

# Annual Narrative Report 2012

## Strengthening Fairness and Integrity in 2012 and 2013 Elections



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## List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADHOC	Cambodian Human Rights and Development Association
COMFREL	Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia
CPP	Cambodian People's Party
CPWP	Committee to Promote Women in Politics
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
D&D	Decentralization and De-concentration
EMOs	Election Monitoring Organizations
FUNCINPEC	National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperation Cambodia
KYA	Khmer Youth Association
LTOs	Long Term Observers
Moi	Ministry of Interior
MoWA	Ministry of Women's Affairs
MPs	Members of Parliament
NA	National Assembly
NEC	National Election Committee
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NRP	Norodom Ranaridh Party
PDP-Center	People Center for Development and Peace
PEFOC, J	People's Forum on Cambodia, Japan
RFA	Radio Free Asia
RFI	Radio France Internationale
SRP	Sam Rainsy Party
SVRA	Survey on Voter Registration and Audit of Voter List
STOs	Short Term Observers
WPAN	Women Political Activist Networks (WPAN)

## **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 2012 commune council election.

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 of promoting fair elections and demonstrating their participation in democratic governance. With this in mind, COMFREL releases this annual report, consisting of eight sections and covering from October 01, 2011 to September 30, 2012 to the public, especially to our concerned stakeholders.

The report highlights six core programs, descriptive of overall picture and activities of COMFREL in 2012. 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 2012 is our incentive to further encourage their participation, either social or political routine.

On this occasion, COMFREL would like to acknowledge the assiduous activities contributed by all staff at all levels, from commune activists and watchdogs to central office staff, including volunteers and the management of COMFREL, who are always committed through thick and thin together to bring COMFREL's mission and goal into reality. Special thank goes to COMFREL Expatriate Intern Abbey, who has provided technical assistance in commenting on and editing this English report, and to COMFREL Report Writer Mr. UN Samnang who is in charge of data and photo collection, document translation and report writing.

Finally, COMFREL wishes to extend its deepest gratitude and high tribute to those who are part of COMFREL's ongoing activities and those who share support of our mission, in particular our eight donors: Oxfam Novib, Forum Syd, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), European Union (EU), British Embassy, Australian Embassy, Committee to Promote Women in Politics (CPWP), UN Women as well as partners from within and outside Cambodia.

Phnom Penh, 01 May 2013

**KOUL Panha**  
Executive Director  
COMFREL

## I. Executive Summary

Within this fiscal year October 2011- September 2012, 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 Unit

COMFREL participated in 37 meetings, seven workshops, and a series of radio broadcastings to consult and discuss draft laws, regulations, and policies with CSO leaders, legal experts, and stakeholders. This has included the 4<sup>th</sup> draft law on Association and NGOs, Draft of Freedom of Information (FOI), NGO Position Paper, COMFREL’s recommendations on the draft of regulations and procedure for the third mandate 2012 commune council election, the 2012 National Budget and Public Procurement Systems in Cambodia, Media Access of Political Parties, Election Campaign Finance and Voter List and registration, Electoral System and Civic Education.

COMFREL also organized and facilitated consultation/ round table discussions between main political parties, CSOs and NEC eight times with around 400 participants comprising of law makers, journalists, political party representatives and CSOs representatives. The aim of the seminars and press conferences were to discuss and receive their respective comments on draft content of Political Campaign Finance; Voter registration and voter list ; Code of conduct for all political parties running in the election; Declaration of voluntary disclosure of finance income/expenditure, election related issues as well as restructuring of the National Election Committee composition.

### ▪ Media Unit ( MEU)

3,970 educated women, men, and youths including journalists, NGO activists and government officials received COMFREL’s articles and reports through its radio program, bulletins, social media and emailing list, according to data on distribution of bulletins and reports from the Media Unit. Additionally, local newspapers and radios quote 90% of these articles and reports in their print media and radio broadcasting.

As of September 2012, 140, 595 visitors had viewed COMFREL’s websites while for this period, 15,858 visitors viewed COMFREL’s website: [www.comfrel.org](http://www.comfrel.org) and COMFREL’s Election Campaign Website named “Cambodian Voter Voice”. New track records of visitors on the official website of COMFREL show that voters have realized that COMFREL along with its Cambodian Voter Voice (CVV) is specialized in collecting election information. Visitors viewed COMFREL’s voter voice website for searching their names in voter lists, election laws, election results and reports related to elections

According to 2011 COMFREL’s survey on citizen participation in democratic governance, 35.4 % of the Radio FM 105 audience listen to the Civil Society Voice-VOC one hour program every day. 26% of the audience listened daily to VOC while others listened occasionally. During this year period there were 1,371 (89 female) radio callers and 329 (103 female) guest speakers who

spent their time joining COMFREL's daily radio program and sharing their point of views relevant to politics, democracy, youth, women and children issues.

▪ **Network Unit (NEU)**

Local agendas for 49 remote communes in 18 provincial constituencies have been identified and produced through 49 Voter Voice workshops in remote communes organized by COMFREL with 48 2,840 (966 female or about 34%) local participants. Among them, 15% are indigenous peoples, 18% youths, 7% commune councillors and 14% local political party representatives. The agendas created by local participants were then submitted to major political parties, provincial governors, district and commune councillors and COMFREL local watchdogs to seek solutions. In addition, the promises of commune councillors made during election campaign and public speeches have been recorded and followed up by voters and COMFREL's local watchdogs.

In response to the priority needs above, the invited political party representatives promised to include those needs in their respective political platform for the upcoming commune council election campaign. Meanwhile, the commune councillors also accepted those needs and pledged to include some doable requests into a commune development project. The workshop results were then broadcasted by press media for further dissemination of the information to other parts of the country.

The Report on Benchmarks of Political Platforms was produced and distributed to the major political parties and COMFREL provincial secretaries. It has also been posted on the COMFREL website for public view. 49 press releases on workshop result reports were distributed to the media, political parties, and NGOs through the COMFREL mailing list.

212 (66 female) local activists from remote communes and 23 provincial secretaries are able to use voter scoring techniques through SMS after participating in 8 training sessions on Citizen Score Card and SMS. Through this they have strengthened their capacity in monitoring the performance of and promises fulfilled by their commune councilors and local leaders from major political parties.

▪ **Monitoring Unit (MOU)**

The 2011 Annual and quarterly parliamentary watch reports and performance assessments of national elected officials have been produced and distributed to the public. Promises MPs made during constituency visits and public speeches have also been recorded and followed up.

Voters' opinions regarding performance of parliamentary and government fulfilment on platform promises are heard through COMFREL's weekly radio call in show named "Voter Voice" broadcasted in 60-minute time slots one time per week for 52 times a year. The call-in show provides information extracted from reports dealing with parliamentary watch and the fulfilment political platforms, the 2012 commune council election preparation process, youth issues, local security, political issues and public services.

▪ **Education and Gender Unit (EGU)**

110 callers ( about 13% of them are women) and 46 speakers (74% CSOs female leaders) expressed their point of view on air in the COMFREL radio program called Women Can Do It. Callers freely shared their experiences, ideas, or asked the speakers questions about women's political participation in elections, and promotion of political platforms related to woman and children's issues.



90 female candidates have completed training sessions on how to effectively influence the policies of their political party and decision makers to include women's agendas such as domestic violence, the trafficking of women and children, violence against women, how women can speak to the public, how to deal with domination technique, campaign plan strategy, how to do successful campaign, and how to create gender equality platform for the election. 35.55% of these trained women have been elected as commune councillors in 30 communes for this third mandate commune council election.

