

The Community Ownership of Women's Rights Pilot Project: **Ang Snoul District, Kandal** December 2005 - July 2007

A LICADHO Women's Rights Office Activity Report
September 2007



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LICADHO

CAMBODIAN LEAGUE FOR THE PROMOTION
AND DEFENCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights (LICADHO)

LICADHO is a national Cambodian human rights organization. Since its establishment in 1992, LICADHO has been at the forefront of efforts to protect the rights in Cambodia and to promote respect for civil and political rights by the Cambodian government and institutions. Building on its past achievements, LICADHO continues to be an advocate for the people and a monitor of the government through wide ranging human rights programs from its main office in Phnom Penh and 12 provincial offices.

LICADHO pursues its activities through its seven program offices:

- The Human Rights Education Office provides training courses to target groups such as government officials, students, monks and provides dissemination sessions to the general public.
- The Monitoring Office investigates human rights violations and assists victims in the legal process. Specially trained staff also monitor 18 prisons to assess prison conditions and ensure that pre-trial detainees have access to legal representation.
- The Medical Office provides medical assistance to prisoners and prison officials in 18 prisons and provides medical care and referrals to hospitals for victims of human rights violations.
- Project Against Torture provides comprehensive rehabilitation services to victims of torture and conducts advocacy against torture.
- The Children's Rights Office educates the public on children's rights, creates child protection networks at the grassroots level, and investigates children's rights violations.
- The Women's Rights Office educates the public about women's rights, investigates women's rights violations and advocates for social and legal changes.
- The Documentation and Resource Office compiles case files into a central electronic database, so that accurate information can be easily accessed and analyzed.

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1. Introduction

Historically, Cambodians have suffered through a culture of violence perpetuated by the Khmer Rouge regime and other political groups. The impact of this violence continues to affect many people within Cambodia. One of the most vulnerable affected groups are the women of Cambodia. Violence against women – particularly in the form of domestic violence, rape, and human trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation (HTS) – is one of the most serious human rights problems in Cambodia.

There has been limited government response and intervention in addressing these gross violations of women’s rights. Civil society has thus far been mainly responsible for assisting and educating women, local authorities, perpetrators of this violence and the general public. The LICADHO Women’s Rights Office works to monitor and investigation violence against women, educating target groups, law makers and the general public about violence against women issues. It also advocates on behalf of LICADHO and as a member of women’s coalitions to change discriminatory laws against women and to pass and implement laws protecting women’s rights in Cambodia.

The Community Ownership of Women’s Rights Pilot Project (the Pilot Project) was established to develop truly participatory responses to rape, domestic violence and sex trafficking; by increasing the ownership of women in conducting group advocacy activities that effectively empower women to protect and support each other at the community level. At the same time the Pilot Project aimed to increase the competency and accountability of district officials and local authorities to respond to specific cases of women’s rights violations. The Pilot Project has had the potential to impact the perceptions, confidence and behavior of both men and women in a tangible and sustainable way.

The LICADHO Women’s Rights Office (based in Phnom Penh) developed and implemented the Pilot Project in eight villages in Ang Snoul District, Kandal Province from December 2005 – May 2007. The project was designed to promote ownership of women’s rights by equipping women in these communities with the practical knowledge, strategies and resources for them to prevent and seek redress for domestic violence, rape and trafficking violations. The Pilot Project specifically aimed to:

1. Increase awareness and understanding of domestic violence, rape and trafficking among the targeted communities, emphasizing straightforward explanations and practical steps that could be taken to prevent their occurrence and protect victims.
2. Increase the capacity, confidence and ownership of key women (“focal points”) in each community in effectively advocating for their rights to protection from domestic violence, rape and trafficking for sexual exploitation.
3. Increase the competence and accountability of district officials and local authorities in understanding and responding to domestic violence, rape and trafficking, emphasizing concern and empathy for victims and practical implementation of existing legislation.

2. The Target Group

After conducting a baseline assessment in December 2005, the following communes and villages in Ang Snoul District, Kandal, were chosen as the target group for the Pilot Project:

Ovlak Commune

Trapeang Areak Village
Beoung Kreul Village

Samroang Leu Commune

Kiri Thmey Village
Mung Kul Borei Village
Svay Udom Village

Pun Sa Ang Commune

Trapeang Areak Village
Toul Village.

These target groups were chosen because as a result of the findings of the initial baseline assessment, these villages were shown to have the highest incidence of domestic violence, of all villages surveyed (in the baseline assessment). Additionally, the villages selected had the highest population of all groups surveyed and local authorities in these areas were enthusiastic about conducting and participating in the Pilot Project.

SPECIFIC TARGET GROUPS

FOCAL POINTS

Women in the community (“focal points”) were selected to participate in the project through a two staged process. Initially, LICADHO prepared an advertisement that explained the role of a focal point and included the necessary selection criteria, which was as follows:

- 1 Females only
- 2 Aged between 20-40 years old
- 3 Literate
- 4 Open minded and willing volunteer to share knowledge and experiences to the other people in community in order to combat and prevent DV, rape and HTS
- 5 Good cooperation and work in a team
- 6 Popular among the people in community
- 7 Available to spend the time to attend activities such as: 2 day training, monthly meetings, community forum and other activities if needed by LICADHO's project staff

LICADHO then gave this announcement to village and commune chiefs and on the basis of recommendations from these local authorities selected the focal points for the project. 48 women (six women from each village) were invited to participate as a focal point in the Pilot

Project, however only 39 women accepted and consistently attended the majority of training and follow up sessions.

