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Cooperation Committee
for Cambodia
Comité de Coopération
Pour le Cambodge

ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

AT SUB-NATIONAL LEVEL
A Study From Kratie Province



*Cooperation Committee for Cambodia
and
Kratie NGOs Network*

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Partnerships for Sustainable Development in Cambodia



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We expected that the report could be flashlight for strategic improvement the collaboration and engagement of CSOs and local authorities, as well as private sector. It also expected to improve enabling environment and feedback for local performance in respected areas. It would help NGOs provincial network and government authorities within the provinces have better learnt and discussion for strengthening the work of local staffs, and better prepare themselves to act and work more together effectively. Moreover, it will be used as feedbacks and advocate to government for better implementation of decentralization policy, whilst the CSOs could improve and strengthen the work for more effectively in development process.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following findings are a result of quantitative and qualitative study of the enabling environment for CSOs in Kratie province. 41 CSO representatives and 57 local authorities were selected to engage in the study. It should also be noted that the study design was a joint enterprise between CCC research team and the provincial network leaders and CSOs representatives. This summary provides major findings of the study:

- Registration among CSOs remain low, slightly more than 1/3 of them experienced that. More of them tend to sign MoU with the authorities. However, it should be noted that the process, either registration or signing MoU, is viewed as 'a bit difficult'. Authorities have a higher expectation of CSO cooperation when it comes to informing them about activities. Both however agree that CSOs are highly effective and responsiveness to needs at the local levels.
- CSOs at the local level are relatively organized. Almost 2/3 of them have connected and most of them network with other organization at both the sub-national and national level. Cooperation between CSO and authorities are also relatively good, both in general and in commune development planning. Authorities value CSO's role in local planning.
- Information sharing among them is well trafficked and exploited. Both seems to agree that information request is mostly for development plan, meeting minutes and such administrative data as demographic statistics. The assessment of authorities' response to information request is relatively high. CSO information sharing is rarely obstructed by the authorities.
- Sources of funding for CSO varies including, in order of importance, NGO partners, own raising, government funding and other activities. It is interesting to note that government has allocated some funding to CSOs while we know that they themselves are stretched in fund. For commune and district, their main sources of funding are fund from the central government, NGO partners and charity. For CSO, slightly more than half of them do not produce financial report and those who produce or have one do not necessarily share with the public. That really raises the question of transparency in NGO budgeting.
- Both CSOs and authorities are optimistic about the future for in terms of budget and working condition. The year ahead of them is either similar or brighter/better.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are a product of the findings we have learnt from the study and analysis of how to respond to shortcomings of the environment in which CSOs are operating at the local level. The choice of response is made in terms of urgency for actions and intervention given the current and potential changing context of various actors involved in improving the environment. These priority areas for action to be taken on include:

- Continue discussion on the importance of registration, and agreement if any, in order to forge a common understanding of CSOs and local authorities as to the importance of CSOs to local development and decision making process.
- Strengthen sub-national CSOs network, especially at the provincial level given its strategic importance in information sharing and relationship with the provincial administration. To achieve that CSOs should look at network as one of the primary activities in order to achieve their development objectives.
- Encouraging more information sharing between CSOs and authorities in order to enhance and maintain trust without which development objectives could not be achieved.
- CSO capacity in producing budget report should be strengthened and budget report to be released to the maximum level possible to its constituencies and local authorities.
- Diversify sources of funding is always encouraged and efforts should be stepped up in this areas given Cambodia's overall decreasing dependency on grants and the growing roles of private sector, allocate fund for co-project with CSOs should be encouraged with focus on non-physical infrastructures, and
- Last but not least, to achieve all the aforementioned recommendations, continuous strengthening of capacity of local CSOs leaders and to a certain extent of local authorities in democratic development concepts, and development management including fund raising should receive more, regular attention.

ACRONYMS

CBO	Community-Based Organisation
CCC	Cooperation Committee for Cambodia
CC	Commune councilors
CDC	Council for Development of Cambodia
CDP	Commune Development Plan
CED	Community Economic Development
CS	Civil society
CNGO	Cambodian Non-governmental Organization
CSO	Civil Society Organization
D&D	Decentralization and De-concentration
INGO	International Non-governmental Organization
KAFDOC	Khmer Association for Development of Countryside
LANGO	Law on Association and Non-governmental Organization
NSDP	National Strategic Development Plan
NCDD	National Committee for Decentralization and De-concentration
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
RGC	Royal Government of Cambodia

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OVERVIEW

Since the 1990s, various changes and reforms taken place to Cambodia, from the command economic to free market, war to peace, and authoritarian rules to democracy¹. Democracy was established and enshrined in the national constitution whereby international human rights norms are adopted, promoted and respected. On the democratization front, a regular election had been conducted. Governance is the vital value to pursue, and several reforms had been developed and set plan into the Rectangular Strategic of Royal Government of Cambodia², and follow by National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP 2006-2010, 2009-2013, and now 2014-2018). Other model of governance reform has evolved for sub-national since 2002 through Decentralization and De-concentration (D&D), and set into the ten year implementation plan (IP3), the new organic law with the election of provincial and district councils, and so on.

As a result of the reforms, at least two phenomena have been apparent in Cambodia's political aspect. The growing number of non-governmental organizations, NGOs and its affiliate CBOs across the countries since the 1990s. It is undeniable that since the 1990s civil society, defined as those who are non-government and non-business organized, associated with non-profit activities, has played an important role in development in Cambodia (IT, 2014; CCC 2010). Over the years, the number of non-governmental organizations has grown, from a modest start in the early 1990s to almost 3500 in 2010 (IT, 2014). Its source of funding is more limited to financial support from development partners and charity from outside of the country than from domestic partners or business. CCC 2011 survey reveals that 73 percent of their funding is from grant and donations, 20 percent from commercial interests such as office rentals and sale of publications; only 2 percent of funding is supported by the government (CCC, 2011; IT 2014). It is also well noted that while CSOs tend to share the sources of funding for their operation such as submitting their self-report to the CDC open database, only a small number of those surveyed in 2011 by CCC reported they share the figure to the public (IT, 2014). Of the huge number of CSOs registered in the country, only a small number of them are working in advocacy and human rights sector, the sector seen as 'politically sensitive' where advocates and human rights defenders are harassed, threatened or even murdered (IT, 2014). The result of the previous research estimated 1,315 active CSOs

¹Caroline Hughes (2003). *The Political Economy of Cambodia's Transition, 1991-2001*, London: Routledge Curzon.

²Chheat Sreang (2013). *"Democratic Governance and Local Politics in Cambodia"*, Panorama –Insights into Asian and European Affairs (Singapore: Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung).

contribute approximately up to US\$600-700 million in 2012, and direct employment of around 43 000 people working for the beneficiaries of about 20-30% of Cambodians³.

It is also well observed that the majority of the NGOs registered in the capital of Phnom Penh, though it is clear that their activities are mainly implemented in the provinces through either its branch offices or partners (IT, 2014). At both national and provincial levels, NGOs are mobilized among themselves to either provide social services such as education and health, or campaign for policy reform. Umbrella organizations such as CCC, NGOs Forum and NEP serves their members in service, capacity, and policy statement. At the provincial levels, it is seen the growing networks among NGOs, CBOs and other non-profit organizations in order to keep up to date of each other works and enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of their intervention. In Kratie, the NGOs network was created in 2011, and until the time of writing this report, its member accounts for 30 including of local and international NGOs. In Ratanakiri, the network was established in 2007 with a membership of 31 national and international organizations.

Another phenomenon resulted from decentralization process. Decentralisation reform aims to transfer power and resource to local and sub-national governments in the country. As a result, approved formally in 2001, the reform has allowed resource to move closer to where development is needed. Huge amount of grant for commune/sangkat fund for decentralize in development. The World Bank study identified that the amount of budget has doubled every four years for democratic development at commune reaching about \$25 000 per year in 2010 from a starting point of (2007) identified the first term of CCs, and fiscal transfer increased from 1.5 percent in 2002 to 2.80 percent in 2010. In total, for four years of implementation (2007-2010) USD 197 million was allocated to C/SF, 76 percent from the government and PSDD/UNDP, and 24 percent (USD 47 millions) from other development partners (67 percent for development work and 33 percent for administrative tasks). In 2012 each commune received around USD 27,517 of C/SF on average (RGC 2012). The government also encourage local contribution to cover part of the cost of development projects, and this contribution accounted for USD 1.4 million from 2007 to 2010 (NCDD 2011)⁴. However, all those money are not match between the responsibilities and the demands; and mostly spending on some specific areas, especially infrastructures or roads, and only small part to services.

