



စွန့်ကြဲမှု ဝန်ကြီးဌာန COMFREL

# Annual Narrative Report 2013

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR STRENGTHENING THE DEMAND FOR FAIR ELECTIONS AND  
DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE



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## **FOREWORD**

The Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia (COMFREL) serves to promote democracy and citizen participation in the spirit of building capacity for nationwide networking and cooperation with its member organizations and partners. Free and fair elections are entirely necessary for the progress of democratic development in the country. Therefore, COMFREL is dedicated to strengthening the fairness and integrity of the 2013 National Assembly election. COMFREL was able to fielded more than 11,000 local observers, covering more than 60% of all polling and vote counting stations in the 2013 National Assembly elections. COMFREL engaged in advocacy for improvements to the legal framework and conducted voter education through dissemination of printed materials and broadcasts and political forums/debates on political platforms. We are proud of and indebted to numerous local networks, local observers, activists and NGO who served as volunteers during the 2013 election period and made COMFREL's comprehensive election mission possible. Their effort contribution included the establishment of the situation room on election-day which are composed of 41 NGOs and immediately share election-day information from CSO election observers and enhancement of proactive intervention and rapid response to crises connected to the election-day environment.

COMFREL is maintaining its best efforts and pursuing commitment with its core mission of empowering Cambodian citizens (marginalised electorate; in particular youth, local activists and stakeholders) and demonstrating their participation in elections and democratic governance. With this in mind, COMFREL releases this annual report, consisting of eight sections and covering from October 01, 2012 to September 30, 2013 to the public, especially to our concerned stakeholders.

The report highlights six core programs, descriptive of overall picture and activities of COMFREL in 2013. Upon one month to another, each monthly report from every section of COMFREL showed data inputs responding to yearly program with noticeable improvement and achievement of its expected results. In all, increasing awareness among Cambodian people and voters every year, likewise this year 2013 is our incentive to further encourage their participation, either social or political routine.

On this occasion, I would like to acknowledge the assiduous activities contributed by COMFREL's board members , COMFREL's member organizations and COMFREL's staff at all levels, from commune activists and watchdogs to central office staff, including volunteers, who are always committed through thick and thin together to bring COMFREL's mission and goal into reality.

Finally, I and COMFREL wish to express our special gratitude and pay tribute to donors with their supports: EU, Oxfam Novib/Netherlands, Forum Syd/Sweden, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), the British Embassy, Swiss Embassy, Open Society Foundation (OSF) and Australian Embassy as well as partners from within and outside Cambodia.

Phnom Penh, 01 May 2014

**KOUL PANHA**  
Executive Director  
COMFREL

## I. Executive Summary

Within this fiscal year October 2012- September 2013, COMFREL, its staff members, its board members, and member organizations at all levels carried out activities set under the new title of the project “strengthening the demand for fair elections and democratic governance”. The purpose of this being to empower Cambodian citizens (marginalised electorate; in particular youth, local activists and stakeholders) and to promote fair elections and demonstrate their participation in democratic governance. Below are key milestones and outputs achieved under the supervision of COMFREL’s five units and one team, namely Advocacy Unit (ADU), Media Unit (MEU), Network Unit (NEU), Monitoring Unit (MOU), Education and Gender Unit (EGU), Core team (COT) in which contribute directly to the following milestones:

### ▪ Advocacy and Lobby

COMFREL participated in 32 meetings, 8 workshops, and a series of radio broadcasts to consult on and discuss draft laws, regulations, and policies with CSO leaders, legal experts, and stakeholders. This included the Draft of Freedom of Information (FOI) document, COMFREL’s recommendations on the draft regulations and procedure for the 2013 National Assembly Election, the 2013 National Budget and Public Procurement Systems in Cambodia, Media Access by Political Parties, Election Campaign Finance and Voter List Registration, Electoral System and Civic Education.

COMFREL organized and facilitated 19 consultations, round table discussions and workshops with the main political parties, CSOs and the NEC. These were attended by around 1,000 participants including lawmakers, journalists, political party representatives, the NEC, CSO representatives and concerned establishment figures.

The aim of the seminars and press conferences was to discuss key issues and take note of attendee’s comments on draft report and recommendation documents’ content. As a result, COMFREL, in cooperation with other election stakeholders, produced and distributed 46 key recommendations to the NEC, Ministry of Interior (MoI) and individual political parties.

The 2012 Annual report on Democracy, Election and Reform was produced and then distributed to the public and to the media, embassies, UN agencies, NGOs, and relevant international organizations.

### ▪ Media and Campaign

Four volumes of the COMFREL *Neak Kloam Meul* Bulletin, volume 47, 48, 49 and 50 were produced and posted on COMFREL’s website for public access.

COMFREL’s radio program, as part of the ‘Voice of Civil Society’, was established to improve relationships and communication with the media, relevant state institutions and other international organizations, and to stimulate debate and provide information on democracy, governance, and election issues to the media and the public. The program also plays an important role in advocating, lobbying and strengthening and increasing public awareness. There were 1,279 (166 female) radio callers and 120 (33 female) guest speakers sharing their points of view in relation to politics, electoral reform, the election process, youth and women’s participation in elections, democracy, and women and children’s issues.

COMFREL established an election and political news outlet through the Cambodian Voter Voice both online and offline.

113,759 viewers accessed COMFREL's social media outlets through Ustream video, Facebook and YouTube. The number of voters interested in election and political issue, visiting COMFREL and the Cambodian Voter Voice websites soared during the election period with more than 7,000 online visitors to COMFREL's websites daily.

#### ▪ **Networking**

COMFREL strengthened and built local network capacity throughout the country from provincial, district to commune level. Their local networks were able to monitor and produce the report Fulfilment of Local Agendas with the primary data collected by local volunteers in each commune where COMFREL's local network had conducted a Voter Voice workshop. A report on assessment of the second term of decentralization in Cambodia: CC's performance and citizens' participation 2007-2012 was also published in both Khmer and English. 200 copies of this report have been distributed to COMFREL's provincial secretaries and relevant NGOs and posted on COMFREL's website for public access.

The Network Unit initiated a local watchdog award program in February 2013 to select and award outstanding local watchdogs for playing important monitoring roles and addressing local issues. Five selected watchdogs were rewarded.

#### ▪ **Government Watch and Parliamentary Watch**

Government Watch report 2012, report on 4<sup>th</sup> mandate government fulfillment of platforms, annual parliamentary Watch report 2011-2012 and quarterly parliamentary watch reports were produced and distributed to the public. Promises MPs made during constituency visits and public speeches have also been recorded and followed up. COMFREL organized a voter scoring forum on the 4<sup>th</sup> mandate government fulfillment platform at Imperial Garden Hotel with 90 participants; students from universities in Phnom Penh and representatives of political parties and NGOs. The forum gave a floor to the participants to score the performance of the Royal Government of Cambodia over the fourth mandate.

Voters' opinions regarding performance of parliamentary and government fulfillment of platform promises were heard on COMFREL's weekly radio call-in show, "Voter Voice". 60-minute time slots, at least once a week, were broadcasted 70 times over the year. The call-in show provides information extracted from reports dealing with parliamentary watch and the fulfilment of political platforms, the 2013 National Assembly election preparation process, challenges to election participation faced by youths, local security, political issues and public services.

COMFREL monitored media broadcasting to collect information on the misuse of state resources by civil servants, military police, and armed forces.

#### ▪ **Gender Political Empowerment**

178 callers (72 female) and 46 speakers (74% CSO female leaders) expressed their point of view on air during the COMFREL radio program 'Women Can Do It'. Callers freely shared their experiences and ideas or asked guest speakers questions about women's political participation in elections and the promotion of political platforms related to women's and children's issues.

In four COMFREL organized three-day training events, 120 female political party members from four political parties: Cambodian People's Party, Sam Rainsy Party, and Human Rights Party and Funcinpec, that included district councillors, commune councillors, village members, the deputy director of provincial women's affair and community representatives in four provinces, helped increased understanding of gender equality, and provided specific training in leadership, management, characteristics of a manager, how to make a speech, how to speak in public and

how to deliver public speeches and how to raise awareness for successful election campaign strategies.

COMFREL also organized a separate political discussion forum to propose separate strategies and policies to specifically address women's and children's issues during the fifth mandate of the National Assembly.

- **Elections**

- **Long term election observation ( LTOs)**

COMFREL fully trained and deployed 250 long term observers to operate at district and provincial levels nationwide. Training covered the full range of electoral observation and monitoring activities including Collating and coordinating reports (regular reports, surveys and special incident reports), Verification of voter lists, Voter registration and the updating of voter lists, Performing a voter registration audit, Observing candidate registration, The 'cooling-off' period, polling and Counting, tracking electoral complaints, and observing the general election 'climate'

- **Audit of voter registration and the voter list**

141 LTOs were deployed to audit and monitor the voter registration process in a sample of 223 polling stations by conducting nationwide interviews with 2,600 eligible voters. LTOs were then deployed to observe the pre-election environment and report incidents of violence, intimidation or coercion, the abuse of political rights or freedoms and the misuse of state resources for election campaign purposes.

- **Monitoring the Broadcast Media**

COMFREL conducted media monitoring with a small team of ten observers for a four-month period during the voter registration process. The observers monitored three television stations (one state owned and two privately owned) and five radio stations (including two state run stations). A small team of 6 observers monitored three television stations and one radio station, FM 105, for a period of a seven-months during the pre-election and election campaign period, the 'Cooling Day' and Election Day. The monitoring was designed to assess the relative coverage given to political parties and to determine whether it complies with the principles of accurate, fair and balanced media coverage during the electoral campaign for all contesting political parties. Electronic media including TV and radio stations were monitored six days a week for six hours a day (except on Sundays) during prime time from 5.00pm to 11.00pm.

- **Monitoring Election Campaign Financing**

COMFREL conducted a pilot study with 21 trained observers to monitor election campaign financing. Nine communes in the capital and three provinces (Phnom Penh, Kampong Speu and Pailin) were monitored during the official election campaign period.

- **Election Day - Monitoring/Observation of Polling and Counting**

COMFREL recruited and deployed 1,470 Parallel Vote Tabulation observers (PVTs), 7,890 (3,100 females) short-term observers (C-STOs) from Comfrel's network and 3,578 (1,309 females) short-term observers from other non-governmental organizations (N-STOs) partners. Additionally 46 expatriate observers were recruited who participated as volunteers observing the polling and counting process.

- **Rapid Voter Survey on Election Day**

All PVT observers were also assigned to conduct interviews with eight eligible voters in the PVT's - five voters stained with indelible ink (indicating they had voted) and three without indelible ink (indicating they had not voted). The main purpose was to gain insight into voter opinion as to why they voted or why they did not vote.

- **Observation of Youth, Evictee, Women and Ethnic Minorities Voters**

During the 2013 national election, COMFREL deployed observers to collect required information regarding youth, evictees, women, disabled persons and ethnic minorities. COMFREL specifically included these groups in its observation checklists.

- **Special project on Ask for MP platform**

COMFREL has created the social media program called "Ask for an MP". Through the program platform, young people and others are given the opportunity to ask questions and receive answers directly from national party representatives and candidates via a ground-breaking SMS platform.