All focal points were female, aged between 24 – 50 years old. Three women had not attended school and were illiterate. The majority of the focal points were amongst the middle classes within their villages.

As a result of allowing local authorities (all members of the major political party, the Cambodian People's Party (CPP)) to select focal points, all women involved also belonged to this same political party. There was not enough diversity amongst the focal points and it is difficult to say whether they were representative of the women in their wider communities.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Local authorities were invited to participate in the Pilot Project. 25 local authorities from all eight villages were invited to participate in the Pilot Project, however only 23 local authorities accepted and agreed to attend training sessions and participate.



Local authorities working together during a training session

LOCAL AUTHORITIES CHOSEN TO PARTICIPATE

Position	Number	Male	Female
Village Chief	8	8	
Commune Chief	3	3	
Commune Police	6	6	
District Police	2	2	
District Governor Representative	1		1
Deputy-Commune Chief	3	3	
Total	23	22	1

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3. The Pilot Project

After the target groups for both focal points and local authorities were selected, LICADHO conducted training sessions for each group on different topics. There were two facilitators for each session as well as a person involved with providing administrative and logistical support.

SESSIONS FOR FOCAL POINTS

LICADHO conducted an initial two-day session from 17-18 August, 2006. This first training session introduced the topics of women's rights in Cambodia, violence against women issues (specifically domestic violence, rape and HTS) and laws related to these issues. The training used practical measures, role-plays and participatory methods to involve all women in the training. As several of the women were not literate, the emphasis of the training was not placed on theoretical handouts.

LICADHO conducted a second three-day training session from 4 - 6 October, 2006. Due to the amount of material that needed to be covered, the training session was extended to three



Focal Points playing ice breaker games

days. This second training session covered topics on communication, straightforward and practical methods of awareness-raising, community monitoring and group advocacy on priority cases of women's rights violations in focal points' communities. Again, all training methods used practical measures, role-plays and participatory methods.

Six one day follow up sessions were conducted on:

- 23 November 2006
- 4 January 2007
- 30 January 2007
- 13 February 2007
- 28 February 2007
- 13 March 2007

The purpose of these sessions was to follow up on any queries/problems, to reinforce issues taught in the first training sessions and to provide support to the focal points in their own community awareness raising, community monitoring and group advocacy activities, within their on domestic violence, rape and HTS issues.

Evaluations were conducted three times with each focal point and feedback was presented to LICADHO.

A community forum was conducted in July 2007 to present the findings of this report. All focal points were invited to attend and to provide feedback at the community forum.

SESSIONS FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES

LICADHO conducted an initial two-day training session from 31 August - 1 September, 2006. This training session emphasized understanding the practical and legal definitions of domestic violence, rape and HTS issues and related existing legislation. All training methods used practical measures, role-plays and participatory methods.

LICADHO conducted a second three-day training session from 26 - 28 October, 2007. This session focused on the psycho-social impacts of violence on victims and practical methods of responding to cases and protecting the rights of victims during the legal process. At the end of the final workshop the participants were asked to make public commitments to promoting and protecting women's rights in their jurisdictions and implementing the processes agreed upon during the training. However, the participants were not willing to comply with this request in writing.

Evaluations were conducted with local authorities on 27 April 2007 and feedback presented to LICADHO.

A community forum was conducted in July 2007 to present the findings of this report. All local authorities who attended training were invited to attend and to provide feedback at the community forum.

EDUCATION TOOLS

LICADHO created a photographic poster depicting scenes of domestic violence next to scenes of peaceful cohabitation and framed and distributed these posters to all focal points and local authorities; as well as giving 1000 posters to the focal points to distribute throughout their communities.

LICADHO printed the Domestic Violence Law in booklet form and distributed 1000 booklets to focal points to the communities as well as to each focal point and authority.

ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS

Focal points participated in the CAMBOW¹ 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence (16 Days Campaign) on 25 November - 10 December 2006 by: distributing 800 calendars with messages advocating against domestic violence, assisting to host a movie show in Ang Snoul, that included a drama spot educating about domestic violence and important messages of the new law, by creating awareness in their communities - 300 people attended.

¹ The Cambodian Committee of Women - a coalition of 36 NGOs working to advance the cause of women in Cambodia, primarily focusing on issues of domestic violence, rape and HTS. LICADHO is currently the chair of CAMBOW.

