



Regional: Deepening Civil Society Engagement for Development Effectiveness - Deepening ADB-Civil Society Engagement in Selected Countries in Central and West Asia, East Asia, and the Pacific (Subproject 1)

Project Name	Deepening Civil Society Engagement for Development Effectiveness - Deepening ADB-Civil Society Engagement in Selected Countries in Central and West Asia, East Asia, and the Pacific (Subproject 1)	
Project Number	50364-002	
Country	Regional	
Project Status	Active	
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance	
Source of Funding / Amount	TA 9475-REG: Deepening Civil Society Engagement for Development Effectiveness - Deepening ADB Civil Society Engagement in Selected Countries in Central and West Asia, East Asia, and the Pacific (Subproject 1)	
	Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 400,000.00
Strategic Agendas	Inclusive economic growth	
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development Partnerships	
Sector / Subsector	Public sector management - Public administration	
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Some gender elements	

Description

The TA cluster PN 50364 001: Deepening Civil Society Engagement for Development Effectiveness, approved on 27 November 2017, seeks to support ADB's corporate strategic directions and enable the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department (SDCC) to help the ADB's regional departments operationalize them through more constructive engagement with civil society. The TA cluster will focus on the external constraints that have been identified and will also demonstrate new ways of engaging with civil society through operationalizing ongoing improvements in ADB's internal business processes (internal constraints).

The TA cluster will contribute to the improved delivery of inclusive development services in selected DMCs, in support of the SDGs, by contributing to stronger CSO participation in ADB operations. The three outputs of the TA cluster are:

Output 1: Capacity for effective CSO engagement in the design, implementation, and monitoring of ADB projects improved.

Output 2: Demonstration activities through effective CSO engagement conducted.

Output 3: Knowledge products about effective CSO engagement in ADB operations generated and shared.

Subproject 1 (SP1) is the first of three subprojects planned under the TA cluster. SP1 will focus on selected countries in three ADB regional departments: East Asia Department (EARD), Central and West Asia Department (CWRD), and Pacific Department (PARD). Subproject 2 (SP2) will expand the TA activities into selected countries in the South Asia Department (SARD) and Southeast Asia Department (SERD), plus additional countries in PARD, while Subproject 3 (SP3) will upscale and expand ongoing activities under SP1 and SP2. The TA cluster approach allows for a staging of complementary activities, bundled under subprojects and sequenced to allow for adequate planning and design of activities, mobilization of resources, and scheduling of funding. The TA cluster approach also allows for flexible upscaling of successful outputs and alignment of donor funding with subproject design. The three subprojects are envisioned to deliver activities and outputs individually, which will contribute to the above TA cluster outputs, and will collectively strengthen and enhance the likelihood of achieving desired performance targets as outlined in the design and monitoring framework.

SP1 will support a range of activities to address the external barriers, by building the knowledge and skills of government and CSOs to cooperate and establish collective objectives through ADB-financed programs and projects. The first subproject will initiate the project and lay the groundwork for subprojects 2 and 3. SP1 will focus on selected countries in three regional departments, namely: CWRD, EARD, and PARD. In particular the focus countries will be Georgia (CWRD), and Mongolia (EARD). A regional approach will be adopted in PARD by identifying key projects as points of entry. Activities will focus in these countries and region, but the subproject will not necessarily exclude any other ADB member countries. SP1 supports the three outputs of the TA cluster. It will undertake a participatory design of the enhanced CSO engagement program and commence implementation of in-country capacity building and CSO engagement programs for Year 1 of the implementation period.

SP1 will also complement ADB's ongoing internal initiatives, including those launched under MTR-AP which aims to address barriers to achieving higher levels of CSO engagement in ADB operations. The barriers include ADB's own business processes and procedures which are insufficient to stimulate higher levels of CSO engagement, limited incentives to engage CSOs, the need to strengthen the ADB's CSO Cooperation Network comprising of bankwide CSO focal persons under regional departments, and the knowledge and experience of staff which may constrain the quality of CSO engagement especially at the design stage of projects.

SP1 will also help prepare the initial design for SP2 under the TA cluster. This includes initial planning and designs for SARD and SERD pilot countries for SP2, and seeking additional funding for full implementation of SP2 and SP3. SP1 will explore innovative ways to upscale partnerships and demonstrate CSO engagement, one of which will be through mobilizing other funding sources.

Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy

SP1 will contribute to the achievement of the expected impact of the TA cluster: delivery of inclusive development services in selected DMCs improved (SDG10). This aligns with the direction of the ADB's Midterm Review of Strategy 2020.

The outcome of SP1 is that CSO participation in ADB operations is strengthened. The design and monitoring framework (DMF) for SP1 is given in Appendix 1. The outcome will be delivered through outputs aligned with the TA cluster as follows:

a. Output 1: Capacity building products and services for CSOs and government agencies on effective CSO engagement in ADB projects delivered

Output 1 of SP1, supporting output 1 (capacity building) of the TA cluster, comprises a range of capacity building activities aimed at improving the engagement of CSOs in ADB projects. Activities under Output 1 include: (i) assessment of capacity building needs and training gaps of relevant government agencies and CSOs in SP1 DMCs in CWRD, EARD, and PARD; (ii) assessment of capacity building needs of relevant ADB staff in order to design for higher levels of CSO engagement in ADB projects; (iii) development of curricula, training programs, and interactive capacity building dialogue events (such as focus group/roundtable discussions) on CSO engagement, tailored and differentiated between CSOs and government agency staff; and (iv) delivery of curricula, training programs, and focus group/roundtable discussions on CSO engagement for government staff and CSOs.

b. Output 2: Good practice on the contribution of CSO participation to improving the quality of ADB operations disseminated

Output 2 of SP1, supporting output 2 and output 3 (demonstrations activities and knowledge products) of the TA cluster, comprises a package of activities designed to highlight and demonstrate good practices on the contribution of CSO participation to improving project operations. Activities under this output will specifically apply inclusive and participatory approaches and include: (i) conduct an in-depth assessment of CSO engagement in ADB operations and in-country development projects; (ii) develop ADB CSO country cooperation frameworks and action plans; (iii) integrate knowledge and expertise of CSOs into sector and country assistance strategies in selected regional departments and DMCs; (iv) design guidelines for CSO engagement to enhance sector operations, particularly focusing on the portfolio of the DMCs covered in SP1; and (iv) prepare and disseminate a package of knowledge products and services about ADB CSO cooperation, using multi-media platforms, networking events which demonstrate CSO cooperation, educational tours, and region-specific guides about CSO engagement.

c. Output 3: Institutional linkages to facilitate increased CSO engagement strengthened

Output 3 of SP1 will strengthen institutional linkages to facilitate increased CSO engagement in ADB operations. It directly supports output 2 (demonstration projects) under the TA cluster. Activities will include: (i) engaging national consultants in Mongolia Resident Mission and Georgia Resident Mission, to provide increased resources to facilitate linkages between project design and CSO-facing staff; (ii) through working with project officers and other operational staff, identification of projects and design of activities for higher levels of CSO engagement in the ADB ongoing and pipeline portfolio of projects in each SP1 DMC; (iii) identification of potential activities to be undertaken by CSOs in parallel to ADB project activities designed to synergize and complement project outputs; and (iv) supporting ongoing project operations in deepening CSO engagement and support for the involvement of CSOs in the design, implementation, and monitoring of project activities and outputs, with small-scale funding being made available under SP1 to facilitate this CSO engagement.

d. Output 4: CSO knowledge and perspectives on ADB operations generated.

Output 4 of SP1, supports output 2 and output 3 (demonstration activities and knowledge generated and shared) of the TA cluster, aims to enhance CSO knowledge assimilation through establishment of advisory committees at regional and national levels. This SP1 output will initiate long term (to be continued in SP2 and SP3) activities to support achievement of the outcome of the TA cluster. A holistic monitoring and routine review of the progress of the TA cluster and internal ADB business process reforms is envisaged in order to continue to enhance TA cluster activities and ADB's institutional support and business process to achieve higher levels of CSO engagement. Activities under this output include: (i) establishment of the External Advisory Committee (EAC), consisting of national and international CSOs, ADB regional department, and SDCC representative staff, who will meet as a committee at least twice during SP1's implementation. The EAC would be charged with conducting reviews, comparative studies facilitating discussions and providing advice to stimulate higher levels of CSO engagement in operations in consultation with CSOs, governments, and ADB operations; and (ii) a Country Advisory Committee (CAC) consisting of 3-5 CSOs with existing capacity relevant to the ADB country portfolio to assist resident mission staff and project officers review and provide advice on CSO cooperation in programs and projects, and how wider CSO activities may complement these, will be established and supported in all SP1 countries. Further, ToR will be developed in cooperation with country offices during the implementation of SP1.

