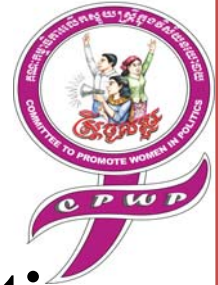




Activity Report



Promoting Women's Participation In Decision Making

At the commune level in Cambodia

Contract No. 7140422

Contract Period August 2006 – March 2007



Submit to The World Bank, Cambodia Office
Prepare by: CPWP Secretariat, SILAKA

6S Street 21 Tonle Bassac I, Khanh Chamcar Mon, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Tel# 855 23 21 7872 Fax # 855 23 21 3108
Email<cpwp@silaka.org>

Contents

I. Introduction	1
II. Objectives of the project.....	2
III. Input of the project and Activity Summary	2
1.Forum	3
2.Training	3
IV Achievements	3
V. Lesson learnt from the activities & problem encountered	8
1.Strength:	8
2.Difficulties:.....	9
3.Impact:.....	9
VI. Conclusion.....	10

Attachment:

1. Annex I: Activity Schedule of 8 Trainings and 8 Forums in 6 provinces;
2. Annex II: List of # Activities for CPWP Program that was got fund from Donors;
3. Annex III: Brief Results Achieved of CPWP by this end of March 2007;
4. Annex IV: Commune council election 2002 and 2007 by gender;
5. Annex V: List of recommendation after election;
6. Brochure of CPWP;
7. Booklet of CPWP;
8. CPWP T-Shirt;
9. Handout for train women candidates.

Promoting Women's Participation in Decision Making At the commune level in Cambodia

Report to the World Bank (Cambodia Office)

By: CPWP Secretariat, SILAKA

I. Introduction

In September 2006, Silaka, on behalf of CPWP and the World Bank came under a contract No. 7140422 to conduct public forums and training sessions to enhance the women leadership in decision making in the commune/sangkat level in the preparation for the April 1 election. The project started from August 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007 (Total of 8 months). CPWP partners organizations were committed to achieved the activities planned total 1 training of trainers session, 7 training session and 6 public forums. The following is the report of activities implemented SILAKA, WFP, NICFCC, CWPD and Comfrel. But actually, we were able to implement 8 trainings session and 8 public forums, because Women For Prosperity, WFP, one of CPWP members, got fund from UNFPA and UNDP through MoWA to conduct the training of trainer session. So the budget approved by World Bank for ToT was used to conduct one more training session and two public forums in Kampong Cham province. *(Please see the detail of activity plan in Annex I)*

CPWP has a strategy to promote women in decision making at the Commune Level in Cambodia in the upcoming election in April 2007. The strategy includes the following:

1. Organize forums at the district level, aiming at potential candidate, political parties, and the general public to create conducive environment for women candidates.
2. Train women candidates from the political parties before the election to build their capacity to prepare and mount the political campaign in March 07
3. Advocacy at the national, provincial and district level to advocate to put women at the top of the list prior to the candidates lists are submitted to National Election Committee;
4. A Media campaign to include the publication of posters, booklets, TV and radio spots to be distributed and to be aired in different station prior to election in April; Further, member organization Nicfec implement 120 drama sessions prior to the election.
5. Train elected women commune counselors after the election.

Committee to Promote Women in Politic (CPWP) Members:

1. GAD/C: took the lead in preparation and training of Forum organizers of the members
2. WFP: took the lead in preparation and training of trainers for women candidates
3. CWPD
4. NICFEC
5. COMFREL
6. CDRI and
7. SILAKA: as the secretariat and took the lead in the media and advocacy component.

CPWP Goal:

1. Increase women in commune and sangkats from 9% to 15% in 2007 through promoting political parties using 30% quota system and in place women candidates at the top list;
2. Promote NGO and associations and the media to support the promotion to the above goal to the general public on the importance of gender and women representatively in the communes and sangkats;
3. Increase the capacity of local organizations to increase capacity of women candidates in developing proposal, organizing, and implementing their campaign in public forums based on sharing knowledge, techniques, experiences and resources.