Several focal points participated in celebrating International Women’s Day on 8 March 2007 by recording a short drama about the effect of domestic violence on their lives and the changes that could be made. This radio spot was broadcasted fourteen times during 8 March, 2007 on three stations during different programs. All focal points also attended celebrations at CC2, Tahkmao and PJ prisons and assisted in distributing food packages to all female prisoners and female prison guards at these prisons.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

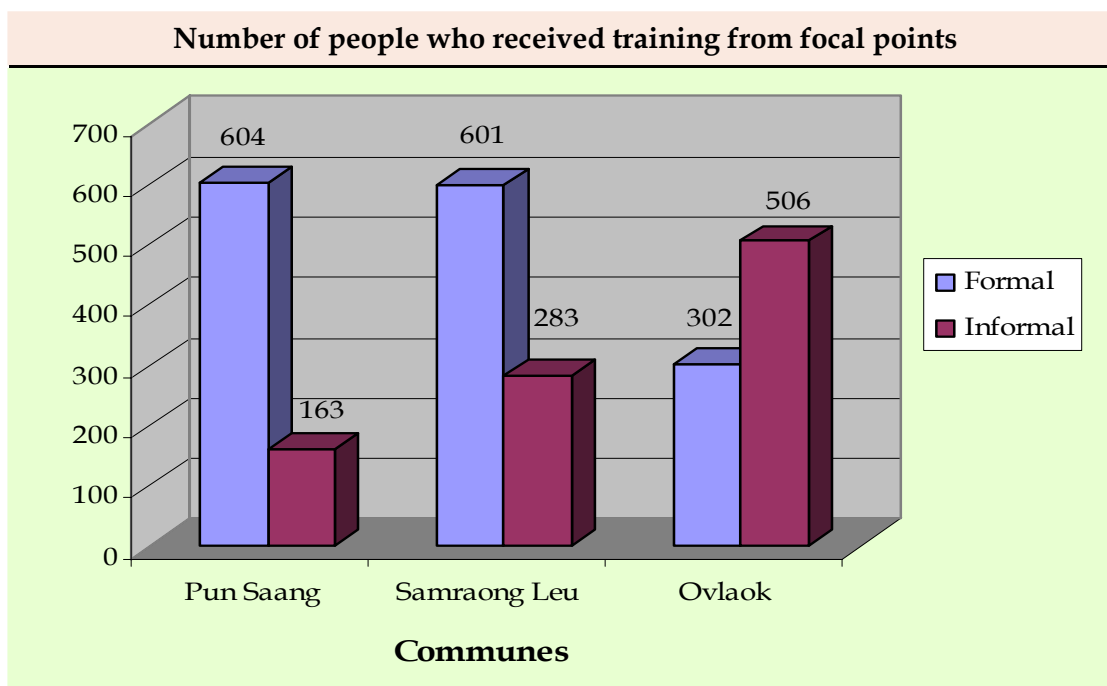
Focal points conducted awareness raising sessions in their communities on violence against women issues. Both formal and informal sessions were conducted.

Informal sessions were conducted with approximately 958 community members in the target areas. Informal sessions included meetings with people at the market places, discussions on violence against women issues during meals and conversations between neighbors, friends and family.



A formal awareness raising session in the community

Formal sessions were conducted with approximately 1507 community members during a four month period (from December 2006 – August 2007). These formal sessions were organized by focal points with technical support provided by the Women’s Rights Office. The sessions included information on women’s rights, violence against women and the laws related to these areas.



COMMUNITY FORUM

On 30 July, 2007, LICADHO held a community forum to end the first year of the pilot project in Ang Snoul, Kandal.

There were 50 participants from Ang Snoul - 31 focal points, 14 local authorities, 5 community members and 18 LICADHO staff members.

The purpose of the community forum was to present feedback from the participants about the training sessions and the pilot project, as well as to present the results and conclusions of the evaluation. The results of the evaluation were presented to the participants of the pilot project, through the form of a drama, which incorporated results and comments from community members. The script for the drama is contained in the Appendix I.



The Community Forum in Ang Snoul

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4. Evaluation

An evaluation of the Pilot Project was carried out from January – April 2007. All focal points, local authorities who had attended training sessions and members of the community in all eight villages² were included in this data collected phase.

A total of 163 people were interviewed – 39 focal points, 16 local authorities and 109 community members. Of the community members interviewed, only 6 were men, as the interview teams wanted to evaluate women and because the majority of men were working outside the village at the time the evaluation was conducted.

Two LICADHO staff members interviewed all 39 focal points three times in January, February and March 2007.

There were 8 teams of 18 interviewers, 3 team leaders and 1 group leader in charge of interviewing members of the community and local authorities on 27 April 2007. Teams selected people in the community by randomly choosing houses distributed evenly within each village.

The interview questions/evaluation forms used by the interview teams are included in Appendix III to V of this report. Three separate evaluation forms were drafted – one for focal points, one for local authorities who had attended training and one for general members of the community.

The evaluation forms were used to try and assess the impact of the Pilot Project on the target groups. The main information sought was:

- The impact of the training on the focal points and local authorities (whether knowledge, ideas and attitudes had changed regarding domestic violence, rape and HTS).
- The change in focal points' and local authorities' actions towards victims of violence in the communities.
- Whether or not a working relationship had been developed between the focal points and the local authorities, especially on priority cases of violence against women.
- Whether the focal points' educational and awareness raising activities (formal and informal) had impacted on violence against women in the community.
- Whether the Pilot Project as a whole had assisted in changing individual community members' attitudes, knowledge and actions towards victims of violence against women as well as the topic of violence against women.
- Whether the Pilot Project as a whole had assisted in decreasing violence against women in the communities.

