



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Communication & Engagement Final Report Template

Australian Development Research Awards Scheme

2012 Funding Round

Purpose: The aim of this template is to provide the Australian Government and research teams with a systematic way to collect data on the outcomes of individual ADRAS research projects. Reporting includes a mix of metrics, case studies and narrative and can be tailored to suit individual projects.

The Communication and Engagement Final Report is a supplement to the ADRAS Final Report, coming six months after project completion, to provide any further updates in terms of knowledge outputs/outcomes and/or policy impacts. Tables should include an update on data provided in the ADRAS Final Report.

Agreement Number	66458
Project Title Please restate the working title as specified on the Australian Aid website at: http://aid.dfat.gov.au/research/Pages/adras-awards-2012.aspx	Do policy makers understand the economic and social issues affecting low-income women in four Mekong countries? (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam) ¹
Administering Organisation	Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok, Thailand
Principal Investigator	Dr. Philippe Doneys and Dr. Donna L. Doane, Gender and Development Studies, AIT
Total Australian Aid funding received during reporting year (AUD\$)	117,965

¹ As noted in our earlier reports, the original title for this project was, *'What is Essential is Invisible': Empowerment and Security in Economic Projects for Low-Income Women in Four Mekong Countries*. The new title given to us was, *Do policy makers understand the economic and social issues affecting low-income women in four Mekong countries?* When our country team in Viet Nam went to discuss the project with the Vietnam Women's Union, they realized that the VWU would object to the new title since the organization includes top policy makers who would not like the implication that they do not understand these issues, and thus might not be receptive to the research project or its findings. After discussing with the other country teams and hearing similar responses, we went back to the original title of the project for our website, brochure, name cards and other 'externally-oriented' documents, but kept the new title for our internal documents since our ultimate goal has been, in fact, to help bridge the gap between policy makers and project/initiative participants and beneficiaries. *Following the policy workshops, we are now continuing our informal discussions with policy makers in all four countries in order to continue to present our findings and identify these 'gaps' in ways that are helpful to policy makers (including government officials, CSO leaders, international organizations and others).*

1. Please outline what has been achieved by the project in terms of influencing policy/practice/thinking in the field of study? *Limit 500 words.*

- See below sections 2 & 3 for reporting on engagement with stakeholders and communications
- Please include (a) **case study/ies** as appropriate to illustrate in more detail specific successes/innovations/challenges in achieving policy influence.

Case studies can be used to illustrate changes in attitudes, behaviours, policies or practices as a result of research activity/ies. The case studies should:

- focus on activities that most directly contribute to the achievement of research objectives
- provide explanation of a causal link between activities and the relevant outcome
- provide an estimation of the level of attribution that can be claimed for the activity in the achievement of the outcome (to what extent did the research activity contribute to the outcome? Were there other contributing factors?)

Our influence over policies and practices began, but did not end, with the policy dialogues we held in each of the four countries. These experiences, together with our presentations at conferences, indicated that we have important material to share. Because of the scale and scope of our research – deep and extensive qualitative and quantitative research in four Mekong countries – it is taking time to put all the pieces together. Given the diversity of projects we have examined and the very different gender dynamics within each country, we are currently in the process of comparing across different research sites within each country and comparing across countries, integrating both qualitative and quantitative findings. It takes time, but our dialogues with policymakers – government officials, CSO leaders, international organizations, academics and other – have made it clear that our findings will indeed have an impact.

As a result of the policy dialogues and other more informal discussions with women leaders, we now have the ability to have ongoing discussions with policymakers in all four countries. In Vietnam we have been working with the Vietnam Women's Union and the Vietnam Women's Academy; they have given very positive responses and want to continue working together as our data is analysed and written up (in fact, attendees at the Hanoi policy dialogue from Korea also noted the importance and expressed continuing interest in helping communicate our research). In Cambodia we were requested by a representative of the Ministry of Women's Affairs to return to discuss the data with other MoWA representatives and other policymakers, which we will do. In Lao PDR the Gender Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) has been particularly interested in continuing the discussions (MAF officials had clearly read, understood and appreciated our Laos Summary Report), and they have been working through follow-up meetings with our Lao country team leader to learn more about our findings regarding gender issues, particularly as they apply to rural areas. In Myanmar our workshop in Yangon ended up conflicting with a hastily-scheduled national CSO Workshop in Naypyidaw and we couldn't reschedule, but our country team leaders in Myanmar are always in the limelight, nationally and internationally, and are well-connected with GOs, INGOs, CBOs, and policymakers so there will be no trouble in getting our data out to the maximum number of policymakers in government, civil society, academic and other institutions.

Our primary influences will be on the design of economic empowerment projects for low-income women (this will include the important question of 'gaps' in priorities and perceptions) and will contribute to the emerging dialogue on gender, security and social protection that will hopefully allow the integration of fragmented social protection policies (e.g., we argue that VAW, health and livelihood issues need to be approached in a well-planned and concerted way). Finally, the key issue of sustainability of benefits (or, more often, the *lack* of sustainability) once project funds end will be a central theme. It is a critical issue and has important implications for policymakers everywhere.