- **Establishment of the Situation Room**

COMFREL successfully initiated the establishment of the Situation Room on the 2013 national Election Day. The Situation Room brought together 42 independent Cambodian Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and other stakeholders, experts and individuals. This pooled resources, maximizing the exchange of information and providing a Collaborative Platform (CP) for joint assessment, joint verification of election results along with interventions and recommendations during the election period. The Situation Room ran from pre-election day and over polling, counting and the immediate post-election days following complaints, calls for fresh elections and the eventual transfer of power.

## **II. COMFREL's Vision, Mission and Specific Objectives**

### **1. Vision**

A democratic Society that democratization in particular democratic elections are promoted and qualified to bring benefit to people.

### **2. Mission**

To help to create an informed and favorable climate:

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

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.

### **3. Program objectives**



### External Organization:

To strengthen civil society's input based on stakeholder consultation and studies for better laws, procedures and policies in responding to democratic and human rights principles.

To create an informed and favourable climate for the 2013 elections by providing information on electoral rights, monitoring reports and a comprehensive assessment with recommendations.

To generate information and a "voter voice" for increasing the accountability of elected officials.

To strengthen gender equality by increasing understanding among women and men, and enhancing the capacity of female local elected officials and activists.

### Internal Organization:

**Staff Capacity Building and Sensitization on Gender, HIV/Aids and Climate Change:** To ensure the effectiveness of the proposed program activities, COMFREL is to build staff capacity, and strengthen its organisational development.

COMFREL's member organisations and members of its board:

No	Name	NGOs	Position
1	Mr. Thun Saray	President of ADHOC	Chair of Board of Director
2	Mr. SOK Sam Oeun	Executive Director of CDP	Vice Chair
3	Mr. YONG Kim Eng	Executive Director of PDP-Center	Treasurer
4	Mr. YIM Po, Executive	Executive Director of CPDEW	Board Member
5	Ms. SUN Chansen	Dignitary	Board Member
6	Mr. MAK Chamroeun	President of KYA	Board Member
7	Ms. Pok Panhavichetr	Executive Director of CWCC	Board Member
8	Mr. MOM Sarin	Executive Director of HRCDO	Board Member
9	Mr. KIM Sovann	Executive Director of VIGILACE	Board Member
10	Mr. Mr. SEN Set	Dignitary	Board Member
11	Mr. CHEANG Sokha	Executive Director of YRDP	Board Member

### **III. Completed Activities**

#### **1. Advocacy and Legal Study (Advocacy Unit -ADU)**

##### **1.1. Monitoring of Draft Regulations/Laws (Consultations and Legal Studies)**

COMFREL, particularly Advocacy and Legal Officer, continues to review and analyze the existing election laws, legal framework and draft regulations in order to produce recommendations related to Media Access of Political Parties, draft proposed Political Campaign Finance, Voter List and registration, Procedure and Regulation for the Election of Members of National Assembly 2013. As a result, COMFREL has produced 43 recommendations on the followings:

- 16 recommendations on draft Procedure and Regulation on Election of Members of National Assembly. These recommendations are related to administration of Election of Members of the National Assembly, election Campaign, process of voting, counting and consolidation of Election results, electoral dispute resolution, political party agents, election observers and journalists.
- 3 recommendations on voter rights protection and voter list transparency for the 2013 National Assembly election by asking the NEC to post a validated voter list in every village office, to issue the Identification Certificate for Election (ICE) to those who have applying for the ICE with adequate supporting documents, to issue the ICE not later than 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2013, as well as to observers from all political parties to stand directly behind the secretary of polling stations to check the voting procedure whether it is being carried out accurately.
- With the Situation Room on Cambodia Election Day 2013, COMFREL working with 20 CSO organizations produced a package of 24 recommendations for both winning political parties to take into depth consideration for the post-election conflict resolution. . These recommendations are about the truth finding mission of election irregularities, electoral reform, institutional reform, enhancement of check and balance between the ruling party and the opposition party at the parliament and between the government and the parliament as well as guiding and monitoring mechanism on fulfillment of promised political reform.

All the above recommendations that COMFREL has gathered from civil society organizations and political parties have been submitted to the NEC, the MOI, NGOs, donors and other electoral stakeholders.

In March 2013, COMFREL published the 2012 Annual report on Democracy, Election and Reform. It was then distributed to the public especially to media, embassies, UN agencies, and NGOs, international organizations.

##### **1.2. Seminars and Press Conferences (SPC)**

COMFREL, sometimes in cooperation with the Political Finance Working Group or other NGOs, regularly holds press conferences, workshop, meetings and dialogue with political parties, NGO representatives, electoral stakeholders and media. The main objectives are to get their respective endorsement on and to have them involved in providing inputs on recommendations relating to the misuse of state resources, declaration on free and fair election, procedure and

regulation for the election of members of the National Assembly political campaign finance and pivotal and principle for democratic campaign and volunteer disclosure of campaign finance.

- **Procedure and regulation of National Assembly Election**

- 21/01/2013: COMFREL held a dialogue meeting with political party representatives about recommendation on the NEC's draft regulation and procedure for the 2013 National Election at Sunway Hotel.
- 27/02/2013: COMFREL held a press conference on "NEC's Acceptance of COMFREL joint recommendations" at the Imperial Hotel with a total of 25 (five female) participants who were representatives of all major political parties with NA seat (except the ruling party), COMFREL donors, journalists and concerned NGOs. It was revealed that 40% of the joint recommendations had been accepted by the NEC.
- 02/05/2013: COMFREL hosted a press conference on three recommendations on voter rights protection and voter list transparency for 2013 general election at Imperial Garden Hotel with three political parties: League for Democracy Party (LDP), Cambodian National Rescue Party (CNRP) and Funcinpec Party in addition to 15 NGO representatives. The purpose of the conference was to express the concern of civil society organizations over voter rights protection and to forward their concerns to political parties, the NEC and concerned institutions and other stakeholders.

- **Political campaign finance**

- 26/02/ and 04/03/2013: Political Campaign Finance Working Group composed of four NGOs, namely COMFREL, NIFEC, DHRAC and SISA, organized two workshops on "Political Campaign Finance" in Takeo and Sihanouk Ville with the total of 195 (18 female) participants. The workshops aimed to raise stakeholders and public awareness of overview of political campaign finance, impact of political finance on elections, importance of establishing a Political Campaign Finance Law and the content of the draft political campaign finance law.
- 24/06/2013: COMFREL organized a signing ceremony on Pivotal and Principle for democratic campaign and volunteer disclosure of campaign finance with 20 concerned NGOs and contesting political party representatives, except the Cambodian People Party, Cambodian Nationality Party and FUNCINPEC.

- **Election related events:**

- On 31/05/06 and 20/06/2013: COMFREL in cooperation with the NGO forum in Cambodia, CCC, CHRAC, GADC, CPWP, CCHR, SILAKA, CRRT, API, CCIM and World Vision held three full-day forums on political viewpoints on Key Issues in Kampong Som, Phnom Penh and Mondulkiri, respectively. There were 356 participants (women 45%) from running political parties for the 2013 national assembly election, development partners, foreign embassies, media, youth associations, informal institutions, and civil society organizations. The Political Forum was designed to provide an opportunity for citizens to hear the policies of the key parties contesting the Election. Those parties who presented policies were the Cambodian National Rescue Party (CNRP) and Funcinpec. The Cambodian People's Party declined to participate. In the forums the candidates were asked to outline their policies under four key headings: Economic and Land Reform; the Environment, Forestry and Climate Change; Social and Human Development; and Rule of Law, Good Governance and Access to Information.
- COMFREL in cooperation with other NGOs organized four forums on Election Reform and Democratic Space (FOREDS) in four provinces with a total of 373 (48 female) participants as listed in the table below. The participants were provincial NEC representatives, political party representatives, local authorities and concerned stakeholders. The objective of these forums were to give a floor to all concerned

stakeholders to discuss and debate election and democracy related issues in Cambodia as well as find out recommendations to be sent to involved institution for solution.

*Table 1: The number of participants joined the Forum organized by COMFREL*

No	Name of location	Date	Number of participants		Total
			Male	Female	
1	Kampong Cham	15/01/2013	70	12	82
2	Kampong Thom	18/01/2013	76	13	89
3	Kratie	22/01/2013	19	7	92
4	Kampong Chhnang	31/01/2013	94	16	110
<b>Total</b>			<b>259</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>373</b>

In each forum, the participants set up five recommendations on election reform and democratic space which are related to recruitment and capacity strengthening of commune and polling station officers, prevention of election violence, election complaint resolution, freedom of speech and assembly and political campaign finance.

- 03/07/2013: COMFREL's EGU held a political discussion forum on "Special Measure to Resolve Women's and Children's Issues in Cambodia" at Sunway Hotel with the total of 200 participants who are leaders of the 8 registered parties acting as forum speakers, representatives from national and international NGOs, embassy officials, NEC officials, MOI officials, female commune councilors and community and youth representatives. The forum aimed to give political parties an opportunity to disclose their respective political platforms in relation to special measure for resolving women's and children's issues in Cambodia. It also aimed to open the floor for civil society and voters to hear information which was necessary for the upcoming national assembly election.
- 12/06/2013: COMFREL's Education and Gender Unit (EGU) co-organized a public forum on "Helping Women for Our Community" at Himavari hotel. The forum objective was to create an opportunity for people, youths, civil society organizations and private sectors to communicate with political party representatives for the upcoming 2013 National Assembly election as well as to create an opportunity for them to make a dialogue with the party representatives about political platform on women's and children's issues.
- *Celebration of Human Rights Day*: On 10/12/2013: 22 (9 female) COMFREL staff members joined the celebration of human rights held in Wat Phnom, Phnom Penh. Before that, on 07 and 27/11/2013 Media Assistant attended two meetings with working group for International Human Right Day celebration at CHRAC's office. The aim of these meetings was to follow up tasks on how to negotiate with Phnom Penh municipal to join the event, how to obtain permission for holding an anniversary event and how to involve political leaders in the celebration with CSOs. She also attended two other meetings at the CHRACH office on 5 and 6/12/ to discuss International Human Right Day preparation.
- 19/09/2013: Senior Media officer attended a roundtable discussion on "Freedom of Expression: Looking forward to the future" conducted by CCRH at Khmer Sourin Restaurant. The program was aimed to provide a chance for stakeholder to discuss and share recommendations for a better understanding.

## 2. Media and Campaign (Media Unit –MEU)

### 2.1. Neak Kloam Meul Bulletin

COMFREL’s Media Unit produced and posted four volumes of Neak Kloam Meul Bulletin, Volume



47, 48, 49 and 50 on its website. The main themes of these bulletins include Parliamentary Watch report, Perspective on 2013 elections, Deleting Prisoners from voter list and NEC decision affects to Voter Rights, 2012 chronological events, Joint statement on political situation before 2013 national election, Recommendation on PEC and CEC recruitment, Political party dynamic for the coming 2013 national elections, Recommendations on NEC’s

Regulation and Procedure, Women Participation in the 2013 Elections; and Overall assessment of the 2013 election process.

