API
BUILDING CAPACITY FOR CHANGE

ADVOCACY AND POLICY INSTITUTE

A N N U A L
REPORT

2021

FUNDING AND IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

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I | MESSAGE FROM THE API BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

During the very difficult times of the global Covid 19 pandemic, on behalf of the Advocacy and Policy Institute (API), we, as members of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee, would like to express our sincere gratitude to all API's beneficiaries and friends, who participated and supported our mission and activities in 2021 despite serious restrictions to our field activities and face-to-face meetings. Against the background of these major challenges, in 2021, API managed to retain full donor support for all 13 ongoing projects. DCA funded an additional emergency support initiative for low-income and vulnerable groups during and after the lockdown in Phnom Penh in April and May 2021. Three projects ended in 2021 (Voice, UNICEF and EU funded); one small-scale new project with EWMI on digital rights and internet censorship monitoring started in the last quarter of that year.

Fundraising targets for 2021 have been over-achieved. By 31 December 2021, API's annual income reached an estimated 1.2 million USD. By January 2022, we estimate a budget volume of 1.4 million USD for the current year. In this context, we would also like to thank all funding, implementing and network partners, who have joined our efforts to achieve our common mission and objectives: the European Union (EU), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the United States Department of State, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the United Nations' International Children's Education Fund (UNICEF), the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Voice grant facility, Brot für die Welt (BftW), DanchurchAid (DCA), Oxfam in Cambodia, CARE International in Cambodia, Wilde Ganzen Foundation (WG), Pact Cambodia, Family Health International (FHI360), East-West Management Institute, Inc. (EWMI), Nickol Global Solutions, InSTEDD, Aide et Action, the the Local Councillors' Association in Pursat, Epic Arts, IDEA, Village Support Group (VSG), the members of the Coalition for Partnership in Democratic Development (CPDD), the Access to Information Working Group (A2IWG), and the Budget Working Group (BWG).

We would also like to express our appreciation for our good collaboration with government institutions and local authority associations: the National League of Local Councils (NLCS), the Local Councillors' Associations and Local Authorities of Banteay Meanchey, Battambang, Pursat, Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Speu, Kandal, Takeo, Kep, Sihanoukville, Koh Kong, Siem Reap, Kampong Thom, Kratie, Stung Trieng, Ratanakiri, Mondulkiri and Phnom Penh, the National Committee for Sub-National Democratic Development (NCDD), the Ministry of Interior (MoI), the Ministry of Education Youth and Sport (MoEYS), and the Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Information, Ministry of Economic and Finance and all local authorities and service providing institutions in the areas where API was active during 2021.

According to our fourth Strategic Plan (2019-23), our main goal remains focused on realizing the rights and enhancing the voices of citizens for sustainable development in Cambodia, especially the rights of women, youth and disadvantaged groups such as low-income citizens, persons with

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disabilities, indigenous people and out of school children. Holding the government accountable, advocating for the right to information, more transparency, improving public services and local governance in Cambodia are equally important goals we could not have been striving for without our supporters, whose precious help is making our work possible every day. A midterm evaluation of our strategic plan was conducted, and it confirmed that the goals of this plan were achieved, also concluding that the objectives we had set remain relevant in the current context. A number of recommendations were formulated in order to help us improve our effectiveness in the implementation of our strategic plan, to achieve more impact and work in a more sustainable way.

Last but not least, the Executive Committee would like to thank all members of API's Governing Board of Directors: Mr. Chandara Soeung, Ms. Kasumi Nakagawa, Ms. Phoungmaly Nhean, Mr. Michael Engquist, and Mr. Bunthoeun Thann. They are offering us their time and effort on a voluntary basis, making precious contributions based on their remarkable professional experience. A special word of thanks goes to our staff members, our advisor (Mr. Lars Krause), our volunteers and stakeholders, to the leaders and members of the communities in our target areas, as well as to the government officials at all levels who worked hard and contributed to the successes in 2021.

PHOUNGMALY NHEAN
Board Member

Kasumi Nakagawa
Board Member

CHANDARA SOEURNG
Chair of Board

BUNTHOEUN THANN
Board Member

MICHAEL ENGQUIST
Board Member
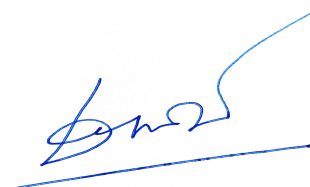
Phnom Penh, March 9th, 2021
On Behalf of API's Executive Committee