2. How have key stakeholders been engaged in the research?

- This section requires information about the external people/groups you have engaged, how you have engaged with them and what this engagement has resulted in
- Report significant engagement only i.e. where there was a substantive contribution to work, not just advice / participation in consultations

Please use the following table to record this information:

Table 1: Engagement of external individual / groups / networks

External Individuals / Groups / Networks per Theme			
External Individual / Group / Network engaged ²	Duration of engagement ³	What / how did engaged group contribute? ⁴	Changes to relationships/networks ⁵
<p><u>Viet Nam:</u></p> <p>Vietnam Women's Union (VWU) in Ninh Binh Province, Hoa Binh Province, and Thanh Hoa Province</p> <p>The projects we studied were carried out by the Ninh Binh Women's Union (Ninh Binh Province), the Farmer's Union and ADDA (Hoa Binh Province), and Paz y Desarrollo (Thanh Hoa Province), but they have all been done in conjunction with the Vietnam Women's Union because they are primarily women-oriented. The VWU are not only policy makers themselves, but they will be able to continue to facilitate our future ongoing discussions with policy makers in different capacities in the country.</p>	2014, 2015, 2016 (new)	The provincial branches of the VWU and its affiliates have been very good partners throughout in providing key informants and access to case studies in different provinces in both the qualitative and, more recently, the survey phase of our research project. They also have facilitated discussions with VWU and other policy makers at local, provincial and national levels.	Formalized through MoAs
<p>Vietnam Women's Academy</p> <p>The VWA is a relatively new academic institution focusing on Gender and Development, and is associated with the Vietnam Women's Union (VWU, above) as a parent organization.</p>	2016 (new)	The Vietnam Women's Academy has been collaborating with us in preparing for and facilitating the policy forum/consultative workshop that was held on 1 December 2016 in Hanoi. They would like to continue to collaborate in the future, given that we may be able to help with capacity-building, joint research and other collaborative efforts.	Formalized through MoAs

² *Engaged*: State the name of the organisation / institution / group / network and any relevant individual or key contact personnel involved

³ *Duration of engagement*: State whether the engagement is 'new' i.e. commenced during the ADRAS project or 'existing' and include the years of engagement e.g. 2009, 2010, 2011

⁴ *Contribution of engaged group*: Classify the contribution according to which stage in your research project the engagement has occurred. For example: Design; Implementation/fieldwork; report writing; review. Consideration of findings/recommendations; Communication / dissemination

⁵ *Change*: Outcomes in terms of changes in engagement – relationships / structures, networks including creation of new networks; formalizing relationships e.g. through MoU's;

<p>CARE International</p> <p>LIGHT (Light Institute of Social Health)</p>	<p>2016 (new)</p> <p>2016 (new)</p>	<p>Both CARE International and LIGHT were very helpful in facilitating access to projects on women's empowerment and security in Dien Bien Province (CARE) and in Hanoi (city), focusing on ethnic minority women and migrant women workers, respectively, for the survey phase of our research project.</p>	<p>Apart from formal MoAs with country-based researchers, no other MoAs were needed.</p> <p>Permission was given by the organizations involved in relevant projects/initiatives after we outlined the research project and discussed our intentions.</p>
<p><u>Lao PDR:</u></p> <p>Provincial/district officials, and offices of the district- and village-level Lao Women's Union (e.g., Sangthong District officials and LWU officers in Sangthong District, Vientiane Capital, and five villages in Sangthong District as well as sites in Oudomxay and Bokeo Provinces).</p> <p>In addition, for the survey phase the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (Gender Division) helped facilitate our research in new areas as well as earlier sites: the survey sites included Oudomxay, Phongsaly, Sekong, Attapeu and Vientiane Provinces.</p> <p>The projects examined included those sponsored by UN organizations, international aid agencies, and INGOs among others working with Lao GO counterparts.</p>	<p>2014, 2015, 2016 (new)</p>	<p>The LWU district officials were actually very helpful in our research by facilitating entry into the villages studied. They were also helpful in introducing us to both project and non-project participants. Women from both the provincial and district level branches of the LWU provided useful information, and the village level women members of the LWU provided interesting insights into gender dynamics, gender trainings and gender concerns on the local level.</p> <p>Regarding the recent survey phase of our project, many of the sites were rural so that in addition to the LWU (who helped particularly in Sangthong District during the survey phase), the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry was helpful in accessing additional areas in which the survey was conducted, totalling 400 interviewees over different sites (in Oudomxay, Phongsaly, Sekong, Attapeu and Vientiane Provinces). Both organizations have been important in accessing government-related policy makers, as well as some in non-governmental positions who have an interest in women's economic empowerment and security.</p> <p>The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (Gender Division) also facilitated our full-day consultation workshop (policy dialogue) on 16 February 2017 at the MAF complex. They continue to follow up with Ms. Southanome Keola, our Lao country team coordinator, as new findings come out of this research project as they are very interested in what we have found and suggestions we would make based on the research results.</p>	<p>Apart from formal MoAs with country-based researchers, no other MoAs were needed.</p> <p>Permission was given by the organizations involved in relevant projects/initiatives after we outlined the research project and discussed our intentions.</p>

