



Annual Report 2016

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NGO-CEDAW BACKGROUND

NGO-CEDAW was founded in 1995 after several Cambodian women activists returned from the Beijing World Conference on Women. NGO-CEDAW has been a nationally registered NGO with Cambodia's Ministry of Interior since October 21, 2009 with registration number 2587. As of 2015, NGO-CEDAW had grown to a coalition of more than 90 member NGOs and it had developed significant networks dedicated to the advancement of women. At the Member Assembly in 2015, members agreed to commit to integrating CEDAW monitoring into their organizations' daily work. As a result, the membership in 2016 was closer to 40 organizations, but all of them are more active participants in the coalition. NGO-CEDAW conducted extensive capacity-building at members' offices to ensure that as many staff of member NGOs as possible were able to benefit from training on CEDAW, CEDAW monitoring and mobile data collection.

NGO-CEDAW's primary role is to monitor and promote the implementation of the UN Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in Cambodia. We do so by publishing regular shadow reports to the UN CEDAW Committee, and by engaging in advocacy for laws and policies that better implement CEDAW. NGO-CEDAW has a strong background in conducting awareness-raising activities for the public, its members, local authorities, and members of government. We conduct extensive capacity-building activities for our many member NGOs and grassroots organizations.

The steering committee (board of directors) is composed of seven to nine members elected for five years by the General Assembly of member NGOs: the chairperson, the vice-chairperson and up to seven members at large. Supporting the steering committee is a staff comprised of the coordinator, communications officer, financial officer, part-time webmaster/IT specialist, and part-time international consultant. Members form six subcommittees, each focused on advocacy for an issue chosen by all members at the annual General Assembly:

- 1) Labor and economy (including economic empowerment and the agricultural sector);
- 2) Health and environment;
- 3) Education, information and media;
- 4) Politics and decision making;
- 5) Gender-based violence and law, including land and labor issues and migrant workers; and
- 6) Vulnerable, disabled and minority women.

In 2015 NGO-CEDAW actively opposed the passage of new laws that limited free expression, including the Law on Election of Members of the National Assembly, the National Election Committee Law, and the Law on Associations and NGOs. NGO-CEDAW is now recommitted to strengthening its members' capacity in light of the changed political environment. NGO-CEDAW has been actively collaborating with other members of civil society to advocate for better national policies, laws, and projects to support women's empowerment. In 2016, we continued our efforts to advocate for an amended law on domestic violence, meeting with representatives from the government, local civil society, INGOs and the UN to share our recommendations. We continued the Dignity Project with exhibitions in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap, and with the sponsorship of new art created by Khmer artists. In 2016, NGO-CEDAW secured funding for election monitoring activities in anticipation of the upcoming local elections in 2017 and national elections in 2018.

For more information contact:

Dr. PUNG Chhiv Kek, Chairperson or CHIM Channeang, Coordinator

16, St. 99, Sangkat Boeung Trabek, Khan Chamkamorn, Phnom Penh.

E-mail: ngocedaw.pnh@gmail.com

Website: www.ngocedaw.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheCambodianNgoCommitteeOnCedaw

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



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Canada

We would like to express our deep sense of gratitude to Dan ChurchAid/Christian Aid (DCA/CA) for providing us with core funding. Without your consistent support, we could not continue our efforts to promote the full implementation of CEDAW in Cambodia.

Special thanks to Heinrich Böll Stiftung, the Canadian Embassy and the Australian Embassy for funding specific projects.

Thank you to NGO-CEDAW's members, particularly those serving on the steering committee, and the six sub committees for good cooperation.

Finally, thank you to everyone who participated in our advocacy campaigns and who attended our training events, public forums and Dignity Project art exhibitions.

Your contributions help NGO-CEDAW achieve changes leading to equality between women and men, a necessary condition for stable and harmonious social development in Cambodia.

