



វេទិកាសម្រាប់ការសហការជាមួយសង្គមស៊ីវិល កម្ពុជា
The NGO Forum on Cambodia

ធ្វើការរួមគ្នាដើម្បីការប្រែប្រួលវិជ្ជមាន
Working Together for Positive Change

GUIDE TO NGO ENGAGEMENT IN AID COORDINATION IN CAMBODIA



Phnom Penh, Cambodia
January 2012

Khmer-English Bilingual Version

Guide to NGO Engagement in Aid Coordination in Cambodia

Published by: The NGO Forum on Cambodia
Development Issues Programme
Development Policy Project

Layout designed by: Mr. Phourn Yu, Information and Publication Officer

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Acknowledgement

The guide to NGO Engagement in Aid Coordination in Cambodia was published by The NGO Forum on Cambodia. This guide is an output of the Development Policy Project and Aid Effectiveness project of Development Issues Programme (DIP). The guide benefits greatly from the support and direction from **Mr. Chhith Sam Ath**, Executive Director of the NGO Forum on Cambodia, and the on-going review and comments provided by **Mr. Chea Kim Song**, DIP Manager, **Mr. Kham Vanda**, Development Policy Project Coordinator, and **Mr. TE Duong Vathana**, Aid Effectiveness Project Coordinator. The acknowledgement should also be extended to **Mr. Phourn Yu** from the Research and Information Center of the NGO Forum for servicing excellent layout and design of the guide. This guide and other publications of the programme may not be made possible without the kind financial support of the NGO Forum donors and partners.

Summary

This guide aims to provide a brief overview of why and how the NGO community participates in the current mechanisms of national-level policy dialogue and aid coordination between the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) and its Development Partners (DPs). The aid coordination mechanisms¹ described in the brochure are: the Cambodia Development Cooperation Forum (CDCF), the Government Donor Coordinating Committee (GDCC), and the Technical Working Groups (TWGs). As stated in the Paris Declaration (2005), Accra Agenda for Action (2008) and Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (2011), both Donors and Partner/Aid Recipient Countries commit to deepen their engagement with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)/Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in aid coordination mechanisms at all levels in order to build Cambodia's country ownership over its development paradigm and recognize CSOs as independent development actors in their own right whose efforts complement those of governments and the private sector. Moreover, donors and partner governments commit to work with CSOs to provide an enabling environment that maximizes their contributions to development. For details on CSO development effectiveness and call for CSO enabling environment, please visit website: www.cso-effectiveness.org.

¹ For details relating to Paris Declaration, Accra Agenda for Action, Cambodia aid management framework, guidelines, relevant aid management documents, evaluation and monitoring reports and ODA database, please visit website of the Cambodia Rehabilitation and Development Board (CRDB) of the Council for Development of Cambodia (CDC) at www.cdc-crdb.gov.kh. For Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, please see this link: <http://www.aideffectiveness.org/busanhl4/en/component/content/article/698.html>

1

Introduction

The Royal Government of Cambodia and its Development Partners² currently hold regular meetings to discuss Cambodia's development priorities and the development aid that comes from the development partners. The Cambodia Development Cooperation Forum is the highest-level meeting and is held once every 15-18 months. In between the CDCF meetings, high-level quarterly or six monthly meetings of the Government Donor Coordinating Committee are scheduled to discuss and monitor the commitments made at the CDCF. In the run up to these high-level meetings, there are meetings of the nineteen Technical Working Groups, which are mostly organized by sector, where representatives from the RGC at Ministerial or Inter-Ministerial Level and the donor-community meet and discuss plans or reform programmes and its implementation, funding, and issues related to aid coordination at the TWG level.

NGOs are participating in the CDCF, GDCC and in 16 of the 19 TWGs. The proximity of the NGOs to Cambodia's poor and vulnerable communities in their day-to-day operations means that many NGOs are well-positioned to add to the discussions in these meetings and ensure that the voices of the communities they work with are heard and taken into account by the RGC and its DPs.

² Like the International Financial Institutions (World Bank, Asian Development Bank, International Monetary Fund), the United Nations System (UNDP, UNICEF, WFP etc.) and the bi-lateral donors (Japan, the United States, etc.). 'Development Partners' and 'Donors' are used interchangeably in this brochure.

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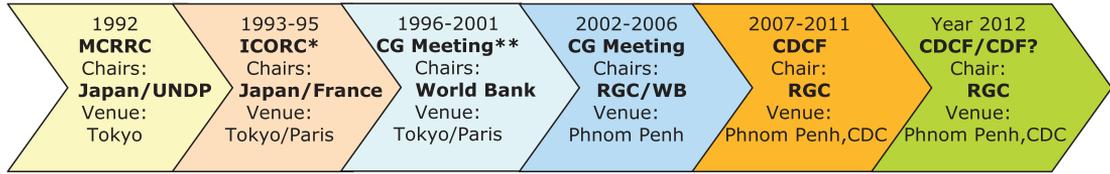
Evolution of the Government – Development Partners Aid Coordination Mechanism

As shown in the picture below, the coordinated Government-Donor discussions began with the Ministerial Conference on the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Cambodia (MCRRC) in 1992 in Tokyo which was followed by the meetings of the International Committee on the Rehabilitation of Cambodia (ICORC) that were first held in Paris in 1993. The ICORC meetings were replaced by meetings of the Consultative Group (CG) in 1996 which were later transformed into meetings of the Cambodia Development Cooperation Forum in 2007. The latest change signified increased Cambodian leadership and ownership of the Government-Development Partner meetings which are presided over by the Prime Minister.