LIMITATION OF EVALUATION

The interview teams did not interview all local authorities involved in the training. Some local authorities sent their delegates to answer questions. Therefore only 16 out of 23 local

² See earlier section on Target Group.

authorities who attended training sessions were interviewed and these local authorities represented a sample size of the entire group.

LICADHO staff interviewed all focal points as well as some local authorities and some community members. These interviews may not have been completely objective and focal points in particular, may have not been comfortable in providing completely open answers.

The results and conclusions of the evaluation are contained in Appendix II.

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5. Achievements

ACHIEVEMENTS

The project was successful in educating target groups about violence against women issues and in assisting to decrease violence against women in the target communities. Specific achievements were:

- Building strong communication skills between project staff and local authorities, project staff and focal points, focal point and authorities.
- Identifying focal points that are strongly committed in helping women in their villages.
- Even though implementation of activities was later than planned, all activities were completed.
- Our target groups know that violence against women is unlawful and is not an internal problem but rather a community problem.
- Villagers start reporting to the focal points, authorities and LICADHO when violations against women occur.
- Focal points and local authorities clearly understand their role and responsibilities in their communities.
- Focal points, local authorities and community members continue to report violence against women to LICADHO even after the project has finished.

More achievements are contained in the results of the evaluation – please see Appendix II.

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Appendix I. Drama Script for Community Forum

Final Activity for Pilot Project in Ang snoul, Kandal.

Group of women gathered outside, washing and gossiping.

- A: Did you see Sim's wife today – she has bruises all over her face. I think her husband must have beat her again.
- B: 'Oh sister, ssh don't speak such bad things about our neighbors. Besides this is a private matter for their family to deal with.'
- A: Domestic violence is not an internal problem any more, it is society's problems and we know we need to help the victims. Everyone knows people who beat their wives and children can be punished under the law.
- B: How do you know this? You are not a lawyer. You think that you know better than the men in our village?
- A: Look here comes C – she is part of that new focal points group, the group that helps women who are victims of violence. Let's ask her what she thinks.
- A: Oh C, please come and join us. We are talking about domestic violence in our village and we are having a disagreement. Please come and sit with us!
- Many women join in, asking her to join them.
- C: Sure, I have some free time. I just finished meeting with many of the focal points from Ang Snoul, we were discussing what activities we will be doing next month to teach people about violence against women issues.
- B: Oh C, we were just talking about Sim and his wife. We all know that they are having some...well...some problems, but I think we should stay out of their affairs and let their family deal with their problems. And I think we should go and speak to Sim's wife and see how we can help her!
- C: Hmm...this is not so easy. I mean, before I became a focal point and received all this training about women's rights, I used to be too scared to intervene in domestic violence cases, in case I would be beaten too! So I would not do anything.
- B: Exactly! That's what I believe too. I don't want to create problems for myself and my family by meddling in someone else's affairs!
- C: But B, if we all do this, many women and children will suffer in our community. Now, if I know of any violence, I would report it to the commune or village chief for intervention. I am braver than I was before because when cases happen I can go to prevent the violence, educate and intervene to local authorities or phone to relevant NGOs. I have choices, the other focal points have choices and we as



The drama being performed during the Community Forum in Ang Snoul

- a community – we have a choice to try and stop the violence.
- A: I think that you are right in intervening in cases, but you are a focal point, you have more education on women’s rights and you get more support! I want to help Sim’s wife, but how can I, an ordinary housewife who cannot read or write go and stop Sim from beating his wife and children?
- C: But A, I too, am an ordinary housewife and before, I never thought that I had any power to stop violence from happening in my own family, let alone in our village. I want to tell you a story. My husband used to beat me every day for the last 5 years. Oh life was so hard, he was always angry at me, always telling me I was not a good wife. He would beat me for not cooking his rice fast enough or for saving some money to buy some clothes for the children, instead of giving the money to him. I was always very sad and I did not have much hope.
- D: That is just like my story! Every day...
- C: Then one day, I was asked to join a new group, the focal points network that you all know about. I met so many women in this group like me, who did not have much education, but who wanted to know how to stop the violence in our homes and villages. I learned so much! I learned that as a woman, as a person, I had the right not to be beaten, not to live in fear. I learned that we have laws in Cambodia that protect these rights, so that when people beat us and violate these rights, they are going against the law and can be punished. I learned that if a girl is raped, it is not her fault because she did not agree to this act, I learned about being able to travel safely to another area so that I will not be at risk of being trafficked and forced into a life against my will. And I and all the other focal points promised that we would share all that we had learned with our community.
- A: So what are you saying C? That anyone can learn how to stop violence?
- C: Well, I haven’t finished my story yet. A few weeks after I became a focal point, my husband started to beat me again. I was very scared as usual, but on this day, I think I was a little braver. I decided to tell him about what I had learned, about my rights and about how it was against the law for him to beat me. At first he just laughed at me, but every day I would speak to him about the things I was learning and one day – he actually stopped and listened to me. I was so surprised! But I kept on talking and talking until eventually he stopped beating me. I was so happy. I had finally gotten my husband to understand that violence against anyone is a bad thing.
- B: That’s amazing C! You managed to do this in one day?
- C: No of course not! It took a long time – maybe a few months, but every day that I spoke up more and more, my husband beat me less, until one day – he just stopped. And that’s what we can change in our community! Imagine if Sim’s wife could speak to her husband about her pain and her rights, or if I did or one of you did, or we all joined together to teach him – we could try and stop him from hurting her!
- D: I see what you are saying C. And I can see that since this focal points group has started, many of you are helping victims of violence. We all trust you so we go to you when we need help. You know we are ashamed when violence happens in our community, but for many of us, we do not see any solution to this problem
- B: D is right – you focal points may intervene in cases of violence but then what? You just leave us villagers and then we have to deal with the rest of the problems? What kind of help can you really give us?
- C: Well for one thing, we can give you lots of information on your rights as a woman and about the laws that protect these rights. That is why all the focal points in Ang Snoul have been giving many educational workshops for the past 6 months. And the other thing is that we have a better relationship with the local authorities and we can