³ CCC (2013). CSO contributions to the development of Cambodia 2012: Opportunities and Challenges,

⁴ COMFREL(2013). Assessment of the second term of decentralization in Cambodia: *Commune council performance and citizens' participation, 2007-2012*.

The reform also institutes the role of the local government in making decision on development needs at the local level using participatory model. Working with the local people and for the local people is seen as a new decision making approach in this decentralized governance. Every five years, the commune council approves the five-year commune development plan resulted from constant discussion and participation of the people in the localities. This development plan is translated into an investment plan, discussed and adopted on annual basis to make real and practical development plan to the commune⁵. Both local people, NGOs and CBOs have important role to play local decision making and development in decentralized Cambodia (Chheat, 2013; 2015).

Given the opportunity for meaningful engagement in local decision making brought about by the reform, the gap between the state and citizen remains relatively big at both national and local levels. The United Nations in Cambodia describes the relation between NGOs and the government that “at the national level, while modest attempts are being made to include CSOs in policy-making the culture of participation is still weak and there are few institutionalized mechanisms for the participation of civil society in decision-making.” The relation can also be seen through the lens of recent confrontation and debates on the government’s attempt to adopt the law on NGOs and associations passed even though it was rolled back only after the government met with mounting pressures from local and international players in Cambodia’s development⁶.

The CSO enabling environment seems unchanged during the last decade or so. Recent study on Enabling Environment Assessment in 2013 commissioned by CCC also highlight lack of cooperation between civil society and government, and potential roles of civil society in contributing to development is not fully appreciated though the 3rd Rectangular Strategy approved by the new government in 2014 is to strengthen comprehensive partnership with all stakeholders⁷. Out of the seven standard points of enabling environment for civil society (namely registration, operation, access to resource, freedom of expression, assembly, government-civil society partnership and cs-cs coalition), except on the point of access to resource, Cambodia is seen as having a low enabling environment for civil society’. The causes of these include inconsistency in interpreting laws and legal framework covering CS, [paternalist] view of cs by the state, and thus lack of trust on the part of government and its

⁵ The Asia foundation and World Bank, 2012. *Voice, Choice, and Decision: A study of local governance processes in Cambodia*.

⁶ Chheat Sreang (2013), “Democratic Governance and Local Politics in Cambodia”, Panorama -Insights into Asian and European Affairs (Singapore: Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung)

⁷ Coventry, Louise, Menh, Navy and Hillis, Alison (2013). *Assessment of the Enabling Environment for Civil Society, Country Report: Cambodia*.

failure to see the value of cs especially those who are working on human rights and governance. Government-cs relations seems to take a different form at the sub-national level where more cooperation was witnessed (CCC 2013).

At the national level, in this mandate resulted from the 2013, new platform is created in the RSIII and CDC partnership document for government and civil society/ngo to meet on annual basis to discuss on development issues; but it has not happened yet. CDF fails to happen; government-ngo meeting fails to happen. Given this, it should also be acknowledged that sectoral working groups such as education working group whereby government representatives, NGOs and development partners work together remain relatively active. While the report points to limited democratic space for the cs to be successful in their contribution to democratic development in the country, the report admits that it cannot delve into the how to improve the space for the civil society to be more successful.⁸

“Enabling Environment” is defined as “a set of conditions that impact on the capacity of citizens (whether individually or in an organised fashion) to participate and engage in the civil society arena in a sustained and voluntary manner.” (Civicus, 2013: 7)⁹. Based on CIVICUS definition of ‘Enabling Environment for CSO’ and CCC’s in 2013, this study looks at seven of the ten standpoints to measure CSO enabling environment: (1) formation, (2) registration, (3) operation, (3) access to resource, (4) freedom of expression, (5) peaceful assembly, (7) government-civil society partnership and cs-cs coalition.

Given what we have learnt from the CCC study in 2013 of the topic, the current study provides opportunity to learn from the perspectives of CSO representatives at the grassroots level and local government representatives. Also, the current study allows us to use questionnaires to analyse the experiences and perspectives of these local actors. The study explored the enabling environment for civil society at sub-national level through the specific examined as the following: 1) identify the performance of local authorities and CSOs for democratic development at local level, and 2) explore the enabling environments for the engagement of these development actors, their challenges, and mechanism for effective improvement.

⁸ Coventry, Louise, Menh, Navy and Hillis, Alison, 2013 Assessment of Enabling Environment for Civil Society: Cambodia, Phnom Penh: CCC

⁹ CIVICUS 2013, CIVICUS 2013 Enabling Environment Index, page. 7, and methodological note on Enabling Environment Index, available at <http://www.civicus.org/eei/>

METHODOLOGY

The study here was designed as action learning research with stakeholders for improves the situation in the area. The data collection is designed for multi stages development. The first stage is to review the secondary data related to the performance of these relevant formal actors at the local community, and enabling environment, and challenges and opportunity for these development actors. The primary data from both quantitative survey and qualitative interview would be collected in the selected provinces (northeast provinces of Cambodia) that more reflect in 2015.

This study targets three north eastern provinces of Cambodia, namely Kratie, Stung Treng and Ratanakiri applying similar methodology and approaches. Each province is treated as a locality where civil society register, though it is well understood that registration and operation process is not necessarily straightforward and location bound. In each province, interview was conducted with CSO representatives and local authorities (commune and district/municipality levels). The exact numbers of interview and questionnaires will be accounted for each province. The survey questionnaire was developed and improved base on questionnaire conducting the study with API, and consultation with the provincial network to make sure it reflect the four dimensions in this study, and relevant issues within the provinces.

Sampling Procedures

Following the commune database, there are six districts with 46 communes, and there are 282 councilors in those communes. At the initial stage, the provincial NGOs working in the province was mapping for their programing area within those communes. Following the time and some financial constraint, at least 50 percent of the total communes were selected as target communes in the research upon the high proportion number of NGOs working in those commune areas. In this regards, the research could better explore the engagement and relationship between civil society and government actors. Finally, 28 communes was selected in which each commune two represent CBOs, two represent commune councilors, two districts authorities and two district councilors are selected as survey respondents.

The survey tool is developed in consultation with the provincial NGOs network, and supporting from the consultant, then tested. The questionnaire is separated between CSOs and local authorities based the selected dimensions of enabling environment. The data collection was conducted by member of provincial networks who has been trained and joint developed the survey interview protocol to support for interview process and common understand the pattern and intend of questions need.

Qualitative Data

Based on the comprehensive discussion with the provincial network, two communes of the districts were selected for in-depth study to better understand the qualitative interaction between local authorities and CSOs sectors. The potential key informants relevant to the study will be engaged are: local authorities (district authorities, commune authorities, and village authorities), NGOs, CBOs, and other formal actors such as youth group, woman group, and minority group. Besides those key actors, other stakeholders at the provincial levels also conduct in-depth interview and group discussion.

Data Analysis

The data from the survey is developed and processed into SPSS for generate and analyze. Most of the information from the survey are generated into table and figures, while the descriptive and analysis is combined whilst qualitative interview are integrated to support as more evident. The analysis for the data is presented mostly in the same table and figure which result from interviewing among CSOs and authorities.

BACKGROUND PROFILE OF KRATIE PROVINCE AND RESPONDENTS

Kratie Province

Located in the northeast part of Cambodia, Kratie is bordered with Stung Treng to the north, Mondul Kiri to the east, Vietnam and Kampong Cham to the south, and Kampong Thom to the west. Based on the statistics in 2013, the total area is 11,094 square kilometers, divided into 6 districts and 46 communes/Sangkats. There are 255 villages, with a population of 350,566 or 73,035 households. The gender ratio is 1:1. The population density of the province in 2011 is 29 persons/km² as compared to 74 persons/km² for Cambodia (NIS, 2013)¹⁰.

