



Legal Aid of Cambodia
Annual Progress Report March 01, 2013 – February 28, 2014
Enhancing the Rights of Women and Children

1. Summary data

Grant Agreement #	No: 66161
Name of organisation	Legal Aid of Cambodia (LAC)
Project title	Enhancing the Rights of Women and Children (ERWC)
Project manager's name (& position)	Mr. Phonn Thearin, Project Manager
Location/s	Battambang and Pailin provinces
Total funding	AUD 225,000
Implementing partner/s	N/A
Start date	1 st March, 2013
Finish date	29 th 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 abuse through strengthening existing mechanisms at the sub-national level.

Specific Objectives:

1). Continue to strengthen the existing sub-national levels combatting domestic violence and sexual abuse.

2). Increase access for survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse to assert their rights.

2.2. Activities undertaken:

Activity 1.1.1: Support quarterly meetings of Criminal Justice Actors in Pailin province to discuss and solve issues of criminal and civil proceedings. 4 meetings of Provincial Criminal Justice Actors were



organised in Pailin province. On average, approximately 40-45 members (13 females) were invited from a variety of professions associated with 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 and health sector, 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.

Activity 1.1.2: Support Provincial Women's and Children's Consultative Committee (PWCCC) in Pailin and Battambang provinces to organise monthly consultative meetings.



22 meetings of Provincial Women's and Children's Consultative Committees were supported by the project. In each meeting, there were around 20-25 members who came from various departments such as department of Social Affairs, Women Affairs, Health, Education, Labour, Agriculture...etc. In fact, 49 members (29 females) regularly attended in the consultative meetings. The meetings in Battambang province were chaired over by HE. Ive Dara, Provincial Consultative Committee Member and in Pailin province were chaired by HE. Pov Sok, Provincial Consultative Committee Member.

1.1.3&4 Strengthening the target D&CCWCs to coordinate monthly round table discussion to address women and children's issues and Provide capacity building for D&CCWCs' members on gender-based violence, sexual abuses and methodology to identify, collect, analyse information.



The project has selected two target districts in Battambang - Banan and Samlot districts, and two target districts - Salakroa and Pailin districts of Pailin province to support and strengthen the existing women and child protection mechanism. 41 times of monthly meeting have been organised by LAC project and the target D&CCWCs. 106 members including 53 females regularly attended in the D&CCWC's meetings. At each session of the round table meeting, there were approximately 20-30 participants (10-15 females) who were invited from all commune police, commune chiefs, members of commune committee for women and children, school directors, district health officials and concerning district officials. The project aims to

strengthen the target District and Commune Committees for Women and Children (D&CCWCs) to implement the existing woman and child protection mechanism in the community regarding to village/ commune safety policy through providing monthly capacity buildings and partly support of their monthly meetings.

Activity 1.1.5: Four cases of women and children in Battambang province (Banan and Samlot districts) were followed up and coordinated for services such as sexual diagnostic and social supports by cooperation among D&CCWC members. This cooperation is to ensure that women and children who suffer from domestic violence and sexual abuse in Battambang receive proper services on time. In addition, women and children who have received any services were monitored and followed up in order to make sure that they are at better conditions.

Activity 2.1.1 The project organised 12 sessions of the two-day capacity building training on gender based violence, related articles of Criminal Procedure Code, Penal code, and relevant legal instruments to judicial police



and concerning local authorities at 10 districts in Battambang and at 2 districts Pailin. There were 348 participants including 114 females attending the capacity building training. Pre-test, post-test and training evaluation had been made in order to measure the quality of the training and also to improve the strategic plan to organise the trainings.

Activity 2.1.2: The project expected the legal representation for women and children who suffer from domestic violence and sexual abuse for 45 cases. In fact, the project has received and provided legal consultation and legal representation for 58 cases of women and children, including 61 women and children

who have suffered from crimes annually. 24 cases of women and children were successfully closed and other 33 cases including 35 clients are being awaited for trial. Additionally, the project also provided free legal consultation for all clients of any cases coming directly to BTB LAC office.

Activity 2.1.3: Refer survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuses for initial social services. Most cases are provided social support by Banteay Srey. Most rape cases were referred from Banteay Srey, and other cases referred by SHISHA, DoWA, judicial police, courts and clients to LAC for legal aid services.

Activity 2.1.4: Conduct client reflection review to improve LAC legal aid services. There are 9 clients in Battambang were interviewed by LAC Women's Justice Team. 8 clients of rape cases are child victims and another one is divorce case. All the clients mentioned that legal aid provided by LAC is very important and easy to access in the provinces. They also said that the LAC lawyer is easy to contact and meet; gave them good advice and encouraged them to access to justice through judicial justice system. All clients went through the court system and most clients understood very well about the court procedure. All clients supported by the project felt satisfied with LAC's legal aid services to handle their case and they insisted LAC continued its legal services in the province as they have no alternative method of legal representation if they cannot access LAC. In addition, Lac promote activities and provide more legal awareness in their community.

