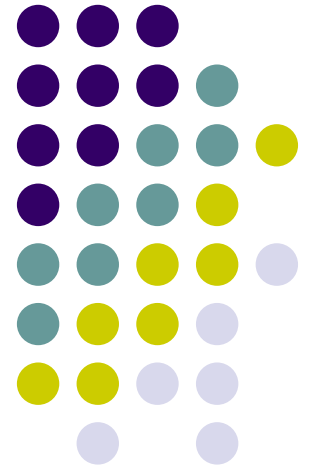


ADB and Civil Society Organizations

Workshop for Staff of Regional Civil Society Organizations
Nadi, Fiji, 18-21 December 2007
PIANGO / ADB RETA 6319





Contents of this module

- ADB's institutional arrangements for engagement with civil society
- Funding and support resources for civil society organisations



Institutional arrangements

- Key areas of collaboration between ADB and civil society organisations include:
 - Project-level collaboration
 - Contributing to deliberations on ADB's sectoral and thematic policies and strategies
 - Elaboration of country partnership strategies (CPS)
- Gender, Social Development, and Civil Society Division formed in 2005, within the Regional and Sustainable Development Department of ADB
- NGO and Civil Society Center (NGOC) launched in 2001, and now part of the above division, works to:
 - Gain first-hand knowledge of and experience with civil society organisations
 - Engage civil society organisations in a continuing dialogue
 - Improve ADB's institutional capacity to interact proactively with civil society organisations



Institutional arrangements (continued)

- NGOC is linked to ADB's interdepartmental NGO/Civil Society Network, a group composed of "anchors" from ADB's operational departments, Resident Missions, and Representative Offices. The goals of the network are to:
 - Monitor NGO-related needs in the operational divisions
 - Provide the main inputs into the annual work program of the NGO and Civil Society Center, and prioritize the Center's activities
 - Ensure consistency and synergy in NGO cooperation initiatives across ADB
 - Enable active exchange on best practices around the Network and throughout ADB



Institutional arrangements (continued)

- Key documents guiding ADB's relationship with CSOs include:
 - 1998 policy document: *Cooperation Between the Asian Development Bank and Nongovernment Organizations*
 - ADB's program of cooperation with CSOs is set forth in a workplan for the period 2006-2008
 - The Strategic Business Plan of the Regional and Sustainable Development Department
 - ADB's Medium-Term Strategy 2006-2008
 - ADB's Long-Term Strategy and Framework 2001-2015



Institutional arrangements (continued)

- Other resources on ADB-CSO collaboration:
 - With a view to enhancing ADB-civil society organization (CSO) practice in the Pacific, research was undertaken in 2004 on [ADB – NGO Relations in the Pacific: Issues and Options for Strengthening Engagement](#). Together with ADB's Pacific Department, the paper provides operational solutions to impediments faced by the ADB in its efforts to better engage the cooperation and resources of the CSO and NGO community in Pacific Developing Member Countries (PDMCs).
 - [Involvement of Civil Society Organizations in Asian Development Bank Operations](#) (2006)
This special evaluation study assesses ADB's cooperation with CSOs, derives lessons, and collates good practices of country CSOs' involvement in ADB operations. It further aims to contribute to the current review and formulation of new ADB operational policies and strategies.



Institutional arrangements (continued)

- [ADB-Government-NGO Cooperation: A Framework for Action, 2003-2005](#) (2003)
The Framework served as ADB's road map for cooperating with NGOs and other CSOs from 2003 to 2005. The paper was formulated through collaboration with stakeholders that included over 500 representatives from NGOs, governments and the private sector from Asia and the Pacific.
- ADB Cooperation with Civil Society: Annual Report 2006. The [Cooperation Report for 2006](#) features ADB's deepening interaction with civil society groups in pursuit of poverty reduction in the region, and reviews progress with the workplan for 2006-2008.
- 2006 staff guide: *Strengthening Participation for Development Results: A Staff Guide to Consultation and Participation*

Funding and support resources



- As a general rule, ADB tends to work directly with the governments of its developing member countries to provide support for the activities of civil society organisations (CSOs). Project proposals for ADB's consideration typically pass through the relevant public authorities. However, certain channels for funding CSO activities exist.
- ADB has approved grants to 13 CSOs working to prevent HIV/AIDS. The grants are provided through ADB's Cooperation Fund for Fighting HIV/AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (totalling \$US1.5 million), financed by the Government of Sweden. ADB reviewed over 500 project proposals before selecting the winning proposals in close cooperation with UNAIDS (The Fiji Red Cross Society submitted one of the winning proposals). The first call for proposals has closed, with another expected in early 2008.



Funding and support resources (continued)

- Working with the Partnership for Transparency Fund (PTF), ADB launched a technical assistance grant of US\$150,000 to strengthen the role of civil society in the fight against corruption in the Pakistan, Philippines, and Mongolia. The call for proposals resulted in the submission of 15 project proposals from CSOs from the countries concerned, with five approved.
- A Pilot and Demonstration Activity (PDA) facility was introduced in 2002 that allows CSOs to implement small-scale activities that support innovative ideas, technologies, approaches and methodologies to help improve water services, particularly to the poor. Proposals need to have an ADB activity officer from the regional operations department to provide technical guidance and oversight in project design and implementation. Three projects from the Pacific are included in the list of approvals. Funding amounts to approximately \$50,000 per project.



Funding and support resources (continued)

- The Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR) is an untied grant facility (currently over \$360 million, with \$224 million committed) established by the Japanese Government and ADB in May 2000. The JFPR is a tool for local communities and civil society organizations to actively participate in the development process. The JFPR supports poverty reduction and related social development activities that will complement and add substantive value to ADB-financed (loan) projects. All JFPR grant proposals must be related and linked to an ongoing or pipeline ADB loan project. While civil society groups are welcome to participate in the design, preparation and implementation of JFPR financed projects, only ADB staff can formally submit and process JFPR proposals for grant assistance.
- Between 2003 and 2005, ADB financed more than 70 small-scale poverty reduction projects carried out by civil society organizations under a regional technical assistance project, NGO Partnerships for Poverty Reduction. Four projects were from the Pacific. All of the funds available in this technical assistance (\$1 million) have been committed.