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ដើម្បីលុបបំបាត់រាល់ទម្រង់នៃការរើសអើងលើស្ត្រីកេង
The Cambodian NGOs Committee on CEDAW

NGO-CEDAW

Annual Activity Report 2010



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Introduction

During this year, NGO-CEDAW has addressed several issues. A new Secretary General has been selected. This has reinforced the organization while helping to increase cooperation between members, collecting data for the Shadow Report and networking locally, regionally and internationally.

An advisory board has been selected and international consultant has been hired to assist with the draft of the shadow report.

Several meetings between members and the steering committee have been held to find ways to improve the work of NGO-CEDAW. These meetings have proved essential to create an efficient cooperation of members and to facilitate them giving their input for the preparation of the Shadow Report, prepare advocacy campaigns for the next four years 2011 – 2014 and improve networking at the local, regional and international levels. There were also special meetings between the six subcommittees regarding with most crucial topics in which they are involved in order to collect information for the shadow report. The meetings proved fruitful.

The first draft of the shadow report has been completed in November. The final editing is under way and the final version is to be published by February 2011.

As part of an awareness raising campaign, NGO-CEDAW has conducted activities such as press conferences, radio broadcasts, public forums, and educational drama performances.

NGO-CEDAW would like to express its gratitude to donors, especially to DCA-CA, PyD and Canada Fund and all other members who contributed their valuable time for both financial, technical support. A special thank for those who contributed to the Shadow report by giving information and editing.

I. Strengthening of NGO-CEDAW

Secretary General

In 2009, NGO-CEDAW advertised twice in local newspapers to recruit a new Secretary General. Following the ads, 57 candidates applied for the position. Four candidates were shortlisted.

Those 4 candidates were given both Khmer and English oral and written tests supervised by steering committee members. Testing was held at the secretariat on the 23rd of Jan 2010. The process of recruiting the Secretary General was done by steering committees members divided into three teams.

1. Short list selectors.

- Ms. KI Nimol (NGO Forum / SC of NGO-CEDAW)
- Mr. RUN Saray (LAC / SC of NGO-CEDAW)

2. Questionnaire creators.

- Ms. CHIM Manavy (Open Institute / SC of NGO-CEDAW)
- Mr. TUON Vicheth (COSECAM / SC of NGO-CEDAW)

3. Interviewers.

- Dr. PUNG Chhiv Kek (LICADHO / Chairperson of NGO-CEDAW)
- Ms. CHIM Manavy (Open Institute / SC of NGO-CEDAW)
- Mr. TUON Vicheth (COSECAM / SC of NGO-CEDAW)
- Mr. Pascal DELAPRÉE (External consultant)

On January 27, 2010, a final decision meeting was held with the steering committee on appointing Mr. HANG Puthea to the position of Secretary General of NGO-CEDAW.

Before assuming the position of Secretary General, the steering committee and NGO-CEDAW's donors asked him to complete his tasks and resign from his position in the NGO-CEDAW steering committee.

The function of Secretary General of NGO-CEDAW infers insuring all regulations of its internal organization are followed. The Secretary General is responsible for the operation of NGO-CEDAW. Mr. Puthea took charge of his position on February 8, 2010, starting a three month probation before being formally confirmed as Secretary General.

During this evaluation period the steering committee has monitored the performance of the Secretary General and confirmed his hiring.

Advisory Board

In accordance with the NGO-CEDAW by law adopted on Nov 11, 2009, the steering committee nominated Ms. Yolanda, country director of Paz Y Desarrollo (PyD), to sit on the NGO-CEDAW advisory board, starting Apr 23, 2010.

Ms. Yolanda agreed to abide by NGO-CEDAW by laws and accepted the responsibilities coming with this position.

In case of her absence or at the expiration of her mandate, another representative of Paz Y Desarrollo is to take this position.

New Members

In 2010, NGO-CEDAW membership increased substantially to 72 members. The list of members is in Annex 1.

II. Activities

1 NGO-CEDAW Meetings

a) Steering committee meetings.

In 2010, the Steering Committee held several meetings to strengthen NGO-CEDAW structure (to hire a secretary general, establish bylaws and discuss the shadow report).

- January 23 and 27: meetings to prepare tests and hire the secretary general.
- February 1, 8 and 26 to discuss the 8 March International Women Day activities:
 - o Cooperate with Amnesty International for a press conference concerning rape;
 - o In cooperation with Licadho and Cambow, visit of women in three prisons¹
 - o Advocacy drama, in cooperation with Amnesty International.
 - o Radio talk show on rape, in collaboration with Amnesty International.
- March 11 and 16: meetings with PyD consultant to discuss the Shadow Report.
- April 2 and 30: meetings with PyD consultant to discuss the Shadow Report.
- October 22: steering committee meeting at LICADHO. The topics were:
 - o The 2010 annual report,
 - o Setting up of an Health and Environment NGO Women Working Group for Women and Children (ASEAN)
 - o The activity plan for 2011 – 2014; adopted.
 - o The 16 Day Campaign activities for 2010.
- November 19: Meetings with members to discuss the 16 Day campaign activities and publications, the Shadow Report. The Consultant joined the meeting.

Results/outcome	Difficulties/challenge	Lessons learned	Comments
Hiring of a Secretary General	Hiring took longer than planned	Should start hiring process asap.	Full staffing is essential to smooth operation.
Meetings are essential to maintain communication and planning	Difficulty in managing schedule and activities of participants.	Plan meetings after regular office hours	
Most planned activities have been completed on schedule. Information for Shadow report given to the consultant	Delays in the shadow report due to extensive editing of the draft of shadow report (draft received in November instead of May.	For the next shadow report, request extra funding for technical assistance	The Shadow report is expected to be published in February 2011

¹ CC2 prison, Takhmao prison and PJ prison

b) Member Meetings

1. On the April 2, 2010, NGO-CEDAW held meeting with its members at Baitong Restaurant to introduce the new Secretary General, Ms Cova, the international consultant from Spain for the shadow report. Ms. Cova is currently working for Paz y Desarrollo (PYD), a Spanish NGO.

During the meeting, there was a discussion on the 2009 NGO-CEDAW activity report moderated by the chairperson. The report has been discussed by the members of the steering committee. The 28 participants contributed actively, providing input.

This meeting gave members the opportunity to know each other better and understand the work of NGO-CEDAW. Ms. Cova made a presentation on the Shadow Report draft. It was discussed and approved by the participants.

2. On the June 28, 2010 from 9:00am to 12:00pm, NGO-CEDAW organized another meeting with 34 participants from its members at its office.

The Secretary General presented the last six months report, including activities and financial situation.

Among activities, by-laws were adopted. The member directory was updated, with the addition of new members and was printed and distributed to members. In addition, NGO-CEDAW published and distributed to its members thousands of booklets on the “UN Concluding Comments” and on the “Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women” (CEDAW).

In this meeting, Ms. Cova presented the progress of shadow report draft to the members. She also informed members that the draft report was scheduled to be ready by the end of the year.

Before the end of the meeting, the chairperson proposed eleven activities for 2011 that were approved by the members:

1. IWD (8th March) and 16 day campaign against gender violence;
2. Radio broadcasts;
3. Public forums;
4. Educational drama;
5. Reporting on the progress of CEDAW implementation at member meetings;
6. Steering committee meetings;
7. Capacity building and expansion of NGO-CEDAW website;
8. Activity of NGO Working Group (NWG) for women and children.
9. Consultation with authorities workshops;
10. Production of discussion on Chbab Srey booklet;
11. General Assembly meeting



3. On September 10, NGO-CEDAW organized a meeting to select two members for the women meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam. 14 participants were attending.

The Chairperson briefed the audience on the human rights situation in Cambodia, especially

on women and children's rights.

Silaka expressed how important it is to send members to the ACWC² meeting in Hanoi. In addition, she requested to vote members from relevant NGOs by criteria. Finally, two members from 2 different organizations were selected:

Ms. Hoy Sochivanny from PCC

Mr. Meas Samnang from NGO-CRC

It was requested that the selected members present a report on their return and share it with all members.

