of the world is selected to justify our point.

In analyzing the gathered data, descriptive analysis was employed to interpret and justify the assumption that in the modern world, civil societies are becoming increasingly important tools in the conduct of foreign policy and diplomatic procedures. The article analyses the foreign policy networks of some states with civil societies to achieve diplomatic goals in the international arena.

4. Results and Discussion

The increasing importance of civil society in several governments results in novel impacts on foreign policy apparatuses in the context of soft power among several nation-states (Wright, 2018: 65). Since their inception, CSOs have been critical to lifting people and an antidote to humanity's numerous challenges. By resolving a series of hiccups detrimental to the masses' social and economic lives, civil societies are winning the hearts and minds of the people they serve, both for themselves and their home countries. This is made highly conceivable by the fact that civil societies have been able to handle a wide range of normative issues, including social justice, equity, poverty, empowerment, and security, more effectively than the government has been able to (Sfeir-Younis, 2023: 30).

Table 1. Example of Civil Societies as Instruments of Foreign Policy for Selected Seven Countries

N	Home Countries	Civil Societies	Service Countries	Strategies	Roles	Foreign Policy Achievements
1	Australia	Union Aid Abroad	Global	-International Affiliation -Organizational Networking	-International Developmental Programs Assistance -Humanitarian Development Assistance -Global Justice Advocacy Programs	Increases Australian relevance around the world
2	Finland	Finnish Felm	Global	Collaborative Governance	-Promotion of Human Dignity and Justice -Enhances Social and Economic Justice	Increases Finland's cordial relations with the target countries
3	Kenya	The Youth Cafe	Africa	Regional Network	-Promoting Democracy and Good Governance -Enhance Innovation and Agriculture	Increases Kenya's cultural and diplomatic relations in Africa
4	Switzerland	BPW International	Global	International Networks	-Promoting women's entrepreneurship and girls' skills -Organizing internship programs	Increases Swiss connectivity with other countries
5	Türkiye	Deniz Feneri	Central Asia, Balkans, and Africa	National and local collaboration	-Poverty alleviation and support development	Increases Türkiye's relevance in Central, Balkans and Africa

6	United Kingdom	OXFAM	Global	-Organizational Network -Collaborative governance	-Fight against inequality, Injustice, and Poverty -Promoting equality, empowerment, and inclusiveness	Increases global interconnectivity
7	United States	Open Society Foundation	Global	Local collaboration	-Promoting justice and human rights -Assisting vulnerable refugees	Promotes the United States and Democratic Acceptability around the world

Source: Produced by the authors.

Take, for instance, the services of the community church organizations agencies of the Uniting Church of Australia in Papua New Guinea, organized to provide healthcare services and disseminate knowledge about public health initiatives under the PNG Church Partnership Program, which is sponsored by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) has done tremendously well in uplifting people who are poor and underserve. These charitable roles have made the organization win many mementos for its home country. Under the Church Partnership Program (CPP), Australia and Papua New Guinea (PNG) have collaborated to provide vital health and education services, particularly in rural and isolated areas. Additionally, various activities supporting gender equality and social inclusion, peace and prosperity, and disaster risk reduction in Papua New Guinea have been offered (UnitingWorld, 2023). These gestures have helped to promote a close bond between Australia and several African countries, thereby increasing relations and advancing the acceptability of the provider's foreign policy objectives by the recipient.

Aid to nations from nations, for example, is a strategic soft power gadget adopted by several nation-states to promote their policies via civil societies abroad. For instance, in Australia, CSOs deliver the country's assistance and development program globally and collaborate with regional multilateral partners to increase the capability and prosperity of people in neighboring nations (Burns, 2023:45). It has been observed that the country's foreign policy agenda has been effectively promoted globally through a partnership between the Australian Foreign Ministry and Civil Societies. Australia's worldwide development and humanitarian activities are mainly carried out via several not-for-profit organizations. They must thus be central to its foreign policy, aiming to eliminate poverty and inequality and advance human rights worldwide.