For the period from January to December 2016, NGO-CEDAW organized numerous member activities, developed new policies aimed at strengthening our organizational structure, updated the CEDAW monitoring tool, and implemented new strategies in coordinating activities among members and improving our system for monitoring the implementation of CEDAW in Cambodia.

I. STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER MEETINGS (SCM)

The steering committee was engaged in NGO-CEDAW’s planning and activities throughout the year. In 2016, there were some changes in the main contact persons representing Steering committee member organizations:

- Ms. Chim Manavy left Open Institute and was replaced by Mr. Kheng Piseth, the current director of OI.
- Mr. Heng Sam Orn, former IDEA secretary left IDEA and was replaced by Mr. Von Pao, president of IDEA.
- Mr. Pa Nguon Teang gave authorization to Ms. Virak Bunnarath and Ms. Chan Somaly to represent CCIM.
- Mr. Toun Vichet, COSECAM did not attend meetings in 2016. (In 2017, COSECAM officially withdrew as a member of NGO-CEDAW due to lack of funding.)

The following chart lists the committee composition at the beginning of 2016.

NO.	NAME	POSITION	ROLE IN SC OF NGO-CEDAW	INSTITUTIONS
1	Dr. Pung Chhiv Kek	President	Chair	Cambodian League For The Promotion And Defense Of Human Rights (LICADHO)
2	Mr. Sam Kumtheamy	Director	Member	Neutral and Impartial Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia (NICFEC)
3	Ms. Pok Nanda	Director	Member	Women for Prosperity (WfP)
4	Mr. Pa Nguon Teang	Director	Member	Cambodian Center for Independent Media (CCIM/VOD)
5	Mr. Ath Thun	Director	Member	Cambodian Labour Confederation (CLC)
6	Mr. Kheng Piseth	Director	Member	Open Institute (OI)

7	Mr. Vorn Pao	President	Member	Independent Democracy of Informal Economy Association (IDEA)
8	Ms. Ou Tepphallin	Vice president	Member	Cambodian Food and Service Workers Federation (CFSWF)
9	Mr. Toun Vicheth	Director	Member	NGO Coalition to Address (Sexual) Exploitation of Children in Cambodia (COSECAM)

Two official meetings with the Steering Committee were also conducted in 2016.

- **10 June 2016:** This Steering Committee meeting was held to provide an update on the review of NGO-CEDAW membership and the change in strategy to provide more extensive capacity-building to all staff of coalition members and to discuss NGO-CEDAW's funding for election monitoring activities. At the meeting, SC members agreed for NGO-CEDAW to raise funds from private donors for election work and set a plan and date for follow-up. Eight steering committee members (3 male) attended this meeting at the NGO-CEDAW office.

- **15 June 2016:** This second meeting was held to reflect on the June 10 meeting. Seven steering committee members attended (2 male).

Outcomes of the training

- *The Steering Committee agreed for NGO-CEDAW to work on election monitoring.*
- *The SC approved ideas for election monitoring activities so that staff could prepare concept notes*
- *The SC assigned the person in charge of contacting private donors and writing the concept notes*

II. MEMBER MEETINGS

In previous years, NGO-CEDAW's members held many subcommittee meetings as a strategy for gathering evidence for the CEDAW monitoring reports. No member sub-committee meetings were held this year, in part because throughout 2016 our members faced the challenges of shortages of both staff and funding. However, extensive work was done related to evidence collection via NGO-CEDAW's new coordination strategy in working with members. We spent half of the year designing customized CEDAW monitoring tools according to each organizational member's expertise and providing technical support in using and integrating this tool into their organizations daily work. Instead of requiring members to send representatives to an off-site meeting, NGO-CEDAW went to the member's office to provide a more inclusive training to all staff. NGO-CEDAW staff also attended multiple trainings on the Magpi mobile data collection software, created a special referral form for members, and conducted training for members on the use of the Magpi app and referral form.