4. On October 26, NGO-CEDAW organized a Member Meeting at NGO-CEDAW office to discuss the 2010 annual reports, the activity plan for 2011 – 2014, the four year evaluation report and the 16 Day Campaign for 2010.

Members shared ideas actively and commented on the future plan. The points shared during the meeting were acceptable and put into the plan. 16 participants attended. Members suggested the secretariat could organize regular meetings with members.

1. On November 8, a member meeting on NGO Working Group on Women and Children (NWG) was held at NGO-CEDAW office. The objective is to join NGO networks in the region that monitor the work of Asean concerning human rights, women, children and migrant workers.

Asean, set up since 1967, just adopted its charter and created the Asean Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR). Asean is in the process of setting up a commission on women, children and migrant workers.

Ten NGO-CEDAW members will be elected to be members of the NGO Working Group on Women and Children (NWG).

2. On November 12, a member meeting was held to discuss the 16 Day Campaign at NGO-CEDAW office. Members presented their comments and reflections on the lessons learned last year. The schedule of performance was approved. The script of drama was edited by members. Persons in charge of the event were recruited. They were 16 participants. Distribution of the calendar to end the violence against women have been scheduled to start on November 21, during the Water Festival.

3. On December 2, a meeting was held to distribute roles and responsibilities for the 16 Day Campaign Against Violence Against Women (November 25 to December 10).

Results/outcome	Difficulties/challenge	Lessons learned	Comments
We have been able to mobilize members from the provinces. Their contribution is very important; they are highly motivated.	Transport/food and accommodation have to be arranged for participants from provinces.	A budget has to be reserved for them.	Members from the provinces do an excellent work and are very close to grass root communities.

² Asean Commission on Women and Children

2. Capacity building of NGO-CEDAW members

On November 5, 2010, we held a member training on the CEDAW convention at NGO-CEDAW's offices. The goal was to build members' familiarity with the convention. The Chairperson made a PowerPoint presentation describing the UN background Definition of discrimination against women (Article 1 of CEDAW).

The discussion focused on direct and indirect discrimination and the "temporary special measures aimed at accelerating the facto equality between men and women". The 29 participants who joined the training got a better understanding of the CEDAW convention. The discussion was very fruitful with questions and comments from participants. In oral questions and answers, most participants were pleased to join and provided correct answers.

On November 15, 2010, a member training was held at NGO-CEDAW office on the UN Concluding Comments. 20 participants attended this meeting. We tried to build members' capacity on the concluding comments. Mr. Sok Sam Oeurn, Director of Cambodian Defender Project (CDP) explained the UN concluding comments in a PowerPoint presentation. Participants got a better grasp of the Concluding Comments. They raised good questions relating to the topic and got pertinent information on issues that were not perfectly clear to them.

Results/outcome	Difficulties/challenge	Lessons learned	Comments
Training sessions proved very popular and attracted important feedback. The intended message was received and put into action by recipients.	Scheduling and transportation proved to be an issue to be addressed for future.	Capacity building is very important and attract participation and involvement by participants. A sufficient budget has to be secured for efficient sessions.	Capacity building has to be done often and regularly to reach all members. It is a very important and necessary condition for members to have a clear understanding of CEDAW for their work.

3. The 16 Day Campaign Against Violence Against Women.

During the Water Festival, from November 21 to 23, we distributed 4,000 pocket calendars to end the violence against women. They were very popular and we didn't have enough.

On December 2, a meeting was held to distribute roles and responsibilities for the 16 Day Campaign. Each responsible person agreed to accept the task as assigned. There were 18 participants.

On December 3, we initiated the 16 Day Campaign with an educational drama in Takhmao, Kandal province.

The aim of the first activity was to raise awareness and promote action against domestic violence, rape and trafficking. The event was presided by the vice governor of Takhmao. There were 1,600 participants consisting of about 50% of women.



Results/outcome	Difficulties/challenge	Lessons learned	Comments
<p>High attendance to the Educational Drama to End Violence Against Women, Attendance by general public, by officials.</p> <p>Easily accessible approach to description of Gender Violence, its causes and how to deal with it.</p> <p>Use of real life situation and examples.</p> <p>Duration: During the 16 Day Campaign Against Gender Violence (25 November to 10 December)</p> <p>8,120 publications illustrating the domestic violence law and 600 t-shirts were distributed.</p>	<p>Activity has to be held at night to ensure attendance. Difficulty to arrange for transport/accommodation of members.</p> <p>Need for very early and detailed planning.</p> <p>We had a delay caused by the deaths during the Water Festival bridge incident. Three young actors died during the Water Festival stampede.</p>	<p>Early planning must include some transport, accommodation/food for members.</p> <p>Higher budget required for publications, calendars, t-shirts and prizes.</p>	<p>This activity proved extremely popular. Should be repeated in several locations, especially in provinces.</p> <p>Authorities and the public join the event.</p>

4. Workshop on “UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security” and CEDAW in partnership with UNIFEM

On the 15th of May 2010, NGO-CEDAW members participated in a workshop on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, and CEDAW in partnership with UNIFEM. The one day event took place at SILAKA office in Phnom Penh from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.



The workshop brought together key international women human rights advocates, providing a space for learning and sharing issues related to UN Security Council Resolution (SCR) 1325.

The UN SCR 1325 is a gender equality framework in conflict and post-conflict settings and has added value when linked to CEDAW and national priorities. Each participant prepared an initial mapping of the UN SCR 1325 implementation and gaps in Cambodia and identified possible strategic interventions for strengthening UN SCR 1325 implementation as linked to CEDAW and national priorities. Total of participants was 26.

Results/outcome	Difficulties/challenge	Lessons learned	Comments
The workshop gave the opportunity to members to discuss and exchange views. Important issues were raised like the presence of women at all levels of decision making including in the UN. It was an awareness raising tool that reached participants. It demonstrated the universal value of CEDAW.	The road is very long towards the presence of women at all levels of decision making. The presence of the Chbab Srey is an obstacle to new approaches with regard to gender equality and participation.	This type of discussion with members and international partner organizations is a powerful tool to change cultural stereotypes and promote change in attitudes and behaviors.	More workshops like this should be held at regular interval.

5. Actions to fight acid attacks

a) Meeting on Acid Attacks with AVON Global Center for Women and Justice,

March 23, 2010:

Participative consultation with Avon International who's been looking at acid violence in Bangladesh, India and Cambodia in order to do some comparative legal and policy work.

The meeting held on March 23 was very fruitful. Three AVON officials from the US met members of NGO-CEDAW. They also had discussions with government officials, representative of other stakeholders.

A report recently released by the Avon Global Center for Women and Justice at Cornell Law School, the New York City³ Bar Association, the Cornell International Human Rights Clinic, and Virtue Foundation: "Combating Acid Violence in Bangladesh, India, and Cambodia,"

NGO-CEDAW made an important contribution to the research and fact-gathering of this report.

Through a comparative study of Bangladesh, Cambodia and India, the report demonstrates that acid violence is a form of gender-based violence prohibited by the Convention on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). As parties to CEDAW, Bangladesh, Cambodia and India have a legal obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent attacks, punish perpetrators, and compensate victims. Acid is easily and cheaply available in countries where acid attacks are prevalent. The report finds that a key to combating acid violence is to curb the easy availability of acid. Governments should adopt legislation to make it difficult for potential perpetrators of attacks to obtain acid.

Governments must end the widespread impunity enjoyed by perpetrators by adopting and effectively implementing laws that provide for appropriate prosecution and punishment. When acid attacks do occur, governments are obligated under international law to provide redress to victims, which should include compensation for healthcare and other costs. In all three countries, survivors face immense challenges in obtaining adequate healthcare. Evidence suggests that acid attacks are higher near areas where industries that use acid are located (such as cotton industries in Pakistan and rubber industries in Cambodia). Businesses can play a crucial role in curbing acid misuse, including by adopting procedures that are aimed at ensuring that acid is not stolen from them and placing warning labels on acid advising users of its harmful effects and legal penalties that may ensue from its misuse. The report outlines other concrete measures that governments and businesses should take to prevent acid violence. We hope that this report contributes to a renewed urgency to end these horrific acts of violence.

