



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

**Legal Aid of Cambodia  
Annual Progress Report March, 2015 – February, 2016  
Enhancing the Rights of Women and Children**

**1. Summary data**

<b>Grant Agreement #</b>	No: 66161
<b>Name of organisation</b>	Legal Aid of Cambodia (LAC)
<b>Project title</b>	Enhancing the Rights of Women and Children (ERWC)
<b>Project manager's name (&amp; position)</b>	Mr. Phonn Thearin, Project Manager
<b>Location/s</b>	Battambang and Pailin provinces
<b>Total funding</b>	Fund Requested for over 3 years: AUD 225,000
<b>Implementing partner/s</b>	N/A
<b>Start date</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> March, 2013
<b>Finish date</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> February 2016
<b>Report Period</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> March, 2015- 29 <sup>th</sup> February 2016

Narrative report

**2. Summary of progress**

**2.1. Project overall objectives** (as stated in final proposal accepted by DFAT)

**Goal:** Enhancing the rights of survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuses through strengthening the existing mechanisms at the sub-national level.

**Specific Objectives:**

- 1). Continue to strengthen the existing sub-national levels combatting domestic violence and sexual abuses.
- 2). Increase access of survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuses to assert their rights.

**2.2. Tracking table:**

Activities undertaken	Main Result Achieved to Date	
	Outputs	Outcomes:
Activity 1.1.1: Support quarterly meetings of Criminal Justice Actors in Pailin and Battambang provinces to discuss and solve on issues of criminal and civil proceedings	4 meetings of Criminal Justice Actors (CJA) have been organised in Pailin and Battambang provinces. Both provinces, 95 members (33 females) regularly attended in the meeting.  3 times were organised in Battambang province with	Minutes of the meetings were documented by court, NGOs and local authorities which attended the meetings. Members of meeting were required to do and share reports about good practices, lesson learnt and any challenges in each meeting. Challenges and concerning issues of women and children were documented and followed up when the next session conducted. Quiet members to

	<p>approximately 50 members (21 females) in average and other 1 times held in Pailin province with about 45 members (12 members).</p>	<p>challenge issues of women and children, asked to take action by prosecutors, were explained the reasons before members of the meeting. 7 cases including domestic violence and sexual abuses raised by the members have been solved and intervened. The progressive achievement has contributed to produce outcomes signs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forensic certificate has now been issued free of charge and within reasonable time.</li> <li>- Mediation of rape cases hasn't been longer seen as NGOs and local authorities work collaboratively.</li> <li>- Legal knowledge to analyse the differentiation between violence and inhuman acts or ill-treatment.</li> <li>- Intervention action of the local authorities on GBV has been more active.</li> <li>- Issues of GBV have been seen responded on time and collaboratively.</li> <li>- Most cases of GBV have been taken by the courts are more quick action.</li> </ul>
Activity 1.1.2: Support Provincial Women's and Children's Consultative Committee (PWCCC) in Pailin and Battambang provinces to organise monthly consultative meetings	<p>11 sessions of the meetings were support by the project. Total participant is 52 including 25 females.</p> <p>2 times in Battambang with 27 members (15 females), and 2 times in Pailin with 25 participants (10 females).</p>	<p>The meeting serves as important roles to raise, update and solve women's and children's issues in the communities in term of social support and sometimes also legal issues.</p> <p>Social service providers including Department of Women Affairs, Social Affairs, World Vision, Banteay Srei, Adhoc, Licadho, Hegar and TPO have closely collaborated to support GBV.</p> <p>5 cases including DV and Rape had been raised and solved by the attendees.</p> <p>Outcomes signs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Better understand on GBV based on the fact that they outreached GBV issues at districts and commune levels.</li> <li>- Better services coordination for GBV, movement of case referral (informal).</li> <li>- Active intervention on GVB cases, through direct access to survivors instructed local authority to pay much attention to survivors and to monitor their cases at the courts.</li> </ul>
Activity 1.1.2: Strengthenin	24 times of the meeting were	Targeted D&CCWC's members are well