III. CAPACITY BUILDING TO MEMBERS AND PARTNERS



In 2016, NGO-CEDAW organized and conducted 18 training courses for members. There were 262 participants (64 male). Topics covered by the training were the CEDAW Optional Protocol, election regulations, key principles of CEDAW, the CEDAW monitoring tool and the Magpi mobile data collection app.

Member training on CEDAW and CEDAW principles is conducted every year to our member organizations and our main challenge is the change of staff members representing our organizational members in these activities. This made it necessary to repeat the training every year without developing true expertise in CEDAW among our membership. In 2016, NGO-CEDAW changed our strategy to provide this training to all staff members of their organization instead. NGO-CEDAW staff went to conduct the training at their office, so that all staff members could also attend; by doing it this way we can improve our cooperation and communication with each organizational member.

Summary of trainings conducted by NGO-CEDAW in 2016					
No	Date	Training	# Participants		
			F	M	Total
Specialized trainings					
1	16-18 March 2018	NGO-CEDAW conducted a training for legal service providers from member organizations in Phnom Penh. The training covered how to use CEDAW and the Optional Protocol to CEDAW to enforce women's rights in Cambodia.	26	4	30
2	6 October 2016	Conducted a training on election procedures and processes to NGO-CEDAW members.	24	10	34

No	Date	Training	# Participants		
			F	M	Total
CEDAW, Monitoring Tool and Magpi training for member organizations					
3	15 Aug 2016	Sunshine Cambodia	7	9	16
4	4-5 Aug 2016	CWCC			32
5	28-29 July 2016	SKO	0	10	10
6	27 Jun 2016	CHEC	4	1	5
7	24 Jun 2016	CWDA	3	14	17
8	27 Jun 2016	CDWN	0	2	2
9	1 Sep 2016	CCIM	8	13	21
10	13 Sep 2016	RHAC	6	5	11
11	16-17 Sep 2016	CCPCR	3	13	16
12	6 Nov 2016	LSG	0	0	5
13	7 Oct 2016	NICFEC, FAA, IDA, PCC, KFDA, ARR	3	6	9
14	21 Nov 2016	LSCW	6	7	13
15	13 Dec 2016	WfP	0	20	20
16	23 Dec 2016	CLC	5	9	14
17	23 Dec 2016	OI	3	2	1
18	26 Dec 2016	CFSWF	2	4	6

Outcomes of the training

Comparing pre- and post-test results showed that participants increased their knowledge of women's rights. Results changed from 82% to 32% with poor understanding, increased from 1% to 36% with fair knowledge, and increased from 0% to 31% with good understanding.

IV. MEMBER ASSEMBLY



The annual member assembly was held on December 28-30, 2016 with 36 participants (6 male) including members, staff and donors. The assembly took place in Kampong Speu Province and provided an opportunity to inform members and donors of the results of NGO-CEDAW's project activities and expenses for 2016. Members were also given a chance to discuss challenges in 2016 and planning for the next year.

Additionally, one guest speaker, Mr. Anan Benjamin Pok shared his ideas on discrimination against women in the US and how the electronic electoral system in US went. Two other members' organizations also provided presentations. Women for Prosperity discussed Cambodian Women's Business Federation's activities to encourage women's economic empowerment. Lady Savings Group presented their vision and update of their growth since the previous year.

Outcomes of the Assembly

- 1) *Two new members have been voted in by existing members. They are Association of Cambodian Domestic Worker (ACDW) and Cambodia Women for Human Rights Development (CWHRD).*
- 2) *Members adopted NGO-CEDAW's new code of conduct and complaint mechanism.*
- 3) *Members planned NGO-CEDAW's activities for 2017 as follows:*
 - *Assist member organizations in creating and updating their organizations' gender policies*
 - *Creating additional Magpi questionnaires and lobbying members to participate in data collection*
 - *Coordinate with members to improve referrals and cooperation in order to support and help each other by providing additional services for other members' target groups*
 - *Continue providing CEDAW training and expand the training to other target groups such as garment factory workers, youth in school and communities*
 - *Reflection on member achievements and activities*
 - *Encourage women leaders and participation in social works*
 - *Provide training to members on the following topics:*
 - o *Fundraising*
 - o *Building capacity of members, CSOs and informal unions*
 - o *Continue providing technical support on Magpi, women's leadership, gender, and DV law*
 - o *Train members on commune and national election observation in 2017 and 2018*
 - *Provide training to authorities and communities:*

