



# HIGHLIGHTS OF **ADB'S COOPERATION** WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS 2016



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2016**



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Notes:

In this publication, “\$” refers to US dollars.  
All photos are from ADB.



# INTRODUCTION

Over the past 50 years, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has been providing assistance to transform Asia and the Pacific from a region that suffered from debilitating poverty and hunger. At present, the region has become an economic force that contributes more than half of the world's economic growth.

In 2016, ADB approvals including cofinancing totaled \$31.70 billion. Of this total, \$17.47 billion was for sovereign and nonsovereign project approvals financed by ADB ordinary capital resources (OCR), Asian Development Fund (ADF), and other special funds; \$169 million was for technical assistance financed by special funds; and \$14.06 billion was provided by cofinancing partners.<sup>1</sup>

The year saw the continued preparation of ADB's new corporate strategy that aims to respond to the changes brought about by a rapidly evolving Asia and the Pacific. The new strategy will build on the 2014 midterm review of ADB's long-term strategic framework—Strategy 2020. It will outline key directions for ADB's engagement with developing member countries until 2030, and describe how ADB aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on climate change.<sup>2</sup>

The ADB Board of Governors' 49th Annual Meeting provided more opportunities for civil society organizations (CSOs) to learn and exchange views on the bank's operations, strategies, and policies. Strategy 2030 preparations involved consultations with CSOs and other key stakeholders. ADB continued to engage CSOs and nongovernment organizations (NGOs) in the design, implementation, and monitoring of its operations. Knowledge sharing partnerships between ADB and CSOs materialized in joint forums and publications on development solutions and policy reforms.

This brief on 2016 CSO engagement highlights ADB's commitment to strengthen cooperation with CSOs in the various phases of ADB's operations. It provides a snapshot of ADB's engagement with CSOs to implement corporate reforms and to achieve inclusive growth, which benefits a broader cross-section of society.

In its 50th year of development assistance, ADB recognizes that there are still 330 million people, or around 9% of the population of Asia and the Pacific, surviving on less than \$1.90 a day. ADB commits to deepening its cooperation with CSOs to respond to the many challenges faced by its member countries.

# PROJECTS WITH ELEMENTS OF PARTICIPATION FROM CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

In 2016, at least 93% of approved loans and grants, and more than half of technical assistance projects had elements of planned CSO participation in their documentation (Table 1). Public sector management and water sectors registered a relatively high level of CSO participation. CSOs tend to be engaged in the formation of user groups for water supply operations and maintenance, sanitation and hygiene awareness programs, willingness-to-pay studies, in governance and transparency inputs for fiscal and policy reforms, and health service delivery. Energy, finance, and industry and trade recorded less CSO participation as they focus more on institutional development that tend to engage consultancy firms more than NGOs. Safeguards related engagement with CSOs continues to be high.

**Table 1: Approved ADB Operations, 2016**

ADB Operations <sup>a</sup>	Total Approved	With Planned CSO Participation	
		Number	(%)
Loans	92	89	97
Grants	15	14	93
Stand-alone TAs <sup>b</sup>	165	90	55
<b>Total</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>71</b>

ADB = Asian Development Bank, ADF = Asian Development Fund, CSO = civil society organization, JFPR = Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction, OCR = ordinary capital resources, TA = technical assistance.