From 1992 to 2001, MCRRC, ICORC and CG meetings were coordinated and chaired by donors. From 2002 to 2006, both Royal Government and World Bank coordinated and chaired the CG meetings. Since 2007, the Government took leadership in coordinating and chairing the meetings with development partners. During these periods, there were at least two NGO representatives who participated and represent the voice of NGO community in Cambodia. From 2007, with the increased ownership of the government, NGO Forum, CCC and MEDiCAM took the representative roles in the meetings of CDCF. The main role of the representatives is to raise key concerns relating to development of Cambodia using the NGO monitoring statement on key reforms and progress of development priorities.

Moreover, the RGC has considered an initiative to merge this CDCF mechanism with Government-Private Sector Forum into the “Cambodia Development Forum (CDF)” which will serve as a mechanism for the Government and all development actors including development partner community, private sector, civil society and other concerned stakeholders to discuss issues related to both public and private sector development and development of Cambodia as a whole. It is not clearly known when this initiative will be achieved.

Transforming Process of Aid Coordination Mechanism for Cambodia



Note:

- *1st ICORC meeting was chaired by France and facilitated by UNDP
- **1st CG meeting was co-chaired by World Bank and Japan
- CDF: Cambodia Development Forum

3

Current Mechanisms for Dialogue between RGC and DPs

The ***Cambodia Development Cooperation Forum*** (CDCF)³ is the highest-level meeting between the Royal Government and its Development Partners to: i) discuss overall progress on socio-economic development (including a review of progress made against the Joint Monitoring Indicators “JMIs” endorsed in the last CDCF), ii) agree on JMIs⁴ for measuring progress for the following year ahead, and iii) development partners pledge their aid for the following year. This forum/meeting is generally presided over by the Prime Minister, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economy and Finance, with participation of ministers and/or secretaries of state of RGC and ambassadors and heads of multilateral financial institutions. On the development partner’s side, the World Bank plays a coordinating and supportive role as the Lead Development Partners Facilitator (LDF).

The preparatory work for CDCF and GDCC is led by CRDB/CDC, in cooperation with relevant ministries and institutions, through the TWG-Partnership and Harmonization (P&H)⁵, of which the Secretary General of CRDB/CDC is the chair. This TWG serves as the “focal point” and the “One-Stop Service” in the contact between the Royal Government and the countries, international organizations and NGOs which are donors to Cambodia, and to serve as the focal point and “One-Stop Service” in the contact among ministries and other governmental institutions in the coordination of the receiving and/or distributing of development assistance to Cambodia. It also provides technical support to the Government-Donor Coordinating Committee which is a mechanism for discussing and formulating policies, and to provide various support initiatives to enhance the mechanism of joint-technical working groups (TWGs). In the TWG-P&H, there are three NGO representatives including CCC, MEDiCAM and NGO Forum. These three NGOs

³ For detail explanation on CDCF, please see its guideline in ‘THE CAMBODIA DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FORUM: OBJECTIVES AND PROCEDURES’ which can be downloaded from CRDB/CDC website.

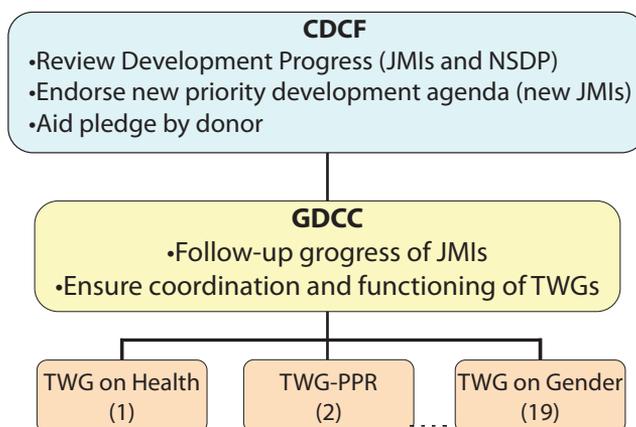
⁴ See below box on Joint Monitoring Indicators for an explanation

⁵ For details about this TWG-P&H, please visit CRDB/CDC website.

have also been invited and included in cross-TWG retreat meetings and capacity buildings in 2011 by CRDB/CDC such as Programme Based Approach (PBA) Promoting Use of Country System and Training on Aid Management in the Philippines for Government Officials.⁶

During the CDCF meeting, there are around 200 to 300 participants and high level representatives of line ministries/agencies of the RGC and DPs who are supported by technical staff and senior officials working at Government line ministries/agencies and at the TWG levels. In this meeting, NGOs are provided with **one seat but three representatives**, who are selected from the membership of Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC), MEDiCAM, and the NGO Forum on Cambodia. This event is generally held at the office of the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) within a regular time frame from 15 to 18 months. The CDCF in Cambodia reaffirms the commitment made in the statement 19 of Paris Declaration that partner countries and donors jointly commit to work together to establish mutually agreed frameworks that provide reliable assessments of performance, transparency and accountability of country systems. For more details on how this dialogue has taken place and progressed, please see this website of CRDB/CDC: www.cdc-crdb.gov.kh.