On Behalf of API's Board of Directors

Mr. Socheat Lam
Executive Director
Advocacy and Policy Institute

Mr. Chandara Soeurng
Chair of Board of Directors
Advocacy and Policy Institute

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II | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With API's 4th Strategic Plan (SP) for the period 2019 to 2023, API pursues the strategic goal of realizing the rights and enhancing the voices of citizens for sustainable development in Cambodia with a focus on women, youth and disadvantaged groups (low-income citizens, persons with disabilities, indigenous people and out of school children).
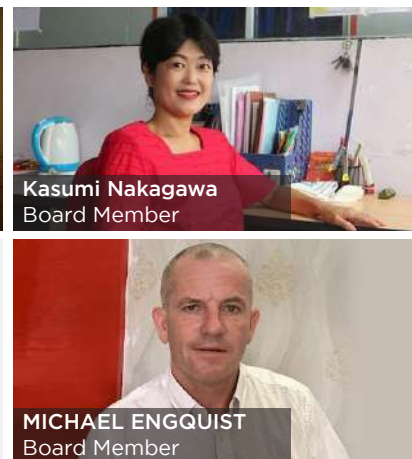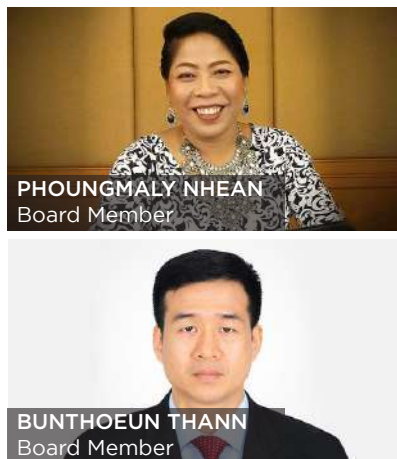
To work towards this goal, API continues to strive to improve citizens' access to public information (A2I), enhance citizen engagement in (local) governance and monitoring of public service delivery, and develop civil society's capacities to engage in advocacy and policy influencing. API further develops its unique strengths to build capacity for change and to link the voices and claims of citizens, communities and civil society organisations to the national policy-making level; and back again in enabling communities, civil society and local government bodies to understand and fulfil citizens' rights and government policies – for access to public information, for citizen engagement in local governance and advocacy for citizens' concerns at all levels.

During the third year of the strategic plan implementation period, 2021, the vast majority of the initial project activities and key objectives were successfully implemented despite this being the second year of the COVID-19 global pandemic, and an especially hard year for Cambodia. API also experienced delays in field work activities due to the public health guidelines which restricted public gatherings and limited the number of participants allowed to take part in each event.

A mid-term evaluation of the plan was conducted from mid-September to mid-November 2021. The overall objective of this evaluation was to measure the extent to which API has achieved its strategy, as well as to offer a detailed appraisal of our Bread for the World and DanChurch Aid-funded project called "Citizens' Voices and Actions for Sustainable Development of Cambodia" (2019 – 2023). The evaluation confirmed that API's strategy performed well against the OECD/DCA's criteria of relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability.

This report covers our results in 2021 for each strategic outcome.

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O1 **Outcome One:** Influenced policy and implementation to address the rights and needs of citizens, especially youth, women and disadvantaged groups, and secure democratic spaces for them to exercise their rights.

Project#1: Citizens' Voices and Actions for Sustainable Development in Cambodia.

A number of 55 issues (41% of 134 issues) were raised by citizens and were solved by sub-national administrations (SNA) and the national government. We organised a total of 70 advocacy events, that were led by or enjoyed the participation of CBOs at the district / khan level.

API has built the capacity of 128 CBOs (107% compared with planned indicators) with 7,113 members included 4,817 females (178% compared with planned indicators), in 40 districts / khans in 8 provinces, in areas of advocacy, law, local governance, and local planning and budgeting.

Project#2: Youth Debate the Access to Information Law.

API has supported over 30 female indigenous communities and youth network leaders in all provinces and within the framework of the CSO Access to Information Working Group at the national level to advocate with the government, particularly the Ministry of Information and the National Assembly. The project released public statements on the International Day of the Right to Information; and in cooperation with UNESCO, CSOs and media organisations, we conducted a social media campaign on the importance of the right to information and a legal basis for this right; we produced video clips, organised a national conference on the access to information law, participated in radio talks with VoD and Radio Free Asia, calling for the access to information (A2I) law to be adopted. The Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Justice confirmed that they completed the Access to Information Law reviews and committed to submit to Council of Minister soon in 2022.

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Project #3: API hosting the Coalition for Partnership in Democratic Development (CPDD) secretariat.

API hosted the CPDD's secretariat from 2019 to 2021 and onwards, representing the CSOs' voices in an effort to influence the government on the topic of the decentralization reform in Cambodia. In particular, we focused on the functional transfers from the national to the sub-national administration (district/municipality/khan). The CPDD's BoD and the API management agreed to extend API's secretariat role until the end of February 2022, and to support CPDD in their attempts to get independent in terms of financial resources, to pro-actively engage with the national government and to implement three projects in partnership with API: the USAID-funded WE ACT project; the initiative called Access to Information for All (A4A), funded by US Department of State through EWMI; and the GIZ-funded Citizen Engagement with District/Krong Mechanism project.

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O2 Outcome Two: Empowered disadvantaged citizens to voice their concerns and hold the Government accountable.

Project #4 completed in 2020

Project #5: Strengthening Youth Participation in Local Planning and Budgeting.

This initiative was completed in the first semester of 2021. Based on the commune budget information track, 8 of 20 communes showed that the increased social fund achieved its set indicators, however, all were less than 10% of total annual commune budget. A number of young people 82 (53 female) attended the training. We achieved 101% of this target. In total, 82 youth representatives in 20 communes received capacity building training and they actively engaged with the Commune Investment Plan (CIP) and budgeting in their communes.

A total of 54% (43 of 80) of the youths and other members were included in commune/Sangkat budget and planning committee, and commune committee women and children based on recognized letter from commune councils, youth were included to represent youths voice and they will be able to engage more with commune council meeting.

A total of 75% of the communes and sangkats (15 of 20) recognized and included youth issues/concerns into the commune investment planning such as waste management, school drop-out phenomena, drugs, and child delinquence, and domestic violence. Additionally, youth are concerned about COVID-19 as it is an urgent case for their community and there were 14 communes addressing these issues.

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Project#6: One Window for Citizen Project.