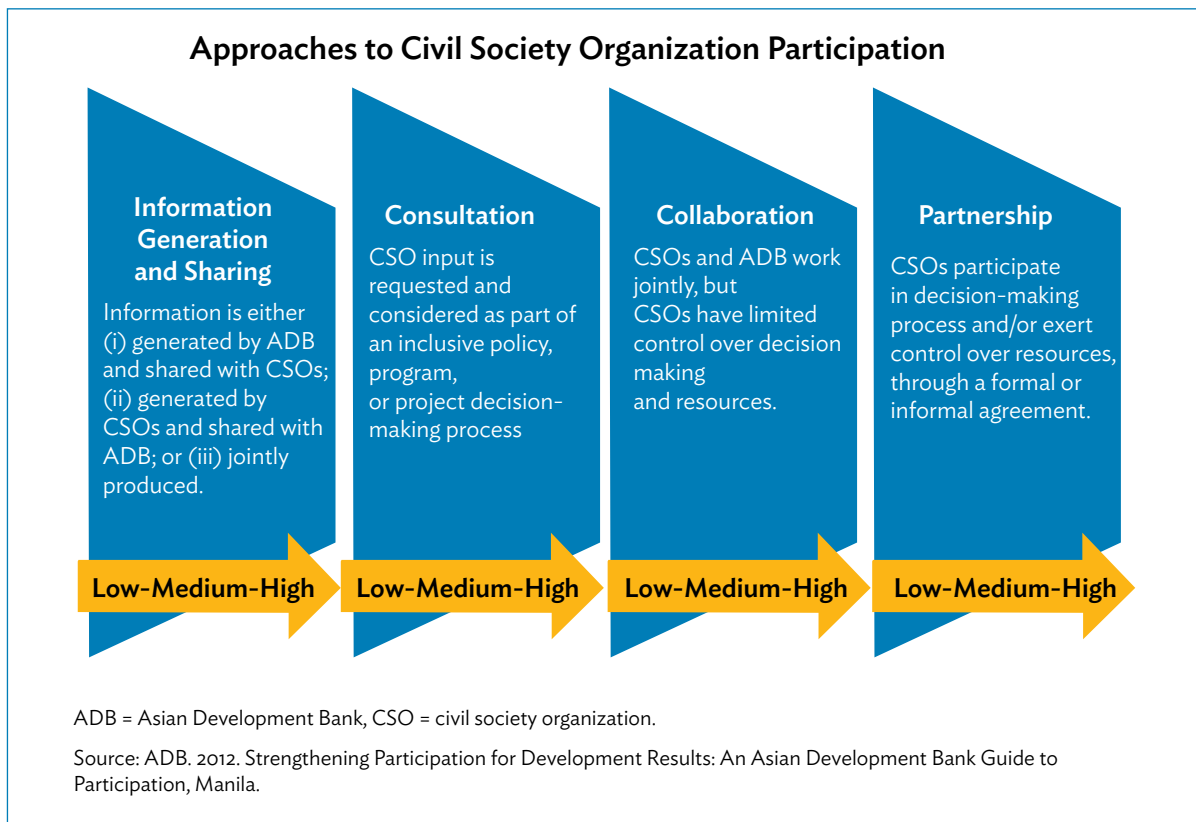
Note: TA projects normally do not show 100% CSO engagement because it supports government agencies rather than local stakeholders and CSOs directly. Moreover, most TAs are used to train organizations and institutions in developing member countries that usually engage consultancy firms or individuals, hence CSO participation is lower. TAs also tend to be multiregional and focus on knowledge sharing.

<sup>a</sup>ADB operations include all OCR and ADF-funded loans and grants, and JFPR-funded grants, some are blended with TAs; and stand-alone TAs. All supplementary and additional financing approvals are excluded.

<sup>b</sup>Stand-alone TAs are not blended with loans and/or grants.

Sources: ADB Operations Services and Financial Management Department, ADB Office of Administrative Services, and project information documents from the operational departments.

# WORKING TOGETHER WITH CIVIL SOCIETY



CSO participation takes place at various phases of ADB's project cycle. The approaches to participation ranges from a simple information generation and sharing with CSOs, through progressively deepening approaches of: consultation, collaboration, and partnerships. The depth of CSO participation in each participatory approach is measured by ADB as low, medium, or high.<sup>3</sup>

## 6 Highlights of ADB's Cooperation with Civil Society Organizations 2016

Following are selected highlights of CSO involvement in 2016 according to participatory approaches in the figure.

### Information Generation and Sharing

#### Public Disclosure of ADB Documents



One of the learning sessions at the 49th ADB Annual Meeting was on “Safeguarding Climate Change Finance in Asia and the Pacific,” coorganized with Transparency International.

ADB's Public Communications Policy 2011 (PCP) requires timely disclosure of project documents to the public and encourages transparent exchange of information.<sup>4</sup> Through the PCP's effective implementation, civil society and the public become more informed about ADB's operations. In 2016, ADB disclosed 95% of project documents, the highest disclosure rate since the current PCP became effective in April 2012. In the same year, ADB received 3,028 requests for information, slightly more than in 2015. Of these, 9% came from CSOs, next to requests from private sector and/or business (52%), and those from students and/or academe (14%).

#### Civil Society Program at the 49th ADB Annual Meeting

An important event for ADB and CSOs is the ADB Board of Governors' Annual Meeting. Close to 300 civil society representatives participated in the 49th ADB Annual Meeting held in Messe Frankfurt in Frankfurt, Germany from 2 to 5 May 2016.<sup>5</sup> The Civil Society Program and institutional events provided CSOs opportunities to learn, share views, and engage in ADB operations. Organized in cooperation with civil society representatives, the Civil Society Program covered topics related to the role of CSOs in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals, climate change finance, improving the implementation of ADB's safeguards policy, and a grassroots perspective on the core labor standards, to name a few.