<p><u>Myanmar:</u></p> <p>Socio-Economic and Gender Research Institute (SEGRI) in Yangon, Myanmar – this group of gender specialists directed research by working closely with local groups of researchers in Mon State, the Dry Zone, Kachin State and Rakhine State. They also provided connections with CARE, UNDP, the Kachin Women Peace Network, the Gender Equality Network (GEN), and other networks and organizations working on women’s economic empowerment and security. In addition, they facilitated and conducted discussions with policy makers as they are well placed to do so. (Ours was one of the first projects they worked on together as a group, helping to establish SEGRI as a research group.)</p>	2014, 2015, 2016 (new)	<p>SEGRI and affiliates worked, for both the qualitative and survey phases of the research, on (i) a consortium project of several organizations dealing with HIV (CARE and others), particularly in groups facing social exclusion in Mon State; (ii) UNDP-assisted self-reliance groups in the very poor rural parts of the Dry Zone; (iii) selected IDP camps in Kachin State (both government- and non government-administered); and (iv) a consortium project focusing on gender-based violence in Rakhine State (Muslim IDP and Buddhist IDP sites). SEGRI and KWPN (discussed below) provided access to key informants, project sites and local organizations working there; they also facilitated access to discussions with policy makers concerned with social protection and economic projects.</p> <p>SEGRI also helped arrange and conduct the policy dialogue/consultation workshop held on 22 February 2017 in Micasa Hotel, Yangon. SEGRI, KPWN and GEN also helped arrange informal discussions with CSO women leaders at the time of a CSO Workshop in Naypyidaw that immediately followed our workshop in Yangon.</p>	Formalized through MoAs
<p>Kachin Women Peace Network (KWPN)</p>	2014, 2015, 2016 (new)	<p>The KWPN was very helpful in allowing us to conduct our research in Kachin State, focusing on the security and empowerment programs and related activities for internally displaced women and their families. They were also very helpful in providing contacts with CSO women leaders and policy makers.</p>	Formalized through MoAs
<p><u>Cambodia:</u></p> <p>The country-based researchers did very extensive interviews and, in the second phase, surveys with low-income urban and peri-urban/semi-rural home-based women workers who have been members of HomeNet Cambodia (located in Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, Battambang and Poipet). They also studied an ADDA (Agricultural Development Denmark Asia) project in Siem Reap focusing on low-income women farmers; the</p>	<p>2014, 2015, 2016 (new)</p> <p>(HomeNet Cambodia was an existing engagement while all the others are new)</p>	<p>Contacts through these organizations provided access to key informants and the projects and policies we wanted to examine in more detail. They have also provided access to relevant policy makers, e.g., in the Ministry of Women’s Affairs (MoWA) and other government organizations on the local and national levels, together with other Cambodian NGOs, INGOs and international organizations working on gender-related concerns.</p> <p>The country-based team coordinated with the organizations that participated in the research and with the Ministry of Women’s Affairs</p>	<p>Apart from formal MoAs with country-based researchers, no other MoAs were needed.</p> <p>Permission was given by the organizations involved in relevant projects/initiatives after we outlined the research project and discussed our intentions.</p>

<p>women's economic empowerment projects of the Cambodian NTFP Development Organization (Cando) in an indigenous/minority area of Ratanakiri; the Cambodian Women's Crisis Center (CWCC) in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap dealing with violence against women and security concerns; and a community-based project of Urban Poor Women Development (UPWD), again dealing with violence against women and security concerns in urban slum communities in Phnom Penh. These sites were covered in both the qualitative and quantitative phases of our research.</p>		<p>(MoWA) to attend the policy dialogue held on 26 January 2017 at the CCKC (Cambodia-Korea Cooperation Center) in Phnom Penh.</p> <p>(After this meeting, a representative from MoWA suggested that we return again later to discuss our findings with additional MoWA and other policy makers. We plan to do this – in Cambodia as well as in the other three countries – through more informal and ongoing discussions.)</p>	
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- Where appropriate, include case studies to illustrate in more detail specific successes/innovations/challenges in meeting one or more of the research objectives (see Q2. for more detail on the focus of these case studies). *Please see below:*

As noted above, all four policy dialogues/consultative workshops have been completed. These were opportunities to begin discussions with policymakers of many different varieties in all four countries, laying the groundwork for further meetings related to women's economic empowerment and security/social protection. The policy dialogues were also opportunities to introduce some of the low-income women and women's groups that were the subject of the research to policymakers, particularly in Vietnam and Cambodia. The general format used in the policy dialogues was to begin with a short introduction from the country-based research team, usually together with a short speech from a policymaker (e.g., an official from the Women's Academy in Hanoi and from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in Vientiane), introduce all participants, and then provide a general introduction to the research project in terms of themes, sites, questions asked, numbers of interviews held in the qualitative and quantitative phases, and other basic information. This was followed by an overview of findings from the four countries – common themes and findings that emerged from the research – followed by some of the key *quantitative* findings from the host country, and finally some of the key *qualitative* findings from the host country. This was followed by long discussion sessions involving all participants, following two different formats. One involved separating the participants into groups based on their interests, i.e., women's economic empowerment, security/social protection, sustainability, and other themes. The second format, which proved more successful in terms of learning about the participants' own experiences and suggestions, was to form groups with each group having different types of participants (from government organizations, NGOs, local women's groups, etc.) – the groups were then asked simply to discuss their relevant experiences regarding what was discussed (again, regarding 'empowerment', 'security', 'sustainability', and other themes), their reactions regarding these ideas and recommendations (are new approaches needed? other questions or concerns?), and finally offer their thoughts and recommendations about ways forward (where should be go from here?). The concluding session involved briefly making plans to meet again, and immediately to continue discussions over lunch or tea/coffee/snacks, depending on the timing of the events. These were successful ways to begin ongoing discussions, and we were very satisfied with the outcomes.

3. What knowledge outputs or research communications have resulted from the project? How have these been used to achieve the research objectives?

Please provide the Australian Government with copies of these outputs with this progress report.

- This section requires information about research outputs produced, the target audiences identified and methods of communication engaged to impart information about your research project.

Please use the following tables to record this information:

Table 1: Key knowledge Outputs

- Document original contributions to knowledge – this should be a new insight / understanding / tool. Not all outputs will be new knowledge. Outputs must be based entirely on your ADRAS project, and not complementary outputs.
- List the full title of the output in the table.
- Any one knowledge output should only be recorded in one category

