



ADB

HIGHLIGHTS OF  
ADB'S COOPERATION WITH  
**CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS**  
2018



HIGHLIGHTS OF  
ADB'S COOPERATION WITH  
**CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS**  
2018



Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 IGO license (CC BY 3.0 IGO)

© 2019 Asian Development Bank  
6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, 1550 Metro Manila, Philippines  
Tel +63 2 632 4444; Fax +63 2 636 2444  
www.adb.org

Some rights reserved. Published in 2019.

Publication Stock No. ARM190133-2

The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) or its Board of Governors or the governments they represent.

ADB does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this publication and accepts no responsibility for any consequence of their use. The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers does not imply that they are endorsed or recommended by ADB in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.

By making any designation of or reference to a particular territory or geographic area, or by using the term “country” in this document, ADB does not intend to make any judgments as to the legal or other status of any territory or area.

This work is available under the Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 IGO license (CC BY 3.0 IGO) <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/igo/>. By using the content of this publication, you agree to be bound by the terms of this license. For attribution, translations, adaptations, and permissions, please read the provisions and terms of use at <https://www.adb.org/terms-use#openaccess>.

This CC license does not apply to non-ADB copyright materials in this publication. If the material is attributed to another source, please contact the copyright owner or publisher of that source for permission to reproduce it. ADB cannot be held liable for any claims that arise as a result of your use of the material.

Please contact [pubsmarketing@adb.org](mailto:pubsmarketing@adb.org) if you have questions or comments with respect to content, or if you wish to obtain copyright permission for your intended use that does not fall within these terms, or for permission to use the ADB logo.

Corrigenda to ADB publications may be found at <http://www.adb.org/publications/corrigenda>.

Notes:

In this publication, “\$” refers to United States dollars.

ADB recognizes “Korea” as the Republic of Korea.

All photos are by ADB.

On the cover: Farmers selling their produce of fresh vegetables at Moc Market in Bac Giang Province, Viet Nam (photo by ADB). Cover design by Josef Ilumin.



# CONTENTS

Abbreviations	iv
Introduction	1
1 Projects Approved in 2018 that Featured Civil Society Cooperation	2
2 Civil Society Organizations in Various Depths of Participation	4
3 Civil Society Participation in Policy Review and Implementation	15
4 Engaging Civil Society Organizations to Leverage Resources and Knowledge Solutions	17
5 Highlights of Civil Society Cooperation in ADB Regions	20
Next Steps	32
Endnotes	33



## **ABBREVIATIONS**

ADB	Asian Development Bank
CIP	Community Irrigation Project
CPS	country partnership strategy
CSO	civil service organization
HIMALI	High Mountain Agribusiness and Livelihood Improvement Project
NGO	nongovernment organization
PRC	People's Republic of China
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SHG	self-help group
STIUEIP	Secondary Towns Integrated Urban Environmental Improvement Project
WASH	water, sanitation, and health



# INTRODUCTION

While a number of borrowing members of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have transitioned to middle-income status in recent years, poverty and inequality continue to be major concerns in Asia and the Pacific. Since its conception in the early 1960s, ADB has been envisioned as a financial institution that would foster economic growth and cooperation in one of the poorest regions in the world. In 1998, a policy of cooperation between nongovernment organizations (NGOs) and ADB was introduced to formalize the recognition of NGOs and civil society organizations (CSOs) as partners in addressing poverty in the region.

The involvement of CSOs in the different phases of the project cycle has enabled ADB to support projects that promote positive change, as these organizations know exactly the needs of their respective communities. This cooperation has helped ADB become more effective in delivering its services to its developing member countries. In 2018, ADB continued to work with CSOs and considered their valuable input particularly in implementing innovative projects.

ADB approved its new long-term strategy, Strategy 2030, in 2018. Under the strategy, ADB will sustain its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty, while expanding its vision to achieve a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific. Strategy 2030 sets priorities for supporting ADB member countries that are consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

ADB began extensive stakeholder consultations and background work in preparation for the drafting of Strategy 2030 in 2015. A wide range of stakeholders, including CSOs, were consulted in strategy preparation. On 2 May 2018, more than 130 CSO representatives joined the discussions on the draft strategy. At the discussions, held during the annual meeting in Manila, CSOs expressed optimism about the strategy's focus on addressing climate change and flexible country-specific strategies.

This report provides a glimpse of CSO participation throughout the project cycle. By engaging CSOs, ADB has gained a good understanding of the poor and the marginalized in its programs and activities. Through the list of programs, projects, and events included here, this report also shows the kind and depth of involvement of CSOs in 2018.



# **1 PROJECTS APPROVED IN 2018 THAT FEATURED CIVIL SOCIETY COOPERATION**

Of the 131 projects in ADB's sovereign operations in 2018, 98% featured the participation of CSOs, including NGOs, in various roles and capacities. The figure is slightly higher than the 96% achieved in 2017, and CSO participation has remained above the 90% annual target since 2012. During project preparation, ADB staff determine how CSOs may be engaged during both project design and implementation. A common example of CSO participation at the design stage is the exchange of information through various activities such as focus group discussions, community meetings, and public consultations. CSOs may also be contracted to carry out specific components of the project, particularly those that require community involvement. During project implementation, CSOs may be engaged to carry out specialized assignments such as preparing resettlement plans and gender and development action plans. They may also take part in monitoring projects by keeping a close watch on the planned results and the feedback process.

Planned CSO participation during project design rose from 84% in 2017 to 92% in 2018. Similarly, planned CSO participation in the implementation stage improved from 83% to 89%. Overall, planned CSO participation during the design and implementation stages increased significantly, from 71% in 2017 to 83% in 2018.

The overall increase in planned CSO participation may be attributed to the use of community-based approaches even in infrastructure-related projects, where there is generally limited scope for stakeholder involvement. CSOs were consulted to maximize social benefits and address safeguard concerns during the design, construction, and operation phases. Expectedly, projects related to agriculture and education, health, and water involved active stakeholder participation. These types of projects offered more opportunities to engage CSOs, including farmers' groups, water user associations, and other relevant NGOs, in both project design and implementation.