The sub-national level, there are different structure of networking among CSOs sector and Government-CSOs joint development support such as the committee for enhance education sector under the directing of provincial department of education with existing the relevant CSOs working on education. The committee for health sector under the directing of provincial department of health with existing the composition of CSOs working on health. Distinguish, the provincial NGOs network initiated since 2011 in Kratie, and it is known as Kratie NGOs Network (KNN) consisting of 30 NGOs working within the province.

¹⁰ NIS, 2013, Economic Census 2011, Phnom Penh: NIS

Respondents Profile

For CSO, 42 organizations was interviewed located in 23 different villages, in 6 districts. Their positions vary, from member of specialized committee to director of the organizations. 79% are male, and the age mean is 51.53, with the lowest 33 and the highest 67. The period of work range from 2 to 21 years, with a mean of 7.43 years. Using Cambodian educational structure, 53.7% of the respondents received at least secondary education and 41.4% at least primary education. Only 2.4% received BA and the other 2.4% received MA degree. The majority of the respondents work for CBOs (92.7%) while the other 7.3% work for local NGOs.

For local authorities, 57 questionnaires were collected from their representatives. In the six districts we interview, we received between 6 questionnaires, the lowest and 14 questionnaires the highest. Most of them are men (71.4%). The majority of them receive either secondary education (61.4%) or primary education (31.6%).

Demographic Data

Table 1: Local authorities share by district

	Authorities	
	Frequency	%
1 Chhlong	8	14.0
2 Chit Borey	14	24.6
3 Kratie	6	10.5
4 Preak Prosob	9	15.8
5 Sambo	12	21.1
6 Snoul	8	14.0
Total	57	100.0

Table 2: Type of local authorities by position

	Authorities	
	Frequency	%
1 District councilors	5	8.8
2 District chief	1	1.8
3 Commune councilors	47	82.5
4 Other	4	7.0
Total	57	100.0

Table 3: Local authorities and CSO by sex/gender

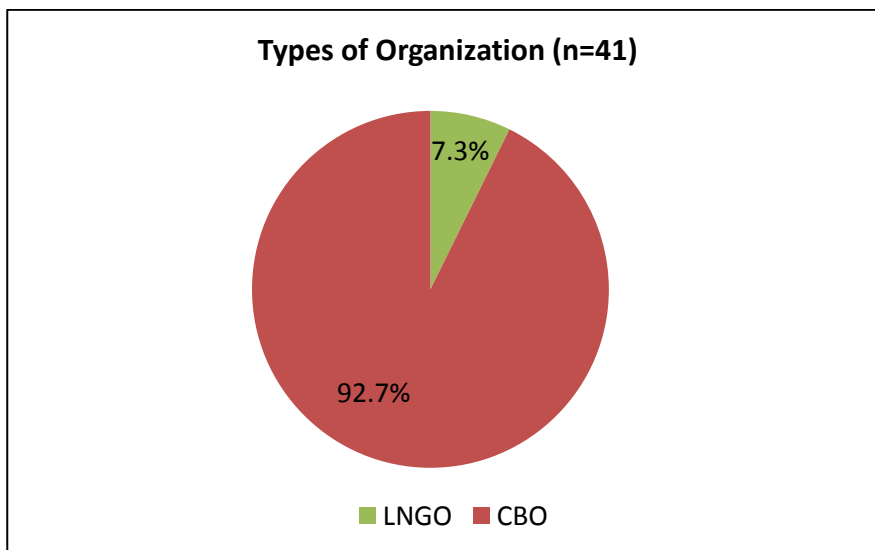
	CSO		Authorities	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
1 Male	34	79.1	40	71.4
2 Female	9	20.9	16	28.6
Total	43	100.0	56	100.0

Table 4: Education level of the respondents

	CSO		Authorities	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
1 Primary	17	41.5	18	31.6
2 Secondary	22	53.7	35	61.4
3 Bachelor	1	2.4	4	7.0
4 Master	1	2.4	0	0.0
Total	41	100.0	57	100.0

Most of the CSO respondents received secondary educations (53.7%) and followed by primary (41.5%). The other levels are divided equally between those who received BA (2.4%) and those who received MA degree (2.4%). Comparing to local authorities is similar trend, but no one graduated MA.

Figure 1: Type of organizations for the CSO respondents work for



The respondents is dominated by representatives from the Community-based organizations (CBOs), which represented 92.7% of respondents for CSOs sector, and the rest is from local non-government organizations (LNGOs).

ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

I- ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION

Table 5a: Q.1.1a Experience in registration, or signing MoU between CSO and authorities

Q.1.1a	CSO		Authorities	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
1 No	27	62.8	31	54.4
2 Yes	16	37.2	26	45.6
Total	43	100.0	57	100.0

Slightly more than a third of the CSO respondents have the experiences in registration with relevant ministry (37.3%). The rest (62.8%) has no experience. It is interesting to note that more authorities, that is 31%, experienced the registration of CSO. This registration refer to both NGOs and CBOs. It should also be noted that registration for a formal NGO is usually involved the authorization of the Ministry of Interior (for local government) or Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (for international NGOs). When they open a branch in the province, they could just simply inform the authority and sectoral department concerns. For CBOs, it could range from the authorization of commune level or/and beyond. The registration might mean registration protected areas such as forest community (interviews). Deviation of response between the CSO and authorities might arrive from different definition for registration in that authorities look at it from a broader perspective as compared to the individualist view and personal experience of CSOs themselves.

Table 5b: Q.1.1b If yes, level of ease?

	CSO		Authorities	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
1 Very difficult	4	25.0	1	3.8
2 little difficult	7	43.8	7	26.9
3 Normal	2	12.5	11	42.3
4 Easy	3	18.8	7	26.9
Total	16	100.0	26	100.0

Among those CSO representatives who have experience in the registration (N=16), the majority either say it is 'very difficult' or 'some difficulty'. 25% say it is 'very difficult' while another 43.8% say they met 'some difficulty' during the registration. Only 18.8% say it is 'easy'. For authorities, 42% say it is 'normal' that mean if CSOs completed documents would

be authorized . Only 3.8% say it is very difficult as they need more inquiry with the all information related to the application. Moreover, it discussion with the commune authorities, they identify their inquiry as they want to make sure that the formation of those CBOs have been well structure, roles and responsibility, and if they are forestry or fishery community having clear boundary, and well follow to the legal regulations. The rest is equally divided between 'less difficult' and 'easy'.

Table 6a: Q.1.1c Experience in signing MoU with sectoral departments

CSO		
MoU	Frequency	%
1 No	25	58.1
2 Yes	18	41.9
Total	43	100.0

As to experience in signing MoU with sectoral departments, 58% say 'no' while the rest say 'yes' but not all activities need to have MoU before proceeding their program. Some certain provincial departments or Ministries that they need to have MoU for easier and better implementation of program such as Health, Education, Woman Affair, Agriculture, and Rural Development.

Table 6b: Q.1.1d If yes, how easy it was?

CSO		
	Frequency	%
1 Very difficult	5	27.8
2 little bit difficult	8	44.4
3 Normal	3	16.7
4 Easy	2	11.1
Total	18	100.0

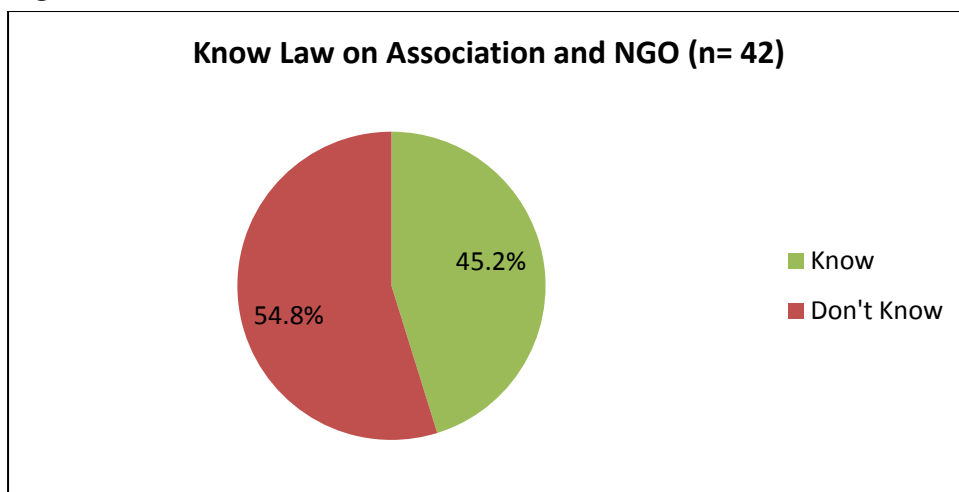
For those CSO who experience in signing MoU, 44% say it is 'a little bit difficult' and 27.8% say it is 'very difficult'. Interview with CSOs, they raised some difficulties related to take times response that need to actively follow up, and seeking for some further documents.