The midterm evaluation undertaken in 2021 found that the overall impact of the OW4C Project was positive and very relevant. There was a strong collaboration among the project's implementing partners and a recognition by the OWSO/OWSU and district and provincial ombudspersons that the project approaches are correct and meaningful. The OWSOs/ombudspersons also expressed their intention to connect the data tracking of the OW4C project dashboard with the OWSO/ombudsperson's Information Management System provided by the Royal Government of Cambodia's Ministry of the Interior.

The change of performance of service providers (OWSO/ OWSU and ombudspersons) on the quality of the service delivery to citizens was confirmed through an increase of service users and the reduced the complexity and difficulty in receiving services of OWSO/OWSU. This therefore increased satisfaction of the citizen on the performance/quality services of the OWSO/OWSU, and increased commitment of the OWSO/OWSU to respond to citizen's feedback (especially on improving performance/service that requires limited or no budgetary spending).

The impact of OW4C-promoted tech tools for citizens who use the OWSO/OWSU services and overall potential users was identified through increased citizens' awareness, direct usage, and feedback to the OWSO, and therefore decreased barriers in using the OWSO services.

The impact of OW4C public outreach to support enhanced awareness and accountability was recognized through the increased knowledge and skills of the OW4C Youth Ambassadors and infomediary trainees, and their commitment to continue their leading roles in the community.

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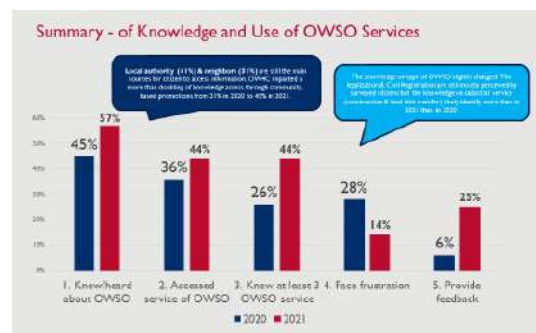
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Project #7: Adopting and Adapting Change the Game Academy (CtGA) for Mobilizing Support (MS) Capacity in Cambodia.

In total, 23/27 (85%) of the Mobilizing Support plan have been completed and implemented by the NGO partners who attended Mobilizing Support.

Based on the results of the post-test, around 5 organizations thematically focus on service delivery as education, childcare, and 6 organizations focus on food security/agriculture. And 2 organizations are focused on human rights/democracy.

As a result, 85% the participants know more than before, 80% understood the basics of a mobilising support strategy and proceeded to implementing it, while 85% of the participants learnt from networking sessions and used them in their mobilizing support plans that they implemented in their target provinces, for Communication Skills.

A new online training materials in Khmer was developed and launched.

See at https://www.changethegameacademy.org

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Project #8: Covid-19 Emergency Support to Most Vulnerable Households in 3 Districts/Khan;2020 (Project is completed in 2021).

800 vulnerable (lowest-income) groups from Khan Meanchey and Sen Sok (Phnom Penh), who were affected by the restrictions imposed by the government in response to the Covid-19 outbreak, received emergency food assistance, each family – 50 Kg of rice and other food items.

Project #9: People with Disabilities' Voices and Action in Social Accountability, 2019-2021

A total of 541 people with disabilities (PWDs), 251 female, men, and children with diverse disabilities and of different age groups wer identified through snowball surveys in target communes. 122% achieved.

We achieved 100% of our target. A number of 234 people with disabilities (100 female) or assistants accompanying people with disabilities attended the event.

Citizens with Disabilities' Scorecard meetings mainstreamed community scorecard process, information for citizens which is used in Implementation of Social Accountability Framework (ISAF) and voiced the specific needs and claims of people with disabilities.

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The disabilities inclusiveness of I-SAF was also included in this Guideline. A Policy dialogue on social inclusion was conducted with the ISAF policy level stakeholders, implementer, and disadvantaged target groups representatives on improving the inclusiveness of the ISAF process.

Key stakeholders support the project and its activities. Advocacy for changing attitudes towards the rights of persons with disabilities in ISAF and local public services with government and ISAF stakeholders. Stakeholder participation and local authority attitude risks were mitigated.

Project #10: Citizen Engagement for Social Accountability in Social Protection

The project strengthened the capacity of citizen representatives and services providers on social accountability and social protection and related rights of service users and to improve social protection and public service quality. Vulnerable groups service provided feedbacks and voices on social protection through citizen scorecards meetings are heard and responded in ISAF and Social Protection Mechanism.

The piloting social protection in ISAF mechanism is confirmed successful in improving access to information about social protection and public services for vulnerable groups in urban area, however, Covid 19 challenge. The full scale expansion in all 6 Sangkat in Khan Sen Sok should be implemented in 2022.

Project #11: Supporting Meaningful Civic Engagement by Leveraging Digital Technologies

The project empowered young citizens from indigenous and other minority communities to make government more participatory, transparent, responsive and accountable, including by leveraging digital technologies.

Approximately 92% of JAAP action items have been implemented within 12 months which accounted for 1621 action points of out of 1761 joint actions planned during the reporting period. Among those actions, 39% of the action were implemented by using the local service providers'

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internal budget. In the meantime, 35% of joint actions (i.e. 371) were integrated into commune invest plan (CIP). Out of those actions integrated in the CIP 68% were funded by the government. 35% of ethnic minorities and 33% of youth of the targeted ethnic minorities, and 62% of women participated in the development planning at commune level.

Around 68% (181) of the targeted communes, 56% (619) primary schools and 74% (101) health centres have posted the Information for Citizens (I4C) on their information board.