Type of output	Title/description of output	Published Y/N?	Source	
Literature review / scoping study	<p>In this research we have been building on and thinking more about an earlier review of literature and scoping study that we carried out regarding the concept of <i>women's economic 'empowerment'</i>. (This earlier literature review and scoping study was published in 2015 as part of a book chapter; the questions first addressed in this publication served as an entry into this research project.⁶)</p> <p>More recently we have benefited from the review of literature conducted by another AIT team (K. Jongjarb) on both <i>formal and informal social protection initiatives and practices</i> – i.e., those provided by GOs, NGOs, INGOs, religious organizations and local informal groups in all four countries.</p> <p>This background information, not published but used internally, has informed and will continue to inform our analyses and discussions even after the formal conclusion of the research project. In specific:</p> <p>(i) It is being used directly in our analysis for the monograph regarding the connection between economic empowerment on the one hand, and security and sustainability on the other;</p> <p>(ii) It is also informing the analysis of country studies in the monograph as concerns the 'gap' between perceptions of policy makers and beneficiaries in terms of access to social protection and priorities regarding social protection.</p> <p>(iii) It was also an important component for our panel discussion on 'Gender, Security and Social Protection' held on 23 June 2017 at Thammasat University (the ICIRD Conference – please see below).</p>	No (for internal use)	Project staff (Kanokphan Jongjarb)	

⁶ Donna L. Doane and Philippe Doney, 'Lost in Translation? Gender and Economic Empowerment in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region' in Ragnhild Lund, Philippe Doney and Bernadette Resurreccion (eds.), *Gender Entanglements: Revisiting Gender in a Rapidly Changing Asia*, Copenhagen: NIAS press, 2015.

<p>Tool / guide / testing of tool</p>	<p>We developed, tested and used an ambitious set of qualitative questionnaires for in-depth interviews (three different types), key informant interviews, and focus group discussions.</p> <p>This was followed by the development, testing and use of survey questionnaires that covered perceptions (a wide range of intangible factors) of women participants and their husbands/partners. The challenge was to deal not only with tangible factors that can be easily discussed qualitatively, and surveyed in a quick quantitative way, but also to go more deeply into perceptions and intangible/invisible sides of empowerment, security and sustainability.</p> <p>We should also note that this was an innovative approach to both studies of empowerment and security in that we were trying, particularly in the early qualitative phase of research, to understand these conceptions without relying on predetermined definitions, given that the ‘fixed’ definitions used by most measurement tools do not take the local contexts into consideration. This stands in contrast to most studies that define the subject of analysis (and thus what is to be ‘measured’) even before learning what local conceptions, perceptions and priorities are. For this reason, we find that many predetermined definitions are not appropriate for local contexts and do not give us the understanding we need (they may be asking the ‘wrong’ questions that cannot be understood or answered in any appropriate way).</p> <p>A major challenge was to use QuickTap software with this ambitious and long questionnaire developed for the survey phase. We felt that QuickTap would give us more accuracy and increase the speed by which the survey could be done – it can also be done offline, necessary in our case because of our use in remote areas that have no internet access. It was also supposed to be able to handle a complicated questionnaire such as ours. However, the software is new and we ran into ongoing challenges that needed to be worked out step-by-step. This caused headaches and delays, but we were able to complete</p>	<p>No (but we can write a great deal about the use of this survey method using iPads – both successes and challenges regarding conducting surveys using this survey tool)</p>	<p>(i) Qualitative research phase: questionnaires and guidelines used for the qualitative phase of research were completed and fully employed in the qualitative interview phase of the research. We also provided guidelines and trainings in qualitative interview techniques in the four countries. On average, the country-based teams conducted 150 extended interviews per country, resulting in thousands of pages of transcripts.</p> <p>In recent months the main findings of the qualitative phase have been analysed by country-based and AIT teams through adherence to ‘Write-up Guidelines’ (common questions to be answered for each case study), in order to allow findings to be compared (i) on a <i>country basis</i> for policy briefs keeping in mind local institutions and priorities, and (ii) <i>thematically across countries</i> with policy makers, academics, CSOs, INGOs, and project designers and implementers as the ‘target audience’. These ‘write-ups’ will be used, in combination with survey results, in the planned monograph/book (please see below). The monograph will cover both main country findings and several of the main themes or concerns of the research.</p> <p>Survey (quantitative) phase: We first conducted initial weeklong quantitative (survey-related) workshops with the country teams in order to decide on the structure of the survey, the general content, and methods of approaching intangible as well as tangible concerns in a way that is relevant to each of the four countries. Two expert consultants – one proficient in research design and analysis (M. Voelker) and another who assisted in implementation and training (H. Lim) – helped us design, train, test, implement, report and analyse the quantitative findings from this phase of the research.</p>	<p>Set of five qualitative questionnaires --> three designed for in-depth interviews:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - women and some men participants (empowerment focus) - women and some men participants (security focus) - the women’s husbands); <p>--> one for key informant interviews; and</p> <p>--> one for focus group discussions.</p> <p><i>[Submitted with the ADRAS Final Report in January 2017]</i></p> <p>One common survey questionnaire in format for use with QuickTap software.</p> <p><i>[Submitted with the ADRAS Final Report]</i></p> <p>‘Write-up Guidelines’ produced for analysis of both the case studies included in the qualitative phase and impressions from the new case studies added in the survey phase.</p> <p><i>[Submitted with the ADRAS Final Report; will be resubmitted with this Report as it moves toward</i></p>
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	<p>the survey in all four countries, and it appears to have increased the survey's accuracy as compared with previous methods of conducting surveys on paper. It also increased the speed of analysis, given that the encoding phase for data entry was not needed (data could be entered directly from the devices – in this case, iPads).</p> <p>Finally, given the huge quantity of qualitative interview results, we used NVIVO software to try to organize the results by country and by theme. This experiment (new for us) produced some useful data for all four countries.</p>		<p>NVIVO results became available over the past year after all translations were finalized and the submitted interviews were checked by the country-based teams.</p>	<p><i>publication as a monograph/ book]</i></p>
Conference paper/poster/ presentation	<p><i>[Please note: This list of presentations does not include those made during the policy dialogues in the four countries, which featured presentations of research findings by P. Doneys, D. Doane, M. Voelker, K. Jongjarb, and the country-based research teams in each of the four countries. These presentations are also available; four presentations were made in each country – tailored to each country's findings – followed by extensive discussions with policy makers.]</i></p> <p><i>The conference presentations noted below are listed in reverse chronological order – i.e., from most recent to the earliest presentations made regarding this research:</i></p> <p>(1) Panel on 'Gender, Insecurity and Social Protection: Evidence from Five Mekong Countries' for the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES)/Mahidol/Chulalongkorn/Chiang Mai/Mae Fah Luang/Thammasat University-sponsored Fifth International Conference on International Relations and Development (ICIRD 2017), at Thammasat University, 23-24 June 2017. Our panel discussed our research findings through four presentations, together with one other associated study, on 23 June 2017; presenters included Dr. P. Doneys, Ms. K. Jongjarb, Dr. M. Voelker (with inputs from F. Safi, who could not attend), Ms. N. Sina, Dr. P. Pham, Dr. D. Buranajaroenkij and Dr. D. Doane – all members of our research team for this study.</p> <p>→ Presentations/papers included the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>A brief introduction to the two studies</i> (Dr. Philippe Doneys) 2. <i>Overview on social protection policies in the Mekong sub-region</i> (Ms. Kanokphan 	<p>No (not as yet – we are working to incorporate these ideas into monograph/book form based on the integrated qualitative and quantitative findings, along with producing a series of journal articles based on the main themes of the research)</p>	<p>Co-P.I.s (Philippe Doneys and Donna Doane); statistician (Marc Voelker, Mahidol University Institute of Population and Social Research); staff members/Ph.D. students in Gender and Development Studies (Duanghathai Buranajaroenkij, Farid Safi); staff members and former M.A. students in Gender and Development Studies (Kanokphan Jongjarb, gender and water specialist; Norm Sina, Cambodia research team leader and coordinator)</p>	<p>Twelve formal conference presentations (in the form of ppt slides)</p> <p>(Several more <i>informal</i> presentations and discussions were made as well – at meetings, conferences and in classroom settings)</p> <p><i>[Examples of some of the more recent presentations will be submitted with this Report.]</i></p>