#### Reports on ADB's Engagement with Civil Society Organizations

Several publications launched in 2016 also showcase ADB's effective engagement with CSOs. A good read is the *How does Asian Development Bank Engage CSOs in its Operations?*, which reports on the results of an exploratory study on CSO engagement in ADB projects in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.<sup>6</sup> *Working with ADB: A Primer for Identifying Business Opportunities for NGOs* was also published to have more CSOs involved in its projects, from the design through evaluation.<sup>7</sup> This primer gives an overview of how ADB and civil society works together, and tips on how NGOs can bid for ADB-financed contracts. CSOs are involved in a very high proportion of ADB projects, usually at the design phase, and typically through consultations.

## Learning Events for Civil Society Organizations in Manila

A series of civil society learning events were held on 21–23 November 2016, at the ADB headquarters in Manila. ADB staff and close to 50 CSO representatives from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka attended the events. The program featured relevant topics such as trends and challenges in engagement, contracting opportunities for CSOs, and ADB's new corporate strategy. The knowledge sharing event provided an opportunity for CSO leaders to share their perspectives on ADB's cooperation with civil society.

## Consultation

### Meeting between Civil Society Organizations and ADB Management



An essential part of the ADB Annual Meeting is the yearly meeting between the ADB President and CSO representatives. On 2 May 2016, during the 49th ADB Annual Meeting, President Takehiko Nakao met CSOs who raised questions about ADB's policies and operations, including issues related to social and environmental safeguards. The 1-hour meeting discussed the important role of CSOs in disaster response and relief and cited ADB's membership to the Open Government Partnership, which supports member countries and CSOs in empowering citizens to strengthen governance.

Civil society organizations' representatives get the chance to meet with ADB management representatives and ask questions on 2 May 2016, during the 49th ADB Annual Meeting in Frankfurt, Germany.

### Outreach to Civil Society Organizations in Japan for the 50th ADB Annual Meeting



ADB held an outreach among CSOs based in Japan to seek their input and support in preparation for the 50th ADB Annual Meeting, to be held in Yokohama, Japan.<sup>8</sup> A forum for CSOs was held on 2 September 2016 in Tokyo, which brought together representatives of international NGOs, labor unions, national nonprofit organizations (NPOs), and advocacy-oriented organizations. The meeting covered topics on ADB's engagement with CSOs, windows and opportunities for ADB–CSO cooperation, and participation of CSOs in Japan in the 50th ADB Annual Meeting.

ADB's NGO and Civil Society Center officers facilitate an outreach meeting with civil society organizations' representatives based in Japan as part of preparations for the 50th ADB Annual Meeting held in Tokyo in 2017.



### Consultations in Policy Review and Development

In 2016, ADB held extensive workshop consultations involving CSOs in preparation for the Road to 2030, its new strategy. CSOs appreciated the participatory approaches and consultative processes ADB used in the activities, wherein they highlighted ADB's role in improving the poor people's living conditions in Asia and the Pacific. CSOs further expressed the need for ADB to promote stronger and inclusive partnerships, transparency and accountability, and to strengthen its own safeguard systems.

CSOs also participated and provided inputs to help ADB improve operations in various forums. In November, ADB launched its Public Communications Policy (PCP) review online, followed by face-to-face consultations that started in December in Bangladesh, Nepal, the Philippines, and Tajikistan. The PCP governs the release of ADB information and documents to external stakeholders. Through the review, CSOs help ADB assess policy implementation and help improve its effectiveness.

**Meaningful and inclusive consultations with affected people are important. Many complaints arise from a lack of adequate and meaningful consultation. When improved, information sharing and closer communication with project beneficiaries are carried out in a timely fashion, the probability of complaints is less. And, in cases of complaint, the trust and respect built through regular consultations can help resolve issues quickly. CSOs, with their detailed knowledge of communities, can help ADB conduct consultations.**

*– Takehiko Nakao, ADB President, Keynote Address at the 13th Annual Meeting of the Independent Accountability Mechanisms*

### Engagement of Civil Society Organizations in Accountability Mechanism

At the 13th Annual Meeting of the Independent Accountability Mechanisms on September 2016, CSOs joined ADB and other international development agencies to share experiences and strengthen cooperation toward enhanced accountability of international financial institutions. The forum offered an opportunity for an open dialogue with CSOs and other stakeholders about effective strategies to promote accountability and effectively respond to the problems of project affected people. In 2003, thanks in part to CSO inputs, ADB formally established an Accountability Mechanism to address grievances fairly and strengthen projects.<sup>9</sup>

### Consultations in ADB Projects

Notable regional consultations held in 2016 also include the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) workshop held in Bangkok, Thailand in April. CSOs participated in the discussions on prevailing road safety situations in each CAREC country and helped formulate a regional strategy to make the roads safer.