The Report can be accessed at:
http://www.lawschool.cornell.edu/womenandjustice/upload/Combating-Acid-Violence_Final-2.pdf.

b) May 20, 2010

³ Cornell University, New York. www.lawschool.cornell.edu/womenandjustice

Members of NGO-CEDAW in a campaign of advocacy agreed to send a letter to urge the government to draft a Specific law on acid attacks⁴. The letter was also published in the Phnom Penh Post⁵.

Results/outcome	Difficulties/challenge	Lessons learned	Comments
The government is drafting a specific law on acid attacks.	Upon adoption of the law, follow up to insure it is implemented.	Advocacy and awareness raising in media is very powerful.	We need to have victims of acid attacks to talk about it on radio and TV.

⁴ See Annex

⁵ Govt, civil society most collaborate on acid law, Friday, 21 May 2010

6. International Women Day Campaign (IWD) on 8 March

a) Press Conference, in partnership with Amnesty International

To mark the International Women Day (IWD) on March 8 2010, with the support by DCA/CA and the partnership of Amnesty International, NGO-CEDAW conducted a half day press conference at Baitong Restaurant. There were 37 participants. The topic was “Break the Silence; Sexual Violence in Cambodia”. It offered opportunities for national and international media to participate. Violence against women remains one of the most pervasive and significant barriers to gender equity in Cambodia. The objective was to encourage victims not stay silent when facing rape.

The “Break the Silence; Sexual Violence in Cambodia” report, by Amnesty International (In Khmer and English)⁶, was distributed to participants.

The Amnesty International report requests the government to:

- Address discrimination against women that perpetrate violence against violence.
- Incorporate provisions to combat sexual violence into policy and efforts relating to domestic violence and human trafficking.
- Remove financial barriers to services to victims of rape.
- Ensure that victims and survivors of sexual violence to safe, timely and effective reporting mechanisms.
- Ensure that police forces receive training, equipment and budgets to combat sexual violence against women.
- Ensure that forensic examinations are accessible, appropriate and free.
- Develop a system of adequate support services.
- Ensure that courtrooms, courts and proceeding are victim friendly.



The report also encourages women subjected to violence to access justice and seek effective remedy for the harm they have suffered and refuse out of court illegal settlement or withdrawal of complaint. The report urges courts to implement the law:

- Not dropping the charges even if there is no complaint and continuing to investigate until the perpetrators are brought to justice and considering the victims of rapes as victims rather than as guilty.
- The report also urges families and neighbors not to discriminate on the victims of rape for example by forcing victims to enter prostitution or marrying the perpetrator as a settlement.

Results/outcome	Difficulties/challenge	Lessons learned	Comments
Widespread awareness of the topic of the conference and of the Amnesty International report. The support of an international	Scheduling the press conference, finding an adequate venue and making sure participants are informed of the	A press conference has to be scheduled in detail and funding has to be secured for an attractive venue to compete with the	The government and many NGOs organize events where media are solicited. We have to organize the event early in advance.

⁶ www.amnesty.org , index ASA23/00/2010 March 2010

organization like AI encourages local stakeholder to pursue their action.	conference and show interest.	many other events on that day.	
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b) Radio Broadcasting on International Women Day in Partnership with Amnesty International

Radio is the best way to send a message to the public. On March 8 from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm, a round table discussion was held on the topic of “Rape and Breaking the Silence”. It was broadcast live through Voice of Democracy radio station (VOD). Speakers were the Chairperson of NGO-CEDAW and Ms. Brittis Eldman representing Amnesty International Southeast Asia Team. Broadcasting on radio is an effective way to bring live messages to all people and to keep them informed about possible solutions regarding rape. The public had the opportunity to call in and share their experience or comments with all, ask questions and get response by speakers.

Results/outcome	Difficulties/challenge	Lessons learned	Comments
A wide audience has been made aware of the issues at stake and of the content of the Amnesty International report.	For a radio broadcast, complex topics like rape have to be explained in a language and in a way accessible to the widest range of listeners.	For sensitive issues, it is essential that the text is edited by experts and presented by very capable speakers. This takes quite some time and a stipend for editors and speakers should be considered.	Sufficient budget has to be secured to ensure broadcast time is sufficient and to allow rebroadcasts. We have to secure airtime long in advance.

c) Forum and Advocacy Drama Performance in partnership with Amnesty International

To welcome the International Women’s Day (IWD), which is celebrated all over the world, NGO-CEDAW presented a concert and an educational drama at O commune, Phnom Srouch district, Kampong Speu province.

Three series of educational drama were performed with the presence of the vice governor of Phnom Srouch district, commune chief, commune councilors, donors, members of NGO-CEDAW, and local citizens. The three dramas highlighted the necessity to fight against domestic violence, rape, and human trafficking.

The performance lasted for three and a half hours from 7:00pm to 10:30pm and reached out about 1,700 participants with 60% of women. There was question and answer periods after each drama performance.

The objectives of the program are:

- To raise awareness / consciousness on domestic violence, rape and trafficking and show its negative effects on the society and the whole country.
- The drama shows the suffering and disastrous effects on individual and families.
- To provide information about individual rights - especially to victims- and available options, resources and services to assist them.
- To promote solidarity and encourage women to help each other when one’s in need.

- Remind family, neighbors and general public not to discriminate against victims, who need their support.

Results/outcome	Difficulties/challenge	Lessons learned	Comments
High attendance to the Forum and Drama Performance. Attendance by general public, by officials. Easily accessible approach to description of Gender Violence, its causes and how to deal with it. Use of real life situation and examples. Duration: Held on March 8, 2010 (IWD)	Activity has to be held at night to ensure attendance. Care must be taken to arrange logistic, seating, appropriate venue etc. Need for very early and detailed planning.	Early planning must include some transport, accommodation/food for NGO-CEDAW members. Budget required for publications, t-shirts and other prizes.	This activity proved extremely popular. Men and women attend together. Should be repeated in several locations, especially in provinces. Recording and editing of the play needed in order to broadcast interesting parts.

d) Visits to Women in Prison

On the occasion of IWD, to give hope to imprisoned women and show them they were not abandoned by all, NGO-CEDAW member representatives, in cooperation with LICADHO and CAMBOW, visited women in several prisons. There were distributions of goods to imprisoned women and their children. Prisons visited in Phnom Penh and Kandal include CC2, Takhmao and PJ.

Results/outcome	Difficulties/challenge	Lessons learned	Comments
The visit to women in prison and presentation of items for their personal reassured them they were not forgotten and that they could reinsert in the society upon their release.	Getting appropriate authorizations from authorities. Setting up a schedule for the visit and getting approval for the donations and other activities has to be planned in detail well in advance.	The more preparation the better. This activity should be extended to all provinces.	This also helps maintaining communication lines opened with prison authorities and inmates.

7. Shadow Report and Subcommittee Meetings

Regular meetings between six sub committees of NGO-CEDAW are held to get input for 2009 shadow report. These meetings are also an opportunity to discuss specific information regarding themes targeted by the six subcommittees: gender violence, rape, trafficking, law implementation, health, education, media, women in politics, decision making among women, labor, economy, disabled and minority women for writing report. Each subcommittee is responsible for a topic and holds meetings with members. Subcommittee meetings are held in the presence of international consultant from PyD⁷.

Subcommittee for Gender Based Violence and Law;

Facilitated by a representative from Cambodian Defenders Project (CDP). It is composed of 11 members from ADHOC, CARAM, CDP, CODO, COSECAM, CWCD, LAC, LICADHO, NGO-FORUM, PADV, Star Kampuchea.