	<p>Jongjarb)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. <i>What do low-income women fear the most? Who do they turn to in times of reversals or need? Evidence from four countries</i> (Dr. Marc Voelker and Mr. Farid Safi) 4. <i>Case study from Cambodia: low-income women negotiating with local authorities [for social protection benefits]</i> (Ms. Norm Sina) 5. <i>Case study from Viet Nam: How have government institutions responded to the needs of low-income women? [Focus on the role of the Women's Union and other institutions]</i> (Dr. Phuong Pham) 6. <i>Women's participation in social movements and women's input into the making of the social agenda</i> (Dr. Duanghathai Buranajaroenkij – this paper was requested by FES to be included, and even though it is on Thailand it fits in well) 7. <i>Implications for social protection policies in the Mekong sub-region</i> (Dr. Donna L. Doane) <p>(2) Presentation by D. Doane on 'Women's Economic Empowerment and Security Projects: Health Dimensions' for the India Learning Symposium at Manipal University (Manipal, India) on 22 April 2017. This was a weekend-long symposium sponsored by Manipal University (India), Maastricht University (Netherlands), McMaster University (Canada) and Thammasat University (Thailand), including their divisions on public health.</p> <p>The presentation focused on implications of our research for health concerns (gender-related problems of access, priorities and other considerations); it also considered the key public health concern of domestic violence (especially IPVAW) and what our data suggests in terms of women's economic empowerment and security projects – under what conditions do the projects and interventions act to <i>decrease</i> domestic conflict/violence, and under what conditions do they <i>increase</i> it, as found in some South Asian (and, indeed, Southeast Asian) country contexts? Moreover, if problems arise, what do the data suggest in terms of how to best solve</p>			
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	<p>this important physical and mental health concern?</p> <p>(3) Presentation by D. Doane at Thammasat University on 28 March 2017, on <i>findings from our research project</i> during the final hour of a three-hour lecture entitled ‘Gender and Development’. This lecture was for a course at Thammasat University on International Development Paradigms for the Social Policy Development International Program.</p> <p>(4) Presentation by P. Doneys for a public lecture entitled, ‘Empowerment and Security in Economic Projects for Low-income Women in Four Mekong Countries’, on 14 March 2017. This was a multi-departmental public lecture at Laval University, Quebec, Canada, sponsored by the Sociology Department. (In French, with English supplements.)</p> <p>(5) Presentations on our research made by P. Doneys, D. Doane and D. Buranajaroenkij at the Southeast Asian Studies in Asia Conference 2015 (SEAS 2015), 12-13 December 2015 at Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <i>Gender and ‘Development’: What do ‘empowerment’ and ‘security’ mean to women beneficiaries of economic development projects in Mekong countries? (Focus on Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam).</i> Presentation by P. Doneys. This was derived from our findings coming from all four countries. ii. <i>Gender, Development and Social Protection: How can women’s organizations respond to inter-community conflict in Mekong countries? (Focus on Myanmar and Thailand).</i> Presentation by D. Buranajaroenkij and D. Doane. This involved a comparison of our findings from Kachin and Rakhine States in Myanmar with the experience of women’s organizations in Southern Thailand. <p>(D. Buranajaroenkij was not only one of our PhD students who has been helping particularly with the analysis of Lao PDR and Myanmar</p>			
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	<p>data for this project, but she is also on the faculty of the Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies, Mahidol University, working on gender and conflict in Buddhist-Muslim communities. She was granted her PhD in December 2017 and continues to work on publications coming from this project, focusing particularly on our data regarding the efficacy of gender trainings in the four Mekong countries as well as cases of IDPs in conflict-prone areas in Myanmar.)</p> <p>(6) Presentation made by P. Doney and D. Doane on the concepts of empowerment and security as part of a panel discussion entitled, <i>Rethinking Gender and Development in Southeast Asia</i>, at the 28th ASEAUK Conference, University of Brighton, UK (Association of South-East Asian Studies in the UK) on 12-14 September 2014 (http://aseasuk.org.uk/3/28th-aseasuk-conference-university-brighton-uk).</p> <p>(7) Presentation made by D. Doane at the Second AMNEP Forum, Hanoi on 27-28 August 2014 on <i>Women's Empowerment in the Mekong Countries: Definitions and Methodologies</i>. Also spoke at DFAT's Asia Regional Gender Focal Point (GFP) workshop on the second day of that workshop (26 August 2014).</p> <p>(8) Presentation made by D. Doane on <i>women's empowerment</i> in the context of our research project, at the Inaugural Symposium of the Women's International Study Center in Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA on 15-16 August 2014 (http://wisc-amh.org/symposia/view/2-risk-reinvention-how-women-are-changing-the-world).</p> <p>(9) Presentation made by D. Doane on <i>Gender and Economic Empowerment in Four Mekong Countries: Findings from Field Research</i> (discussed this project as well as the study that led into this project); this was a 'Tonyo Lecture' at the Kyoto University Centre for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS, 25 October 2013).</p>			
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<p>Academic paper (journal article/working paper/book chapter/monograph)</p>	<p>We have completed both the qualitative and quantitative phases of our project and will continue to integrate the two sources of data (survey and qualitative interviews) for publications, as discussed below.</p> <p>We also want to use the data to go further, beyond descriptive statistics, to look at other more complex relationships based on multivariate regression analysis (e.g., the relationship between women beginning paid work and increasing their social status on the one hand and the rise or fall in intra-household conflict in different parts of the four Mekong countries, depending on local gender hierarchies, male unemployment vs. male inclusion, gender trainings, and other variables. The intention is to see which components of projects have helped <i>decrease</i> domestic conflict/violence as a woman begins to earn income, and in cases where there is a potential for an <i>increase</i> in conflict and violence as a woman takes on new roles and statuses, how interventions can help <i>reduce</i> conflict through improved project design and trainings.)</p> <p>The country-based and AIT teams have been coordinating to write up their analyses in a way that we intend to compile into a monograph/book based on the key research themes. In addition, P. Doneys, D. Doane, M. Voelker, F. Safi, and D. Buranajaroenkij, among others, will be writing journal papers based on specific aspects of the research that are in line with each person's interests.</p> <p>Journal paper: <i>Empowerment of low income women in Cambodia: What Actually Works?</i></p>	<p>No (not as yet, but moving steadily toward a range of publications. Some of the survey data came in late, and we want to compare across all four countries as well as integrate all of the most important qualitative and quantitative data into a number of publications. These will be detailed in the upcoming C&E Report.)</p> <p>Planning submission end of July 2017.</p>	<p>Co-P.I.s (P. Doneys, D. Doane), M. Voelker (head statistician for this project), F. Safi (statistical consultant), and D. Buranajaroenkij (AIT team member), as well as the country-based research team leaders who are currently writing and expanding their contributions to the monograph/book.</p> <p>Philippe Doneys, Donna Doane and Sina Norm (Journal title pending)</p>	<p>An outline of the monograph/book and Guidelines for the case study write-ups for the monograph will be submitted with this Report, along with examples of case study write-ups (still in rough form) from each of the four countries. The cases studies will be edited and expanded to present information in parallel form, and data from both the qualitative and quantitative phases will be integrated with the analyses.</p> <p><i>[As noted above, the Outline, Guidelines and examples of case studies from each of the four countries will be submitted with this Report]</i></p>
<p>Policy document (Policy brief/research brief /recommendations /seminar)</p>	<p>We have conducted all four of the consultative workshops (policy dialogues). One basic format for the policy brief was developed for use in all four countries, allowing modifications for each country.</p> <p>In addition, one research brief was developed. This will be modified for informal dialogues in each country in the coming months; recommendations have been made and will continue to be made in ongoing discussions with policy makers. (We were also offered the possibility of having a consolidated regional dialogue on these issues later in the year, but if we go ahead</p>	<p>Printed (for our own use in workshops and elsewhere)</p>	<p>Project staff</p>	<p>Policy Briefs (a basic format was set, allowing for modifications for each country findings.) <i>[Examples were submitted with the ADRAS Final Report]</i></p> <p>One Research Brief <i>[Submitted with the</i></p>

