



ANNUAL REPORT 2018



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MESSAGE OF DIRECOTR

1

On behalf of the Advocacy and Policy Institute's (API's) staff, project participants and beneficiaries, and especially the most disadvantaged among them, who have been supported in their attempts to overcome poverty in Cambodia and to claim and fulfill their rights, I want to express my deep gratitude to all supporters and involved actors who contributed to the achievements of API's programs over the past years. Without your active participation and cooperation, API would not be capable of accomplishing such results.

'Building capacity for change' in communities and society has guided API's work in the completed Strategic Plan period 2014-18 and will continue to guide us in our new endeavors in the next 5-years period. Trainings, coaching activities and forums helped community based organizations to empower themselves in their engagement; educated them about their rights, along with enabling local authorities and subnational councils and their administration to ameliorate the delivery of public services. 'Building capacity for change' has also been integral part of API's policy influencing work, of which the most prominent result in 2018 was the submittal of the completed draft Access to Information Law to the Council Ministers for the inter-ministries meeting – a crucial step forward after more than ten years of advocacy for freedom of information in Cambodia.

We have seen encouraging dialogue between citizens and local government officials about access to public information and the quality of government services, despite the shrinking space for civil society. Based on project evaluations of the completed API strategic plan period 2014-18, we have concluded that API has positively impacted the lives of our target groups in the target areas and contributed to the strategic goal of poverty reduction and better protection and promotion of rights and voices, particularly for young people, women, and vulnerable persons and groups.

We are proud of our achievements. CARE Germany's presentation of its 2018 Partnership Award to API has been an outstanding recognition in the past year. Now, I am looking forward to implementing the new Strategic Plan for 2019-2023 with my splendid team and to leading API into more years of prosperity, growing together and remaining a valuable contributor to Cambodian civil society and to the fulfilment of human rights, democracy and sustainable development.

Mr. Lam Socheat - Director of API

2 MESSAGE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to congratulate all actors involved who have contributed to the successful implementation of the last 5-years strategic plan 2014-2018. Especially in the last year significant successes were achieved, which is highlighted in the following provided report. These would not have been possible without the splendid and highly esteemed enthusiasm and active support of all of our partners at subnational and national levels, government institutions, the Cambodian Parliament, civil society organizations, networks and donors as well as the unremitting efforts of our API-Team, to whom all I would like to express my sincerest thanks on behalf of the entire Board of Directors.

Another special word of thanks goes to the former Director Mr. Neb Sinthay, and Founder of API, who provided the API-family with a consistent strong, influential and successful support through a stable leadership for the past 15 years. Now entering the well-deserved retirement, estimated Mr. Lam Socheat takes over his reins. Concurrently, we appreciate the new Strategic Plan 2019-2023 focusing on Policy Influencing, Empowering Citizens - particularly women and the youth, as well as improving the disclosure and access to information.

In 2019, API will need to adapt to further policy changes, to open up especially new local fundraising resources e.g. through local authorities and to train their advocacy skills. Nevertheless, on the basis of espousing together for an open governance and a stable democratic Cambodia, I am looking forward to work with all our past, present and future colleagues, to preserve our vision and to share its opportunities and challenges in the following year”

Mr. Soeurng Chandara – Chair of the Board

3 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2018 was a year of changes, completion of the five year's mission as well as addressing political and leadership changes. API has completed and achieved its third five years Strategic Plan implementation 2014-2018 and achieved its annual targets of 2018. A Member of Board of Directors and the Director of API were replaced and API-By Law and internal regulations updated and renewed according to government requirements. A new Strategic Plan 2019-23 has been produced with the continuation of API's mission and vision, but changes of target groups, target areas and strategies due to changes of political and economic context and population demography.

Based on key project evaluations during the third strategic plan period 2014-18, we concluded that API has positively impacted the lives of its target groups in the target areas and contributed significantly to its strategic goal of poverty reduction and better protection and promotion of rights and voices, particularly for young people, women, and vulnerable persons and groups. This goal has been achieved through successful implementation of various projects including

1

Strengthening Democratic Governance (SDG) 2014-16

2

Increasing Access to Public Information (IAPI) 2013-15

3

Promoting good governance by increasing access to information and strengthening the independent media, using mobile technology 2015-18

4

Bridging the Government and Citizens for Participatory Access to Information Law-Making, 2014-18



5

Implementation Social Accountability Framework (I-SAF) to reduce poverty through democratic, inclusive and equitable local governance and more accessible and equitable public service delivery 2016-18

6

Promoting Rights, Voices, Choices & Decisions for Citizens (Pro-Citizens) Project 2016-18

7

Enhancing Local Democratic Governance in Cambodia – Citizen Score Cards to strengthen local governance and social accountability 2018-20

8

Strengthen Capacity to Female Councillors 2015-18. These has directly enhanced the performance, responsiveness and accountability of local government and service providers

Vigorously continuing to grasping at its aspiration of a stable democratic, political, social and economic Cambodia, API, as a leading advocacy capacity building institution, has led the access to information law campaign, enhanced advocacy capacity and participation of CSOs and networks and local councillors to influence and improve policy implementation related to democratic governance, human rights, environmental governance, decentralization, transparency and accountability, information disclosure and development processes, education, health and road safety at both the sub-national and national levels.

OUTCOME 1

Increased information availability and disclosure on critical issues at sub-national level.

This outcome was highly achieved regarding citizens' understanding of access to information with a very high 93% of citizens surveyed reporting understanding the right to access to information and why it is important, along with changed attitudes, practices and institutional changes of service provider/duty bearers at local level in target communes and districts for public disclosure of their annual financial reports and communication with local citizens. 100% of the local authority offices in target areas have disclosed information about public service fees and took actions to raise public awareness about local policies and legislations and shared commune and district annual financial reports to people in the community.

OUTCOME 2

Access to information and information disclosure legislation and policies debated and adopted.

This outcome was partially achieved¹. Access to information (A2I) law was completed as a draft, not adopted yet. The draft A2I law with 38 articles in 9 chapters was developed by The A2ITWG co-facilitated by the Ministry of Information and UNESCO and acknowledged the concerns and comments/inputs of CSOs and UN agencies¹. Currently it's already submitted to the Council of Ministers for inter-ministries meeting.

OUTCOME 3

Effective mechanisms for productive dialogue and participation in democratic decision making to enhance the voices of and protect the rights of Cambodian people (young people, women, men and people with disabilities) in the target areas.

This outcome is highly achieved regarding to behaviour change of local community participating in development process. More active citizens demanded local authority to improve public services and information disclosure, e.g. better garbage management and littering, despite facing negative political challenges in last few years. Particularly, youth and persons with disabilities are more active in making demands comparing to the elder groups. There is a significantly increased demand of local citizens to their local authority/duty bearers/service providers by requesting for information, making

complaint, or requesting for services. The progress was made from 20% in 2016 to 40% in 2018 for local demanding and increased from 8% in 2016 to 88% in 2018 of 40 CBOs joining the meetings with local authority in their community.

OUTCOME 4

Increased capacity development, transparency and accountability within Cambodia's sub-national Government to improve functions, human rights, information disclosure, and collaboration with communities, local civil society and national Government.

Because of the changed political context since 2017, this outcome was achieved only partly regarding capacity development related to transparency and accountability within Cambodia's sub-national Government to improve their roles and functions. API's training participants were from all political party elected councillors. But all trained councillors from opposition party were terminated after dissolution of CNRP and some trained councillors from controlling party (CPP) were retired or changed. It negatively affected training impacts of for those holding office.

OUTCOME 5

Financial Support und Fundraising.

