The new Aquino Administration has opened the door for wider citizen participation in governance in the Philippines. Despite this more positive environment, civil society programs and activities remain fragmented, ad hoc and reactive, and often do not connect well with government-supported reform or governance initiatives. To capitalize on these new opportunities for enhancing governance, effort is now needed to bridge the gap in understanding the working relationship between CSOs and government in general, and for CSOs to take the initiative and respond proactively.

The main outcome of the project is to strengthen the functional capacity of civil society in observing public procurement processes and conducting independent local monitoring activities of government programs and projects.

The project will have five components:

1) Mapping and assessing the functional capacity of civil society organizations for local monitoring
2) Citizen monitoring of public procurement processes
3) Independent local monitoring partnerships for basic education
4) Options for funding CSOs to monitor, observe and assess government programs
5) School-based monitoring and participatory audit initiative

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