Activity 2.2.1: The project conducted 13 radio talk-show programs in Battambang and Pailin provinces. 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 program has promoted the advertisement of LAC's services and live call conference discussion on the rights of women and children under Cambodia laws. The broadcasts also discussed the judicial process when they contact with justice system. During these sessions, there were about 32 callers (14 females) asking and commenting about related women and children issues and the competency of local authorities. Topics have been shown in the programs such as related articles of Criminal Code, Criminal Procedure Code, and other relevant legal instruments.



Activity 2.2.2: The project organised 14 sessions of raising awareness in Battambang and Pailin province to promote understanding of local people about the basic concepts of gender based violence. There were 1575 participants including 820 females. The main purpose of the activity was to share concepts regarding basic rights of women and children, related laws and legal services to local community members who could have access directly. Moreover, the event was also a forum discussion among guest speakers invited from local government and local community members. Questions were proposed from among participants during meeting, so the facilitator will refer those questions to right guest speakers to clear up.



2.3. Main results achieved to date

- The meetings of Criminal Justice Actors (CJA) in Pailin province completely achieved four times annual expectation. The project has observed that there were some prioritised issues concerning to women and children raised and solved by CJA's members. In fact, 3 rape cases which were criticised by social and women affair officials during the meetings had been speeded up and addressed by court official. The procedure of referral rape cases to diagnose had been more improved.
- The project completely followed the schedule of the PWCCCs to join support monthly meetings. The meeting serves an important role 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 dropping school and other related issues raised and solved by the members.

- The round table discussions of D&CCWCs play crucial roles in dealing with women's and children's issues. Problems found included an increase of domestic violence in women and children committed by fathers. Children and women have illegally migrated into Thailand for temporary jobs. Most children dropped out of formal education during secondary school because they became involved in supporting their family incomes. Responding to some problems found mostly along with Thai border and remote communities especially Pailin and Battambang, the D&CCWCs have proposed to work closely with LAC to provide awareness in order to prevent children from dropping out of schools, domestic violence, sexual abuse and committing crimes.
- 4 cases of women and children in Battambang province had conducted joint investigation by concerned stakeholders on serious cases in order to improve case referral processes and services for survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuses in the target provinces.
- Women, children, and their communities understand basic human rights, which increases their ability to access justice, and the ability to protect themselves and their interests through media such radio, leaflets, posters and outreach activities.
- 58 cases of survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuses receive legal services and proceeded through the court system.
- Court, police and government officials in Pailin and Battambang provinces promote prevention and protection of survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse to obtain fairness and justice through attending capacity building training.

2.4. Progress

- The project's budget was being under the target approved by DFAT by 10% by late February 2014. Line by line of the detail budget approval, the project kept 100% of budget lines such as salary for Branch office manager in Battambang, salary for Legal assistant in Battambang, Mid-term project evaluation, the end project evaluation, buying equipment, and paying monthly desk telephone fee. However, the project also spent over the budget regarding line by line of the budget approved such as salary for Training/Advocacy officer, Activity 1.1.1 (Organisation of Meetings for Criminal Justice Actors), Management Team Monitoring, and Staff Quarterly Meeting Head Office.
- Although the project spent some budget lines that did not conform to budget approval, this 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 is effectiveness regarding the project flexibility and requirements of the project target groups.
- Although there are some variations on the cost, we observed that the results obtained were noticeable and of high quality. Furthermore, measurements have shown outputs of project activities achieved almost 100% in terms of 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 included monthly reports, project meetings and field visits with the project staff. Management Team monitoring was 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 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 were affected by the project implementation. Some NGOs ceased funding so most cases were referred to LAC in Battambang and Pailin. The project will ask to DEFAT 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: 61 women and children received legal aid from the project, 13 females attended the meeting of the Criminal Justice Actors in Pailin. 53 females of D&CCWCs' members attended in regular meeting in four target districts of Battambang and Pailin provinces. 29 female members attended in monthly meeting of PWCCC. 114 female participants joined the capacity building trainings, and 820 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 successful 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 activities, 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 on how to address women's and children's cases, especially cases of domestic violence. As a result D&CCWC is able to work more effectively with this newly gained information. In cases regarding domestic violence, dropping out school, and drug abuse, they are able to provide counselling and education to people in need. If there are cases that D&CCWC are 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 ensured 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.