The International Australian home-based organizations that render services in the developing world in different fields are CARE Australia, ActionAid Australia, World Vision Australia, and PLAN International Australia. These organizations partner with several organizations worldwide while raising funds in Australia to actively execute international development projects around the globe. In projecting the Australian image abroad, aside from the global civil societies, national organizations render such services and achieve foreign policy objectives for Australia through collaborative governance. Such organizations include but are not limited to the 40K Foundation, the Afghan Australian Development Organization, and the Nusa Tenggara Association (Morton, 2014:169-171). In enhancing the Australian image abroad, some series of Australian international development organizations have been carrying out tremendous roles in this regard. The famous organizations are Caritas Australia Overseas Aid Fund, Union Aid Abroad, and the Australian Conservation Foundation.

A prominent Australian nongovernmental organization that has garnered significant recognition for itself and its home country worldwide is the Australian People for Health, Education and Development Abroad (APHEDA), also called Union Aid Abroad. APHEDA's global humanitarian efforts,

including assistance in Gaza, women's empowerment, advocacy programs, and protection of human rights, as well as its support for international justice and the anti-apartheid struggle, have significantly enhanced Australia's influence in South Africa, the Arab world and numerous other countries. APHEDA's calls to seize fire and provision of development and humanitarian programs in Gaza have given it much more recognition in the international community (Apheda, 2023). In other words, its gestures and call to seize fire in Gaza have earned the organization much emulation among the pro-humanitarian and peace-loving communities worldwide.

Regarding global women empowerment, APHEDA has been working with several regional and local organizations to ensure the success of women-enhancing programs. This approach can be noticed in its support for the Karen Women's Organization in Korea through the Capacity Building for Karen Women Training project (Paw, 2024). These projects have been helping refugee women in the Thai-Burma Border, and Karen State (eastern Myanmar) receive vital training to become beneficial and active community members. These kinds of gestures have not only increased the status of APHEDA but also resulted in the continuous acceptability of its home country, Australia, by the citizens of the countries or inhabitants of the regions it serves.

In the contemporary global village, government apparatuses are not the only entities that promote states' foreign policy; nongovernmental organizations also participate actively. Foreign policy is not only about states' action in promoting their interests worldwide via physical and military actions. It also comprises diplomatic procedures encapsulated in a tactical maneuver effectuated by soft power bodies such as civil societies. Thus, foreign policy is a coordinated, interconnected domestic plan to tackle international challenges in all ramifications. However, "It is about caring for the entire global village." It is in this case that civil society in diaspora, as this article ventures to coin it came in, to complement governmental global efforts in addressing the fundamental issues of humanity around the world, thereby influencing the people and the entire community it serves to behave to its, and its home country's whims and caprices which promotes their foreign policy goals in both short and long run. Take, for instance, Finland's civil societies, which have been vital partners for the country's foreign ministry; through engagement in development cooperation, they contribute significantly to Finland's efforts in global cooperation to curtail COVID-19. According to the Finnish government, over EUR 5 million of money intended for CSOs to collaborate on international development projects was redirected by May 2021 to COVID-19-related projects (UMFI, 2022). This indicates how Finland has supported its civil societies by working abroad in several developmental and humanitarian projects, testifying to the collaborative approach to promote state policies worldwide using civil societies as vital instruments.

In promoting close bonds between its home country and service countries Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission, another non-for-profit organization tool of foreign policy once stopped its missionary activities and instead started to promote a cordial relationship between the independent churches in Namibia; this shift in activities of the Lutheran Mission in Namibia has led to a close rapport between Namibia and Finland, this is typically true as following the former's independence, the latter became one of its most important backers of development through nonprofit organizations. The diversification of the Finnish civil societies' services can also be noticed in their work in dozens of official development assistance (ODA)-eligible countries. Finland's bilateral and multilateral cooperation with civil societies focuses on five African and three Asian nations. Finland also helps numerous other nations through civil societies, mainly in the Middle East and Central Asia (Kontinen et al., 2022: 22).

