

SCS Cambodia: Innovations for Social Accountability in Cambodia

Overview

The Innovations for Social Accountability in Cambodia (ISAC) project (October 2019 – September 2024), \$15 million) is a USAID/Cambodia-funded initiative to improve local public services through increased citizen access to information, analysis, dialogue, and the use of social accountability tools in urban areas of Cambodia.

Cambodia Context

Cambodian citizens often lack the confidence, information, and organization to increase local government accountability for public services. This is especially prevalent among marginalized populations such as youth, rural poor, internal economic migrants, ethnic minorities, indigenous peoples, and people with disabilities. The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) initiated the Implementation Plan for Social Accountability Framework to create a structure for citizens to begin to engage in social accountability, but this has not yet been implemented in urban areas.

Major Program Components

Improved access to information on government decisions and processes, and the planning, spending, and investment of public funds through:

- Making government sourced information on national and sub-national budgets, planning and spending more available to citizens through capacity building support to open data partner Open Development Cambodia
- Increasing citizen knowledge of local government functions and responsibilities for budgeting, planning, and services through civic awareness campaigns

Increased citizen participation and collective initiative to increase accountability for public services by:

- Supporting grantees to gather and analyze citizen generated information on government decisions, processes, and performance

- Fostering citizen-driven community and local solutions on how to engage and provide feedback to local government
- Organizing fora to increase multi-stakeholder dialogues between the RGC and CSOs on local government accountability

Increased utilization of new or existing technologies enabling citizen engagement to increase accountability for public services by:

- Creating or adapting technological tools to strengthen accountability for local public services
- Increasing CSO knowledge and awareness of new and existing technological tools to strengthen accountability for local public services
- Building capacity of citizens to use new and existing technological tools for social accountability

Education and outreach to raise awareness of accountability and integrity in public administration through:

- Strengthening of platforms which aggregate and share local accountability data and information
- Organizing workshops for CSOs to improve data literacy to analyze social accountability information
- Raising awareness of available social accountability information

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