▪ **Election (Core Team- COT)**

COMFREL's observers, including 12 monitors who learnt how to monitor broadcast media, were further trained in conducting comprehensive pre-election monitoring. During this year election, 250 long term observer (LTOs) were trained on how to monitor the pre-election situation, voter registration, and how to track the misuse of administrative resources. 5,852 (2,764 females or around 47%) Short Term Observers (STOs) and Parallel Vote Tabulation /Quick Count observers – (PVTs) gained skills in how to observe the polling and counting stations. COMFREL deployed all election observers to particular polling stations. Those observers, especially COMFREL STOs and PVTs, merely encountered minor election irregularities at the observed polling stations.

Three reports including a final report and recommendations related to voter registration, voter lists, broadcast media, and misuse of state resources, were produced and distributed to election stakeholders and journalists via COMFREL's three launching report workshops and press conferences.

In spite of its good performance toward the outcome achievement, some barriers still exist to block the smooth process of the project implementation such as difficulty in selecting local watchdogs who can read and send Phone SMS in remote communes, difficulty in recruiting around 850 PVT observers to observe far polling stations in 10 provinces and problems of using freedom phone by COMFREL observers. Nevertheless, these obstacles in return allow COMFREL to experience and learn new things to avoid further same problems when implementing its project activities in the next phase. Some experiences and lessons learnt from this year project implementation have been described in the lessons learnt section.



### III. 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. Project 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 2012 and 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.

## IV. Completed Activities

### 1. Advocacy and Legal Study (ALS)

#### 1.1. Monitoring of Draft Regulations/Laws

- The Advocacy Unit studied a draft election regulation and procedure and producing recommendations on Media Access of Political Parties, Election Campaign Finance, Voter List and registration, the National Election Committee, Electoral System and Civic Education.
- The Advocacy Unit and COMFREL's Media Unit actively participated in 37 meetings organized by civil society organizations, the NEC, and the Ministry of Interior (MOI) to discuss and share recommendations on:
  - Fourth draft law on Association and NGOs;
  - Draft study of Freedom of Information (FOI);
  - NGO Position Paper ;
  - Draft regulations and procedure for the third mandate commune council election;
  - Draft 2011 National Budget;
  - Political Campaign Finance;

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

COMFREL, in partnership with the Political Campaign Finance Working Group ( or PCF working group), organized and facilitated the consultation/ round table discussion between main political parties, CSOs, and NEC eight times in Phnom Penh to discuss and receive their respective comments on:

- Draft content of Political Campaign Finance;
  - Voter registration and voter list;
  - Code of conduct for all political parties running in the 2012 commune council election;
  - Declaration of voluntary disclosure of finance income/expenditure by contesting political parties for the 2012 commune council election campaign and a joint statement made by political parties to support the creation of a political finance law;
  - Observation result on the voter lists, voter registration, and audit of voter list in 2011;
  - Restructuring of the National Election Committee composition
- **Workshop/Roundtable discussion and press conferences on the Commune Council Election**

The COT and the ADU co-organized a workshop and two press conferences on the 2012 commune council electoral process. Two press conferences were held at the COMFREL head office and the workshop was held at the Imperial Garden Hotel. Participants in these events were national and international press media such as RFA, RFI, VOA, Khmer Post Radio (USA), the DAP news, the Phnom Penh Post, Apsara TV, Reaksmeay Kampuchea and the Cambodia's Daily, political party representatives and international institutions. The aim of the workshop and press conferences was to present COMFREL's observational findings on voter registration, pre-election campaign period, and campaign financing to the public in order to advocate for improvements targeting, especially the NEC, the National Assembly, and political parties. COMFREL also took the floor with workshop and press conference participants to seek

recommendations to deal with election irregularities in a bid to improve the fairness and integrity of the electoral process.

- **A roundtable discussion on youth participation in commune council election**

10/08/2012: COMFREL conducted a round table discussion on “Youth Participation in Third Mandate 2012 commune council election process” at the Imperial Hotel, with a total of 80 participants including representatives of national and international NGOs, students from some of the universities in Phnom Penh, as well as national and international press media.



80 participants join COMFREL round table discussion on “Youth Participation in Third Mandate 2012 Commune Council Election Process” at the Imperial Hotel on 10 August 2012.

There were four objectives of this meeting: to present important findings of stakeholders related to youth participation in the 2012 commune council election, to discuss challenges and methods to motivate youth to participate in the 2012 commune council election, recommendations to increase more youth positions at the national and local levels, as well as how to motivate them to participate in the upcoming 2013 national election. COMFREL organized this meeting because it had become aware that the number of youth participation (both elected youths and youth voters) in political and election affairs was less than the number of youths in the voter list.

- **Political debate on political party platform related to natural resource at local level**

24/05/2012: In cooperation with the NGO forum on Cambodia, World Vision Cambodia, CHRAC and CLEC, COMFREL co-organized a whole-day forum on “Land Security and Natural Resource Management at local level” at the Imperial Garden hotel. Representatives from nine political parties running for the 2012 commune council election, except the Cambodian People’s Party, were invited to be guest speakers and to present their own party policies related to land security and natural resource management at local level to around 180 participants from different NGOs and community representatives across the country.

The forum aimed to share information, discussion and advocacy on priority issues relating to the development of the country through raising awareness among voters about policy priorities and

political strategy frameworks on the land and natural resource management. It also gave the floor to voters to raise their concerns directly to political representatives. The participants raised different questions to the panels for response. They appreciated the event as they were able to interact directly with all political actors and were able to listen to various policy agendas set toward the land security and natural resource management. They hoped the promises set in the party policy priority would be carried out while the NGOs/CSO organizations continued to keep watch on the progress of those promises after political actors gain offices.

- **Report on elections, democracy and reform**

COMFREL produced the annual report on elections, democracy and reform in February 2012. The report assesses the state of democracy and reform in Cambodia in the year 2011. It gives an account of the progresses and regresses of democratization processes measured by fundamental principles of democracy. The report was distributed to international communities and media through the COMFREL emailing list and was posted on COMFREL's website.

- **Celebration of International Day of Democracy in 15 September**

Phnom Penh, 15 September 2012- On the occasion of the International Day of Democracy, the Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia (COMFREL) conducted a campaign encouraging Cambodia to move forward to consolidate democracy whilst also advocating for further reforms. This included accepting the recommendations of the UN human right special rapporteur made in an article which stated "Cambodia cannot move backward but forward in promoting democracy" which quoted the speech of Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations sent to the world in the International Day of Democracy (15 Sep, 2012). This was also restated by COMFREL Executive Director for the unique context of Cambodia that "Education for democracy, especially, for elections should include the column of National Education Program at school and expand the citizen education program. The program is not only for understanding the rights but also for exercising in democracy and procedure of elections."

The statement also raised the recommendation made by UN human right special rapporteur relating to 2013 National Assembly election reform, specifically, autonomy of the National Election Committee (NEC), ensuring the voter registration process is without discrimination, election conflict resolution, and equality in media campaign.

### **1.3. Others**

- **ASEAN Civil Society Conference/ASEAN People's Forum (ACSC/APF) and Thematic Workshop on ASEAN Electoral Community**

- COMFREL and its executive director are on the drafting committee of the ASEAN Civil Society Conference/ASEAN People's Forum (ACSC/APF) 2012 and are actively engaged in conducting the forum. COMFREL's Media Unit participated in the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Peoples' Forum (APF) 2012 working group meetings to verify some tasks related to the ASEAN Civil Society Conference (ACSC) / ASEAN Peoples' Forum (APF) 2012. These tasks included the work plan, a joint statement, selection of Cambodian Civil Society representative and thematic issues for ASEAN Civil Society Conference (ACSC)/(APF) 2012.



- In cooperation with NICFEC, ANFREL, and other CSOs, COMFREL hosted a thematic workshop on ASEAN electoral community. This was conducted in order to raise awareness of the ASEAN Electoral Community and ACSC/APF to discuss the ASEAN electoral community issues on the floor, to define the standard of election management bodies(EMBs) for ASEAN, as well as to seek the endorsement and cooperation from CSOs to the ASEAN Electoral Community.