This subcommittee held a meeting on 26th Apr 2010 from 2:30pm.00 to 4:00pm at NGO-CEDAW office.



and

Domestic Violence Situation

For many Cambodians, home remains a place where terror reigns. What these women fear most is not harassment from strangers, but the daily brutality perpetrated by relatives, friends and lovers. Abuses at home are the most common form of violence against women and are a significant cause of injury women of childbearing age. However, coverage of this issue in media is very limited, as events within the domestic sphere – no matter how horrible – are considered to be a private matter.

Because domestic violence is officially considered a private family matter, it is seen as having little relevance in terms of social justice and human rights. Incongruously, while physical abuse is seen as a crime outside the home and perceived as bad, it is not the same when the violence takes place within the domestic sphere – even when there are specific laws that explicitly condemn it. There appear to be many factors preventing women from reporting domestic violence: the permissiveness of the community, the fear of being stigmatized, social rejection, the isolation of victims, and ignorance of laws prohibiting domestic violence.

Most studies in Cambodia over the past decade reflect that roughly one in five women has experienced some form of domestic violence (including sexual violence). Yet it is also believed that domestic violence is underreported. A 2005 study by CDHS (Cambodian Demographic and Health Survey) revealed that 22% of women had experienced physical abuse, sexual or emotional abuse from their husbands. One in 10 women had experienced actual physical abuse from their partners during the twelve months that the study covered.

⁷ Paz y Desarrollo

Research into the causes of domestic violence in Cambodia has suggested that many men feel a need to establish control over their wives, regulating their attitudes, behaviours and actions. Some 85% of women who reported being victimized said their husbands were “very controlling”. Exposure to domestic violence as a child may also play a role: In a study by MoWA, 25% of men and 20% of women said that they had witnessed their fathers abusing their mothers.

Domestic Violence Recommendations

The government should:

1. Disseminate relevant laws to people from all walks of life.
2. Increase the amount of females in authority positions at all levels of government, so that victims of domestic violence feel more comfortable in seeking help.
3. Provide training in relevant domestic violence laws for all competent authorities across the country.
4. Work to increase the number of female judges and lawyers.
5. Increase the number of safe refuges and social services for poor families, especially for victims of domestic violence.
6. Request an increase in the national budget for proper implementation of anti-domestic violence programs.
7. Foster female-owned businesses, so that women can become more financially independent
8. Promote vigorous and non-gender-biased follow-up by authorities for domestic violence complaints.
9. Civil society should fund more programs to provide legal aid to domestic violence victims and programs to educate women about their rights.

Rape, Trafficking and Sexual Harassment Situation

Gender-based violence is prevalent in Cambodia despite also being under-reported. Incidences of domestic violence remained high over the past decade, while reported cases of rape have increased. Reliable data on the frequency of sexual exploitation is unavailable, although it appears to be entrenched in Cambodian society⁸. Traditional gender relations assign women lower status than men, with women receiving lower levels of education and occupying fewer positions of power. Gender-based violence is usually hidden by the veil of silence and shame; there is a feeling that reporting could bring stigmatization. The problem must also be viewed in the context of Cambodia’s wider culture of violence and impunity, where violence is an accepted way of resolving conflicts and perpetrators are rarely punished⁹.

The government and civil society have been working to protect women’s human rights on issues such as domestic violence, trafficking and rape. The government’s National Action Plan to Prevent Violence on Women has been adopted by the Council of Ministers as guidance for further intervention. Some progress has been achieved in strengthening the legal framework used to address violence against women. A total of eight laws have been adopted to protect women’s rights, not including the Cambodian Constitution, which also contains provisions protecting women’s rights¹⁰. Cambodia has signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)¹¹, it is a member of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and it has ratified more than 10 international

⁸ “A Fair Share for Women-Cambodia Gender Assessment” Ministry of Women’s Affairs of Cambodia, April 2008

⁹ “A Fair Share for Women-Cambodia Gender Assessment” Ministry of Women’s Affairs of Cambodia, April 2008

¹⁰ <http://www.embassy.org/cambodia/government/constitution.htm>

¹¹ <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/states.htm>

instruments providing fundamental protection for female workers. Cambodia has pledged to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Despite these efforts, the reality is that Cambodian women still face an unacceptable risk of rape, trafficking, sexual exploitation and sexual harassment.

Rape, Trafficking and Sexual Harassment Recommendations

1. Ensure that all laws related to violence against women are enforced in accordance with the CEDAW and other international instruments.
2. Enact rape legislation that comprehensively defines the element of “consent” as a crucial term needed to objectively assess the crime of rape or attempted rape.
3. Amend the Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence and the Protection of Victims to specifically and objectively define the crime of marital rape.
4. Include rehabilitation measures for rape victims.
5. Better implementation of the Law on Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation. Ensuring that this law includes a comprehensive international standard definition of trafficking. The law should also include a protection clause for victims of trafficking including rehabilitation and repatriation where necessary, as well as other support services.
6. Embark on a sustained advocacy campaign to educate Cambodians (focusing on women) on the subject of rape, the rights of rape victims, rape laws and the criminal procedure.
7. Educate legal and judicial officials on the correct interpretation of rape legislation.
8. Prosecute those officials who misinterpret and abuse the law, including those who participate in or facilitate the brokering of compensation settlements.
9. Provide counselling and rehabilitative shelters for victims of rape and trafficking.
10. Provide continuing training on trafficking crimes for police and border officials working in proximity to trafficking and sex trade centres.
11. Civil society should work together to bring attention to the most urgent issues regarding violence against women and use every opportunity to insist that the Cambodian Government fulfils its obligations under the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms Of Discrimination Against Women*.
12. Design a working strategy oriented to make positive changes in Cambodians’ perception of female sexuality.
13. Disseminate the knowledge that women like men have the right not to suffer; that women deserve to retain their physical and moral integrity; that women’s dignity must be preserved and that women should not be forced to act against their will.

Subcommittee for Health and Environment;

Facilitated by a representative from Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia (RHAC). It is composed of 11 members from CMH, FHI, IDA, KHANA, Meakeasrei, Medicam, Mlob Baitong, NGO-FORUM, PSF, RHAC, and WDA.

This subcommittee held a meeting on 08th Apr 2010 from 10:00am to 11:30am at NGO-CEDAW office.

Health and Environment Situation

The current state of Cambodia's health infrastructure is exceedingly poor, with huge gaps that affect all Cambodians, not just women. In order to improve the situation, the Royal Government of Cambodia has developed the *2008-2015 Health Strategic Plan*.

According to the report on achievements in the health sector in 2008, health centres, health stations and hospitals have increased in numbers. Also, the number of emergency medical service vehicles has increased and they have been distributed in various geographical. The Government has also afforded national and international organizations and the United Nations agencies every possibility to jointly use equity funds to be provided to the poor in receiving health service at public health bases. This has been implemented with the national budget and the rest are supported by the budgets of development partners.

However, despite some steps taken in order to improve the care of Cambodian women in the field of sexual and reproductive health, one of the main obstacles remains the mentality of Cambodians toward sexuality. There is a social taboo to speak about female sexuality. This has a significant impact on the risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases (STD) and in the number of unwanted pregnancies and consequent abortions.

In Cambodia, there is an image of female purity linked to the absence of sex. Thus, virginity is considered a virtue for an unmarried woman, while sexual promiscuity brings social rejection.

There is a lack of reliable data provided by the government regarding most aspects of women's health in Cambodia. According to official reports, female life expectancy has increased from 58 years in 1998, to 65.6 years in 2004. However, the absence of recent data does not allow us to establish conclusions and to assess real progress. According to the latest data, it appears that female life expectancy is 6.3 years more than male (NIS 2004). According to other data, child mortality under five years of age also decreased from 2000 to 2005 and continues to be higher for boys than for girls. All other available indicators that include health issues are from 2005 at the latest. There is a need for more recent data to better understand women's health issues in Cambodia today, including women's access to medical resources and the effectiveness of these resources.