ADB also facilitated effective consultations at the country level including Mongolia in January, where over 25 representatives of disabled people's organizations participated to discuss the design of ADB's first loan project to support inclusiveness and service delivery for persons with disabilities. The meeting resulted in concrete proposals to improve early diagnostic, development and rehabilitation services, employability, and social protection for persons with disabilities.

## Collaboration

### Small Grants for Climate Resilience



CSO representatives participate at the launch of the CSO support scheme held on 1 July in Phnom Penh. Photo: <https://www.adb.org/news/adb-supports-civil-society-help-communities-tackle-climate-change>

ADB is supporting CSOs in Cambodia to help communities tackle climate change impacts and natural disasters, through a civil society support scheme officially launched in July 2016. Funded by the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience, the program provides 19 selected CSOs with \$1.4 million in small grants to mainstream climate resilience into their operations.<sup>10</sup> They will implement community-based disaster risk reduction projects in sectors such as infrastructure, agriculture, water resources management, water supply and sanitation, education, and health, as well as enhance ecological protection in 17 provinces across Cambodia. Over 112,000 individuals in more than 21,000 households are expected to benefit from the scheme. “This civil society support scheme will help the selected CSOs play a greater role in

empowering Cambodia’s communities to cope with the impacts of climate change,” said Ancha Srinivasan, principal climate change specialist at ADB’s Southeast Asia Department. The CSO support scheme is administered by Plan International Cambodia, under the guidance of the Ministry of Environment and ADB.

### Creating Jobs through Cooperatives



One of the waste management workshops organized by the cooperative in Smokey Mountain.

Smokey Mountain in Manila, Philippines was internationally known as a showcase for urban squalor and misery when it became an unplanned dumpsite in the 1950s and manifested the city’s growing garbage problem. In the 1990s, Smokey Mountain was closed as a dumpsite and by 2001, informal settlers living in the area were relocated through a housing program. With the dumpsite closed, many lost their main source of income—scavenging.

With a grant from ADB’s Poverty and Environment Fund, the *Sambayanan ng Muling Pagkabuhay ni Kristo* (Association of the Risen Christ) Multipurpose Cooperative has been helping improve lives of thousands of residents in Smokey Mountain when it began to focus on

modern recycling as a replacement for scavenging.<sup>11</sup> The cooperative has created jobs and livelihood projects from recycling wastes. A materials recovery facility was built through the cooperative, which offers training and certification in skills related to recycling. The cooperative’s handicraft shop stocks items such as jewelry, baskets, trays, and wine bottle holders made from old magazine pages.

### Youth Participation in ADB Projects

On its third year, the Youth for Asia (YfA) Program of ADB's NGO and Civil Society Center (NGOC) collaborated with CSOs to increase youth participation in ADB operations.<sup>12</sup> In Mongolia, YfA worked with Global Shapers Community Ulaanbaatar Hub to design and evaluate a research-based road safety awareness campaign with a youth perspective, understanding, and outreach. In the Pacific, YfA worked with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the Pacific Youth Council to mobilize youth representatives from nine countries and conduct training and consultation on the labor market situation in the region.

In support of ADB's 2030 Strategy, YfA conducted youth-focused consultations with over 100 youth stakeholders representing 20 local NGOs and CSOs across 30 ADB developing member countries. This three-part series of consultations were conducted first at the ADB Headquarters in the Philippines and the succeeding ones in collaboration with the Nepal and Mongolia Resident Missions where country-focused consultations were conducted with national youth representatives from CSOs and the academe.

### Partnerships

#### Cooperation for Environmental Sustainability

ADB's partnership with World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) began in the mid-1990s, way before a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed in 2001.<sup>13</sup> Since then, ADB and WWF have cofinanced regional biodiversity initiatives that have leveraged almost \$1.4 billion (including \$117 million from ADB and \$14 million from WWF). The partnership builds on the synergies of each organization's strengths and their shared vision of poverty reduction and environmentally sustainable growth. The cooperation focused on a regional approach to biodiversity preservation and sustainable livelihoods, increasing partnerships with other stakeholders, among others. In March 2016, ADB and WWF identified the following areas of cooperation: (i) supporting environment mainstreaming at ADB's country partnership strategy level; (ii) scaling up the use of market based approaches in environmental management and economic valuation of natural capital; (iii) planning and designing smarter, greener infrastructure and science and policy review on promoting investments in natural capital.