The forum took place in Phnom Penh on the 29-31 March 2012. The event, attended by over 1200 delegates, provided a unique networking opportunity for civil society organisations from the ten ASEAN nations to discuss ASEAN processes and common issues facing their people. These 1,200 delegates came from ASEAN and other non-ASEAN member countries



A Thematic Workshop on “ASEAN Electoral Community” is co-organized by COMFREL, NICFEC, ANFREL, and other CSOs on 30 March in Phnom Penh.

- In January 2012 COMFREL’s executive director was selected as a chairman of the steering committee of Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL) to create a Bangkok declaration on free and fair elections. The objective of the declaration is to identify the challenges that cut across multiple countries in Asia and the Asian electoral community and to work to overcome these challenges.

Within the Asian electoral community the declaration will be a valuable tool in promoting transparent and credible elections in Asian countries particularly in ASEAN. A workshop on the charter hosted by ANFREL took place on 25-27 January 2012 in Pattaya, Thailand. The workshop aimed to discuss and consult with ANFREL’s member organizations and other civil society organizations from Asian countries in order to identify and include the key issues and recommendations for the charter. The draft declaration would be finalized and endorsed by stakeholders in Bangkok December 2012.

## 2. Media and Campaign

### 2.1. Neak Kloam Meul Bulletin

COMFREL's Media Unit produced two series of Neak Kloam Meul Bulletin, Volume 46 and 47. 3,970 copies of the Volume 46 were published and distributed to NGOs, CSOs, universities, COMFREL-organized workshop participants, embassies, and its networks. The main themes of these bulletins include the following topics:



COMFREL Neak Kloam Meul Bulletin

- Voter campaign web site: Cambodian Voter Voice;
- Strategic program for strengthening the demand for fair elections and democratic governance;
- Senate Elections 2012;
- Request for increasing the of number of National Assembly seats for 2013 elections;
- Cambodian Electoral Justice in 2012 and 2013 and democratic elections, including observation and assessment of the 2012 commune council election.
- Misuse of State Resources;
- Parliamentary Watch report.

#### ▪ Press releases/article and publication

The Media Unit issued 47 press releases to raise public awareness of the information related to 2012 commune council election, restructuring of NEC composition, COMFREL daily radio program of the Voice of Civil Society, parliamentary watch and voter voice workshops in remote

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

As one of the most important methods of disseminating information and encouraging citizen participation in public affairs, COMFREL conducts regular radio shows with guest speakers from civil society and relevant government institutions. Listeners are encouraged to call in to express their viewpoints or to ask questions to the guest speakers.

COMFREL's radio program entitled “the Voice of Civil Society” (VoC) is broadcast live from the FM105 radio station, and relayed to other stations in Battambang and Kampong Thom provinces. The weekly schedule for the Voice of Civil Society radio program is as follows:

- **Monday:** *Samleng Mchas Chnaut or “Owner of Voting Power”*
- **Tuesday:** *Samleng Mchas Chnaut*
- **Wednesday:** *“Human Rights”*
- **Thursday:** *“Women Can Do it” and “Workers’ Voice”*
- **Friday:** *“Kloam Meul Prarcham Sapada ” or “Weekly Watch”*
- **Saturday:** *Marte Yeung Knyom or “Our Opinion” and Youth Program “Tov Reu Min Tov” or “To Go or Not to Go” (as in voting)*
- **Sunday:** *Re-broadcast of Kloam Meul Prarcham Sapada “Weekly Watch” and program “Youth Public Forum” and “Owner of Voting Power Forum”*

The total number of live aired and rebroadcast radio programs during this period was 366 (live 235 and rebroadcast 131). The table below shows the number of times VoC programs were broadcast, both live and rebroadcast, in each month via FM 105 station in Phnom Penh.



COMFREL's daily radio broadcasting named Voice of Civil Society airs live every morning from 7:30 to 8:30 am.

The main topics of these programs are focused on organization process of the 2012 commune council election, freedom of expression and freedom of information and election, encouragement of youth and women to participate in the elections, corruption in public service fees, Cambodian mechanism of land dispute resolution, economic land concession issues (more than 2 million hectares), senate and election reform, civic recommendations and voter rights in the election, ASEAN community integration, parliamentary watch report, political campaign finance, accountabilities of voters and elected officers, social media, national budget, policy of political parties for election campaign and political party finance. The following is the VoC Program table, which shows all the broadcasts through various stations:

Daily radio program of Voice of Civil Society air live on 105 Radio Station every Monday morning to Saturday from 7:30 to 8:30.												
N					CSOs		BoD				s	
					F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
			Re-Broadcast	Live								
					103	174		52	46	52	89	1282
1	FM 105	PNH	131 times	235 times	235 hrs							
2	FM 95.5	Siem Reap	366 times	0	183 hrs							
<b>Total</b>			<b>497 times</b>	<b>235 times</b>	<b>418 hours</b>	<b>277 persons</b>	<b>52 persons</b>	<b>98 persons</b>	<b>1,371 callers</b>			



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

#### COMFREL website

COMFREL's website comprises various reports from all its units, press releases, announcement, success cases, photo activities and recent information on COMFREL's completed activities. Most COMFREL reports are available on the website.

The Media Unit updated and developed a function of the CVV website by installing social media tools and voice recording through mobile phones. It developed a website [by using Ushahidi platform] to release information on any serious cases of violence and other irregularities.

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

- Produced and uploaded two radio spots and 14 video clips on election observer training, people with disability participating in election, voter registration process, radio online, Voter's Voice Workshop in Remote Commune, and an audit of voter list and Cambodian Voter Voice Campaign.
- Created a Google drive for sharing information and any related electoral events reported by COMFREL's observers during voter registration. Those issues are also shown on the map.
- Developed a VOC online radio virtual DJ program for airing during the Voter Registration period [September 1, to October 12, 2012]. This provided larger space for Cambodian audiences to make a phone call and ask questions about the electoral process. It broadcasts from Monday to Saturday, featuring hot news/reports, general knowledge, live report from DLTOs, radio spot on election, and entertainment.
- COMFREL created a Facebook page on Political Finance Project in Cambodia to seek the support from Facebook fans (facebook.com/political finance project in Cambodia).

### 2.4. Other activities

#### ▪ Special project on Building Democracy the Cross Media

With regards to this project, COMFREL's MOU and MEU have facilitated the completion of the following activities:

- Launched a new website named [www.cambodianvotervice.org](http://www.cambodianvotervice.org) and a mobile phone hot line number: 010 802 777 for providing information relevant to the election process in Cambodia. The website and the hot line number were broadcast on CTN, TV5 and SEATV;
- Produced 7,736 stickers on Cambodian Voter Voices and distributed them to Tuk Tuk drivers, Internet Café, shops and Universities (Panha Cheat University, National University of Management and Royal University of Rule and Economics).
- Gathered youths' numbers and sent election related information to those phone numbers.
- Social Media (Website, Email and SMS mobile phone): updated the freedom fone for the 2012 commune council election by incorporating latest events into the system.
- 18/01/2012: Met with NEC representative and requested formal voter lists in 2011 for publishing in the [www.cambodianvotervice.org](http://www.cambodianvotervice.org) created by COMFREL. However, the request was rejected by the NEC.

### 3. Network Unit (NEU)

#### 3.1. Workshop on Voter Voice

▪ **Workshops on Voter Voice in remote/indigenous commune**

COMFREL's Network Unit conducted 49 Voter Voice Workshops in Remote Communes to encourage voters to discuss and identify five priority agenda items in their remote communes in 18 provinces with a total of 2,840 participants ( 966 females, or 34%). The participants COMFREL invited are eligible voters from community representatives, CBOs, NGO networks, as well as commune and village authorities. The aim of the workshops was to identify the top five priority needs in their respective commune. Local leaders from major political parties are also invited to the workshops to listen and provide comments on voter's agendas.