#### ▪ Press releases/article and publication

The Media Unit issued 123 press releases, including 22 joint statements, to raise public awareness about COMFREL activities, observation of election safety package, election irregularities and recommendations along with an invitation to COMFREL-organized events.

### 2.2. Radio Broadcasting “Civil Society Voice” and Website

COMFREL’s Media Unit’s on-going activities are as follows:

- Continuation of broadcasting information about COMFREL’s activities to the public.
- Live to air broadcasting of COMFREL’s radio program called “Voice of Civil Society (VoC)” via FM105 Radio station every day from 7:30’ to 8:30’ a.m., Monday to Friday. The Voice of Civil Society consists of daily programs on different topics as listed below:
  - Monday : “Samleng Machass Chhnauth” or “Voter’s Voice”
  - Tuesday : “Women Can Do It” and “Samleng Machass Chhnaut ”
  - Wednesday : “Human Rights”
  - Thursday : “Victim’s Voice ” and “Voice of the Workers”
  - Friday : “Kloam Meul Pracham Sapadah” or “Weekly Watch”
  - Saturday : “Tov Reu men Tov” or “Youth Program ”
  - Sunday : Re-broadcast of “Kloam Meul Prarcham Sapada”
  - (“Weekly Watch”) and “Youth Public Forum”.
- During the period from March to September 2013: COMFREL added one more radio call-in show program named “**My Information**”. This program is broadcast at the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> week of each month. This program will assist and engage voters to have better access to information about interesting topics and join discussion with COMFREL radio speakers.

Picture 1: Comfrel's radio broadcasting in "Weekly Watch" program airs live every Friday from 7:30 to 8:30 facilitated by Executive Director Koul Panha.



The total number of live aired and rebroadcast radio programs during this period was 365 (222 lives and 143 rebroadcasts) via FM 105 station in Phnom Penh. The main topics of these programs are about election issues, civil society's role in politics and election process, regulation and procedure for the Election of Members of National Assembly, women and elections, parliamentary watch, participation of people with disability in election process, youth participation in election, premiership candidacy, indigenous people's right and land issues as listed below:

- Electoral Information dissemination,
- Women participation in in the 2013 National Assembly Election,
- PEC and CEC recruitment procedure,
- Disable people's right in participating in the national Election and their access to information,
- The importance of Access to Information (My Information Program),
- Peaceful mechanism of changing a country leader through election,
- Political Party and Candidate registration for the 5<sup>th</sup> mandate of National Assembly Election,
- Labor situation and the 2013 National Election,
- Awareness of Political Parties platform,
- Voters' opinion over political participation,
- Political campaign platform related to agriculture,
- Political discrimination and Political violence,
- Political youth platform and Election and election observers,
- Transparency of information and Access to information,
- Youth participation in 2013 election process National Budget Law;
- Impact of migrant workers' right on election
- COMFREL's Situation Room on Election Day 2013
- Post-election complaint resolution.

Table 2: The following displays the VoC Program which shows all the broadcasts through various stations:

N	Radio Station	Location	No. of Broadcasts/Live		Hours	Speakers				Organizers/Facilitators		No. of Callers /Discussions	
						CSOs		BoD					
						F	M	F	M				
			Re-Broadcast	Live		33	78	0	9	18	8	16	1,113
1	FM 105	PNH	143 times	222 times	365 Hrs								
2	FM 95.5	Siem Reap	236 times	0	118 hrs								
<b>Total</b>			<b>379 times</b>	<b>222 times</b>	<b>483 Hours</b>	<b>111 Persons</b>		<b>9 persons</b>		<b>26 persons</b>		<b>1279 Callers</b>	

### 2.3. Social Media (Website, Email and SMS mobile phone)

#### COMFREL website

- COMFREL daily produced press articles with images of events and posted them on the CVV. More than 2000 visitors viewing the website per day.
- The Media Unit produced an android application for the CVV website which can be used on mobile phones with android operating systems. It allows users/audience to read any news that was published by the CVV group.
- COMFREL posted a map showing election related information to the public on its website.
- COMFREL's Media Unit developed a Facebook group named Election Information; this helped to spread election information widely through social media. More than 3000 persons are in Facebook group friends and some of them are interacting by asking questions, sharing what we have post during the election period.

Table 3: The numbers of viewers accessing to COMFREL's social media such as website, Ustream, face book and Youtube are listed below:

Type of social media	Number of viewers	Number of pages viewed /followers
COMFREL's website	29,163	132,471
CVV website	49,910	222,355
Ustream	25,768	234
COMFREL facebook	7,524	5,00
CVV facebook	1,282	20,801
COMFREL YouTube	112	17,219
<b>Total</b>	<b>113,759</b>	<b>393,080</b>

#### Social media, radio spot and video clips

- COMFREL produced a 10 minute radio and video spot on indigenous rights and the importance of political participation by indigenous communities. Actors in this spot are indigenous people in Kampong Spue province.
- From 26 to 29 July at the Situation Room the Media Unit produced two conference video clips about COMFREL's press conferences, highlighting key points of the event such as impression by independent analysts, CSO recommendations, and questions by participants and responses. The clips were then uploaded on YouTube for public view.

## 3. Network Unit (NEU)

### 3.1. Workshop on Voter Voice

- **Provincial meetings on electoral reform**

Two COMFREL provincial secretaries held two meetings on electoral reform in their respective province on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2013 in Bateay Meanchey province with 9 participants and on 24<sup>th</sup> December 2013 in Prey Veng province with 8 participants. The meeting aimed to gather inputs on electoral reform and what from local grassroots voters, especially young voters, and what they do want for the improvement of the next mandate election preparation.

### 3.2. Voter Scoring through SMS

- **report on Fulfilment of Local Agendas through SMS**

COMFREL produced the report on Fulfilment of Local Agendas with the primary data collected by local volunteers in each commune where COMFREL has conducted the voter voice workshop in remote communes. It should be noted that each commune activist representative was assigned to evaluate people's satisfaction on promise fulfilment performed by their respective commune councillors or political parties via collecting the score cards completed by local people in their own commune.

### 3.3. Research and Evaluation

- **Annual reflection meeting with provincial secretaries**

27/12/2013: COMFREL held a staff reflection meeting with its central staff, Executive commission, volunteers and provincial secretaries for a total of 47 participants (female 21) in Lei Lak hotel, Phnom Penh. The meeting aimed to find out strengths and weakness of organization for sustainable development, organizational strategic plan for 2014 and shortfall of fund to run its programs for 2014 fiscal year.

- **Annual organizational review meeting**

28/10/2013: COMFREL held an annual review meeting with its central staff, including the Executive Commission, at the head office to discuss and reflect what COMFREL as a whole had achieved, challenged and learnt for one year project implementation starting from October 01, 2012 to September 30, 2013. The meeting gave the floor to all COMFREL units to share and review their project results, challenges and lessons learnt.

- **Reflection workshop on observation of the 2013 National Assembly election**

From 17 to 18 October 2013 COMFREL held a two-day reflection workshop on implementation of organizational action plan and result on 2013 National Assembly election observation with 33 participants, including 4 executive commission members, 23 (12 female) provincial secretaries and 6 central staff members. The workshop aimed at discussion on 2013 election-related reports, sharing experiences in election observation, discussion on mid-term project evaluation with focus on results and organizational development and identifying of organizational future direction.

### 3.4. Award for Network

- **Local Watchdog Award Program**

On 23/05/2013: COMFREL Network Unit held a meeting to set up a local watchdog award program 2012. After the meeting the working group updated some documents related to the award program such as a local watchdog award application, activity form to be filled in by



watchdog candidates and evaluation principles. The working group informed 22 COMFREL provincial secretaries about this program and sent all above-mentioned documents to them.

*Picture 2: Granting Award for local activists held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2013 presided over by Executive Director Koul Panha at Phnom Penh Ecumenical Diakonia Centre.*



On 28/02/2013: COMFREL received 12 applications from its 12 (six female) local volunteer watchdogs in five provinces: Kampong Chhnang, Kratie, Mondulhiri, Koh Kong and Stung Treng. Having reviewed all applications, the working group decided to shortlist only five applications. The five shortlisted candidates, of whom two are female, live in Mondulhiri, Kampong Chhnang, Kratie and Koh Kong provinces.

From 06 to 16/03/2013: four working group members conducted a field visit to those provinces in order to seek out more information about the shortlisted candidates' activities. The working group members had to interview commune chief, commune councillors, village chief, local residents and NGO staff members about COMFREL's local watchdogs' activities regarding participating in commune council monthly meeting, monitoring commune council's performance toward five commune priorities that had been set up by commune residents during COMFREL-organized voter workshop in remote communes, etc. The award working group members were also assigned to interview each shortlisted candidate about their daily work.

After field visit, the working group held another meeting to present and discuss their field findings and then made final decision on which shortlisted candidate should be ranked number one, number two and number three. The final evaluation was based on candidate's actual activities contributing to commune development, attitude, achievements, COMFREL-assigned work performance and their availability in brining commune issues to be resolved by commune

councils. Through thorough presentation, discussion and debating on candidate activity, the work group decided to give rank as follow:

- Miss. Khoeum Nym, COMFREL Volunteer Local Watchdog in Kampong Chhang's Ampil Toeuk commune, was ranked number 1. She had assisted her villager to persuade commune council in fulfilling three commune priorities: reconstructing commune road, repairing commune dam, and putting more clean water filter tank.
- Mr. Boreit Kampi, COMFREL Volunteer Local Watchdog in Monduliri's Dak Dam commune, was ranked number 2. His daily work had contributed to his villagers working for construction of a village meeting hall, dissemination of sub-degree on land titling procedure for indigenous people and collective land title guideline.
- Miss. Yun Channy, COMFREL Volunteer Local Watchdog in Kampong Chhnang's Samroang Sen commune, was ranked number 3. She was awarded for her good performance of pushing commune council to respond to commune priority needs such as construction of commune administrative office, repairing a commune road linking to another nearby commune and requesting for a small machine boat/three wheel vehicle for sending patients/pregnant women to hospital.

Besides the three awarded watchdogs above, the Award working group decided to give two consolation prizes to two more local watchdogs named Mr. Chan Vuthea for his follow-up activity toward promises made by Chinese Development Company to compensate evictees and for his request for hand-pump well in a new resettlement area for all evictees as well as Mr. Sith Vibol for his disseminating activity encouraging his commune fellows to check and register their names for the upcoming National Assembly Election, for his monitoring activities toward commune priority needs being fulfilled by his commune councils, for his monthly commune council meeting and for his assistance in identifying poor people for the poor identify card. COMFREL produced three case studies about its awarded local watchdogs ranking from number 1 to number 3.

### **3.5. Other: Special Project on Voter Voice and Green Agenda with financial support from Forum Syd**

- Organization of Voter Voice Workshop on "Rights and Climate Change"

After participating in a series of training on climate change provided by Forum Syd, COMFREL's green agenda team and network decided to undertake a review of the field research in Kampong Chhnang province to support the discussions on the green agenda project and to assess the possible role of COMFREL.

