



SWEDEN



# PROCEED

## Promoting Citizen Engagement in Democratic Development

### Overview

Increased opportunities for citizens to participate in governance where they live is a critical need for Cambodia's democratic development. An active and aware citizenry is an essential component of sub-national democratic development and, despite some notable accomplishments by the commune councils and the establishment and capacity development of sub-national councils and their administrations, democratic participation is still weak.

Pact developed the PROCEED project to encourage and support citizens to exercise increased power to improve governance at the sub-national level. PROCEED is designed along the core principles of a Human Rights Based Approach: access to information, transparency, participation and non-discrimination.

The project pursues three key objectives:

1. Increased communication among citizens that reflects well-informed, self-interested opinions on district governance issues;
2. More district council actions are directly influenced by diverse citizen participation;
3. Government policies around Sub-National Democratic Development are more influenced by civil society.

**Duration:** November 2012 – October 2015

**Donor:** Sweden through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)

**Target areas:** 8 districts across Battambang, Pursat, Kampong Cham and Monduliri provinces

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Under PROCEED, Pact and our partners take Cambodia’s democratic development to the next level. The project transforms sub-national councils – particularly district councils, which are critically underdeveloped – into more accountable and transparent institutions that take citizen’s opinions into account when making decisions. PROCEED will enhance the use of networks as a means to further develop the knowledge, capacity and voice of civil society to improve civic engagement and serve as agents of change.

Anticipated project outcomes include: increased knowledge and capacity of citizens to voice their priorities to elected councils; increased citizen access to councils’ information and decisions; increased CBO networks and dialogues that represent citizens’ interests at the district level; increased citizen participation in monitoring and evaluation of the councils’ performance; and effective engagement of WGPLD in democratic development policy dialogues and decision making.

### Theories of Change

Several core beliefs of how change happens underpin PROCEED’s design. Given the right knowledge, tools and coaching, multiple types of civil society will increase their engagement in democratic processes. Properly networked, civil society actors will mutually reinforce their learning and successes to achieve more impactful engagement and increased democratic results. A foundation of constructive partnership between state actors and civil society fosters comfort on both sides to explore new issues and approaches. Issues of common concern and priorities catalyze citizens’ interest in sub-national government engagement.

### For More Information

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**Pact’s vision for citizens’ participation in governance activities**

*Pact is an international, nonprofit organization with forty years of experience. Our vision is a world where those who are poor and marginalized exercise their voice, build their own solutions, and take ownership over their future.*

## PROJECT GOALS & OBJECTIVES

