



## **BRIEFING PAPER**

### **NGO Good Practice Project (NGO GPP) – Phase 3**

**March 2008 – December 2010**

## **Brief Background of Organisation**

The Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC) started in 1991. CCC is a membership organisation of over 100 member NGOs committed to facilitating the exchange of information among the development community in Cambodia.

*CCC's mission is to promote the activities of NGOs for the benefit of the people of Cambodia, by:*

- facilitating cooperation and supporting members on issues of common concern for NGOs
- providing current information services relevant to NGOs
- strengthening relationships with the Royal Government of Cambodia, to effectively influence policy and practice related to aid and development
- collectively representing NGOs to influence donors"

## **Project Description**

### **Summary of Situation Requiring Assistance**

The Royal Government of Cambodia has emphasized improved good governance as the centerpiece and key focus of the Rectangular Strategy Plan and National Strategic Development Plan, 2006-10 (NSDP). Good governance requires active participation from all development partners and stakeholders, including the government itself, private sector, and civil society organisations (CSOs) and the non-profit sector (NGOs). Together and separately, these stakeholders must continuously work to strengthen and improve governance related issues and structures for the benefit of Cambodia.

NGO staff members, NGO target beneficiaries, government, donors and other stakeholders, are beginning to demand greater participation, more accountability and transparency from NGOs. Hence, there is a growing need amongst NGOs in Cambodia for improved accountability and enhanced performance. Similarly, while NGOs have been pushing for more accountability from governments and businesses, their own credibility has sometimes been questioned. A driving force behind NGO good governance and accountability reforms is the recognition that NGOs are much better placed to demand higher standards in public affairs from governments when NGOs are prepared to apply similar standards to their own organisations.

Over the past 10 – 15 years NGOs at the international, regional and national levels have invested significant efforts in improving their accountability and legitimacy through the use of voluntary self-regulation, codes of conduct and certification systems. Currently certification mechanisms are in operation in over 40 countries worldwide as a means to promote transparency, accountability, and good governance of NGOs. Research clearly indicates that a NGO certification system is the most sustainable mechanism for improving processes and systems to increase NGO accountability and good organisational practices. In addition, a certification system helps NGOs gain trust and recognition from donors, public, government, and other stakeholders and guides NGOs to be more accountable to their target beneficiaries.

### **NGO GPP Phase 1:**

NGO GPP Project Phase 1 (2004-5) aimed to promote and enhance the legitimacy and credibility of NGOs in Cambodia, through the development of accountable guidelines, the “Code of Ethical Principles and Minimum Standards for NGOs in Cambodia”.

The draft Code of Ethical Principles and Minimum Standards for NGOs in Cambodia was developed by the NGO GPP Working Group in wider consultation with NGO community, donors, government and other stakeholders.

### **NGO GPP Phase 2:**

NGO GPP Phase 2 (2006-7) aimed to strengthen the NGO sector in Cambodia by encouraging and promoting NGO accountability and good organisational practice. The Code of Ethical Principles and Minimum Standards for NGOs in Cambodia was finalised, and a Voluntary NGO Certification System established, based on the Code. The Certification is issued to applicant NGOs who are compliant with

the standards as set out in the Code. As at August 2007, thirteen NGOs have applied for the certification and we estimate that a minimum of 30 NGOs are in the process of preparation for the application.

More than 350 NGOs in 19 provinces/cities have participated in NGO Good Practice Project activities and forty NGOs actively participated in bi-monthly Focus Group workshops to improve their organisational practice and quality of service delivery.

## **Project Summary**

NGO GPP is responding to the cross cutting issues by promoting NGO good governance, accountability, transparency and good organizational practices through the development of the Code of Ethical Principles and Minimum Standards for NGOs in Cambodia. The NGO code and NGO Voluntary Certification System are now tools to be used to promote NGO good practice, and improve partnerships between NGO community, government and target populations in the development of Cambodia.

The focus of NGO GPP – Phase 3 is utilizing the NGO Voluntary Certification System, based on the Code of Ethical Principles and Minimum Standards for NGOs in Cambodia, to promote and enhance good governance and accountability in the NGO sector. NGO GPP seeks to promote a common understanding amongst NGOs, donors, government and other stakeholders, regarding the governance and accountability needs of NGOs, the NGO voluntary certification system, and that accountability requires ongoing efforts and processes to be effective.