In 2018, API received financial support for projects from Bread for the World, Danchurch Aid (DCA), the European Union through DCA and CARE, the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF), SIDA through UNESCO and Transparency International Cambodia (TIC). API entered new or additional agreements with UNDEF, the European Union and the Pursat Association of Local Councils, with DCA and TIC. API signed contracts for consultancy services to GIZ, United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and Change the Game Academy of Wilde Ganzen Foundation. The total contracted funding volume achieved based on 2018 fundraising and consultancy bids has been 800,000 USD by end of the year and is anticipated to reach at least 1.15 million US\$ with two more negotiations close to completion, of an overall amount of 5.8 million US\$ applied for (approximately 20% in value, with several concept notes and proposals still pending). 35% of the total number of submitted concept notes & proposals were successful; another 30% is still in the pipeline; approximately one third was not successful. API would like to express our gratitude to all our funding partners and donors.

CHALLENGES

Fundraising and staffing challenges. API had 10 full time staff, 2 part-time advisors, 5 volunteers in office and field to execute activities and management affairs. We faced challenges of staff turnover, about 1 to 2 staff annually including changes among three directors within last three years, tasks overload and shortage of funds for staff cost as API's projects did not fund staff cost fully. API required consultancy services, used reserve funds and requested additional funds from existing donors to fill the gaps. Financial sustainability of social accountability (ISAF) and road safety project implementation has not been achieved, as API has not been in a position to support follow up measures after projects ended. Access to information law draft has been completed but has not fully met international standard, and has not been adopted yet. Whilst successfully piloting local fundraising for small scale project initiatives in partnership with local authorities, CBOs and API, all stakeholders faced same challenges in reallocating financial resources. Some CBOs have no permanent members and have become largely inactive or consist only of the leadership. Another issue is that commune council members' changes affected some project activities.

4 PROGRESS AGAINST STRATEGIC OUTCOMES

OUTCOME 1

Increased information availability and disclosure on critical issues at a sub-national level.

This outcome was highly achieved regarding citizens' understanding of access to information, and attitudes, practices and institutional changes of service providers/duty bearers at local level in target communes and districts for public disclosure of their annual financial reports and communication with local citizens.

Before the project started, only very few of all 40 communes/sangkats and 11 districts/municipalities of 5 target provinces had publicly disclosed information about public service fees and very low percentage of citizens were aware of the information. Citizens' knowledge and understanding of budget processes at the national level have generally been very low. According to 2018 National Survey on Accountability and Transparency of Budget Process in Cambodia, Knowledge and understanding are strongly affected by socio-demographic and socio-economic variables, including gender, education and income; 99.7% of citizens cannot identify the total amount of Cambodia's national budget for 2017; 94.9% of citizens cannot identify which state institutions prepare the draft budget law; 99.9% of citizens have never seen any official budget document prepared by the national government; 98.9% of citizens have never tried to obtain information on the national budget.

PROJECT EVALUATION

By end of 2018, after project implementation, this outcome was highly achieved regarding citizens' understanding of access to information, with a very high 93% of citizens surveyed reporting understanding the right to access to information and why it's important. This was strongly correlated with having attended a community meeting in the last few years, with 97% of those who attended a meeting reporting understanding their right to information compared to 80% who did not attend a meeting, a statistically significant difference.

The Pro-Citizen Project evaluation (December 2018) found changes in attitudes, practices and institutional changes of service provider/duty bearers at local level in target communes and districts for public disclosure of their annual financial reports and communication with local citizens, esp. through social media. All 100% of the local authority offices in target areas have disclosed information about public service fees and took actions to raise public awareness about local policies and legislations and shared commune and district annual financial reports to people in the

community. Interestingly, all 40 commune/sangkat and 11 districts/municipality of 5 target provinces have used social media (Facebook) for their commune/district administration to post and share information to their local citizens about day to day commune and district's administration and development activities and to communicate with local citizens on different issues. Local authorities also started to work closer with CBOs after carrying out joint initiatives in all 5 provinces namely Kampong Speu, Kampong Thom, Pursat, Kampong Chhnang and Banteay Meanchey.

A final project evaluation on Promoting Good Governance by Increasing Access to Information and Strengthening the Independent Media Project (August 2018) found that 33% of citizens surveyed directly requested information from local authorities and 75% attended a public forum where information sharing took place. However, direct information requests were higher in Kampong Thom (43%) than other provinces. In terms of media, with just under half of citizens surveyed (49%) reporting accessing independent media in the last year, although the level of accessing independent media was



much higher in Pursat than the other provinces (75%). These percentages are low most likely because of more proactive information sharing by local authorities, as 71% of citizens surveyed thought their local authorities became more proactive in information sharing over the last few years. People's requests for information responded by local authorities by the end of the action was strongly achieved with 98% of surveyed citizens who made a direct information request receiving a response.

At the community level, many citizens are unaware of their rights around A2I, which limits their ability to access and use information in their daily lives. One man in Bong Lvea Commune in Kampong Thom said, 'Now I know that I have rights I can join anything I want to and make requests to the commune – before I didn't dare ask them.' In addition, small grassroots CBOs often have limited resources and relationships with local authorities to achieve their development goals. One CBO from Banteay Chmar Commune in Banteay Meanchey said, 'It makes it easier for us to work with local authorities, and they share a lot more about their activities with us.' Similarly, local authorities often have limited capacity around and understanding of A2I, and are reluctant to disclose information that they could be reproached for. Generally, access to information is a relatively unknown topic in Cambodia that is not well understood, nor gets much interest.

OUTCOME 2

Access to information and information disclosure legislation and policies debated and adopted.

This outcome was partially achieved¹. Access to information (A2I) law has been completed as a draft, however not been adopted yet. The draft A2I law with 38 articles in 9 chapters was developed by The A2I Technical Working Group (A2ITWG), co-facilitated by the Ministry of Information and UNESCO. It acknowledged the concerns and comments/inputs of CSOs and UN agencies². Currently it has already been submitted to the Council Minister for inter-ministries meeting. At the time of the evaluation the law was finalised and unveiled to the public, with only penalties for government officials who fail to disclose information left to finalise by the Ministry of Justice (Chen, 2018). The law is expected to be passed in 2019 after the 2018 national elections. This represents a significant achievement for both the project and other NGOs involved in the development of the law, which meets the standards of project partners,

including requirements for government officials to respond to legitimate information requests within 15 working days. The project made valuable contributions to the development of the law, contributing recommendations based on evidence from and feedback gathered through the project to the law's Technical Working Group. This is a unique contribution that complements higher-level workshops conducted by Ministry of Information with support from UNESCO and SIDA. However, there are questions regarding how the government will enforce the law in the future. API staff discussed that there is a long way to go in ensuring the government has a clear plan to implement the law, and to help sub-national local authorities and citizens understand and use this law properly. Not only API advocated for A2I law at national level, but API also delivered trainings on the concepts and key

¹ Final Project Evaluation Report August 2018 on API' Promoting Good Governance by Increasing Access to Information and Strengthening the Independent Media Project (August 2018).

² API & UNESCO's Final Project Evaluation (2018) on "Working Towards an Access to Information Law in Cambodia: Bridging the Government and Citizens for Participatory Law-making 2014-2018"

contents of the A2I law to local authority and councilors in all target provinces and completed the consultations and compilation of all inputs from all key sectors and fully discussed CSOs' inputs with government and development partners to improve contents of draft A2I law. Estimated 60% of CSO's inputs were integrated into draft A2I law. But still concerns on addressed such definition, duration of confidential information, and three path test of information disclosure. API endorsed Universal Periodic Review (UPR) report 2018 and demanded for Access to Information Law adoption with international standard; however, this has no further progress. As representative of CSOs, API fully attend the A2ITWG discussion from the beginning, so we contributed to all articles of the draft law both technical aspect and wording. All CSO inputs were documented and shared to A2IWG members as well as other relevant stakeholder. More than 40 different recommendations/issues/concerns raised by CSOs/CBOs and local authority. In general, those inputs are focusing on:

1. General Provision
2. Rights and Obligations of Providing Information
3. Procedures of Requesting and Providing Information
4. Confidential Information
5. Protection for Information Revelation
6. Appeal and Enforcement of Decisions. With these inputs (recommendations), API presented and shared at the meetings of A2ITWG which was led by UNESCO and the Ministry of Information.