Table 7: Q.1.2a Awareness of the law on Association and NGO (LANGO)

	CSO		Authorities	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
1 Don't know	23	54.8	27	47.4
2 Know	19	45.2	30	52.6
Total	42	100.0	57	100.0

As to the awareness of the newly adopted NGOs, the answers is split almost in half: for the CSO, 54.8% and 47.4% of the local authorities say ‘do not know’.

Figure 2: Known the law on Association and NGO



Knowledge about the recently passed law on Association and NGO is split among in half. 45.2% say they know the existence of the law while the other 54.8% say they do not know. Similarly, among the authorities’ respondents who known the law, in further asking in qualitative interview, nearly all heard from mass media, especially radio. Moreover, they don’t actually receive any detailed description of the law, and any explanation following the line of authorities.

Table 8: Q.1.2b If aware of LANGO, concern regarding CSOs registration

	CSO		Authorities	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
1 Strict	2	11.1	1	3.3
2 Simple/the same as before	7	38.9	7	23.3
3 Facilitate	5	27.8	18	60.0
4 DK/NA	4	22.2	4	13.3
Total	18	100.0	30	100.0

Table 9: Q.1.2c, If aware of LANGO, concern regarding to operation

	CSO		Authorities	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
1 Strict	1	5.3	2	6.7
2 Simple/the same as before	9	47.4	10	33.3
3 Facilitate	9	47.4	16	53.3
4 Don't know	0	0.0	2	6.7
Total	19	100.0	30	100.0

Figure 3: Perception on LANGO following registration and operation (information by CSOs)

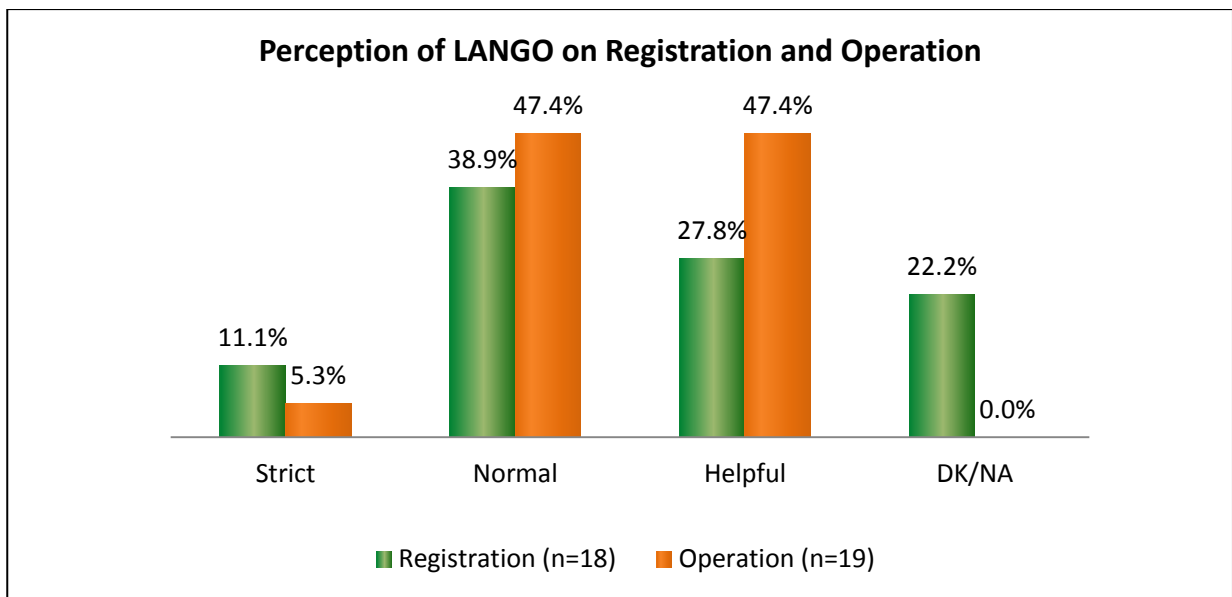
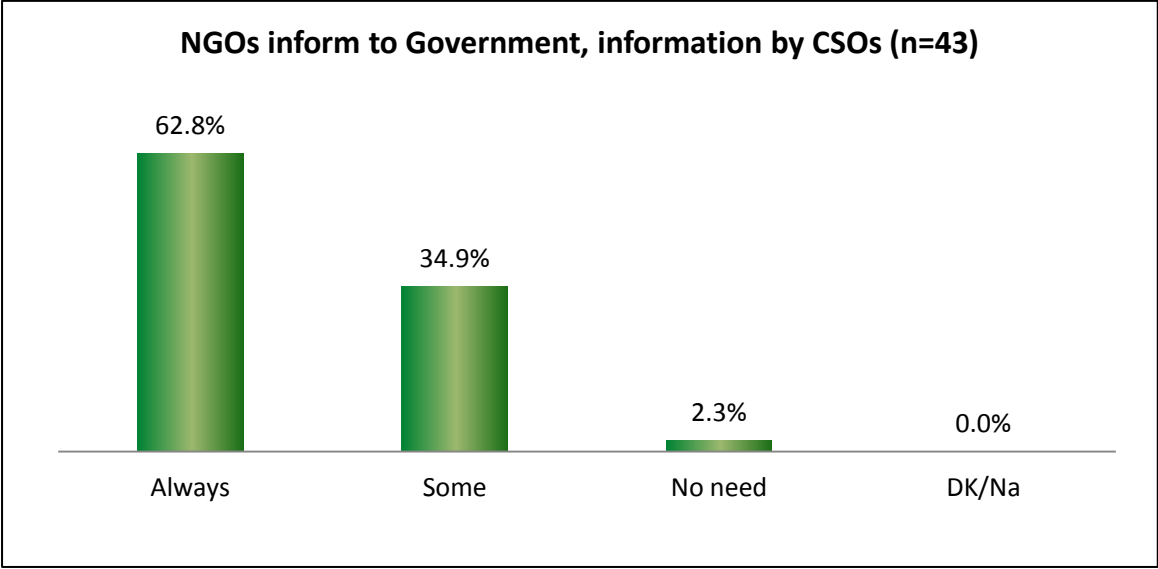


Table 10: Q.1.3 If meeting, informing authorities?

	CSO		Authorities	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
1 Must be all time	27	62.8	44	77.2
2 written letter	15	34.9	13	22.8
3 No need	1	2.3	0	0
Total	43	100.0	57	100.0

Figure 4: NGOs inform government if any public meeting or gathering (information by CSOs)



NGOs claim that they collaborated work with the authority. 62.8% of them claim ‘always’ inform the authority prior to organizing any meetings or gathering. Another 34.9% claim they ‘sometimes’ inform them. Only 2.3% says that there is ‘no need’ to inform them about their gathering or meeting. The figure provided by the authorities is even higher. 77.2% of them say CSO ‘must be all the time’ inform the authorities. The rest say ‘written letter’ is needed. Some communes which are more open raised from both authorities themselves and CSOs working there, they seek for informing though with formal letter or any means would fine to better accommodate and facilitate for the meeting such as gathering villagers to participate and other support to make the meeting go better effectively.

