



COMFREL 2016 Annual Narrative Report

February 2017

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I. Executive Summary

Within the fiscal year 2016, COMFREL and other organizations carried out activities set out under the new project: title “Active Citizens in Advancing Fair Voter registration and Democratic Governance”. The broad aims are to encourage the eligible voter to have more engagement, in particular the marginalized electorate, youth, local activists and stakeholders, to promote free and fair elections and demonstrate people’s participation in democratic governance. Below are outputs achieved under the supervision of COMFREL’s five units: Advocacy Unit (ADU), Media Unit (MEU), Network Unit (NEU), Monitoring Unit (MOU), Education and Gender Unit (EGU).

A-The Core Programme

- **Advocacy Programme (ADP)**

During the project implementation, at least two press conference and three roundtable discussions were conducted with 152 participants (22.20%) from political parties, NEC, target groups of CSOs and ERA who were able to understand and accept priority issues of advocacy, share their opinions and inputs for voter registration, selection of NEC officers at local level. At the same time, at least 14 meetings with National Election Commission, lawmakers, experts and CSOs were held to persuade support and/or receive comments and feedback for advocacy statements and recommendations. COMFREL also produced 39 recommendations to NEC, of which 16 recommendations were endorsed by the NEC. (Please find the attached file)

The 2015 reports on Democracy, Elections, and Report in Cambodia was launched with 11 stakeholders (9.10% female), domestic and international journalists to present its findings from one year period of observing the situation of democracy in Cambodia. It was also printed 150 copies of report and sent to the stakeholders and uploaded on its website and Facebook page.

- **Media Programme (MEP)**

During the reporting period, 359 (247 live and 112 rebroadcast) sessions of “VOC” radio programmes were hosted with a total of 402 speakers (11.19% female) who facilitated. In addition, 1298 people (22.42% female) called the programme to express their opinions, make any request and asked the questions to the speakers. After broadcasted and uploaded on its website, there were 68,874 downloads of the radio programs on COMFREL’s website including 23,643 downloads from “Voter’s Voice, 13,079 from “Human Rights”, 9,850 from “Women Can Do It”, 9,687 from “Weekly Watch”, 7,729 from “Youth Program” and 4,886 from “Critical Law”. There were also 24,396 downloads of the 2015 annual reports on COMFREL’s website.

1475 articles/press releases were posted on COMFREL’s website and Facebook related to elections, democracy, National Election Committee and voter registration...etc 38 articles related to COMFREL’s work was written by local and international newspapers including RFI, RFA, Phnom Penh Post and VOD.

Besides the radio programme, COMFREL use social media to disseminate information. There were 31,196 page views on COMFREL’s website: www.COMFREL.org and 12,465 page views on COMFREL’s Election Campaign Website named “Cambodian Voter Voice”. COMFREL’s Facebook reached 46,375 fans’ ‘likes’ on the page and CVV also received 651 ‘likes’.

26 animation video spots were produced by COMFREL received more than 2 million reaches, 694,328 views and 19,194 shares on COMFREL’s Facebook.

- **Monitoring Programme (MOP)**

There were 14 forums on voter score cards and the government’s fulfilment of platform promises with 377 (28%) participants in 14 capital and provinces. Four sectors as imprecise indicators were put into the assessment. These were attended

by the university students, youth, garment workers, indigenous people and NGO representatives. All participants had an opportunity to give score twice on the government's fulfillment of platform promises, pre-test and post-test.

The 2015 final report on the assessment and voter's score card on the second year fulfillment of political platform launched on 23rd February at COMFREL's head office and printed 150 books for distribution purpose.

The annual report on Parliamentary Watch launched on 18th February 2016 and printed 150 books for distribution purpose to the stakeholders.

"Tracking/Scoring MPs" platform was launched and received 94 people interact and score MPs with the platform. The number of scoring the MPs is not likely to increase because the audients are not interested much.

The 2015 reports on Misuses of State Resources and Political Related Corruption were launched at COMFREL's office with 11 stakeholders(1 female), domestic and international journalists.

- **Gender Programme (GEP)**

During the report period, 28 sessions (19 lives and 9 rebroadcasts) of "Women Can Do it" radio programme were hosted on FM 105 and 55 speakers (60% female) facilitated. During those call in show, 125 (43.20% female) people called in to express their opinions, ask the questions to the speakers and make any request to the government.

The 2015 political gender watch report: assembly and women parliamentarians' and empowerment of women commune councilors in their performance at local levels was launched with 53 participants (27 female) and printed 150 books. It also was uploaded on COMFREL's website and Facebook.

One training, one forum and 3 meetings were held in cooperation with CPWP and Women for All to discuss about surrogacy in Cambodia, to build the capacity of method of observation and data collection and promote the women's participation in the commune/Sangkat council elections. These were attended by 245 participants (87% female) from women network, COMFREL female observers and relevant stakeholders.

