

ENTRY POINTS FOR CSO ENGAGEMENT AND THE ADB CIVIL SOCIETY APPROACH



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Overview

- **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** is a multilateral development bank (MDB) established in 1966 under the Agreement Establishing the Asian Development Bank (the Charter)
- ADB was created to support its developing member countries (DMCs) in **reducing poverty and improving quality of life**
- It channels resources to DMCs through both **sovereign** (public sector) and **nonsovereign** (private sector) projects
- ADB is owned by **69 members** (50 regional, 19 nonregional)

Strategy and Objectives



- The overarching vision of **ADB’s long-term corporate strategy (Strategy 2030)** is to achieve a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining efforts to eradicate extreme poverty
- The annual **Results Report** provides information on ADB’s performance in achieving the goals of Strategy 2030
- A **midterm review** of Strategy 2030 was conducted in 2024 to adapt to a changing global landscape

Strategy and Objectives

The Strategy 2030 Midterm Review lays out **five strategic focus areas** where ADB can have a bold impact on poverty reduction and economic and social development



Climate Action

More than \$100 billion in cumulative climate finance (2019-2030) and for climate finance to reach 50% of the total committed financing volume, by 2030



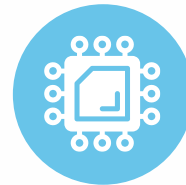
Private Sector Development

\$13 billion of ADB's own account financing and all direct mobilization, including a minimum of \$4.5 billion in direct private capital mobilization, and 40% of sovereign operations contributing to private sector development by 2030



Regional Cooperation and Public Goods

30% of operations contributing to regional cooperation and integration, including those supporting public goods by 2030



Digital Transformation

Operations supporting digital transformation expected to grow year over year across sovereign and nonsovereign operations



Resilience and Empowerment

60% gender mainstreaming across sovereign and nonsovereign operations and 75% of operations supporting poverty reduction and inclusiveness by 2030

How Do We Think of Civil Society?

The term “civil society organization” refers generically to organizations

not based in government, and
not created to earn profit

ADB defines CSOs as nonprofit organizations independent from the government, which operate around common interests. They vary in size, interests, and function, and include nongovernment organizations (NGOs), youth groups, community-based organizations, independent academic and research institutes, professional associations, foundations, faith-based organizations, people’s organizations, and labor unions. CSOs represent interests of their members or others.



ADB's NGO and Civil Society Center

ADB's Resource for Engaging with Civil Society Organizations



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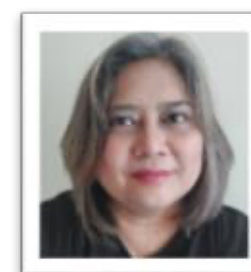
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What does the NGOC do?

- Provides institution-wide support to ADB engagement with civil society organizations
- Supports ADB responses to civil society advocacy and policy and project concerns
- Participates in ADB project teams and provides training on civil society engagement
- Monitors and provides knowledge on civil society engagement in ADB operations
- Organizes key events involving civil society organizations—most notably at the ADB Annual Meeting

ADB's Civil Society Approach

ADB

The Civil Society Approach will guide ADB teams to proactively engage with civil society organizations. Together with our partners, we hope to more effectively integrate the knowledge and expertise of CSOs into ADB-supported activities across Asia and the Pacific.

Consistent with ADB's Strategy 2030, the Civil Society Approach is anchored on three pillars: (i) increasing meaningful civil society engagement in ADB operations; (ii) strengthening knowledge-sharing and dialogue among developing member countries, the private sector, ADB, and civil society; and (iii) enhancing support for civil society engagement in accountability and transparency. This reflects ADB's commitment to channel greater focus on improving communications, building stronger relationships, and creating better partnerships with civil society to facilitate development outcomes and help solve complex challenges in the region.



Know more here:
bit.ly/adbcivilsocietyapproach

ADB

PUBLIC

October 2024

ADB Civil Society Approach:
An Operational Approach to Enhanced Engagement,
2025–2030

Summary

Asian Development Bank



www.adb.org/civilsociety



@ADBandNGOs

Policy, Country, and Project Engagement

PILLAR 1

Increased meaningful civil society engagement in ADB policies, country strategies and programming, and projects



NGO and
CIVIL SOCIETY
CENTER

Accountability and Transparency

PILLAR 3

Enhanced ADB support for civil society engagement in accountability and transparency initiatives in DMCs



PILLAR 2

Strengthened knowledge-sharing and dialogue among DMCs, private sector, ADB, and civil society