We observed that approximately 20% of CSO inputs directly led to adjustments to the draft law after the ministry officials attended the sector consultative forums, 40% of CSOs' inputs influenced directly to the draft laws during A2ITWG meetings, 35% have been responded by the Ministry of Information with various reasons but it's acceptable, and 5% was happen due to the compromise between co-chairs (UNESCO and the Ministry of Information).



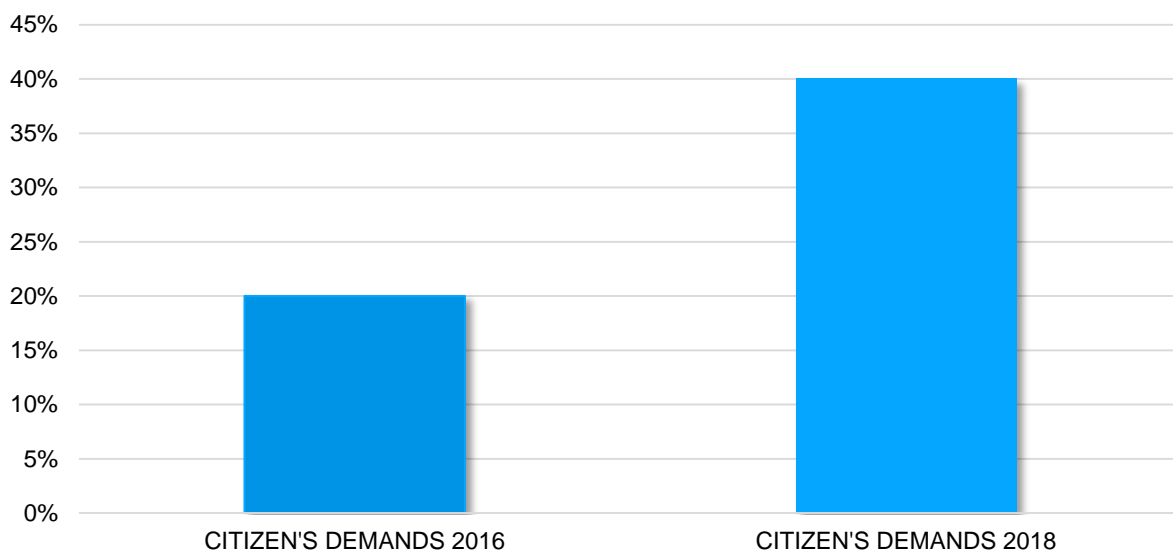
The most satisfactory achievement of CSOs on the drafted A2I law is about changing of the details of secrecy information, reduce duration of requesting information, ombudsmen in complaint mechanism and cancellation of punitive articles on requesters. API has learned and has documented that there are some articles accepted by NGOs but some parts also need to be revised in order to reflect the context and practice of right and access to public information in Cambodia. As part of influencing these changes, API has played various active roles within the national and sub-national levels. At the national level, API has led the campaign on “Access to Information (A2I) Law” since its establishment in 2007. API will engage in lobbying activities vis-à-vis the government and relevant parties so that a A2I law to be considered and eventually adopted and effectively implemented

OUTCOME 3

Effective mechanisms for productive dialogue and participation in democratic decision making to enhance the voices of and protect the rights of Cambodian people (young people, women, men and people with disabilities) in the target areas.

This outcome is highly achieved regarding to behaviour change of local community participating in development process.

BEHAVIOUR CHANGE OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY PARTICIPATING IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS



More active citizens demanded local authority to improve public services and information disclosure, e.g. better garbage management, despite facing negative political challenges in last few years. Particularly, youth and persons with disability are more active in making demands comparing to the elder groups. There is a significantly increased demand of local citizens to their local authority/duty bearers/service providers by requesting for information, making complaint, or requesting for services.

88%

Of the CBOs joined the meetings with the LAs

The progress was made from 20% in 2016 to 40% in 2018³ for local demand and increased from 8% in 2016 to 88% in 2018 of 40 CBOs joining the meetings with local authority in their community. The CBOs' representatives usually attended the monthly commune meetings to raise issues and document the progress made.

92%

Of the CBOs raised concerns/problems

92% of 40 interviewed target CBOs have raised concerns or problems related to polluted water, land conflicts, migration, drug use, etc. happening in their community to duty bearers. Many of those issues have been incorporated into the commune development plans. The attitude of local service providers positively changed toward service user/rights holders. They serve people and provide all needed support to the people in times of need.

34%

Of the citizens have requested information

Around 34% of local citizens have ever requested for information such as birth certificate, marriage certificate, personal identity, land titles, etc. from local authority. The major reasons that local citizens dare to complain is that they usually contribute their money for the development work in the community. When there is slow and no responses back from local authority, they dare to complain⁴. Moreover, they also dare to complain if the road or infrastructure provided has no good quality. Target communities positively impacted having improved their lives in area including public services on health, education, local infrastructure livelihoods/agriculture prices.

86%

Of the citizens got an answer from the LAs

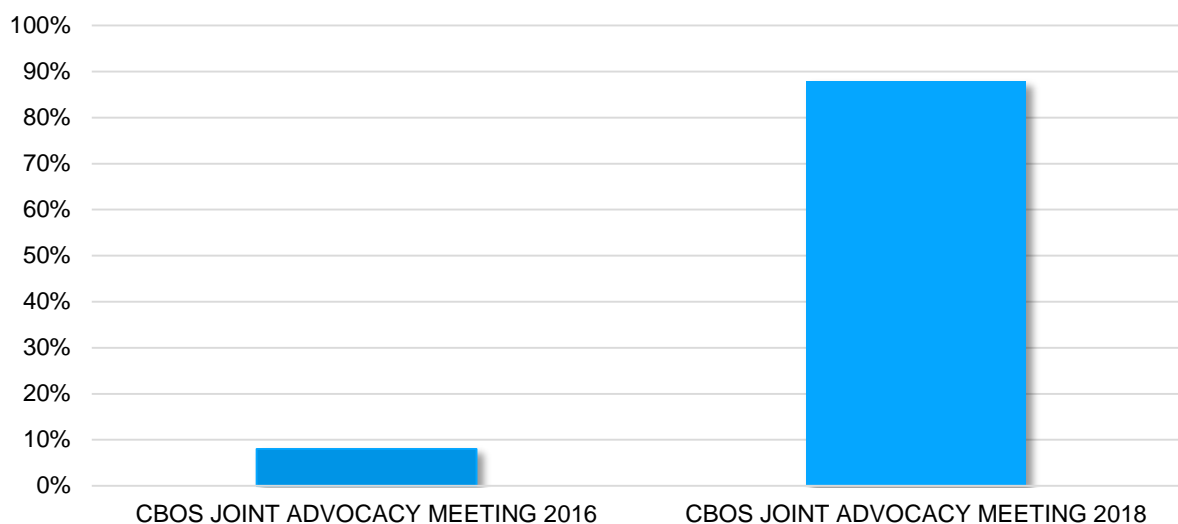
86% of citizens who raised a request or issue at a community meeting received a response from local authorities⁵.

³ API's project mid-term evaluation of the Pro-Citizens Project, December 2018

⁴ API's project mid-term evaluation of the Pro-Citizens Project, December 2018

⁵ Final Project Evaluation Report August 2018 on API' Promoting Good Governance by Increasing Access to Information and Strengthening the Independent Media Project (August 2018).