RGC-DPs Aid Coordination Mechanism



The Joint Monitoring Indicators (JMIs) are short-term and result-based indicators and represent priority development agendas that both the RGC and development partners commit to achieve between the periods of one CDCF to the next CDCF meeting. The progress made against JMIs is monitored by all parties: RGC, Development Partners and NGOs.

⁶ As stated in the Guidelines on Role and Functioning of the TWG (2010), NGOs are invited as full members in TWG and will be invited and included in capacity building available at the TWGs.

As can be seen in the figure above, the **Government-Development Partners Coordination Committee** (GDCC)⁷ supports the CDCF process as a follow up mechanism. The GDCC is a forum for policy dialogue and information sharing on policies, reform programmes and specific activities covering cross-cutting issues. In that, it focuses on follow up on progress made in JMI implementation, discussion of priority issues in the socio-economic development of Cambodia including macro-economic management and follow-up to non-technical remaining issues that are not resolved at TWG level. The GDCC has strong links with CDCF through its focus on the monitoring of implementation of the JMIs endorsed at every CDCF meeting. The GDCC meeting is normally organized twice a year (not exceeding three times a year), where senior representatives from the RGC and DPs discuss the above mentioned issues. Meetings of the GDCC are usually held at the CDC office and are chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economy and Finance while the World Bank is the Lead Development Partner Facilitator.

GDCC is a high level forum for coordination, dialogue and information sharing on policies and matters of key concern and importance related to the socio-economic development of Cambodia. Members include Ministers or heads of government agencies, Ambassadors or heads of diplomatic missions and heads of multilateral institutions. GDCC is intended to ensure coordination among the TWGs, provide policy guidance, set priorities and propose measures to solve problems raised by TWGs.

From the NGO side, three NGO representatives (CCC, MEDiCAM and NGO Forum) are usually invited by CRDB/CDC to participate in GDCC meetings. They are occasionally given the opportunity to present their points of view or concerns on particular issues based on the monitoring statements and position papers prepared by sector NGOs and groups. NGO representatives may also take opportunities in each session or agenda of the meeting for making any specific intervention relating to the agenda items. The Chair of the meeting may reject any interventions that are not closely related to the agenda items. More participants from the NGOs will be subject to permission from CRDB/CDC and this should be made via the three NGO representatives.

The **Technical Working Groups (TWGs)**⁸ are a more technical aid coordination mechanism and dialogue at ministerial or inter-ministerial level which seeks to compliment the existing role of the line ministries/agencies. TWG components include membership of line ministries/

⁷ See detail explanation on GDCC, please read review report on 'The Government-Donor Coordination Committee (GDCC) and Technical Working Groups (TWGs) in Cambodia by CRDB (2006)' which can be downloaded from CRDB/CDC website.

⁸ List of Government and DP in the TWGs are updated and downloadable from CRDB/CDC website at www.cdc-crdb.gov.kh

agencies of RGC, Development Partners and CSOs/NGOs. High ranking official at line ministries/agencies are chair of the TWG and may decide the inclusion or exclusion of membership in consultation with other TWG members. Its main responsibilities include: i) line ministry/agency formulate action plans/reform programmes and strategies for the sector and JMIs and may hold consultation or seek for inputs from other TWG members; ii) mobilize and coordinate donors financial and/or technical support to the implementation of the sector plans/reform programmes, and iii) monitor and follow up the implementation of the plans and JMIs for the sector/thematic issues. From the total of 19 TWGs, 16 include one or more NGOs in their membership. TWG functions follow the Guidelines on the Role and Functioning of the TWGs endorsed at 18th GDCC meeting in October 2010. The Guideline offered advisory support to the TWGs on their organization and scope of work. The number of TWGs may be increased or reduced depending on its necessity and the decision of the Royal Government in coordination with Development Partners. The TWGs that have an element of NGO representation⁹ in their meetings are highlighted and printed with bold and italic text in the box below.

List of 19 TWGs as of December 2011

<i>1. TWG- Agriculture and Water</i>	<i>11. TWG- Land</i>
<i>2. TWG- Decentralization & De-concentration</i>	<i>12. TWG- Legal and Judicial Reform</i>
<i>3. TWG- Education</i>	<i>13. TWG- Mine Action</i>
<i>4. TWG- Fisheries</i>	<i>14. TWG- Partnership & Harmonization</i>
<i>5. TWG- Food Security and Nutrition</i>	<i>15. TWG- Planning & Poverty Reduction</i>
<i>6. TWG- Forestry and Environment</i>	16. TWG- Private Sector Development
<i>7. TWG- Gender</i>	17. TWG- Public Administration Reform
<i>8. TWG- Health</i>	<i>18. TWG- Public Financial Management</i>
<i>9. TWG-HIV/AIDS</i>	<i>19. TWG- Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene</i>
10. TWG- Infrastructure and Regional Integration	

* The bold and italic text of TWG's names indicates that NGOs participated in these TWGs. For the contact information of NGOs who participate in these TWGs, please see annex.

⁹ List of NGO Representatives in the TWGs are available at the NGO Forum and can be downloaded from our website at www.ngoforum.org.kh

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Why should CSOs/NGOs¹⁰ participate in TWGs, GDCC and CDCF?