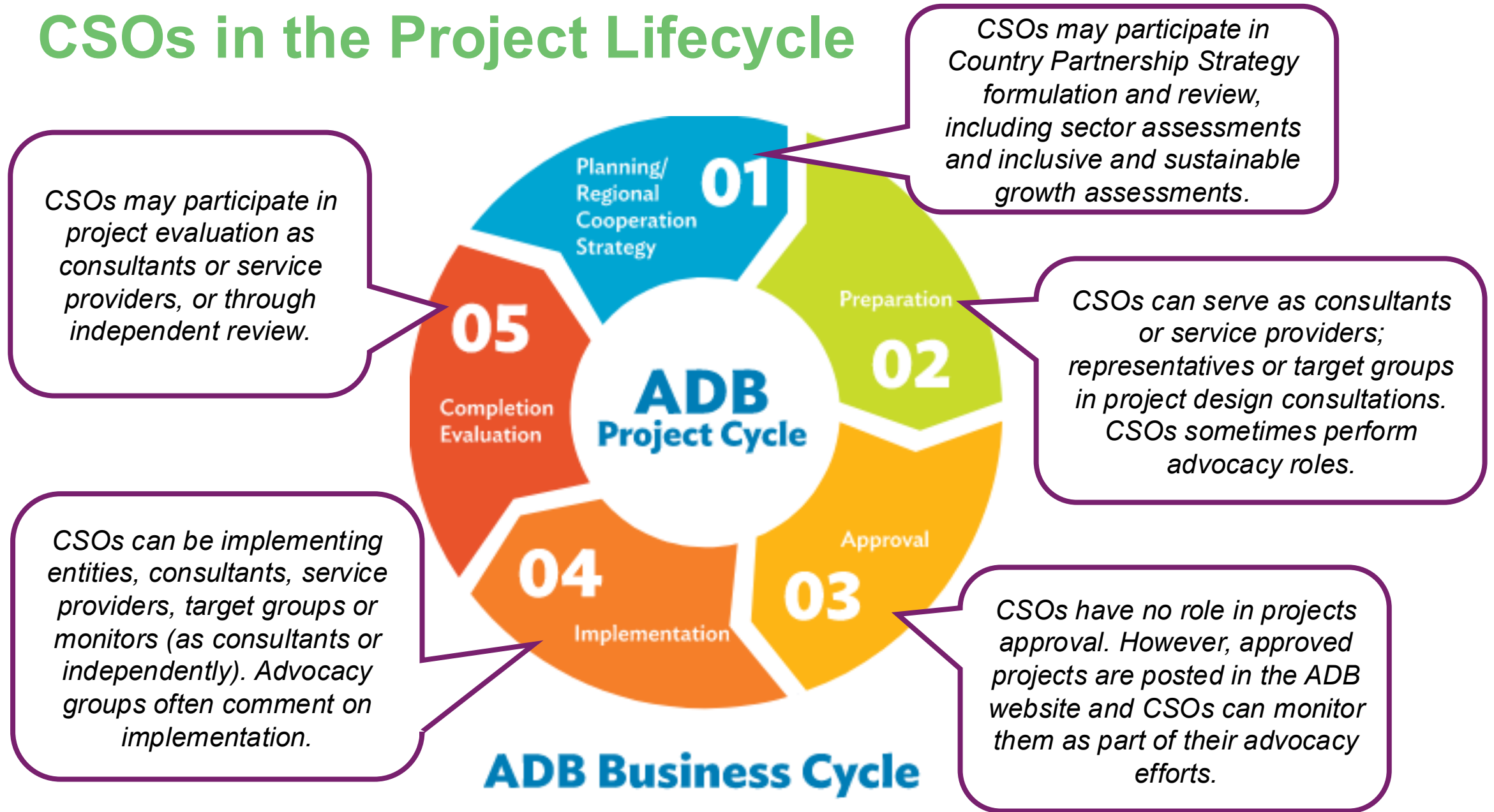
Knowledge and Dialogue

How Do We Engage with Civil Society?

- 1 Consultations and Advisory Services**
- 2 Project Components (CSOs as consultants or service providers)**
- 3 CSO-Specific Funds [uncommon]**
- 4 Events and Partnerships**



CSOs in the Project Lifecycle



Consulting Opportunities

Technical Assistance

- ❖ ADB designs projects with governments
- ❖ ADB hires experts to help design the project or lay groundwork for project implementation
- ❖ Also used for innovative and pilot projects
- ❖ Selection overseen by ADB
- ❖ Consultant Management System

Get to know your ADB Staff!