CBOS ADVOCACY ACTIONS



MR. NOU REN

Chief of Domnak Ampil CBO

For instance, Mr. Nou Ren is a chief of Domnak Ampil CBO located in Loloksor commune of Pursat province. Mr. Ren has joint several trainings and capacity building activities with API. Because of these trainings, he mentioned that he has learnt a lot of new things from API. As a result, he is more confident to raise community issues and problems to the commune office for solution. He said he is not afraid anymore because this will help develop community. Some of the issues he mentioned include slow public service, road infrastructure development, paperwork complaint from villagers. He said that after he mentioned these issues to the commune office, there is a quick response back from the commune. Villagers are able to get their paperwork done fast. His CBO relation with the commune office becomes very close to each other. In every meeting with the communes, he always mentioned problems to inform them. He has more close working relation with the commune local authority. Initiated by Mr. Nou Ren, CBO and LA in his community were able to get some small funds support from World Vision to help the people in the community and 23 joint local project initiative were completed with the amount of USD 15354. At least 2 joint projects per district are implemented addressing social services, natural resource and environmental management, and hygiene & sanitation issues. CBOs, Local authority and private sector have worked together to allocate more resource in which contributed by API 9,000 USD.

OUTCOME 4

Increased capacity development, transparency and accountability within Cambodia's sub-national Government to improve functions, human rights, information disclosure, and collaboration with communities, local civil society and national Government.

This outcome was achieved partly regarding capacity development related to transparency and accountability within Cambodia's sub-national Government to improve their roles and functions because all trained councillors from opposition party were terminated after dissolution of CNRP and some trained councillors from controlling party (CPP) retired or changed.

Before the "Promoting Good Governance by Increasing Access to Information and Strengthening the Independent Media Project" started, only very few of all 40 communes/sangkats and 11 districts/municipalities of 5 target provinces had public disclosed information about public service fees and commune and district budget. There are rising expectations of citizens

who, as they become more aware of their civic roles, are demanding greater accountability and higher standards of service delivery. At the same time, however, there are significant bottlenecks with accountability mechanisms which do not yet adequately support the necessary flow of information, resources, capacity, and decision making authority from the central to the subnational levels of government. In particular, insufficient shared understanding about subnational roles and responsibilities has resulted in poor service delivery. This means weak accountability of officials [i.e. governors] to elected representatives [i.e. councillors] and in turn the accountability of councillors to the people.

At the level of structures or mechanisms, there are a number of barriers:

Insufficient levels of democratic representation and accountability within judiciary, legislative and executive bodies

1

2

Insufficient technical expertise, capacity, or political will to strengthen these democratic institutions

Inadequate or inefficient allocation of human, technical, and financial resources dedicated to democratic development

3

4

The allegiance to the political party which takes precedence over accountability of elected representatives to the people.

At the individual level [among state/non-state actors] are a lot of hurdles:

Reluctance of elected officials to deviate from the wishes of superiors [or patrons] coupled with fear of power sharing

1

2

Insufficient capacity or technical understanding around legal issues or government functions

Inadequate financial and human resources at sub-national levels to effectively address local development challenges and therefore enhance democratic accountability

3

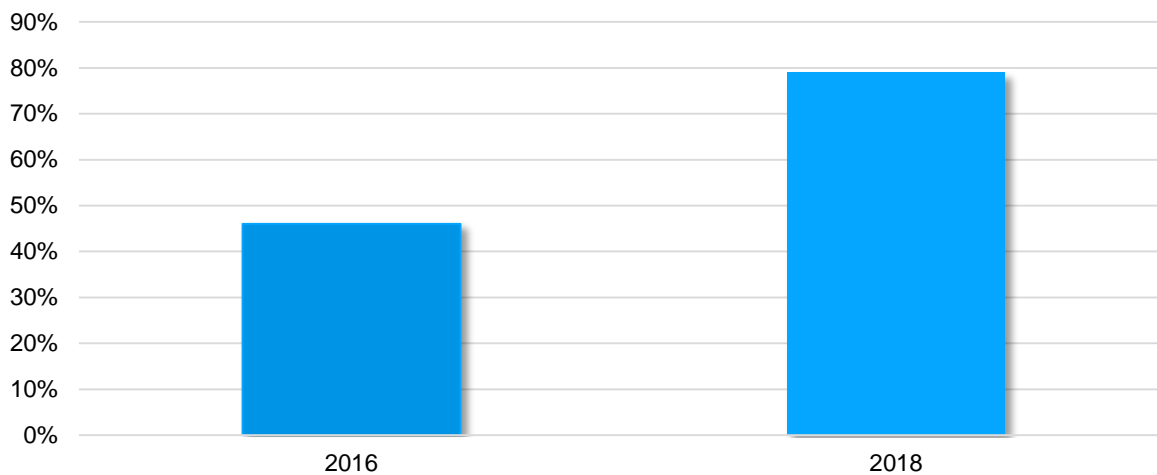
4

The absence of working models for how to constructively engage citizens in meaningful dialogue¹²

By end of 2018, capacity of demand side total of 76 CBOs from the target area have improved their policy advocacy capacity skills and practices, facilitated by API to discuss 8 policy issues with different national government ministries. As result relevant ministries have accepted those findings and recommendations and discussed more their respective ministries' policies and plans. For example, the case of Samroang Toung District was transferred by Ministry of Rural Development to implement on rural sanitation; Ministry of Social Affair, Veteran and Rehabilitation paid more attention to people with disabilities in API's target areas through providing vocational and livelihood training opportunities; and NCDD is committed to increase development budget to subnational level; Ministry of Labor paid more attention on workers in Banthey Meanchey province. Around 400 female councillors have increased their leadership and technical capacities related to transparency, accountability, human rights and rights to information included facilitation, public speaking, advocacy skills and proposal writing for small grant to improve their performance to serve people and working in partnership with development partners including

targeted NGOs and CBOs. And around 300 hundred male and female councillors have improved understanding on right to information and contents of draft access to information law and current Subnational Administration Law (Organic Law), particularly on public participation and access to public information to local councillors' decisions and actions. By 2018, external project evaluation found that 100% of the local authority offices in target areas have disclosed information about public service fees and took actions to raise public awareness about local policies and legislations and shared commune and district annual financial reports to people in the community. Interestingly, all 40 communes/sangkats and 11 districts/municipalities of 5 target provinces have used social media (Facebook) for their commune/district administration to post and share information to their local citizens about day to day commune and district's administration and development activities and to communicate with local citizens on different issues. Local authorities worked closer with CBOs after carrying out joint initiatives in all 5 provinces. Prior to the project implementation, there was no case of joint initiative between LA and CBOs to

LOCAL AUTHORITIES JOINT CBOS AND CSO TO ADRESS LOCAL CITIZENS ISSUES



address any local issue, but now there are at least 26 joint project initiatives started. In the past, LA officers usually considered themselves the boss of local citizens, they currently have gradually changed their behaviours. LA officers are public servant. They go out and treat local citizens as the boss⁶. There is an increased 46% in 2016 to 79% in 2018 of target local authority mentioned that they joint meetings with CBOs/CSOs in order to address issues in their community⁷. However, as per observation in daily practice, local authorities somehow are still not ready to provide best public good service to their citizens. For instance, Mr. Ren Samouen is a member of Pursat district council. He used to join several trainings on good governance with API at different provinces. Having learnt a

lot of things from the trainings, he is more confident with his capacity to provide support services to the people in his district. He mentioned that before he thought local leader is the boss. However, after several trainings and learning experience, he said that the leader should become a public servant rather than a boss. Because of this, he shares his phone number publicly. People can call him for help at any time. Because of this, he works more closely with people. For example, there is a group of youth formed up to clean up the city every time there are public events at his district level. During water festival, he got 30-40 volunteer youth to help clean up the city. As a result, he works well with the local people as well as with other authority at higher level.

⁶ API's project mid-term evaluation of the Pro-Citizens Project, December 2018

⁷ API's project mid-term evaluation of the Pro-Citizens Project, December 2018

5 PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION TOWARDS ACHIEVING ORGANIZATIONAL OUTCOMES

Above outcomes were achieved by successfully completed projects as following:



PROJECT 1

Promoting good governance by increasing access to information and strengthening the independent media; from 2015 to 2018

Joint implementation of project with DCA and VOD/CCIM

OUTPUT

- The final project evaluation confirmed achievement of its objectives on increasing access to information, improved access to and use of public information, improved good governance and partly achievement on independent media; strengthened the independence and professionalism of the media; improved the quality of media content.