The main findings of the field research underlined the need for a mechanism supporting the strengthening of citizen participation in democratic governance. The findings also revealed the lack of a participation mechanism in decision making and the awareness of the community and local citizens on their rights to participate in decision making in relation to the green agenda. We also found a lack of participation in monitoring the development plan from local community citizens, as well as a lack of participation from the commune councillors, local authorities, and environmental officials. This generalized lack of participation would represent an obstacle for further responses to green agenda issues.

That's why COMFREL, with support from Forum Syd, implemented a project on Voter Voice and Green Agenda in Kampong Chhang province. The overall objective of the project is to ensure that citizens actively participate in decision making in commune development, to contribute to the mitigation of climate change impacts, and to engage and interact with elected officials in order to effectively implement the reform of the political platform in Cambodia.

20-22 and 25/10/2012 and on 22/11/2012: COMFREL central office staff, provincial district and commune network members, in cooperation with district office and commune authorities, conducted two Voter Voice Workshops on “Rights and Climate Change” in three different villages located in Toeuk Phus district and Samky Meanchey district of Kampong Chnang province.

The table 4 below shows the number of participants in the workshops.

Participant groups	Male	Female	Sub-total
Commune council (Disaster Commission)	9	1	10
District Office Officer (from environment, agriculture, water resources)	3		3
Village chiefs	20	5	25
Vulnerable people	29	38	67
People aged 18-35 (youth)	25	21	46
Community representatives or Civil Society networks	1	1	2
COMFREL networks	10	3	13
Saving group	0	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>169</b>

- Climate Change Exhibition

23/03/2013: The Green Agenda working group organized an exhibition on “Voter Voice and Climate Change” at CJCC building. The event was jointly held by Forum Syd in cooperation with JCCI including its NGO partners (FACT, COMFREL, KYSD, Cord, Padek, PDP, KYA, STAR Kampuchea, MVI, LWD, GAD/C, CEDAC and NPA). The event aims to give a floor to all NGO partners share their respective achievements in order to attract donors as well as to learn from one another. Having participated in the event, COMFREL Green Agenda working learnt the following:

- How to effectively implement climate change project;
- How to get people’s attention to climate change;
- How to provide technical support or trainings to communities;
- Be aware of other NGO partners’ achievement through climate change project implementation;
- How to set up a strategy for sustainable climate change project implementation.

- Annual Report on Voter Voice and Climate Change

COMFREL Network Unit produced an annual report on “Voter Voice and Climate Change Project 2012”. The report highlights some contents such as executive summary, project outputs, project activities, training, local workshop and outcomes.

## 4. Monitoring and Voter Voice (Monitoring Unit -MOU)

### 4.1. Government Watch

COMFREL staff continued to collect and assemble chronological data and information on the fulfillment of the political platform for the Fourth Mandates of the Royal Cambodian Government in both English and Khmer from media outlets, ministries and other related institutions as follow:

- Continuation of collecting chronological data and information monitoring the political platform fulfilment in the 4<sup>th</sup> mandate of the Cambodian Royal Government in both English and Khmer from relevant sources TVK, CTN, Bayon News and published newspapers.
- Checked and updated information of corruption cases and neutrality of government officials.
- Produced the Government Watch Report 2012.
- 24/06/2013: COMFREL organized a voter scoring forum on the 4<sup>th</sup> mandate government fulfillment platform at Imperial Garden Hotel with 90 participants who are students from different universities in Phnom Penh and representatives of political parties and NGOs. The forum gave a floor to the participants to score against the fulfillment of the Royal Government of Cambodia in the fourth mandate.

*Picture 3: COMFREL organized a voter scoring forum on the 4<sup>th</sup> mandate government at Imperial Garden Hotel on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2013*



### 4.2. Parliamentary Watch

#### • **Observation of the 4<sup>th</sup> National Assembly's sessions**

Two Monitoring assistants observed 7 sessions of the NA where they debated and adopted 13 agendas in relation to amendment of the existing laws, adoption of the draft laws.

#### • **Observation of the inaugural session of National Assembly in the fifth legislature**

23-24/09/2013: Two Monitoring assistants observed inaugural session of the National Assembly (NA) for the fifth legislation at the NA hall. The first opening session of the national assembly kicks off this morning under the presiding over by His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni in spite of no participation of the elected parliamentarians from the opposition party. In this session, there were only 68 elected lawmakers from the Cambodian People's Party and honorable participation of representatives of embassies such as Sweden Embassy, German Embassy, Japanese Embassy, French Embassy, European Union and British Embassy in the event.

For the first day of the opening session, the National Assembly (NA) adopted two agendas: (1) decision on validity of mandate of each member of the parliament and (2) adoption of the NA internal statute for the fifth legislature. For the second day, the NA issued a list of government components for the fifth legislature with 7 new ministers and three reshuffled ministered and the list names of chairman, vice-chairman and commission chairman in the National Assembly.

- **Observation of National Assembly's field Visits**

- COMFREL continue to collecting data or information of parliamentarians and the National Assembly from print and electronic sources. The information is mainly about parliamentarian's field visits to constituencies, their performance at the NA and NA sessions.
- Provincial secretaries continued to observe the activities/missions of the MPs to constituencies throughout the capital and 23 provinces by deploying observers to observe the activities of each MP in each constituency. Provincial secretaries are assigned to communicate with and contact the branch offices of political parties and MPs' in their constituencies or directly contact the MPs and conduct national assembly field visit observations. They then have to complete the Mission Observation Checklist in a monthly report to COMFREL headquarters.

- **Parliamentarian Watch Report**

COMFREL's monitoring unit (MOU) produced three issues of quarterly parliamentary watch reports, An annual Parliamentary Watch report 2011-2012, In the process of drafting a Parliamentarian Watch for the 4<sup>th</sup> legislature, In the process of compiling a directory of members of the parliament for the fifth legislature.

### **4.3. Radio Call-in Show on Voter Voice**

In cooperation with COMFREL's Media Unit, MOU hosted the radio talk show program on voter voice for 68 times.

#### **Media monitoring**

- The Media Monitoring working group continued to collect information about the misuse of state resources by civil servants, military police, and armed forces from TV stations (CTN, TVK, Bayon News), radio broadcasting (Radio FM 105 MHz) and other websites.
- Continued to monitor and analyze the political trends/messages of each political party and speech of main politicians. Political news on election, government's fulfillment and PM's speech, Governments neutrality, coverage of political parties and National Assembly was then produced and uploaded on COMFREL's website: [Cambodianvotervoic.org](http://Cambodianvotervoic.org).

#### **Overseas mission**

From 02 to 12/12/2013: Senior Legal Office and Monitoring Officer had a 10-day overseas mission to Uganda, Africa, for the Exchange Program supported by HRNJ. The objectives of the program are to create a platform for sharing traditional Media activism strategies between Ugandan and South East Asian media practitioners and to equip South East Asian Media Activists with integrated human rights monitoring and reporting scenarios strategies with a view of strengthening Freedom of Expression and Human Right.

## 5. Education and Gender (Education/Gender Unit-EGU)

### 5.1. Radio Call-in Show on Women Can Do It (RCS)

In cooperation with Media unit, the Education and Gender Unit hosted 24 sessions of the 60-minute- radio-call-in show, 'Woman Can Do It', aired live and rebroadcast two sessions on FM 105. The topics of the program brought forward for discussion were mainly about women and candidacy, Women and 2013 National Assembly election (two times), Women and Climate Change Impact on women in politics, Capacity strengthening of elected female officers and female candidates, Role of women in politics at the national level 2013, Women and preparation for the participation in the 2013 National Assembly election (air broadcast and rebroadcast), Political party registration and parliamentary candidate registration for the 5<sup>th</sup> mandate of the National Assembly election, Promotion of an election proportional system for women and Cambodia Millennium Development Goal, Women and Voter Information Notice, Women's points of view and recommendations on special measures for resolving women's and children's issues in Cambodia, Perspective and recommendations of women over a discussion forum on special measures to resolve women's and children's issues, Participation of young women in the 28 July national election, Representatives of women participating in politics, Flood impacts on women, Participation of indigenous women in local development, Women and law on prevention of violence against women and Highly risky group to violence.

The objective of discussing the above-mentioned topics was to strengthening women's confidence in their job performance, promoting more women participating in politics, enhancing gender equality and motivating all political parties to consider placing women in their party candidate lists. Meanwhile, the radio show featured a talk-back discussion which allowed callers, both men and women, to call in and share ideas, experience and/or to raise questions. During this period, 178 (72 female) callers shared their point of view on air on the COMFREL radio program.

### 5.2. Training and Local Action

- **Women Can Do It Training (WCDI)**

- **Training material producing**

- Pre and post-test survey
- Interview form and observation form on situation of female commune council
- Election campaign checklist, cooling day checklist and polling checklist
- 145 T-shirts for trainers and trainees for the WCDI training on Women Empowerment in Decision Making in Kampong Cham, Kampong Thom, Preah Vihear, Takeo and Kampong Chhnang.
- 150 WCDI training manual (20 for trainers and 130 for trainees) for the five target provinces.

- **Training**

As the planned schedule, COMFREL's Education and Gender Unit conducted four three-day WCDI training courses on Women Empowerment in Decision Making and Women Can Do It for 120 female participants who were from the Cambodian People's Party, Sam Rainsy Party, Human Rights Party, Funcinpec, district councillors, commune councillors, village members, deputy

director of provincial women’s affair, state teachers and community representatives. There were 30 participants in the trainings in Takeo on 23th-25th May, Kompong Cham on 25th -27th May, Kompong Chhnang on 14th-16th June and Kompong Thom province on 23rd -25th June 2013.

*Picture 4: Education and Gender Officer Neang Sovann trained on “Women Empowerment in decision making and Women Can Do it” on 25th April 2013 in Kong Chey commune, Kompong Cham.*



The main objectives of this training were to increase understanding of the women trainees who are local political party members of the following:

- Gender with equity, its role and equality,
- leadership, management, and characteristics of a manager,
- Basic concept of democracy, elements of democracy, women’s participation in politics and their challenges preventing them from participating in politics and quota reserved for women as well as women holding political positions in Cambodia,
- how to make a speech, how to speak in public and how to deliver public speech,
- knowledge and awareness of successful election campaign strategies and case study writing, research study writing, design and creation of propaganda image and materials as well as usage of media broadcast,
- knowledge of human rights and procedures for the fifth mandate of the national assembly election in Cambodia such as election campaign procedure and polling/counting day procedure, and
- being a good model focal point for echoing the training contents to people in their respective area.
- Through COMFREL-organized political discussion forum on July 03, to discuss between while CSOs and contesting political parties in order to suggest separate strategies and policies addressing women’s and children’s issues during the fifth mandate of the National Assembly.

- **COMFREL and CPWP related activities**

- 25/12/2013: COMFREL Education and Gender Unit (EGU) in cooperation with the CPWP organized a workshop on Establishment of Special Platform and Measures to Increase Women participating in Politics at All Levels in order to promote women in the politics. This was held at Sunway Hotel with 134 participants from political parties, civil society, Independent analysts, journalists and university students.