## Development Effectiveness Review Indicator for CSO Participation in ADB Sovereign Operations

Sovereign Operations	Number of Projects	With CSO Participation							
		Total		Design		Implementation		Design and Implementation	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total ADB Count	130	127	98	119	92	116	89	108	83
OCR Loans	68	65	96	60	88	59	87	54	79
CA Total	70	70	100	67	96	64	91	61	87
CA Loans	41	41	100	41	100	39	95	39	95
ADF Grants	37	37	100	34	92	32	86	29	78

ADF=Asian Development Fund, CA = ADB concessional assistance, CSO = civil society organization, OCR = ordinary capital resources.

Notes:

1. The Development Effectiveness Review Index includes all OCR- and ADF-funded loans and grants.
2. The index includes all sovereign OCR- and ADF-funded loans and grants counted based on project identification numbers.
3. The index excludes pilot and demonstration activities (PDAs).

Source: Asian Development Bank, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department.



## **2 CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN VARIOUS DEPTHS OF PARTICIPATION**

ADB's programs stand to benefit from effective civil society participation, but a one-size-fits-all approach does not work. The approach to, and depth of, participation vary, depending on factors such as the nature of the project, local conditions, and the participation objectives. In ADB, participation encompasses four main approaches: information generation and sharing, consultation, collaboration, and partnership. These cover a continuum of relationships and activities between ADB and stakeholders, including CSOs.

This section features activities depicting CSO participation using the four approaches.<sup>1</sup>

### **Approaches to CSO Participation**



ADB = Asian Development Bank Guide, CSO = civil society organization.  
Source: ADB. 2012. *Strengthening Participation for Development Results: An Asian Development Bank Guide to Participation*. Manila.



## **INFORMATION GENERATION AND SHARING**

This approach is used when information is generated by ADB and shared with CSOs, and when information is independently generated by CSOs and shared with ADB.

### **Advancing South–South Learning**

Developing countries finding solutions together to address common concerns—this is the main concept behind South–South cooperation. Asian countries have a crucial role in advancing South–South cooperation, particularly in sharing development know-how to address the development challenges facing the region.

Together with the Korea Development Institute, the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation, and The Asia Foundation, ADB organized an international conference, Advancing South–South Learning in Asia, in Seoul, Republic of Korea, on 4 July 2018. The conference, focused on South–South knowledge sharing, gathered together key organizations, including CSOs, working on South–South cooperation, and helped strengthen partnerships among them.

### **Strengthening Climate and Disaster Resilience in Communities**

The poor often bear the brunt of the impact of climate change and disasters. While significant progress has been made in reducing poverty in the region, the poor and vulnerable remain at risk of losing their assets, livelihood, and even lives in times of disaster.

On 4 May 2018, at the 51st ADB Annual Meeting, ADB Vice-President for Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development Bambang Susantono addressed a seminar on “Strengthening Climate and Disaster Resilience: Investing in Community-led Solutions”. The seminar highlighted ADB’s recent efforts and support for public–private–people partnership toward strengthening resilience.

The forum discussed how efforts to strengthen resilience can address local factors that contribute to risk. Panelists also recommended steps that must be taken to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF ADB'S COOPERATION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

### **Empowering Community Elders for Post-disaster Recovery**

The Asian Development Policy Lecture Series featured Ibasho, a project aimed at empowering elders to become active and relevant members of their communities by developing and managing physical infrastructure that becomes a community gathering place. The learning event was held on 23 February 2018 at the ADB headquarters in Manila and was focused on a project involving community-based disaster rehabilitation and social inclusion of the elderly. Ibasho founder Emi Kiyota highlighted the importance of building infrastructure that is human-friendly and considerate to elders and emphasized the important role of elders, during post-disaster recovery.

On 20–21 June 2018, ADB hosted the symposium *Creating Ibasho: Physical and Social Infrastructure that Empowers Elders and Strengthens Communities*. Community-elder leaders from pilot Ibasho sites in Japan, Nepal, and the Philippines led the discussions about building community capacity and implementing long-term sustainable livelihood projects such as farming, the creation of farmers' markets, and jewelry making. The forum recognized the need for innovative ways of addressing the impact of rapid population aging in Asia. It highlighted the importance of family and community care as the best vehicle for delivering the right level of elderly care and support.



Active discussion and participation. Panelists at the seminar “Strengthening Climate and Disaster Resilience: Investing in Community-Led Solutions” share concrete examples demonstrating the value of locally driven solutions in strengthening resilience.



## **Protecting Women and Girls from Economic Exploitation**

ADB's NGO and Civil Society Center and Gender Equity Thematic Group organized a joint seminar to discuss how development actors can protect women and girls from economic exploitation. At the seminar, representatives of the Girls Advocacy Alliance shared details of their work to ensure that girls and young women enjoy equal rights and opportunities and benefit equally from development outcomes. Specifically, the event served as a platform for the alliance to impart key lessons from its efforts to address the issues of forced labor, child trafficking, unsafe migration, and sexual exploitation of children for economic gain. The Girls Advocacy Alliance is an initiative of the international NGO Plan International.

## **CONSULTATION**

ADB requests stakeholder input through consultation. CSO participation is ensured through various consultation methodologies such as face-to-face forums, focus group discussions, and web-based forums. Consultations are crucial in creating and implementing inclusive policies and programs.

### **Involving CSOs in ADB's New Long-Term Strategy**

ADB recognizes the role of CSOs in reducing poverty and promoting greater prosperity, inclusivity, and resilience in Asia and the Pacific. In this context, ADB assembled more than 130 CSO representatives for a consultation workshop on ADB's new strategy. The meeting was part of the civil society program at the 51st ADB Annual Meeting in Manila in May 2018.<sup>2</sup>

“Working closely with elders taught me why Ibasho is truly needed in our communities. The beauty of Ibasho is that disaster may have brought us together but it also unleashes our potential and built the community that we are now.”

—Santoshi Rana, an Ibasho local coordinator in Nepal





## HIGHLIGHTS OF ADB'S COOPERATION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

ADB presented the key directions of Strategy 2030 based on the latest draft shared with stakeholders. The presenters, Tomoyuki Kimura and Valerie Hill from ADB's Strategy, Policy, and Review Department, highlighted key contributions of CSOs in earlier consultations and how these were reflected in the draft strategy. CSO representatives discussed the importance of accountability and transparency in ADB operations. Workshop participants also tackled ADB's efforts to address climate change, implement flexible country-specific strategies, and ensure food security and rural development.

Selected panelists responded by discussing specific areas of governance, gender, agricultural development, youth-sensitive development, environmental sustainability, and inclusive development. The panelists included representatives of key CSOs such as the Asian Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas, Conservation International, and the Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations.