OBJECTIVE

- Contributing to a more equitable, open and democratic Cambodia.

The final project evaluation confirmed that the project was highly relevant, effective, impactful, and sustainable.

The project was relevant to the needs of target populations by filling gaps in access to information legislation, rural independent media access and knowledge on access to information among citizens, local authorities and community-based organisations.

The project achieved a rating of 'Very Good' in four out of seven Specific Objective indicators, with performance of the other three indicators impacted by external factors. In addition, the project also achieved a 'Good' or 'Very Good' rating in five out of six result areas. Citizens became more informed on their right to information and confident in making information requests.

RELE-
VANCE

EFFECTIVE-
NESS

IMPACT

The overall wellbeing of communities was impacted through citizens using information to improve their lives in areas including health, livelihoods/agricultural prices, education, forestry and migration. In addition, the level of service access significantly increased and quality of services improved, including the timeliness of document services and friendliness of service providers. In addition, issues raised by citizens led to various improvements in infrastructure.

AVOIDING
NEGATIVE
ASPECTS

Engaging local duty bearers to carry out project activities with the support of partners created space for them to 'accompany' the change process, apply their learning and build confidence in information disclosure. Communities and Right to Know listeners were empowered with knowledge on their rights and the information to fight corruption, for example by demanding the correct prices for services.

SUSTAIN
ABILITY

The project has maximized local ownership and the probability of long-term benefits at the community level by using a partnership approach to equip local actors with the skills, experience and confidence to continue access to information activities in the future.



PROJECT 2

Working Towards an Access to Information Law in Cambodia: Bridging the Government and Citizens for Participatory Law-making 2014-2018; from 2015-2018

Funded by SIDA through UNESCO

OUTPUT

- A draft of Cambodian Access to Information law by engaging the sectoral base, assessing the policy gaps, and providing inputs for integration; however, the analysis found that the current draft Law only scores 69 out of 150 potential points on the RTI rating in development of an international-standard legal framework on access to information through a participatory and inclusive process;
- Contribution to increased government transparency and accountability
- Improved capacity and technical expertise of government officials on access to information
- Increased understanding by the Cambodian people, civil society organisations, and the media of the key role that access to information plays in improving livelihoods, promoting

OBJECTIVES

- Support the drafting of an effective Cambodian Access to Information law by engaging the sectoral base
- Assessing the policy gaps
- Providing inputs for integration in Cambodia (Phnom Penh, Kratie, Kampong Speu, Kampong Chhnang, Pursat, Banteay Meanchey and Kampong Thom)

citizens' political and socio-economic rights, and holding the government accountable.

- Strengthened capacity of Cambodian journalists and media professionals to provide independent, free, and unbiased investigative reports, and to exercise their rights to information on behalf of the citizens.

ACTIVITIES

- Conducted 5 trainings on “Concepts and Key Contents of Access to Information Law” to 155 (48 Female) local councilors and officials and 11 (2 female) CSO in 5 provinces included Kampong Thom, Kampong Speu, Kampong Chhnang, Banteay Meanchey and Kratie.
- Conducted CSO A2ITWG meetings with the government A2ITWG lead by the Ministry of Information, to discuss on draft A2I law to collect CSO inputs and to finalize the compilation of all inputs report from the fourteen consultative forums with 814 (255 women) during 2016-2017 in partnership with sectoral networks and organisations on areas of people with disabilities, women, youth, education, environment & natural resource management, health, media and human rights.
- A dynamic CSO technical group (API, TIC, CLEC, CCIIM) was recognized by government as ‘NGOs A2I Expert’ to monitor seriously on the development of draft A2I law.
- Most of CSO felt accepted the draft A2I law and they concerning any change may happen during the cabinet meeting.
- Attended 3 days A2ITWG meeting on “The Meeting for Review the Whole A2I Draft law” at Preah Sihanouk province to finalize the draft Access to Information law. Most of CSO's concerns were addressed such definition, duration of confidential information, and three path test of information disclosure.
- Conducted eight (8) debriefing meetings with officials from the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Education Youth and Sport, the Ministry of Social Affair, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Health and the 3rd committee of the Senate.
- Updated the progress of the A2I law by round table talk with media expert during radio program of CCHR, WMC, and CCIIM.

FINAL PROJECT EVALUATION (2018)

According to the partners and stakeholders of the project, the preparation, design, and approval of the project was fully in line with the initiatives already existing and efforts made in Cambodia during the previous decade in the area of access to information. In particular, civil society organisations such as API had been working for 10 years at least in the preparation of draft legal projects on the matter of access to information, as well as trying to engage in lobbying activities vis-à-vis the Government and relevant parties in order for a law on this matter to be considered and eventually adopted.

Partners, beneficiaries, and stakeholders in general have expressed their satisfaction with the implementation of the project and the effectiveness of project management led by UNESCO. This positive stance was also conveyed by SIDA as the supporter of the project. The analysis of the very complete and extensive quantity of minutes, reports, and other relevant documents produced in the course of the implementation of the project shows that management decisions were properly and efficiently oriented towards the achievement of the expected results, according to the original design of the project.

All partners and stakeholders involved in the implementation phase agree on the fact that the most important and relevant part of the project in terms of achievements and implementation has been the capacity to involve all relevant civil society and political organisations in a thorough debate that also involved the honest engagement of Government's representatives. This involvement represented not only giving a voice to those entities, but also the opportunity to make actual contributions which were, at least, given proper and equitable consideration within the work of the Technical Working Group. Moreover, according to estimates provided by API, more than 60% of the contributions originated in civil society groups have been actually incorporated into the text of the draft law. This participatory legal

PROJECT
STRATEGY

PROJECT
MANAGEMENT
ARRANGEMENTS

STAKEHOLDER
ENGAGEMENT

drafting process may also become a benchmark for legal drafting in Cambodia in general, as well as a possible good example for the region. The experience may improve some institutional practices in Cambodia and represents good evidence that participatory processes do not disempower Governments in relevant and sensitive areas, but raise their reputation vis-à-vis citizens in general. In any case, relevant change in the current political culture are still needed from this point of view.

As part of this evaluation, we conducted an in-depth analysis of the draft Law on Access to Information against international standards. The analysis found that the current draft Law only scores 69 out of 150 potential points on the RTI rating. It needed to be improved/amended following international standard before or after draft law passed.

According to the project, the main objectives to be achieved were the formation and functioning of a capable Technical Working Group and an Inter-Ministerial Committee to draft and pass the Law on Access to Information, as well as to promote participatory law making, and to provide a bridge between the government and the public for discussion on the drafting of the aforementioned law, as well as to increase public demand for a law of this nature, in particular from media professionals. Putting aside the failed creation of the Inter-Ministerial Committee, the project was able to establish and develop an operational Technical Working Group, which has produced a draft law with significant positive aspects, as it has already been shown. In addition to this, and according to all the information and points of view that have been collected, the implementation of the project has also brought a relevant increase of public awareness about and demand for access to information, and has increased capacities in this area from the media side.

PROCESS OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION IN CAMBODIA

- 
- 2003** CSO Campaign for A2I Law
 - 2004** Form A2ICSOWG
 - 2006** Drafted FoI Law by Adhoc
 - 2007** A2I Policy Framework by the MoNA SRI
 - 2010** Proposed FoI Law by the MP
 - 2011** Proposed FoI Law by the MP (Revised)
 - 2012** Model A2I Law by CSO
 - 2013** Government appointed the MoInfo responsible for drafting the A2I law (8 Nov)
 - 2014** MoU between the MoInfo and UNESCO
 - 2015** A2ITWG (lead by the MoInfo & UNESCO)
 - 2016** Drafted law consultation with CSO and public
 - 2017** Drafted law consultation with CSO and public
 - 2018** Completed draft law A2I with 9 chapters – 38 articles



PROJECT 3

Implementation Social Accountability Framework (I-SAF) Project in Kampot province; from 2016-2018

Supported by EU through CARE

OUTPUT

- API enhanced access to Information and Budgets
- Strengthened citizen-led monitoring; strengthened capacities of local NGO partners, CBOs, Community Accountability Facilitators
- contributed to improve government policies, guidelines and practices ISAF phase II 2019-23.
- CARE Germany selected API for CARE 2018 Award with prizes of 10,000 EUR as best performance partners globally. This project evaluated with lead of CARE and confirmed very successfully.

