

Consultancy to support civil society groups working on consumer issues

I. Background

EWMI's Civil Society Strengthening Project (CCSS) is a five-year contract awarded to East-West Management Institute, Inc. by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), with a period of performance from June 27, 2016 to June 26, 2021. The goal of the CCSS project is to increase the capability of Cambodian civil society to engage in democratic processes by representing citizen concerns.

As part of this project, EWMI seeks to support civil society groups working to inform and involve citizens who are interested in protecting consumers. These groups will begin their work in January 2019, with a scoping exercise to assess the feasibility of consumer engagement and space for civil society, and to identify effective entry points. As the civil society actors conduct the scoping exercises, EWMI seeks consultants to provide methodological support to build the capacity of its civil society partners to use participatory methods to deepen understanding of the consumer protection system from the perspective of a range of civil society actors, making sure to include marginalized voices, and to use this process as a tool to analyze options for involvement and to encourage civic engagement on consumer issues.

Participatory Action Research Overview

Participatory action research (PAR) will provide an overarching, methodological approach to building capacity of civil society partners due to its emphasis on supporting groups and organizations in working toward sustainable improvement in the real world. *Both* activism without analyzing and learning from change efforts, *and* research on 'what is' without understanding how to achieve something better, are likely to re-produce/perpetuate the status quo. Use of PAR can help to instill a more analytical approach, without excluding action, using iterative cycles of participatory data gathering and documentation, collective analysis and adaption of work plans in to continued action. The consultants will guide design of the process, and support building of analytical, communication and documentation skills necessary for civil society partners to bridge the gap between evidence, learning and action to move towards becoming scholar-activists. Central to the approach to PAR must be an embedding of stakeholder analysis to support collective analysis at the ground level (of marginalized stakeholders) with the analytical capacities of civil society partners responding to participatory analysis and then designing interventions in a multi-stakeholder environment.

Within the overarching PAR approach, the consultants will use their expertise in a range of participatory methods and tools, to train and accompany civil society partners in developing their application to the Cambodian consumer protection context. Participatory methods involve citizens in exploring their own situations as an entry point to understanding the wider systems dynamics, and deciding together what needs to happen to shift their realities. In particular, participatory approaches can engage the most marginalized people, including a focus on subjective and attitudinal aspects of their experiences and their underlying dynamics. The consultant shall use methods and tools that support reflection and learning. The consultant shall not only support civil society partners in planning processes with specific moments for

learning built into the design, but also facilitate partners to think through the most appropriate forms of evidence to meet the learning needs at different stages. Consultants are encouraged to propose creative and visual methods that can surface hidden perspectives and enhance a systems analysis.

II. Scope of Work

A. Build capacity of civil society partners in PAR and participatory methods

This work will be implemented through a two-track process, (i) working directly with the civil society partner leading the consumer protection project, to accompany their work in order to engage and include the perspectives of a particular marginalized group. This will also serve as a case study/model to support (ii) capacity development of a broader group of civil society partners through learning opportunities at specific key moments of the consumer protection project.

- a. Input in to design of scoping study to be carried out by Cambodian civil society partner
 - b. Design of participatory systems mapping with consumer protection civil society partner – 3 days
 - c. Training of civil society partners in the designed methodology (including a select group of partners – 12 - 15 people)
 - d. Accompany partners in implementation of methodology on the field, and make recommendations on improvements – through a field visit (depending on geographic location)
 - e. Guidance on analysis of inputs and evidence generated by participatory activities and use of analysis to inform action steps)
- B. The consultant shall make written recommendations that include:
- a. Action steps for civil society partners to ensure participatory approach to developing entry points in project on consumer protection
 - b. Action steps for civil society partners on analytical approach to consumer protection work
 - c. Action steps for EWMI CCSS on support of analytical and participatory approach of civil society partners

III. Deliverables

Deliverable
Input in to design of scoping study
Training session/ co-design of participatory systems mapping
Training session with larger group of civil society organizations
Field visit with partners
Interim recommendations for civil society partners and EWMI
Second field visit with civil society partners
Final report with written recommendations for civil society partners and EWMI

IV. Timeline and reporting

The consultancy shall consist of 30 days between January 15, 2019 and April 30, 2019. The consultant shall report to the CCSS Chief of Party.

V. V. Requirements

- Cambodian Nationality or International
- A university degree in economics, development studies, agriculture, law or a related field
- Minimum 8 years of relevant experience working in related sectors, particularly in Cambodia
- Fluency in spoken and written English is a must.

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, summary of their technical approach, proposed budget and CV by email to CCSS_Info@ewmi.org. The closing date for all applications is November 30, 2018.

We accept applications by email only. EWMI does not discriminate on the basis of ethnicity, race, age, gender, or sexual orientation. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.