work together to assist victims by giving them shelter, educating the perpetrator and ending the violence.

- A: The authorities? What have they ever done to help those of us who really needed them?
- C: You would be surprised A! The local authorities also received the same education and training that the focal points did and they have learned so much and changed their behavior. One village chief that I work with, K, he used to be very hesitant in intervening in domestic violence cases. But in the last few months, every time I have gone to him with a case, he has helped me and the victim in trying to solve the conflict. He told me that he is more confident in trying to solve conflicts and he knows that violence concerns the whole of society so we need to solve the problem together.
- A: Oh but that's just one authority. What about the rest of them?
- C: Well one of the focal points living in other villages told me that in her village, the local authorities do not discriminate against the victims and try and help them – sometimes they even give shelter to the victims for one or two nights. Another focal point told me that she was working on a case with a local authority. Before, she used to be very scared of him because she felt he was very loud and did not understand the problem of violence. In this case, he was very gentle and spoke very kindly to the victim and he tried to give the victim confidence so that she could tell him her story. This focal point was very surprised, but of course happy! We all feel that the local authorities in our communities are working with us to try and end the violence.
- D: Hmm, that is very interesting and good to hear. You know, my sister's husband works in the commune office and he told her that people at his work are saying that violence has decreased in our community. Do you think this could be true?
- A: Maybe! If the local authorities and the focal points are working on these cases of violence and educating and preventing violence from happening, it could be true. Like my friend Sokha told me that she has been talking to people who attended one of the focal points' seminars and they learned that it is wrong to beat anyone. So they shared this information with Sokha and she decided to stop beating her children.
- C: Yes! Many people have come to me and told me that there is less violence than there used to be in our village. This makes me very happy, but I know that we all have a lot of work to do, as a community.
- B: What can we do to help?
- C: What do you think you could do?
- D: Well maybe we could start off by reporting Sim to the local authorities, so that they can investigate the case and stop him from beating his wife. And then we could also speak to Sim's wife and make sure she is ok and see what we can do to help her. I will go and speak about it if you all come with me?
- B: Well... (hesitating, not sure).
- A: Come on B! What have we been talking about for all this time? Someone needs to help Sim's wife and it should be us, her neighbors! If we all go together, maybe we can help the authorities with Sim's wife and children. C can go with us because she knows the local authorities.
- B: Ok, you're right. If I was being beaten, I would want someone to come and stop the violence and help me with the situation.
- C: That's right, because we all know now that violence is the problem of the whole community and not just the individual. We know that if we work together, focal points, local authorities and community members, we can work to end the violence.

Maybe one day our children will grow up and have their own families and there will be less violence than there is now.

- A: I hope that this can happen one day C.
- B, D: So do I.

They all walk to the local authorities' office.

End Scene.

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Appendix II. Results of Evaluation

RESULTS OF FOCAL POINT'S EVALUATION (JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2007)

Highlights

- For each month that they were interviewed, the majority of focal points said that the assistance they gave to victims of violence was effective in assisting the victim. In January and February, there were 26 answers that said the assistance was extremely effective whilst 39 answers said that the assistance was adequately effective. 1 focal point said that her assistance was ineffective. In March, 17 focal points said their assistance was extremely effective and 15 focal points said their assistance was adequately effective.
- When asked how focal points' individual attitudes had changed towards violence against women, as a result of the training, some of the more common responses were:
 - I learned how to intervene or inform village or commune chiefs when domestic violence happens.
 - Now I understand that domestic violence is not an internal problem any more, it is society's problems and the perpetrator can go to prison according to his actions.
 - I am braver than I was before because when cases happen I can go prevent, educate and intervene to local authorities or phone to relevant NGOs.
 - Before, I was afraid that if I intervened in domestic violence cases, I would be beaten too, so I would not intervene. Now, I report to the commune or village chief for intervention.
 - My knowledge is better than before on violence against women. I am firm, but I'm braver and I can speak out when violence happens, I can educate community members about the laws. If violence happens, I cooperate with the village chief and police in order to intervene and to contact relevant NGOs.
 - I stopped using violence against my children. I taught my family, neighbors and other community members that we should not use violence against our children.
- When asked for examples of change in their communities as a result of the project, some of the more common responses were:
 - Before the project, husbands use to beat their wives and children, however now he just insults them.
 - Before there were 10 families in my village where domestic violence was a problem, however now the violence is reduced by 50% because the villagers understand about domestic violence when they learned from LICADHO.
 - Villagers understand the laws, such as if they continue beating people they may be charged and go to prison.
 - Domestic Violence, rape and trafficking has never happened after we received knowledge from LICADHO.
 - Since the project started, I've never seen serious cases of domestic violence happen in my village. We disseminate information every month to the community and the

villagers understand about violence and are brave and file complaints. They also find counseling from focal points and the local authorities.