Today, one of the best examples of civil society as a reemerging instrument of foreign policy is Finnish Felm, the country's most significant development CSO that works in 24 countries in tandem with its country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Its focal point is to promote human dignity and justice

around the world. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, Felm's development cooperation program began to advocate the rights of individuals who experience prejudice, enhance social and economic justice, and foster peace and reconciliation in the nations where its programs are implemented. Felm's Development Project countries include Cambodia, Colombia, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Myanmar, Nepal, Senegal, Zimbabwe, and Global Networks (East Africa: Tanzania, Burundi, and Rwanda) (Felm, 2024). Thanks to the services of Felm in the countries above, a more excellent cordial relationship has been on the increase between them and Finland because of the fascinating works its large global civil society offers in the selected countries.

In the contemporary era, foreign policy has emerged as a focal point for meaningful conversation about our shared future. These severe discussions that have been going on the floor of the United Nations General Assembly, European Union, African Union, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) can include but are not limited to issues of human rights, democratic participation, good governance, employment, climate change and health. Global civil society mostly brings the issues above forward, especially those who render services in those areas. Take, for instance, the Kenyan-based not-for-profit organization known as The Youth Cafe, which has been at the forefront of bringing to the global space the issues related to democracy, human rights and governance, talent development and innovation, economic growth, health and well-being, education, research, and social services, agriculture, and environmental sustainability that are commonly found in West, East, North, Central, and Southern Africa (Theyouthcafe, 2024). In addition to being the voice, tool, and medium of the masses through which they can express their opinions on global strategic procedural and substantive matters, Youth Cafe is carrying out significant humanitarian functions across Africa. This act yields cultural and diplomatic benefits for its home country, Kenya. Thanks to such gestures, Kenya is now one of the rising stars in Africa.

Another remarkable example of foreign policy by proxy (Marchetti, 2017:275) through civil societies can be seen in the work of BPW International. This Swiss-based multinational civil society exemplifies civil society participation in foreign policy. It is one of the most potent international networks for business and professional women, having affiliates in over 100 countries across five continents (Bosshart, 2023). From strengthening girls' skills in Mathematics and French in Senegal to the international internship program, BPW is doing tremendously well worldwide, increasing the bonds between its home country and the countries it renders services. Some of its admirable projects across the world are the BPW Japan UN CSW Internship project, which educates and develops young women's abilities in solving international issues, and Jeu de cartes Planete Genre - BPW France, which addresses the link between gender and climate (Mantah, 2022). To navigate women from informal to formal business sectors since 2008, BPW International in Africa has expanded from 10 countries with 450 members to 14 nations with 916 members, as well as from 3 Federations and 9 Associate Clubs to 3 Federations and 15 Associate Clubs (Dossa, 2011: 36). As it deals mainly directly with youth, it can touch the tangible hearts that need to be touched, and by so doing, it is creating a magnificent future relationship for its homeland with the rest of the world.

In human rights protection and protecting the basic principles of democracy, several civil societies have gained mementos worldwide. They are becoming the epitome of virtue and vital instruments for projecting their home countries' foreign policies in the countries they serve. It has been argued that civil societies in most parts of the world are seen as ambassadors of their home countries. Take, for instance, the Deniz Feneri (Lighthouse) of Türkiye, which has rendered services in Africa, the Middle East, and the Balkans. It is regarded as a genesis of Türkiye by the people of most of the regions it serves. From areas affected by natural disasters to areas afflicted by artificial disasters, Deniz Feneri renders numerous caritative and developmental assistance that help alleviate the suffering caused by any crisis. In Africa, they offer educational assistance to less privileged children and carry out

developmental assistance such as boreholes, clinics, schools, and related projects to regions in dire need of such projects (Özkan, 2014: 14). The organization has offered several emergency humanitarian assistances in the areas affected by the Hamas-Israel war by giving food, shelter, and financial aid to the masses affected by the war, especially women and children. Such humanitarian acts by the organization are also seen in countries such as Syria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Afghanistan, and most African countries (Deniz Feneri, 2023: 60-82). The exceptional humanitarian aid provided by Türkiye's Lighthouse in least-developed nations has established her as a prominent representative for her country throughout the regions it serves, such as Kosovo, Pakistan, Bulgaria, and African countries, to mention but a few (Zencirci, 2020: 614-615).