Overall, civil society participants were optimistic about ADB's emphasis on addressing climate change and flexible country-specific strategies. They shared concrete suggestions for promoting accountability and transparency, especially in projects involving the private sector. The discussions likewise emphasized food security and rural development, as well as the role of the youth as active contributors to development.

“ADB recognizes that CSOs have much value to add through your extensive ground-level experiences, knowledge, expertise, and strong understanding of local communities.”  
—ADB Vice-President for Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development Bambang Susantono, at the 51st ADB Annual Meeting in Manila, Philippines

### **Meeting with ADB President Nakao at the 51st ADB Annual Meeting**

ADB President Takehiko Nakao also met with CSO representatives at the 51st ADB Annual Meeting.<sup>3</sup> In his speech, President Nakao noted the increasing opportunities for CSOs not just in implementing, but also in designing and monitoring, projects. He acknowledged the valuable contribution of CSOs to the development of ADB's new corporate strategy.

“While the region has experienced remarkable growth over the past 50 years, extreme poverty remains. Widening inequality in the region points to the need to focus on inclusive growth. Gender equality needs to be vigorously pursued. Pollution, climate change, disaster prevention and management, urbanization, and aging all pose serious challenges to our developing member countries. To address these challenges, collaboration with CSOs is essential for ADB.”

— ADB President Takehiko Nakao, during the 51st ADB Annual Meeting in Manila, Philippines



CSOs as partners. ADB President Takehiko Nakao meets with CSO representatives during the 51st ADB Annual Meeting in Manila, Philippines.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF ADB'S COOPERATION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

### Discussing Pressing Development Issues

The annual meeting is ADB's largest gathering of stakeholders, including CSOs. It presents significant opportunities to discuss key development issues and promote inclusion and accountability in ADB operations.<sup>4</sup>

During the session “Shrinking Democratic Space in Asia and the Challenge of Ensuring Environmental and Social Safeguards in Large-Scale Infrastructure,” panelists tackled laws and policies that seem to hinder CSOs and communities from voicing their concerns about infrastructure development. The session “Role of Private Sector and Financial Intermediaries in ADB's Energy Sector Investments” focused on ADB-supported energy projects; panelists highlighted the need for adequate consultations with local communities. The discussion served as a platform for discussing how ADB's private sector operations can be communicated better to CSOs. Another panel discussion, “Decent Work to Link People and Economies toward Sustainable, Inclusive, and Resilient Asia and the Pacific,” enabled trade unions and other CSOs to learn more about ADB's efforts to comply with core labor standards in its operations.



Decent work for all. Representatives of trade unions and CSOs share their insights into the role of decent work in achieving an inclusive and resilient Asia and the Pacific.

## **Participating in Country Programming and Country-Level Consultations**

ADB values the input of stakeholders, including CSOs, for the drafting of its country partnership strategy (CPS). The CPS is ADB's primary platform for designing programs to deliver development results at the country level.

In Fiji, CSOs were represented at the CPS consultation in September 2018. The meeting tackled economic development, infrastructure, regional development, social, and environmental issues.

In Cambodia, ADB officials also met with development partners and CSOs to gather feedback and input for its country programming.

## **COLLABORATION**

ADB can work directly with CSOs through collaboration. ADB collaborates with stakeholders, including CSOs, on certain programs and projects. However, stakeholder control over decision making and resources is limited.



Leave no woman behind. Women in Bangladesh are now involved in the development process. But much remains to be done to narrow the gender gap.





## HIGHLIGHTS OF ADB'S COOPERATION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

### **Addressing the Gender Gap in Bangladesh**

Women in Bangladesh have made unquestionable progress in dealing with developmental issues such as health, education, and jobs. But while such gains are worth celebrating, an ADB report notes that the gender gap is still sizable. The report *Bangladesh: Gender Equality Diagnostic of Selected Sectors* was prepared in collaboration with the NGO BRAC Institute of Governance and Development.<sup>5</sup> The report also underscores the key role of CSOs in making transparency and accountability tools more accessible and comprehensible to women, the poor, and other marginalized sectors.

### **Mainstreaming the Gender Equity Agenda in Mongolia**

ADB continues to champion gender equality in the Asia and Pacific region. In Mongolia, ADB engaged two national NGOs—Development Horizons Foundation and the Press Institute of Mongolia—to promote the mainstreaming of gender equality.

The NGOs were tasked to integrate the gender equality agenda into regular government programs. The assignment included raising public awareness of gender equality and was made possible through the technical assistance project Gender-Responsive Sector and Local Development Policies and Actions.<sup>6</sup>

## **PARTNERSHIP**

In a partnership, CSOs participate directly in decision making and have control over resources. ADB-CSO partnerships are covered by formal or informal agreements.

### **Supporting Sanitation Solutions through the Sanitation Financing Partnership Trust Fund**

On 25 July 2013, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation signed a channel financing agreement with ADB in which the foundation undertook to contribute \$15 million through the Sanitation Financing Partnership Trust Fund, under the trust fund component of the Water Financing Partnership Facility. This fund supports the identification, testing, and pilot implementation of innovative sanitation solutions—new policies, business models, and technologies—to increase support for non-networked (non-sewered) sanitation and septage management in ADB's developing member countries. In 2018, the Gates Foundation contributed an additional \$1 million.<sup>7</sup>

The Water Financing Partnership Facility has helped improve the sanitation practices in beneficiary countries. In 2018, sit-down toilets with two-chamber septic tanks were provided in Mongolia. Meanwhile, the people on the island of Ebeye in the Marshall Islands now have access to clean drinking water because of the new desalination plant. In the People's Republic of China (PRC), at least 320 farmer households now use modern horticultural irrigation systems. The 2018 Annual Report of the Water Financing Partnership Facility reveals substantive civil society involvement.<sup>8</sup> CSOs took part in 23 projects in 2018, exceeding the target of 15 projects.

### **Working Together to Promote Technical and Vocational Education and Training**

ADB formalized a partnership with Temasek Foundation International (TFI), a Singapore-based philanthropic organization that supports education projects in the region. The two signed a letter of intent on 16 April 2018 in Manila, committing themselves to collaborating in training and school education. TFI helps mobilize centers of excellence such as National Institute of Education International and Institute of Technical Education in Singapore to bring high quality support for K-12 and TVET reforms.

ADB has also been working with the Head Foundation in funding capacity-building programs in priority areas, including K-12 reforms.