Health and Environment Recommendations

1. Substantially increase the national health budget.
2. The health of the people should be guaranteed. The State shall give full consideration to disease prevention and medical treatment. Poor citizens shall receive free medical consultation in public hospitals, infirmaries and maternities¹².

¹² Article 72 of the Cambodian Constitution

3. Every health centre must provide consultation and treatment services with confidentiality and disseminate health issues widely and encourage citizens to receive these state services.
4. Every referral hospital must provide medical consultation and treatment for all citizens with an appropriate level of care.
5. Service providers (which can be service providers in health centres, referral hospitals and NGO clinics) must support and encourage citizens (especially girls) in making informed, independent on reproductive health issues.
6. Service providers must explain and provide knowledge to people – especially younger people – on health, social and economic issues so that they can avoid unwanted pregnancy.
7. Service providers must provide services and consultation for citizens (especially youth) concerning birth control, medical check-ups and treatment of communicable diseases, antenatal care, nutrition and addictive drugs.
8. The Ministry of Health must build adequate health centres in all rural areas.
9. To establish medical treatment and transportation service for poor citizens free of charge.
10. The Department of Women's Affairs must design a dissemination program on health and sexual rights knowledge for citizens, especially women and adolescents.
11. To involve men in pregnancy and the delivery process and to share common responsibility in ensuring their wives' welfare.
12. To create support programs focused on social and attitudinal change related to condom use.
13. To disseminate and promote discussions on the Law on the Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS and its implementation guidelines.
14. Establish free prenatal care and free delivery care for all pregnant women.

Subcommittee for Education, Information, and Media;

Facilitated by a representative of Open Institute (OI). It is composed of six members from DAC, NEP, OI, VYCD, WMC, and YRDP.

This subcommittee held a meeting on April 9 and September 8, 2010 at Open Institute office. We seek recommendations regarding women in education and media for mainstreaming in shadow report. The meeting pointed out that the shadow report should include specific information related to women in ICT (Information and Communication Technology), not just in normal media because it's an effective tool as well for promoting women and sharing information. Participants want to see more women get involved and reflect themselves in modern media. Participants requested government to make the price of Internet lower so all low income citizens can afford to use it, especially in province. 9 members attended.

Education and Media Situation:

Education is a fundamental human right and essential to the exercise all other rights. It promotes freedom and personal autonomy and generates significant benefits for development. However, many children and adults in Cambodia remain deprived of educational opportunities, often due to poverty and specific socio-political situations.



The policy instruments of the United Nations enshrine education as a universal right. These instruments promote and develop the right of every person to enjoy access to quality education without discrimination or exclusion. But it is up to individual governments to take action to actually ensure quality education for all.

Education should be a priority for Cambodia. It is a fundamental tool for social change and for the development of positive attitudes towards citizen rights. Investment in education means not just building schools, but also providing access to these schools and providing an appropriate curriculum. The curriculum must be carefully designed to eliminate gender stereotyping, so that future generations are raised to understand the values of equality and respect.

Furthermore, the government should provide training for adult women who have not had previous access to education. Media, including Internet outlets, should be included in a comprehensive educational picture in the journey towards non-discrimination.

Despite legislative efforts to reduce discrimination against women in relation to education, there is a marked difference between law and reality. Society's recognition of the right to education and its benefits has not actually impacted the educational opportunities of most women. This is a result of the prevailing social code that limits what is considered appropriate for women from a moral standpoint: the "Chbab Srey". The contents of this code impacts the lives of Cambodian women, contributing to high rates of illiteracy, controlled movements, and limits on opportunities to learn and take action.

Whilst government anti-discrimination policies have not been as effective as they could be, a more serious problem may be deep-seated traditionalist behavior that promote continued inequality between men and women. In a sense, the door to gender equity is only half-open.

Education and Media Recommendations

1. Monitor, strengthen and expand the implementation of CFS through intensive and systematic in-service training programs.
2. Implement a progressive policy on the education of children with disabilities.
3. Ensure that all school-age children, especially girls, have access to education.
4. Increase the number of teachers, especially in remote or disadvantaged areas.
5. Increase the government scholarship budget for primary and lower secondary students in order to decrease dropout rates among poor children and girls.
6. Increase school operational budgets in accord with school plans.
7. Use government budgets for bilingual teaching materials.
8. Abolish informal school fees.
9. Increase the number of scholarships and bicycles for girls at Grades 7-9.
10. Develop awareness and capacity for analyzing gender issues at all levels (from national to school/community levels).
11. Increase scholarship programs and boarding school for the poorest girls.
12. Ensure physical safety for all girls who go to school.
13. Require school directors to reach out to families with girls at the appropriate age for Grades 4-6.
14. Work with communities to stop girls from dropping out of school.

Subcommittee for Politics and Decision making;

Facilitated by a representative of SILAKA. It is composed of eight members from CDRI, COMFREL, CWPDP, GAD/C, NICFEC, SILAKA, WFP, WMC. This subcommittee held meetings on April 20 and September 9, 2010 at SILAKA office.

The subcommittee expects women in politics and decision making in all fields of activities increased until gender equality is attained. 8 members attended.

Politics and Decision Making Situation

Cambodia has instituted a number of laws and mechanisms that are meant to ensure equality in the areas of governance and political participation. Although these laws are neutral in respect to gender, they also interact with society's conceptions about the roles that men and women should play in society. Leadership, for example, is considered to be the domain of males in most Southeast Asian cultures.

The home is considered the place where Cambodian women make decisions for their daily sustenance, but the administration of the rest of society is in the hands of men. The notion that women can have social responsibilities beyond their homes is often challenged on the grounds that women do not have tools or time to carry them out. Southeast Asia has one of the world's lowest representations of females in decision-making arenas. The customs and social conceptions about the position of women is one of the biggest impediments to their political participation.

In Cambodia, a so-called code of conduct for women – “Chbab Srey” – is prevalent. It legitimizes the submission of women and encourages unconditional respect to the husband and other men. It requires obedience, discretion and silence within households, schools and day-to-day community experiences. At the same time, the state legally recognizes the rights of women have their own voice to take part in decisions that affect their lives and their communities.

Obviously, submission and participation are contradictory concepts, and the prevailing social conventions for women tend to be more powerful than the actual legal rights. The Philippines and Vietnam face a similar situation.

Thus, the implementation of legal rights and obligations alone does not necessarily have a direct causal effect in eliminating gender inequality. The right of women to vote, for example, does not guarantee that they can exercise it freely, since in many cases family and husbands are the ones who decide the fate and function of that vote.

Politics and Decision Making Recommendations

Guidelines recommended for eliminating any form of discrimination against women in politics and decision-making in Cambodia must include three lines of action:

1. Working on the construction and reinforcement of the basis of citizenship, i.e., women's active participation in forums and decision-making aspects in their communities, in their right to vote freely (and awareness of the importance of exercising this right) and implementation of measures to improve both their status and position within society.
2. Training of future women leaders with the aim of reversing and deconstructing the established considerations about the male model of leadership and work; in the process, new values such as solidarity, responsibility and autonomy should be encouraged.

3. Training in gender awareness focused on reducing gender inequality and empowering women.
4. Civil society should be vigilant and insist that all passages from the school curriculum which still reinforce female stereotypes and prevent women's full participation in decision-making are removed. It should insist that media agencies refrain from strong stereotyping.

