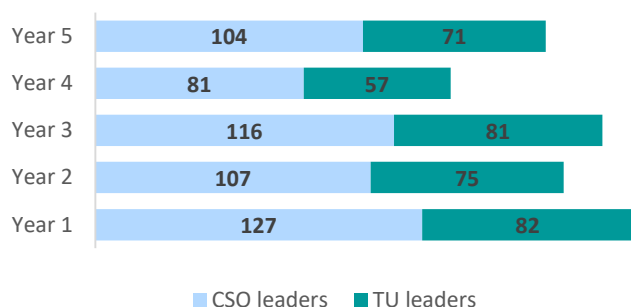


# Cambodian Civic Leaders' Perceptions of Fundamental Freedoms: Five Year Trends

The Fundamental Freedoms Monitoring Project (FFMP) is a multi-year project that monitors the space for civil society in Cambodia, and specifically the ability to exercise the freedoms of association, expression and assembly (fundamental freedoms). The FFMP is a joint initiative of the Cambodian Center for Human Rights, the Cambodian Human Rights and Development Association, the Solidarity Center, and the International Center for Not-For-Profit Law.

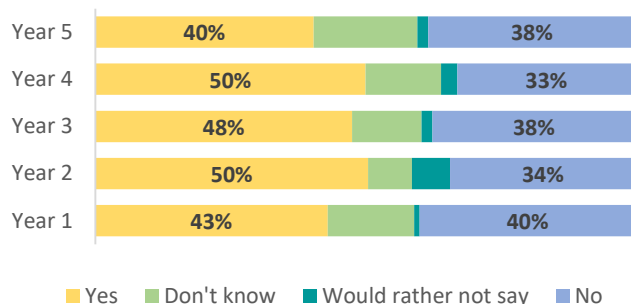
A key feature of the FFMP has been understanding how civic leaders – civil society organization leaders (CSO leaders), trade union and trade federation leaders (TU leaders) – perceive their ability to exercise fundamental freedoms. To capture this information, surveys of CSO and TU leaders were undertaken during each reporting year of the FFMP.<sup>1</sup>

**More CSO leaders** than TU leaders responded to the survey each year.

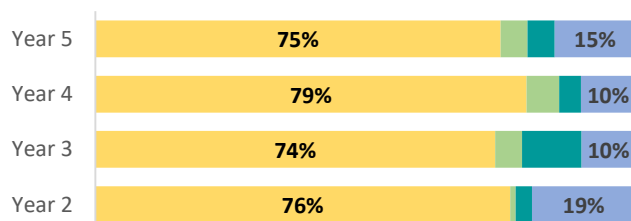


## Key trends for CSO/TU leaders

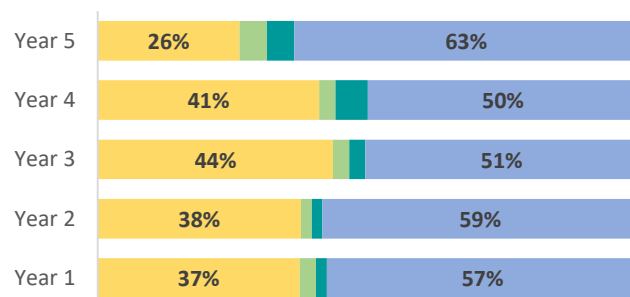
The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) undertakes **surveillance of CSO/TU activities** from year to year, with a slight decrease observed in Year 5.



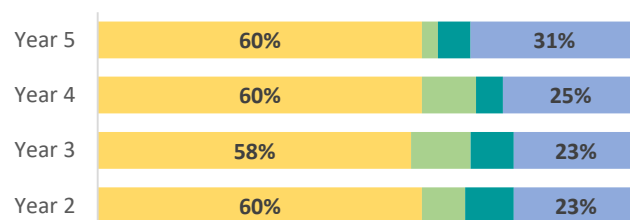
A large number of CSO/TU leaders report that **Government monitoring is excessive**.



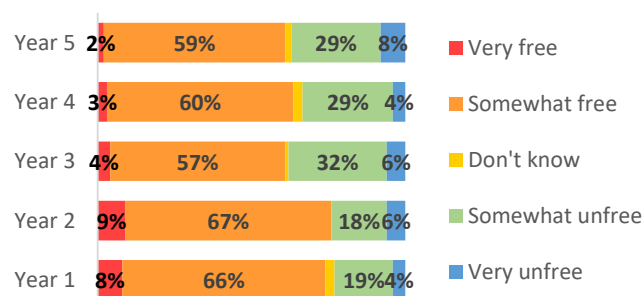
In Year 5, fewer CSO/TU leaders than in previous years reported that the **formation of networks, coalitions, federations, and unions was restricted**.



A large number of CSO/TU leaders feel that **non-financial reporting requirements from the Government are excessive or burdensome**.