	<p>with this it will not draw on project funds since we thought the four country-based consultative workshops were more important and more productive for our purposes.)</p> <p>We also produced a project brochure to use whenever discussing the Project with policy makers, CSOs, academics and others. The first page of the brochure was updated for the survey phase of the research.</p> <p>We should also note that a Laos Summary Report was produced that was informed by the Research Brief, together with selected findings from the Lao qualitative research and the Lao survey data. It was submitted to and was well received by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF, Gender Division), who facilitated much of the survey work in rural areas. The Ministry continues to work with our Lao country team coordinator as new data is written up and analysed, as it can influence their understanding of gender issues particularly in rural areas.</p>			<p><i>ADRAS Final Report]</i></p> <p>The Laos Summary Report, written initially for the Lao Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in English and translated into Lao, served as the basis for the Laos Policy Brief. <i>[Submitted with the ADRAS Final Report]</i></p> <p>Workshop documents (printed slides, etc.), for use in the workshops. All four workshops have been completed – the format was a general introduction to the research project; an overview of findings from the four countries; then quantitative findings from the ‘host’ country, and finally qualitative findings from the ‘host’ country. This was followed by long discussion sessions, following two different formats.)</p> <p><i>[Formats used in Discussion Sessions for Policy Dialogues and an example of documents used in workshops will be submitted with this</i></p>
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				<i>Report.]</i> One project brochure as an introduction to the project (with contact details), for use in the workshops and ongoing discussions with policy makers <i>[Submitted with the ADRAS Final Report]</i>
Project evaluation	<p>Please note that our own project has been audited in April 2017 by an external auditor using internationally accepted auditing standards. However, no project evaluation was conducted (research projects are usually evaluated on outputs)</p> <p>Also; we are not assessing projects as such – instead, we are examining dynamics within individual projects – what works, what doesn't work as well, and crucially what allows the benefits of the project to be sustained or not sustained over time.</p>			
Website/social media/traditional media	We maintain a website that includes basic information, updates on events, and contact details regarding the project. We will continue to post additional information as a means of continuing the discussions with policy makers in the four countries.	Jhazine Damaso (Project Officer) and staff members at AIT maintain the website	The website is http://espmekong.net/ and https://www.facebook.com/esp.mekong for photos.	Website 'published'
			No of total outputs:	30 (so far – we are currently working toward publication of journal articles and a monograph/ book integrating findings from this research, and will be making numerous presentations at conferences and meetings regarding our research findings over the coming