II. Objectives of the project

The objective of the project is to increase the women commune/sangkat counselors at the April 2007 election through organizing 1 training of trainers, 6 forums and 7 training sessions for women candidates. The specific objectives of the training and forum as mention as the following:

1. Training: for women candidates

- To train women candidates in topics such as what is politics, the decision to run, identifying voter groups, organizing and managing volunteers, developing formal and informal networks, campaign structures and management, resource mobilization and fundraising, image building and informal networks (the art of speaking and the speech), the media and candidate (candidate's tools)
- To identify women with a high potential to be elected and to lobby for them to be placed on top of the candidate list
- Training that is conducted at provincial level will enable women to liaise with and build rapport with the provincial authorities who the ones that finalize the candidate list to the National Election Committee in Phnom Penh. Hence it is a good opportunity for the women to strengthen their skills in advocating, lobbying, and pursuing their desired agenda directly with the decision makers.

2. Forum: 2 sessions in the morning and in the evening for public consumption.

- To create avenues for an inclusive participation and discussion from people on women and leadership.
- To expose voters to success stories of current women councilors.
- To inform voters that "your vote counts".
- To educate people about women's rights, benefits and value of women leadership, domestic violence and other forms of gender based discrimination
- To increase support from families, especially husbands, for current and would-be women councilors.

III. Input of the project and Activity Summary

Materials such as brochure (both in English and Khmer), booklet (in Khmer), poster (in Khmer) and T-Shirt was used in forum and training (880 T-shirt was produced by got fund from WB). The Forum and training was conducted in Khmer. In addition, attitude survey was used before and after the forum and training to monitor participants understanding of the concept and attitude changing.

1. Forum

Before organize the public forum in the local level CPWP was organized Training of Trainers on July 20-21 2006 and manual for all partners that led by GAD/C to make sure when we organize the public forum we have only one voice. For the process of the forum took place one day and in the morning session discussed about women agenda and issues. For the evening event are video, slides, game to promote women leadership role model.

Participatory methods were used in the forum such as brainstorming, question and answer, small group discussion, presentation in plenary discussion, movie show (good husband), education spot show (how to vote for women, alternative system, women in leadership), voxpop of people perspective of women in political and 2 songs to promote women, speech of H.E Mr. Hun Sen in Chak Tomuk Theatre in August 17, 2006 that show of his commitment to promote women in politics, and team involvement in decision making with additional game. Through the use of games, dancing, participants learned and enjoyed each other at the same time. These methods created a good sharing environment for them. They learned to share information and build team in working. **There were 956 people attended in the morning session and 5,785 people in the evening session in 8 forums in 4 provinces.**

2. Training

Training of trainers was conducted on October 03-07, 2006 for all of members that prepared manual and led by WFP. The method of the training was participatory, such as brainstorming, lecture, speak out, case studies, small group discussion, plenary discussion, group work, team involvement in decision making with additional game and icebreaker. In addition, exercises were used in the class to help participants internalize and apply concepts of teamwork to their work. Through the use of games, participants learned and enjoyed each other at the same time. These methods created a good learning environment for them. They learned to share information and build team in working. Lesson plans and handout materials were in Khmer. The training was conducted in Khmer. The training workshop took place for 3 days. **There were 251 women candidates from 4 main political parties (CPP: 79, SRP: 80, FSP: 68 and NRP: 15) attended in 8 trainings in 4 provinces.**

IV. Achievements

Mobilizing support:

CPWP have achieved in developing a common strategy to increase women in the 2007 commune/Sangkat election. Proposals were developed for all 7 members and one for the overall proposal for all partners. CPWP and members have raised fund from several source and successfully partnered with: GTZ, UNIFEM, UNDP, UNFPA, MOWA and PACT/USAID. CPWP as a committee has received fund from the World Bank and lately UNDEF through UNIFEM to implement our activities.

By the end of March 2007 CPWP and its partners have received support from the following donors:

- UNDEF funded CPWP through UNIFEM from February 2007- December 2008 to conduct community-based voter outreach **18** public forums in three provinces: Takeo, Kampong Cham and Kampong Thom. There are **20** trainings women candidates, activists and network in targeted.

- World Bank funded for: 1 training of trainer session (TOT) which was later used for 2 forums and 1 training session, and 7 training sessions of candidates and 6 forums. So in total there are 8 trainings and 8 forums.
- UNIFEM fund media advocacy and lobbying activities with political parties to SILAKA.
- UNDP and UNFPA through MOWA fund WFP to conduct 15 training sessions and GAD/C to organize 5 forums and a refreshment training of trainer.
- GTZ funded GAD/C to implement forum and training of the trainers for forum organizers.
- GTZ funded CPWP to organize launching program in October, 2006 at Sunway Hotel
- Recently CPWP got fund from FSD to cover 2 staff salary for support CPWP process in communication and network.