*Picture 5: COMFREL EGC Sonket Sereyleak was presenting a report of women participation in 2013 election at Sunway Hotel on 25<sup>th</sup> December 2013.*



- 28/03/2013: Education and Gender Unit Coordinator participated as a guest speaker in a whole-morning round table discussion on Mechanism to Promote Participation and Representation of Women in Politics at National Level at CCHR office. The discussion aimed to give a floor to all participants, including civil society organizations, political parties and executing institution, to discuss practical mechanism in promoting participation and representation of women in politics at the national level for the upcoming National Assembly Election. The discussion also gave a floor to political parties to discuss practical mechanism that all parties could apply to increase female candidates in their respective party list as well as to present a research finding report on Politics in the Kingdom of Cambodia: Increasing female representatives by showing a quota system which was a vital factor in promoting female representation in politics, at national level in particular.
- 05/03/2013: Education and Gender Unit cooperated with CPWP to have a dialogue on Women and 2013 Election with the total of 80 (38 female) participants at Freedom Park, Phnom Penh. The participant were representatives of political parties, party movement, NGOs, development partners, sun-national female leaders, members of Women Network for Social Development, young female network members and students. The dialogue aimed to identified major challenged that women have encountered and resolving recommendations for the next mandates.
- 27/02/2013: Education and Gender Officer attended a CWC monthly meeting on Strengthening Cambodia Contribution to Promote and Protect Women’s Human Rights in ASEAN (SCWHR in ASEAN) at SILIKA office. The purpose of this meeting was to develop a three-year strategic plan for CWC, to draft a one-year work plan for CWC, to strengthen communication with national and regional group in ASEAN and to make a plan for ACSC/APF 2013 in Brunei.
- 21/02/2013: Education and Gender Coordinator participated in Women for All working group at GAD/C in order to prepare a discussion forum on Women and 2013 Election Participation to be held by CPWP.

- **Other Engagement and Action to Promote Women Political Participation :**



- COMFREL's EGU officers were a guest speaker 5 times at the VOD radio program on Women and Children with the topic of intimidation toward women on the polling day and building women's trust in election.
- 30/05 to 06/06/2013: COMFREL's EGU officer made a presentation on Women's and Men's Rights and Election in Cambodia at the GAD/C office.
- 31/05/2013: COMFREL's EGU officer attending a meeting about increasing young women leadership in politics organized by the UN Women at Comme a'la Masion.
- 30/05/2013: COMFREL EGU officer participated in a meeting with women network for all at the Eden garden restaurant in order to seek support for using a joint topic on advocacy on Election Day.
- 21/03/2013: COMFREL's EGU officer attended a consultative meeting on "Young Women Leadership at Sub-National Level" at Sunway Hotel.
- 07/02/2013: COMFREL EGU's Coordinator attended as a speaker in a meeting on promotion of women in politics and in 2013 National Assembly Election at Tonle Basac Restaurant. The main purpose of this meeting was to show the participants that promoting women in politics was the obligation of our people and society as a whole.

### **5.3 Monitoring of Female Councillor Situation and Women's Political Participation in 2013 Elections**

During this period, the Education and Gender Unit has completed the following:

- The Education and Gender Unit produced an analytical report on Empowerment of women in politics for the 5th Legislature National Assembly Election 2013 along with three case studies about elected female parliamentarians in Khmer and English version. 1,000 copies of it were distributed to NGOs partners, government agencies, parliamentarians and journalists. The report was also uploaded on COMFREL's website for public access.
- 10 Female LTOs and 50 STOs gained knowledge about the COMFREL guideline and checklist on recruitment of Commune Election Commission (CEC) officers and on observation of women's situation in taking part in the CEC recruitment and are able to perform their respective task assignment.
- The Education and Gender Unit produced a case study on women's situation of participating in voter verification and registration. Produced an analysis report on Empowerment of Women in Politics and the 3<sup>rd</sup> mandate commune council election 2012 and posted it on COMFREL's website for public view.
- From 13 to July May 2013: The Gender and Education Unit monitored the registration of the female candidates and reserved female candidates of political parties running for the 5<sup>th</sup> mandate of the 2013 national assembly election.
- In June 2013: COMFREL's Education and Gender Unit conducted a field interview with 1<sup>st</sup> ranked CNRP parliamentary candidate Mou Sochau for Battambang Constituency. The interview purpose was to understand the process of being a female parliamentary candidate and her perspective over the party decision to place her as the 1<sup>st</sup> ranked parliamentary candidate, her challenges of being a candidate and her recommendation on pushing for more women being placed in the candidacy for the next mandate. In response, Mr. Sochau responded that the qualified candidates to be placed in the top ranks of the party candidate list shall have the following: competency, capacity, knowledge, financial resources, popularity, long-year work experiences, commitment and bravery in politics.
- 10-11/05/2013: COMFREL's Education and Gender Unit provided a training to 10 women LTOs and 50 women STOs who are responsible for the monitoring of women's participation in the national assembly election in five provinces: Takeo, Kampong Cham, Kampong Chhang, Kampong Thom and Preah Vihear.

- 25/06/2013: COMFREL's EGU Making a presentation on "information dissemination to catch women's attention on election observation at the Star Kampuchea office.
- 12/06/2013: COMFREL's EGU co-organizing a public forum on "Helping Women for Our Community" at Himavari hotel.

## 6. Elections Activity (Core Team-COT)

### 6.1. Preparation and Trainings in the 2013 election

- **Establishment of Election Core Team**

In April 2013 COMFREL set up a core team comprised of 23 members of the central office including the executive director, five program coordinators and other essential staff members. The core team is in charge of recruiting observers, developing election observation materials (monitoring and complaint manuals, observation checklists) and establishing minimum standards for assessing election irregularities and violations.

The core team supervised by the Executive Director with close coordination and cooperation with COMFREL's Board of Directors is also responsible for election observation work, for analyzing political situation, for overseeing the work of the LTOs, monitoring media, campaigning and misuses of state resources.

The core team supervises and trains its group of master trainers and 258 Long Term Observers (LTOs). Of these, 50 act as Provincial LTOs (P-LTOs) and 200 are District LTOs (D-LTOs). The LTOs are responsible for selecting and supervising the election-day observers including Short Term Observers (STOs) and Parallel Vote Tabulation Observers (PVTOs).

- **Recruitment and Selection of STOs and PVTOs**

COMFREL and its LTOs have been utilizing their local networks and mobilizing Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to recruit C-STOs, PVTOs and N-STOs. COMFREL has recruited 11,764 election observers (female 4,486 or 38%) as categorized below:

- 258 (50 female) Long-Term Observers, 63 of whom are Provincial LTOs and 195 are district LTOs;
- 1,470 (446 female) Parallel Vote Tabulation Observers (PVTOs) observing in randomly selected polling stations;
- 6,420 (2,654 female) Short-Term Election Observers (C-STOs) observing polling and counting centres;
- 18 LTOs and 130 STOs for special group observer on disable people participation in election;
- 3,578 (1,309 female) NGO Short-Term Observers (N-STOs); and
- 46 (27 female) expat observers participating in observing the election process, especially during the polling and counting day.

To be an officially recognized observer, they need to have official accreditation cards issued by the National Election Committee (NEC). COMFREL has assisted them in getting the election accreditation cards from the NEC.

- **Election Material Development**

COMFREL has developed and printed the following election observation materials for its election observers countrywide:

- 9,000 copies of the election observation manual;
- 9,000 copies of the election observation checklist on polling and counting day;

- 2,000 copies of the election observation manuals and 2000 checklists and manual on how to send election results through mobile phone SMS for the parallel vote tabulation observers (PVTOs);
- 300 copies of the election campaign manual;
- 300 copies of election campaign checklist;
- 6,000 Q&A books on democracy and the National Assembly Election and the rights and role of citizens;
- 10,000 T-shirts with the slogan “Vote Owner Is You”. These T-shirt have been distributed to LTOs, C-STOs, PVTOs and N-STOs; and
- 2,000 CD copies of the education video clip on indigenous people participation in election.
- 218 copies of PVT video training spot and 1,851 STO video training spot. These video trainings are mainly about code of conduct for election observers, procedure of polling and counting process, SMS sending techniques, completion of the observation checklist.

▪ **Training for P-LTOs**

On 20- 22 May 2013 COMFREL conducted a three-day training workshop on observation methodology during campaigns and on polling and counting day in Phnom Penh Ecumenical Diakonia with 104 participants who are COMFREL’s LTOs, NGO representatives and political parties. This aimed to build up the participants’ skills in election observation during election campaigns and on polling and counting day for the upcoming National Assembly election to be held 28 July, 2013. It also aimed to build on the previous training in observation methodology, to incorporate new issues and update participants on election procedures which they will encounter during the campaign “cooling”<sup>1</sup> day, polling day, counting day and post-election period.

▪ **Training for D-LTOs**

After the training workshop in Phnom Penh, those P-LTOs, alongside the core team TOTs further provided seven echo-trainings to 233 district long term observers (D-LTOs) (female 36) in seven selected provinces such as Pursat, Siem Reap, Phnom Penh, Kampong Cham, Sihanouk Ville, Battambang and Rattanakiri for the period from 03 to 10 July. The 233 D-LTOs are from all provinces across the country.

▪ **Training for PVTOs and STO team leaders**

COMFREL P-LTOs and D-LTOs further provided 194 trainings to 2,195 election observers (1470 PVTOs and 725 STO team leaders) in 194 districts. The training was centred on seven key points including (1) code of conduct for election observers, (2) main election process procedures, (3) main procedures of vote counting, (4) representation on election observation checklist, (5) roles of PVT observers, (6) how to consolidate data and to quickly report their data and (7) presentation on interview checklist for voters not casting their ballot or without indelible ink.

▪ **Training for STOs**

2,195 PVTOs and STO team leaders who have received the training from LTOs at the district level continued to coach 6,221 STOs via 1633 trainings at the commune level. The training strengthened their knowledge and skills on how to complete a task as an election observer on polling/counting day, on proper procedures on the polling/counting day as well as on techniques of how to complete the observation form and to consolidate the data they collect.

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<sup>1</sup> The day immediately before Polling Day, when no campaigning or party political activity is supposed to be conducted.

There was also a display of video clip on how to an election observer and how to complete the election observation checklist. All STOs during these trainings received a package of election observation manual, observation checklist, the Q&A book on National Assembly Election and a T-shirt.

STOs were asked to monitor irregularities on cooling day, polling and counting day as well as to report the irregularities and election results at the polling stations they observed to COMFREL through district contact persons and COMFREL's provincial secretaries.

▪ **Training for Non-Governmental Organization election observers (N-STOs)**

COMFREL provided 25 coaching sessions (13 in Phnom Penh and 12 in 6 provinces namely Svay Rieng, Takeo, Siem Reap, Banteay Meanchey, Preah Vihear and Kratie) to 1,055 (432 female) N-STOs who are representatives of their respective NGOs, communities, associations and trade unions.