Recommendations to the government

1. Pay more attention to the actual enforcement and effectiveness of legislation. Use qualitative and quantitative methods to monitor and evaluate existing provisions and ensure sufficient budget allocations and transparent financial management.
2. Support women and women's groups in holding the government accountable for their commitments through women's active participation in data collection and monitoring, among other things.
3. Aim for better coordination of training activities, with special attention paid to the relation between women's rights and Cambodia's cultural obstacles to women's rights.
4. MOWA and the Ministry of Justice must develop and implement a program to increase the number of female decision-makers in the judicial branch through special measures and encouragement of female law students.
5. High-level male officials and men in general need to be increasingly integrated into training and awareness-raising activities by focusing on mutual support between men and women. Gender-sensitive awareness training must be considered for men at the workplace.
6. Focus on cross-party dialogue in order to achieve better cooperation and integration of women's voices and needs instead of focusing solely on advantages for the party and patronage structures.
7. All GMAPs should refer to women in decision-making and leadership within their own ministries and within their policies. GMAPs should take a more structural approach when assessing barriers to women's advancement, budget items to ensure their implementation are crucial.
8. Increase salaries in the public sector to enable participation of poor and rural women. Salaries must be paid in a timely manner. Increasing salaries will help ensure that a woman's investment in education will lead to employment and increased income. Poverty will be less likely to prevent women's participation in the public sector.
9. Strengthen gender-sensitive minority rights to ensure the full participation of indigenous women.
10. Take concrete measures to prevent violence and threats of violence against women running for office and participating in political activities; impose effective and independent legal remedies to safeguard their rights. Our knowledge of the situation in Cambodia suggests that women politicians, activists and voters must participate in the construction of a regional policy agenda that promotes participation and representation at all levels of government and allows all women the right to enjoy the full benefits of citizenship. Gender equality and democracy should be built through political participation, but this is never easy, fast or straightforward. Men and women must work together to develop a process of deep change to effectively address the root causes of inequality.

Subcommittee for Labor and Economy;

Facilitated by a representative of GAD/C. It is composed of six members from BSO, CDCam, CWCD, GAD/C, OXFAM-GB, and YRDP.

This subcommittee held a meeting on April 19, 2010 from 10:30am to 12:00pm at GAD/C office.

Labor and Economy Situation

The Cambodian economy has improved significantly since 1992, when, after more than two decades of isolation and internal conflict, the economy started to work within a more stable macroeconomic framework and within a free market regime. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate was high until 2008, with an annual average growth of almost 9% over 10 years. However, the world economic crisis had a significant impact on the national economy. By 2009, the country experienced a significant decrease in GDP of -2.0%, compared with a 5.2% increase in other Southern Asian countries. In 2009, the inflation rate was 6.7% (Asia Development Bank, AEM Economic Update, 2010). The internal demand for products and textile exports has decreased, causing a contraction in economic activity, whose slow recovery is predicted to continue. Regarding the last available data (UNDP, 2009), the average annual income per person is 1,848 USD; the average is 2,158 USD for men and 1,465 USD for women.

Concerning specific gender indicators, Cambodia is ranked 113th on the GDI list and in 91st in GEM, according to UNDP's 2009 Human Rights Report. The economy's recent contraction, together with the difficulties faced in the exploitation of resources from rural areas, have caused Cambodian development indicators to be among the lowest of the continent. According to the last available data (UNDP, Human Development Report, 2009), the country's Human Development Index is 0.593, placing Cambodia 137th among all the studied countries, below Congo and Myanmar. The Human Poverty Index is 30.4% and the Gross National Product per capita is 1,802 USD, which places Cambodia in 143th position among all studied countries.

Analyzing the socio-economical context from a human rights perspective, Cambodia presents strong disparities. Some 20% of the national population keeps control of half of national wealth (World Bank, 2008). Inequality in the access to services between urban and rural areas remains a problem. Health services in northern provinces are almost non-existent, creating such disparity that a woman delivering a child in Phnom Penh is six times more likely to be assisted by qualified staff than in either Ratanakiri or Mondulakiri provinces. Meanwhile, 40% of men and 60% of women from these two areas have no formal education, compared to only 15% in the capital city (Centre for Economic and Social Rights, 2009).

Up to 81% of Cambodian women between 15 and 64 years old participate in economic activities – one of the highest rates in Southeast Asia. However, participation of Cambodian women in the formal economic sector is still limited. Only approximately 17% of Cambodian women are employed and receive remuneration, while 83% of Cambodian women participate in the informal economic sector, which includes self-employment (mainly small-scale farming and household business operations) or family work without remuneration. The literacy rate of employed women is only 69%, compared to 84% for men. This gap strongly influences employment opportunities for women. In addition to the education gap, other factors contribute to depress the economic status of women. These include the lack of experience and enterprise skills, lack of awareness about marketing, their mindset, social discrimination, lack of resources such as credit and lack of production means.

Customary roles also influence women's participation in the economic sector in that they are expected to spend most of their time carrying out traditional roles.

On the other hand, women's domestic roles are undervalued. Over 90% of the time spent on household and family care is provided by women. Women between 18 and 60 years old dedicate three more hours to household work per day than men (3.3 hours compared to 0.3 hours). As a result, women have no free time for personal activities or to attend classes that improve their job skills. The responsibilities of being caretakers for their relatives and to do all the housework prevents women from engaging in productive work, community decision-making and planning processes.

Labor and Economy Recommendations

The Government should:

1. Implement existing legislation and conventions on women's rights in order to improve economic policy and ensure that women receive equal benefits and access to new employment opportunities.
2. Prioritize women's involvement in agriculture, and ensure that they actively participate in and benefit from resulting economic growth.
3. Prioritize the conversion of informal small enterprises into formal small enterprises and conduct business planning training to ensure sustainability of these businesses. It should also pay special attention to quality, health issues, registration, legal standards, and development of human resources and management.
4. Provide technical materials and other production resources to farmers who have smaller plots of land, particularly female farmers, so as to increase agricultural productivity.
5. Establish a system to disseminate work-related information in order to reduce risks and expenses incurred in employment searches and to help women to make appropriate work-related decisions.
6. Create programs to increase employment opportunities, such as vocational training programs, self-employment support and promotion of mobility (e.g. resettlement, construction and establishment of new villages).
7. Take a number of measures regarding overseas migration of workers, such as ensuring a safe regional transfer and return system and establishing close ties between ministries concerned with overseas migration and trafficking.
8. Encourage the availability of business development training for women, and ensure that more people, especially poor women, receive benefits from microcredit services. Create policies that encourage women, especially poor women, to create and sustain businesses – e.g., streamlined business registration policies and simplified tax payments.
9. Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.
10. Those who work in the informal economy should be protected by the Labour Law in order to ensure that they are protected from wage exploitation and poor working conditions.
11. The government's investment in the agricultural sector should include a plan to close the gender gap and enable women to hold decision-making position at all levels. It is necessary to link the principle of gender equity with overcoming social obstacles for women.

Subcommittee for Vulnerable, Disabled, and Minority Women;

Facilitated by a representative of NGO-FORUM. It is composed of five members from ADD, CDPO, DAC, ICSO, NGO-FORUM.

This subcommittee held a meeting on April 9, 2010 from 9:00am to 10:30am at NGO-CEDAW office.

The assessment of the situation of for Vulnerable, Disabled, and Minority Women is included within the corpus of the other subcommittees;

Results/outcome	Difficulties/challenge	Lessons learned	Comments
A research and analysis of several aspects of the situation of women in Cambodia	A difficult task has been compounding the reports from the various subcommittees in a single document: Shadow Report. Lots of translation and editing are needed.	We need specialized staff to translate, edit documents and compound the report.	The subcommittees are an essential part of NGO-CEDAW. They need more support to perform their huge tasks.

8. Radio Broadcasts

We have done a series of talk show call-in radio programs where topics related to violence against women (Domestic violence, rape, trafficking, acid attacks...) have been discussed.

Each one hour program featured a theme and a least one guest speaker.

Following the discussion, listeners have called the radio station, asked questions and/or expressed their opinions on the topics and on the interventions from other callers.

Each program lasted one hour, some programs were rebroadcast. Programs were on VOD 106 FM (Voice of Democracy) and on Sambok Khmom 105 FM.

Voice of Democracy (VOD), FM 106.5

In 2010, the VOD radio station broadcast a talk show sponsored and organized by NGO-CEDAW in partnership with VOD. Programs are broadcast every Friday from 10 to 11 am. Each is Programs is broadcast live once and rebroadcast once. In 2010, starting on May 7, the talk show was broadcast live 17 times and there was 17 rebroadcast, for a total of 34 programs. Representatives from NGO-CEDAW members were invited as guest speakers. The public was encouraged to participate and the response was very encouraging. In 17 live programs, 55 callers from the public joined the discussion.