#### Working Together in Disaster Response and Recovery

Tropical Cyclone Winston, the second most powerful storm on record, struck Fiji on 20 February 2016, which left a trail of destruction across large parts of the country. ADB's Emergency Assistance for Recovery from Tropical Cyclone Winston was approved in June 2016.<sup>14</sup> The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is one of ADB's development partners in supporting the Government of Fiji to respond to disaster-related recovery requirements. In March 2008, ADB signed a letter of intent to formalize collaboration with the IFRC on the areas of disaster preparedness and disaster response, community health care, and basic public services in postconflict and postnatural disaster situations, among others.

### ADB–Plan International Partnership



The aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Winston, the second most powerful storm ever recorded.

The 4-year partnership between ADB and Plan International has brought youth closer to ADB operations and activities and have become more visible in knowledge events with specific roles and contributions to the programs. ADB and Plan International projects have also begun to pilot youth components that will enable youth to demonstrate their capacity to support the implementation of activities on the ground and in communities. In addition, Plan International was significantly involved in the implementation of the following projects: Mainstreaming Climate Resilience into Development Planning in Cambodia and Restoring Livelihoods and Building the Resilience of Most Vulnerable People Affected by Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines.

### ADB–AIESEC International Partnership

ADB's partnership with AIESEC, one of the largest youth-led organizations globally, have supported ADB's engagement with youth within its projects and operations through an MOU signed in 2015. The MOU has led to the facilitation of youth placements within ADB's projects with the aim of strengthening each project's outcomes and inclusive impact by integrating youth-focused components. In 2016, this MOU has led to several project engagements.

# HIGHLIGHTS OF REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS WITH CIVIL SOCIETY IN 2016

ADB is arranged into geographical departments and nonlending departments that oversee other aspects of ADB's work.<sup>5</sup> This section features ADB operations approved in, ongoing, completed or showcased in 2016, to give insight on how CSOs are involved in ADB operations and other operations.

**Table 2: Approved Operations by Regional Department and Sector, 2016**

	Total Approved	With Planned CSO Participation	
		Number	(%) <sup>d</sup>
ADB Operational Department <sup>a</sup>			
Central and West Asia	62	46	74
East Asia	50	34	68
The Pacific	32	23	72
South Asia	53	37	70
Southeast Asia	46	36	78
Multiregion <sup>b</sup>	29	17	59
Total	272	193	71
Sector <sup>c</sup>			
Energy	48	23	48
Public sector management	45	36	80
Transport	45	35	78
Agriculture and natural resources	39	31	79
Finance	22	15	68
Water Supply and Other Municipal Infrastructure and Services	21	18	86
Education	21	16	76
Industry and trade	17	10	59
Multisector	6	3	50
Health	8	6	75
Total	272	193	71

ADB = Asian Development Bank, ADF = Asian Development Fund, CSO = civil society organization, JFPR = Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction, OCR = ordinary capital resources, TA = technical assistance.

<sup>a</sup> ADB operations include all OCR and ADF-funded loans and grants, and JFPR-funded grants, some are blended with TAs; and stand-alone TAs. All supplementary and additional financing approvals are excluded.

<sup>b</sup> Multiregion projects encompass more than one designated ADB region, e.g., South Asia and Southeast Asia. In contrast, regionwide projects, which include more than one country within a designated region, e.g., Cambodia, Thailand, and Viet Nam in Southeast Asia, have been grouped with other single country projects under the appropriate region.

<sup>c</sup> Data includes primary sector classification of projects.

<sup>d</sup> Percentage data is based on total by regional department or sector with CSO participation.

Sources: ADB Operations Services and Financial Management Department, ADB Office of Administrative Services, and project information documents from the operational departments.

In 2016, ADB's Southeast Asia Department (SERD) remains to have the most number of approved projects with CSO participation at 78% (of 46) followed by the Central and West Asia Department (CWRD) at 74% (of 62) (Table 2). It should be noted, however, that CWRD had a 48% increase in number of approved projects for 2016, while SERD had a 13% decrease compared to 2015 data. All SERD's 2016 approved loans and grants have been assessed to have CSO participation. All regional departments registered an increase in CSO participation rates for 2016 with the Pacific Department having the biggest jump from 59% to 72%, closely followed by SARD with 70% from 58% in 2015 approvals.

Water (86% of 21) has replaced Education (76% of 21) in the top spot for sectors with highest CSO participation rate in 2016 compared with 2015. There were 89% of 19 Education projects assessed to have CSO participation in 2015. Public sector management follows Water at a CSO participation rate of 80% out of 45 projects approved in 2016.

## Central and West Asia

### Women in Tajikistan Receive Conditional Grants



Odinoy Rustamova, 46, and Mahfirat Nabieva, 32, have opened a furniture and utensils renting point in the Guryod Village, Gissar District. They rent out tables, chairs, pots, and tableware for weddings and other village events.