Trainings were taken place for the period from late June to 26 July 2013. These aimed to strengthen the observers' knowledge and skills on the regulation and procedure for the national assembly election, especially for polling/counting day, code of conduct for election observer, how to identify election irregularities as well as how to fill in the election observation checklist. After receiving the training, they continue to coach their respective colleagues.

▪ **Training for special groups in charge of monitoring of disadvantaged groups (women, youth, evictee, indigenous and disable) participation in the election**

COMFREL formed and trained five special monitoring groups to collect information about disadvantaged people (women, people with disability, youth, indigenous people and evictees/homeless people) participating in the election process. These special groups are as follow:

- Youth monitoring group: COMFREL recruited, mentored and deployed 2 youth LTOs and 20 youth STOs to monitor youth's participation in the national assembly election in Phnom Penh and in Kandal province.
- Evictee monitoring group: COMFREL recruited, mentored and deployed 2 LTOs and 20 STOs to monitor evictee's participation in the national assembly election in Phnom Penh.
- Indigenous monitoring group: COMFREL recruited, mentored and deployed 2 LTOs and 20 STOs to monitor indigenous participation in the national assembly election in Rattanakiri and Mondulakiri provinces.
- Disable people monitoring group: COMFREL recruited, mentored and deployed 2 LTOs and 20 STOs to monitor disable people participating in the national assembly election in Kampong Speu province. COMFREL also trained and assigned a LTO to monitor the disable people's participation in the election in Kratie province.

These groups have to find out and collect basic information about the following points:

- issues of these special groups effected by voter registration,
- complaints and political violence toward these groups,
- the number and proportion in which the disadvantaged people are registered,
- voter turnout of these special disadvantaged people groups,
- respective number of candidates of disadvantaged people in political party list and in the newly elected officials,
- the degree to which the disadvantaged people holds positions on the NEC and as officials in PECs, CECs and polling stations,
- the platform/campaign contents of the political parties on the disadvantaged people, and
- social concerns and the media coverage of these peoples.

## 6.2. Election monitoring and deployment of observers

- **Deployment of LTOs**

250 LTOs were deployed to audit voter registration, to monitor candidate registration and election campaigning, including campaign finance, the use of broadcast media and the issuance of form ICE (Identification Certificate for Election) as well as to observe the pre-election situation. They supervised the activities of STOs and PVTOs.

- **Monitoring the Broadcast Media**

COMFREL conducted media monitoring with a small team of ten observers for a four-month period during the voter registration process. The observers monitored three television stations (one state owned and two privately owned) and five radio stations (including two state run stations). A small team of 6 observers monitored three televisions as stated above and one radio station, FM 105 for the period of a seven-months during the pre-election and election campaign period and the 'Cooling Day' and Election Day. The monitoring coverage was designed to assess the relative coverage given to political parties and to determine whether it complies with principles to provide accurate, fair and balanced media coverage during the electoral campaign for all contesting political parties. Electronic media including TV and radio stations were monitored six days a week for six hours a day (except on Sundays) during the prime time from 5.00pm to 11.00pm.

- **Monitoring Election Campaign Financing**

COMFREL conducted a pilot study with 21 trained observers to monitor election campaign financing. Nine communes each of which located in the capital and three provinces (Phnom Penh, Kampong Speu and Pailin) were monitored during the official election campaign period.

- **Deployment of STOs**

6,420 trained STOs including STOs team leaders were deployed to competitive and potential conflict areas which accounts for about 33% of the total 19,009 polling stations in all Capital/provinces across the country. Their observation started on the cooling day (27 July) and polling day (28 July). 80% of their observation time was dedicated to observing the outside of the station and the other 20% was spent inside the station, observing the counting. STOs filled in the election observation checklist at each station and sent it through the central office in Phnom Penh through LTOs.

- **Deployment of PVTOs**

On polling and counting day when the election results are consolidated, COMFREL conducted a Parallel Voter Tabulation/Quick Count which verifies the election results announced by counting station officers to detect possible fraud patterns by randomly deploying 1,470 PVT observers to approximately 8% of all polling/counting stations. The deployment was based on two common methods of probability sampling: simple random sample and stratified random sample. Each PVT observer had the responsibility of observing the polling/counting process and collecting the official election result from each station and submitting the completed checklists to COMFREL's District Coordinator of PVT. They were also assigned to send election result as quickly as possible through the FreedomFone voice mail machine and SMS.

After the election day, all PVT observers conducted interviews with eligible voters who did not cast a ballot (indicated by the lack of indelible ink on their index finger) in order to gain insight into why they did not vote.

- **Rapid Voter Survey on Election Day**

All PVT observers were also assigned to conduct interviews with eight eligible voters in the PVT's sampling polling stations, five voters stained by indelible ink and three without indelible ink. The main purpose was to gain insight into voter opinion as to why they voted or why they did not vote.

- **Deployment of N-STOs and Expat observers**

3, 578 (1,309 female) NGO Short-Term Observers (N-STOs) and 46 (27 female) expat observers were asked to observe the polling stations where they went to vote and to send their findings back to COMFREL head office.

- **Deployment of special groups responsible for the monitoring of disadvantaged people participation in the election**

- **Women Monitoring group:** COMFREL deployed 10 women LTOs and 50 women STOs to conduct monitoring women's participation in the national assembly election in five target provinces: Takeo, Kampong Cham, Kampong Chhang, Kampong Thom and Preah Vihear.
- **Youth monitoring group:** COMFREL deployed 2 youth LTOs and 20 youth STOs to conduct monitoring of youth's participation in the national assembly election in Phnom Penh and in Kandal province.
- **Evictee monitoring group:** COMFREL deployed 2 LTOs and 20 STOs to conduct monitoring of evictee's participation in the national assembly election in Phnom Penh.
- **Indigenous monitoring group:** COMFREL deployed 2 LTOs and 20 STOs to conduct monitoring of indigenous participation in the national assembly election in Rattanakiri and Mondul Kiri.

- **Project on Political Participation and Accessible for People with Disabilities**

18/01/2013: Monitoring Officer attended the working group meeting in a project on Political Participation and Accessible for people with disabilities (PWDs) in Election at CDPO office. This project was jointly done by CDPO in cooperation with COMFREL. 07/02/ 2013: Monitoring Officer set up an agenda "Election Campaign and vote counting process" to train 30 representatives of CDPO organization and disabled associations from 15 provinces. 27-28/02/2013: Provided a training in "Election Campaign and Vote Counting Process" to 30 representatives of CDPO organization and disabled associations at the CDPO office. COMFREL deployed 2 LTOs and 20 STOs to conduct monitoring of disable people participating in the national assembly election in Kampong Speu.

### **Establishment of 2013 Election Day Situation Room and report launch events**

From 26 July to September ( post-election) , COMFREL set up a 2013 Election Situation Room located inside COMFREL head office's parameter in order to inform the public and media about up-to date election information, current findings related to the pre-election climate (cooling day) and election/counting observations. It also aimed to closely work with other civil society organizations in producing a joint assessment of the election atmosphere, jointly verifying election results, conducting intervention and producing recommendations.

*Picture 6: Press Conference conducted by the Situation Room held on temporary election result on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2013 in Comfrel's head office.*



Members of the Situation Room are COMFREL, NICFEC, ADHOC, CDP, CHRAC, CLEC, CPWP, Silaka, KYA, YRDP, DHRAC, KYSD, YCC, ICSO, CPWP, GAD/C, CISA, PDP Center, NGO Forum, Star Kampuchea, API, WMC, CCHR, CCIM/VOD, DPA, LWD, CDPO, CHRAC, TIC, My Village Organization (MVI), KID, VBNK, HR Vigilance and LICADHO. Other participants supporting this event are members of civil society organizations, students, COMFREL donors, expat observers, representatives of embassies in Cambodia, as well as national and international journalists.

▪ **Establishment of intervention group**

In June 2013: COMFREL and the situation room set up an intervention group to intervene in election-related issues during the election period. From 21 to 29/06/2013: The group wrote intervention several letters to the NEC to ask for information and intervention in the following cases:

- Sent a letter to the NEC to request for issuance of extra guidelines and procedures on the recruitment of pooling and counting station officers by openly, transparently and actively involving major political party representatives in the recruitment process and to reinforce these extra guidelines and procedure.
- Phnom Penh municipality's statement to ban political parties from campaigning in some boulevards and public places.
- Rattanakiri provincial hall's statement to ban authority of all levels and people from participating in social organization program during election campaign.
- Requesting NEC to issue a declarative letter to allow society organizations and involving parties to access to public places to conduct campaign and training.
- The Ministry of Information's decision to ban local FM from broadcasting foreign radios broadcasting.

**6.3. Reporting and Launching Workshops**

❖ **Election Reports and press releases produced**

COMFREL produced the following reports, press releases and joint statements:

- 300 copies of a report on Final Assessment of National Assembly Election 2013 and five special reports on vulnerable people, including women, youths, forced evictees, indigenous and people with disability, participating in the National Assembly Election. These reports chiefly highlighted some key themes related to election preparation process, misuse of state resources, violation of media usage by political parties, indelible ink, election result and participation of vulnerable people in the 2013 election process.
- Report on election results in 100 remote communes where COMFREL had hold voter voice workshops to see if there was any impact on the election as a result of fulfilment of local leaders toward priority needs proposed by commune residents.
- Report on PVT election observation with focus on irregularities during cooling day and Election Day, election result analysis, comparison of election results for five mandates, and NA seat allocation formula.
- Report on indelible ink test. This report was produced with an aim at responding to the speech of CPP Parliamentarian Mr. Chheang Vong proposing the NA to invite COMFREL's Executive Director Mr. Koul Panha, to answer the questions at National Assembly hall.
- Report on financial electoral campaign. This report aimed to see how much each political party spent during their electoral campaign from 27 June to 26 July.
- Three Joint statements on:
  - Civil Society's Recommendation over electoral conflict resolutions
  - Assessment report of the temporary election result
  - Local authorities forcing voters to give a thumb print on the on-going controversial election result support petition
- Three Press releases on:
  - observation of complaint resolution related to temporary election results in Kratia, Kandal, Battambang and Siem Reap
  - primary findings report of election irregularities on cooling day and polling/counting day
  - observation of the opening process of the safety package A in Battambang, Kratie, Kandal and Siem Reap
  - Report on Primary result of elected female members for the 5<sup>th</sup> mandate

▪ **Report launch events:**

COMFREL through the situation room held an election situation analysis five times after the election campaign period, on the cooling day, on polling/counting day and after the polling day. The situation room gave the floor to independent analysts, NGO leaders, lawyers to give their respective viewpoint over the situation of election process and their findings on election irregularities and people's participation in the election.

During this period, COMFREL and the situation room held three press conferences and around table discuss as follows:

- 26 July press conference on primary report on the pre-election atmosphere.
- 28 July press conference on election situation on polling/counting day.
- 29 July press conference on COMFREL-finding report on election result and post-election situation/complaint resolution.
- 24 August round table discussion on assessment and finding report on the preliminary election result for the fifth mandate at Khmer Sorin.
- 26/12/2013: COMFREL organized a half-day launching workshop on Final Assessment Election Report at Eden Park with 51 (18 female) participants from US and Japanese Embassies, local and international NGOs, COMFREL central staff, provincial secretaries and journalists. The workshop aimed at presenting final assessment report on National Assembly Election 2013, five special finding reports on vulnerable people participating in the election process and opening the floor for discussion in regard with these reports. The reports were then distributed to political parties, United Nations Office for High



Commissioner for Human Rights in Cambodia, Cambodia-based embassies such as US Embassy and Japanese Embassy, provincial secretaries and journalist.