- *Train national and local duty bearers on providing counseling to victims of rape and domestic violence*
- *Train all levels of local authorities about non-discrimination and non-violence with respect to young children and parents in communities.*
- *Education about women's right to participate in democracy through election processes.*
- *Create a project working with young women and provide life skills training to them and cooperate with members in dissemination on scams to avoid, such as tactics of brokers who trick female workers into marrying foreigners with the promise of employment.*
- *Develop monitoring mechanisms in implementing of relevant government policies, especially by MoWA.*
- *Increase awareness-raising activities through social media*
- *Leading and coordination of local activities tied to international events (International Women's Day and 16 days campaign)*
- *Expand NGO-CEDAW membership*

V. LEADING SESSIONS IN TRAININGS ORGANIZED BY OTHER GROUPS

Throughout the year of 2016, NGO-CEDAW built a good connection with our members and partners in building capacity and dissemination of CEDAW to different target groups

- NGO-CEDAW in cooperation with GAD Net provided training to 30 activists on natural resources and women's economic rights
- NGO-CEDAW provided a short presentation on the implementation of CEDAW in Cambodia to 20 young LGBT activists organized by CamASEAN Youth's Future and 50 union leaders organized by Building and Wood Workers Trade Union Federation of Cambodia (BWTUC) .
- NGO-CEDAW provided coaching to young mock parliamentary participants on the topic of the amendment of to the Domestic Violence Law and CEDAW to more than 125 (58 male) youth organized by YCUD.
- NGO-CEDAW provided training on CEDAW principles to union leaders
- NGO-CEDAW co-sponsored a meeting with API and UNWomen on input by women's rights CSOs on the draft Access to Information law on August 2, 2016.

In addition to leading activities, NGO-CEDAW supported the work of other civil society groups by participating in the launch events for other projects led by UNICEF, HAGAR, Heinrich Böll Stiftung, CARE, and Cambodian Disabled People's Organisation among other groups,

- Regional activities NGO-CEDAW sent one staff member to Sweden from 4-8 April 2016 for the conference of human rights defenders organized by Civil Rights Defenders, based in Sweden. The conference was titled "Defenders' Days- Empowering Human Rights Defenders at Risk."
- Participated and presented at a conference organized in Phnom Penh on 10 August 2016 by the Korean Women's Development Institute (KWDI), a gender research organization funded by the Korean government which cooperates with the Cambodian government.

In addition, NGO-CEDAW staff met with international visitors to discuss gender issues in Cambodia in a regional/international context. These meetings included visits from:

- Staff from DCA/CA headquarters.
- Consultants evaluating UN Women projects in Cambodia
- Numerous independent university researchers seeking expert opinions from NGO-CEDAW.
- US representatives of the American Center for International Labor Solidarity in August 2016
- Researchers from the Thailand Institute of Justice in July 2016

VI. STAFF CAPACITY BUILDING:

Most of NGO-CEDAW's staff attended at least one training on Magpi. Two staff attended an advanced training in late 2016.

Our financial officer attended trainings by both DCA/CA and HBS on anti-corruption. Our international consultant attended workshops by HBS and Australian embassy on best practices and incorporated their sample policies into new anti-corruption and child protection policies for NGO-CEDAW.

Our communications officer attended a training sponsored by HBS on using social media effectively.