In Tajikistan, a local CSO, Source of Life, supported more than 130 poor and vulnerable rural women through the CAREC Corridor 3 (Dushanbe–Uzbekistan Border) Improvement Project.<sup>15</sup> The women completed business skills training and received conditional grants to start their own sewing workshops, bakeries, and cattle ranches, among other business ventures. “When the calf grows, I will sell it and use the money to improve the house and buy necessary stuff for my kids,” says Orzugul Hamdamova, one of the women beneficiaries of the project. The project helped Tajikistan upgrade a vital road, a 62-kilometer highway that passes through two major economic areas, linking the capital Dushanbe with the Uzbekistan border.

### Community Organizations Cultivate Farm Efficiency



New storage facilities mean potato farmers in Bamyan can sell their produce in the off-season for up to triple the price. <https://www.adb.org/results/afghanistan-simple-solution-farmers>

In Afghanistan, an \$18.5 million grant seeks to increase the income of farmers, especially women, and oilseed producers by forming community organizations that work together to improve farm efficiency, and by providing training to about 10,000 farmers. The Enhanced Agricultural Value Chains for Sustainable Livelihoods Project is building more than 2,000 potato and onion storage facilities and financing machinery upgrades at processing facilities in Jalalabad and Mazar-e-Sharif to improve the quality of edible oils.<sup>16</sup> Bahar, a vegetable farmer who is a member of 1 of the 55 women associations formed under the project, says “I grow other vegetables but I am focused on potatoes. I can make a considerable income from selling potatoes after harvest by storing them until the market price is at its peak.”

### Government–Civil Society Partnership for Open Governance

In 2014, ADB became a partner to the Open Government Partnership (OGP), an international platform for countries committed to making their governments more open, accountable, and responsive to their citizens.<sup>17</sup> ADB has been supporting member countries to develop and implement OGP action plans. At the Asia and the Pacific Regional Dialogue hosted by ADB in Manila in 2016, NGOC social development specialist Haidy Ear-Dupuy said, “Open government can help strengthen space for government and civil society to work together toward the common goals of more transparent governance systems and processes.”

As one of the first countries to join the OGP, Georgia provides a good example of open and transparent governance which promotes engagement of citizens in decision-making processes. On 7 and 8 April 2016, consultations were held in Ozurgeti and Batumi in Georgia to hear ideas and initiatives of local communities for the OGP Action Plan 2016–2017. Representatives of local governments, NGOs, media, and students attended the consultations.

## East Asia

### Improving Health Care in Mongolia



Students practice using simulation equipment provided through ADB's Third Health Sector Development Project.

ADB partnered with several government and medical stakeholders including the Mongolian National University of Medical Sciences and the Mongolian Association of Family Doctors to improve the health and quality of life of more than 700,000 people in five provinces and two districts of Ulaanbaatar.<sup>18</sup> The Third Health Sector Development Project helped build 10 new rural health centers and renovate hospitals and rural health centers. In addition, the project provided medical, laboratory, and waste management equipment to 90 district health centers. The project also helped upgrade undergraduate and postgraduate training

curriculum in general medicine and established the skills laboratory at the university to support training of medical students and doctors at the frontiers.

### Strengthening Microfinance Activities among the Rural Poor

In 2016, ADB approved a credit facility of \$50 million to China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation Microfinance Management (CFPAMM) to fund its microfinance activities in poverty-stricken rural areas of the People's Republic of China. The credit facility was made possible through the Microfinance in Poverty-Stricken Counties Project. An amount of \$30 million was disbursed in September 2016 and the remaining \$20 million is expected to be disbursed within the 3rd quarter of 2017.

The CFPAMM was established in 2008 as an investment vehicle of the NGO China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation. Around 25,000 microentrepreneurs in poverty stricken areas are expected to benefit through subloans funded by this facility.

## Pacific Department

### CSOs Help Protect and Improve Coral Triangle Marine Resources

ADB has been supporting the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (CTI-CFF), in partnership with CSOs, such as The Nature Conservancy, Conservation International, the Coral Triangle Center, WWF, Wildlife Conservation Society, and WorldFish.<sup>19</sup> The project covers Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Solomon Islands, and Timor-Leste. CSO participation was also extended to countries outside the CTI region, namely Vanuatu and Fiji. The participation of CSOs has facilitated governments, communities, and women leaders to work together to improve marine and coastal management in the Coral Triangle. The CTI-CFF is a multilateral partnership of six countries formed in 2007 to address the urgent threats facing the coastal and marine resources of one of the most biologically diverse and ecologically rich regions on earth.