The table below shows the different participant groups

Target groups	Number of participants		Sub total
	Male	Female	
District councillors	06	0	06
Commune councillors	184	25	209
Village chiefs and local political parties	373	50	423
Indigenous groups	245	186	431
Local citizens	601	403	1,004
Youths aged from 18 to 35	265	249	514
Community representative or Civil Society networks	90	28	118
COMFREL networks	110	25	135
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,874</b>	<b>966</b>	<b>2,840</b>

Three main objectives for organizing the Voter Voice Workshops in Remote Areas are as follows:

1. Be aware of rights, roles and obligations of voters and to identify priority needs in local development;
2. Provide voters with more opportunities to participate in and debate current commune needs/concerns so as to set up their respective top five priority commune needs; and
3. Compile all priority needs in remote communes in a report which enables the workshop participants to easily remember them. The aim of this is to push for the fulfilment of commune councils in relation to their established priority needs and to include them into the political platform of political parties for the 2012 commune election.

One day prior to each workshop, the workshop working group held a meeting with provincial secretary and network members to explain the workshop objectives and the workshop strategy used to determine the five priority needs.

The workshops used the methodology of group discussion and voting to prioritise the agendas. In the full-day workshop, the workshop facilitator divided the participants into three plenary groups to discuss and their five most important needs within their commune they wish to address. The facilitators provided some ideas and information related to the topic that each groups members were discussing and ensured participation from every member. During discussion, each group identified five agendas with precise indicators. This means that they had to produce precise indicators for their communes such as: What do they want? Where and when do they want it? How many do they want? What quality do they want? How will this be done?



Activities of Workshop participants in setting up their local agenda of five priority needs during COMFREL-organized Voter Voice Workshops in Remote Commune in 201

During the plenary session, the participants were allowed to ask the presenting group to combine and add more indicators, but not to change the core of what the original group had put forward beyond numbers and locations. For instance, Group 1 might suggest “building a tarmac road connecting A and B districts by the end of 2010”. Other participants could propose more, such as “building a tarmac road connecting A and B village and from B village to C villages by the end of 2014”. All priority needs were then gathered and classified into groups. The classified needs were then discussed in detail and only the top five priority needs in their commune selected.

- **Report producing**

After the workshops, COMFREL produced 49 reports on the five priority needs in each commune and sent them to political representatives at provincial, district, and commune levels, local watchdogs, and the participants.

- **Selection of COMFREL local watchdogs**

After the workshops, COMFREL selected 137 (39 female) participants who can read and write SMS to be COMFREL’s local watchdogs. Their role is to monitor the performance and promises made by their commune councillors and local leaders from major political parties and to bring information relevant to their five priority needs from COMFREL head office to local residents in the commune.

▪ **Organization of National Workshops on Voter Voice in Remote Commune**

03/05/2012: COMFREL held a national workshop on “Voter’s Priority Needs in Remote Communes for Political Party Platform” at Sunway Hotel with a total of 70 participants who were representatives of seven political parties, COMFREL’s donors and NGO partners, representatives of indigenous people from 10 provinces, as well as national and international journalists. The objectives of this workshop were as follows:

- To disseminate results of Voter Voice Workshop in 100 Remote Communes to all political parties at the national level;
- To give the floor to them to discuss the possibilities of incorporating the priority needs into their respective political party platform for the upcoming 2012 commune council elections.



70 participants who are representatives of political parties, COMFREL’s donors, NGO partners and indigenous people attend COMFREL’s National Workshop on Voter Voice in Remote Commune on 03 May 2013 in Phnom Penh.

In the workshop, the representatives of seven parties were invited to be guest speakers so that they could share their own point of view on the possibility of including the priority needs identified by voters in 100 remote communes in their party propaganda.

### **3.2. Training for Provincial Secretary and Local Network**

▪ **Training on Score Card**

COMFREL’s Network Unit conducted nine two-day training workshops on the evaluation of the performance of commune councillors and representatives of local political parties towards commune priority needs through mobile phone SMS for 212 (66 female) local network members and local watchdogs selected in the voter voice workshops in remote communes in five provinces. The commune priority needs were set up by local residents in the voter voice workshops in remote communes.



The main objectives of this training was to increase participants' understanding of their role in local democracy and commune council elections, and to give them advanced skills in e-communication, in particular use of mobile phone and SMS and completing score cards on local agendas made by their respective commune residents. The contents of the training included information about the citizen score card and introduction to the functions of mobile phones (sending SMS via mobile phone).

Two COMFREL master trainers used the following methods to train the participants: (1) warm-up by trainers to get participants involved; (2) lecture (presentation on theories and experiences relevant to each module); (3) questions and answer by participants; and (4) reflection on practical exercise and theories. The trainers distributed 27 mobile phones to commune representatives.

- **Follow-up Training on Score Card and SMS Sending**

20/09/2012: COMFREL's Score-Card and SMS team conducted one-day follow up training on the evaluation of performance of commune councillors and representatives of local political parties toward commune priority needs through mobile phone SMS for 26 ( 7 female) local network members at the KYA office. The objective of the follow up is to improve volunteer activist's awareness on the evaluation of commune council responsibility/performance by focusing only on the top five priority needs in their commune through using the score-card method and SMS sending.

The contents of the follow-up training included the citizen score card (method on evaluation and introduction such as interview, interviewers, target group and evaluation form) and introduction to the functions of mobile phones (sending SMS via mobile phone).



COMFREL is providing a follow-up training course on Citizen Score Card to 26 (7 female) local network members on 20 September 2012 in Phnom Penh.

- **Voter Scoring through SMS: Producing of a report on Fulfilment of Local Agendas through SMS**

Recently, COMFREL has been in the process of producing a report on Fulfilment of Local Agendas with the primary data collected by local volunteers from each commune where COMFREL has conducted the voter voice workshop in remote communes.

### **3.3. Research and Evaluation**

- Along with the survey of 2011 voter registration COMFREL conducted a 2011 survey report on citizen participation in democratic governance by conducting a survey with a sample of 8,672 eligible voters in all provinces/capitals nationwide. The purpose of this survey was to enquire about voters' awareness of promise fulfilment by elected political parties as well as their awareness of members of the Parliament.
- COMFREL will conduct an evaluation for the local watchdog award program in early 2013.

### **3.4. 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 in order to assess the possible role of COMFREL.

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

That's why COMFREL, with support from Forum Syd, implemented a project on Voter Voice and Green Agenda in Kampong Chhnang province. The overall objective of the project was 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 25/08/2012: 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 two different locations in Toeuk Plus district and Samky Meanchey district of Kampong Chhnang province with 119 (39 female) participants. In the workshops, they were able to identify 10 commune priority needs such as building/repairing dams, stream and providing subsidy of rice seeds; forest protection; awareness raising of advantages of forest; training in impact of forest deterioration; job creation (souvenirs); animal vaccine; providing adequate medicines at health centres; providing vocational training for community people; creation of a market for local products; and awareness raising about climate change.

These agendas have been gathered and compiled into a report and sent to local leaders for resolutions. So far, commune councillors, representatives from District Water Resource Office, Agriculture Office, Environment Office and local NGOs disseminated the information of the priority needs via a monthly commune council meeting or other commune development programs.

## 4. Monitoring and Voter Voice (MVV)

### 4.1. Government Watch

COMFREL staff continued to collect and assemble chronological data and information on the fulfillment of the political platform for the Third and 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 on monitoring of the political platform fulfilment for the 4th Mandate of Cambodian Royal Government in both English and Khmer. The Monitoring Unit then drafted a report on the Royal Government's fulfilment of its political platform with precise indicators.
- Continuation of updating information on the fulfilment of the political platform promises by the Government, during the Fourth Mandate of Cambodian Royal Government.
- Checking and updating information in database of corruption case and neutrality of government officials.