TFI-ADB letter of intent signing. From left are Senior Director Programmes and Partnerships Gerald Yeo; TFI Chief Executive Benedict Cheong; EARD DG Amy Leung, concurrently SDCC DG; SDSC-EDU Chief of Education Sector Group Brajesh Panth; and SDSC Chief Sector Officer, SDSC concurrently EATC Director Robert Guild.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF ADB'S COOPERATION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

### **Supporting Asia's Aging Population**

By 2050, the number of people aged over 65 could exceed 1 billion. This demographic shift, if not addressed, may create new vulnerable populations in the region. ADB is committed to leaving no one behind in attaining positive social change, and this commitment means including the aging population in its development interventions.

ADB signed a knowledge partnership agreement with Tsao Foundation, known as a leading center of excellence for aging and elderly care in the Asia and Pacific region.<sup>9</sup> Under the agreement, Tsao Foundation will provide advisory services, resource expertise, and policy-relevant research to support ADB's innovation and technical assistance activities in long-term care systems and services.

### **Partnering with CSOs to Strengthen Youth Engagement**

In collaboration with AIESEC and Plan International, ADB organized the 6th Asian Youth Forum: Building the Work Force of the Future, held in August 2018 in Incheon, Republic of Korea. The forum brought together 400 youth representatives from Asia and the Pacific and provided the platform for the launch of the Incheon Youth Declaration on the Future of Work, which calls on the international community to invest in more inclusive, large-scale, and market-relevant solutions for youth employment and entrepreneurship.

In 2018, ADB supported AIESEC in delivering the world's largest lesson in Sri Lanka, where 300 young leaders were mobilized across public and private schools in three cities to raise awareness of topics related to the Sustainable Development Goals among approximately 1,500 young boys and girls.

Plan International has been working with ADB since 2012 with the primary purpose of encouraging meaningful engagement by young people in development. On issues surrounding youth employment, they have been cocreating platforms for innovative solutions. ADB has seconded a staff member from Plan International, to help ADB develop a wider strategy, evidence base, and conceptual underpinning for the youth work.



## **3 CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN POLICY REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION**

ADB recognizes the importance of stakeholder participation in the development and review of policy and strategy papers. Good practice in consultation combines electronic and written consultations with face-to-face methods in a representative sample of relevant civil society in Asia and the Pacific. Participatory methodologies enable marginalized stakeholders to openly express their views about a project or activity.

### **STRATEGY 2030: ACHIEVING A PROSPEROUS, INCLUSIVE, RESILIENT, AND SUSTAINABLE ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

ADB launched its new Strategy 2030 after extensive consultations with a wide and representative group of stakeholders across ADB's membership, leading development experts, and CSOs.<sup>10</sup> Consultations with key stakeholders began in 2015, and included the CSO meeting on the draft strategy on 2 May 2018 at the ADB Annual Meeting.

The ADB Board of Directors approved the new Strategy 2030 on 26 July 2018. Under the new strategy, ADB will strengthen engagement with CSOs not only in designing but also in implementing and monitoring projects. ADB also commits to put a spotlight on grassroots participatory approaches in targeting poor and vulnerable populations. ADB will also continue to work with CSOs in mobilizing women and young people in monitoring projects, and will continue to consult CSOs in reviewing major ADB policies.

### **CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT IN THE NEW ACCESS TO INFORMATION POLICY**

Transparency remains a priority in ADB operations. For this reason, ADB continually strives to improve the dissemination and disclosure of information.





## HIGHLIGHTS OF ADB'S COOPERATION WITH **CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS**

The Public Communications Policy governed the sharing of ADB information and documents with stakeholders from April 2012 to December 2018.<sup>11</sup> The policy helped make information about ADB operations more accessible. It required ADB to conduct a comprehensive policy review within 5 years of its implementation.

The review, carried out from 2016 to 2017, gathered feedback from various internal and external stakeholders. It aimed to ensure ADB's disclosure and transparency rules and practices were up-to-date and on a par with those of comparator institutions, stayed in line with ADB's business processes, and improved policy implementation.

After the review, ADB proposed the Access to Information Policy. The new policy, which took effect on 1 January 2019, reflects ADB's commitment to transparency, accountability, and stakeholder participation. It includes the guiding principles, exceptions to the disclosure principle, and general information about external requests and appeals.

## 4 ENGAGING CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS TO LEVERAGE RESOURCES AND KNOWLEDGE SOLUTIONS

ADB recognizes that CSOs are sources of knowledge and innovation, given their grassroots experience and expertise in participatory development approaches. Cooperation with CSOs through dialogue and learning events is allowing ADB to leverage additional resources and share knowledge and expertise.

### THE CIVIL SOCIETY PLASA AND EXHIBIT

Inspired by the Filipino concept of the *plasa*, a public square where citizens gather to engage with one another, the Civil Society Program of the 51st ADB Annual Meeting served as an open space where CSOs and NGOs across Asia and the Pacific could share knowledge and exchange insights into key development issues.



Open space for discussion. The Civil Society Program of the 51st ADB Annual Meeting drew inspiration from the Filipino concept of the *plasa*, a public square where citizens gather to engage with one another.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF ADB'S COOPERATION WITH **CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS**

Called the Civil Society *Plasa*, the program featured panel 2018 Civil Society Program of the ADB Annual Meeting featured panel discussions, exhibits, informal learning sessions, and cultural performances.

The event served as a celebration of the achievements of CSOs in addressing poverty and other development concerns. It also offered a venue for CSOs and other development partners to share lessons and innovative approaches, thereby encouraging improved partnership.

### **OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN WITH PARTNERS AT THE 51ST ADB ANNUAL MEETING**


The Civil Society *Plasa* offered an excellent opportunity to learn from the good practices and innovations of CSOs and other development partners. The session “Community-Centered Conservation: A Multi-Stakeholder Approach to Sustainable Development” emphasized the need to engage communities in project conceptualization. Panelists also noted the importance of using local languages and closing the feedback loop.

The session “Localizing the Open Government Partnership: Pushing the Boundaries of Local Governance presented innovative” ways of using technology to improve citizen participation in decision making by governments. Discussions focused on strategies to enhance the localization of the Open Government Partnership, a multilateral initiative aimed at promoting transparency and citizen engagement.