- Men who used to drink a lot of alcohol are drinking less.
- Before the project, there was a lot of fighting in my village, but now the fighting has been reduced because many people know about violence from LICADHO and the focal points and are afraid of punishment and because of their awareness of laws like the DV law.
- When the violence occurs, villagers run to see us (focal points) because they trust us.
- There is good cooperation from the local authorities to educate the community and to prevent violence.

Vital Statistics (from January - March 2007)

Table: Assistance given by focal points to victims of violence in the community

Assistance given	Number of times
Accompanied victim to file a complaint	5
Provided victim with counseling	79
Wrote complaint	1
Submitted complaint	6
Other assistance	21

Table: So far to what extent is this project working to decrease violence in your community?

Extent of decreased violence	Focal points' response
Large Extent	51
Adequate Extent	54
Lesser Extent	1

Table: Least effective forms of education for the community

Least effective forms of education	Focal points' response
Formal education (workshops etc)	16
Informal education	20
Media (including radio broadcasts)	45
Other	10

These statistics are inconsistent with answers provided to the question 'which form of education is the most effective in your community' where many focal points responded that both formal and informal training was the most effective form of education in their communities.

This inconsistency could be related to the fact that in the evaluations, focal points were provided with answers that could be selected and that these answers may not necessarily have been options that the focal points would have chosen. For future evaluations, it may be necessary to eliminate these answers.

Conclusions

- Overall the majority of focal points seemed to be much more knowledgeable about women's rights and laws related to violence against women than prior to participating in the project.
- Overall the majority of focal points' attitudes had changed with regards to domestic violence and violence against women issues, to understand that domestic violence was not an internal family matter and to make themselves intervene in certain situations of violence.
- Overall the majority of focal points are working to educate their communities about violence against women issues, either formally or informally.
- There seems to be some evidence of a working relationship between local authorities and focal points in a few of the villages in the target group.

RESULTS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES EVALUATION (27 APRIL 2007)

Highlights

- All 16 local authorities interviewed, responded that victims of violence against women (domestic violence, rape or HTS) came to them for assistance.
- When asked how local authorities' attitudes towards violence against women issues had changed since the training, some of the responses were:
 - Knowing that violence concerns the whole of society so we need to solve the problem together.
 - Attitudes have changed since receiving training from LICADHO.
 - Being more confident to try and solve conflicts, as previously hesitant to intervene.
- When asked how local authorities' knowledge of violence against women issues had changed since the training, some of the responses were:
 - I understand more clearly than before that violence affects society.
 - It is important to educate the community and to report problems of violence to the commune.
 - We need to reduce beatings.
- When asked what was different about local authorities' actions and attitudes towards victims since the training, some of the more common responses were:
 - I pay attention to try and assist the victims, educate the perpetrators and make a contract for the perpetrator not to be violent again.
 - I do not discriminate against the victims and try and help them, sometimes I give accommodation to victims for one or two nights.
 - I immediately try and solve the important issues and follow up with the victim's complaint.
 - I use gentle speech so that the victims won't be afraid and I try to make the victims feel confident to honestly express her anxiety.

- When asked for examples of change in the community as a result of the project, 11 out of 16 local authorities said that violence against women in their communities had decreased.

Vital Statistics

Table: Assistance given by local authorities to victims of violence in the community

Assistance given	Number of times
Filed complaint	1
Intervened in situation of violence	6
Wrote complaint	1
Provided alternative dispute resolution (conciliation)	11
Reconciled both parties	2
Assisted victim to a safe place and charged perpetrator	4
Explain the domestic violence law to both parties	4

Table: Are you building a community network with other local authorities?

Yes	No
14	2

Table: So far to what extent is this project working to decrease violence in your community?

Extent of decreased violence	Local Authorities' Response
Large Extent	11
Adequate Extent	4
Lesser Extent	0

Conclusions

- Overall the majority of local authorities seemed to be much more knowledgeable about women's rights and laws related to violence against women than prior to participating in the project.
- Overall the majority of local authorities' attitudes had changed after training sessions, with regards to domestic violence and violence against women issues.
- Overall the majority of local authorities seem to be trying to change their actions and attitudes towards victims of domestic violence, rape and HTS, by trying to act without discrimination, accepting cases and investigating claims of violence, trying to counsel parties about their rights and their conflict and being more sensitive towards victims.
- Overall the majority of local authorities are working with each other on issues of violence against women, however did not mention working with focal points in their community. As this was not a direct question asked, perhaps some local authorities are in fact working with focal points on violence against women issues, however may not have thought to provide this information.

