



Citizen's Score Card on Elected Officials
Response to the Priority Needs in Remote or Indigenous Communes

Many Voters from remote areas, including indigenous people from 100 communes or 16 provinces in Cambodia, recently completed their evaluation of elected officials response to the priority needs raised in the voter voice workshops through the use of citizen's score cards. These workshops were conducted in remote and indigenous communes and prepared by the Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia (COMFREL) and partner non-government organizations in 2011 and 2012.

Mr. KOUL Panha, Executive Director of COMFREL said "COMFREL's first methodology on promoting remote and indigenous voter voices is through determining their local agendas, relaying these to political parties and commune councilors, and following up their response through the assessment of commune council implementation of the local agenda through voter's score card. The report on the voter score card is able to provide base line information to elected political parties and commune councilors".

At least 5807 voters (including 1987 women) who live in remote and indigenous areas participated in workshops to determine 5 priority needs of their respective communes for commune councilors or representatives of political parties to consider inserting into their commune development plan and political platforms for the upcoming elections. As a result, the key priorities needs consisting of 21 categories including: proposals for building commune/post health centers, wells, rural credit, providing nurses, midwives and doctors, ambulances to transport sick people, building new roads and maintenance of roads, building new bridges etc were determined. They were then coded for the purpose of enabling remote-citizens to conduct an evaluation and send results relating to the priority needs through SMS. The response of commune councilors and political party representatives in relation to the total 4143 priority needs was then evaluated and scored by people living in remote/indigenous areas. The results were as follows: 46.37% (1921 needs) had not at all or had slightly been responded to, 17.33% (720 needs) had received an average response, and only 2.24% (93 needs) had almost or completely been responded to.

For more details, please refer to the "Summary Report on Result of Citizen's Score Card on Elected Officials to Response to the Priority Needs at Remote or Indigenous Communes" COMFREL, January 2013.

COMFRELs mission is to help create an informed and favorable climate 1)- for free and fair elections through lobbying and advocacy for a suitable legal framework, education to inform voters of their rights and monitoring activities that both discourage irregularities and provide comprehensive monitoring data to enable an objective, non-partisan assessment of the election process, and 2)- for meaningfulness of post elections through education and public forums to encourage citizens to participate in politics and decision-making, advocacy/lobby for electoral reforms that increase accountability of elected officials and provide comprehensive monitoring data to enable an objective, non-partisan assessment of the fulfillment of political platform and performance of elected officials.

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Vision : A democratic society that democratization in particular democratic elections are promoted and qualified to bring benefits to people.

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