VII. REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

- NGO-CEDAW sent one staff member to Sweden from 4-8 April 2016 for the conference of human rights defenders organized by Civil Rights Defenders, based in Sweden. The conference was titled "Defenders' Days- Empowering Human Rights Defenders at Risk."
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VIII. ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS-RAISING

1. International Women's Day

NGO-CEDAW continued its awareness and advocacy project called “Dignity” to raise awareness of GBV through art.

On 20 February 2016, NGO-CEDAW conducted an opening event for the art exhibition at 1961 Co-working group in Siem Reap. There were 138 participants (43 male), mostly secondary school students

Leaflets based on the art project and other education materials were also distributed to participants.

We also released a press statement calling for an amendment of the laws affecting domestic violence.

The art remained on view at the gallery in Siem Reap for three weeks, ending on 8 March.

A second set of images was on display at Meta-House Phnom Penh for 8 March, in cooperation with UN Women.



2. 16 Day campaign



NGO-CEDAW selected three national artists from among many applicants this year: a filmmaker, one sculptor and a dance group.

NGO-CEDAW commissioned artists to use their tools and imagination, their talents and ideas to create a piece of work as a reflection on the topic of dignity. This project aims to increase local and national awareness of the problem of gender-based violence in Cambodia. Using art to create new ways to advocate for change in the laws on domestic violence.

The exhibition took place at France Institute on 24 November 2016. There were more than 100 participants. The register of participants lists only 67 participants (20 male) because the artists, venue staff, and NGO-CEDAW staff did not sign the list. Additionally, many people joined the event after the intermission.

3. Social media

NGO-CEDAW also updated the Dignity Project Facebook page to promote the art exhibition and the campaign to amend the DV Law.

In 2016, NGO-CEDAW updated its website to create a page on the election monitoring efforts and election laws. We posted voter registration materials in order to encourage others to register to vote. We uploaded numerous laws and CEDAW recommendations. We also maintained a constant presence on the social media, including the addition of a new page: Dignity Project - Beyond Domestic Violence.

4. Shadow Report

NGO-CEDAW submitted its follow-up shadow report to the UN CEDAW Committee in January 2016. The report is published on the OHCHR website and can be downloaded from anywhere in the world.

Impact of Campaigning

- Ministry of Women's Affairs accepted our request to support efforts to amend the domestic violence law and has conducted several consultations/meetings with government officials and CSOs.
- Response to social media:
 - Dignity Project Facebook page:
 - 347 page likes (246 added in 2016)
 - 1.6k post likes in 2016
 - Average post reach of 560 per day in the 10 days leading up to the Dignity Project exhibition in November.
 - NGO-CEDAW personal Facebook page: 828 friends
 - NGO-CEDAW organizational Facebook page: 6291 page likes
 - NGO-CEDAW website: ngocedaw.org
 - Average of 2423 annual page views based on flag counter data on website.

PUBLICATIONS AND DISSEMINATION

In 2016, NGO-CEDAW continued to distribute the following publications to member organizations, partners, authorities, workers, unions and the general public.

DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY
CEDAW Convention	2915
Shadow Report 2013 in Khmer	120
Domestic Violence Law explanation leaflet	3885
Domestic Violence Law	2280
Law on Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation	1005
Booklet: Dignity Project	1100



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

We are in a good financial situation in that we received funding for all activities in 2016 and have secured funding for the NGO-CEDAW's activities to continue in 2017. However, NGO-CEDAW lost core funding so will have to obtain funding from a wider range of sources to ensure that administrative costs are covered in the future. We were able to acquire funding for radio programming for special events, but were unable to produce the regular monthly show.



NGO-CEDAW staff, steering committee members, and member NGOs devoted considerable resources to grant-writing and seeking out new sources of income. Several new grant proposals were submitted to international agencies and governments. NGO-CEDAW successfully obtained additional financial support for the Dignity Project and other activities.

