



Southeast Asian Partners:

Action for Economic Reforms, Inc. (AER)

Philippines – Health

AER's core programs focus on transparency and fiscal reforms to address Philippine civil society's limited knowledge of economic issues. Under the USAID Building Bridges Project, AER plans to work closely with government officials to study the allocation of excise taxes on tobacco and alcohol to universal health care coverage. AER proposes to track and assess the amount of funding for health services generated from recent legislation providing for this earmarking. AER will supplement these findings with further studies on citizens' accounts of existing health programs and their preferred methods of financing health services. The combined data will foster local advocacy efforts to engage both the government and citizens in understanding the practicality of directing taxes on tobacco and alcohol toward the Philippines' health care system.

The Australian Foundation for the Peoples of Asia and the Pacific in Vietnam (AFAP)

Vietnam – Education

As a result of the Vietnamese government's recent efforts to increase citizen and private sector investment in education services, there have been challenges with inefficiency and a lack of transparency in using the mobilized funding, stemming from the corresponding decrease in government subsidies and intervention. To assess this negative impact of the government's "socialization" policy, AFAP proposes to identify areas of weakness in budget flows and ascertain the impact on citizens accessing local education services. By engaging citizen participation throughout the research process, AFAP seeks to produce grounded recommendations on how to improve the government's policy in order to achieve better spending for education services.

Advocacy and Policy Institute (API)

Cambodia – Education

As part of the USAID Building Bridges Project, API seeks to empower Cambodian citizens to gain information and engage with their government through an assessment of public expenditures in the education sector. Specifically focusing on early childhood education, API plans to analyze the current system of funding allocation and disbursement from the national government to local service providers in

order to encourage greater accountability in public spending. In close collaboration with issue-based institutions and networks, API will utilize the research findings to support evidence-based advocacy initiatives that highlight better policies and better spending practices for education.

The Ateneo School of Government (ASoG)

Philippines – Health

ASoG is a professional school of leadership at the Ateneo de Manila University dedicated to building prosperous and just communities throughout the Philippines. Despite yearly increases in budget allocations to the Department of Education's investment in public schools, there is still a noticeable lack in funding for certain programs, including those for health and nutrition, and water and sanitation. Using a series of social accountability research tools, ASoG plans to address this issue by tracking the Department of Education's funding to these health services and assessing the impact on beneficiaries. From these findings, ASoG will then design advocacy materials to promote further government accountability and facilitate adequate investments in these two specific health services.

Khmer Institute for National Development (KIND) - Affiliated network for Social Accountability (ANSA) – East Asia and the Pacific

Cambodia – Education

Founded in 2003, KIND seeks to promote good governance in state institutions and defend the rights of the poor, marginalized, and vulnerable people in Cambodia. Under the USAID Building Bridges Project, KIND, in collaboration with ANSA-EAP's Cambodia chapter, will track and assess the use of the national budget for textbook publication and distribution to public schools. Given that the Cambodian government has underscored the quality of education as a top priority in its agenda to promote good governance and fight corruption, KIND – ANSA's research findings and engagement with local citizens and schools will provide a means to advocate for greater accountability in the government's spending strategy for education.

NGO Education Partnership (NEP)

Cambodia – Education

With currently 113 member organizations, NEP works to promote active collaboration between non-governmental organizations and various stakeholders to improve the quality and accessibility of education in Cambodia. NEP's research under the USAID Building Bridges Project will track program-based funds allocated to schools to cover the costs of maintenance, utilities, and various office and school supplies. As part of this initiative, NEP will also investigate the role of the schools and district-level monitoring teams in managing the program-based budget. With the goal of improving the ability of Cambodians to hold their government and other key actors accountable for public spending and services in the education sector, NEP will disseminate their research findings through a series of advocacy initiatives that strengthen civic engagement.

Indonesian partners:

Bandung Institute of Governance Studies (BIGS)

Indonesia – Education

In 2005, the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Ministry of Religious Affairs in Indonesia launched their School Operational Assistance Fund (BOS) to increase participation and enrollment in schools. While the fund is designed to achieve this goal by lowering school tuitions through investment in services, the enrollment rate at Islamic schools remains astonishingly low. Given that this low rate is primarily due to the poor service quality at Islamic schools, BIGS proposes to track the BOS and assess how services are eventually administered at the school level. BIGS will then compile final research results to produce ongoing advocacy initiatives to engage Ministry officials, communities, and other key stakeholders to increase the accountability and transparency in BOS spending and management at Islamic schools.

Perkumpulan INISIATIF (PI)

Indonesia – Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

While there have been increased efforts by the national and provincial governments to allocate funds towards clean water service delivery, the number of Indonesians without access to such services remains quite high. To address this concern, PI plans to track and assess the funds allocated to clean water and water infrastructure. By combining this research with an analysis of citizens' reactions to their local water network, PI hopes to advocate for increased government effectiveness and efficiency in clean water service delivery.