Topics for the first talk shows ranged from “Gender and direct and indirect discrimination”, “The role of authorities in charge in intervention on cases of domestic violence and how to assist victims”, “Women and trafficking” to “Women and acid attacks”.

Sombok Khmum (Beehive Radio), FM 105

Radio live broadcast of “The Voice of Cambodian Women” (in Khmer language) every Wednesday and Thursday on Sombok Khmum radio at 10:00 am to 11:00 am. The format is a talk show where the public is encouraged to call-in and participate.

These programs have been sponsored by Licadho and Sombok Khmum from January to July 2010 and by Canada Fund from August to December.

Every Wednesday, the topic covers domestic violence, including the “Prevention of Domestic Violence and Assistance to the Victims” law.

Every Thursday, the program discusses rape and trafficking.

Most guest speakers come from NGO-CEDAW member organizations.

From January to December 2010, there was 104 programs, including 90 live programs and 14 rebroadcasts.



Information on programs:

Number of auditors per broadcast (According to the broadcaster).

VOD: 1,170,000 listeners

FM 105: 750,000 listeners

Number of callers.

VOD: 55 callers, 23 female

FM 105: 312 callers, 80 female

Total: 377 callers, 103 female

Percentage of female callers.

VOD: 42%

FM 105: 25%

Overall: **27%**

Feedback on interventions by callers.

FM 105: Radio Broadcast every Wednesday and Thursday from 10:00-11:00 am.

Topics and interventions by callers included:

- Violence against women, (90 callers)
- Lack of intervention by authorities in charge. What is the solution? (120 callers)
- Is divorce a final solution? (12 callers)
- Should women marry someone who raped them? (10 callers)
- Solving family disputes outside court system? Is it a good solution? (81 callers)
- Do women suffer more than men from domestic violence? (12 callers)
- How to prevent domestic violence? (12 callers)
- Is alcohol the main cause of domestic violence? (10 callers)
- Marriage without official certification? (10 callers)
- How education can help women be less prone to be victims? (66 callers)

VoD Live Broadcasts	Topic of Program	Male Callers	Female Callers	Topics and Comments from Callers
7-May	Presentation of NGO-CEDAW	8	3	Explanation and implementation of CEDAW.
	Police & Domestic violence	2	1	Attitudes and culture. Violence, attitude and behavior of authorities. Questions on the due process of justice.
21-May	Women and sexual trafficking	2		What to do to avoid it? Statistics on Women Trafficking.
4-Jun	Acid attacks on women	2	1	Demand for punishment; assistance to victims
18-Jun	Female victims of rape.	6	4	Law enforcement, corruption (power and money); how to get police to act; reasons for migrations; child labor; availability of health education, HIV
2-Jul	Women leaving their homeland	1		Many women are leaving their home to become migrant workers.
23-Jul	Domestic violence and protection of victims			No callers. No time for calls after discussion
30-Jul	Housework by women and children	1	1	Statistics; causes and legality of housework.
13-Aug	Women with HIV	1	2	Affecting especially poor , uneducated women. Discrimination. Availability of support and medicine. Questions on treatment of HIV.
3-Sep	Women and reproductive health	1	1	How to educate women on this topic.
17-Sep	Women working in the entertainment sector			No time for calls after discussion
1-Oct	Women in the workplace			No time for calls after discussion
15-Oct	The family law	1	4	Right to marry, validity of marriage, Divorce and property
12-Nov	Counseling and distress	3	1	The stampede on Koh Pich bridge
26-Nov	Female health and the involvement of men	1	3	Duties of husband and wife toward each other, health awareness of women, HIV
3-Dec	Equality between men and women; is it right?		1	Equality starts at home and should then be reinforced by the government through education, services and opportunities.
17-Dec	Women in the economic life of the family	3	1	Women should follow traditional Khmer culture. Women should get educated and free themselves from inequalities condoned by tradition and culture; Rights and duties of women.
31-Dec				
Total Callers		32	23	55 callers
		58%	42%	

FM 105:

- 37% of callers think that local authorities won't intervene because they are unconcerned or maybe expecting money.
- 30% of callers do not trust the judicial officers and the court; they prefer negotiation and a financial compensation with the perpetrator.
- 19% of callers say neighbors do not dare intervene in other family problems by fear of reprisals.
- 17% of callers say family members do not intervene or do not react because they are also afraid of reprisals.

28% of callers are concerned by migrant workers issue and arranged marriage with foreigners, especially Korean and Taiwanese; their problems, how to avoid or resolve them, how to get protection before departure for a foreign country or while in a foreign country.

Results/outcome	Difficulties/challenge	Lessons learned	Comments
Increase awareness of the public and authorities on gender violence (End Violence Against Women, EVAW) especially domestic violence, rape, trafficking and the Domestic Violence law including the rights and obligations. The call-In format of the radio programs allows for members of the public to ask questions, share their personal experience and obtain clarifications on issues that concern them.	Speakers and guests are always busy and as they are volunteers, they expect transport fees. Callers find it difficult to reach the speakers and express their opinion. Lines are "always busy". Callers also complain they have to pay for the communication.	It would help if we could provide a stipend to speakers. We recall callers to avoid them being charged for the communication.	We found out that authorities are comfortable listening to the opinions of callers in the privacy of their home or office. They don't have to give immediate feedback and it gives them the opportunity to think about issues raised. Radio broadcasts are a very important part of the "soft advocacy" program and is essential to reach as many people as possible.

9. NGO-CEDAW Website

The NGO-CEDAW website offers a portal where information on NGO-CEDAW, activities and its members can be found.

Documents like all the Shadow Reports (1997, 2001, 2005 and soon 2010) and other publications are available for consultation and download.

We are in the process of including links and information on member organizations, donors and sources of support and information.

A majority of members do not have a website. With financial support from donors, we plan to offer the possibility to members to have a page on the NGO-CEDAW website and a presence on the web free of charge.

The website is online but still under development. It can be reached at: www.ngocedaw.org

Results/outcome	Difficulties/challenge	Lessons learned	Comments
A website reachable from anywhere has been made available to members and users. We also give members the opportunity to have a presence on the web.	Receiving adequate publishable material from members is not an easy task. Many members are not familiar with internet and email to send documents, pictures and sounds. A lot of text editing both in Khmer and English needs to be done as well as photo selection.	Editors/assistants for Khmer and English should be hired. A budget for translation is necessary. Capacity building for members should include an introduction to information and communication technologies (IT).	The website is an important part of the NGO-CEDAW and its importance will increase. It allows us to links with other organizations worldwide.

III. Conclusion

The reorganization of NGO-CEDAW in 2010, has yielded results as expected.

A financial audit by PriceWaterhouse Coopers (PWC) has been performed, helping assess administrative weaknesses. The auditors few recommendations will be embedded in NGO-CEDAW administrative procedures. Furthermore a four year evaluation report is to be done by an independent expert in early 2011.

The structure of NGO-CEDAW has been strengthened, the member directory updated.

Regular meetings of a more active Steering Committee have given an impetus to activities by members.

NGO-CEDAW website is online and evolving according to expectations.

The 2010 Shadow Report is in the final phase of editing and is to be published in 2011 with the support of Canada Fund.

With adequate funding, more capacity building of members could be done. It would help strengthen their ability to perform a better and more efficient monitoring of the implementation of CEDAW, the UN Concluding Comments and the expansion of NGO-CEDAW and its members presence on the web.

NGO-CEDAW has been instrumental in the government ratification of the optional protocol of CEDAW and in the drafting of a specific law against acid attacks. NGO-CEDAW also successfully lobbied to have the ban on marriage of Cambodian women with foreigners lifted. However, the government banned marriage with foreign men aged more than 50 or earning less than USD 2,500 per month.