A total of 14 local NGO partners were able to apply CARE's Youth Leadership Index (YLI) tool. The Youth Leadership Index tool was integrated into the new operational guideline for ISAF-II. The Community Accountability Facilitators (CAF) capacity assessment in November 2021 indicated that 97% CAFs (535 out of 552, 117 in year 1 and 428 in year 2) have completed the modules which increase their understanding on how to effectively engage youth in the social accountability building process, able to develop and implement a team work plan and carry out the activities in their communes. And 80% of CAFs were able to facilitate the ISAF process.

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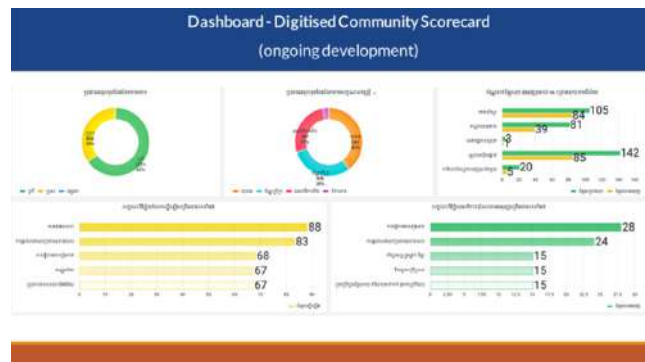
Project #12: Innovations for Social Accountability in Cambodia (ISAC)

The project supported citizens to improve their capacity, access to information, and network for collective action, helping them to build public demand and develop solutions to address the community's priorities.

A total of 564 people including 345 females (56.4%) gained knowledge of local government functions and responsibilities for budgeting, planning, and services through The I4C awareness both face-to-face and online. All 33 CAFs (27 female) gained knowledge of ISAC scorecard training in person. All 10 Sangkats conducted community scorecards. Needs of citizens through joint accountability action plans (JAAP) are integrated in all 10 sangkat annual investment plans.

Project #13: Voices and Action of Young Women Leaders and Entrepreneurs.

This initiative enhanced capacities and created an enabling environment for youth and emerging young leaders and women micro-entrepreneurs to allow them to participate in entrepreneurship & business-related advocacy action and dialogue with the authorities.

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This contributed to the improvement of equal opportunity and the strengthening of their socio-economic rights. An estimated number of 896,589 viewers were reached through social media promotions. API supported 155 street vendors and they participated in public meetings where they raised their issues. 218 street vendors received civic education and or information on their socio-economic rights. 188 street vendors accessed OWSO business registration information supported by the project activities in target areas. And 150 individuals joined business skills development training courses and 120 received mini-business grant of 300 USD each to support their family business as negative impacted by the Covid 19.

Two law and policies recommendations on Social Protection Law in Cambodia and ASEAN Best Practice Policy Review on Street Vendors; were consulted with government ministries and policy makers in promoting street vendors social and economic right.

Project #14: Enhancing the Institutional and Operational Capacity of the Provincial Associations of Local Councils.

This initiative was completed in 2021. It strengthened the institutional and operational capacity of the Provincial Associations of Local Councils (PALCs) in six provinces and 75% of 263 members in target areas improved their capacity to carry out their functions and responsibilities to contribute to promoting accountability, transparency and responsiveness to the needs of their constituents, particularly those from vulnerable communities.

In total, 1,839 families of all vulnerable groups, estimated 9,195 family members, directly benefited from 55 small-scale projects of animal raising (cows, chickens, poultry), vegetable planting, water filters, children's bicycles, rice and food, materials, musical instruments, food assistant, educational materials, and covid19 protective materials. 310 individuals marginalizing poor orphans received bicycles for school.

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The Action was implemented during the Covid 19 in Cambodia and globally, the took immediate actions to educate the community people, around 29,145 (12,339 female) about covid-19 prevention message through mobile loudspeakers, covid-19 protective materials and outreach activities.

សមត្ថភាព និងការប្រតិបត្តិរបស់សមាគមក្រុមប្រឹក្សាមូលដ្ឋាន
Institutional & Operation Capacity Assessment of Provinical Associations of Local Councillors

Radar chart axes:
- ផ្នែកទី ១៖ ទស្សនវិស័យ និងបេសកកម្ម Vision & Mission
- ផ្នែកទី ២៖ ការគ្រប់គ្រង Management
- ផ្នែកទី ៣៖ ការកសាងសមត្ថភាពស្ថាប័ន Institutional Capacity Building
- ផ្នែកទី ៤៖ ការតាមដានត្រួតពិនិត្យ និងវាយតម្លៃ Monitoring & Evaluation
- ផ្នែកទី ៥៖ ការកៀរគរធនធាន Resource Mobilisation
- ផ្នែកទី ៦៖ ការគ្រប់គ្រងហិរញ្ញវត្ថុ Financial Management
- ផ្នែកទី ៧៖ ការគ្រប់គ្រងទ្រព្យសម្បត្តិ Asset Management
- ផ្នែកទី ៨៖ ភាពជាអ្នកដឹកនាំ និង អភិបាលកិច្ច Leadership and Governance
- ផ្នែកទី ៩៖ បណ្តាញ និងភាពជាដៃគូ Networking and Partnership
- ផ្នែកទី ១០៖ ការស្នើសុំការសារតាំប្រមតិ(ការតស៊ូមតិ) Advocacy

Legend: ក្រូមទំព័ងបច្ចុប្បន្ន Baseline — ក្រូមទំអនុវត្តចុងក្រោយ Expected Results.