There are four main reasons why NGOs/CSOs should engage in CDCF, GDCC and TWGs level:

- 1) The process and meetings of the CDCF, GDCC and TWGs, NGOs/CSOs may benefit from significant amounts of information shared by RGC and DPs about the formulation and implementation status of Government policy and reform programmes, where many of them are not available in the public domain. NGO capacity and advocacy skills could also be improved through active engagement in this process.

Moreover, on the NGOs/CSOs side, NGO representatives are occasionally provided with opportunities or can grasp the opportunities to inform the policy makers of RGC and DPs about the development impact occurring at the grassroots level on citizens especially the poor and vulnerable groups that NGOs/CSOs have observed, researched and monitored. By actively sharing this information to the policy and decision makers of the RGC and its development partners, NGOs can help shape the policy discussions and make development efforts more responsive to the needs of the Cambodian citizens, particularly the poor and vulnerable groups.

- 2) NGOs/CSOs could make use of this engagement in the three-mechanisms to hold the government and donors accountable for policy commitments and practices and ultimately for the Cambodian citizens and society as a whole. These are the follow up and sequential accountability mechanisms where government and donors could hold each other accountable to their commitments. The government may have commitment to achieving key reforms and sector plan targets with specific timeframe while donors may have commitments to improve aid harmonization among themselves, to align development aid to Cambodia's development plan priorities and to increase use of coun-

¹⁰ As only NGOs participate in the TWGs; therefore, the term 'NGO' is used to refer to them. However, the original objective of this guide to help not only NGOs but other groups who are components of CSOs including religious groups, associations, labor unions, community based organizations and others.

try system (i.e. Cambodian government public finance system and public procurement system) in channeling of aid to Cambodia.

- 3) CSOs/NGOs could make use of the opportunities available in the TWGs and GDCC to influence the formulation and implementation of JMIs and Cambodia's Five Year National Strategic Development Plans (NSDP)¹¹ prepared by the RGC to ensure that they are more responsive to the needs of the poor and vulnerable people. Normally the JMIs are discussed and prepared at the TWG level and submitted to endorsement at GDCC and CDCF while the NSDP is coordinated and synthesized by Ministry of Planning (MoP) with participation of line ministries and agencies of the RGC, DPs and CSOs/NGOs. As experienced and suggested by the formal guidelines of the government on preparation of NSDP, relevant line ministries and agencies prepare their section and send to MoP for compilation into NSDP. NSDP is approved by council of ministers and adopted by the National Assembly, Senate and Promulgated by the King. Therefore, there are spaces where CSOs/NGOs could make use of their monitoring reports on progress of JMIs and NSDP as implemented by RGC and DPs to influence the line ministries of the RGC, DPs and members of parliament on policy formulation and implementation. This is an effective way of holding the RGC, DPs and National Assembly accountable to the development results and their citizens.

- 4) Participating in the Government-Development partner meetings provides opportunities for Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) /Civil Society Organization (CSOs) to help RGC in realizing development goals in the sector and in the NSDP which would ultimately benefit all Cambodian citizens, especially the poor and vulnerable groups. NGO/CSO participation in aid coordination mechanism is ensured by at least three sequential international declarations made by the Donor Countries and Partner/Aid Recipient Countries including the Paris Declaration in 2005 the Accra Agenda for Action in 2008 and Busan Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (December 2011). In the Paris Declaration, only one sentence in the principle of country ownership mentions the commitment of partner countries to encourage participation of CSO in aid coordination at all levels. The importance of CSO participation and assurance

¹¹ NSDP is the single overarching national development policy of RGC which adapts the rectangular strategy and pursue prioritized goals, targets and actions. Normally, the good national development plan shall include policy priorities, relevant sector strategies, program, reform programs and actions, timing, lead or responsible agency and baseline data, targets and funding needs (or input-output table). Rectangular Strategy is the political platform or agenda of the ruling party government and this is subjected to be also quoted or used for advocacy purpose; As NSDP is adopted by National Assembly; therefore, it is more appropriate for NGOs to make maximum use or references to the NSDP in advocacy messages and purposes. However, rectangular strategy policy priorities are also incorporated in NSDP.

of enabling environment for CSOs operation was further emphasized in the two latest international declarations, namely the Accra Agenda for Action and Busan Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation.

In 2008, Ministers of developing and donor countries responsible for promoting development and Heads of multilateral and bilateral development institutions endorsed the statement in Accra (called Accra Agenda for Action-AAA), Ghana to accelerate and deepen implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2 March 2005). In the AAA, more emphasis is made on CSO participation in aid coordination and in ensuring aid effectiveness and development effectiveness in the declaration on Strengthening Country Ownership over Development and Building More Effective and Inclusive Partnerships for Development. In the statement on strengthening country ownership over development, it said developing country governments will engage CSOs in preparing, implementing and monitoring national development policies and plans while the donors will support efforts to increase capacity of development actors including CSOs.