(Please see the schedule detail in Annex II)

The fund received from UNDEF for 2007-2008 activities will cover 3 provinces (Takeo, Kampong Cham, and Kampong Thom), provinces with low women representation (4-5%) in the last election. We will also provide training to local activists and help them build networks in the provinces we will be working with. We have been meeting monthly to share information, distribute tasks, plan new activities, and solve problems. We have reasons to believe that there is a significant increase in placing more women at the top of the list among the 4 political parties (including NRP). We aimed at doubling the 8% of women candidates from 2002. We are collecting the number right now, but the result will come out after the official announcement on 24 April 2007 then we will see the exact figure.

(Please see the brief Result Achieve of CPWP in Annex III)

Total activities Implemented by members of CPWP:

With the other support from other donors, CPWP members organizations have conducted a total:

1. 27 forums at the district level;
2. 1 TOT on organizing forums and a refreshment course,
3. 31 training sessions for women candidates'
4. 1 TOT for training of candidates for Commune/Sangkat,
5. 120 comedies session at the local level;
6. 1 special historical event on March 03, 2007 at Wat Phnom for evoking people remembers to look back to Cambodian women in history and to install this spiritual motivation in young generations 'mind.

Publication:

CPWP and the members has published:

1. 8000 booklets on: Why do we need women in decision making?
2. 6000 brochures: CPWP background information and members
3. 3,140 T-shirts: Vote for party with women at the top of candidates list
4. 1520 handout for train candidates
5. 4800 posters with message: Women must be involved to protect the interest of women and children
6. 1 radio spot for campaign: How to vote for women at the next commune/sangkat election?

7. 1 round table discussion in TV9 on “Women Participation in Politics”
8. 2 songs: Promoting women to stand and vote for women at the commune/sangkat election;
9. 1 video spot (or voxpop) on people view on female leaders,

Media campaign and Lobbying:

CPWP and members mount a media campaign advocate for the public to vote for party with women on the top of the candidate list. CPWP members also lobbied national leaders of political parties, provincial, district and commune level in 8 provinces (personal meetings to place women at the top of the list prior to the election.)

Summary activities supported by World Bank

CWPD conducted 4 public forums at the commune level: **The first** was conducted in Chie Kreng district, Siem Reap on 28 December 2006 (there were 139 participants from nearby communes, women from main three political parties joined in the morning session and 1039 participants attended the evening session). **Second** was held in Phnom Penh at Sak Sampao on 19 January, 2007 (there were 100 participants in the morning session and 500 participant with various ages and position attended in evening session). **Third**, it was conducted in Kampong Cham province on 19 February 2007 at Svay Ming, Svay Ming village, Ampil Tapok, O Raing Oav district, there were about 159 participants came from three communes nearby, women from three political parties total there were 75 women. In the evening session there were 950 people participated estimated at that forum. **The fourth** was conducted on 21 February 2007 at Tumnob commune, Batheay district, Kampong Cham. In the morning session there were 150 participants from three nearby communes, women from main three political parties total there were 58 women participants and about 900 participants in the evening session.



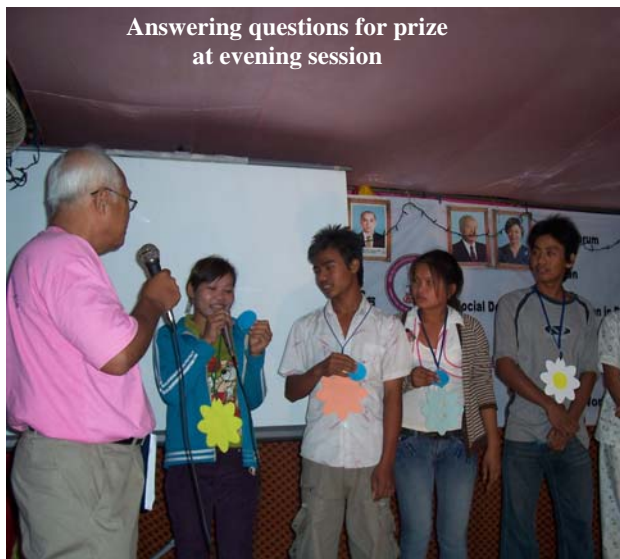
Role Play: Forum in Chie Kreng Siem Reap on December 28, 2006

COMFREL conducted 3 public forums in Kampong Cham province. **The first** one was conducted at Wat Tik Chha, Kroch commune, Prey Chhor district, Kampong Cham province on 15 January 2007 (in the morning there were 65 women amongst the 100 participants from nearby communes and there were 300 people attended in the evening session). **Second**, was conducted in the same province but in Tbong Khmom district at Wat Pong Tik, Roka Por Bram commune, on 06 February 2007, there were 90 women amongst the 100 participants in the morning session and there were about 500 people attended in the evening session. **Third**, was conducted Kandol Chrom commune, Phonhea Krek district on 10 February, 2007. There were 102 participants in the morning session and about 1000 participants actively participated.