ACTIVITIES

- Conducted 107 awareness sessions on information for commune (I4C) conducted with

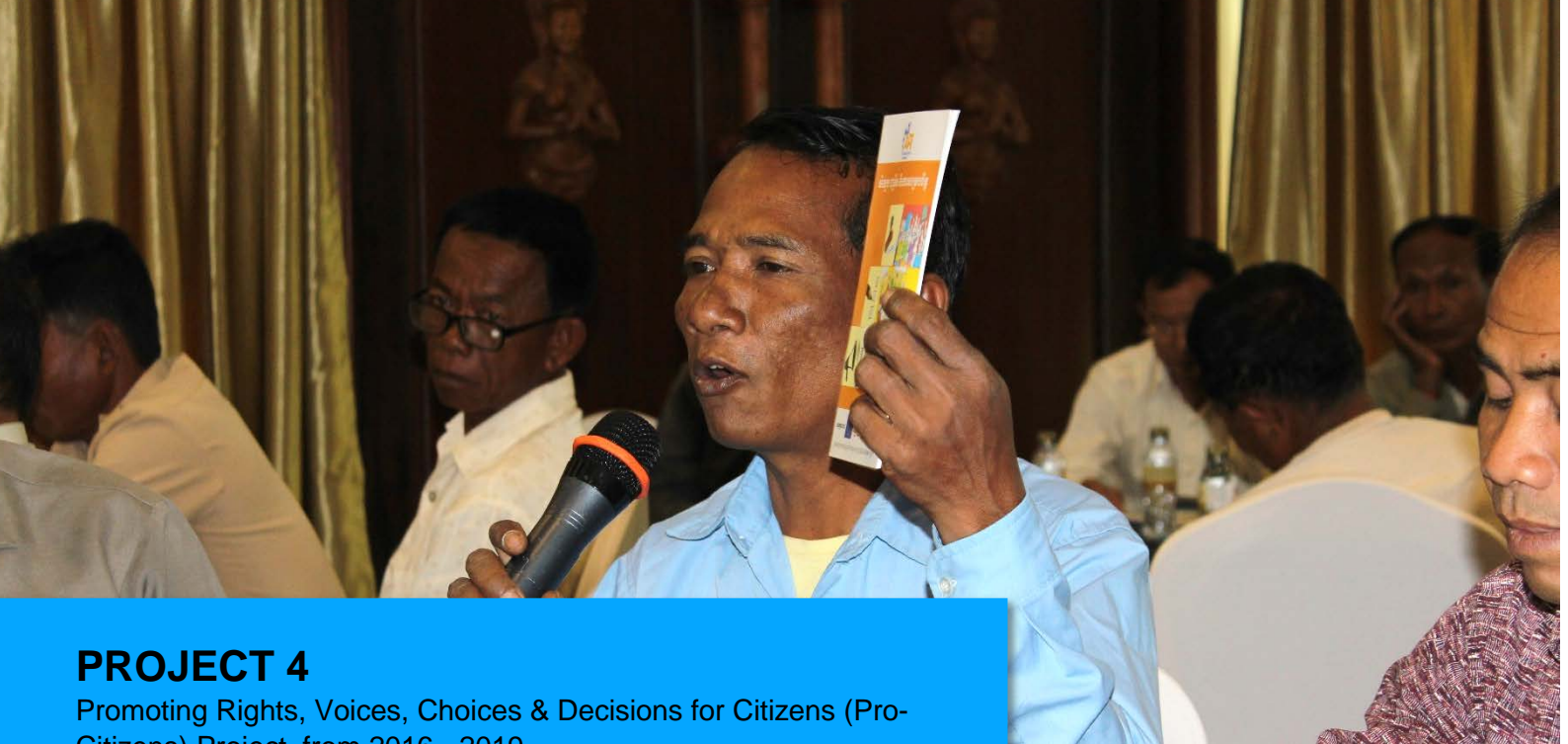
OBJECTIVES

- Reducing poverty through democratic, inclusive and equitable local governance and more accessible and equitable public service delivery
- Enhancing the performance, responsiveness and accountability of local government and service providers (specifically in 20 communes, 20 health centres and 80 primary schools) in 5 districts in Kampot province

- 7532 participants (4836 women, 596 youth, 669 ID Poor, 217 minorities and 390 people with disability) and government and local authority officials attended in the I4Cs awareness.
- Prepared 48 service provider self-assessment meetings were conducted with 926 participants (346 women, 94 youth and 3 minorities) whom are commune councils, health centre staff, district officers (focal person in charge of IP3 and ISAF), District Education Officer, CAFs and NGOs
- Held 80 community scorecard meetings were conducted in 80 villages of 20 communes of Chhuk, Dang Tong, Banteay Meas, Kampong Trach and Toeuk Chhu district with 4786 participants (3153 women, 537 youth, 449 ID poor, 166 minorities and 216 person with disability).
- Facilitated 6 interface meetings with 300 participants whom attended from youth, poor and disable people and supply side from commune council, principle and teacher of primary school and health center officials in Kampot.
- Supported 62 JAAP-C and follow up meetings were conducted in 20 communes of 5 target districts namely (Chhuk, Dang Tong, Banteay Meas, Kampong Trach and Toeuk Chhu) in Kampot to ensure JAAP in 2017 has been implemented with 1550 participants (386 female, 59 youth, 106 people with disability and 04 minority) whom are Chief of Commune Councillor, Commune Councils member, chief of health centre, primary school principals, and village chiefs, community members, CAFs and IP's staff
- Prepared 20 inception meetings with local authorities and CAFs in 20 communes target area of 5 districts (Chhuk, Dang Tong, Banteay Meas, Kampong Trach and Toeuk Chhu) in Kampot are completed with 487 participants (145 female, 42 youth, 14 minority and 18 people with disability) whom are commune council's chief, commune council members, commune police officials, village chiefs, health centre's chief, primary school principals, district officials, Community Based Organizations (CBOs: saving group), CAFs, IP's staff and API's staff

- Delivered a 4 days ISAF refresher training on Module I-IV to all 5 Implementing Partners (IPs) conducted to OREDA staff, CADDP staff, CWDCC staff, PVT staff, YCC staff in ISAF project.
- Facilitated 4 trainings to 80 CAFs on Module O-IV in Kampt province. They are 37 women, 28 youth, 1 minority, 1 person with disability.
- Organised 2 quarterly meeting with 28 participants (8 female) with OREDA staff, CADDP staff, CWDCC staff, PVT staff, YCC staff, ISAF provincial focal person, district deputy governor and district ISAF focal person. The meetings shared progress of project implementation, challenges and identified solutions. IPs are satisfied with local authorities to have presence in quarterly meetings as they could provide appropriate solutions in terms of communication with commune councils, health centre directors/staff and primary school teachers.
- Documented 2 case studies on1) Together improving public services (Health Centre Administration) through implementation of social accountability framework project 2) Together improving public services (Commune Administration) through implementation of social accountability framework project.

Final project evaluation was conducted and found the project was very successful.