In statement 20 under the section on building more effective and inclusive partnerships for development of AAA, the endorsers (donor and partner or aid recipient countries) agree to deepen their engagement with CSOs as independent development actors in their own right whose efforts complement those of governments and the private sector. With this, both donors and partner countries also committed to ensure that CSO contributions to development reach their full potential. The statement also encourage CSOs to apply the Paris principles of aid effectiveness and promote CSO development effectiveness through improving CSO coordination with government programmes, enhancing CSO accountability for results, and improving information on CSO activities, Lastly, donors and partner governments commit to work with CSOs to provide an enabling environment that maximizes their contributions to development. With these two declarations in hand, the NGOs/CSOs in Cambodia have a strong legal entry point to engage in aid coordination mechanisms in order to build the country ownership of Cambodia's development paradigm.

Busan Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (2011) which was endorsed by donors and aid-recipient governments in Busan, Republic of Korea further stressed the realization of their commitment in enabling CSOs to exercises their roles as independent development actors, with a particular focus on an enabling environment, consistent with agreed international rights, that maximizes the contributions of CSOs to development. It also encourages CSOs to implement practices that strengthen their accountability and their contribution to development effectiveness, guided by the Istanbul Principles and the International Framework for CSO Development Effectiveness. This declaration and Paris Declaration and AAA can be downloaded from website: www.busanhlf4.org and website of CRDB/CDC: www.cdc-crdb.gov.kh.

5

How do CSOs/NGOs effectively engage in the GDCC and CDCF?

There are two ways in which CSOs/NGOs could participate actively in the meetings of the Government- Development Partners Coordination Committee (GDCC) and the Cambodia Development Cooperation Forum (CDCF).

- 1) For TWG meetings¹², CSOs/NGOs should be well coordinated among themselves prior to discussion in the meeting especially through having a lead NGOs facilitator or coordinator. It is recommended that the lead NGOs or NGO representative(s)¹³ organize a pre-meeting among NGOs working in the same group or sector and discuss priority issues and challenges relating to policy formulation and implementation to be raised at the meetings. These shall be prepared from a factual base or with the support of scientific research which shall inform the policy makers and decision makers of the RGC and DPs with credible information for consideration and actions. NGO representative shall keep regular or close communication with TWG secretariat or sub-groups to ensure that all information received is up to date, and that they are communicated well to NGO members in their own working group or sector and from the members to the TWG. NGO representative(s) shall bear in mind that they are representing the perspective of the NGO members or bringing the concern of the people and not just their own interests to the TWG. NGO representative(s) is/are accountable to the NGO members and the people or the beneficiary. In general, this accountability is in the form of coordinating and/or representing the issues raised by member NGOs, report-

¹² See details in the Guidelines on Role and Functioning of TWG endorsed in October 2010 which can be downloaded from CRDB/CDC website at www.cdc-crdp.gov.kh. It is useful for NGOs to read the 'Report summary on assessment of NGO participation and representation in TWGs' published by the Aid Effectiveness Project of the NGO Forum in 2011 which can be downloaded from this link <http://www.ngoforum.org.kh/eng/core/enpublications.php?docs=aepdoc>.

¹³ NGO representative refers to NGO(s) who is/are accepted or invited by the government as member(s) of the TWG and that individual representative of that NGO should work in the interest of the members and the people, not their own organization or individual interest.

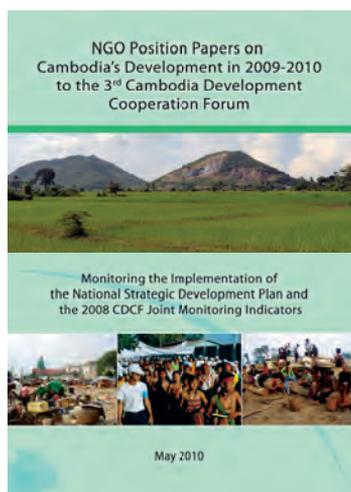
ing back the result of discussion to members, and coordinating follow up actions with members.

One of the most effective ways for NGOs to actively engage in GDCC and CDCF is through the pre-meeting preparation and discussion. NGOs should be well prepared and have decided on what key or priority issues they would like to be raised at the meetings and they should also make sure they are coordinated or supported with evidence or scientific research or observation. NGOs should be constructive on issues to be raised so that they would not adversely affect the working relationship or their engagement with government and donors in all levels back to the TWG. Those key issues shall also be relevant to the agenda items of the GDCC and CDCF because, as experienced by NGO representatives in the past, those issues not highly relevant to the agenda item or topic of the dialogue session may be rejected by the chair. To address this, the NGO representatives (CCC, MEDiCAM and NGO Forum) in the TWG-Partnership and Harmonization (P&H) must base any requests from sector NGOs working with other TWGs and may organize meeting among lead sector NGOs to discuss and identify priority issues to be raised to the TWG-P&H for consideration and including into the agenda of the GDCC and CDCF. In case, the proposal is not permitted, then NGO representatives, through coordination and consultation, may intervene in the relevant session or agenda of the two meetings. If all these efforts fail, NGOs may discuss and identify other measures for influencing the discussion such as media strategy.

- 2) For GDCC meetings, CSOs/NGOs produce a written report or statement which is so called “the NGO Statement on Monitoring CDCF’s Indicators (also known as JMIs) to GDCC meeting” that summarize the observed periodic progress on the implementation of the JMIs. Occasionally, annexes are attached to the NGO Statement to GDCC meeting on key development issues that are not covered by JMIs. After compilation of each sectoral NGO statement into the “NGO Statement on Monitoring CDCF JMIs to GDCC meeting”, NGOs submit the statement/monitoring reports to the representatives of both the Royal Government and the Development Partners. The sectoral NGO statement is written by sector NGOs through consultation with their network members and/or NGOs who are working on the same sector/issue. The sector statements made by sector NGOs are coordinated by NGO Forum, CCC and MEDiCAM. In addition to the written NGO statement, NGO representatives who participated in the GDCC meetings can raise issues from the statement during the meeting, provide more detailed information on any of these issues, or raise critical issues that deserve the attention and discussion of the meeting. This should also be related to the agenda of the meeting.