### 4.2. Parliamentary Watch

#### ▪ Observation of the National Assembly's sessions

During the entire year covered by this report, COMFREL observers attended the National Assembly sessions to observe the function of the Assembly and the matters that were discussed. Two Monitoring Assistants observed plenary sessions of the NA that debated and adopted 15 agenda items. Among them, 12 were draft laws, five were votes of confidence, two were the mission and activity reports of members of the Parliament, and one was a letter by the King.



Two Monitoring Unit Assistants observe National Assembly (NA)'s debate sessions at the NA hall and the press room inside the NA building.



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

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' offices in their constituencies, or directly contact the MPs and conduct national assembly filed visit observation. Then they have to complete the Mission Observation Checklist in a monthly report to COMFREL headquarters. COMFREL received 809 Mission Observation Checklists, both hard and soft copies.

- **Parliamentarian Watch Report**

COMFREL produced the following reports:

- Three quarterly Parliamentarian Watch Reports on activities related to members of the parliament, adoption of draft law, NA plenary session, MP field visits, MP letters to the Royal Government of Cambodia;
- Annual parliamentary watch report for 2009-2010;
- Annual parliamentary watch report for 2010-2011;
- Report on Cambodia Democracy, Elections and Reform 2011.

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

In cooperation with Media Unit, the Monitoring Unit Coordinator, two Monitoring Assistants and a Monitoring Officer attended COMFREL's radio talk show program 101 times to discuss and share information relevant to the process of 2012 commune council election, youth issues, local security, political issues, public services and parliamentarian watch report.

## **5. Civic Education and Gender (CEG)**

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

In cooperation with Media unit, the Education and Gender Unit hosted 28 sessions of the 60-minute- radio-call-in show, 'Woman Can Do It', aired live (26 times) and rebroadcast (two times) on FM 105. The topics of the program brought forward for discussion were mainly about women and candidacy, young women's right and women migration, stop violence against women, women and corruption, violence against local women, women and politics, young women in politics, how to increase number of women elected for the third mandate's 2012 commune council election, promoting young's right, obstacle in promoting women's political participation, women and election campaign, achievement and challenges of women in commune election result 2012, women and capacity development, women as sub-national leaders and women and ASEAN at local level.

The objective of discussing the above-mentioned topics was to conduct a campaign to lobby and advocate with political parties, the government, and stakeholders to increase the number of women in politics and public affairs; to motivate Cambodian people, voters in particular, to vote for female candidates; to raise awareness of the importance, benefits, and value of female leaders; to encourage people to exercise their rights and roles in democratic regime as well as to promote gender equity and equality in the Kingdom of Cambodia. 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. There were 110 (14 female) callers and 46 (34 female) guest speakers who shared their point of view on air in the COMFREL radio program.

## 5.2. Training and Local Action

### ▪ **Radio Spots**

The Education and Gender Unit produced a short-radio spot on “One Heart” and aired broadcast through VOC for 17 times in order to promote more women being elected as local leaders in the 2012 commune council election.

### ▪ **Printing material and distribution**

Education and Gender Unit produced some materials to educate voters and promote the need for more women to be elected in the upcoming 3rd mandate commune council election as follows:

- Monitoring manual on Women’s Political Participation in the 2012 Commune Council elections and a survey method on Women’s Political Participation;
- Two training manuals on Advocacy and Standing for Election Candidates and Empowerment of Women in Politics;
- Aide-Memoire Q&A booklet on “Civil knowledge during Election and Post-Election of Commune Council 2012”. 6,000 copies of the Q&A booklet were distributed to 12 provinces where COMFREL had trained and deployed STO and PVT observers at polling stations;
- 130 T-Shirts with the slogan “More Women, More Power, More Solution”;
- Provided input/comments and assisted in the edition of UN Women’s Manual on Advocacy & Running office.



### ▪ **Training on ‘Women Can Do It’ and ‘Empowerment of Women in Decision Making and politics’**

#### - CPWP Training

19-20/10/2011: 26 members of the women’s network in five communes of Kampong Cham province provided a training course for 32 (28 female) participants in Kampong Seam district, Kampong Cham province. The objectives of this training aimed to strengthen the capacity of women’s networks in relation to gender and women’s rights as well as the commune council election procedure, and to confirm to the party the competency of each political party’s members and to encourage the networks to stand for the 2012 commune council election in response to the goal of the CPWP. After the training, all trainees understood the training contents with 98% quite aware of the schemes and applying the knowledge to conduct daily activities as a local political party activist.

### ▪ **Local Actions (meeting, district forum, commune meeting and outreach as well as district night forum)**

Meeting: From 19 to 21/10/11 and 15 to 16/12/2011: the 26 women’s network members held two district meetings in Kampong Seam district, Kampong Cham province with a total of 96 (58 female) participants. The objective of this being to build friendship among network members in each commune; to report success of women’s networks and their challenges; to strengthen capacity of women’s networks on gender and women’s rights as well as the commune council

election procedure; to confirm the party the competency of each of each political party member and encourage the networks to stand for the 2012 commune council election in response to the goal of the CPWP; and to altogether find a common solution to help one another.

District forum: 21/10/2011: 26 members of the women’s network held a district forum in Kampong Seam district, Kampong Cham province with a total participation of 143 (93 female) participants.

Commune meeting and outreach: 26 members of WPAN held a commune meeting and conducted village-to-village disseminating activities to educate 183 (121 female) villagers about the importance of women’s participation in politics and decision making in their respective commune.

District night forum on Helping Women to Develop Our Commune: On 21/11/2011: A district night forum on Helping Women to Develop Our Commune was held from 5:00 to 9:00 pm with the total participation of 116 (80 female) participants comprising of commune councillors, local police officers, local citizens and CPWP network members.

Monitoring: 17/11/2011: Education and Gender Officer had two field missions to monitor and coach WPAN members in Kampong Seam district, Kampong Cham province, in order to strengthen their skills and knowledge of information dissemination to local people during a district night public forum on Helping Women for National Development.

▪ **Women Can Do It Trainings**

- Training for female political party candidates standing the 2012 commune council election

COMFREL provided three capacity development training sessions to 90 female political party candidates from all participating parties in three provinces: Kampong Chhnang, Takeo and Kampong Cham. The training aimed to strengthen capacity of female political party candidates standing in the 2012 commune council election with six main themes:



30 female political party candidates standing in the 2012 commune council election participate in COMFREL-organized training in Empowerment of Women in Politics from 20 to 22 April 2012 in Kampong Chhnang province.

platform with gender equity basis; Advocacy; Importance of women’s rights in building social accountability and governance; Strategic plan for successful commune council election campaign; how to deal with domination technique, NEC’s procedure and regulations; and Enhancing women’s courage in

conducting the 2012 commune council election campaign.



## 5.4 Other activities

COMFREL's Education and Gender Unit Coordinator Officer attended three workshops, six meetings, and a ASEAN forum with international NGOs, political parties and civil society organizations to discuss and share comments on the promotion of women in politics, children's rights, political party gender policy, CPWP and UN Women's election plan, and pushing for political parties to list more female candidate by up to 30%.

## 6. Elections (COT)

### 6.1. Preparation and Trainings in the 2012 commune council election

#### ▪ **Establishment of the core team**

COMFREL established a core team composed of 20 central office staff members in charge of recruiting election observers, developing election documents, overseeing the work of long-term observers (LTOs), media monitoring, election campaigning and campaign financing. The team, under the supervision of the Executive Director, worked closely with COMFREL board members to analyse the political situation, legal framework, and to review election reports.

