

Workshop on ESG+D – Women’s Economic Empowerment and the Future of CSO Work in Cambodia

CONCEPT NOTE

Date: October 28th, 2025

Time: 8:30 - 16:45

Venue: SUN & MOON, Riverside Hotel

Participants: Approximately 50 representatives from civil society organizations (CSOs), the private sector, and government institutions

Organisers: German Embassy, CCC, GIZ

Background

We live in a rapidly changing world where trusted mechanisms and the rules-based international order are increasingly being challenged. Among many, this shift is also impacting well-established institutions, most notably civil society organizations (CSOs), along with the most vulnerable segments of society. Women are being disproportionately affected worldwide. Amidst these dynamics, many CSOs have been compelled to reassess their sustainability strategies to continue serving their constituencies in an effective manner.

Building on last year’s Women’s Economic Empowerment Networking Event, and guided by the CSO Roadmap 2025-2030 which also highlights the importance of private sector engagement for the sustainability of the CSOs, the German Embassy Phnom Penh, Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC), and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) are co-hosting a workshop for CSOs under the theme **“ESG+D – Women’s Economic Empowerment and the Future of CSO Work in Cambodia.”**

Women-focused CSOs play a critical role in advancing gender equality and advocating for women’s rights. While women’s economic empowerment remains a central focus, this workshop aims to adopt a broader approach by providing a networking platform for leaders from the CSO sector and relevant private sector actors to exchange strategies and tools that strengthen the long-term financial resilience of CSOs. The event will explore if and how focusing on **environmental, social, and governance** topics combined with the ongoing **digital transformation (ESG+D)** can offer new pathways for CSOs to become financially self-reliant and adjust to the emerging market for advisory services in Cambodia.

Objectives:

- Develop a shared understanding of the specific challenges and needs of the CSOs and discuss practical solutions for financial and operational stability.
- Provide a platform for CSOs to engage in a focused dialogue with private sector actors to create sustainable, innovative, and digitally enabled mechanisms for enhanced organizational sustainability.
- Explore how private sector actors can collaborate with CSOs through technical support, mentorship, and strategic partnerships.
- Identify potential strategies for CSOs in market positioning, product and/or service development, and capacity building, leveraging both ESG frameworks and digital transformation opportunities.

AGENDA

Time	Activity
08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:30	<p>Opening Ceremony</p> <p>Cambodia National Anthem</p> <p>Welcome remarks by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. SIN Putheary, Executive Director, Cooperation Committee for Cambodia - H.E. Stefan Messerer, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Cambodia <p>Opening remarks by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - H.E. Dr. Kry Nallis, Secretary of State, Ministry of Women’s Affairs
09:30 – 9:50	Group photo and coffee break
9:50 – 10:20	<p>ESG+D - Focus on ESG</p> <p><i>Dr. Stefan Hanselmann, Program Director GIZ ICONE and GIZ Cluster Coordinator Private Sector Development</i></p>
10:20 – 10:50	<p>ESG+D - Focus on Digitalization</p> <p><i>May Sokuntheary, GIZ Women’s Economic Empowerment & Digitalization Expert</i></p>
10:50 – 11:20	<p>Case study I: Professionalize and Commercialize CSO Activities</p> <p><i>Osman Khawaja, Executive Director, Phare Ponleu Selpak</i></p>
11:20 – 11:50	<p>Case study II: The Development of Business Services</p> <p><i>Top Kandara, Business Solution Clinic Coordinator, Cambodia Women Entrepreneurs Association, Siem Reap Chapter</i></p>
11:50 – 13:15	Lunch break (lunch will be provided)
13:15 – 13:30	<p>Highlights of the CSO Roadmap and ESG+D relevance</p> <p><i>Ms. Sin Putheary, Executive Director, CCC</i></p>
13:30 – 14:30	<p>ESG+D Development of Services in the E-S-G-D context</p> <p><i>Dialogue among representatives from CSOs and private sector based on focus questions</i></p>
14:30 – 15:00	Coffee break

15:00 – 16:30	<p>Plenary Discussion</p> <p>Presentation of results from each group & Open Floor discussion with Q&A</p> <p><i>Facilitators: Ms. Marie Hoffmann & Dr. Stefan Hanselmann, GIZ Cambodia</i></p>
16:30 – 16:45	<p>Wrap-up and Closing</p> <p>ESG+D - CSO work in Cambodia and steps forward</p> <p><i>Dr. Gidon Windecker and Ms. Dara Roth, German Embassy Phnom Penh</i></p>

** Please note that the agenda remains subject to change.*