Sovereign Loans

- ❖ Governments implement projects
- ❖ Selection overseen by the government
- ❖ The procurement plan guides procurement of consultants and firms to help implement the project
- ❖ Use government procurement systems
- ❖ Consultant Management System

Get to know your Government!

Some roles of CSOs in projects

Project design

- Participating in consultations about project design features
- Designing Gender Action Plans for projects
- Providing inputs to environmental and social assessments
- Designing niche project components

Project implementation

- Training and awareness raising
- Delivering information campaigns
- Implementing Gender Action Plans
- Leading behavior change communication activities
- Helping to implement resettlement plans
- Implementing niche project components
- Supporting environmental action plans

Steps to Take

1. Register in the ADB's Consultant Management System. Double check your entry.
2. Set an alert for postings in the sector or countries of your interest
3. Review the criteria or ToR carefully
4. Respond to requests for expression of interest
5. Use English, the ADB's working language

A Primer for Identifying Business Opportunities for Civil Society Organizations



Working with ADB

A Primer for Identifying Business Opportunities for Civil Society Organizations

An Overview:
How ADB and civil society work together



The Asian Development Bank (ADB) recognizes the contributions that civil society makes to development, and continually seeks to increase civil society organization (CSO) participation involved in its projects, from the design phase through to evaluation.

ADB is a nonprofit multilateral development bank made up of 69 members. It co-designs and funds programs and projects of its developing member countries. It also finances private sector companies for their projects where traditional investors may be less likely to invest but have clear development outcomes.

ADB does not have a facility where CSOs can directly apply for funding of their activities. However, CSOs can respond to calls for expressions of interest to help implement approved projects. For example, the Community Resilience Financing Partnership Facility includes a trust fund to support governments and civil society undertake measures to build resilience at the local level. These include measures that address the needs of gender, poverty, and climate risk. Projects supported by this trust fund promote participation of CSOs, and in some cases, directly support grassroots women's groups to help implement specific activities.

CSOs are increasingly involved in ADB-financed projects, usually at the design phase, and typically through consultations.

In addition, CSOs can bid for contracts to implement components of ADB-financed projects in various sectors. There is growing interest among international CSOs with strong capacities to bid for and win contracts on ADB-financed projects.

These business opportunities related to contracts to implement parts of ADB-financed development projects, ADB, however, does not request proposals designed by CSOs for such contracts.

Instead, ADB defines the the scope of work and engages CSOs who win contracts to implement ADB projects in the same way as it does commercial firms, i.e., as service providers under a contractual relationship with standard conditions for compliance

Bidding for an ADB contract is not always a suitable match for CSOs. To help decide, consider these factors first:

- 1 ADB has already decided how this activity is to be implemented. The engaged CSO will be expected to carry out the activity in alignment with the implementation plan, with limited scope to modify the approach.
- 2 CSOs working on an ADB-financed contract must be from one of ADB's 69 members. However, experts under a firm's contract may be from nonmember countries, subject to ADB's approval. In exceptional cases, there may be limited opportunities for experts from nonmember countries, subject to ADB's approval.
- 3 ADB offers a standard contract. Ensure that your organization is willing to agree to these terms and conditions before bidding, as there is limited scope for changing contract terms. Learn more about ADB contracts.

If bidding for ADB financed contracts is still of interest, read on to understand what the different types of business opportunities are.

ADB wants more civil society organizations involved in its projects, from the design through evaluation. This primer gives an overview of how ADB and civil society works together, and tips on how NGOs can bid for ADB-financed contracts.

Although ADB does not have a fund dedicated to supporting civil society initiatives, or to which nongovernment organizations (NGOs) can directly apply and receive funding unlike other international development actors, CSOs are involved in a very high proportion of ADB projects, usually at the design phase, and typically through consultations.

While most are small local organizations, larger NGOs are involved in and implementing ADB-financed projects in some countries and sectors. There is growing interest among international NGOs with strong capacities to bid for and win contracts on ADB-financed projects. ADB treats NGOs who win contracts to implement ADB projects the same as firms, as service providers under a contractual relationship with standard conditions for compliance. Civil society can reach out to the ADB in 4 ways: through the NGO Anchor, during Country Partnership Strategy preparations, at the ADB Business Opportunity Fairs and when ADB policies and strategies are under review.



Know more here:
bit.ly/43TC6Nj



www.adb.org/civilsociety



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