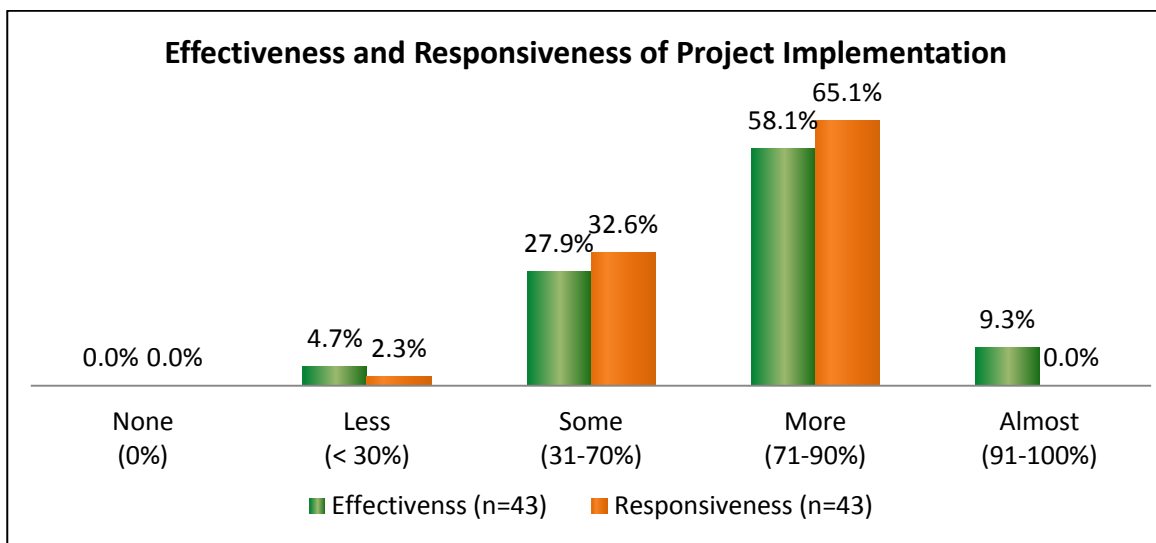
Table 11: Q. 1.4. NGO effectiveness

Effectiveness	CSO		Authorities	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
2 Less (<30%)	2	4.7	3	5.3
3 Some (31%-70%)	12	27.9	14	24.6
4 More (71%-90%)	25	58.1	35	61.4
5 All time (91%-100%)	4	9.3	5	8.8
Total	43	100.0	57	100.0

Table 12: Q.1.5 NGO responsiveness

Responsiveness	CSO		Authorities	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
2 Less (<30%)	1	2.3	5	8.8
3 Some (31%-70%)	14	32.6	15	26.3
4 More (71%-90%)	28	65.1	35	61.4
5 All time (91%-100%)	0	0.0	2	3.5
Total	43	100.0	57	100.0

Figure 5: Effectiveness and responsiveness of project implementation (information by CSOs)



Effectiveness and responsiveness of project implementation by NGOs are also an interesting aspect of their contribution to local development. Judgment of the responsiveness of the project follows a similar trend to its effectiveness. Following the rank of percentage responded by CSOs, 65.1% says they have been ‘more responsive’ (71-90%) to the needs of local communities while 32.6% says they have achieved ‘some responsiveness’ (31-70%). The authorities agree with the assessment of the CSO themselves, and results similarly as of 61.4% of the authorities say ‘ more responsive’ , and 26.3% say they are ‘some responsiveness.

Moreover, looking at the effectiveness of the project CSOs operation, the results from authorities shows 61.4% say they are ‘more effective’ (71-90%) and 24.6% say of ‘some effectiveness’ (31-70%). On the other hand, CSOs says 58.1% have achieved ‘a lot of’ (71-90%) in effectiveness while 27.9% say they have achieved ‘some’. Only 9.3% say they have achieved the highest level of effectiveness (91-100%) where they maximize their impacts within their project as their expected and beyond.

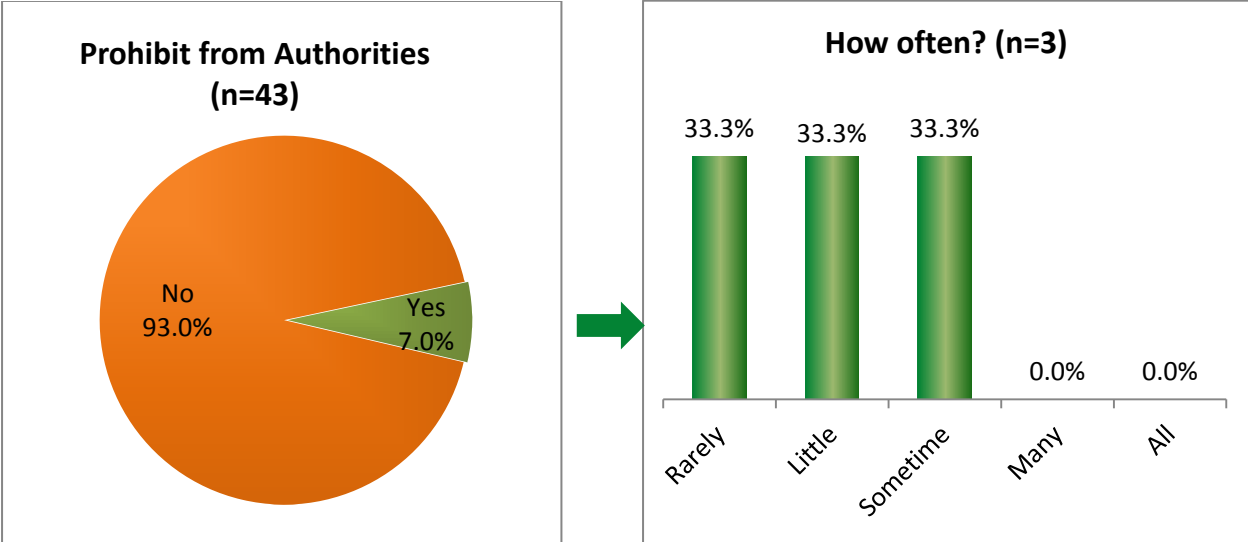
Table 13a: Q.1.6a Obstruction by authorities while CSOs working

Obstruction	CSO		Authorities	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
1 No	40	93.0	46	80.7
2 Yes	3	7.0	11	19.3
Total	43	100.0	57	100.0

Table 13b: Q.1.6b if yes, how often?

Frequency of obstruction	CSO		Authorities	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
1 Rarely	1	33.3	1	9.1
2 Little	1	33.3	4	36.4
3 Sometime	1	33.3	3	27.3
4 Often	0	0	3	27.3
Total	3	100.0	11	100.0

Figure 6: Prohibit from authorities and those of frequency



As to whether the authority has obstructed the NGOs activities in 2015, the majority say ‘no’ (93%) and the other 7% say ‘yes’. Among those who say ‘yes’ (n=3), overall at the low frequency rate of obstruction from just sometimes and less. Though the result from authorities is abit higher but it still stay at the similar low frequency rate of obstruction. This reflects some CSOs who working on certain sensitive issues may more inquiry from authorities for their operation within the community.

II- NETWORK AND COOPERATION AMONG CSOs

Table 14a: Q.2.1a NGO networking

CSO		
2.1 Networking	Frequency	%
1 No	17	39.5
2 Yes	26	60.5
Total	43	100.0

Table 14b: Q.2.1b If yes, to what extent of number of network that your organization joint?