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O3 **Outcome Three:** Improved access to, and disclosure of, public information on local and national vital issues especially public budgets.

Project #1: Citizens' Voices and Actions for Sustainable Development in Cambodia.

An increase of 71% has been noticed in the number of citizens in the target areas who exercise their legal rights to demand for public information, including budgets, from commune and district administrations and councils.

Project #5: Strengthening Youth Participation in Local Planning and Budgeting.

Around 14,000 commune budgeting booklets were printed and distributed to target communes / sangkats, schools, hospitals, youths and other citizens in the communes to raise more awareness on commune budgeting and promote citizen engagement and participation in commune investment planning and budgeting.
See at http://citizenbudget.apiinstitute.org

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Project #6: One Window for Citizens.

It promoted access to information on OWSO: Totally, 2851 citizen (1601 female) who are from private sector, monk, OWSO service users, CBOs, students, youths, and citizens understood on OWSO service and role of DO, orienting on how to use IVR and Facebook Chatbot and give floor to citizen or OWSO service users providing feedback through IVR and Chatbot through 49 online dissemination meetings and 19 door-to-door dissemination meeting (commune/Sangkat).

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Project #8: Covid-19 Emergency Support to Most Vulnerable Households in 3 districts / khans. A total of 800 copies of visibility stickers and 300 information sheets on social protection had been produced and distributed in Khan Sen Sok in Phnom Penh.

Project #11: Supporting Meaningful Civic Engagement by Leveraging Digital Technologies

A total of 976 citizens including 569 females, 313 youths, 210 ethnic minority people, and 10 people with disability joined in 88 events of information for citizen (I4Cs) dissemination by CAFs and New NGO partners in five target provinces, Ratanakiri, Mundolkiri, Stung Treng, Kratie, Koh Kong.

Project #12: Innovations for Social Accountability in Cambodia (ISAC).

It promoted citizen rights to information on basic services and budget. The project promoted citizen access to information on services of sangkat offices, primary schools, and health centres through mobilized loudspeakers in 10 target sangkats in the Ta Khmau municipality.

API
BUILDING CAPACITY
FOR CHANGE

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Project #13: Voices and Action of Young Women Leaders and Entrepreneurs.

It promoted awareness of sub-national level (provincial and district) services and legal regulatory implementation support related to One Window Service Offices. The project has enhanced the capacities and knowledges of 315 (around 210 female) IDEA Members who are Street Vendors in Battambang provinces on Sub-national Public Services and One Window Service Offices that contributed to the promotion of equal opportunities in the exercise of rights by conduct the awareness of sub-national level services and legal regulatory implementation support related to the One Window Service Offices in order to provide responsive services that meet the needs of YWEs, youth group and business members of Pact WE Act's partners.
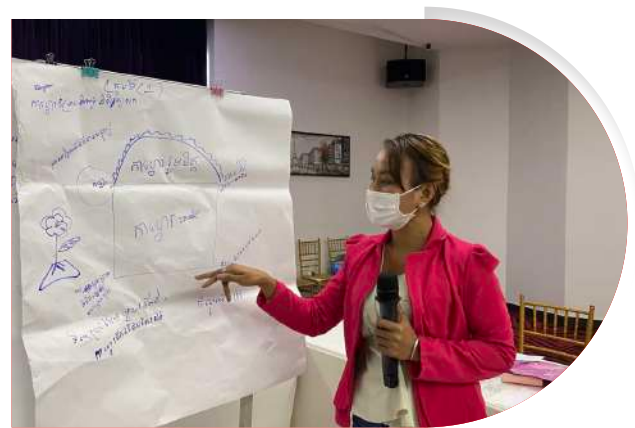
Project #14: Enhancing the Institutional and Operational Capacity of the Provincial Associations of Local Councils.

The six associations have increased their actions, as well as widely disseminated their roles and responsibilities to members and local people through the implementation of various activities, including 14 radio programs, 21 official PALC branches launching program, 15 times of provincial workshop, 9 reflection workshops, 33 PALC branch's quarterly meetings, 7 in person trainings, 36 echo trainings, 12 online training, 4 coaching, one advocacy meeting, and 96 public forums.

PALC of Pursat, API and AEA have developed the E-educator Hub. There are 2,239 users among 16 sessions of courses from January to June 2021. 285 technical documents, 136 technical videos and 119 technical audios uploaded. More than 68,901 visitors have accessed the uploaded materials of the e-learning hub system. 2,332 PALCS's members to access the learning educator hub.

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The Action implemented during the Covid 19 in Cambodia and globally, the project took immediate actions to educate community people, around 29,145 (12,339 female) about covid-19 prevention message through mobile loudspeakers, covid-19 protective materials and outreach activities and over 300 public billboard were installed in front of over 300 commune and district offices educating public about the Covid 19 prevention, village safety info and one window service information.

Project # 15: Access for All: Promoting Access to Information in Cambodia.

This initiative increased the availability of independent, evidence-based information and promoted freedom of expression in Cambodia. API supported indigenous women and other marginalized groups to obtain and use information necessary to express their concerns and hold the government to account. The project centres on local government services and on monitoring corrosive investments, with a particular emphasis on mining and other land concessions that most negatively impact indigenous communities.

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A total of 88 indigenous women had their needs assessed by the indigenous-led group. All of them were trained on advocacy and the right to information. They took advocacy actions, and approximately 24.44% (22 of 90) of the trainees raised issues during district and commune level meetings. A total of 33 issues received a form of response from the local authorities during the monthly meetings with the CBOs. 71 of 90 trained participants attended the monthly commune and district meetings. Altogether, 42 CSO representatives, 69 indigenous women, and 12 government representatives participated in the collaborative, information exchange national workshops on access to information on sub-national budget and economic land concessions.