Public forum at Prey Chhor
on 15 January 2007

SILAKA conducted 1 forum in Saang district, Kandal province with local NGO partner (PAD). There were total 106 people attended in the morning and 596 in the evening sessions with various types of people.



Answering questions for prize
at evening session



Public forum in Saang, Kandal
on 29 Dec 06

SILAKA conduct 2 training sessions for women candidate were implemented in Kampong Thom province. **The first** training was conducted at Stung Sen district on 9-11 January 2007. There were 30 women candidates participated—they came from the main 3 political parties (Cambodian People Party (CPP)=10, Funsinpec Party (FSP)= 10 and Sam Rainsy Party (SRP)= 10). **Second**, was conducted in Stoung district on 13-15 February 2007. There were 30 participants (women candidates) came from three main political parties from 4 districts in Kampong Thom province during the three days trainings (CPP=12, SRP= 9, and FSP= 9).

**Silaka training
in Stuong
Kampong Thom
on 13-15 Feb 07**



Training in Kandal on 01-03 February 2007



CWPD conduct 4 trainings in Phnom Penh, Kandal, Kampot, and Kampong Cham. **The first** training was conducted at CWPD office in Phnom Penh on 12-14 January 2007 within 32 women candidate attended (CPP= 10,

FSP: 10 and SRP= 12). **Second**, it was conducted in Kandal province on 01-03 February 2007. There were 30 women participants from the main three political parties (SRP= 10, FSP=10 and CCP= 10). **Third** training was conducted in Kampot province on 6-8 February 2007. There were 30 trainees came from four political parties (SRP= 10, CPP= 10, FSP= 5 and Norodom Rannarith Party (NRP) =10). **Fourth** training was conduct in Kampong Cham province on 22-24 February 2007 with 30 female candidate from four political parties (SRP=9, FSP=5, CPP=11, NRP=5).



Training in Kg. Cham
on 22-24 February 2007

Nicfec conduct 2 training sessions in Phnom Penh and in Kandal province. **The first** was done at Nicfec office in Phnom Penh on 23-25 January 2007. There were 26 women candidates whom came from CPP=6, FSP=10 and SRP 10 attended in that three days trainings. **Second** training was conducted in Hun Sen Takhmao Provincial Pedagogy, Takhmao, Kandal province on 30 Jan-01 Feb 2007. There were 29 women participants (SRP=10; CPP: 10 and FSP: 9) during the 3 days training.



Group discussion in training on 9-11 January 2007 in PP

V. *Lesson learnt from the activities & problem encountered*

1. *Strength:*

1. There was active participation amongst people in public forums within questions and answers related to leadership in commune/sangkat, exploring their

- perceptions, worries, experiences and supports or comments toward good governance;
2. The knowledge were transferred to the public on women participation in politics, decision making at the local level, and provide gender knowledge through educative films plying (Good husband), role play, music and gift competition through questions and answers;
 3. Method was used in flexible way according to circumstances and attractive method and tools used to draw people with various ages and positions through music, role play and happy time;
 4. Messages, activities created were able to develop people more active in the public environment to involve in social affair and perception sharing and politics;
 5. There are various types of people in the communities got our messages on promotion women in politics, decision making and in social affairs;
 6. There are also the good cooperation between local authority in all levels and stakeholders amongst the implementing members;
 7. Women capacity and encouragement gain more through forums and trainings;
 8. The activities brought have some influence in change people perception, views and motivation in social changes within decrease of discrimination toward women;
 9. A lot of suggestions for further more trainings and public forums to be conducted. Attitude changes and capacity built through trainings sessions toward women candidate to extend their knowledge related to their position and involvement.