To ensure effective preparation, the statement by sector NGOs should be finalized at least two weeks prior to the GDCC meeting so that it will be printed and distributed at least one week prior to meeting date.

- 3) For the high level meetings of the **Cambodia Development Cooperation Forum (CDCF)**, CSOs/NGOs produce “NGO Position Papers on Cambodia’s Development to CDCF” and one short “NGO Statement to the CDCF on the priority issues from one CDCF to the next CDCF” that highlights the most critical and cross cutting issues from the more detailed NGO Position Papers. The individual position papers are written by “Sectoral NGOs/Groups” who are responsible for producing their own paper based on consultations with their (network) members and other NGOs in the same sector as well as relevant community groups where appropriate. This is to ensure a shared voice among civil society as well as to identify the common key priority development issues and challenges in the sector to be included in the short NGO statement. Meanwhile, three umbrella NGOs (NGO Forum, CCC and MEDiCAM) coordinate this process and administer the quality of the sectoral position paper. The statement should be constructive, evidence-based or scientific and professional so that it contributes to a fruitful dialogue for better solutions for all. After cross-checking to ensure good quality, the position papers are printed, launched and submitted to the Royal Government and its Development partners prior and during the CDCF meeting. To ensure effective and timely use of the paper, the sector NGO papers should be finalized at least one month prior to the meeting date so that it will be printed and distributed to RGC and DPs at least two weeks prior to meeting date.



NGO Position Paper on Cambodia’s Development to CDCF



NGO Statement on Monitoring CDCF’s Indicators to GDCC meeting

The NGO Statement and Position Paper¹⁴ prepared through consultation with their (network) members and/groups should highlight important or critical issues in their own sector of work along with possible solutions/recommendations to both Royal Government and Development Partners for consideration and actions, where appropriate. Individual sectoral statement or position paper is shared with the NGO Forum for compilation and publication.

☞ Why should NGOs write monitoring statements/position papers to GDCC and CDCF?

With coordination mechanisms in place, it is more appropriate to maximize the use of these mechanisms to address development issues and challenges before other measures will be taken by CSOs/NGOs that may have severe negative effects on the dialogue mechanism and their future engagement. With the opportunity given to NGO/CSO representatives to participate in TWG meetings, they can raise issues relating to impacts of development and its challenges for discussion on the performance of sector/thematic plans or reform programmes and JMIs' implementation. At the least, some of those issues and challenges could be technically overcome through coordination and discussion at the TWG level.

In principle and practice, those issues that are not progressed or solved at the TWG level could be brought forward to be discussed and solved at the GDCC and CDCF. At the GDCC and CDCF, the chair of the meeting could hold officials of line ministries/agencies of the government and relevant DPs from each TWG accountable for their lack of progress or coordination. This is where NGOs could take the opportunity to hold government and donor accountable for things such as the lack of coordination or slow progress in the reform programmes or implementation of sector plan or JMIs as well as aid coordination and alignment and harmonization to sector plan and development priorities as identified in the National Strategic Development Plan.

If those issues or challenges raised by the NGO/CSO representatives could not be resolved at the TWG level, there is still an opportunity for NGOs to raise those issues again through writing NGO Statements and Position Papers (in the form of monitoring report) to GDCC and CDCF meetings where higher-ranking officials of government and development partners gather together to discuss and address the issues among other priority agendas of the meeting. The GDCC and CDCF meetings are higher-level dialogues than TWGs where the challenges

¹⁴ For copy of NGO Statement on Monitoring CDCF's Indicators to GDCC meeting and NGO Position Paper on Cambodia's Development to CDCF in Khmer and English, please visit our website at www.ngoforum.org.kh or go to this link: <http://www.ngoforum.org.kh/eng/core/enpublications.php?docs=dppdoc>. In each process of preparing NGO Statement and NGO Position Paper, NGO Forum in consultation with CCC, MEDiCAM, and sector NGOs develops and circulates a template or format for use by all sector NGOs to ensure consistency of the statements and position papers.

or issues are potentially discussed to find out the solutions and the resolution approaches are taken into consideration. At this stage, the chair of the meeting may influence decision making for future actions to be addressed by relevant TWG. For example, in the 18th GDCC meeting in April 2011, there was concern from DPs and NGO Forum on the slow progress of the Public Financial Management Reform Programme (PFMRP) in their remarks and statement to the government; as a result, the deputy prime minister of MEF attended and presided over the meeting of TWG-PFM in July 2011 to push for further progress of the PRMRP.

Furthermore, NGOs can utilize the NGO Statements and Position Papers to follow up on their suggestions and recommendations written in these two reports with the government and development partners whether they will be responsive to the suggestions raised in the statements/position papers.