Impact Delivery of inclusive development services in selected DMCs improved (Sustainable Development Goal 10)

Project Outcome

Description of Outcome CSO participation in ADB operations strengthened

Progress Toward Outcome The project team is developing CSO participation strategies with concrete steps to deepen and/or strengthen CSO involvement in the design, implementation, and monitoring of ADB-financed projects in Georgia and Mongolia. The project is supporting CSO engagement in 3 Pacific countries where CSOs are able to participate in decision-making.

Implementation Progress

Description of Project Outputs	Capacity building products and services for CSOs and government agencies on effective CSO engagement in ADB projects delivered Good practice on the contribution of CSO participation to improving the quality of ADB operations disseminated Institutional linkages to facilitate increased CSO engagement strengthened CSO knowledge and perspectives on ADB operations generated
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Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)	Under Output 1, the design of the capacity building products and services for CSOs and government agencies on effective CSO engagement in ADB-financed projects is complete. CSOs and government officials have completed training in 2 countries and further training will take place in Q4 2018. Under Output 2, the dissemination of good practice on the contribution of CSO participation to improving the quality of ADB operations is scheduled for 2019. Currently the project is collecting data and preparing the knowledge products. Towards Output 3, strengthened institutional linkages to facilitate increased CSO engagement, all five project CSO-participation plans are identified and commencing in Q3 2018. Research is beginning for the country reports on policies and programs for CSO engagement in national development plans in Georgia and Mongolia. Work on all activities under Output 4, generating CSO knowledge and perspectives in ADB-financed operations, is ongoing.
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Geographical Location	Regional
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Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects

Environmental Aspects

Involuntary Resettlement

Indigenous Peoples

Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation

During Project Design	During project preparation, ADB worked closely with Partnership for Transparency Fund, an international NGO, and its local NGO partners in Georgia and Mongolia, to clearly identify the needs and opportunities for deeper civil society engagement in ADB-financed projects. This background work closely informed project design. In the Pacific, ADB led a series of workshops and other events with civil society and government officials that resulted in the technical assistance project's support to the Pacific.
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During Project Implementation	Civil society organizations have participated in online and face to face training on civil society engagement in ADB-financed projects in Mongolia and 3 Pacific countries. Government officials in 3 Pacific countries have joined similar online and face to face training. Further training is scheduled for Q4 2018 and 2019. In Mongolia, a Country Advisory Committee is planned to convene in Q4 2018 and will further facilitate stakeholder inputs and engagement into the project. Work in Georgia on the same will commence in 2019.
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Business Opportunities

Consulting Services

The technical assistance (TA) will be carried out over 24 months, from December 2017 to December 2019, with Asian Development Bank (ADB) as the executing agency. The TA will use consulting services, and any new business processes, which may be approved by the relevant ADB authorities during TA implementation, to demonstrate effective and efficient engagement mechanisms with civil society organizations (CSO) in line with the deepening ADB CSO engagement objectives of this TA. The TA will mobilize and engage 8 person-months of individual international consultants and 56 person-months of individual national consultants; resources persons and research assistants will also be engaged as required. NGOs will also be engaged as consulting firms to support CAC/EACs and initial preparation of SP2. Consultants will be recruited to (i) support a range of capacity building activities aimed at improving the engagement of CSOs in ADB projects, (ii) research and develop a package of activities designed to highlight and demonstrate good practices on the contribution of CSO participation to improving project operations, (iii) strengthen institutional linkages to facilitate increased CSO engagement in ADB operations, (iv) enhance CSO knowledge assimilation through establishment of advisory CACs at regional and national levels, (v) support CSO participation in selected projects targeting poor and vulnerable communities and groups, and (v) provide project management support.

All consultants will report to ADB's NGO and Civil Society Center (NGOC). ADB's CSO Cooperation Network staff will coordinate implementation of in-country TA activities. Output-based (lump sum) contracts will be considered in all consulting services as the default (preferred) contract form for individual contracts.