Consequently, the people and the government in these nations commence to forge a close relationship with Türkiye, even formalizing bilateral educational and military agreements. We have observed this phenomenon in Libya, Somalia, and Nigeria (Fakuade, 2023: 52-60). The tremendous gesture of Deniz Feneri in the least developed nations has positioned the organization and its home country-Türkiye as *primus inter pares* in most underdeveloped regions worldwide. Due to such functions by Turkish civil societies worldwide, the image of Türkiye has increased as it has established more economic, educational, and cultural relations with African countries in the last decade than ever before.

The foreign policy of the modern era is no longer just about influencing one's policy in the global arena via the military or even economic might; it also encompasses the urgent need to address the nagging human and international issues that can be, for instance, under the auspice of Millennium Development Goals. Global problems such as poverty, climate change, terrorism, natural disasters, and gender issues have been given urgent attention by state and non-state actors worldwide. However, the government's hand needs to be improved in addressing these problems to the barest minimum; for this reason, civil society began to serve as a complementary body to the government. For example, Oxfam was formed by Oxford academics who were Quakers and sponsored mainly by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID). A global movement of individuals battling inequality to eradicate poverty and injustice is a prime example of a body that complements governmental efforts in tackling contemporary international issues. The organization has been working across regions in nearly 70 countries, with thousands of partners and friends, to help people develop better lives for themselves, increase resilience, and safeguard lives and livelihoods during times of catastrophe, which have been successful, especially under its 'make poverty history' program (Aaronson and Zimmerman, 2006: 999). Working across continents on equality, empowerment, solidarity, inclusiveness, accountability, and promoting courage to end poverty and injustice, Oxfam has been rendering tremendous services, lifting people and society, and serving as the voice of the voiceless through exposing illegality. These gestures made it a reputable organization across the globe, thereby winning the hearts and minds of the people for itself and its sponsoring countries, such as the United Kingdom, the European Union, and the United Nations (Mahase, 2023: 1468). Oxfam has been a significant tool in advancing one of the EU's critical policies, feminist foreign policy, which promotes the rights of women and girls' children. This entails an intersectional feminist strategy that prioritizes gender, racial, economic, and climate justice, prioritizes decolonization, and places the voices of people who have historically been underrepresented and disproportionately harmed at the center of policymaking (Oxfam, 2024). By so doing, the masses it uplifts see Oxfam as a salvage and a ladder of justice in the international community.

The alleviation of refugees' needless suffering is a crucial role played by civil society and is highly valued globally. Civil societies working in this area are in the limelight and quickly gaining mementos for themselves and their home countries, thereby implicitly promoting the objective of the latter's foreign policies. In the modern days, in practically every country, there is a "gap" between the statutory

frameworks for refugee protection and the inability or incapacity of state authorities to carry out their corresponding obligations. The gap the government created in addressing the refugee crisis has been filled by several global civil society groups essential in handling refugee protection (Pries, 2022). Consider the efforts of the US-based grantmaking network Open Society Foundations, which business tycoon George Soros established to promote justice and human rights, freedom of expression, public health and education access, and the development of dynamic and tolerant democracies whose governments answer to their constituents, has been collaborating with local communities in over 120 countries to address serious global issues such as refugees' crisis, democratic shortcomings, and climate crisis (Dagnet, 2023: 1).

Today, through several other civil societies, such as the Menédek Hungarian Association for Migrants in Hungary, and other local foundations in Serbia, Croatia, Italy, Macedonia, and Greece, the Open Society Foundation has been partnering and networking with its home state government to assist vulnerable refugees with legal and medical help to protect them from all sorts of abuses by whatever individual, group or sectors in their new land (Open Society Foundations, 2015). In these kinds of remarkable functions, Open Society Foundations has won numerous accolades for itself, its sponsors, and its home countries from different communities and people around the globe. By supporting democracy and the rule of law and addressing injustice, climate change, and refugee crises, Open Society Foundations has positioned itself as an emulating mechanism for promoting and upholding foreign policy via diplomatic procedures in an international environment.

Ethics Approval and Consent to Participate

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