6

Preparation for Strategic NGO Participation in the TWGs, GDCC and CDCF

To be well-prepared, a roadmap for the preparation of NGO Position Papers and Statements to CDCF and GDCC meetings will be developed to inform key steps of preparation processes with the specific timeframe. The roadmap also informs responsibility sharing among the sectoral NGOs, CCC, MEDiCAM and NGO Forum. Normally, this roadmap is prepared by the NGO Forum in consultation with CCC and MEDiCAM and also discussed by representatives of all sector NGOs in the Development Issues Forum (DIF) organized by the NGO Forum in cooperation with CCC and MEDiCAM.

NGO Representatives at GDCC and CDCF meetings are usually directors of CCC, MEDiCAM, and NGO Forum; however, they can also be selected from other sector NGOs through the DIF depending on the priority or cross cutting issues to be raised at the meetings. To ensure continuity of effective representation, information sharing and possible interventions, the executive directors of CCC, MEDiCAM, and NGO Forum usually attend the GDCC meeting. To ensure effective representation, NGO representatives should possess seniority, experiences, good English proficiency and relevant background in priority or cross cutting issues to be raised at the two meetings.

It has been observed that for NGOs to be well-prepared and effectively participate in these mechanisms (CDCF, GDCC, and TWGs), it is important that:

- participating organisations are well-networked and coordinated within their own sector in order to represent the view of the NGOs in the sector;
- the NGO representative(s) have a thorough understanding of the sector and are well-informed about Government plans and the development partner support i.e. through TWG mechanism and other working relationships;
- the same NGO representatives participate in the meetings of TWGs in order to build good working relationships and mutual understanding with other members of the TWG;
- as most meetings are held in English, the NGO representatives should have good English-language skills in order to articulate the views of NGOs.

7

How do CSOs/NGOs measure the effectiveness or result of their engagement in TWGs, GDCC and CDCF?

This question has often been raised by many sector NGOs including those already engaged in the TWGs, GDCC and CDCF. For the TWGs, NGO representative(s) shall be able to measure the effectiveness and result of their engagement in the policy dialogue at that level given the fact that they are working in their own field. For the GDCC and CDCF, it is not appropriate to be measured from what sector NGOs have been working on at the TWG as their monitoring statements and position papers on the implementation of the JMIs and NSDP are deep rooted in the technical coordination at the TWG. What has to be measured from the GDCC and CDCF are their key issues raised or considered during the meeting and that policy makers or decision makers of the RGC and DPs responded or showed their commitment to address. This could be seen through the reports and relevant statements or remarks¹⁵ of the RGC and DPs at GDCC and CDCF and the debriefing by the NGO representatives on the result of both meetings. To ensure that those commitments or responses are enforced, NGOs may conduct further follow up with relevant TWGs based on their statements and responses at GDCC and CDCF.

In addition, they could also conduct social audit activities at the grass root level with regard to how policies are translated into practice. Social audit refers to an independent and participatory evaluation of the performance of a public agency or a program/scheme or a project with the participation of various groups. Social audit¹⁶, as experienced by NGOs in India, involves five stages such as gathering information, collating and analyzing information, distributing information, the public hearing, and follow up to the public hearing. This model has also been being applied similarly by NGOs in Cambodia such as MEDiCAM. It organizes regional Community Health Forums with participation of Government officials in Ministry of Health, NGOs, and community people (service users).

¹⁵ For reports of meetings, progress report and remarks of RGC and DPs by TWG and other documents, please visit website of CRDB/CDC.

¹⁶ For detailed explanation, please contact NGO Forum at ngoforum@ngoforum.org.kh.

Annex: Contact Information of NGO Representative(s) that Participate in Technical Working Groups (TWGs)

1. TWG-Agriculture and Water

The Cambodian Center for Study and Development in Agriculture (CEDAC)

Tel: (855-12) 869 443

E-mail: makarady@cedac.org.kh

Website: www.cedac.org.kh

Address: #119, St. 257, Sangkat Teuk Laak I, Khan Tuol Kork, Phnom Penh

2. TWG-Decentralization and De-concentration

STAR Kampuchea

Tel: (855-23) 211 612

Fax: (855-23) 211 812

Email: star-vac@starkampuchea.org.kh

Address: # 67, Street 123/468, Sangkat Tuol Tum Pong I, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

3. TWG-Education

NGO Education Partnership (NEP)

Tel: (855-23) 224 774

E-mail: info@nepcambodia.org or dir@nepcamobdia.org

Website: www.nepcambodia.org

Address: #11A, St. 248, Sangkat Veal Vong, Khan 7 Makara, Phnom Penh

4. TWG- Fisheries

Fisheries Action Coalition Team (FACT)

Tel: (855-23) 992 044

Fax: (855-23) 992 044

E-mail: fact@online.com.kh

Website: www.fact.org.kh

Address: #215, Street 150, Toeuk Laok II, Toul Kork, Phnom Penh

5. TWG-Food Security and Nutrition

The NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGO Forum)

Tel: (855-23) 214 429

Fax: (855-23) 994 063

E-mail: ngoforum@ngoforum.org.kh

Website: www.ngoforum.org.kh

Address: #9-11, St. 476, Sangkat Tuol Tumpoung I, Khan Chamkarmorn, Phnom Penh

Caritas Cambodia

Tel: (855) 23 210 757, 213 529

Fax: (855) 23 216 258

E-mail: caritas@caritascambodia.org

Website: <http://caritascambodia.org>

Address: #47, St.198, Sangkat Boeung Pralith, Khan 7 Makara, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