Another session, “Role of Agricultural Cooperatives in Helping Reduce Poverty in Asia and the Pacific” showcased examples of successful agricultural cooperatives in the region. Discussions acknowledged the role of agricultural cooperatives and farmers’ associations in increasing farmers’ involvement in the agricultural value chain.

### **DEEPENING OF CSO ENGAGEMENT IN ADB OPERATIONS**

In November 2018, ADB’s NGO and Civil Society Center held a training event to deepen the engagement of CSOs in ADB operations. The event took place in Beijing, PRC, and was attended by ADB staff and consultants.



The training helped enhance the knowledge and skills of key ADB staff, including civil society focal persons, in engaging CSOs. The program also addressed challenges in engaging with CSOs in ADB-funded programs and services.

## **CONDUCT OF KNOWLEDGE-SHARING WORKSHOP ON STRENGTHENING THE ENVIRONMENT DIMENSIONS OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

ADB, in partnership with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and UN Environment, held a Knowledge Sharing Workshop on Strengthening the Environment Dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Asia and the Pacific on 21–22 February 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand.<sup>12</sup>

The workshop brought together about 100 participants from government, international organizations, and CSOs from across Asia and the Pacific. Through the workshop, participants were able to share their experience and discuss issues encountered during the implementation of the environmental dimensions of the SDGs.

## **ENGAGEMENT OF CSOS IN ADVANCING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

With support from the ADB Institute and ADB's Knowledge Sharing and Services Center, the NGO and Civil Society Center of ADB held a forum, Engaging CSOs in Advancing the SDGs, on 26–28 September 2018 in Tokyo, Japan.

In January 2018, the NGO and Civil Society Center launched a call for papers to draw presenters to the forum. About 60 abstracts were received; the top-eight papers were presented at the event. The forum served as a venue for sharing knowledge about the contribution of CSOs to achieving the SDGs. It was also a chance to discuss how CSOs could be effectively engaged in achieving the SDGs.

Before the event, participants were required to complete an e-learning course in engaging CSOs in ADB operations. This course helped ADB staff prepare for face-to-face discussions at the forum.





## **5 HIGHLIGHTS OF CIVIL SOCIETY COOPERATION IN ADB REGIONS**

This chapter features the significant participation of CSOs in the five regions where ADB operates: Central and West Asia, East Asia, the Pacific, South Asia, and Southeast Asia.

### **CENTRAL AND WEST ASIA**

#### **Improving Public Services by Engaging NGOs and the Community**


In Armenia, ADB is working with Integrity Action to implement the Community-Based Integrity Initiative pilot project, which is aimed at reducing potential integrity and safeguards risks under the Seismic Safety Improvement Program.<sup>13</sup> Integrity Action has been tasked to observe and monitor school reconstruction under this program.

Integrity Action engaged local NGOs to work with it on the program. As of August 2018, six community feedback sessions had taken place for the eight communities affiliated with the ongoing projects being monitored. Community engagement mechanisms, such as the use of informational videos, provided a summary of project objectives, partnerships, and monitors, among others.

#### **Involving CSOs in the Georgia Country Partnership Strategy**

ADB, through its resident mission in Georgia, conducted a consultation meeting on 3 September 2018, which allowed ADB to gather feedback and input for the development of the CPS 2019–2023 for Georgia. The meeting drew on the broad strategic framework for ADB's partnership with Georgia, which is geared to toward the country's economic development.

In 2018, ADB organized an outreach meeting targeted at Georgian CSOs. Held on 10–11 October 2018, the 2-day workshop was intended to build capacity to engage effectively with CSOs. The event included information-sharing sessions and a skills development workshop. Specifically, the outreach discussed ways in which CSOs could contribute to the improved delivery of inclusive development services in Georgia.



Strengthening CSO participation in ADB operations, as well as opening up strategic opportunities for civil society engagement in ADB’s developmental work, may achieve the desired improvement.

## **THE PACIFIC**

### **Improving Rural Primary Health Services in Papua New Guinea**

ADB has worked in Papua New Guinea over the past 2 decades, improving health service delivery, particularly in the rural areas. Under the ongoing Rural Primary Health Services Delivery Project, ADB has funded improvements in health services in eight provinces: Eastern Highlands, East Sepik, Enga, Milne Bay, Western Highlands, West New Britain, Morobe, and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. More than 20 national and community-based NGOs have collaborated with ADB on this project.

To expand the scope and reach of the project, nine small grants—including grants for sexual reproductive health, health promotion, and sanitation—were issued to local CSOs and community-based organizations.<sup>14</sup> The small grants mechanisms helped expand the scope and reach of the project and included grants for sexual reproductive health, health promotion, and sanitation. The CSOs provided community action and participation training, and community engagement activities through drama, music, and song. A total of 1,300 people helped carry out the program activities, with women composing half of the total.

Grantee CSOs and organizations also held village health volunteer training, which dealt with critical health concerns such as child and maternal health, sanitation, and healthy lifestyles.

“We very much value our partnership with civil society organizations. Their participation has enabled very strong stakeholder consultation as well as helping to ensure better design quality, strong implementation, and at the end of the day, higher-quality projects with development results.”

—Carmela Locsin, director general, Pacific Department



## HIGHLIGHTS OF ADB'S COOPERATION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

### **Involving Communities in Coastal and Marine Resources Management in the Coral Triangle**

Coastal communities are being encouraged to apply good practices in resource management and climate change adaptation in the second phase of the regional project Strengthening Coastal and Marine Resources Management in the Coral Triangle of the Pacific.<sup>15</sup>

ADB has subcontracted NGOs in Fiji, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, and Solomon Islands to help promote coastal and marine resources management. Fiji and Vanuatu are not official members of the Coral Triangle Initiative, but like neighboring countries, they are exposed to environmental threats.

Aside from promoting the protection of coastal and marine ecosystems, this regional project will help ensure food security in the five Pacific countries.



Small grants, big impact. Nine small grants were issued to local CSOs and community-based organizations to help improve the delivery of rural health services in Papua New Guinea.



### **Promoting Road Safety and Raising Gender Awareness in Vanuatu**

The Tingting Rod Sefti (Think Road Safety) traffic awareness campaign was launched in October 2018 as part of the ADB-supported Port Vila Urban Development Project.<sup>16</sup> The campaign uses billboards, bumper stickers, radio messages, and social media platforms to raise awareness of road safety. CSOs, including Wan Smolbag, support the information campaign through various channels and by using creative materials such as animated videos. The videos are played at the local cinema, government offices, and other public areas.