III | API'S PUBLICATIONS PRODUCED IN 2021

API has produced a number of publications and reports in 2021. Some publications meant for the general public, soon to be available on the API website, include:

- Project #1 produced report on CBOs issues briefing.
- Project #1 produced CBOs advocacy plans in 2021.
- Project #1 printed district budget information (2021) for public access and disclosure of district budget information with ODC website and District Budget Banners.
- Project #3 produced seven case studies on Civic Engagement in district administration in Battambang.
- Project #5 produced Youth Issue and Claim-list Report on youth participation in local planning and budgeting in commune investment plan 2021.
- Project #5 conducted an Assessment of Youth Participation in Commune/Sangkat Decision Making Processes.
- Project #6 conducted mid-term evaluation report and scorecard reports on One Window for Citizen Project in two target provinces.
- Project #6 conducted annual assessment reports (baseline in new provinces, midterm assessment report in Battambang.
- Project #6 produced 2021 consolidated scorecard report on One Window for Citizen Project in two target provinces in Battambang and Banteay Meanchey
- Project #7 documented case studies on Change the Game Academy (CtGA) for Mobilizing Support (MS) capacity in Cambodia.
- Project #9 produced contact list of 500 ID poor families in Khan Sen Sok and 500 families in Stung Meanchey.
- Project #9 produced ISAF Operation Guideline phase II, People with Disabilities Inclusion in Social Accountability.
- Project #10 updated Operation guide on Citizens Engagement in Social Accountability on Social Protection Service in Khan Sen Sok.

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- Project #10 developed Training Material on Social Accountability on Social Protection Service.
- Project #10 developed Accountability Joint Action Plans and Scorecard Report in Khan Sen Sok.
- Project #11 produced an Online training platform & guideline and ISAF Digital Scorecard manual for Supporting Meaningful Civic Engagement by Leveraging Digital Technologies.
- Project #12 produced Accountability Joint Action Plans and Scorecard Report in Ta Khmau, Kandal, Innovations for Social Accountability in Cambodia (ISAC)
- Project #12 produced information for citizen (I4C) and video clips posted on information for citizen packages on rights to information on basic services and budget on health, education, and sangkat services.
- Project # 13 printed Survey Report on 300 Street Vendors in Phnom Penh, Battambang, Siem Reap during Covid 19 community outbreak in 2021; both Khmer and English and designed.
- Project #13 produced an ASEAN Policy Best Practices on Street Vendors in both Khmer and English.
- Project #13 produced a Street Vendors Assessment in Covid 19 Lockdown report in both Khmer and English.
- Project #14 produced midterm & final evaluation report on Enhancing the institutional and operational capacity of the provincial associations of local councils, in six provinces.
- Project#1 &15 produced commune and district budget information updated 2021 for public access and disclosure of district budget information with ODC website and District Budget Posters.
- Project#10 produced a technical guideline for social protection service in ISAF mechanism.
- Project #12 Produced five videos on Inclusive ISAF on disabilities and social inclusive on right to information, citizen monitoring, capacity building and interface meetings and JAAP and JAAP-C.
- Project #14 produced small scale project reports on most vulnerable groups in six provinces.
- Project #15 Access to Information Survey for promotion Access to Information in Cambodia.

IV | API'S CIVIC TECH TOOLS

API in partnership with partners produced and promoted Civic Tech Tools in 2021 as below:

- Project #5 developed Citizen Budget App on district commune budget analysis https://citizenbudget.apiinstitute.org/dashboard

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- <u>Project#6</u> updated list of One Window Services at provincial level in IVR and Facebook Chatbot and public dashboard for citizen access to information on OWSO and OWSU services as below:
    - ➥ Public dashboard https://dashboard.ow4c.info/
    - ➥ Facebook https://web.facebook.com/pidorow4cbot/
    - ➥ IVR through Cell-card: 095 888 159; Smart 087 999 393 and Metfone 088 9888 159
- <u>Project #7</u> launched Online training materials in Khmer on CtGA's website to learn to mobilize resources and mobilize support at https://www.changethegameacademy.org/km/
- <u>Project #10</u> piloted App on Digital Scorecard on health, education, sangakat and district one window service at https://digital-csc.org/
- <u>Project #15</u> produced Budget Tracker to tracking commune and district budget information for promotion Access to Information in Cambodia

V | API COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

- To maintain a professional, modern and dynamic image in relation to our partners, beneficiaries, donors, Cambodian state institutions etc.
- To engage current beneficiaries / partners, strengthening the current API online community
- To produce interesting and good looking content that serves the purpose of presenting our activities as relevant and attractive
- To attract new potential beneficiaries / partners / donors who might be interested in our content, thus increasing the scope of our community
- To initiate public debates on topics that are important for us, thus attracting public attention to our activities

END OF 2021

- Monthly active website users: 290 (247% increase)
- 5426 Facebook fans (33% increase)
- Monthly engaged users: about 3500 unique users
- Daily engaged users: 356 unique users
- More than 80 videos on our YouTube channel, 10 of which produced by us over the past year, and five more produced, but not published yet
- The API website was re-developed and launched in API 17th Year Anniversary on 17 July 2003-17 July 2020. See at www.apiinstitute.org
- Videos produced and posted on API website and Facebook page. It reached a total of at least one million people, https://www.facebook.com/APIInstitute

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- Local and international media (TV, Radio, newspapers and online media) have covered news about API works such as Radio Free Asia, Radio France International, Phnom Penh Post, Khmer Post, Voice of Democracy; Voice of America...etc.