### NGOs Conduct Financial Education Trainings in Papua New Guinea



The people of Tsak Valley in the Enga Province are among those who had completed the financial literacy program delivered by NGO partners of the Microfinance Expansion Project.

More than 80% of the population of PNG do not have access to financial services. Financial education, therefore, serves as a catalyst to introduce them to formal financial services and educate them on better management of their financial resources. In 2016, ADB worked closely with several NGOs to deliver financial education through the Microfinance Expansion Project.<sup>20</sup> This initiative aims to strengthen the capacity of the microfinance industry to extend financial services to a broader cross-section of the community.

A key component of the project is to provide financial literacy training and business skills development to the poor, particularly those located in areas that have little or no access to financial services.



By partnering with NGOs, the project delivered financial education training reaching out to communities in far-flung areas in an efficient manner. In addition, the NGOs help monitor the impacts of the financial education to communities and identify opportunities for improvement.

### Churches and NGOs Improve Healthcare Services

Still in PNG, churches and NGOs work with ADB and the government to improve healthcare services to a village of 6,500 people in Tambul Valley, Western Highlands. Through the Rural Primary Health Services Delivery Project's partnerships, CSO health service providers help sustain health service delivery in rural and remote areas.<sup>21</sup> The project aims to help PNG improve health services in two districts in each of eight provinces—Eastern Highlands, East Sepik, Enga, Milne Bay, Western Highlands, West New Britain, Morobe, and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville by formalizing links between the state and health providers, upgrade health facilities, train community workers, and roll out a health and sanitation campaign.

### Community Theater to Raise Awareness in Vanuatu

The Port Vila Urban Development Project aims to improve drainage, roads, and sanitation systems in greater Port Vila in Vanuatu.<sup>22</sup> The project worked with World Vision and Wan Smolbag (WSB) in raising community awareness on sanitation and hygiene in the project's settlement areas. WSB makes use of theater and creative informational materials to raise awareness on sensitive issues such as environmental conservation and reproductive health, among others. They developed educational comic books to raise awareness on waste management, sanitation, and community sanitation facility management. WSB also organized theater performances about waste management particularly on reducing solid waste by segregating, composting, and recycling as well as issues surrounding communal sanitation facilities such as the importance of facility maintenance and regular cleaning and handwashing after going to the toilet and before handling food.

## South Asia

### Gender-Inclusive Access to Clean and Renewable Energy

In Bhutan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, ADB aims to increase rural poor women's access to affordable and reliable clean and renewable energy sources and technologies.<sup>23</sup> The focus of this project is to raise awareness on safe and efficient use of energy for newly electricity-installed households in rural areas and increase energy-based livelihood opportunities for rural women on strengthening women-led operations and businesses with energy-based technologies. The project activities include a set of awareness raising workshops and capacity building programs including technical and advance skills training and enterprise development. The project, Improving Gender-Inclusive Access to Clean and Renewable Energy, engages local NGOs and cooperatives to promote gender inclusive sustainable development. As of 2016, the project has benefited and reached over 29,000 men, women, and girls, and trained over 2,300 individuals, the majority of whom were women. "As long as training opportunities are available, both men and women can do their job equally well," says Jambay Dema, a female electrical technician in Bhutan. "The more experience we get, the better we become at our job."

## Delivering Urban Primary Health Care in Bangladesh



A mother consults with a physician in a primary health care center supported by Asian Development Bank and the Government of Bangladesh in partnership with NGOs.

ADB's commitment to ensuring quality service provision such as in health and education creates opportunities for capable and credible NGOs to be strategically engaged, not only through consultations but through direct contracting for project implementation. For instance, since 1998 until the current iteration of the project, ADB has supported 14 cities and municipalities, through the Government of Bangladesh, to partner with local NGOs for the delivery of urban primary healthcare services to benefit slums and poor communities. The project covers around 10 million population and has a network of 180 health facilities and 224 satellite clinics. Project director Md. Abdul Hakim Majumder notes, "ADB has significantly contributed to socioeconomic development of Bangladesh including continuous support

to urban primary healthcare since 1998. This is the biggest and successful public-private partnership model urban health service delivery project in Bangladesh. Reputed health sector NGOs are partners of this project. I hope in our future journey, ADB will continue and extend its cooperation."