Thanks to our donors, we were able to fund our projects and staff for 2015.

DONORS	TOTAL AMOUNT (rounded)
Dan ChurchAid/Christian Aid	US\$ 55,300
Heinrich Böll Stiftung	US\$ 10,000
Canadian Embassy (direct payment to vendors for activities)	US\$ 4200
Total:	US\$ 69,500

CONCLUSIONS

- NGO-CEDAW revitalized and strengthened its coalition by adopting new membership requirements, including payment of dues and a commitment by members to integrate CEDAW monitoring into their daily work. The result is a smaller, but more active membership.

- The CEDAW monitoring tool was updated. Customized monitoring tools with shorter lists of evidence to gather were created for all continuing NGO-CEDAW members and those members' whole staffs were trained on those tools, CEDAW, and the new referral form created for the Magpi mobile data collection application.
- NGO-CEDAW has continued to be financially solvent, with sufficient funding to support its activities. Moreover, NGO-CEDAW secured some funding to support activities in the coming years.
- NGO-CEDAW has been able to raise awareness of women's rights through our website, social media, Dignity Project art, radio talk shows, publications and campaigns at the sub-national, national, regional and international levels.
- NGO-CEDAW also played a very active role in coordinating members to meet and lobby with relevant government officials, international bodies and agencies to push the Cambodian government to put more efforts on the implementation of the CEDAW.
- Our members and donors have prioritized election monitoring as a key activity for the upcoming two years. Women's participation in democracy, as voters, candidates, and election monitors is a key part of fully implementing CEDAW in Cambodia.

CHALLENGES/RISKS

Challenges faced in 2016	Strategy for improvement in the next year
<p>The Cambodian Government intensified restrictions on civil society, by arresting peaceful protestors, jailing additional people for Facebook posts critical of the government, and sentencing women human rights activists and NGO workers to excessive jail time without providing due process of law. NGO-CEDAW members were threatened with closure for their normal activities.</p> <p>NGO-CEDAW planned a peaceful event outside MoWA for 8 March, but the government refused to permit the event at the last minute. People who attended anyway were harassed by police. A government university refused to host the Dignity Project event in November for fear of government reprisal for inviting a well-known speaker.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to provide support to other civil society members through participation in protests against the jailing of human rights defenders and visiting those defenders in jail. - Strengthened relationships with national, regional groups and international contacts. - Continue lobbying and advocacy through UN processes.
<p>Insecure funding of NGO members may affect their membership with NGO-CEDAW.</p>	<p>NGO-CEDAW is working on grant proposals that will include funding for joint activities with NGO-CEDAW members.</p>

<p>Inadequate financial resources for long-term running of necessary project activities.</p>	<p>NGO-CEDAW has begun training private sector women leaders on CEDAW. We will continue efforts to create joint activities with the private sector.</p>
<p>Government agencies are less willing this year to work with NGOs on potentially controversial topics</p>	<p>NGO-CEDAW will continue to educate both the general community and public officials on human rights and the need for full participation of society in forming policies. NGO-CEDAW has provided suggestions to the government in December 2016 on how to improve the structure and procedures of the Technical Working Group on Gender.</p>
<p>NGO-CEDAW encountered procedural issues that our policies did not clearly resolve. These included: cash flow problems due to unavailability of staff/board members authorized to approve payments; unclear procedure for withdrawal from steering committee or membership; and the request of donors for additional policies.</p>	<p>NGO-CEDAW drafted revisions to its constitution, internal procedures, and financial policy and collected input from members at the member assembly. NGO-CEDAW also created a separate code of conduct (ethics and anti-corruption) and a child protection policy. We anticipate these policies being formally adopted in 2017.</p>

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: NGO-CEDAW Strategic Plan (2015-2018)

Appendix 2: Shadow Follow-Up Report to the UN CEDAW Committee

Appendix 3: Flyer for Dignity Project 2016