



**Legal Aid of Cambodia**  
**Annual Progress Report March, 2014 – February, 2015**  
**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 Expensed year 1 and 2: AUD150514.1
<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

**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 meeting of Criminal Justice Actors in Pailin and Battambang provinces to discuss and solve on issues of criminal and civil proceedings.	8 meetings of Criminal Justice Actors (CJA) have been organised in Pailin and Battambang provinces. In each meeting of the target provinces there were about 40-50 members including 10-20 woman members. Both provinces, the total 99 members (28 females) regularly attended in	Minutes of the meetings were documented by court official. Members of meeting were required to make and share reports about good practices, lesson learnt and any challenges in each meeting. Challenges and concerning issues regarding women and children were documented and followed up when the next session conducted. Inactive members to challenge issues of women and

	<p>the meetings.</p> <p>4 meetings were held in Battambang province with approximately 54 participants (13 females) and other 4 times held in Pailin province with about 45 participants (15 females)</p> <p>The members are invited from a variety of professions associated with the legal and punitive jurisdictions in the province such as representatives from the court, prison, police, military police, social affairs department, women's affairs department, education, health, commune chiefs and other relevant agencies. The meeting also serves as a forum to discuss legal issues, comparing articles in the papers and actual implementation.</p>	<p>children were asked to take action by prosecutors, to share experience, challenges and lesson learned to members of the meeting.</p> <p>Pailin and Battambang courts have applied the penalty of community services for minors who are in conflict with the law and worked closely with concerned agencies to supports and follow up those children.</p> <p>3 orphanage children were temporally taken away from their parents by Pailin prosecutor with close cooperation of Pailin department of social affairs.</p> <p>Referral services for victims of survival domestic violence arranged and acknowledged by concerned members.</p> <p>The project has observed that, there were some prioritised issues concerning women and children raised and solved by CJA's members. In fact, 3 raping cases which were discussed by social and women affair officials during the meetings had been speeded up and addressed by court official. The procedure of referral raping cases to diagnose had been more improved.</p>
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>19 meetings of Provincial Women's and Children's Consultative Committees supported with approximately 52 members (25 females) both Battambang and Pailin Provinces.</p> <p>9 times in Battambang with about 27 members (15 females) 10 times in Pailin with about 25 participants (10 women).</p>	<p>The project completely followed the schedule of the PWCCCs to join support monthly meetings. 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. In each meeting, there were around 4 to 5 cases concerning to domestic violence, divorce, migration, children dropout school and other related issues raised and solved by the members.</p> <p>Members of PCWCC were well informed and cooperated to address cases of gender based violence such as coordinating to refer survivors for social support and legal support from networks and partners.</p>
Activity 1.1.2: Strengthening the target D&CCWCs to coordinate monthly round table discussion to address women and children issues and provide capacity building for D&CCWCs' members on gender-based violence, sexual abuses and methodology to identify, collect, analyse information.	<p>4 targeted districts (Bannan, Samlot, Salakroa and Pailin) of Pailin and Battambang provinces, 44 times of D&amp;CCWCs' monthly round table discussion with approximately 93 members (57 females) conducted in Battambang and Pailin Provinces.</p>	<p>Chiefs of D&amp;CCWC shared their achievements, lesson learnt, challenges during each meeting before reporting from members. They also shared experiences and knowledge what they had received from national and provincial levels to their members at village and commune levels.</p> <p>All minutes of meeting well documented by D&amp;CCWC's secretary. All agendas of the</p>