A. International Consultants (8 person-months)

Capacity Building Consultant (international, 1.5 person-months). The assignment is expected to develop and test a methodology for capacity building assessments of government project implementing agencies and ADB project teams in good practice CSO engagement. The consultant will support NGOC in developing simple guides for capacity assessments and train NGOC and TA consultants, and ADB's sector and thematic groups (STGs) and ADB's CSO Cooperation Network in the application of these guides.

Participatory Engagement Consultant (international, 6.5 person-months). The assignment is expected to support activities which increase opportunities for engagement with CSOs in ADB operations in CWRD, EARD, and PARD to improve development effectiveness of ADB operations. The consultant will support NGOC and the regional departments as the technical expert on CSO participation and assist in appropriate implementation of CSO participation in projects and outreach activities.

B. National Consultants (56 person-months)

Five national consultants (Writer, CSO Engagement Researcher; CSO Participation Communications/Multi-Media/Training Materials Developer; Project Coordinator; and two National Civil Society Participation Consultants (Georgia and Mongolia), 46 person-months total) will be contracted to provide coordination and support to deliver TA activities.

In addition, an estimated 10 person-months of consulting services will be allocated to be used in a flexible manner to support the TA implementation and may include national consultant support to training, demonstration project design and implementation, surveys, and small research studies.

Research assistants will also be engaged as required to support the TA in areas of specific media production (videos, sound, graphic), research support, production of training materials (traditional or online) web and database development and population; Also, short term editors will be engaged to ensure all documentation meets ADB Handbook on Style and Usage guidelines and publication standards.

C. Consulting Firms

16. International consulting firms with regional experience of CSO engagement will be engaged to support the TA in secretariat and technical support to the EAC and CAC. A summary scope of works includes:

The EAC and CAC Secretariat will:

- (i) organize the EAC meetings and support implementation;
- (ii) conducting reviews and comparative studies related to CSO engagement on ADB projects;
- (iii) support EAG and CAG inputs into the Strategy 2030 consultative process;
- (iv) facilitating EAC discussions, and providing advice to stimulate higher levels of CSO engagement in operations in consultation with CSOs, governments, and ADB operations departments;
- (v) review of the 1998 ADB policy Cooperation Between Asian Development Bank and Nongovernment Organizations (NGOs), the institutional mandate and drivers for working with the civil society sector;
- (vi) support reviews of ADB-CSO engagement processes (for example business processes for CSO engagement, the role of NGOC, CSO Cooperation Network);
- (vii) support the organization and implementation of CAC meetings; and
- (viii) support initial planning and identification of SP2.

D. Advisory Committees

The TA cluster will ensure CSO knowledge assimilation by establishment under Subproject 1 (SP1) advisory committees at regional and national levels; This SP1 output will initiate long term (to be continued in Subproject 2 and Subproject 3) activities to support achievement of the outcome of the TA cluster.

External Advisory Committee (EAC), consisting of national and international CSOs, ADB regional department and SDCC representative staff and government representatives, who will meet at ADB HQ at least twice during SP1. The EAC would be in charge of conducting reviews and comparative studies, facilitating discussions, and providing advice to stimulate higher levels of CSO engagement in operations in consultation with CSOs, governments, and ADB operations departments, including a review of the 1998 ADB policy Cooperation Between Asian Development Bank and Nongovernment Organizations (NGOs), the institutional mandate and drivers for working with the civil society sector, along with business processes for CSO engagement, the role of NGOC, CSO Cooperation Network, and support to CSO project communications engagement in ADB operations.

Country Advisory Committee (CAC) consisting of 3 5 CSOs and government representatives to assist resident mission staff and project officers review and provide advice on CSO cooperation in programs and projects, and how wider CSO activities may complement these, will be established and supported in Georgia (CWRD) and Mongolia (EARD).

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NGO and Civil Society Center

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Timetable

Concept Clearance	-
Fact Finding	29 May 2017 to 06 Aug 2017
MRM	-
Approval	20 Dec 2017
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	25 Sep 2018

TA 9475-REG**Milestones**

Approval	Signing Date	Effectivity Date	Closing		
			Original	Revised	Actual
20 Dec 2017	-	20 Dec 2017	31 Dec 2019	-	-

Financing Plan/TA Utilization

Financing Plan/TA Utilization						Cumulative Disbursements		
ADB	Cofinancing	Counterpart				Total	Date	Amount
		Gov	Beneficiaries	Project Sponsor	Others			
400,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	400,000.00	20 Dec 2017	218,091.91

Project Page

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Request for Information

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