NGO GPP will work in strategic partnerships with participant NGOs and their stakeholders to provide essential support to comply with the standards in the Code. Regular workshops, training, presentations, field follow up visits, mentoring, and individual discussions will be used as mechanisms to encourage, improve the quality and accountability of organizational development, and programme delivery of participant NGOs.

## **Goal, Purpose and Objectives**

### **Goal:**

To strengthen the NGO sector in Cambodia by encouraging and promoting NGO accountability and good organisational practice

### **Purpose:**

NGOs commit to participating in a voluntary self-regulation system based on compliance with the *Code of Ethical Principles and Minimum Standards for NGOs in Cambodia*

### **Objectives:**

1. Encouraging and improving the quality and accountability of organisational development and programme delivery of NGOs in Cambodia.
2. Widely promote the application of a voluntary NGO certification system based on compliance with the “Code of Ethical Principles and Minimum Standards for NGOs in Cambodia”.

### **Main activities:**

*Strategy 1: Work as strategic partners in providing essential support for NGOs regarding the NGO Voluntary Certification System. The certified NGOs will require ongoing contact and monitoring. The participant NGOs will require assistance with development of required elements to meet the standards of the NGO Code.*

- 2.1 Develop a package of documents in relation to the NGO Code and NGO Voluntary Certification System for interested NGOs.
- 2.2 Work with strategic partnerships to provide essential support to participant NGOs to help them fulfill the recommendations in meeting the standards in the Code.

- 2.3 Provide essential support to provincial NGO networks and sectoral groups to be able to support and mentor their NGOs and CBOs to professionalization and good practice in their organisation and program delivery.
- 2.4 Receive and review applications from NGOs in accordance with the certification processes include meetings with WG and CC, and conducting field checks.
- 2.5 Coordinate approval process and awarding of certificates to the successful applicant NGOs.
- 2.6 Maintain the certification system through regular follow up visits and document reviews with certified NGOs.
- 2.7 Set up feedback mechanism as another means to monitor the effective compliance with the Code of certified NGOs.
- 2.8 Develop package of benefits for the certified NGOs, (e.g. directory, website..)

*Strategy 2: Continue to develop and strengthen the NGO Code and NGO Voluntary Certification System through regular meetings with the Working Group and Code Compliance Committee, as well as consultations with other stakeholders.*

- 2.1. Maintain core numbers for the Code Working Group (WG) and the Code Compliance Committee (CC).
- 2.2. Conduct six bi-annual meetings with the WG and CC to continue to develop and strengthen the Code and certification system, and look for possibilities to develop additional standards for program level.
- 2.3. Carry out quarterly meetings with the WG for desk reviews of applicants to review the quality of the NGOs' documents and produce recommendations for the field check team.
- 2.4. Organize quarterly meetings with CC to make decisions on NGO's compliance with the standards in the Code.
- 2.5. Hold an Annual forum with NGO community, donors, governments and other stakeholders to gain feedback on the NGO Code and the Certification System

*Strategy 3: Promote the NGO Voluntary Certification System in relation to NGO good governance, accountability and the NGO Code. This will be achieved through various forums including meetings, workshops, and sharing experiences with provincial NGO network representatives, other NGO networks, individual NGOs, donors, government representatives, and NGO target beneficiaries.*

- 3.1. Conduct regular meetings and exchange visits with provincial NGO network representatives and other networks on NGO good practices, accountability, NGO code and certification.
- 3.2. Organize meetings with donor groups and government representatives on NGO Code and certification.
- 3.3. Form/ expand coalition/ networks to promote "professionalization and good practice in organization and service delivery" in the country and region
- 3.4. Conduct external exposure visits to experienced countries including Spain, India, Philippines, Australia, etc, regarding to the respective project's goal and objectives.
- 3.5. Provide presentations to individual organizations or institutions regarding the NGO code and certification.
- 3.6. Tools and resources on NGO good practice, accountability, the NGO Code and certification are available to the wider NGO community (English and Khmer).

- 3.7. Liaise with local and international media such as TV, radio, and newspapers for promoting NGO code and the certification system with the public.
- 3.8. Conduct surveys and documentation reviews on good practice experiences, lessons learned, and/or stories of applicant NGOs and certified NGOs. The papers will be made available for public.

**Numbers of direct and indirect beneficiaries**

*Direct:* 100 – 200 NGO's      *Indirect:* 500+ NGO's

*Total beneficiaries:* 1000-1500 organisations from NGO community, donors, government and development stakeholders.

**Current Donors:** AusAID, Action Aid International, Concern Worldwide and AECID

**Total Budget for 34 months:** **\$409,460.00**