RESULTS OF COMMUNITY EVALUATION (27 APRIL 2007)

Highlights

- 102 community members interviewed were aware that there was a women's focal points' network working on violence against women issues in their village. However, as 103 members interviewed were female, it is difficult to assess whether their gender impacts on this statistic. If the evaluation had included interviewing more male members of the community, the results may well have been different.
- 92 community members have participated in the focal points' educational and awareness raising activities. Some comments received:
 - I joined in the training sessions and told my neighbor about violence against women issues.
 - I tried to make compromises with villagers who were being violent and also provided victims with counseling and shelter.
- When asked to give examples of some things that had changed in the community as a result of the project, 62 people responded that their neighbors always used to have arguments in the family, but after attending being educated by LICADHO, the arguments were reduced. This could be a perception issue as it is difficult to validate the accuracy of these statements. Some other responses were:
 - I used to use violence against my wife, but now I have reduced the violence.
 - Now we know about the laws and we do not insult and look down on our wives.
 - I am afraid of the law and of being jailed. I have stopped insulting, beating and looking down on my wife.
 - Before there was no intervention when violence was occurring but now it is the opposite situation where we community members clearly understand and come to help.
 - We are ashamed of people committing violence.
 - We continue to educate the people who have used violence in the community.
 - If there is any violence we can get help from the village chief and other people.
 - My husband was always very violent towards me. I came to ask for help from LICADHO and stayed in the office for a while. My husband was educated and as a result my husband has changed a lot and has never used violence towards me again.
 - The village chief and commune chief now intervene when the problem happens.
 - It is different from before, the villagers are more understanding of the victim and the situation and the authorities have a lot of strategies to prevent violence.
 - It is very good for the community because we are now using less violence in our communities.
- When asked how satisfied members were in seeking assistance from local authorities when problems with violence against women arose, 95 community members responded that they were satisfied in seeking assistance. This high statistic could be attributed to the fact that some community members might be afraid to provide honest answers that may be critical of their local authorities. Some comments:

- We depend on the local chief who can help us.
 - This helps the victim avoid violence.
 - Some problems I can settle on my own but if it is serious I need help from the local authorities.
- General comments – 48 people responded that they wanted LICADHO to conduct more training as it was helpful for the community. Some other responses:
 - Wanted men and women to participate in the training sessions.
 - Wanted police not to accept bribes and not to help only well off persons.
 - Want to live in peace.
 - Wanted to reduce violence, but did not want people to be angry with them when they intervened.

Vital Statistics

Table: How did you learn about the network working on violence against women issues?

Activity	Community Response
Participated in network activity	47
Educated by local authorities	44
Heard from neighbors	22
Getting help from other community member	2
Other	5

Table: Do you think local authorities are working to decrease violence against in your village? Why?

Yes	No
79	3

Comments:

- 56 people replied that authorities now intervened and educated people about violence, assisted them in making compromises and if the disputing parties didn't listen to them, they sent them to communes or NGOs.
- The reason for this statistic could be because local authorities are actually working to reduce violence against women issues or because community members might be afraid to provide honest answers that may be critical of their local authorities.
- Another reason affecting this statistic may be that community members might not have had any contact with local authorities as they may not have had any need to deal with authorities regarding violence against women issues.

Table: So far to what extent is this project working to decrease violence in your community?

Extent of decreased violence	Community Members' Response
Large Extent	55
Adequate Extent	37
Lesser Extent	16
No change	2

Comments:

The project has decreased violence against women in the community to a large extent because:

- Due to education from organizations and the local authorities.
- People can learn about domestic violence from the posters that were distributed.
- The training has been effective.
- We understand about violence more clearly.

The project has decreased violence against women in the community to an adequate extent because:

- The villagers know about the laws.
- Villagers have learned from the training and dissemination activities.
- The authorities are helping to educate villagers.

Conclusions

- Overall the majority of community members interviewed were aware of the focal points network and the pilot project in their communities.
- The focal points' educational and dissemination activities (both formal and informal) seemed to have assisted in somewhat decreasing violence against women in these communities.
- The Pilot Project as a whole assisted in changing some individual community members' attitudes, knowledge and actions towards victims of violence as well as towards the topics of violence against women. In particular, many individuals stated that education by local authorities had assisted them in changing in these areas.
- The Pilot Project as a whole may have assisted somewhat in decreasing violence against women in the communities, if basing this assessment on the 55 out of 109 members interviewed, who said that the Pilot Project was working to decrease violence in the communities to a large extent and the 37 members interviewed who said that the Pilot Project was working to decrease violence against women in their communities to an adequate extent.

OVERALL CONCLUSIONS OF THE EVALUATION

Based on the results of the evaluation of focal points, local authorities who participated in the training and community members, it is fair to say that the Pilot Project seems to have impacted on violence against women issues in these communities. In particular:

- Focal points have acquired more knowledge on violence against women issues, are changing attitudes towards violence against women issues and victims of violence, are

intervening and assisting in cases of domestic violence, are working with each other and local authorities on cases of violence and are working to educate their community (formally and informally) on violence against women issues.

- Local authorities have acquired more knowledge on violence against women issues, are changing attitudes towards violence against women issues and victims of violence, are treating victims of violence more sensitively, are intervening and assisting in cases of domestic violence (eg. providing counseling to both parties, compromising, investigating cases and providing shelter for victims), are working with each on cases of violence, reporting cases to commune officials and are working to educate their community on violence against women issues.
- Community members have acquired more knowledge on violence against women issues, are changing attitudes towards violence against women issues and victims of violence, are intervening and assisting in cases of domestic violence, are reporting cases to focal points and local authorities and are working to educate their neighbors and community (informally) on violence against women issues.