B-Election Projects: Voter Registration

The observers manual, the questionnaires, 260 T-Shirts, a guideline, code of conduct, training agenda and online training video for the election

observers were reviewed, re-developed and produced. In addition, 5 master trainers (COMFREL staff), 12 master trainer assistants, 25 trainers and 422 volunteer observers from 17 NGOs were selected. 562 observers (34% female) for VRM including 316 observers for 3-day observation and 250 for 12-day observation. 30 trainings including 5 from NGO partners and 25 from COMFREL provincial secretaries were conducted at 25 capitals and provinces to train how to observe and collect the data regarding voter registration process.

250 observers for 12-day and 312 observers for 3-day were deployed during the voter registration. 1,116 questionnaires from a survey of VRM from province secretaries were selected.

269 interviewers (81 female) were selected to conduct VRA and P2L and to facilitate the provincial secretaries to gather the data regarding challenges of voter registration.

A report on voter registration monitoring and a report on the selection of voter registration teams were produced. A first summary report on VRM was sent to NEC.

C-Special Projects (SPP)

Nine network meetings, nine meetings, three sub-conference consultations, three trainings, two regional meeting, and one national conference consultation were conducted at the capital and provinces with 551 participants (13.57% female) from its target groups, human rights defenders from Myanmar, and Laos, representative of concern CSOs, representative of the Ministry of Interior, representative of UNOHR, representative from the National Assembly, and relevant stakeholders. The conducted activities produced significant output which Peace Building and Non-violent Communication have been asserted into the works of human rights defenders from 10 targeted provinces. During this reporting period, COMFREL in cooperation with Cord Cambodia and NGO partners successfully conducted a number of activities with significant results and meeting expectations. For example, Network Meeting in targeted provinces was successfully conducted providing grassroots awareness of issues and challenges that Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) in the community have been facing. HRDs and local authorities in some targeted provinces, particularly in Tboung Khmom, Preah Vihear, Kampong Thom, Kampong Chhnang, Siem Reap, reportedly started having improved communication and mutual understanding. Also, HRDs said they have actively applied peace-building (PB) and non-violent communication (NVC) in their human rights work. They conducted

numerous PB and NVC training to their fellow HRDs and villagers, while HRDs in Preah Vihear and Kampong Thom also provided training to local authorities. Although, there is less engagement from local authorities and frequently HRDs face intimidation and legal harassment, but in some cases relations between HRDs and local authorities improved when the differences have been reduced and they started viewing each other as a partners. The vast majority of HRDs expressed their satisfaction and look forward to having regular meetings to provide updates on progress and human rights practices in their respective communities.

After the Network Meeting, the SDHR Team met to address issues and challenges raised by HRDs on the ground, and detail action plans responding to real challenges they faced, so that they can share their common concerns and issue requests to the competent authorities during the Sub-National Conference Consultation. The proposed Sub-National Conference Consultation in three (3) different regions was also successfully conducted.

The theme of the conference was “Human Rights Issues and Challenges”; and the discussion focused on four (4) different sub-topics: (1) Rights of Expression, Assembly and Association, (2) Forced Eviction, (3) Natural Resources Governance, (4) Discrimination and Intimidation against HRDs. HRDs actively engaged in the discussion which enabled them to decide on areas of focus for the National Conference Consultation in relation to grassroots level issues addressed by HRDs. The team then documented the fact-finding and issues raised by HRDs during the Sub-National Conference Consultation, along with the Desk Review on Human Rights Situation after the Election 2013, for further discussion in the National Conference Consultation Workshop.

D. Monitoring/Evaluation and Capacity Building

3 of 5 audit recommendations were implemented by COMFREL such as maintain separate bank account, improve control over advance clearance and improve control over journal vouchers.

II. About COMFREL

1. Vision

COMFREL's vision is the establishment and maintenance of democratic society underpinned by genuine multi-party competitive democratic elections designed and implemented to benefit all Cambodians.

2. Mission

COMFREL's mission is to help create an informed and favorable climate for 'Free and Fair Elections'. To achieve this mission it actively supports, through lobbying and advocacy, a viable legal framework, education to inform voters of their rights, and monitoring activities to discourage irregularities and provide comprehensive data to enable an objective, non-partisan assessment of election process in its entirety.

A key element of the mission includes conducting activities to give meaning in the period between elections through continued education and public forums to encourage citizens to participate in politics and decision-making; through advocacy/lobbying for electoral reforms and the provision of comprehensive monitoring data to enable an objective, non-partisan assessment of the fulfillment of party political platform and performance and accountability 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 keeping with democratic and human rights commitments and principles.

To create an informed and favourable climate for free and fair elections by providing information on electoral rights, monitoring reports and building a comprehensive assessment with up-to-date recommendations.

To develop the voice of voters to hold elected officials accountable. To strengthen gender equality by increasing understanding among women and men, and enhancing the capacity of female local elected officials and activists.