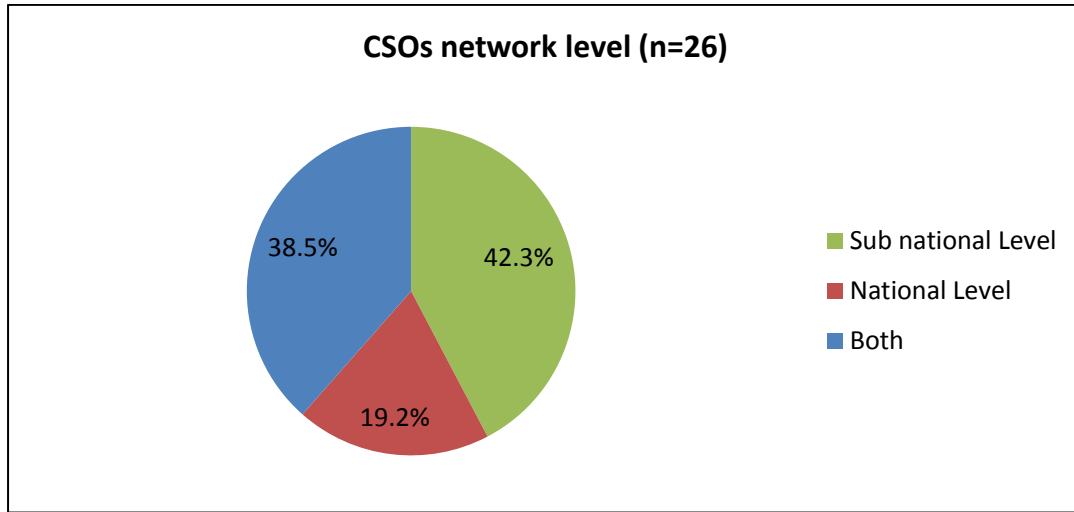
CSO		
2.1b	Frequency	%
1 1 network only	3	12.5
2 2-3 networks	4	16.7
3 4-5 networks	7	29.2
4 6 or more	10	41.7
Total	24	100.0

Table 15: Q. 2.1c, what level of network?

CSO		
2.1c what level?	Frequency	%
1 Sub national level	11	42.3
2 National level	5	19.2
3 Both	10	38.5
Total	26	100.0

Many of the CBOs and NGOs are part of NGO networks in one way or another. 60.5% are part of network; the rest are not. It is interesting to note that those with the networks have at least 3 networks. 41.7% have 6 or more networks, and 29.2% have between 4 and 5 networks. The smallest 12.5% are part of 3 different networks. 38% of them are networked at both sub-national and national level. 42.3% are purely sub-national while the other 19.2% are purely national.

Figure 7: CSOs networking

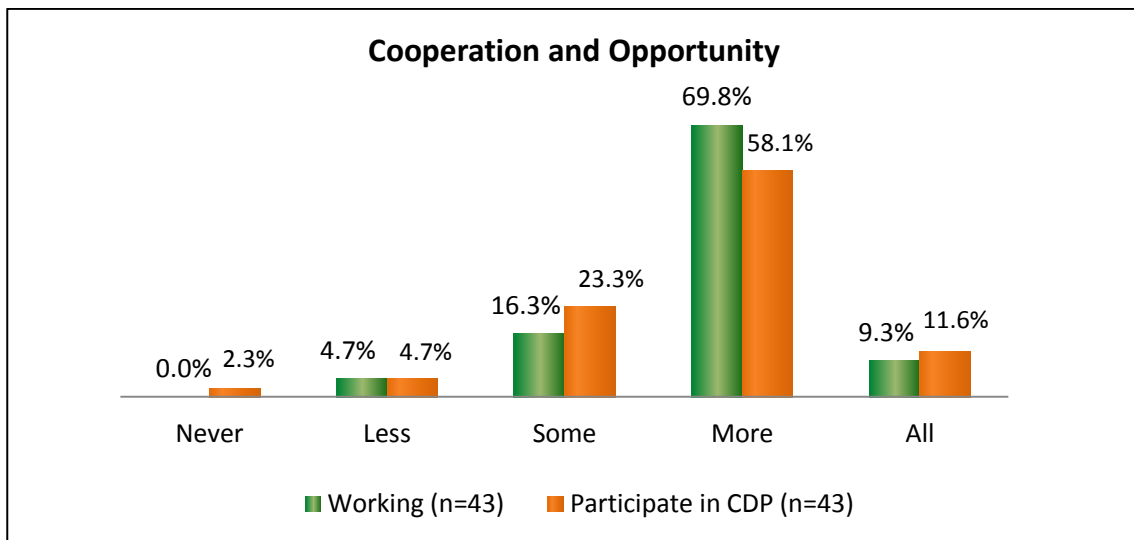


There are different levels of networks of which these organizations are part. 42.3% are 'sub-national level', 38.5% national and the other 19.2% are both sub-national and national levels. At the provincial level, the network play very important role in strengthening their professional life and enhancing their development intervention effectiveness through learning from one another's work, focus and target. However, it is also seen that the network needs improvement in terms of communicating with members' focal points. For members themselves, the sense of belonging and prioritizing network engagement also needs strengthening (interview 31 Nov 2015, Kratie).

Table 16: Level of cooperation and provide opportunity for the work of CSOs from authorities

2.2 Cooperation with authorities	CSO		Authorities	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
1 None	2	4.7	1	1.8
2 Some	7	16.3	1	1.8
3 More	30	69.8	49	86.0
4 Always	4	9.3	6	10.5
Total	43	100.0	57	100.0

Figure 8: Provide cooperation and opportunity for CSOs engagement in working and CDP



As to the relation and cooperation between CSOs and local authority, questions were also raised about to what extent they are cooperative. For implementation of the NGOs/CBOs work/activities, the majority (69.8%) say the authority are ‘very cooperative’ while 16.3% say they are ‘sometimes’ cooperative. 9.3% say that they are ‘fully’ cooperative. As to the extent the CSO ‘s chance to participate in the commune development planning mechanism, the majority (58.1%) say they are ‘very cooperative’ while 16.3% say they are ‘sometimes’ cooperative. 11.6% say they are ‘fully’ cooperative. 86% of the authorities say they are mostly inviting cooperation and 66.7% of them say they are also mostly inviting CSOs to commune development planning.

In terms of strategic partnership, however, there seems to be a lack of direction on the part of local authority, not least the provincial administration, to engage on a sustainable, regular basis, with civil society organizations (interview 31 Nov 2015, Katrie).

Table 17: Level of cooperation and provide opportunity for CSOs on CDP from authorities

	CSO		Authorities	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Q.2.3 CSO allowed by authorities				
Q.2.2 Authorities allow CSOs engage in CDP				
1 Never	1	2.3	0	0
2 Less	2	4.7	4	7.0
3 Some	10	23.3	7	12.3
4 More	25	58.1	38	66.7
5 Always	5	11.6	8	14.0
Total	43	100.0	57	100.0

III- INFORMATION SHARING

Table 18a: Q.3.1a Experience in requesting information from local authorities

Request information from local authorities	CSO		Authorities	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
1 No	8	18.6	3	5.3
2 Yes	35	81.4	54	94.7
Total	43	100.0	57	100.0

Experienced of seeking information from CSOs that responded by both authority and CSOs itself showed more than four fifth. The majority (81.4%) say they have 'asked' for information from the local authority and 76.5% refer to the commune council. It is also interesting to note that none has asked the district alone for information, but they experiences to ask for information both commune and district level (23.5%). This results show the level of information seek, and preference of communication among CSOs' seek.

Table 18b: Q.3.1 If yes, seeking for information by CSO, from which level?

3.1 From which level?	CSO	
	Frequency	%
1 Commune	26	76.5
2 District	0	0
3 Both commune and district	8	23.5
Total	34	100.0

Table 18c: Types of info requested from the commune

(i) From commune	CSO		Authorities	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
1 Development Plan	17	32.1	31	29.2
2 Role and functions of CC	2	3.8	4	3.8
3 CC budget	7	13.2	4	3.8
4 Administrative documents	1	1.9	5	4.7
5 Law and regulation	1	1.9	2	1.9
6 Meeting minutes and other info	13	24.5	8	7.5
7 Statistics of people	6	11.3	40	37.7
8 Other	6	11.3	12	11.3
Total	53	100.0	106	100.0

For CSO, they are interested in development plan (32.1%), meeting minutes and other information (24.5%) and CC budget (13.2%). From the authority side, they claim that statistics of people is the most requested (37.7%), followed by development plan (31%). This response to the fact that statistic is seek more at district level that influent to the results with this multiple answer from authorities.

