

 **CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

Apply for an API Grant for CBOs

The Advocacy and Policy Institute (API) is a leading Cambodian NGO serving the long-term democratic and social development of the country by empowering citizens. One of our traditional focus areas has always been enabling community based organisations (CBOs) advocate for policy change on the local level. Following the goals set in our latest Strategic Plan (2019-2023), we are particularly interested in seeing women, youth and disadvantaged groups take a much more active role in decision making processes, as well as in public life, in general.

Therefore, API has decided to provide small grant facility to community based organisations representing the above mentioned groups, or led by members of these groups, in order to encourage them to engage more with their local government representatives, hold them accountable and request improvements in the public services on offer, as well as a general atmosphere based on responsiveness and broad inclusion. At least 80 such grants will be awarded, the available amount being between 500 and 5,000 US dollars per CBO.

Eligible CBOs should have youth (citizens aged between 15 and 30) and/or women in leadership roles. Target organisations include youth clubs at the community, school or university level, women saving groups, self-help groups of people with disabilities, associations of indigenous people, CBOs working on issues related to community forests, fisheries or in other fields of natural resource management, community livelihood and development, and other organisations with similar profiles. The grants are meant to create synergies with the financial support of pre-existing partners, and with other initiatives aimed at empowering the applicant CBOs to better promote democratic values, good local governance, advocacy and human rights.

Priority will be given to formal and informal youth or women's groups, as well as to other community groups with strong women and youth leadership that are committed to advocate on one or more of the following critical issues:

- (1) access to / improvement of public social services
- (2) sub-national planning and budget
- (3) natural resource management (NRM): public or community access and user rights
- (4) access to / disclosure of public information, especially when related to revenue from natural resources, private sector investments and public-private contract disclosure.

API also mobilises funds locally to support the CBOs' small scale initiatives on community-based education and development activities, by conducting multi-stakeholder meetings with local private companies and individuals. These small initiatives can be planned by the CBOs during their participation in the systematic joint review of the available data on local development issues and of the citizens' priorities and needs. This is the case, for example, if the CBOs take an active part in implementing the social accountability framework (I-SAF) in their communities, or if they otherwise participate in the elaboration of communal or district

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development plans. The small scale initiatives can then be funded locally, too, based on partnership platforms grouping together of CBOs, private sector and local government actors.

Moreover, API also empowers the CBOs by strengthening their advocacy skill, and helps them increase their capacity to engage in a dialogue on community issues. During face-to-face public fora and meetings, or by using digital platforms for youth, women and disadvantaged groups, CBOs representing these groups have the opportunity to share their views and opinions on issues and policies affecting their lives and to improve the accountability and transparency of public institutions such as primary schools, health centres, commune (“khum”) / neighbourhood (“sangkat”) and district (“srok”) / city (“krong”) administrations. API pays particular attention to vulnerable groups, insisting that they are given access to comprehensive, inclusive, equitable and quality education, health, and other local services provided by these administrations, including social services.

Please submit your grant application using the attached application form.