		months)
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Table 2: Methods of Communication

- Document where targeted communication activities were undertaken and how this was done i.e. where there was an identified audience and specific message for communication.
- There may be several target audiences for the same knowledge output.

Communication per Knowledge Output				
Target Audience	Knowledge output	Communication Method ⁷	Audience Reached ⁸	Response ⁹
<p>Policy makers (in government, non-government, academic, international organizations and other positions)</p> <p>Participants included representatives from all of the organizations listed above (including GOs, CSOs, NGOs, INGOs, international organizations, academic institutions, researchers, and others)</p>	<p>Presented some of the numerous findings from the qualitative and initial quantitative (survey) results, including all four countries but focusing particularly on the 'host' country; also, and importantly, learned from the policy makers' experiences and views concerning the key issues of low-income women's economic empowerment and security/social protection in the four Mekong countries</p>	<p>Consultative workshops/ policy dialogues, with discussions as well as presentations</p>	<p>Both policy makers, CSO representatives and researchers learned from these dialogues</p>	<p>Both researchers and policy makers learned from these initial discussions and plan to continue in ongoing discussions (we may also try to organize a regional workshop in Bangkok later in the year, using outside funds, or coordinate with a Center for Southeast Asian Studies for a consolidated workshop based on findings from this research)</p>

⁷ *Communication Method*: General statement of method e.g. publication, social media, seminar, meeting, conference, teaching, course etc.

⁸ *Audience Reached*: Specify level as well as estimate proportion of intended target audience reached, where possible. Include gender breakdown

⁹ *Response*: Qualitative assessment of response or sign of attention paid to the communication by the target audience E.g. expressions of interest; requests for more information; active participation and engagement; provision of comments or feedback. May include negative responses.

Academic: Academic programs, administrators, instructors, students	<p>As part of this project, met with Vietnam Women's Academy (VWA) to discuss research and curriculum – with administrators and instructors. Also met with students on a separate occasion. In December 2016 held consultative workshop in association with the Vietnam Women's Academy, and plan to engage with them for capacity-building and providing recommendations in the future.</p> <p>Teaching at AIT (P. Doney, who also taught at Laval University in Canada during the Spring 2017 semester; D. Doane as a guest lecturer in different courses at AIT and at Thammasat and Manipal University, as noted above), as well as teaching done by D. Buranajaroenkij in her courses at Mahidol University and other universities in Thailand, and Marc Voelker in his courses at Mahidol University. Helping shape future research and development</p>	<p>Meeting with VWA administrators and instructors (P. Doney and D. Doane) for curriculum-building discussions (2014) and research and workshop-related discussions (2016).</p> <p>In addition, spoke at seminar on the occasion of International Women's Day, addressing students of the VWA (D. Doane, 2015).</p> <p>Workshop held on 1 December 2016 at the Vietnam Women's Academy.</p> <p>Also met with VWA representatives at AIT in November 2016 to discuss curriculum and possible future collaborations.</p> <p>90% women in Gender and Development classes, from all over Asia and beyond</p>	<p>Administrators (including head of the VWA), instructors</p> <p>Students</p> <p>Policy makers, researchers</p> <p>Classroom instruction</p>	<p>The Vietnam Women's Academy would like us to continue in collaborative efforts and capacity-building activities (there is a new program in Gender and Development).</p> <p>Findings from the research were incorporated into classes and presentations and will continue to be incorporated in the coming years; students find this research to be both interesting and very relevant. (On a 5-point Likert scale, Dr. Doney received more than 88% 'Agree' or 'Strongly Agree' to positive reviews of the courses taught.)</p>

	specialists in the region. Concepts regarding empowerment and security and findings regarding income generation projects and activities are integrated particularly into P. Doney's courses on <i>Gender, Politics, Civil Society and Human Rights; New Technology, Industrialisation and Gender; and Gender, Migration and Human Trafficking in Asia.</i>			
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- Where appropriate, include case studies to illustrate in more detail specific successes/innovations/challenges in meeting one or more of the research objectives (see Q2. for more detail on the focus of these case studies).

4. Are there any future C&E activities planned or in the pipeline that will improve the reach and/or uptake and use of the research?

We just completed (earlier this week) our panel discussion at the ICIRD Conference on some of the security/social protection-related findings of our research in the four Mekong countries. We received very positive feedback and numerous follow-up inquiries indicating substantial interest in the topic and our work, and we will continue to participate in similar conference panels and discussions at a wide range of academic and policy-related meetings.