2. Difficulties:

1. There are some difficulties met during implementing sensitive activities such as radio spot in promoting women, CPWP was put difficulties in getting broadcasting approval license from NEC and also some barrier in registration CPWP committee to be legal committee at Ministry of Interior;
2. There were times constrain of funding owing to constrain activities implemented by CPWP members;
3. The procedure of funding was not so punctual on the accurate planned activities and the secretariat had difficulties in facilitating to secure fund for CPWP members to implement planned activities on time;
4. To solve the problem Silaka advance its own fund for some members to do their works on time;
5. The cooperation in delivery activities reports and financial report from CPWP members were not so smooth;
6. There are still some challenges for women to actively involve in politics, decision making and social affairs;
7. Implementing facilitators and staff need to be trained wider contexts related knowledge in the career (training manual and methodology updated);
8. Women from some political parties haven't achieved development to their community. Amongst trainees, some of them attended in the training are illiterate, too old and too young;
9. There was suggestion to extend the training duration from 3 to 4 days.

3. Impact:

From activities implementing there is increase participants understanding on women participation in politics, decision making at grassroots level are more progress and active with men support. Compared to 2002 female candidate are only 16%, but according to the result of

issued on women candidate is 21% in 2007 according to NEC report and the number of female candidates from 1-3 in the list were double during 2007 (from 1161 in 2002 to 2328 in 2007).

The number of commune council elected is increase 11.261 in 2002 and 11.353 in 2007. For the result of women commune council elected is increase 8.5% in 2002 and 15% in 2007. According to the rate 2007 the female counselors at the communes are increased 74% compare with the previous rate.

Candidate List comparing from 2002 to 2007 Commune/Sangkat election in the 8 provinces that was supported by WB

No	Provinces	Total 2002 women counselors				Total 2007 women counselors				% Changed from 2002 to 2007			
		Chi	V.C	Mem.	Total	Chi	V.C	Mem.	Total	Chi	V.C	Mem.	Total
1	Kandal	03	21	56	80	15	37	128	180	400%	76%	129%	125%
2	Phnom Penh	08	14	91	113	09	26	111	146	13%	86%	22%	29%
3	K.g Chham	03	14	78	95	06	22	120	148	100%	57%	54%	56%
4	Siemreap	03	9	58	70	04	15	68	87	33%	66%	17%	24%
5	Kampot		04	20	24	04	09	83	96	400%	125%	315%	300%
6	K.g Thom		03	25	28		12	67	79	0%	300%	168%	182%

Candidate List comparing from 2002 to 2007 Commune/Sangkat election

Description	2002	2007	# and % changed
# of Candidates	75,226	102,401	27, 175
# of Female candidates	12, 044	21, 396	9, 352
% of Female candidates	16%	21%	78%
# of women from 1-3 in the list	1,161	2,328	100%
# of Candidate elected	11,261	11,353	92
# of Female candidates elected	954	1,662	708
% of Female candidates elected	8.5%	15%	84%

VI. Conclusion

It is imperative to ensure the presence of women who could affect policies and interventions promoting women and children's rights in the commune councils. More women needs to be elected as commune councillors in order to reflect the important role that women play in national and community development, as well as in providing and caring for the families. After all, women constitute 52% of the entire population of Cambodia. Giving women a voice in policymaking is the foundation of popular participation and democracy in any country. Compared to men, women councillors are more likely to address pressing social problems like health, education, gender-based violence and discrimination, community building and so on. At the same time, women councillors need to be empowered in their capacity and skills, supported logistically and financially, and feel secure and safe in order to carry out their duties and tasks to the best of their abilities.

Forum: Although the organizers of the program have faced some challenges and constraints, the forum was helpful in capacity building for local level to promote and support

the female candidates in the upcoming commune council elections. It also was successful in terms of achieving the stated objectives and goals (to increase women in commune and Sangkats from 9% to 15% in 2007 and now we got 14.58% for election 2007) (***Please see the Result of commune councilor election in 2002 and 2007 by gender in Annex IV.***) Female candidates are aware of their potential roles in participation with the political sector. The Forum also developed the perception of the grassroots people about the importance of women's representation in the local decision making. It also brought the consensus of leaders in local level of mainstream political parties about putting women candidates at the top of the candidates list.

Training: They were interacted and shared to each other with good ideas to improve their knowledge related to the real work related to local parties, women issues and local develop in commune council task. The female participants reported that it is a real battle for them this term. They had to compete on equal footing with their male candidates under the democratic system of pre-election that their political parties had set up (only the head of the village and commune councils of the political parties as voters). However, they still feel that this set up was not fair as most of the voters in their parties are male, and that the ballot were not open in front of everyone. We see that the second term of commune/sangkat election will have quality women rather than quantity. We will have women that deserve to be elected due to their competency, and most importantly, we will have elected women who know how to advocate for equal share of responsibilities. This will be our Cambodian Women's pride.