## Small Island Communities Gain Access to Electricity

In Sri Lanka, the Supporting Electricity Supply Reliability Improvement Project is expanding electricity access to small island communities.<sup>24</sup> It actively seeks inputs and participation from rural community groups and members. With additional support from the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR), ADB will provide targeted training to community members to enable them to work capably as part of the routine maintenance teams of the hybrid renewable energy systems and infrastructure to be installed. The project also features a component for developing and strengthening renewable energy technology based local infrastructure. It will involve consultations with community-based organizations (CBOs) and fishery cooperatives to align the seawater desalination plant and ice making facilities with the specific community needs of Nainativu Island.

**Small island communities are forced to use expensive, inefficient diesel generation sets that deliver only intermittent electricity supplies. Through the construction of hybrid renewable energy mini-grids, the project will provide clean, reliable, and less expensive power to the communities of three small islands in the Northern part of Sri Lanka. The project will also help meet the needs of areas that have been missing out and improve reliability and quality of the electricity supplies through upgrades to the medium voltage network and the rollout of over 2,300 kilometers of low-voltage line extensions.**

*- Mukhtor Khamudkhanov, project officer, ADB principal energy specialist.*

## Southeast Asia

### Implementing Family Development Sessions and Strengthening Grievance Redress System



Under the *Pantawid ng Pamilyang Pilipino* Program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Conditional Cash Transfer program has helped thousands by providing additional financial support for poor families in the Philippines.

The Social Protection Support Project in the Philippines primarily involved CSOs in developing and implementing family development sessions, facilitating access to the grievance redress system, and promoting social accountability.<sup>25</sup> The Department of Social Welfare and Development has developed a framework for civil society participation to improve its grievance redress system. It targets governance and anticorruption issues, among others, such as (i) supply-side issues in education and health services; (ii) clarity of roles among program partner agencies; (iii) beneficiary listing inclusion and exclusion errors; (iv) the risk of local political capture or interference; and (v) payment challenges, especially in geographically isolated areas.

### Country Programming in Lao People's Democratic Republic

In Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR), ADB organized stakeholder consultations with civil society in May 2016, as part of the preparation of its country partnership strategy 2017–2021.<sup>26</sup> Discussions during the CSO consultation workshop focused on where and how ADB could be most effective in supporting the country's socioeconomic development, recognizing the added value CSOs bring to the development process.

According to Khanthone Phanuvang, director of Environment Conservation and Community Development Association, "ADB should create opportunities for CSOs to participate in ADB-financed projects, particularly small-scale projects where CSOs could help coordinate and work with community at a grassroots level." Overall, CSOs commended ADB for being on the right track in supporting the Government of the Lao PDR to achieve its development objectives, recognizing ADB's emphasis on gender, climate change, quality education, and the commercialization of agriculture.

### Civil Society Advisory Group Provides Insights on ADB Programs



ADB Myanmar Resident Mission country director Winfried Wicklein joins civil society organization representatives of the ADB Myanmar Civil Society Advisory Group in reviewing the proposed Country Partnership Strategy for Myanmar 2017–2021 on 12 October 2016.

In Myanmar, civil society members of the Civil Society Advisory Group (CSAG) supported ADB in the review of its proposed Country Partnership Strategy for 2017–2021 on 12 October 2016.<sup>27</sup> Established in 2015, the CSAG is an innovative mechanism for strengthening civil society participation in ADB's operations in Myanmar. Comprised of six civil society leaders across ADB's operational areas, CSAG members serve in their individual capacity to provide civil society perspectives on issues related to ADB's strategy and programs.

### Transport Project Seeks Community Inputs

ADB's transport project in Myanmar ensures that policy formulation is inclusive and participatory by gathering community inputs through consultations with stakeholders. Through the technical assistance, Maximizing Transport Benefits through Community Engagement in Myanmar, consultations particularly among indigenous communities were undertaken to ensure that their insights are strategically integrated in the project formulation and implementation.

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## Highlights of ADB'S Cooperation with Civil Society Organizations 2016

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) recognizes that cooperation with civil society organizations (CSOs) helps improve the quality of its development services. The Midterm Review of ADB's Strategy 2020 recommends that CSOs should be more involved in the design and implementation of projects, as well as in the monitoring of project activities and outputs. As ADB celebrates its 50th year, it continues to address the changing needs of its developing member countries. This report highlights ADB's cooperation with CSOs and provides insights on the important contribution of civil society to help ensure that the bank's operations are responsive to the poor and marginalized.

### About the Asian Development Bank

ADB's vision is an Asia and Pacific region free of poverty. Its mission is to help its developing member countries reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of their people. Despite the region's many successes, it remains home to a large share of the world's poor. ADB is committed to reducing poverty through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration.

Based in Manila, ADB is owned by 67 members, including 48 from the region. Its main instruments for helping its developing member countries are policy dialogue, loans, equity investments, guarantees, grants, and technical assistance.