At this conference, Dr. Doneys and the other panellists expressed continuing interest in presenting our ongoing findings regarding both empowerment and social protection. In addition, Dr. Voelker expressed particular concern regarding the fact that aging is one of the main fears and priorities of the low-income women, but that most projects are oriented toward girls and younger-to-middle aged women; he will follow up on this theme in the future, along with other related work using our extensive statistical data. Dr. Doane is particularly concerned with issues of the relationship between women's economic activity and domestic violence (sometimes increasing and sometimes decreasing, depending on many important factors); she is also concerned with issues of sustainability of benefits after projects end, and will focus on those and other themes using both qualitative and quantitative data from our research. Dr. Buranajaroenkij is very much interested in following up on questions related to security and conflict, gender trainings, and women's groups, organizations and networks, using the qualitative data from our research in particular. Dr. Pham is working on gender and empowerment in rural areas in the Mekong sub-region and will continue to contribute a great deal in terms of understanding the importance of institutional arrangements (e.g., women's unions working with GOs and NGOs) toward the achievement of empowerment and security and the sustainability of benefits. Similarly, Ms. Norm, Ms. Souththanome, Mr. Safi and Ms. Jongjarb will continue working with the qualitative and quantitative data to understand implications for both empowerment and social protection policies. Finally, our country-based teams are committed to joining together to publish findings from the qualitative case studies from their respective country contexts (we will integrate their ideas with quantitative findings as well).

As indicated previously, we expect that a number of journal articles (minimum of 3) and a monograph/small book will be published in the next few months. Now that all of the data are in and have been translated, our research team will combine qualitative and quantitative (both descriptive and analytical) findings regarding specific topics – including, for example:

- the meaning and achievement of 'empowerment' in different social (and gender-related) contexts, comparing perceptions across income, age, ethnicity and other social backgrounds, including gaps between beneficiaries and policymakers;
- key concerns about the sustainability of benefits (under what conditions are they sustainable, and under what conditions do they tend to disappear after funding ends?);
- the relationship between low-income women's empowerment and security, with implications for social protection policy;
- the relationship between a woman's first experience of earning income and the increase or reduction in domestic conflict and domestic violence (e.g., IPVAW) – what factors appear to influence the effect a woman's new earnings and status will have on tensions within the household, and what interventions (e.g., gender trainings, male inclusion) can help counter these potentially serious problems; and
- other issues of particular concern to the AIT-centred and country-based research teams, including a focus on the content and methods of gender awareness trainings as well as women's leadership, women's vocational and other trainings; women's economic empowerment and security in conflict-prone areas (gender and conflict); the impact of environmental degradation on health and livelihoods of low-income women; changing gender dynamics as indigenous groups enter into a mainstream economy; and other key issues.

Ongoing discussions with policymakers in the four countries and beyond will allow us to continue "spreading the word" about our findings over the coming months and even years. We have a great deal of data, and in the kind of depth and breadth that is rarely seen. It has been a unique opportunity to do this type of research, and the results need to be communicated widely.

5. What can we learn from challenges/issues experienced in relation to C&E throughout the project? *Limit 500 words.*

- If applicable, please summarise any issues that affected the ability of the research team to communicate research findings to achieve policy impact. For example:
 - delays in publication of research findings
 - changes to political contexts in which the research findings were presented
 - changes to key stakeholders/supporters of the research
- Please document how these challenges were addressed/what was learnt that might be useful to researchers/future research?

One difficulty we faced from the beginning has to do with the unanticipated problem of not being able to discuss ideas with policymakers directly to identify 'gaps' between their perceptions and perceptions of the beneficiaries of projects and policies. (In this region it is considered inadvisable to suggest that policymakers may not know what is happening on the ground, or that there might be gaps in perceptions.) For this reason, we decided to first do our research as meticulously and comprehensively as possible before we present it to policymakers. During the policy dialogues and in informal discussions we have been identifying how our results are often different from what one might expect; we then try to understand the 'gaps', including those that policymakers themselves can identify. Based on our experiences to date, lower-level policymakers in the four countries are, generally speaking, more likely to know what local perceptions and priorities are, but policymakers at higher levels – whose job it is to make national-level decisions – may not be as aware of these differences unless they have worked previously in local positions. Consultative workshops in each of the four countries, followed by ongoing informal discussions with policymakers, appear to be better for understanding these gaps rather than trying to do so in the context of one large-scale policy meeting. This approach was time-consuming, but it resulted in very good outcomes.

The other problem we faced is the one of delays due to many factors. These include:

- (i) Coordinating with the schedules of four different country-based teams, including team leaders who are among the most highly-requested gender experts in their countries and are very busy, both nationally and internationally – this certainly caused delays, but we felt that it was worth waiting for them, both for data collection, analysis and C&E purposes, since they work in a committed way (even with substantial delays) and also are very well-connected with policymakers;
- (ii) Working with QuickTap in the survey phase is another factor that slowed down our progress toward publication (we can now advise other researchers about how to avoid these delays); and finally,
- (iii) It is worth mentioning that having a tremendous amount of data, both qualitative and quantitative, caused delay in C&E as well. The quantitative data in particular has been time-consuming in terms of cleaning data, getting adequate translations, and starting on analytical as well as simple descriptive statistical analysis (we also have to coordinate with the schedules of our statisticians who are often busy with other work).

Nonetheless, we find that the end result will certainly justify these delays in C&E (even new MA and PhD students from the four countries will be able to take our data and findings further, with updates according to their particular interests and concerns). A simpler, more narrowly focused project would have led to faster publications, but we have a wealth of data that will be analysed, published and discussing in different ways over the coming years, and will hopefully have a notable impact over time.

9. Certification

I certify that all the details contained in this C&E Final Report are true and that all research partners and co-investigators agree that this report is an accurate representation of the projects progress so far.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Philippe Doney', with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Dr. Philippe Doney
Co-Principal Investigator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Donna Doane', with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Dr. Donna L. Doane
Co-Principal Investigator

Date: 30 June 2017