VI | API NETWORKS AND WORKING GROUPS PARTNERS

API has led and joined a number of CSOs networks and working groups which are relevant to its mission. They are:

- API leads the CSO Access to Information Working Group; API regularly followed up the Ministry of Information about A2I law progress. API consulted with CSOs leaders on how to advocate for the government to adopt the law. Unfortunately, A2I law is not passed yet. There is some progress internally that law was reviewed by both the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Information. It confirmed the A2I law was completed by the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Information. Updated A2I law 2021 version had not been shared to the CSOs. API keep posting online video talk demanding A2I law adoption and run three time radio talks on A2I law advocacy online and national advocacy conferences and joint CSOs statements to demand for passing the A2I law soon.
- API has played the role as Secretariat of the Coalition for Partnership in Democratic Development (CPDD) has produced and joined statements to the government with CCC and the sectoral NGOs networks, Budget Working Group and analysis on sub-national budget and 2021 budget review.
- API is one of core founding members of the CSO Budget Working Group (BWG). It is a coalition of local and international NGOs secretariat at The NGO Forum on Cambodia. BWG works on the budget transparency and accountability in Cambodia. API attended Budget Working Group meetings with the Ministry of Economics and Finance online meeting, advocated on sub-national budget and 2021 budget review and social protection budget for informal workers due to Covid 19.
- API joined with regular meetings of ISAF Project Steering Committee (PSC) and ISAF Technical Working Group and completed the ISAF Demand Side Operation guideline revision to include disabilities and social inclusion and ISAF implementation and coordination related agenda between ISAF implementing organisations and government. New revised ISAF operation guide, minimum standard was endorsed by the PSC and government. All implementing organisations received technical orientation training and they are mandatory to include disabilities and social inclusion in practice of ISAF activities.
- API recently joined as a core member of the Digital Right Working Group, with 13 CSOs to advocate digital rights and internet freedom such as Sub-decree on Internet Gateway...etc.

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- API joined as member of The Social Protection for All (SP4ALL), which is a citizen led platform aspiring to raise citizen's awareness on social protection and elevate citizen's concerns to the duty bearers. The platform will be administered and supported by various civil society organisations (CSOs) in Cambodia and across the region seeking to learn and share knowledge around social protection topics.

- API members of CCC, API often endorse public statements with CSOs networks (CCC, NGO Forum, CCHR...) to restore Cambodia democracy and address political issues peacefully and promote human rights and freedom of expression and CSO enabling environment and advocacy on NGOs Law amendment.

- API is a member of the Cambodian Resource Revenue Transparency (CRRT) and raised funds on the Access to Information Project for CRRT as part of the US DOS EWMI consortium project. But CRRT confirmed no more functions. Then this small grant was funded by CPDD which is secretariat by API to implement A4A project national conference on A2I on ELCs and Sub-National Budget Transparency.

- LOGIN ASIA. API is a member of LOGIN Asia. Due to Covid 19, the annual assembly was cancelled. API Director shared API's online platform to the LOGIN Asia members to promote online learning and communication platform during the Covid 19 period.

- Open Government Partnership Working Group (OGP Cambodia); API is a member of OGP Cambodia, secretariat at Transparency Cambodia, however, it is not very active.

O4 Outcome Four: Enhancing API's organizational capacity and sustainability

FUNDRAISING ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021

- In 2021, API retained full donor support for 13 projects, in spite of the COVID-19 challenges. DCA funded an additional emergency support initiative for the poor and vulnerable in and post-lockdown in Phnom Penh in April and May 2021. Three projects ended in 2021 (Voice-, UNICEF- and EU/ALA-funded); one small-scale new project with EWMI on digital rights and internet censorship monitoring started in the last quarter.

- Fundraising targets for 2021 have been over-achieved. By 31 December 2021, API's annual income reached 1,195,036 USD.

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Six ordinary and extraordinary Executive Committee (EC) meetings were held for making decisions on key documents prepared for the BoD meetings and approval. EC discussed and approved and took actions on API ICT Guideline and Standards for safety of API's data; M&E policy, NU-PASS assessment, CCC-GPP update, MEAL policy, online MEAL database development, API strategy midterm evaluation, adhoc BoD meeting on staff with Covid 19 hospitalised cost charged from API Fund (if insurance not covers); API Digital Working Group; API Management Structure and Recruitment Plan; API Fundraising Committee and Fundraising Plan; new policy and action plan review (Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Harassment and Abuse, and links to Child Safeguarding and complaint mechanism: regularly six monthly Plan and Budget and Progress; Extra office space additional two rooms rented at Phnom Penh Villa due to Covid 19 for social distancing and increased number of staff and volunteers; quarterly staff meetings and annual staff retreat, staff appraisal and staff capacity building and staff meetings; staff structure; resource persons; operation strategy to implement projects during Covid 19 period..etc.

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MONITORING, EVALUATION, ACCOUNTABILITY AND LEARNING (MEAL)

- Developed and implemented API MEAL Template (MS. Excel). It comprises main and integral components: Cover Page, Logframe, M&E Plan, Annual Work Plan, Indicator Tracking Table, Participant Tracking Table, and Participant List. Besides, more additional sheets can be created in the API MEAL Template that can store necessary data collection form, activity record and other relevant documents. This API MEAL Template contributes to the important roles in keeping and managing data/information of project results and implementation more efficiently.