In support of ADB's delivery of HIV and gender awareness to employees of key project stakeholders, the Wan Smolbag prepared a gender handout in the national language, Bislama. Through the project, ADB is helping Vanuatu expand access to basic services in the capital, Port Vila, and surrounding areas in Shefa province.

### **Providing Skills Training in Construction and Automotive Trades**

In Timor-Leste, ADB collaborated with three NGOs—Claret Training Centre in Salele, Dili Institute of Technology in Baucau, and Don Bosco Training Centre in Comoro—on the delivery of accredited mid-level skills training in construction and automotive trades. ADB supported these NGOs in upgrading their facility and equipment, and improving the skills of technical teachers. In these projects, the CSOs used their technical expertise and local experience to help ADB and the government implement the project more effectively and provide Timorese youth with life-changing opportunities.

### **Making Urban Water Supply and Sanitation a Priority in the Solomon Islands**

The Government of the Solomon Islands has identified water supply and sanitation as a priority. Its long-term National Development Strategy 2016–2035 stresses the importance of improving water, sanitation, and health (WASH) practices in line with its vision of “Improving the Social and Economic Livelihoods of all Solomon Islanders.”<sup>17</sup>

CSOs have been contributing significantly to the achievement of that vision. The CSOs directly involved in WASH projects in the Solomon Islands include Live & Learn, World Vision, Caritas, Adventist Development Relief Agency, Plan International, Red Cross, and Save the Children. Through their respective projects and campaigns, CSOs in Solomon Islands are helping the country improve water supply and sanitation.





## HIGHLIGHTS OF ADB'S COOPERATION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

World Vision, for one, has been implementing projects in the Solomon Islands for more than 3 decades now. The work involves both “hard WASH” (construction of boreholes, gravity-fed systems, and tippy-tap systems, etc.) and “soft WASH” (training, meetings, awareness-raising campaigns, etc.). Church and women’s groups are also taking steps to promote WASH in the islands.

### **EAST ASIA**

#### **Improving Transport Services in Ger Areas of Ulaanbaatar City**

ADB engaged two CSOs to conduct a needs assessment study to understand the expressed and latent needs, concerns, and strengths of the users of transport services in the Ger Community (peri-urban informal settlements) of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The two CSOs were Ger Area Mapping Centre and Universal Progress Tugeemel Hugjil. The assessment enabled ADB to gauge and understand the needs and concerns of the commuting public in *ger* areas of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

#### **Meeting with CSOs to Discuss the Sustainable Tourism Development Project**

On 19 September 2018, ADB conducted a consultation meeting with CSOs on the Sustainable Tourism Development Project in Mongolia.<sup>18</sup> The following CSOs were represented at the meeting: Mongolian Nature Conservation Union, Owners of Khuvsgul Ocean, Environmental Journalists Network, Mongolian Women’s Fund, World Wide Fund for Nature, EcoLeap, WaSH Action, Khentii aimag Community Council, Mongolian National Recycling Association, and Khuvsgul Tourism and Hospitality Union.

The consultation informed the CSOs about the project and elicited their views on ways of improving the project design. The CSO representatives were able to voice their concerns regarding the need to establish a grievance mechanism at the community level and a waste management system at the household level.

#### **Improving Roads to Promote Investments**

Road conditions in Yunnan Province in the PRC used to be a nightmare for the locals, as vehicles could not travel faster than 40 kilometers per hour. Vehicle overloading and substandard road design explained the poor road conditions, which greatly reduced economic opportunities for the people in the province.

ADB and the PRC collaborated on the implementation of the Yunnan Integrated Road Network Development Project to improve road conditions while promoting investments in the province and strengthening regional cooperation with the other countries in the Greater Mekong Subregion.<sup>19</sup> The project helped construct a 650-kilometer highway between Yunnan's capital, Kunming, and Myanmar's border.

Maintenance teams, more than half of whose members came from ethnic groups, were formed to oversee the maintenance of the rural roads. They were paid on the basis of the number of days worked. Besides augmenting the income of rural households, the project has given the local people a sense of ownership and confidence in their work. It has also been instrumental in the formation of community-based women's groups responsible for monitoring the condition of the roads and in an increase in economic activity in Yunnan and Myanmar.

## **SOUTH ASIA**

### **Delivering Primary Health Care Services to the Urban Poor in Bangladesh**

Local NGOs in Bangladesh helped ADB launch the Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project, aimed at making health care services more responsive and accessible to the poor.<sup>20</sup> Local NGOs were asked to identify poor women and men in slums and the floating population (people with no permanent address and not included in the official census).

Project reports show that as early as 2018, the project had exceeded its targets after the NGOs engaged identified



Making health care services for accessible. ADB has released additional funding to support the delivery of primary health care services in Bangladesh.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF ADB'S COOPERATION WITH **CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS**

90% of the poor households in the project areas and provided primary health services to 79% of identified poor women and 100% of pavement dwellers and members of the floating population.

The project also involved behavior change communication services (to change women's health-seeking behavior from passive to demand-driven recipient to demand-driven), including information about violence against women and support for survivors of violence, with local NGOs contributing significantly to the process. The involvement of local NGOs is beneficial, as they know the customs, cultures, and dialects of the target communities.

In September 2018, ADB provided additional financing of \$110 million for the project.

### **Implementing Community Projects with NGOs and Community-Based Organizations in Leadership Roles**

Four ADB-supported projects in Nepal involving community-based organizations and NGOs demonstrated the ability of these organizations to implement projects with a direct impact on communities. All four projects closed in 2018.



Farmers as partners. The High Mountain Agribusiness and Livelihood Improvement Project in Nepal required the assistance of NGOs in identifying farmers' groups and cooperatives that would serve as partner-beneficiaries.

These projects were the Integrated Urban Development Project (IUDP),<sup>21</sup> the Secondary Towns Integrated Urban Environmental Improvement Project (STIUEIP),<sup>22</sup> the High Mountain Agribusiness and Livelihood Improvement (HIMALI) Project,<sup>23</sup> and the Community Irrigation Project (CIP).<sup>24</sup>

The IUDP and STIUEIP were municipal infrastructure projects (drainage, sewerage, roads, solid waste management, and water supply) with community development programs implemented with the assistance of NGOs. Under the STIUEIP, the NGOs formed user committees in which women and socially excluded groups were represented. The NGOs also provided skills training similar to that provided under the IUDP, and campaigned to raise awareness of solid waste management.