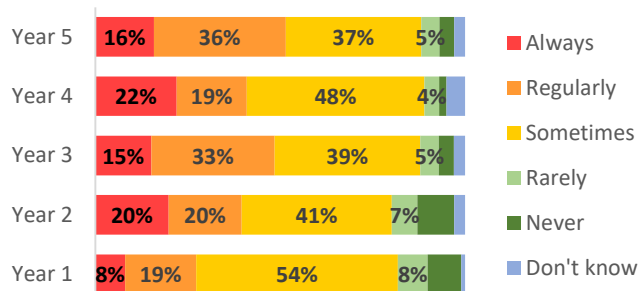


Most CSO/TU leaders feel **somewhat free** to exercise their **freedom of expression**.

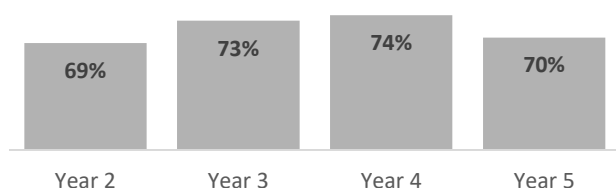


<sup>1</sup> Year One covered April 2016-March 2017; Year Two covered April 2017-March 2018; Year Three covered April 2018-March 2019; Year Four covered April 2019-March 2020; and Year Five covered April 2020-December 2020.

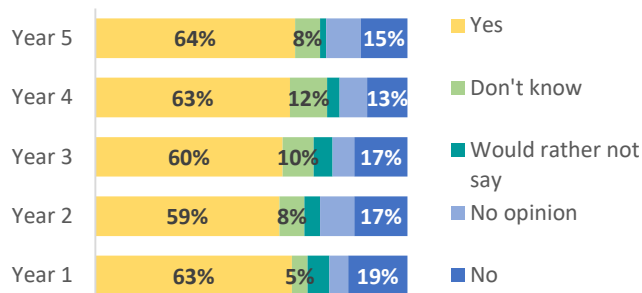
The percentage of CSO/TU leaders who **self-censor** remains high.



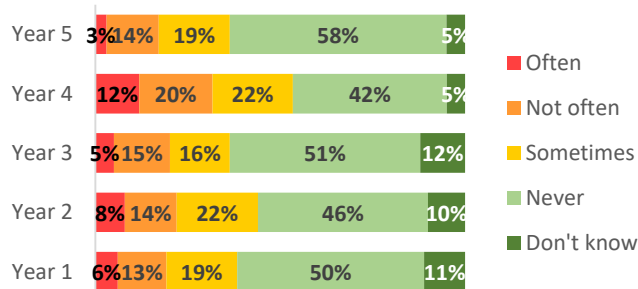
The percentage of CSO/TU leaders who feel **unsafe to share information through social media** has remained high throughout the years.



A high percentage of CSO/TU leaders feel that their organizations are **recognized as legitimate development partners** by the Government.

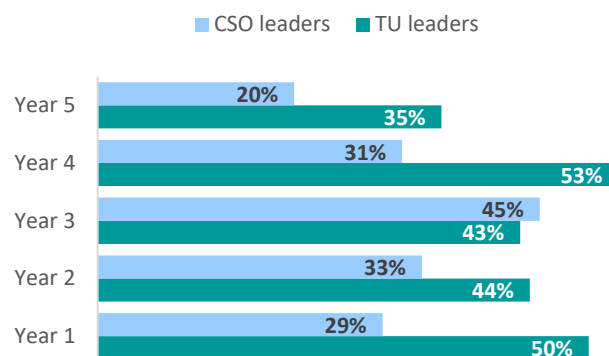


In Year 5, **fewer CSOs/TUs actively took part in decision- and law-making processes** with the Government than in previous years.

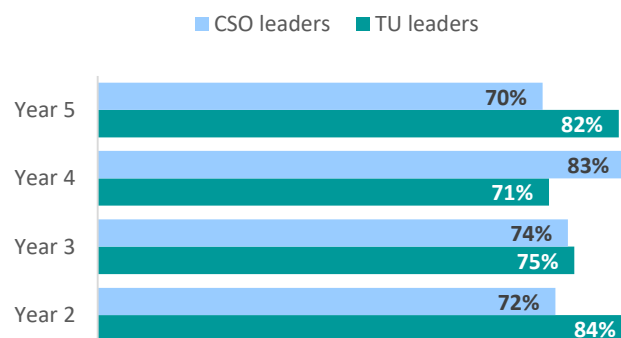


## Differences between CSOs and TUs

**More TU leaders** than CSO leaders report that they face **restrictions in forming networks, coalitions, federations, or other types of unions.**



In Year 5, a **higher percentage of TU leaders** reported that **RGC monitoring was excessive** and interfered with activities, compared to CSO leaders.



The **percentage of TU leaders who felt free to exercise their freedom of assembly decreased dramatically** in Year 5 while the percentage of CSO leaders remained somewhat constant throughout the years.