6. TWG-Forestry and Environment

The NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGO Forum)

Tel: (855-23) 214 429

Fax: (855-23) 994 063

E-mail: ngoforum@ngoforum.org.kh

Website: www.ngoforum.org.kh

Address: #9-11, St. 476, Sangkat Tuol Tumpoung I, Khan Chamkarmorn, Phnom Penh

7. TWG-Gender

Gender and Development for Cambodia (GAD/C)

Tel: (855-23) 215 137

Fax: (855-23) 996 934

E-mail: gad@online.com.kh

Website: www.gad.org.kh

Address: #89, St. 288, Sangkat Olympic, Khan Chamkarmorn, Phnom Penh (PO Box 2684)

8. TWG-Health

MEDiCAM

Tel: (855-23) 880 291

Fax: (855-23) 880 292

E-mail: info@medicam-cambodia.org

Website: www.medicam-cambodia.org

Address: #4, St. 522, Sangkat Boeung Kak I, Khan Tuol Kok, Phnom Penh (PO Box 1164)

9. TWG- HIV/AIDS

KHANA

Tel: (855-23) 211505,

Fax: (855-23) 214049

Address: #33, Street 71, Phnom Penh, Cambodia (P.O Box. 2311)

Web: <http://www.khana.org.kh>

10. TWG-Infrastructure and Regional Integration

No NGO Representative

11. TWG-Land

The NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGO Forum)

Tel: (855-23) 214 429

Fax: (855-23) 994 063

E-mail: ngoforum@ngoforum.org.kh

Website: www.ngoforum.org.kh

Address: #9-11, St. 476, Sangkat Tuol Tumpoung I, Khan Chamkarmorn, Phnom Penh

12. TWG-Legal and Judicial Reform

Legal Aid of Cambodia (LAC)

Tel: (855-23) 883 914

Fax: (855-23) 880 914

Email: lac@lac.org.kh

Address: No.51, St.608, P.O.Box: 1197, Sangkat Boeung Kok II, Khan Toukok, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

13. TWG-Mine Action

The HALO Trust Cambodia

Tel: (855-63) 380 178

Mobile phone: 012 808 630

Email: mail@halocambodia.org

Website: www.halotrust.org

Address: Chey Village, Teuk Vil Commune, Pouk District, Siem Reap Province, Cambodia.

14. TWG-Partnership and Harmonization

Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC)

Tel: (855-23) 214 152/216 009

Fax: (855-23) 219 009

E-mail: info@ccc-cambodia.org

Website: www.ccc-cambodia.org

Address: #9-11, St. 476, Sangkat Tuol Tumpoung I, Khan Chamkarmorn, Phnom Penh

MEDiCAM

Tel: (855-23) 880 291

Fax: (855-23) 880 292

E-mail: info@medicam-cambodia.org

Website: www.medicam-cambodia.org

Address: #4, St. 522, Sangkat Boeung Kak I, Khan Tuol Kok, Phnom Penh (PO Box 1164)

The NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGO Forum)

Tel: (855-23) 214 429

Fax: (855-23) 994 063

E-mail: ngoforum@ngoforum.org.kh

Website: www.ngoforum.org.kh

Address: #9-11, St. 476, Sangkat Tuol Tumpoung I, Khan Chamkarmorn, Phnom Penh

15. TWG-Planning and Poverty Reduction

The NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGO Forum)

Tel: (855-23) 214 429

Fax: (855-23) 994 063

E-mail: ngoforum@ngoforum.org.kh

Website: www.ngoforum.org.kh

Address: #9-11, St. 476, Sangkat Tuol Tumpoung I, Khan Chamkarmorn, Phnom Penh

16. TWG-Private Sector Development

No NGO Representative

17. TWG-Public Administrative Reform

No NGO Representative

18. TWG- Public Financial Management

The NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGO Forum)

Tel: (855-23) 214 429

Fax: (855-23) 994 063

E-mail: ngoforum@ngoforum.org.kh

Website: www.ngoforum.org.kh

Address: #9-11, St. 476, Sangkat Tuol Tumpoung I, Khan Chamkarmorn, Phnom Penh

19. TWG-Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene

Resource Development International-Cambodia (RDI-Cambodia)

Tel: 855 (0)12-200-235

855 (0)17-778-533

Email: info@rdic.org

Address: Royal Brick Road, Preak Thom Village, Kbal Kaoh Commune, Kean Svay District, Kandal Province, Cambodia.

Contact Information:

The Development Policy Project of the NGO Forum on Cambodia provides coordination support to NGOs that actively participate in TWG, GDCC and CDCF. Base on our experiences, scientific observations and practical knowledge on development status at the grass-roots level, NGOs together can influence more positive change for the better Cambodia through making positive and significant contribution to policy making and implementation that are responsive to the needs of the people especially poor and vulnerable groups. In case you have any questions on the issues raised in this brochure, please contact the NGO Forum at the address provided below.



វេទិកាសម្រាប់មន្ទីរសេដ្ឋកិច្ច និងហិរញ្ញវត្ថុ
The NGO Forum on Cambodia

ធ្វើការរួមគ្នាដើម្បីការប្រសើរឡើង
Working Together for Positive Change

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