The HIMALI Project and CIP were aimed at responding to the needs of poor communities. The HIMALI Project in particular was focused on improving agribusinesses in select high mountain areas and increasing the income of farmers. NGOs helped identify farmers' groups and cooperatives, including those led by women and disadvantaged groups, and trained them to develop agribusiness plans.



Helping communities help themselves. ADB continues to support capacity-building programs in Bhutan.





## HIGHLIGHTS OF ADB'S COOPERATION WITH **CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS**

The CIP was also aimed at increasing the agricultural incomes of the rural poor through improvements in irrigation infrastructure, agricultural practices, and access to microfinance. Under the project, water user associations were formed with the significant participation of women in membership and in leadership positions.

In sum, these four projects showed the key role of community-based organizations and NGOs in the development of poor women and men, especially those from socially excluded ethnic groups.

### **Building the Capacity of Self-Help Groups in Bhutan**

ADB and the Government of Bhutan are pooling the efforts of the government, the private sector, and CSOs to reduce poverty while promoting an equitable society. Under the Decentralized Coordination and Partnerships for Gender Equality Results technical assistance project, ADB has engaged an international NGO to implement capacity-building programs for selected self-help groups (SHGs) in production technologies and market accessibility.<sup>25</sup> The international NGO worked with two local NGOs to facilitate the capacity-building process.

As of September 2018, the local NGOs had already formed six SHGs of women for training in recycled waste livelihood, and 10 other SHGs for training in microenterprise development (specifically in cane and bamboo production and textile design) and market access. A market study has been done for six products of the SHGs. Vouching for the effectiveness and contributions of the NGOs involved, Bhutan's National Commission for Women and Children rated their performance and contributions "highly satisfactory".

## **SOUTHEAST ASIA**

### **Protecting the Environment while Providing Sustainable Livelihood**

Siphone Vorasan, a resident of Phonsoung village in the Laotian capital Vientiane, used to be a full-time housewife. She would spend hours hauling firewood and doing household chores. Like most other full-time housewives, she was not getting paid for all this work. In 2007, Siphone joined a village development revolving fund, which would change her life. The same

revolving fund had been providing loans to women who want to start a weaving business. Siphone applied for a loan of \$180, which she used as capital to buy a loom and some silk thread. Between household chores, she started weaving and earned money to pay off the loan not long after.

Siphone is one of the women who have benefited from the ADB-supported Nam Ngum River Basin Development Sector Project.<sup>26</sup> The project was designed to reduce poverty while promoting sustainable economic opportunities, especially among women and poor ethnic groups in the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The project also supports integrated water resources management. With total funding of \$24 million, the project is aimed at jumpstarting the economic activities of the locals without harming the environment.

### **Enabling Women in Remote, Conflict-Affected Areas through Financial Inclusion**

Economic opportunities are limited for women in remote and conflict-affected provinces of Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao in the Philippines. As a response to this challenge, ADB has approved a loan of \$30 million to ASA Philippines Foundation with funds made accessible to women borrowers who own and manage microenterprises in the chosen areas.<sup>27</sup>



Sustainable livelihood for all. ADB's Rantau Dedap geothermal power plant project is also benefiting the coffee farmers in the village of Tunggul Bute, South Sumatra, Indonesia.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF ADB'S COOPERATION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

The project is envisioned to provide easy and affordable access to finance for women micro-entrepreneurs and widen financial inclusion while lowering regional disparities in access. The project is expected to boost the local economy in conflict-affected areas of Southern Philippines (Mindanao) and remote areas of Luzon and Visayas. ASA Foundation is a not-for-profit organization specializing in extending microfinance (loans and savings) services to the poor. It is one of the largest microfinance providers in the country, with operations in less-developed areas.


### **Empowering Rural Women through Clean-Energy Investments**

About 90% of villagers in Tunggul Bute village, Lahat regency, South Sumatra, Indonesia, work as coffee farmers. While the land that they till is considered ideal for coffee farming, farmers face daily challenges, particularly in coffee processing and trading.

In 2018, ADB, in collaboration with PT Supreme Energy, started building the 90-megawatt Rantau Dedap geothermal power plant.<sup>28</sup> Once completed, the plant will be able to power around 130,000 homes and reduce more than 400,000 tons of carbon emissions each year.

“Before we were introduced to the coffee processing machines, we did it the traditional way. We used roasting pan heated by firewood. The coffee beans were manually pounded, so it took so much of our time and effort. Our organization is formed to help women in our village to become more productive and ensure their welfare. When the geothermal project under PT Supreme Energy came here, it supported our organization. It also provided us with machines that we use for roasting and grinding our coffee beans.”

—Hernita Jutawan, head of Tunggul Bute’s Family Welfare Organization



This accords with ADB's goal of supporting clean energy investments in the region while improving the livelihood of the residents, especially women. The project gives women access to coffee production training and technology, helping them boost their incomes.

### **Testing the “Graduation Approach” in the Philippines**

In the Philippines, an innovative and holistic approach is a game-changer in the fight to reduce poverty. Targeted social assistance (cash and asset transfers) is provided to beneficiaries together with technical and life skills training, sessions in financial inclusion, and coaching and mentoring.

BRAC has been implementing three variations of this approach in the Negros Oriental area, where 600 conditional cash transfer families were randomly identified as recipients of group-based or individual assets and coaching. The project started in July 2018 and will end in December 2019. This program is seen to strengthen local civil society by helping establish and sustain local associations and giving them access to asset transfers, training, and coaching. They will also be allowed to form and maintain group-based enterprises.

Through better sequencing, coordination, and integration of assistance, this approach could help families attain self-sufficiency.



A different approach in fighting poverty. ADB is implementing a holistic approach to help reduce poverty in the Philippines.

## **NEXT STEPS**

ADB's Strategy 2030 is an established long-term corporate strategy that will enable ADB to work more effectively with member countries in support of major international commitments such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on climate change. Under this strategy, ADB will continue to engage CSOs and tap their unique strengths, such as their local presence and specialized knowledge. ADB will strive to deepen CSO participation in the design and implementation of its projects, particularly in operations that use grassroots participatory approaches to target the poor and vulnerable. As in the past, ADB will seek CSO feedback on the review of major policies.

