

Summary report of the ATJW II fund for GBV survivors From January to December, 2015

Access to Justice for Women II (ATJW II) project for GBV survivors, a bi-lateral project between the German Government and the Cambodia Government which has been implemented by MoWA and GIZ Cambodia, receives financial support from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Development Cooperation (BMZ) and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the Australia government, for the period of 3 years from January 2014 to December 2016. The overall objective of ATJWII is to ensure that GBV survivors have better access to efficient services with good quality. Women and girls who are GBV survivors and their dependent children in particular from remote areas are the target groups. This includes especially those who are extreme poor and women and girls with disabilities, who are at risk of being affected by GBV.

To provide social, psychological and legal assistance, ATJW II-MoWA fund for GBV survivors provides financial support to four partner NGOs included the Cambodian Women's Crisis Centre (CWCC), Banteay Srei (BS), Legal Aid of Cambodia (LAC), and Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO). ATJWII supports them with the total amount of USD 433,204.64 for the period of one year from January to December 2015, to operate and carry out their various services to GBV survivors.

ATJW II concentrates on strengthening the service delivery at sub-national level. The scope of services provided to GBV survivors therefore covers the two pilot provinces of Siem Reap and Kompong Thom. The service in the two provinces and targeted districts are provided by the partner NGOs who then strengthen local authorities in terms of women's rights and legal services related to GBV and to promote active participation of local government to combat VAW. The services provided to GBV survivors by those four partner NGOs have no area restriction within the two provinces.

To address the need of GBV survivors, partner NGOs have provided the services in a holistic approach. The Cambodian Women's Crisis Centre (CWCC) has provided services available for GBV survivors such as legal advice and representation, short and long-term accommodation to GBV survivors and their accompanying children who seek safety from violence. CWCC also provides medical support, vocational training, and small family business after reintegration the clients to their respective communities. Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO) has expertise in psychological counseling to GBV survivors and has worked closely with perpetrators /husbands to change their aggressive attitude, methods to control anger, and strategies to reduce the level of alcohol consumption, which is one of the contributing factors to GBV. Legal Aid of Cambodia (LAC) has expertise in legal advice and representation of GBV survivors. This organization has also worked in close collaboration with provincial judges and prosecutors in the two pilot provinces. Banteay Srei (BS) has long been working with GBV survivors and perpetrators in the communities where their Gender Peace Networks play a crucial role to support GBV survivors. BS staff provides awareness raising, referral of clients for legal service, and psychological counseling. At the Peace Center of BS, GBV survivors and perpetrators/husbands can have open discussions and receive counseling psychosocial and legal advice.

The table below demonstrates achievements and results by the four partner NGOs (CWCC, LAC, TPO and BS) from January to December, 2015 and points out the type of services provided to GBV survivors and the number of clients who received assistance.

According to the table below, the total figure of 2015 indicates a strong upward trend in the number of GBV survivors seeking services compared to the total figure for 2014. In 2015, the GBV survivors seeking services increased to 2340 compared to 1765 in the previous year representing an increase by 32.57 per cent. The high increase in the number of survivors seeking services cannot be simply translated to the increase in incidences of GBV, but also to the fact that the four partner NGOs had more funds available to accept clients for services as in 2014. Furthermore, the reporting of GBV cases by the victims/survivors may have increased due to increased information on available services by the service providers which is an important achievement of the ATJW II project.

One of the highest increases was in providing legal advices/ consultations and legal representation, one of the main project activities contributing to the overall objective of establishing an enabling environment for GBV survivors, including survivors with disabilities for access to justice. In 2015, 942 clients received legal service which was almost twice as high as the total figure in 2014 (573 clients). This means that the clients receiving legal services (in 2015) increased by about 75.41 per cent. The number of clients filing complaints also increased from 329 (in 2014) to 412 (in 2015), representing a 25.22 per cent increase. However, in 2015, 56.26 per cent of clients did not pursue lawsuits which is even higher compared to 38.73 per cent in 2014.

Interestingly, in 2015, the figure for medical support services by providing first aid and cost for treatment of the injured GBV survivors and forensic examinations have substantially increased by 16.37 per cent.

The figures for clients requesting individual psychological counseling (excluding Men's services) and group psychological counseling (excluding Men's services) provided by three partner NGOs TPO, CWCC, and BS show also an upward trend. In 2014, 121 clients received psychological group counseling as compared to 255 clients in 2015 who received the same type of group counseling either at the respective communities or at the offices of partner NGOs, safe shelters, and drop-in-centers representing a 110.74 per cent increase compared to 2014. But, the individual psychological counseling (excluding Men's services), a mental health therapy provided to the GBV clients who had experienced mental distresses has only slightly increased, from 237 clients (in 2014) to 273 clients (in 2015).

On the other hand three types of provided services presented in the table: shelter-based support (including the number of accompanying children), reintegration support, and vocational training show a downward trend. The number of women and family members seeking safe shelter (excluding the drop-in-centers) decreased by 24 per cent, thereby decreased from 179 clients (in 2014) to 136 clients (in 2015). At the same time, reintegration support of clients to return to their respective communities also decreased by about 21 per cent and reduced from 174 clients (in 2014) to 137 clients (in 2015). Thirdly, clients who received vocational training also decreased from 72 clients (in 2014) to 50 clients (in 2015).

No	Type of services provided by partner NGOs	Number of clients Jan-Dec, 2014	Number of clients Jan-Dec, 2015
1	Shelter-based support (including the numbers of children of survivors)	179	136
2	Reintegration support	174	137
3	Individual psychological counseling (excluding Men's services)	237	273
4	Group psychological counseling (excluding Men's services)	121	255
5	Legal Advice/Consultation	537	942
6	Legal representation	329	412
7	Medical support (including the numbers of children of survivors)	116	135
8	Vocational training	72	50
Total		1765	2340

Based on the Annual Reports 2015 of CWCC and LAC, there were 215 cases pursuing legal representation in 2015, some continued from previous years. In total, 343 cases were closed in 2015¹. The majority of closed cases 53.36 per cent (184 cases) was separations/divorces and received compensation for child custody and divided joint properties; 35.86 per cent (123 cases) were reunited, 36 rape cases (out of these 15 cases were withdrawn by the clients). The perpetrators who were prosecuted received sentencing to prisons from one year to 8 years and also had to pay compensations to the victims ranging from one million Riel to 8 million Riel².

In conclusion, the total figure of clients in 2015 as compared to the previous period (2014) increased sharply, more and more GBV survivors and accompanying children sought services from the four partner NGOs which is an encouraging trend. Women's decisions to file for divorce or separation were respected and they more often received child custody. 21 perpetrators of rape cases were sentenced to prisons for the duration of one to eight years. Furthermore, clients who received services of psychological counseling improved their mental well-being increased daily functioning, had high risks reduction, and reduced alcohol consumption³. However, the sharp decrease in the number of the GBV survivors to file legal complaints against the perpetrators and abusive husbands in 2015 compared to the total figure of clients seeking legal advices/consultations in the previous year (2014) requires further research about the underlying reasons why large numbers of women discontinue the lawsuits after receiving legal advice and consultations.

¹ Based on CWCC's and LAC's Annual report 2015

² Based on CWCC's and LAC's Annual report 2015

³ Based on TPO's Annual report 2015