

PECSA's funding will be made available to CSOs and non-state actors who are already actively engaged in activities to improve transparency, accountability and governance in Cambodia, or are planning such activities.

What are the focus areas for PECSA ?

PECSA will seek to enhance capacity for social accountability in the following priority focus areas:

- Improving the effectiveness of public services;
- Monitoring public spending and enhancing accountability for it;
- Strengthening the management of Cambodia's national resources;
- Strengthening governance of private sector;
- Strengthening media as instrument of Good Governance, and;
- Other urgent and relevant concerns for the Cambodian practitioners of social accountability.

What Does PECSA Mean for the World Bank and for Cambodia ?

Governance issues are identified as the primary obstacle to sustainable poverty reduction in Cambodia in the World Bank's Country Assistance Strategy for the financial years 2005 to 2008.

The World Bank's Country Assistance Strategy is intended to help implement the Government's Rectangular Strategy, which provides a sound

diagnosis of Cambodia's development challenges – particularly the central importance of good governance – and a comprehensive list of actions to tackle these problems. The World Bank, in partnership with other donors, has supported the formulation of the Government's new five-year plan for 2006 to 2010, called the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP), and is now supporting its implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Over the last decade, uncoordinated and donor-led aid has often slowed or even undermined the evolution of good governance. Increasing recognition of this problem led to a Government-donor consensus on an agenda for harmonization and alignment, to which the World Bank Group has contributed actively. It is a central principal of the Bank's Country Assistance Strategy to work through strategic partnerships to reduce transaction costs, improve accountability, and support the development of core state capacities.

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Program to Enhance Capacity in Social Accountability (PECSA)

**WORKING TOGETHER
FOR SOCIAL
ACCOUNTABILITY**



WHAT IS PECSA?

The Program to Enhance Capacity in Social Accountability (PECSA) is a World Bank-funded program in Cambodia which has been endorsed by the Ministry of Interior. It responds to the Rectangular Strategy of the Government of Cambodia.

In order to assist citizens of Cambodia to help their government be more effective and accountable, PECSA strives to enhance the capacity of civil society organizations through the following activities:

- a) Training civil society organizations in the use of social accountability approaches and tools;
- b) Adapting global accountability practices to the Cambodian context;
- c) Providing grants to develop and pilot social accountability practices, and;
- d) Supporting enhanced information-sharing and networking among social accountability practitioners.

FOUR MAIN COMPONENTS OF PECSA:

PECSA's four major areas of activity are as follows:

I. Training and Capacity Building

- a) Providing training and mentoring/coaching support for civil society actors (including, among others, leaders and members of NGOs, community-based organizations, independent media and trade unions) to develop their expertise in social accountability approaches and tools including but not limited to the following topics:
 - Accessing public information

- Strengthening community level leadership for civic engagement
- Evidence-based advocacy
- Communications and relations with media
- Constructive dialogue on public policies and plans
- Monitoring and contributing to budget preparation
- Public revenue and expenditure tracking
- Monitoring and evaluation of public services
- Building civil society-state relations and partnerships

- b) Organizing study tours for CSO leaders to learn how specific social accountability tools are applied in other countries, and provide scholarships to broaden their understanding of the implementation of specific approaches and tools of social accountability within and outside Cambodia.

II. Action -Learning and Tool Development

- a) Piloting a "Development Marketplace" mechanism to provide grants for activities to strengthen good governance through social accountability practices.
- b) Providing sub-grants for developing, testing and adapting social accountability tools to the Cambodian context, including monitoring their implementation, disseminating the results and using those results as case studies for further capacity building initiatives.

III. Networking and Resource Centre

- a) Establishing a network of social accountability practitioners, piloting innovative activities to

strengthen governance, exchanging experiences and discussing governance related issues with the government institutions.

- b) Establishing a web-site and resource center on international practices of social accountability, containing among others, key resources, names of social accountability specialists, training materials, case studies, etc.

IV. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

- a) Monitoring the outputs and evaluating the outcomes and impacts of program activities, including identifying and documenting relevant lessons and best practices to inform the proposed Demand for Good Governance Project.
- b) Carrying out studies to enhance social accountability practices, including an assessment of social accountability capacity building needs, analysis of governance-related issues, assessment of specific social accountability practices, and analysis of constraints to social accountability practices.

WHO ARE POTENTIAL PARTNERS OF PECSA?

PECSA will do its best to make the program as meaningful and beneficial as possible to the people of Cambodia by directly supporting and engaging with a variety of civil society groups such as: community-based organizations (CBOs), NGOs, citizens' associations, trade unions and media working at local, provincial and national level.