#### ▪ **Recruitment of election observers**

In anticipation of the 2012 commune council elections, COMFREL recruited and deployed 5,852 election observers (female 2,764 or around 47%) to polling stations, especially to the stations where there was a high proportion of a particular ethnic or linguistic indigenous, to stations with high competition among major competing parties, and stations where the opposition party had won a commune chief position in the second mandate. COMFREL assisted them to obtain a card from the NEC and the figure of these observers included the following:

- 250 long-term observes, 50 of whom are provincial LTOs and 200 whom are district contact persons;
- 850 parallel vote tabulation observers (PVTOs) observing in randomly selected polling stations.
- 3,578 short-term election observers (STOs) observing polling and counting centres; and
- 1,174 NGO short-term observers, including 20 international observers, (female 429 or about 36%) from 29 independent institutions and NGOs. These observers were deployed as mobile observers in the areas where they went to vote.

#### ▪ **Development of election monitoring manual**

COMFREL developed and produced 300 copies of the Election Monitoring Manual for LTOs and other senior observers, 8,900 copies of documents on election observer manual, election monitoring forms and legal documents for STOs, and produced 8,900 t-shirts with the slogan "You Are a Vote Owner" for all observers.

#### ▪ **Trainings for LTOs, STOs and PVTOs**

From 16 to 23/05/2012, COMFREL conducted seven two-day training courses for its provincial LTOs in seven different locations. 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 use SMS and (7) presentation on interview checklist for voters not casting their ballot or without indelible ink. The provincial LTOs then echoed the training



themes to district LTOs, PVTOs and STOs in their respective district under the supervision of COMFREL provincial secretaries and master trainers.

To assist in STO training, COMFREL produced and delivered a video clip on How to observe election on the polling day for STOs, NGOs, and COMFREL commune activists.. COMFREL also provided 12 training sessions for NGO STOs master trainers who would echo the training to their own NGO/institution members. Each observer received a kit containing a T-shirt, a manual, and an election monitoring report template and checklist.

▪ **Four special trainings**

Four training sessions on auditing voter registration and the voter list, campaign finance monitoring, media monitoring and political rights monitoring took place. COMFREL first provided training to 50 provincial LTOs and 200 district LTOs, the second training to 30 observers who are journalists, students and CSO staff, the third training to 12 media monitoring observers, and the fourth training session to 24 election monitors, respectively.

**6.2. Election Monitoring**

The election monitoring covers the pre-election situation, voter registration and the voter list 2011, media broadcasting, election finance campaigning, polling and counting day, rapid survey, youth and disabled peoples participation in election.

▪ **Long Term Monitoring/Observation-LTOs**

LTOs conducted monitoring and investigation into the pre-election situation. The 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 the form ICE (Identification Certificate for Election). They also supervised the activities of STOs and PVTOs.

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

250 LTOs were divided into 50 teams and deployed to conduct the audit and monitor the sample size of around 850 polling stations/or villages. Each team was assigned to interview 160-180 respondents in sample locations (at village level for 15 days). After the interviews, LTOs were also asked to observe the pre-election situation including violence, intimidation/coercion, abuse of political rights and freedoms, as well as misuse of state resources.

▪ **Monitoring the Broadcast Media**

COMFREL carried out media monitoring through a small team of 12 observers for a nine-month period during the election calendar. The observers monitored three television stations (one state owned and two privately owned) and five radio stations (including two state run stations). This monitoring was designed to assess the relative

A Media Monitoring Unit member is monitoring TV news broadcasting about political messages during the 2012 commune council election period at the COMFREL Media Monitoring room.



coverage given to each of the political parties and to determine whether it complies with official rules to provide accurate, fair and balanced coverage. Electronic media was also monitored seven days a week for six hours a day during prime time viewing hours (17.00 to 23.00) in order to examine political messages and to determine whether they were neutral, positive, or bias in tone toward the competing parties.

▪ **Monitoring Election Campaign Financing**

COMFREL conducted a pilot study with six trained observers to monitor election campaign financing. Three communes, each of which is located in the Capital and two in provinces (Phnom Penh, Kampot and Rattanakiri) were monitored during the election campaign. After the pilot, they conducted monitoring which used procedures and techniques in tracking and following up campaign expenditure and the possible misuse of administrative resources in Phnom Penh for the period of the election campaign. They collected data from independent sources such as radio and television broadcasts and print media sampling. Through phone interview with the competing parties they were able to collect data based on detailed factual description of the event organized by the parties.

▪ **Election Day/Counting Monitoring/Observation**

COMFREL deployed 5,852 election observers, including STOs, PVTs, L-STOs and NGO STOs, to competitive and remote constituencies at a coverage of 5,810 polling stations to observe and record any irregularities occurring on the polling and counting day.

- 3,578 STOs were assigned to sit inside and observe polling and counting station and then complete the forms and checklists at each station.
- 850 PVTs were deployed to observe randomly selected polling stations. They were responsible for transmitting election result data from counting stations as quickly as possible.
- 1,174 short-term observers were asked to observe the polling stations where they went to vote and to send their findings back to COMFREL head office.
- 250 long-term observers were responsible for facilitating and supervising all observers in their respective province.



Two COMFREL election observers are observing election activities on a polling day of the 2012 commune council election in Phnom Penh.



▪ **The rapid survey**

All PVT observers were also assigned to conduct interviews with eight eligible voters in the PVT's sampling polling stations including 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.

▪ **Monitoring of Youth and Disadvantaged Peoples Participation in Elections**

COMFREL cooperated with the youth organizations to prepare required information regarding youth and disadvantaged people and their integration into the checklist for observers. For the monitoring of disadvantaged people, especially disabled people, COMFREL continues to collect information and reports.

In cooperation with the Cambodian Disable People's Organization (CDPO), COMFREL carried out a small joint project on Political Rights of Person with Disabilities and Disability Access in Election of National Assembly. Through this project, COMFREL conducted the following activities:

- COMFREL produced a guideline, questionnaires, and a training agenda for TOTs of Cambodian Disabled People's Organisation (CDPO) about the importance of disabled people's participation in election, voter list revision, and voter registration. COMFREL then produced a report on people with disability and evictees participating in the commune council election in 2012.
- 16/08/2012: COMFREL conducted a TOT training to DPO leaders on the importance of Voters registration to 30 DPO leaders in 15 provinces (2 DPO leaders from each province) at the CDPO office. Then, COMFREL provincial network (coordinator or secretaries) also assisted to conduct rolling-out training on understanding the importance of participation of people with disabilities for five times in five provinces.
- COMFREL's provincial network (coordinator or provincial secretaries) attended as a public guest speaker on Voters registration for 15 times in 15 provinces.
- COMFREL assisted the CDPO in refining the design of Advocacy materials and mass media on disability rights access, Voters registration, and Election of National Assembly processes. Those materials were disseminated through TV spots, TV show and Radio show.
- COMFREL provided some ideas related to producing 2 TV spots on Disability and Accessibility in Voters registration process and election of national assembly process (sign language).
- COMFREL cooperated with the CDPO to broadcast the monthly radio talk show on Voter registration and the political rights of people with disability in the election of the national assembly process.

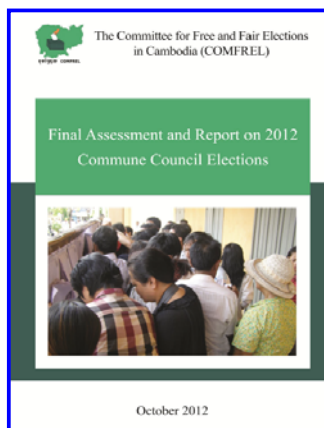
### **6.3. Reporting and Launching Workshops**

▪ **Publication and distribution of COMFREL finding reports**

- In May 2012, COMFREL produced and released 400 copies of the report on the Voter Survey on Voters List, Voters Registration and Audit of Voters List 2011, and 150 copies of the report of Misuse of State Resources. These reports were distributed to the Ministry of Interior, NEC, journalists, expats, international observers, COMFREL's donors, the nine National Assembly commissions, all COMFREL provincial secretaries and others stakeholders. The reports were also disseminated through the media, mailing lists and its website. The two reports were widely disseminated to the public through

radio channels such as Khmer Post, World Khmer Radio, Free Press Magazine, VOA, RFA, FM 90 MHz and TV stations: CTN and TVK. COMFREL also launched a workshop to reveal the report on Misuse of State Resources.

