



29 August, 2016

## Press Release | National Project Launching Ceremony

Phnom Penh – Cambodia: Volunteer Service Overseas Cambodia (VSO) and implementing partners the Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC), NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) and Gender and Development for Cambodia (GADC), will be officially launching the project on **“Strengthening Civil Society Organisations (CSO) networks for inclusive development”** on Tuesday 30 August 2016, in the afternoon, from 2 – 5pm, at the Cambodiana Hotel, Phnom Penh. The event will mark the official start of the project.

This 30-month project is being implemented with the support of the Delegation of the European Union to Cambodia. The project contributes to strengthening CSO networks to be key actors in improving governance and accountability, and encouraging inclusive policy-making. The project specifically builds their organizational and knowledge management, resource mobilization and advocacy capacity to generate greater outcomes for citizens in eight provinces: Siem Reap, Kampong Thom, Prey Veng, Svay Rieng, Kratie, Stung Treng, Ratanakiri, and Mondulkiri.

Guillaume Sauval, VSO Country Director, said “there is a critical need to protect and open up civil society space to support the citizen-led action for accountability. VSO has an embedded daily and long term presence in both local CSOs and sub-national government. Many of our partners tell us that they regard VSO as a reliable facilitator and convener between government and civil society. With the support of the Delegation of the European Union to Cambodia, this collective project is a strong sign of commitment from all partners involved to support Cambodia's efforts towards an inclusive approach to development.”

His Excellency Mr. Ngan Chamroeun, Under Secretary of State, of the Ministry of Interior, and Deputy Executive Director of Secretariat of National Committee for Sub-national Democratic Development (NCDDS) will be presiding over this launching ceremony. Over a hundred participants will be invited to the event including development partners, embassies, national and international NGOs, representatives of national and provincial networks, media, implementing partners, and other organizations working on specific sectors such as youth, children, gender and disability.

VSO is playing a coordination role in managing and ensuring the delivery of high quality project implementation. As implementing partners, CCC builds the capacity of CSO networks on organizational development, knowledge management and resource mobilization while the NGOF facilitates advocacy actions, and GADC is ensuring gender mainstreaming across the project.

Finally, the event will be followed by drinks and light food for socializing and network building, starting at 4:10 pm at Tonle Chaktomuk Room, Cambodiana Hotel. The press will also be welcome to inquire more detailed information about the project.

*Real time audio translation from Khmer to English and vice-versa will be provided via headphones.*

*For more information please contact:*

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