Based on this evaluation and feedback from the target groups, awareness of violence against women and the problems it creates and represents seem to be clear to all members of the target groups. In particular, violence against women in the community seems to have somewhat decreased and more people are assisting victims instead of assuming that violence against women is an internal issue. The target groups in Ang Snoul, Kandal, seem to be trying to work together as a community to decrease violence against women.

□□□

Appendix III. Evaluation Form for Focal Points

1. What kind of help have you given to victims of violence in your community?
2. Do you think your actions were effective or ineffective? Why or why not? This could become "How effective were your actions? How do you explain their efficiency or inefficiency?"
3. In your opinion, what have been the most effective forms of education that you have given to you community?
4. In your opinion, what have been the least effective forms of education?
5. How has your attitude towards issues of violence against women changed since the training? Why?
6. How has your knowledge of violence against women issues changed since the training? What were sources for the new knowledge?
7. So far, to what extent is this project working to decrease violence in your community? How do you explain this? Can you give me examples of some things that have changed in your community as a result of the project?

□□□

Appendix IV. Evaluation Form for Local Authorities

I- Part I

1- Occupation

- 1. Farmer
- 2. Student
- 3. Hose wife
- 4. servant official
- 5. Others

2- Age

- 1. 18-24 years old
- 2. 25-40 years old
- 3. Over 41 years old

3- Marital status

- 1. Single
- 2. Marriage
- 3. Widow/ widower

4- Gender

- 1. Female
- 2. Male

5- Education

- 1. Literate
- 2. Can read but not write
- 3. Can write but not read
- 4. Illiterate

II- Part II

6- Are there victims of violence against women (VAW) that come to you for help?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No (Continue to Q. 9)

7- What kind of help have you given to victims of violence in your community?

- 1. File a complaint
- 2. Intervention
- 3. Facilitate
- 4. Counseling
- 5. Advices
- 6. Others What?

8- Were your actions effective?

- 1. Very effective
- 2. Some what effective
- 3. A little effective
- 4. Not effective

5. Why?

9- Can you give me examples of some things that have changed in your community as a result of the project?

- 1. Changed
 - 2. Normal
 - 3. Not Changed
 - 4. Why?.....
-

10- What have you learned about VAW?

.....
.....

11- What issues did you gain new knowledge on?

.....
.....

12- Since the training, what do you differently when a woman (or man or child) comes to see you?

.....
.....

13- Can you give me an example of what's changed in your community as a result of the training and your actions?

.....
.....

14- Are other people getting involved in the work of teaching others about VAW?

.....
.....

15- Are you building a community network with other local authorities?

.....
.....

16. So far, to what extent is this project working to decrease violence in your community? How do you explain this?

- 6. Very well
 - 7. Well
 - 8. Somewhat
 - 9. Not at all
 - 10. How do you explain this?
 - 11.
-

17- Any further comments?

.....
.....

Thank you !!

Appendix V. Evaluation Form for Community

I- Part I

1- Occupation

- 1. Farmer
- 2. Student
- 3. Hose wife
- 4. servant official
- 5. Others

2- Age

- 1. 18-24 years old
- 2. 25-40 years old
- 3. Over 41 years old

3- Marital status

- 1. Single
- 2. Marriage
- 3. Widow/ widower

4- Gender

- 1. Female
- 2. Male

5- Education

- 1. Literate
- 2. Can read but not write
- 3. Can write but not read
- 4. Illiterate

II- Part 2

6- Do you know if there is a net work working on violence against women (VAW) in your village?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No (Continue to Q. 11-13 and 16)

7- Have you been attending the net work activities or not?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No Why?

8-How did you learn about it?

- 1. Attended their activities
- 2. Introduced from local authorities
- 3. Found their help
- 4. Heard from neighbor
- 5. Others

.....

9-Which activities did you attend?

- 1. Education
- 2. Poster
- 3. Informal Education
- 4. Others
- 5. None

10-Which topic do you like and understand the most?

- 1. DV
 - 2. Rape
 - 3. HTS
 - 4. Laws
 - 5. Others
-
-

11-Do you think the local authorities are working to decrease VAW?

- 1. Yes In what way?
 - 2. No
 - 3. Don't know
- Why?
-
-

12-What to seek assistance from them [authority] when you have trouble concerning on violence against women?

(How satisfaction are you to seek their help (authority) when you have VAW problems?)

- 1. Satisfaction
- 2. Normal
- 3. Un satisfaction

Why?

.....

.....

13-Do you think VAW has decreased in your community since the training? Which of the following could help to decrease VAW?)

- 1. Change of attitude
- 2. Immediately report to nearest authority for help
- 3. Understanding each other between husband and wife
- 4. Don't know

14-So far, to what extent is this project working to decrease violence in your community?

- 1. Very well
- 2. Well
- 3. Somewhat
- 4. Not at all

How do you explain this?

.....
.....
.....

15-Can you give me examples of some things that have changed in your community as a result of the project?

.....
.....
.....

16-Any further comments?

.....
.....
.....

Thank you!!

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