Table 18d: Types of information requested from the District

(ii) Districts	CSO		Authorities (3.1b)	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
1 Development Plan	4	40.0	6	25.0
2 Role and functions of CC	0	0	1	4.2
3 CC budget	0	0	1	4.2
4 Administrative documents	0	0	1	4.2
5 Law and regulation	0	0	1	4.2
6 Meeting minutes and other info	4	40.0	2	8.3
7 Statistics of people	2	20.0	10	41.7
8 Other	0	0	2	8.3
Total	10	100.0	24	100.0

For the CSO, the most request to the district authority is for development plan (40%), and meeting minutes (40%). The other request is made for statistics of people (20%) but it is not heart in seeking for other types of information such as budget, documents and so on. Whereas from the authorities, the most requests are statistics of people (41.7%), followed by development plan (25%). The rest is spread across the other types of information evenly.

Table 19: Q.3.2 How comprehensive the authority response to information request?

Authority responsiveness to information request	CSO		Authorities	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
1 0-25%	0	0	0	0
2 26 - 50%	9	23.1	6	10.7
3 51 - 75%	21	53.8	34	60.7
4 76% or more than	9	23.1	16	28.6
Total	39	100.0	56	100.0

More than half of the CSOs (53.8%) say the response rate of information seek is 51-75% among their requested for information; the rest is equally split between 26-50% (23.1%) and 76% or more (23.1%).

For the authorities, it is higher compare to CSOs with 60.7% gives the responded rate of 51-75%, and 28% say it is responded with 76% or more.

Table 20: Q.3.3 Any obstruction by authorities in information sharing of CSOs?

Any obstruction of information distribution	CSO		Authorities	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
1 No	41	95.3	52	91.2
2 Yes	2	4.7	5	8.8
Total	43	100.0	57	100.0

As to the question as to the extent to which the authority obstruct CSO’s sharing to all kinds of information of any means, huge amount from both CSOs (95.3%) and authorities (91.2%) say they did not have that experience. Only few (8.8%), the authorities see what kinds of information that attempt to share by CSOs.

Table 21: Q.3.4 NGO sharing info to authorities?

NGO sharing info to authority	CSO		Authorities	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
1 Never	1	2.3	1	1.8
2 Less	3	7.0	1	1.8
3 Sometime	13	30.2	14	24.6
4 More	21	48.8	35	61.4
5 Always	5	11.6	6	10.5
Total	43	100.0	57	100.0

As to what extent CSOs share information with the authorities, most of them split between sometimes (30%) and ‘most of the times’ (48%). For the Authorities, the same view is observed: 61.4% say ‘most of the time’ while another 24.6% say ‘sometimes’.

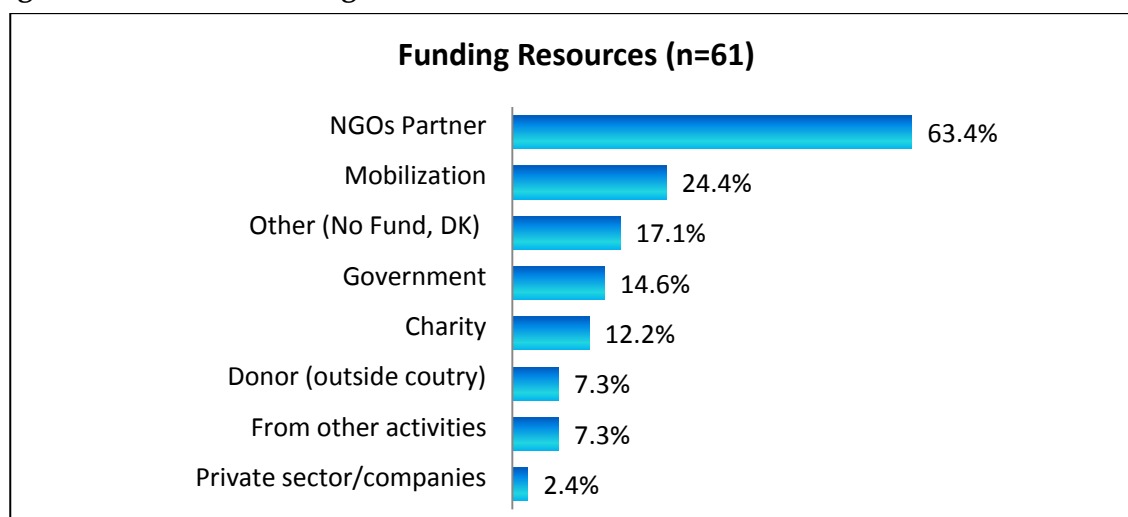
IV. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT FOR CSOs

Table 22: Q.4.1a Sources of budget for 2015 for CSOs

4.1 Funding sources for CSOs	CSOs	
	Frequency	%
1 Other activities	3	4.9%
2 Charity	5	8.2%
3 NGO partners	26	42.6%
4 Foreign donors	3	4.9%
5 Government	6	9.8%
6 Own mobilization	10	16.4%
7 Private sector	1	1.6%
8 Other	7	11.5%

Figure 9: Source of funding for CSOs

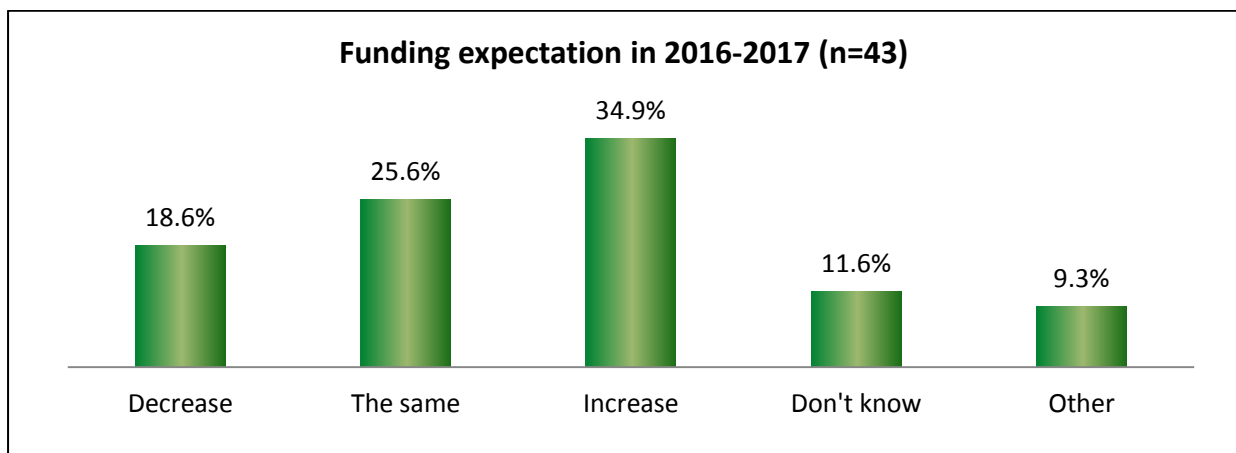


For CSOs, the main source of its budget in 2015 is from NGOs partners (42.6%), followed by own mobilization (16.4%), government (9.8%) and charity (8.2%). The funding source from government response to the fact that some certain project related to health are grand through the government and then share to CSOs sector for their operation. Moreover, some CBOs activities based at the community level have small support from authorities for their operation. Whilst another 2.4% of private sectors is based on individual charity from private business whilst they are visiting the area.

Table 23: Q.4.1b Funding compared between 2014 and prospect for 2016-17

CSOs		
Compare prospective 2016-17	Frequency	%
1 Decrease	8	18.6
2 The same	11	25.6
3 Increase	15	34.9
4 Don't know	5	11.6
5 Other	4	9.3
Total	43	100.0

Figure 10: Funding expectation for 2016-2017



For the prospect of funding in 2016-17, CSOs seem to be optimistic: slightly more than ¼ of them (25.6%) say it will remain the same; 34.9% say it will increase. Only 18.6% say it will decrease.