PROJECT 4

Promoting Rights, Voices, Choices & Decisions for Citizens (Pro-Citizens) Project, from 2016 - 2019

Funded by DCA and Bread for the World

OUTPUT

- Improved capacities of individuals and CBOs are improved to participate in decision making processes on commune development processes
- Strengthened capacities of local councils is strengthened to work with CBOs and NGOs in response to public needs
- Enhanced partnership between government and civil society in responding to public needs and concerns

ACTIVITIES

- Conducted 17 community discussion forum to 2049 local citizens in which 579 were female on critical issues
- Supported to 177 CBOs members in the target province to regular attend local planning and decision making process to raise their community issues
- Trained 70 CBOs members in which 15 were female on

OBJECTIVE

- Contributing to improve local governances and democratic participation of citizens

- the topic of identify issues, proposal writing, advocacy and sharing their challenges within this current context
- Prepared 5 provincial female councilors meeting to 82 females in the target area to address women and children issues particular on social service
 - Held 17 communes and district budget forum to 2447 participants, 923 female
 - 14 district multi-stakeholders meetings were conducted to 379(90 female) local authority, CBOs, NGOs and private sector to identify priority issues
 - Prepared 2 provincial multi-stakeholders meeting with 107 (23 female) local authority, CBOs, NGOs and private sector to seek budget allocation to address local prioritize issues
 - Supported 23 local development Initiatives and plans to address issues and challenges to improve livelihoods, the environment and /or hygiene sanitation of citizens
 - Conducted 9 peer learning to 86 (14 female) local CBOs and authorities for exchange experience and best practice
 - Conducted mid-term project evaluation and household survey with 414 randomly households, 40 CBOs of 5 target province
 - Organized annual reflection workshop to 107 (23female) for reflection, learning and sharing document of project
 - Prepared 4 debriefing meeting on 8 policy analysis reports to 96 government officials, local authority, CBOs and NGOs in which 17 were female with ministry of NCDD (MoI), ministry of labor and vocational training, ministry of rural and development and ministry of social affair on policy analysis reports to Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, Ministry of Social Affairs Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, Ministry of Rural Development and National Committee for Sub-national Democratic Development (NCDD) (MoI) about

1. Rights of citizens in particular of women to participate in local decision making and local planning processes in Phnom Srouch, Kampong Speu province
2. Role of commune councillors into developing and implementing an effective commune investment plan and commune development plan in Krako district, Pursat province
3. Role of DM unified sub-national administration (SNAs) in social and economic health issues in Santouk district, Kampong Thom province
4. Roles of the DM unified SNAs on access to information on local economic development private investment projects in Prasat Ballang district, Kampong Thom province
5. Understanding the role of the DM unified on migration in Phnom Srok district, Banteay Meanchey
6. Rights of persons with disabilities in participating local development planning and decision making process in Thmar Pouk district, Banteay meanchey
7. Functional delegation of rural sanitation in Samroang Toung district, kampong Speu
8. Knowledge, behaviour and attitude of citizens in the local governance system in Baribo district, Kampong Chhnang province.

PROJECT MIDTERM EVALUATION (2018)

RELEVANCE

API project has been found to be relevant in the current context of Cambodian government, e.g. it promotes access to Information, the capacity development or budget disclosure.

EFFICIENCY

Overall budget for the project is reasonable given its achieved results. Budget allocation within the project is usually very efficient. All planned activities are usually going through a procurement process of API. API already has its own rate of procurement for its needed services.

EFFECTIVENESS

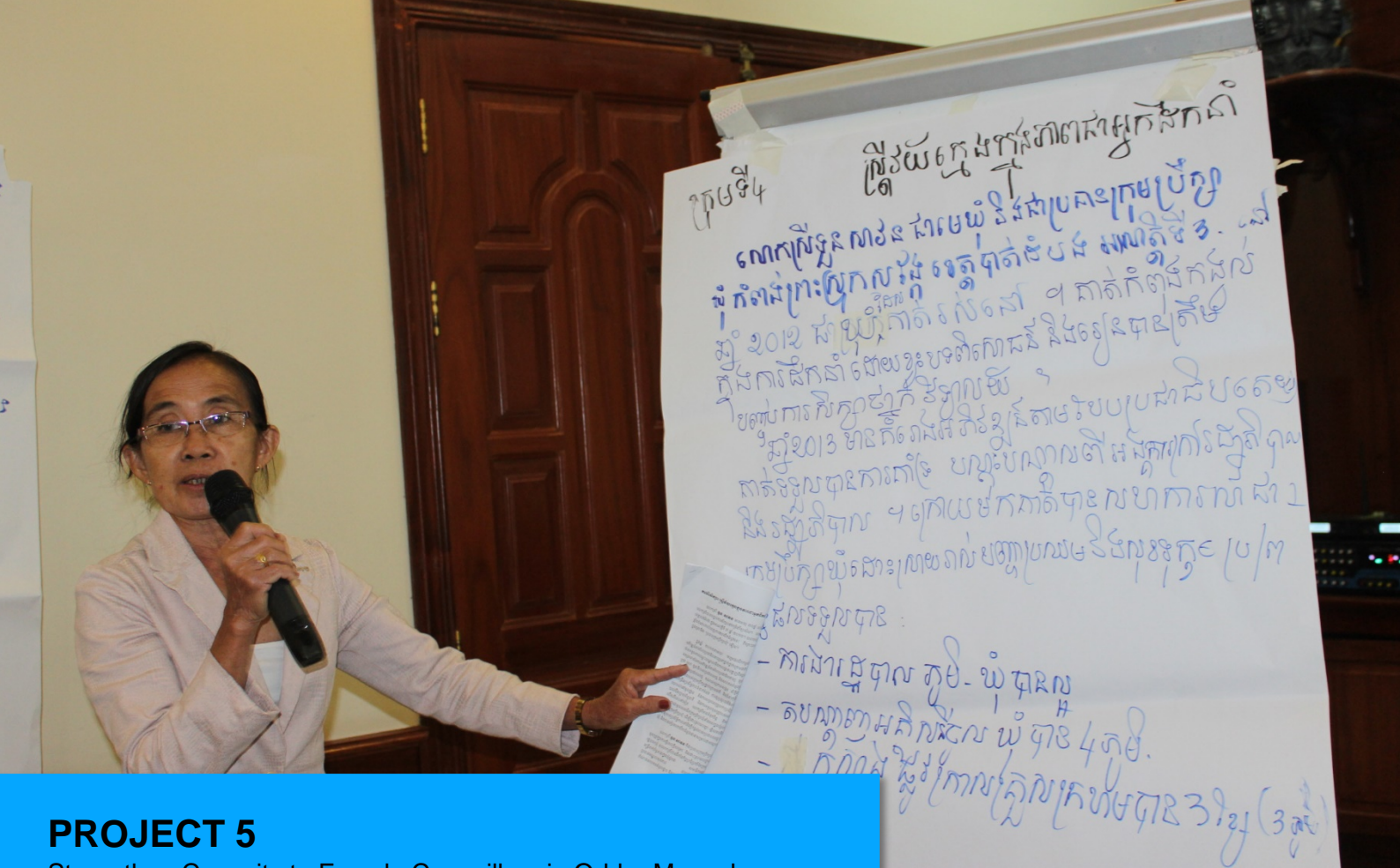
API project has been found to be very effective to successfully achieve its overall three main objectives.

IMPACT

The project has brought about positive changes to the community. One of the major change is about the behavior change of people in the community. Overall, people behavior changes especially in terms of garbage management and littering.

SUSTAINABILITY

The project is to be very sustainable because it is working with LA of the government. Even if the project ends, all communes still belong to the government. Even no budget support from the project, as government staff who must serve the people, they still continue to be accountable to address the local needs.