21/08/2013: COMFREL submitted a letter along with report on election irregularities and a joint statement on preliminary election result assessment to the Constitutional Council of Cambodia.

- **Establishment of Election and Politic News through Cambodian Voter Voice (online and offline action)**
  - COMFREL's CVV working group continues to produce daily hot news related to current politics and election issues and upload them on Cambodian voter voice website: [www. Cambodianvotervoic.org](http://www.Cambodianvotervoic.org) in both Khmer and English versions.
  - COMFREL set up a new tool for sending SMS on up-to-date political situation in Cambodia to all Situation Room members.

### **Joint report on truth of election irregularities produced by Election Reform Alliance (ERA)**

In late September 2013 COMFREL held a meeting with members of the situation room and NDI to discuss the feasibility of forming a truth-finding report for election situation and irregularities by CSOs. The meeting also mentioned mechanism of and recommendations on electoral reform for the winning political parties.

COMFREL's Monitoring Unit played a crucial role as coordinator in engaging national and international organizations to closely collaborate and cooperate in reforming the electoral system in Cambodia. As a result, the Election Reform Alliance (ERA) with 20 national and international NGOs was officially established with two main purposes: to reform the current electoral system for the next election and to produce recommendations on elections based on its findings.

13/12/2013: ERA organized a joint report of the 2013 elections launching workshop on Conduct of 2013 Cambodia Election at the Imperial Villa and Hotel with a total of 80 participants from local and international NGOs, political parties, NEC and embassies, independent election experts: Mr. Damaso Magbual, Chairman of ANFREL and Secretary General of ANFREL, and Mr. Vladimir Pran, International Election expert. The workshop aimed at publicizing the ERA joint report which will be later used to campaign and advocate for reinforcement of electoral reform.

### **Observation on Post-Election Conflict and CNRP's massive Demonstration**

COMFREL representative joined a meeting with CHRAC and youth Organisations to discuss coordinating plan for monitoring CNRP's massive demonstration. Within the period of demonstration, COMFREL assigned some core staff members to observe the demonstration at Freedom Park for every time the CNRP held the event.

04, 05, 06, 13/09/2013: COMFREL's network assistant and a monitoring volunteer participated in four trainings in Methodology for Monitoring Peaceful Assembly organized by CHRAC at the CLEC, CARITAS and CRRAC offices with a focus on basic principles for human rights monitoring, non-violent assembly, law on peaceful demonstration, methodology for monitoring peaceful assembly, division of task of responsibility of civil society in monitoring the peaceful demonstration, and how to write and report the demonstration situation. In addition from 15 to

17-20/09/2013, COMFREL's core team members participated in the monitoring of peaceful demonstration held by the CNRP at the freedom park. The team was responsible for collecting,

reporting, writing, and posting the breaking news about the demonstration atmosphere on the CVV website, Facebook page and share with information with members of the situation room. During this three-day demonstration, over ten thousands of viewers accessed to COMFREL's short news on the CVV website. COMFREL developed a research checklist to find out the real purposes of voters/demonstrators joining the CNRP-led demonstration. At least 500 protestors were randomly selected to respond to the checklist questions. The data from the checklist was then incorporated into the database and analysed.

COMFREL continues to deploy at least two Monitoring Unit assistants to a demonstration site, Freedom Park, where the CNRP organize a peaceful demonstration to demand re-election, investigation into election irregularities.

### 7. Special project on “Ask Your MPs” platform

COMFREL has set up a social media program called “Ask the MP” platform. Through the program platform, young people and others are given the opportunity to ask their questions and receive answers directly from national party representatives and candidates via a ground-breaking SMS “Ask the Candidates” platform.

*Picture 7: Monitoring Officer is working with “Ask Your PMs” platform in the office.*



The platform is open to all the political parties, thus providing each with an equal opportunity to reach citizens with their messages. Citizens across Cambodia can submit their questions about the political process, or about issues in their communities or lives that they would like the political parties or candidates to answer. Questions can be submitted by SMS, email, or via a form embedded in Facebook pages and other websites.

- **Broadcasting Key messages to Mobile Phone**

COMFREL signed the contract with EZECOM to provide PBX service that is the outgoing phone call from COMFREL's virtual PBX to international phone number through 007 international gateways. At the same time, we worked directly with the Open Institute to develop and

implement this platform during the pre-election period. To draw greater public attention, the team contacted a famous singer, Miss. Tak Ma, M-production to make the voice message.

Messages to be distributed included:

- On 24 July 2013: "The campaign is coming. Go and get information relating to the different parties and make sure you are an informed voter!"
- On 27 July 2013: "It's COOLING DAY, No Campaign. Make sure you will have your identification documents to be able to vote tomorrow and actively involve observing together.
- On 28 July 2013: "It's Election Day which happens in 5 years. Go to vote all. The election will start from 7:00am to 3:00pm. Remember: Election is secret so no one can know which party you vote for."
- The team sent these voice messages to 2710 lines on 24<sup>th</sup> July and 27<sup>th</sup> July 2013 but twice to 2713 lines on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2013 because it was an Election Day.

- **"Ask the Candidates" Platform**

- A training by One World

From 3 to 6 July 2013: the project team of "Ask the Candidates" platform received a training in technical system support and how to use it by a Technical Assistant from the UK at COMFREL's office.

- Political party involvement

On 01/07/2013: The team sent an official letter to the head office of all registered parties requesting for their two representatives to join our platform's training on 5th July 2013. Four political parties such as the League for Democracy Party, the Cambodian Nationality Party, the Khmer Anti-Poverty Party and the Cambodia National Rescue Party agreed to work with the team by assigning two representatives each to get involved in the platform. Other parties could not joint with the reason that their schedule were full with election campaign activities. Nevertheless, the team kept following up with them for available representatives by highlighting the advantages of this platform.

- Promotion

To promote our platform, the team produced promotion materials including 3,000 brochures, 3,000 stickers, 30 advertisement papers and 136 T-shirts with contact detail. These materials were distributed to 6 universities, 12 NGOs partners and other crowded places in Phnom Penh. The team also posted the advertisement on the Cambodian Daily newspaper and broadcasted at three radio stations 106.7 Wonderful FM radio four times per day for four days, 93.5 FM radio three times per day for four days, and 105 FM radio one time per day for 17 days.

The team also created an electronic system, Facebook, Blog and Wordpress. The Facebook page received 370 likes, Blog existed 165, and Wordpress had 103 visitors. To encouragement more involvement from the public especially voters, we created a winning lottery for those who sent SMS questions to COMFREL.

- "Ask the Candidates" platform

12/07/2013: The "Ask the Candidates" platform was officially launched during a press conference at the COMFREL office. So far, the platform received 87 questions from the questioners via SMS, email, Facebook and Wordpress, which divided into 69 questions from SMS, 11 questions via email and 7 questions coming from Facebook. At that time, it also received 116 answers from the parties.

## IV- International Seminars/Missions and other Activities

- 12/07/2013: COMFREL Executive Director joined Town Hall Meeting and Journalist Training for 2013 Cambodian Election conducted by the Southeast Asian Press Alliance (SEAPA) and CCIM held at Sunway Hotel, Phnom Penh.
- 25/06/2013: COMFREL's ADU officer made a briefing of Citizens Journalist of Voice of Democracy (VOD) on irregularities during election campaign period and on polling day at Eden Park with 15 participants.
- 12/06/2013: In cooperation with YRDP and CCHR, COMFREL participated in holding the 11<sup>th</sup> annual youth forum on "Importance of Youth's participation in the fifth mandate of national election on 12 June 2013 at Imperial Hotel.
- 30/05/2013: COMFREL's MOU made a presentation about COMFREL's election observation activities to Australian Broadcasting Corporation staff at the ABC radio station.
- 08/01/2013: The Executive Director joined training for Cambodian journalists and Bloggers on lessons Learned on Cambodian Election conducted by the Southeast Asian Press Alliance (SEAPA) and CCIM held in Siem Reap, Cambodia.
- From 14 to 23/11/2013: COMFREL Executive Director joined ANFREL's election mission in Nepal and also participated in 5th ANFREL's General Assembly Meeting (GAM) in Kathmandu on 21 Nov 2013. He was selected as ANFREL's vice president for the next term.
- From 21 to 23/11/2013: Legal and Advocacy Officer attended as a speaker a regional consultation workshop on Freedom of Expression for Civil Liberties held in Bangkok, Thailand. There were around 160 participants representing CSOs, Journalist, Lawyers and UN's special rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and freedom access to information, Mr. Frank La Rue. The workshop aimed to:
  - To explore the most urgent opportunities and challenges facing Freedom of Expression in Asia today.
  - To introduce the concept of political-electoral communication and collect regional recommendations for the UN Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression's report to be presented to the United Nation Human Rights Council in June 2014.
  - To assess the current state of digital surveillance across the region, and explore the opportunities and challenges for promoting the recommendations of the UN Special Rapporteurs Report on Surveillance and Freedom of Expression.
  - To establish how the recommendations of the UN Special Rapporteurs Report on Access to the Internet have or have not been implemented across the region and policies for promoting internet access.
  - To bring civil society groups from across Asia together to develop strategies for working as a regional group with shared goals

During the workshop, Legal Officer made a presentation on Regulation on Political Communication in Cambodia, Political-Electoral Communication, Digital Surveillance and Access to the Internet.

- 30-31/10/2013: Executive Director was invited as a speaker to share a presentation on Cambodian democratizations in the Asia Pacific Student's Consortium (APSC) student conference conducted by OSF. The student conference was taking place in Thailand. This conference had about 45 Masters level students. These students come from Nepal, Bhutan, Cambodia, Afghanistan, Burma, Laos, China, and Thailand. They are studying at universities in Hong Kong, Thailand, and the Philippines. They are studying a variety of different topics – Journalism, Public Health, Development, International Relations, Education, etc. The primary purpose of the event is to provide learning opportunities to scholarship students beyond what their regular university experience offers and to focus on issues of political and social concern.