Table 24: Q.4.2 Available of financial report of CSO, and share to public

Available of financial report of CSO,	Frequency	%
1 No	22	53.7
2 Yes, but cannot share	3	7.3
3 Yes, and share	16	39.0
Total	41	100.0

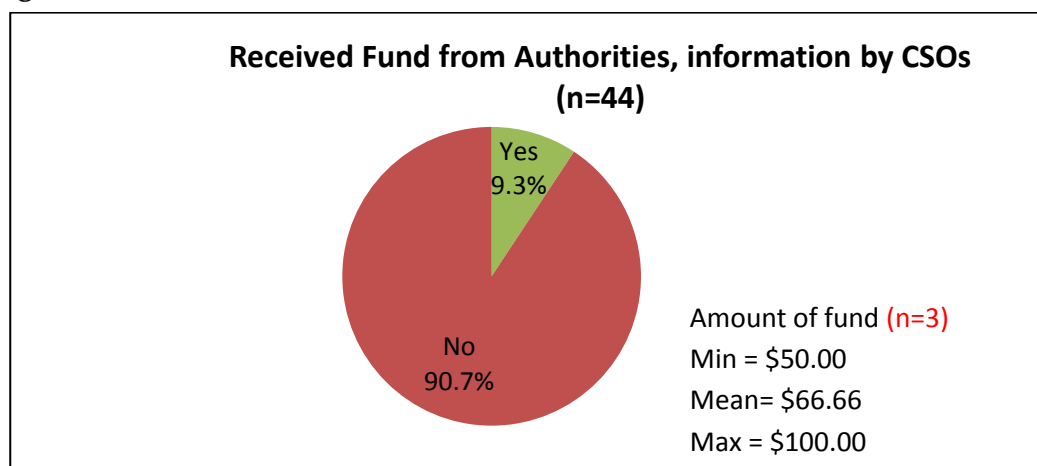
As for CSO budget transparency, 53.7% say they do not have financial report. This is due to the fact that most of the respondents who are CBO don't have financial reports. They are voluntary work without salary, and only some external support from NGOs project/partners. Only 39% do have the report and share. The rest does have but can't share.

Table 25: Q.4.4 Any funding from authorities?

Any budget from authority?	CSOs		Authorities	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
1 No	39	90.7	49	89.1
2 Yes	4	9.3	6	10.9
Total	43	100.0	55	100.0

It is interesting to note that at least 9.3% of CSO say they received funding support from the government authorities; the figure from the authorities is slightly higher (10.9%). Those level of support only to CBOs based at community level, and some contribution of authorities on certain activities operating by CSOs.

Figure 11: Fund receive from authorities site for CSOs



FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT FOR AUTHORITIES

Table 26: Q.4.1 a, Sources of commune budget by authorities

Sources of budget	Commune		District	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
1 Other activities	13	13.8%	5	29.4%
2 Charity	12	12.8%	0	0.0%
3 NGO partners	20	21.3%	2	11.8%
4 Foreign donors	6	6.4%	1	5.9%
5 Government	35	37.2%	6	35.3%
6 Private	1	1.1%	1	5.9%
7 Other	7	7.4%	2	11.8%
Total	94	100.0%	17	100.0%

Source of budget for the commune is mainly from the government (37.2%) through especially decentralization mechanism, followed by from NGOs partners (21.3%), other activities (13.8%) mostly public services and charity (12.8%). For the sources of district budget, 35.3% is from government, followed by other activities (29.4%), NGOs partners (11.8%), and others (11.8%).

CHALLENGES AND SUGGESTIONS

When asked about their assessment of the general working condition for CSO as compared to the previous year (2014), the majority of CSOs say it is ‘similar’ (48.8%) or better (44.2%). The authorities’ assessment is higher rate for similar environment (60.5%), and ‘better’ is 34.9%. Most of them reflect the authorities at local level open up their mind better for working and engagement.

Figure 12: Enabling environment for CSOs working for 2015 compare to 2014

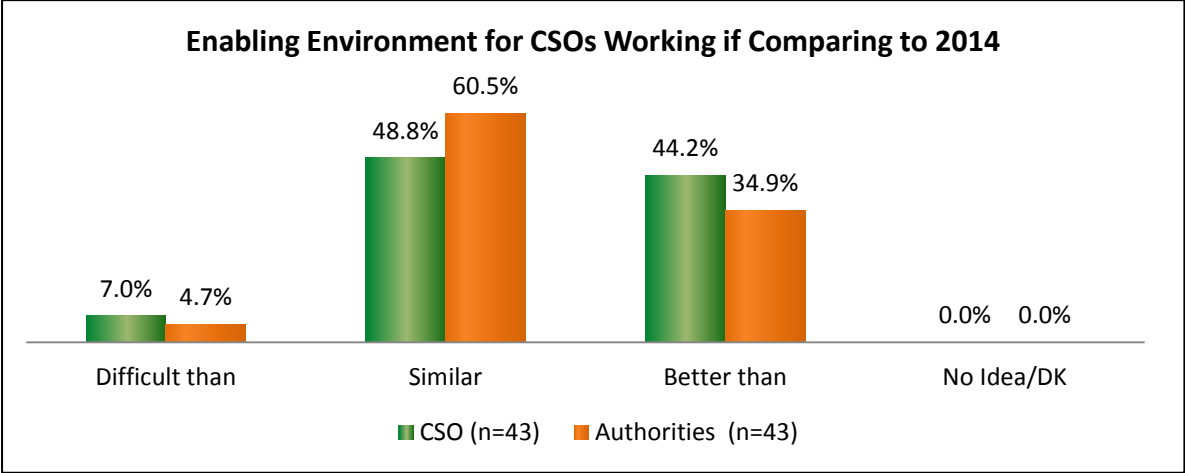


Table 27: Authorities working condition compared 2014

	CSO		Authorities	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
1 Difficult than 2014	2	4.7	7	12.5
2 Similar 2014	26	60.5	24	42.9
3 Better than 2014	15	34.9	25	44.6
Total	43	100.0	56	100.0

The general working condition for authorities is similarly evaluated. 60.5% of CSO say it is ‘similar’ to the previous year, and 34.9% say it is ‘better’. For the authorities themselves, 44.6% say it is ‘better’ and 42.9 say it is ‘similar’. Whilst the rest of the small percentages say it is difficult as there were more legal documents that they need to understand and follow.

In addition, from the qualitative interview other challenges and suggested as the following:

- Having faced a shortfall of funding for CSOs. In this case all development stakeholders should consider on a joint activities/programming or share funding with authorities for more effective development at local community. Moreover, it should be provided space for CSOs support for implementation through allocate development fund from local authorities, where some local development budget had been under expense from limit capacity of local authorities.
- CBOs have difficult to have available funding to support for the protection and conversation of fishery resources.
- The capacity of CSOs at local community, especially CBOs still limited for potential develop in the community. It is still a demand need to empower grassroots organizations both financially and technically.
- There still be a slow process of renew MoU and sign agreement for CSOs with other relevant provincial departments. There should have a clear mechanism for working arrangement between CSOs and authorities, and should better followed to those mechanism and legal procedures.

CONCLUSION

This study is a modest contribution to the knowledge on CSO enabling environment at the sub-national level in Cambodia. It is clear that there is cooperation between local authorities and CSOs in terms of information sharing and engagement in activities that are supposed to benefit the community and people's livelihood through development practices. The majority of CSOs in this study are at grassroots level, that are not necessarily registered, especially CBOs group, and there is a modest level of connection among them though some are not formally networking in term of membership or partnership. While networking is a good opportunity for information sharing and coordination, more can be done to improve to achieve that purpose.

What the CSOs and local authorities share strongly is that both have optimistic views of the future of their engagement and the condition in which they can make together for the community. This positive view of the future is present against the fact that resource mobilization capacity of each party is limited and dependency is the case – local authorities on the central government and CSOs on foreign donors. It might not be too surprising to permanent observers of Cambodia's development that the capacity of the local authorities and CSOs at the local levels is limited in many ways – both technical, political and resource mobilization.

Vision:

Sustainable development for Cambodia.

Mission:

We provide high quality services to civil society and influence Cambodia's development actors.

Values:

- ★ Integrity
- ★ Cooperation
- ★ Responsiveness
- ★ Quality
- ★ Inclusiveness

Goal:

A Strong and capable civil society, cooperating and responsive to Cambodia's development challenges.



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