- In October 2012, COMFREL published the final assessment and report on the 2012 commune council election. 500 copies were distributed to COMFREL's donors, political parties, NEC members, parliamentarians and NGO stakeholders. The report was also disseminated to the media through email and posted on the website.



▪ **Report launching workshops/press conference**

To reveal the findings related to voter registration, media, campaigning including political campaign financing, primary pre-election assessment, and election day/counting and final assessment on the 2012 commune council elections, COMFREL conducted three report launching workshops and press conferences with participants from national and international press media, political party representatives, and international institutions.

The purpose of these workshops was to present COMFREL's finding reports to the public, especially to the NEC, the National Assembly, political parties and other electoral stakeholders to increase their awareness of the election process and election irregularities. COMFREL also took the floor to seek their recommendations to deal with election irregularities for the sake of fairness and integrity for future elections.



COMFREL is holding a press conference to inform the public about 2012 commune council election-related information at its head office in Phnom Penh.

## 6.4 Others

### ▪ **Voter Registration and Preparation of 2013 National Assembly election**

The COT and MOU continue to carry out the following activities:

- Continuation of monitoring TVK and CTN for information related to election, government's fulfilment and political news.
- Provided three training sessions on the misuse of state resources, observation of murder cases, violence, intimidation and threats made to political activists or members of political parties, and how to send a report for COMFREL long-term observers and the Media monitoring team.
- Organized a press conference on Electoral Participation in Cambodia through Social Media, Internet and Telecommunication, and 2011 voter registration Preliminary Results at the Imperial Garden and Resort hotel with the participation of 60 stakeholders. The conference was aimed to show the preliminary results in relation to the misuse of state resources monitored through the media channel;

### ▪ **Survey 2011 Voter Registration and Audit of Voter List (SVRA)**

- The political parties and other stake holders that jointed the meeting gave feedback in support of the monitoring and also provided input on the questionnaire design. COMFREL's partners have also held meetings to enable discussion and inputs pertaining to the development of training manuals, materials, questionnaires, training programs, observer recruitment, deployment, spot checking procedures, data collection, data cleaning, data processing, data analysis, preparation of presentations, and other issues relevant to the successful conduction of the monitoring project.
- COMFREL organised a master trainer team to conduct seven two-day training sessions for 231 observers (47 provincial long term observers and 194 district long term observers- LTOs). The trainings were focused on auditing voter registration and voter lists and monitoring the pre-election situation. All 231 observers were deployed to conduct auditing and monitoring over the sample of 850 polling stations/or villages, with 8672 interviewees in 644 communes, 182 district, and 24 municipality/provinces.
- In February 2012, COMFREL produced a primary finding report and conducted a roundtable discussion on the summary of findings in relation to voter list voter registration and audit of the voter list 2011.

## IV- International Seminars and Missions

- From 28 November to 02 December 2011: Education and Gender Officer had an overseas mission to attend a TOT training course on Advocacy and Female Politicians in Bali, Indonesia.
- From 03 to 06 December 2011: Media Unit Coordinator participated in a workshop on ASIAN Human Right Mechanism organized by HWG in Bali, Indonesia.
- COMFREL's executive director, at the invitation of the Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL) and the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Taiwan Grassroots Alliance for Peace & Citizen Congress Watch, joined an ANFREL's election observation mission Taiwan's historic Presidential and Legislative Yuan elections in January of 2012.
- COMFREL executive director, at the invitation of the Global Network of Domestic Election Monitors (GNDEM) and NDI, attended the formal launch of the Declaration of Global Principles for Nonpartisan Election Observation and Monitoring by Citizen Organizations on 3 April, 2012 at the United Nations Secretariat in New York. The Declaration is an initiative of the Network and COMFREL is one of the members of

GNDEM to share in this historic celebration. Regional network representation and international guest representatives from each regional network, in addition to the East Africa networking initiative, were present in New York to share in the launch first-hand. They were joined by numerous supporters of citizen non-partisan election observation from the international community.

- COMFREL's executive director, at the invitation of Asia Foundation, the Mongolian government, and the community of democracies attended an international seminar on education for democracy in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from 21-22 May 2012. The output of the seminar is to create the United Nations General Assembly Resolution on Education for Democracy.
- COMFREL executive director was invited and supported by Oxfam Novib to attend the CIVICUS world assembly in Montreal, Canada from 3 to 7 September 2012. He was a speaker for a workshop on tools of change; online activism and offline action. He also shared a discussion on COMFREL's works and usage of SMS systems.

## **V. Staff Development and Training**

To strengthen central staff's capacity to perform their roles and duties more effectively in the workplace, COMFREL fully encourages and motivates them to upgrade their skills and knowledge through workshops, training, coaching, and mentoring sessions both inside and outside the organization. During this reporting period, COMFREL central staff participated in seven workshops to improve their knowledge about TOT training, climate change, report writing, election complaint and Google drive and map.

### **1. Internal trainings**

COMFREL central staff increased their knowledge of result-based management and project cycle management. As a result, they are able to clearly distinguish the differences among outputs, outcomes, and impacts from their project implementation. They have also gained more awareness of how to write a result-based report.

### **2. External trainings**

Most COMFREL central staff members, including volunteers, especially Program Officers and Unit Coordinators joined external trainings provided by COMFREL's donors and partner organizations. The trainings were about CEDAW monitoring and Evaluation, Human Rights, , Gender Analysis of the Decentralization Reform in Cambodia, Gender HIV/AIDS Policy Dissemination, Fundraising System, Joint Climate Change in Initiative, Gender Sensitive Planning, local governance, PME guideline and how to write case study/success story, Application of Social Accountability Mechanism.

- COMFREL's Senior Program Coordinator, Network Assistants, and a network volunteer gained actual experiences with communities in applying the seven tools to find information relevant to climate change. They are also more aware of new methods in analysing the climate change situation and coordination skills.
- COMFREL's Media Coordinator and three assistants understand new training methodologies which they can apply to COMFREL's training activities after attending a series of trainings organized by COMFREL's partner organizations.

- COMFREL's Gender Focal point is able to revise COMFREL's internal Gender policy following a training/ follow-up on Gender Policy and Gender Mainstreaming within the organization.
- COMFREL's provincial secretaries are able to use English for workplace communication. They can now send email in English to COMFREL's email address when sending their monthly report. Furthermore, they understand the concepts and process of writing investigative reports. Most COMFREL provincial secretaries can now use Skype, E-mail, and Internet to contact each other as well as to seek information related to social news through relevant websites. As almost all of the provincial secretaries can use Skype and e-mail to communicate with one another the cost of communication via mobile phone has decreased remarkably as they always chat with the COMFREL head office through Skype.

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

- COMFREL's Network Unit drafted a Green Policy to be discussed and used internally. The purpose of this policy is to motivate and push for attitude change toward energy saving within the organization. This policy is focused on saving of electricity, office supply, water consumption, and means of transportation affecting the environment.
- 11-13 July 2012: COMFREL's green agenda team conducted a three-day mainstreaming training of on 'Voter and Climate Change' for COMFREL's secretaries and local activists from at VBNK, Phnom Penh. There were 36 (16 female) participants. The training was aimed at mainstreaming the knowledge on concept of climate change, adaptation, mitigation, rights and climate change, and general national and international framework to COMFREL's local networks. After gaining knowledge, all participants were able to respond positively to climate change, adaptation and reduction of potential impacts of climate change through modifying work activities.
- Celebration of Women's International Rights Day on 8 March 2012: 07/03/2012: COMFREL's Education and Gender Unit conducted a presentation on "Women and Politics" to all COMFREL central staff at the COMFREL meeting room. The objective of this presentation was to celebrate the 102th Women's International Right Day and to increase the central staff's awareness of women and politics and of the importance of putting 30% of female candidate in the 2012 commune council election.