PROJECT 5

Strengthen Capacity to Female Councillors in Oddar Meanchey and Banteay Meanchey; Preah Vihar, Kampong Thom & Siemreap, from 2015-2018

Funded by GIZ's EU DAR, GIZ RED III and EU SPACE

OUTPUT

- Strengthened capacity to 333 female councilors on their role, functions and soft skills, management and leadership from 15 provinces in Cambodia
- Strengthened capacity to 96 female commune councilors on facilitation, improving public speaking and advocacy skills

ACTIVITIES

- Provided series of trainings on how to develop proposal for councils decisions
- Shared experience among female councilors especially between old and newly elected
- Deepen the understanding on roles and responsibilities of councils

- Set up a network of female councillors across the five provinces
 - Identified key differences in the roles between a trainer and a facilitator
 - Identified characteristics of a good facilitator (behaviors/ attitudes and skills/methods)
 - Facilitated a meeting, e.g. within the framework of the Women and Children Consultative Committee (WCCC) and Commune Consultative Children Committee
 - Built close relationships with each other and exchange experiences
- Known techniques for designing a clear and interesting speech, more confident in speaking publicly, facilitation skill,
 - Identified ideas on how to make the regional networks more sustainable
 - Identified what is easy/difficult in the roles of female councillors (“Atmosphere Barometer” for NCDD-S learning and preparation of support for additional capacity development for this target group)



PROJECT 6

Enhancing Local Democratic Governance in Cambodia – Citizen Score Cards in two districts of Kampong Thom and Banteay Meanchay provinces

Funded by UNDEF

OUTPUT

- Around 91.5% of trained citizens who carried out Citizen Score Card surveys (43 out of 47 trained) successfully captured respondents' concrete needs and claims related to local public service delivery (disaggregated by gender and youth).

develop and raising fund from community people to support implementation.

- As the result of the multi stakeholders meeting, Private sector, Local NGOs, Local Authorities, and CBOs understand their role to contribute in social work and commit to contribute fund and materials into small-scale project initiatives. In total of 8 project actions are financed by the project fund 4000 USD (8 projects x 500USD) and 2,300USD contributed by individual, small private companies and communities

ACTIVITIES

- Conducted Commune discussion on the result of scorecard, the CBOs, Citizen, relevance authorities agreed and clarified on the findings and take action on areas to improve and all of identified 16 priority actions in four communes level action plans are in process to

6 FUNDRAISING

In 2018, we signed contracts after successful submission of funding proposals with UNDEF, TIC, EU/Pursat Association of Local Councils/Aide et Action and DCA, and of consultancy bids to GIZ, Change the Game Academy of Wilde Ganzen Foundation and UNDP with a budget volume of approx. 800,000 USD in the years 2018-21.

7 GLOBAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Period 01 January 2018 – 31 December 2018
Currency USD

Cost Category	Budget Plan Consolidated 2018 (original)	Approved Revised Budget Plan 2018	Actual Expense from Jan-Dec 2018	Balance as 31 Dec 2018	% Used Vs Approved Revised Budget Plan
Administrative and Operational Costs	95,030.76	82,778.33	80,460.23	2,318.10	19.45%
Programme Costs	277,604.61	330,857.22	316,780.14	14,077.08	76.58%
TOTAL	372,635.37	413,635.56	397,240.37	16,395.19	96.04%

Actual Funds Received / Expended 2018	Total income 2018	Actual Expense 2018	Balance as 31 Dec 2018	% Used Vs. Actual Funds Received
BfdW	146,055.06	130,794.33	15,260.73	89.55%
DCA	95,156.45	95,156.45	-	100.00%
EU	17,055.53	16,760.67	294.86	98.27%
CARE	22,759.80	21,567.41	1,192.39	94.76%
TI	8,000.00	7,889.00	111.00	98.61%
UNESCO	25,994.19	25,994.19	-	100.00%
UNDEF	49,120.00	43,190.19	5,929.81	87.93%
Other contribution (districts, staff)	5,338.85	5,338.85	-	100.00%
Change the Game Academy (CtGA)	11,645.30	5,047.70	6,597.60	43.35%
API Income Generation (Interest, AEA, GIZ)	48,848.08	45,501.58	3,346.50	93.15%
TOTAL	429,973.26	397,240.37	32,732.89	92.39%

8 CHALLENGES

FUNDRAISING AND STAFFING CHALLENGES

API lacked funds in early 2018, mainly for the staff cost that was approved by the Board of Director estimated 90,000 USD to be used from the API reserve funds. Finally, API raised sufficient funds for 2018 and 50% secured funds in next three years. API management has spent most of the time and efforts on fundraising activities that required lots of consultations with staff and outside stakeholders and deadline urgencies. It also effected to delay some project activities implementation and other priorities. Sometime staff were exhausted and frustrated with the very competitive and consultative, preparation process of funding proposal development, its negative unexpected results and internal communications due to urgencies, many priorities and deadlines in short periods, and small number of API staff of 10 full time staff, 2part time advisors, 5 volunteers in office and field to execute activities and management affairs.

We also faced challenges of staff turnover, about 1 to 2 staff annually, lack of full time staff working at field and changes and handed over among three directors within last three years, required consultancy services and additional funds to fulfil the gap.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY OF SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY (ISAF) AND ROAD SAFETY PROJECTS

API was not able raise fund to sustain these two project after completion phase I, even though API led the consortium proposal on Social Accountability of 14 organisations for submission to EU and reached final stage; and also joined a co-applicant with Oxfam.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION LAW DRAFT COMPLETED, NOT FULLY MET INTERNATIONAL STANDARD, NOT ADOPTED

API faced challenge of integration of different perspectives on access to information by each sector, draft law was for legal language for all sectors. No funds for A2I law campaign after draft law completed as previous donor (SIDA) and others put their decisions on hold after CNRP was dissolved.

(LOCAL) FUNDRAISING

A successful pilot of local fundraising for small scale project initiatives in partnership with local authority, CBOs and API, but stakeholders faced challenges in reallocating financial resource for both multi-stakeholders meeting cost and implementing small project initiatives to address diversity of communities' issues regarding social services, natural resource and environmental management, and hygiene & sanitation issues and infrastructures, but not API's prioritized mandates. In total 23 joint local project initiatives were locally raised fund and completed the implementation with the amount of USD 15,354. 6,354 USD was donation from private sector, local authority and individuals. API shared 9,000 USD. At least 2 joint projects per district are

implemented by CBOs, Local authority and API. Multi-stakeholder initiatives are a new and pilot project happening in all the target districts. However, it is a challenge to gather for budget share from villagers in the community. Moreover, this project also requires a lot of paper work especially in terms of disbursing the money for the targeted projects. Some local citizens find it hard to understand these paper work because of their limited capacity.

SOME CBOS HAVE NO PERMANENT MEMBERS.

The CBO chief changes all time. There is no budget to support CBOs' activities. Given migration issues, some CBOs are not functioning at all. This is a challenge because the project sometimes has to work with the community that have existing community accountability facilitator (CAF) and connect those facilitators to jointly work together.

ANOTHER ISSUE IS ABOUT COMMUNE COUNCIL MANDATE.

The commune councillors are elected every mandate (5 year term); almost half of them who all from CNRP were terminated. Some members changed in every election. Sometimes, the newly elected commune councillors may have effect on the leadership and management of the past commune councillors. Thus, API must gradually re-build their capacity and build on mutual trust with new leadership.



OUR TEAM

From left: Ms. Am Muykim, Mr. Lars Krause, Mr. Phan Phorp Barmey, Ms. Pauline Knoepper, Ms. Meas Lida, Mr. Em Poly, Ms. Nob Sreyleak, Ms. Van Phearum, Ms. Chorn Somaly, Mr. Chea Sokhalay, Mr. Man Vanpannit, Mr. Lam Socheat



THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND MANAGEMENT

From left: Mr. Lam Socheat (Director), Mr. Man Vanpannit (PM), Mr. Khuon Bunsang (BoD Member), Mr. Soeurng Chandara (Chair of the BoD), Mr. Michlael Engquist (BoD Member), Ms. Chorn Somaly (FM), Ms. Meas Lida (PM), Ms. Nhean Phoungmaly (BoD Member), Mr. Kim Sokleang (BoD Member), Ms. Nakagawa Kasumi (BoD Member), Mr. Lars Krause (Advisor), Mr. Phan Phorp Barmey (SPM)