<p>the target D&amp;CCWCs to coordinate monthly round table discussion to address women and children issues and Provide capacity building for D&amp;CCWCs' members on gender-based violence, sexual abuses and methodology to identify, collect, analyse information</p>	<p>supported by the project in 4 target districts of Battambang including Bannan, Samlot; and Pailin including Salakroa and Pailin town.</p> <p>D&amp;CCWCs' monthly round table discussion were involved with 103 members (57 females).</p> <p>The project completely followed the schedule of the PWCCCs to join support monthly meetings.</p>	<p>educated and able to intervene and solve cases related to gender based violence. Some cases weren't intervened and solved at their level so they referred cases to provincial to get advice and intervention. Common issues and problem solving were raised by D&amp;CCWC members:</p> <p>17 cases including domestic violence, divorce and sexual abuses had been raised to discuss and solved by the attendees.</p> <p>Outcomes sings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Target D&amp;CCWCs Better understand on GBV based on the fact that they outreached GBV issues at communes and village levels.</li> <li>- Better services coordination for GBV, movement of case referral (informal).</li> <li>- Extraordinary meetings arranged by D&amp;CCWC members especially Banan district, to solve case by cases on DV or divorce cases.</li> <li>- Stronger collaboration with concerning agencies such as NGOs, CBOs, involved department (women affairs, social affairs, education, police and court), to support survivors of GBV.</li> </ul>
<p>Activity 2.1.1 Provide capacity building training on gender based violence, related articles of Criminal Procedure Code, Penal code, and relevant legal instruments to judicial police at all districts in Battambang and Pailin.</p>	<p>4 times of capacity building training conducted in Pailin and Battambang provinces. There were 102 participants (47 females) were invited to attend the legal trainings.</p>	<p>Attendee especially judicial police are well understood on concerning topics provided.</p> <p>Outcomes sings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 10 cases related to GBV referred by judicial police.</li> <li>- Good collaboration with their local authorities to support survivors of GBV such as referring cases to social service providers, outreach and joining consultation meeting with D&amp;CCWCs.</li> <li>- Criminal cases prepared by judicial police and managed by LAC, are well-prepared and proceed to court on time.</li> </ul>
<p>Activity 2.1.2: Provide legal consultation and representation for women and children</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 38 clients of survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuses in Battambang and Pailin.</li> </ul> <p>13 cases successfully closed and other 25 cases depending. There are about 20% of divorce case and 80% of sexual abuse.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All Survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuses, which managed by LAC, feel appreciated with lac legal services and secured through justice system. There are no clients dissatisfied with lac services or complaint to appealing court.</li> </ul> <p>People in the community both battambang and Pailin provinces trusted LAC services by</p>

		direct coming LAC office and calling for legal consultation. In fact, 25 clients direct come lac office for legal consultation and about 60 clients called in for legal consultation.
Activity 2.2.1: Organise radio talk-show programs in the target provinces.	3 radio talk-show programmes organised in Paillin talking about legal procedure, coordination services for victims and other protection mechanism for women and children, at station of FM 90 MHz in Pailin province.  -The project planned to conduct 12 programmes, but the project join the program with ABC radio, so the project did not arrange extra programmes.	-The broadcasts also discussed the judicial process when they contact with justice system. During these sessions, there were a lot of callers called in the program talking about divorce cases related out court system, divorce cases through court proceeding, human trafficking and sexual abuse, and other concerning topics.  -LAC speakers such as project manager, lawyers, advocacy officer and legal assistant were invited in various radio program and events in Battambang and Pailin to talk about legal instruments relation to GBV and other interesting topics.
Activity 2.2.2: Organise a raising awareness in communities to promote understanding of local people about basic concept of gender based violence.	4 community awareness, which 357 local people (157 females) were invited to attend, organised in Battambang to share information about prevention of domestic violence and sexual abuse, related articles of marriage and family, and other available social and legal services for victims.	Local communities who attended outreach are aware of how to access legal services.  Base on questionnaires of LAC's client intake form, some cases received information from commune chiefs and their neighbours who had access LAC's outreach activities.

### 2.3. Progress

The project's budget was being spent over the budget approved by DFAT by 1% of the total budget proposed year 3 by the end of February 2016. Line by line of the detail budget approval, the project spent under and over of some budget lines in order to kept project balance. Although the project has spent some budget lines did not conform to budget approval, but did not mean the project spent outside the DFAT budget approval. The project used the budget approved by DFAT was along with the proposed project activities agreed by DFAT; and is effectiveness regarding to the project flexibility and with requirements of the project target groups.