## VI. Reflection, Monitoring and Evaluation

### 1. COMFREL Staff Retreat

From 30 December 2011 to 02 January 2012: COMFREL conducted a staff retreat with a total of 36 (14 female) participants including COMFREL Executive Director, members of COMFREL board of directors, provincial secretaries, central members and volunteers in Mondulkiri province. Four main objectives of this staff retreat were to enhance COMFREL's staff and network's awareness of its vision and missions, to find out key words of COMFREL Core Value, to explore new strategies for effective observation of the 2012 commune council election and to strengthen relationship among all staff members.



COMFREL holds a staff retreat with 36 participants including its Executive Director, members of COMFREL board of directors, staff members, provincial secretaries and volunteer on 31 December 2011 in Mondulkiri province. The retreat aims to enhance staff's awareness of COMFREL's vision, mission and core value.

### 2. Reflection of election observation activities

10/07/2012: COMFREL conducted a full-day reflection meeting on the 3rd commune council's election observation in 2012 at VBNK office with 48 (20 female) participants comprising COMFREL central staff members, provincial secretary, district contact persons and commune activists. This reflection aimed to find out the strengths and weaknesses of COMFREL's participating activities in the 2012 commune council election as well as to compile challenges and lessons learnt for the upcoming 2013 national election.

The reflection was focused on four main issues: recruitment and deployment of election observers, training, cooperation with national and international Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and reporting. All findings related to strengths, weaknesses, lessons learnt, and recommendation were compiled into separate reflection meeting minutes.



48 (20 female) participants comprising COMFREL central staff members, provincial secretaries, district contact persons and commune activists attend a full-day reflection meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> commune council election observation on 10 July 2012 in Phnom Penh.

### 3. Organizational Assessment

14/08/2012: COMFREL conducted a whole-day Partnership Organizational Capacity



23 COMFREL staff members are assessing its organizational development on 14 August 2012 at the COMFREL office.

Assessment (POCA) at COMFREL office with 23 central staff members. This assessment was organized and facilitated by PACT Cambodia. This was mainly to discuss and score organization activities via the estimation tools. The evaluation was mainly centred on eight themes: identity, structure, production/implementation and experience, relevance, qualification, system, target groups and working environment. This new evaluation method is similar to the Octagon evaluation method that COMFREL had used to internally evaluate its institution.



The assessment revealed that COMFREL has improved its organisational development, for instance, participatory creation of a policy on conflict of interest and anti-corruption, the organizations core values, and the creation of a four year strategic plan from Oct. 2011 to Sep. 2015. COMFREL has received the higher score on each capacity area of POCA as listed in the table below:

No	Capacity area	Scoring		Difference in percentage
		POCA (2012)	Octagon (2010)	
1	Identity	71.71%	71.86	5.86%
2	Structure	74.56	63.29%	11.27%
3	Production/implementation and experience	73.54	67.14%	6.40%
4	Relevance	77.46	72.57%	4.89%
5	Qualification	74.29%	66.14%	8.14%
6	System	76.61%	61.43%	15.19%
7	Target groups	79.86%	67.86%	12.01%
8	Working environment	80%	66.43%	13.57%

#### 4. Evaluation of performance of COMFREL's provincial secretaries

In December 2011, COMFREL evaluated its 23 municipal/provincial secretaries' performance for the year of 2011 based on the five key elements: initiative, duty and team facility, administrative regulation and code of conduct, commitment as well as skills and results achieved. As a result, three outstanding provincial secretaries in Kampong Chhnang, Ratanakiri and Banteay Meanchey were ranked number one, number two and number three, respectively.

## VII. Lessons Learnt and Experience

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

- Having an interpreter for indigenous people attending the forum or workshop on voter voice increases the amount of interaction to those who cannot understand Khmer language to raise their issues and to be involved in the forum and workshop.
- Information related to draft laws and the National Assembly's activities can be best collected from individual members of the NA since the NA Secretary is not open to the public for such information. Additionally, the best way to have documents/recommendations sent to the MPs is through each MP's address(es) or their own political parties, except for the CPP MPs, some of whom can be reached via the National Assembly Expert Commissions.
- Increase in cooperation with local organization partners and communities which have networks in provinces, districts and communes makes it easy for COMFREL to organize Voter Voice Workshops in Remote Areas and to invite local residents to the workshops.

- A meeting with a workshop working group one day ahead of the workshop launching to let the group be aware of the workshop objectives, process of conducting the workshop and methodologies used to determine priority needs and to divide role and duties to the workshop participants helps the working group proceed with the workshop organization smoothly as planned.
- COMFREL and CPWP need to contact all political parties at national level especially, to request them for their respective activists or members participating in trainings or other activities. In addition, COMFREL, CPWP and stakeholders need to continue their lobbying and advocating activities with political parties in order to push them to put female candidates at least 30% on the top of the party list.
- Despite the low awareness of participants on election issues and recommendations, the FOREDS methodology provided discussions with a wide range of electoral issues in an open environment. COMFREL responded flexibly and innovatively to the special circumstances of the Forum, when it initiated. Khmer citizens are ready and able to produce recommendations to improve Cambodia's democratic system, and are able to identify problems and injustices in the current system.
- The methodology in organizing the FOREDS allowed us to find out real issues by conducting the consultation first, and then proceed by organizing the forums to find the solution. Through these forums, we are shown the important or real need in education for local citizens, especially minorities. We found that, to educate minority groups, we need to use the minority language, the curriculum should have no technical terms, and the dissemination should be conducted house by house, or via short plays/skits with minority actors in them.
- Forums which involve a variety of actors from different political backgrounds can have a reconciliatory effect and help promote peace building. With clear and deep consultation, some root causes were identified, which made it easy to conduct the forum discussions.

## VIII. Summary of Financial Statement

This is COMFREL's Financial Report for a period from October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2012.

### Income

No	Donors' Name	Amount	%
	<b>Fund received during this period</b>		
1	Oxfam Novib	\$196,188.00	26%
2	Forum Syd	\$233,811.00	31%
3	NPA	\$76,793.00	10%
4	EU	\$145,227.00	19%
5	British Embassy	\$77,629.00	10%
6	Australian Embassy	\$24,800.00	3%
7	Other (CPWP and UN Women)	\$9,459.00	1%
	<b>Subtotal Fund received</b>	<b>\$763,907.00</b>	<b>86%</b>
8	Bank interest	\$1,701.00	0.2%
9	Opening Balance	\$118,253.00	13%
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$883,861.00</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Expenditure

No	Description	Amount	%
1	Core Administration	\$61,294.00	8%
2	Advocacy	\$20,147.00	3%
3	Media	\$55,306.00	7%
4	Network	\$148,136.00	20%
5	Monitoring	\$57,989.00	8%
6	Education	\$41,877.00	6%
7	Commune council election monitoring	\$340,228.00	45%
8	Staff capacity building	\$5,831.00	1%
9	Equipment and furniture	\$10,867.00	1%
10	Quality assurance	\$9,079.00	1%
11	Contingency	\$2,830.00	0.4%
	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$753,584.00</b>	<b>100%</b>
	<b>Balance at September 30, 2012</b>	<b>\$130,277.00</b>	<b>15%</b>

## COMFREL

#138, Street 122, Teuk Laok, Toul Kork, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Tel: 855-23-884-150/12-942-019

Fax: 855-23-883-750/23-885-745

E-mail: [comfrel@online.com.kh](mailto:comfrel@online.com.kh) or [comfrel@comfrel.org](mailto:comfrel@comfrel.org)