	<p>23 meetings in Battambang with about 48 members (33 females)</p> <p>21 meetings in Pailin with about 45 participants (24 females).</p>	<p>meeting were arranged by D&amp;CCWC members.</p> <p>Targeted D&amp;CCWC's members are well educated and able to intervene and solve cases related to gender-based violence. Some cases were not intervened and solved at their levels so they referred those cases to provincial level to get more advice and intervention.</p> <p>Common issues and problem solving were raised by D&amp;CCWC members:</p> <p>Pailin district, a primary-school teacher who committed domestic violence in their family was not taken action by commune police because the offender and commune police are friends. Finally, this case was taken intervention and solved by district police.</p> <p>Samlot of Battambang, divorce case was successfully coordinated by D&amp;CCWC's members. The couple got marriage without registration of marriage certification. They lived with disagreement and reach to separate each other. Husband who used drug and alcohol violated his children and wife.</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.	6 times of capacity building training conducted in Pailin and Battambang provinces. There were 156 participants (61 females) were invited to attend the legal trainings.	<p>Attendee especially judicial police are well understood on concerning topics provided.</p> <p>- 8 cases referred by judicial police: 4 cases for domestic violence and sexual abuses were referred from Samlot drit and 3 cases of gender- base violence and divorces referred from Pailin, and 1 case of domestic violence referred from Bovel district.</p> <p>Based on observation of LAC lawyer, all criminal cases prepared by judicial police and managed by LAC, are well-prepared and proceed to court on time.</p>
Activity 2.1.2: Provide legal consultation and representation for women and children	<p>- 47 cases (6 civil cases and 41 criminal cases) of survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuses in Battambang and Pailin.</p> <p>25 cases successfully closed and other 22 cases were pending. There are about 12% of divorce case and 88% of sexual abuse. Only 6 cases in Pailin and 41 cases in Battambang province.</p>	<p>- All Survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuses, represented by LAC, have felt satisfied by LAC legal services and secured through justice system. There are no clients dissatisfied with LAC services or complaints to the Appellate Court.</p> <p>People in the community both Battambang and Pailin provinces trusted LAC services by direct coming to LAC office and calling for legal consultation. In fact, 56 clients direct ly come to LAC office for legal consultations and about 50 clients called in for legal consultations.</p>
Activity 2.1.4:	- 9 selected clients were	All of them felt pleased and secured with

Conduct client reflection review to improve LAC legal aid services.	interviewed to reflect the legal aid services by LAC's M&E Officers	LAC' legal service through court system. They said that LAC staff and lawyer are friendly and easy to contact for information. Clients shared LAC's service to other local people and help them to access LAC's service. Clients suggested having more community education or more leaflets for their communities.
Activity 2.2.1: Organise radio talk-show programs in the target provinces.	11 radio talk-show programmes organised in Battambang and Paillin talking about legal procedure, coordination services for victims and other protection mechanisms for women and children. The programs aired on from the station of FM 92.7 MHz which made cooperation with ABC radio in Battambang and from the station of FM 90 MHz in Pailin province.	The broadcasts also discussed the judicial process when they contact with justice system. During these sessions, there were about 21 callers (8 females) 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. Speakers provided answers corresponding to the questions.
Activity 2.2.2: Organise raising awareness in communities to promote understanding of local people about basic concept of gender-based violence.	6 community awareness with 596 local people (305 females) were invited to attend, organised in Battambang and Pailin 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. Possible solutions were also provided in the sessions.	Local communities who attended outreach were 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 participated in LAC's outreach activities.

### 2.3. Progress

The project's budget was being spent over the budget approved by DFAT by 6% of the total budget proposed year 2 by late February 2015. Line by line of the detailed budget approval, the project spent under and over of some budget lines in order to kept project balance. At the beginning of the project, some budget lines of staff salary and activities most charged from CDF fund. After CDF ended, current activities and staff salary fully charged from DFAT. The project already informed and asked DFAT for the matter. Although the project has spent some budget lines which was not consistent with the budget approval, but it did not mean the project spent outside the DFAT budget approval. The project used the budget approved by DFAT along with the proposed project activities agreed by DFAT; and was effectiveness regarding to the project flexibility and with requirements of the project target groups.

Although there are some variations on the costs, 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 was regularly made by the project manager including monthly reports, project meetings 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 provinces. The field visit by donor is also considered as 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 has faced out fund so, most cases referred to LAC in Battambang and Pailin. The project will ask to DFAT to review some budget lines in order to balance the project implementation.

### **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: 49 women and children received legal aid from the project, 13 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. 61 female participants joined the capacity building trainings, and 305 women and children attended in the community awareness raising in Pailin and Battambang provinces.

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

- LAC recognises that the project would not have been successfully 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**

N/A

- 10. 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.