The new Strategy 2030 has set the following operational priorities: (i) addressing remaining poverty and reducing inequalities; (ii) accelerating progress in gender equality; (iii) tackling climate change, building climate and disaster resilience, and enhancing environmental sustainability; (iv) making cities more livable; (v) promoting rural development and food security; (vi) strengthening governance and institutional capacity; and (vii) advancing regional cooperation and integration. These seven priorities imply greater opportunities to engage with CSOs, particularly in reducing inequalities. ADB will explore strategic engagement with CSOs in pushing these operational priorities forward.

In addition, ADB will continue to implement the technical assistance project Deepening Civil Society Engagement for Development Effectiveness, which is intended to improve CSO participation in ADB operations. ADB will seek to address skills gap among ADB members and CSOs for meaningful engagement. Innovative engagement models for enhanced CSO cooperation will be pilot-tested in selected developing member countries, and appropriate knowledge products relating to effective CSO engagement will be disseminated. Meaningful cooperation with CSOs is important in achieving greater development impact, leading to the achievement of ADB's mission of a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific.

# ENDNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> ADB. 2012. *Strengthening Participation for Development Results: An Asian Development Bank Guide to Participation*. Manila.
- <sup>2</sup> ADB. 2018. *ADB's Strategy 2030: Emerging Directions*. Seminar held on 2 May 2018 during the 51st ADB Annual Meeting in Manila, Philippines.
- <sup>3</sup> Takehiko Nakao. 2018. *Working with CSOs for a Prosperous, Inclusive, Resilient, and Sustainable Asia and the Pacific*. Opening Remarks by ADB President Takehiko Nakao at the Civil Society Organizations and ADB Management Meeting on 3 May 2018 in Manila, Philippines.
- <sup>4</sup> ADB. 2018. *Highlights: ADB Annual Meeting, Manila 2018*. Manila.
- <sup>5</sup> ADB. 2018. *Bangladesh: Gender Equality Diagnostic of Selected Sectors*. Manila.
- <sup>6</sup> ADB. 2018. *Technical Assistance to Mongolia for the Gender-Responsive Sector and Local Development Policies and Actions Project*. Manila.
- <sup>7</sup> ADB. 2018. *Water Financing Partnership Facility Annual Report 2017*. Manila.
- <sup>8</sup> ADB. 2019. *Water Financing Partnership Facility Annual Report 2018*. Manila.
- <sup>9</sup> ADB. 2016. *Technical Assistance for Strengthening Developing Member Countries' Capacity in Elderly Care*. Manila.
- <sup>10</sup> ADB. 2018. *Strategy 2030: Achieving a Prosperous, Inclusive, Resilient, and Sustainable Asia and the Pacific*. Manila.
- <sup>11</sup> ADB. 2018. *Public Communications Policy Review*. Manila.
- <sup>12</sup> Simon Olsen, Emma Marsden, and Robert Steele. 2018. *Strengthening the Environment Dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific*. Proceedings of the Knowledge Sharing Workshop in Bangkok, Thailand, 21–22 February. Manila: Asian Development Bank.
- <sup>13</sup> ADB. 2015. *Report and Recommendation of the President to the Board of Directors: Proposed Loan to Armenia for the Seismic Safety Improvement Program*. Manila.
- <sup>14</sup> ADB. 2018. *Environmental and Social Monitoring Report: Rural Primary Health Services Delivery Project in Papua New Guinea*. Manila.
- <sup>15</sup> ADB. 2016. *Prospects and Adaptation Strategies for the Fisheries Sector under Climate Change in Pacific Coral Triangle Countries*. Consultant's final report on the Strengthening Coastal and Marine Resources Management in the Coral Triangle of the Pacific (Phase 2) Regional Project. Manila.
- <sup>16</sup> ADB. 2018. *Environmental and Social Monitoring Report: Port Vila Urban Development Project in the Republic of Vanuatu*. Manila.
- <sup>17</sup> Government of Solomon Islands. 2016. *National Development Strategy 2016–2035*. Honiara.
- <sup>18</sup> ADB. 2016. *Technical Assistance to Mongolia for the Sustainable Tourism Development Project*. Manila.
- <sup>19</sup> ADB. 2017. *Completion Report: Yunnan Integrated Road Network Development Project in the People's Republic of China*. Manila.
- <sup>20</sup> ADB. 2018. *Additional Financing: Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project in the People's Republic of Bangladesh*. Manila.
- <sup>21</sup> ADB. 2019. *Social Monitoring Report: Integrated Urban Development Project in Nepal*. Manila.
- <sup>22</sup> ADB. 2018. *Social Monitoring Report: Secondary Towns Integrated Urban Environmental Improvement Project in Nepal*. Manila.





## HIGHLIGHTS OF ADB'S COOPERATION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

- <sup>23</sup> ADB. 2018. *Social Monitoring Report: High Mountain Agribusiness and Livelihood Improvement Project in Nepal*. Manila.
- <sup>24</sup> ADB. 2018. *Social Monitoring Report: Community Irrigation Project in Nepal*. Manila.
- <sup>25</sup> ADB. 2015. *Technical Assistance to the Kingdom of Bhutan for Decentralized Coordination and Partnerships for Gender Equality Results*. Manila.
- <sup>26</sup> ADB. 2016. *Completion Report: Nam Ngum River Basin Deveopment Project in the Lao People's Democratic Republic*. Manila.
- <sup>27</sup> ADB. 2018. *Report and Recommendation of the President to the Board of Directors: Proposed Loan to ASA Philippines Foundation, Inc., for the Fostering Women's Empowerment Through Financial Inclusion in Conflict-Impacted and Lagging Provinces Project in the Philippines*. Manila.
- <sup>28</sup> ADB. 2018. ADB Commits \$175.3 Million Geothermal Energy Investment in Western Indonesia. News release. 26 March.

## Highlights of ADB's Cooperation with Civil Society Organizations

This report provides insights about the nature and depth of cooperation between the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and civil society organizations (CSOs) in 2018 and features success stories from throughout Asia and the Pacific. It also summarizes the role of CSOs in ADB's policy review processes, particularly in the preparation of Strategy 2030. During the year, CSOs participated in 98% of 131 projects approved in ADB sovereign operations.

### About the Asian Development Bank

ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. Established in 1966, it is owned by 68 members—49 from the region. Its main instruments for helping its developing member countries are policy dialogue, loans, equity investments, guarantees, grants, and technical assistance.



**ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK**

6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City  
1550 Metro Manila, Philippines  
[www.adb.org](http://www.adb.org)