- Coordinated Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) of the API Strategic Plan and Citizens' Voices and Actions for Sustainability Development in Cambodia (CVASDC). The MTE conducted in November 2021 by the independent consultant team provides information/data allowing API to know organization operation situation against strategic plan and indicators, and the situation of CVASDC Project implementation and results against its project logical framework and result indicators. The MTE also gives relevant recommendations for API to improve its operation as well as project implementation.

- Conducted Project Semi Annual Reflection meeting. API conducted a full day online project reflection meeting in July 2021 that allowed all API projects/ programme, finance/administration, IT, and Communication to reflect their individual implementation in which implementation gaps were addressed and learnings, solutions to the implementation issues were made. In the reflection meeting staff also learned ICT tools/plate form which can be employed in the online session such as training, meeting, coaching etc.

- Reviewed draft of MEAL Policy and Guideline. API draft of MEAL Policy and Guideline were reviewed and updated. The MEAL Policy received comments from Pact Cambodia and will be worked on to incorporate Pact Cambodia's comments. Whereas MEAL Guideline was sent to Pact Cambodia for review.

- Began developing the Online Database for API. MEAL Component is working on development of API's Online Database with the ICT Component. To this point, the prototype or mockup of the Online Database is developed and will be put in the consultation meeting with project/programme staff for inputs so that API's Online Database will come up with friendly features.

DIGITAL TECH TOOLS DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT

- API has achieved IT & ICT policy development intended to improve, manage the digital systems/platforms and its infrastructure. The policy is also to protect API's data, infrastructure as well as employees, provide a clear role and responsibility and the robust tech tool services to the organization. Moreover, it also provided an illustration of the API's network, data and how API's employees can use the system

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proficiency and effectively. Beside that, the policy provided with the procedure of data storage to secure API digital data for long term and sustainable use, digital disaster and emergency recovery plan.

- To ensure the quality of work of the current implementation project, an online monitoring and evaluation database platform is under development and expected to be finished by the end of October 2022. Some other tech tools such as asset management, Admin and HR management also are the line of discussion for a better improvement.

- In the contribution to the partnership organization, API has successfully provided development support to CPDD on upgrading and developed a new website "www. cpddcambodia.org" to meet the new requirements of the modern age of technology for safety and professional use. API has also successfully helped to register CPDD organizations to Microsoft NonProfits Hub to get a free benefit such as Office 365 licensing, deployed Microsoft Exchange server, mailing system and data migration for the secure official communication channel to be used.

VII | API'S PROJECT IN 2022

API will implement the below projects to achieve API Strategic Goals and Outcomes, 2019-23.

- **Project #1:** Citizens' voices and actions for sustainable development in Cambodia in six provinces
- **Project #2:** "Women and Youth Debate on Access to Information Law"
- **Project #3:** API hosting the Coalition for Partnership in Democratic Development (CPDD) secretariat
- **Project #6:** One Window for Citizen Project in 8 districts and Krong in three provinces.
- **Project #7:** Adopting and adapting will change the Game Academy (CtGA) for Mobilizing Support (MS) capacity in Cambodia, at Phnom Penh.
- **Project #9:** Louder Voice for Social Protection in Social Accountability,
- **Project #10:** Citizens Voices in Social Accountability in Social Protection in Khan Sen Sok
- **Project #11:** Supporting Meaningful Civic Engagement by Leveraging Digital Technologies in 30 districts in five provinces
- **Project #12:** Innovations for Social Accountability in Cambodia (ISAC) in Ta Khmau, Kandal
- **Project #13:** Voices and Action of Young Women Leaders and Entrepreneurs in three provinces,
- **Project #15:** Access to Information for All: Promotion Access to Information in Cambodia
- **Project #16:** Internet Monitoring Action Project (IMAP)
- **Project #17:** Towards Public Procurement Transparency

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ADVOCACY AND POLICY INSTITUTE

A leading Cambodian NGO active in advocacy, policy influencing, capacity building, good governance and dialogue facilitation between citizens and state actors

The Advocacy and Policy Institute (API) is a Cambodian non-governmental organisation active in advocacy, policy influencing, good governance and civic engagement. Capacity building and dialogue facilitation are at the heart of our efforts towards democratic and sustainable development.

We have received widespread aclaim from both local and international organisations for our reliability, relevance and professionalism. Over a time span of almost two decades, API has helped institutionalise advocacy skills and has been striving to make local democratic and accountable governance a reality. To these ends, we have been conducting more than 300 training courses for over 10,000 participants affiliated with civil society and community-based organisations, local councils, media outlets, trade unions, Government institutions and the Cambodian Parliament.

API is unique in Cambodia's civil society in serving as a connector and facilitator for citizens' empowerment in their interaction with government at all levels. API has acquired first-hand experience on policy issues like access to information (A2I) through its grassroots work. Based on this vast experience, we are in the best position to make the voices of ordinary citizens count in policy-making at the national level. Here we have been trying to support government actors serve citizens according to the law and contribute to an enabling environment for citizens and civil society to express their concerns. Finally, we have been playing an important role in helping citizens understand their rights, access to information and make use of the opportunities for engagement offered by various laws and government policies.

Our programmes are guided by a human rights based approach. API serves all Cambodians and values the diversity of gender, sexual orientation and identity, (dis)ability, ethnicity, faith and political opinons. At the same time, we are especially committed to support the most disadvantaged in their efforts to make their voices heard.

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