- 21 and 22/10/2013: COMFREL executive director participated in the Asia Democracy Network Founding Assembly at the Seoul Olympic Parktel in the presence of approximately 80 participants representing 50 civil society organizations from 20 ASIAN countries. He was asked to share a presentation on solidary with launch of Asia Democracy Network (ADN) Founding Assembly. The event adopted “Seoul Democracy Declaration and ADN Charter of Principles”. The initiative to form ADN came at first place during the World Movement for Democracy (WMD) in Peru. Later the initiative was growing stronger among the CSOs from Community of Democracy. The drafting and planning processes of the establishment of AND was facilitated by Korean Democracy Network.
- 03/10/2013: Network assistant participated in a half-day workshop on CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX (CPI) 2013 at Sunway Hotel organized by Transparency International (TI). The workshop unveiled that this year’s index ranks Cambodia 160 out of 177 countries with a score of 20. The 2013 ranking confirms that the public sector in Cambodia continues to be perceived as highly corrupt. However, the Royal Government of Cambodia’s renewed commitment to deepen reform is commendable as indicated in the Rectangular Strategy-Phase III which pledges to strengthen good governance and accountability of public institutions and tackle all forms of corruption.
- 22-23/08/2013: COMFREL Executive Director participated Practitioner Roundtable on Making the vote count: Challenges of Electoral Integrity in Southeast Asia at the ICIRD 2013 conference “Beyond Borders: Building a Regional Commons in Southeast Asia” Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok. He asked to share a presentation on Cambodian election experience.
- 27-29/04/2013: Senior Program Coordinator was invited to participate in *Civil Society Forum* in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia within the framework of the Ministerial Conference. The Civil Society Forum focused on the issues as such legal environment for civil society, education for democracy, and challenges and opportunities of emerging democracies. The forum took together over 100 participants around the world and shared the knowledge and ideas for all participants. At the end, forum contributed to produce the *ULLAANBAATAR DECLARATION, COMMUNITY’S ATTAINMENTS AND GLOBAL CHALLENGES*.
- 27-28/03/2013: COMFREL Executive Director participated in a Roundtable Discussion on Electoral Integrity in Asia Chiang Mai, Thailand. He was asked to share a presentation on Cambodia election experiences.
- 27 to 29/04/2013: Senior program coordinator participated in VII Ministerial Conference of the community and democracy in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The conference produced the Ulaabaatar Declaration community’s Attainment and Global challenges. For Civil society forum also produced the civil society recommendations for the Ulaanbaatar ministerial declaration.
- 15/06/2013: A Media Assistant joint the annual youth forum organized by YRDP at Imperial Hotel garden and villa. The aim of this forum is to promote the understanding among youths in politics and give them a chance to discuss key issues with political party leaders and ask them about their platform.
- 24/05/2013: A senior media officer conducted a presentation on Elections and ICT 2013 in Battambang province. During his presentation, he noticed that most participants were still concerned about secrecy of voting.
- 14/10/2013: IT Officer joined a USAID-funded workshop on Social Innovation Lab-Kapuche (SILK) at Himawari Hotel in order to share some ideas and concept on design of new technology program.

## V. Staff Development and Training

### 1. Training for Central Office Staff

To strengthen central staff's capacity to perform their roles and duties more effectively in the workplace, COMFREL fully encouraged and motivated its staff to upgrade their skills and knowledge through attending workshops, training, coaching and mentoring sessions both inside and outside the organization. During this reporting period, COMFREL central staff upgraded their skill and knowledge on photograph shooting, election procedure and observation, facilitation skills, report writing, financial management and monitoring methodology of peaceful demonstration as listed below:

- From 18 to 22/11/2013: Report Writer and Media Assistant attended an orientation workshop on "Result Report Writing" organized by ForumSyd in Siem Reap province. The aim of the workshop was to mentor FS annual report format, introduce a guideline for four-year and annual report format required by FS (new instruction for partners when producing an annual report to FS office) as well as the most significant change/case studies writing.
- 19 to 20/06/2013: two Network Unit members participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop on "process of multi stakeholders" at CORD office.
- 12 to 13/06/2013: Network Unit's assistant participated in a workshop on "financial management for-non finance staff" at Frangipain Villa hotel.
- 22/03/2013: All COMFREL staffs and volunteers attended a half-day training course on recruitment procedure of Provincial Election Commission (PEC) and Commune Election Commission (CEC) conducted by two officers from the National Election Committee.
- 15 and 21/03/2013: COMFREL Unit report writers and officers responsible for report writing attended 2 three-hour trainings on how to write monthly report based on COMFREL-annual work plan and how to explore information from project implementers.

### 2. Training for Provincial Secretariats

22 (12 female) provincial secretaries also enhanced their knowledge of research method, photograph shooting and social media and election observation as they participated in the following events:

- 26/12/2013: COMFREL organized half-day training on Social Media for its 22 (12 Female) provincial secretaries at the central office. It aimed to strengthen capacity of provincial secretaries in using social media such as Facebook, email, internet to accelerate their daily duties and improve communication between the central office and provincial network via social media. The training covered some themes such as how to upload pictures on website, how to produce and upload video clip and how to use Facebook.
- During the election period: COMFREL provincial secretaries received a training course on election observation and forward their knowledge to local observers.

### 3. Sensitization on Gender, Youth and HIV/AIDs

To enhance knowledge of gender, youth and climate change, COMFREL staff conducted some activities and attended some training programs as follow:

- 25 to 29/11/2013: COMFREL Network Assistant participated in 4<sup>th</sup> 3-day CoP LG/CC workshop on advocating for climate change in communities and at national level organized by JCCI and facilitated by Cord. The workshop with 40 (15female) participants, each two of whom are from FORUM Syd partner organizations, aimed to strengthen capacity of partner organizations in mainstreaming climate change and managing climate change project by focusing on three main themes: learning and sharing experience about advocacy and climate change, awareness of advocacy and its linkage

with rights based approach (RBA) and participation in planning and monitoring organizational climate change action plans.

- 20 to 22/08/2013: COMFREL's network assistant participated in 3<sup>rd</sup> CoP/LG-CC member (Community of Practice on local governance and climate change) with a focus on mainstreaming climate change and gender in local development plan and commune investigation plan in Mondulkiri province.
- 16 to 18/07/2013: COMFREL's network assistant participated in a focused learning workshop on climate change adaptation and mitigation at the VBNK office in order to strengthen his knowledge and skill in adaptation measures and emission reduction to address the problem of climate change. The workshop covered three main points: the concept of climate change, an understanding of adaptation measures reduction of emissions, and the depth understanding of mainstreaming climate change into the project/ program.
- 06 to 09/05/2013: COMFREL's network assistant participated in 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the community Local governance and climate change on gender in the context of local governance and climate change in Kampot province.
- 24 and 25/04/2013: Network assistant and a volunteer participated in a workshop on "Mainstreaming climate change into the plan" in Phnom Penh.
- 20-21/02/2013 and 20-22/03/2013: The Green Agenda working group participated in executing community workshop on "Local Governance and Climate Change" and "Process of Multi Stakeholders" organized by CORD at VBNK office.

## VI. Lessons Learnt and Experience

The followings are lessons learnt and experiences COMFREL has encountered after implementing its program activities at both the national and local grassroots levels:

- According to the feedback from related stakeholders to VOC radio, the facilitator of the program should enquire more clearly about the issues/opinions stated by callers/audience. This may help the program to run on time and to support possible solutions.
- For social media, having several administrators for the news website will ensure information is updated and uploaded on time. Therefore the admin staff require training so they become knowledgeable on website functioning. News writers need to be trained well with at least a basic education on how to write and how to recruit a good article in time for edition. File category name lists of the sources will save time when reviewing future articles.
- Some interviewers and observers lacked knowledge required to complete questionnaire forms even after receiving training. They therefore required constant guidance and supervision by our team group, particularly in areas such as Mongkol Borey and Banteay Meanchey provinces. Some questions were not asked by interviewers thus interviews needed to be conducted again. Some interviewers were found to implement wrong interview procedures in areas such as Ponhea Krek and Kampong Cham province. Interviewers conducted surveys with some students whilst they were in their classes. This was brought to attention by supervisors who asserted that 80% of youth had been interviewed and new voters were also registered. However, some voters were unable to be registered as they will not turn 18 years old before the election date.
- The Establishment of the situation room on 2013 election day as a platform was able to :
  - Bring genuine and independent Cambodian Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and other stakeholders, experts and individuals together to A)- pool resources to maximize and B)-to provide a Collaborative Platform ( CP) for joint assessment, joint verification of election results intervention and recommendations during the election period. This includes pre-election day, polling, counting and immediate post-election issues such as complaints, re-election and transfer of power).

- Provide the immediate sharing of election-day information from CSO election observers and other groups of stakeholders/international community interested in the Cambodian National Assembly election, while enhancing proactive intervention and rapid response to crises connected to the election -day environment.
- Clear division of role and responsibility of CVV working groups results in on-time issuance of up-to date information about electoral and political issues to the public.

## VII. Summary of Financial Report

This is COMFREL's Financial Report for a period from October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013.

### COMMITTEE FOR FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS IN CAMBODIA

#### Financial Statement

October 2012 through September 2013

	Income			Amount	%	
	<b>10 · GRANT RECEIVED</b>					
		1.	OXFAM NOVIB	\$100,000.00	13%	
		2.	FORUM SYD	\$192,780.00	26%	
		3.	NPA	\$47,000.00	6%	
		4.	EU	\$168,240.35	22%	
		5.	OSI	\$53,340.00	7%	
		6.	FOSI-Ex	\$17,069.00	2%	
		7.	OneWorld	\$25,000.00	3%	
		8.	AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY.	\$25,000.00	3%	
		9.	BRITISH EMBASSY	\$88,449.71	12%	
		10.	SWITZERLAND EMBASSY	\$25,130.89	3%	
		11.	CDPO.	\$10,170.00	1%	
		12.	API	\$1,502.50	0.2%	
	<b>Total 10 · GRANT RECEIVED</b>			<b>\$753,682.45</b>		<b>87%</b>
	<b>Opening Balance</b>			<b>\$130,276.72</b>		<b>15%</b>
	<b>13 · BANK INTEREST</b>			<b>\$503.42</b>		<b>0.1%</b>
	<b>14 · OTHER INCOME</b>			<b>\$572.51</b>		<b>0.1%</b>
	<b>15 · FUND RETURNED</b>			<b>-\$18,897.66</b>		<b>-2%</b>
	<b>Total Income</b>			<b>\$866,137.44</b>		<b>100%</b>
	<b>Expense</b>					
	<b>60 · CORE ADMINISTRATION</b>			<b>\$65,806.51</b>		<b>9%</b>
	<b>61 · CORE PROGRAM EXPENSES</b>					
			C-610 · LOBBYING AND ADVOCACY	\$30,271.10	10%	
			D-620 · MEDIA CAMPAIGN	\$69,389.67	23%	
			E-630 · LOCAL NETWORK	\$73,610.90	24%	
			F-640 · MONITORING	\$55,751.02	18%	



			G-650 · GENDER	\$34,257.26	11%	
			H-600 · Staff Capacity Building	\$15,303.25	5%	
			H-660 · EQUIPMENT/FURNITURE	\$10,999.50	4%	
			I-670 · CONTINGENY	\$702.25	0.2%	
			J-680 · QUALITY ASSURANCE	\$13,261.79	4%	
		<b>Total 61 · CORE PROGRAM EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$303,546.74</b>		<b>41%</b>
		<b>70 · SPECIAL PROJECT on Elections</b>		<b>\$378,840.69</b>		<b>51%</b>
	<b>Total Expense</b>			<b>\$748,193.94</b>		<b>100%</b>
<b>Net Income</b>				<b>\$117,943.50</b>		

## COMFREL

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