Although there are some variations on the cost, we observed that the results obtained noticeable and quality. Furthermore, measurements have shown through outputs of the project activities achieved almost 100% in term of using human resources and the cost effectiveness.

Monitoring system both internal and external also applied in order to direct the goal and objectives of the project. Monthly monitoring regularly made by the project manager including monthly reports, project meeting and field visits with the project staff. Management Team monitoring conducted quarterly by Executive Director, Legal Director and Women's Justice Program Manager. The project also accompanied the DFAT team to visit the project activities in Battambang and Pailin province. The tour visit of donor is also considered the external monitoring to the project. It helps LAC's project performances through useful advice, recommendations and suggestions to improve the project implementation.

### 3. Changes and reasons for changes

The project has not changed any activities regarding to the approved final proposal. Although the project has totally achieved almost 100% along the annual plan of action, the project met some difficulties such as market inflation especially gasoline and goods which affected to the project implementation. Some NGOs end fund so, most cases refer to LAC in Battambang and Pailin.

#### **4. Disaggregation of data by women and people with disabilities**

The main target group of the project were women and children who suffered from domestic violence and sexual abuse. This target group is not a gender or disability neutral group. However data has not been disaggregated by the involvement of either of the above mentioned demographics. Data from the project has been meticulously and considerably recorded. The project has recorded the following statistics in the two target provinces: 38 women and children received legal aid from the project, 33 females attended in the meeting of the Criminal Justice Actors in Pailin. 57 females of D&CCWCs' members attended in regular meeting in four target districts of Battambang and Pailin provinces. 25 female members attended in monthly meeting of PWCCC. 47 female participants joined the capacity building trainings, and 157 women and children attended in the community awareness raising in Battambang province.

#### **5. Lessons learned (challenges/difficulties and strategies for management)**

- LAC recognises that the project would not have been successful achieved the project activities so far without the cooperation and network relationships with national and international NGOs, local government authorities, judicial police, courts officials. The successful level of cooperation, facilitation, and discussion which has occurred between LAC and the relevant local government authorities regarding child protection and the rights of the women and children, demonstrate that local authorities appreciate being part of the LAC Project.
- Regular project meetings and quarterly meetings with the head office of Legal Aid Cambodia served as important forums for internal discussion and information sharing. The monthly Project meetings were only attended by the project staff members. This particular forum allowed staff involved in the project to discuss the progress and the implementation of project objectives case by case. Community and other stakeholder capacity building, or training activates, were also able to be discussed in detail, and recommendations made for the upcoming monthly plan of action.
- It is very important for LAC to provide technical support to D&CCWC members how to address the women and children cases, especially cases of domestic violence. As a result D&CCWC is able to work more effective with the new gained information. In cases regarding for example domestic violence, dropping out school, drug abuse etc., they are able to provide counselling and education to people in need. If there are cases that D&CCWC is not able to work on they can bring this topic to the Criminal Justice Actor meetings to address this important issues.
- LAC observed that it is very important to involve officials from district, commune and provincial levels in the Criminal Justice Actors meeting for sharing a good practice, challenges, knowledge and lessons learned regarding women and children issues and also general understanding for important themes directly to each other. Furthermore we are building stronger relationships between district, commune and provincial levels working on women and children issues.

#### **6. Australian government promotion**

All publications, workshop material, web-based material and equipment produced by the program made sure the Australian logo was visible and referenced. Where project staff was unsure as to the correct interpretation or implementation of the Australian visibility rules, the program staff consulted the relevant program officer at the DFAT Cambodia office in Phnom Penh. Some examples of where the project has used the Australian logo are: the digital screen backdrop for the various training, workshop, and meeting activities; and the various printed material distributed to the participants of the capacity building training and workshops.

**Financial acquittal (Annex A) – (refer to file in MS Excel format)**

- #### **7. Insert spreadsheet or table used in final version of budget accepted by DFAT for project proposal and acquit expenditure-to-date against those line items**

*Please find attachment of the six-month detail budget expended.*

8. Contributions/income received from other sources or generated by project

N/A

9. Copies of receipts attached for line items over \$500

10. N/A

11. Signature and statement (as in guideline)

I declare that I have read the information supplied in this report and it is true and correct and all activities and expenditure were as agreed and reported.