In the near future, we hope to succeed in lobbying the government to ratify the convention on migrant workers and their families and implement a non-discriminatory marriage law.

The action plan for the next four year has been adopted by the Steering Committee and by the members. As soon as the Shadow Report is published, a new advocacy campaign will be launched to address highlighted issues.

NGO-CEDAW is an important source of information on the advancement of the situation of Women in Cambodia. It is essential this coalition remains active and be given the possibility to further support local organizations to eliminate gender discrimination in the Cambodian society.

Elimination of gender discrimination can lead to a more stable society. This a necessary condition for a balanced economic and social development of the country.

At the present time however, funding of NGO-CEDAW and its activities is an area of concern. We hope donors will continue their financial support.

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IV Annexes

List of members:

	NGO Acronym	NGO Full Name
1	ADHOC	ADHOC
2	AFD	Association of Farmer Development
3	AFESIP	Agir Pour les Femmes En Situation Precaire
4	AHRDHE	Association for Human Resources Development and Health Education
5	AMARA	AMARA
6	ARR	Arun Reah Organization
7	BSO	Banteay Srei Organigation
8	BWAP	Battambang Women AIDS Project
9	CADPP	Cambodian Association for Development of Poor People
10	CARAM	Coordination of Action Rsearch on AIDS and Mobility
11	CAREPO	Cambodia Right and Justice Protection
12	CCIM	Cambodian Center for Independent Media
13	CCPCR	Cambodia Center for the Protection of Children's Right
14	CDCam	Conservation and Development on Cambodia
15	CDP	Cambodian Defenders Project
16	CDPO	Cambodia Disable People's Organization
17	CDRCP	Cambodian Development Relief Center for the Poor
18	CODO	Community Development Organization
19	COSECAM	NGO Coalition to Address (Sexual) Exploitation of Children in Cambodia
20	CPWP	Committee to Promote Women in Politics
21	CRD	Cambodia Reseachers for Development
22	CSD	Center for Social Development
23	CSP	Crom Sovann Phum
24	CWCC	Cambodian Women's Crisis Center
25	CWDA	The Cambodia Women's Development Agency
26	CWPD	Cambodian Women for Peace and Development
27	DAC	Development Association of Cambodia
28	DOCS	Development Organization Cambodia Society
29	E.D.C.O	Economic Development Community Organization
30	FAA	Fine Arts Association
31	FLO	Future Light Orphanage
32	FLOW	Future Light Organization of Women
33	GAD/C	Gender And Development for Cambodia
34	GGAC	Girl Guides Association of Cambodia
35	IDA	Indradevi Association
36	KHEMARA	KHEMARA
37	K.I.F.H.R.D.A	Khmer Intellectuals For Human Resource Development Association
38	KKKHRA	Khmer Kampuchea Krom Human Rights Association
39	KWCD	Khmer Women's Cooperation for Development
40	KWVC	Khmer Women's Voice Center

41	KYA	Khmer Youth Association
42	LAC	Legal Aid of Cambodia
43	LICADHO	Cambodian League For The Promotion And Defense Of Human Rights
44	MEC	Medicine de l'espoir Cambodge
45	ML & NV	Mother Love and None Violence
46	NAPA	National Prosperity Association
47	NEP	NGO Education Partnership
48	NGO Forum	NGO Forum
49	NICFEC	Neutral and Impartial Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia
50	OGB	Oxfam Great Britain
51	OI	Open Institute
52	PADV	Project Against Domestic Violence
53	PCC	Positive Change for Cambodia
54	PYD	Paz Y Desarrollo
55	RAA	Rasmey Agriculture Association
56	RHB	Rachana Handicrafts Battambang
57	RHAC	Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia
58	SABORAS	SABORAS
59	SERRC	
60	SILAKA	SILAKA
61	SK	Star Kampuchea
62	USG	Urban Sector Group
63	VAWCC	Violence Against Women and Children of Cambodia
64	VIGILANCE	Human Rights Vigilance of Cambodia
65	VYCD	Volunteer Youth Congress for Democracy
66	WDA	Women Development Association
67	WFP	Women For Prosperity
68	WLA	Women Light Association
69	WMC	Women's Media center of Cambodia
70	WODAC	Women in Development And Community
71	WOSO	Women Service Organization
72	YRDP	Youth Resource Development Program

Acronyms

CCC	Cooperation Committee for Cambodia
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CHRAC	Cambodian Human Rights Action Committee
CMDGs	Cambodia Millennium Development Goals
CNCW	Cambodian National Council for Women
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
HIV/AIDS	Acquired Human Immune-Deficiency Syndrome/Virus
HSS HIV	Sentinel Surveillance
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
IMR	Infant mortality rate
IWRAW	Asia Pacific International Women's Rights Action Watch
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoWA	Ministry of Women's Affairs
MoSVY	Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation
NCHADS	National Centre for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STD
NIC	National Institute of Cambodia
NIS	National Institute of Statistics
RGC	Royal Government of Cambodia
STD	Sexually Transmitted Disease
UNCOHCR	Cambodia Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNHCR	High Commissioner's Office for Refugees
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNTAC	United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia
WTO	World Trade Organization

ACID ATTACKS: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE DRAFT LAW

Cambodia is one of the few countries in the world where crimes of acid attack are still perpetrated, sometimes unpunished. Cambodian law does not specifically criminalize acid violence.

Acid attacks can leave the victims mutilated, blind, scarred and psychologically disabled, sometimes for the rest of their lives. In severe cases, most victims are excluded from society and unable to find a job, may endure physical and psychological torture for the rest of their lives.

The Royal Government of Cambodia is currently drafting a law that is said to include stricter regulations for acid sales and tougher punishment for perpetrators of acid attacks.

While we regret that this process is not conducted in cooperation with members of civil society and NGOs – who regularly cope with these crimes and are involved in relief program for victims – we express satisfaction, since this is the first time that Cambodian law would specifically refer to acid attacks and help bring acid throwers to justice.

Cambodian civil society would welcome the chance to consult with the National Assembly and the Senate before they approve the draft law.

The law should include strong punishments for acid attacks committed for any reason, such as robbery. But maximum penalties for perpetrators should be more severe for cases which result in permanent disabilities, such as blindness. The government and civil society should encourage maximum publicity for the law, to encourage awareness among the public, police and courts.

We hope this new law, once adopted, will be enforced by authorities at all level, without regard to power, social networks or economic clout. Strict and unbiased enforcement of the law is critical to its effectiveness. Every time an acid thrower is allowed to go free, it signals the possibility of impunity for would-be perpetrators.

In addition, we suggest that the law should be accompanied by a set of government initiatives to educate the public and help victims to overcome their medical, psychological and social hardships.

In this respect, Cambodian authorities involved in this question should consider the following:

Promote public education: The public should be educated, especially through popular media such as television and radio, about the cruelty and immorality of

acid throwers. Education should emphasize that perpetrators should be sent to prison. Education should also promote compassion - not blame - for victims.

Condemn acid attacks: Senior government officials, police and court officials, medical doctors, monks, NGO leaders and others should publicly condemn acid attacks and call for strong punishment of perpetrators.

Assist victims to speak out: Acid victims are often isolated and ignored in society. It is important that the voices of victims be heard, or little will be done to assist them and prevent acid attacks. Victims should be encouraged to speak, in groups or on their own behalf, to the government, the courts and the public.

Provide medical and other services for victims: Acid attack victims need very specialized help to rebuild their lives. The government and NGOs should strongly support the burns unit at Kossamak Hospital in Phnom Penh. Similar units should also be established in the provinces. Victims should receive psychological support and judicial counseling free of charge.

Skills training programs: Government and NGOs should work together to create and support programs designed to facilitate reinsertion of assist acid attack victims.

Strengthen controls on acid sales: The sale of strong, undiluted acid should be strictly regulated by law. Sellers should be required to record the names and addresses of all buyers. When acid attacks occur, part of the police investigation should include determining where the perpetrator obtained the acid. Sellers should be prosecuted if they violated the law.

By:

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