Internal Organization:

To ensure the effectiveness of the proposed program activities, COMFREL build staff capacity, and strengthen its organisational development.

COMFREL has an 11 board committee including: Chairman , Mr. Thun Saray, vice chair, Mr. Sok Sam Oeun, treasurer, Young Kim Eng and 8 board members: Mr. Yim Po, Ms. Sun Chansen, Mr. Mak Chamroeun, Ms. Pok Panhavichet, Mr. Mom Sarin, Mr. Kim Sovann, Mr. Sen Set and Mr. Cheang Sokha.

III. Completed Activities

A-The Core Programme

1. Advocacy Programme (ADP)

1.1 Roundtables/ Workshops/Seminars /Conferences

20th December 2016: COMFREL in cooperation with ERA member held a roundtable discussion in the Sunway hotel on “Recommendation for the Draft of Procedure and Regulations for Election of Commune in 2017”, with 36 participants (22% female). The objective was to understand the draft of procedure and regulations for the election of commune in 2017 and to discuss the draft procedure and regulations.

26th October 2016: COMFREL held a press conference on “the Observation of Voter Registration for Producing the new voter list 2016” at COMFREL’s office to present its findings of NEC’s voter registration. This was also attended by 27 participants (26% female) from local and international newspapers, TV news, the US embassy and ERA members.

26 August 2016: COMFREL and ERA members held a press conference on work activities for observation during the 2016 voter registration at COMFREL central office. It was attended by 13 participants (15% female) from the press, foreign embassies and other ERA members. There were many questions from the participants about COMFREL’s observation plan during the voter registration process.

27th July 2016: COMFREL held a roundtable discussion in cooperation with ERA members to introduce the “Recommendations on the Drafted of Code of Conducts of National Election Committee”. Held at the Sunway Hotel, the discussion’s purpose was to highlight the differences between the drafted five codes of conducts (for 1. Electoral Officials, 2. Observers, 3. Political parties, candidates and party’s agents, 4. Media and 5. Royal Arm forces, National police and security agents) and the old one, and propose recommendations to improve the drafted of code of conducts. It was attended by 41 stakeholders (27% female) representing various CSOs, the NEC, political parties, embassies and journalists.

22nd June 2016: COMFREL held a roundtable discussion on “Critical Understanding of Voter Registration Procedure and Regulation for 2016”, taken place at the Sunway Hotel. It was attended by 35 stakeholders (31% female) such as domestic and international journalists, a representative from embassies and NEC, ERA members and relevant stakeholders. The main purpose was to briefly present the NEC’s voter registration procedure and regulation and to critically discuss the voter registration procedure and regulation for 2016. This event had active discussion on the NEC’s procedure and regulation which were just passed. The participants also questioned some challenges which would possibly occur during the voter registration process

1.2 Advocacy Meeting Partnership Events

23rd November 2016: COMFREL had a meeting with ERA members at COMFREL’s office to talk about a request to NEC to extend the days for voter registration. It was attend by 7 people as men. On 24th November 2016, COMFREL released a joint-statement on extra days of voter registration. 30 November 2016: COMFREL sent an open letter to NEC in order to ask NEC to prolong 7 days more for voter registration. As a result, the NEC decided to extra one day more.

08 November 2016: COMFREL in cooperation with ERA members had a meeting with NEC at NEC’s office to talk about cooperation between NEC and CSOs for voter registration audit. On 11 November 2016: COMFREL sent a letter to NEC to ask for strong cooperation from NEC for voter registration audit. NEC informed us to meet them again to verify our request on 28th November 2016 with NEC technical at NEC’s office.

21st October 2016: COMFREL had a meeting with ERA members at COMFREL’s office to share information on the political situation, update voter registration, discuss a case of the military and the voter list in Kompong Chhang, and prepare for a press conference on 26th October and a meeting with NEC. It was attended by 12 participants (8.33% female) representing ERA member organizations.

17th-20th October 2016: COMFREL monitoring team attended the meeting with NDI experts on voter audition to share their methodology of voter audition. During that time, COMFREL staff accompanied the ANFREL executive director to seek support on deployment of international election observers in the upcoming 2017 and 2018 election. The monitoring team produced a first version of key summary report on the 2016 voter registration was which printed to share to the participants in the press conference on 26th October 2016.

July 18 2016: COMFREL held a meeting with other ERA members to discuss the draft 5 codes of conducts prepared by the NEC in order to provide feedback/recommendations back to the NEC. This meeting had 13 participants (7% female).

July 11th 2016: COMFREL held a meeting with other ERA members in COMFREL's offices to discuss a joint-statement, attended by 15 participants (6% female). This joint statement called for "the restoration of the political environment and safety of a free and fair election in Cambodia", largely in response to the death of Dr. Kem Ley. It was released on COMFREL's website, Facebook, and mailing list.

11 June 2016: COMFREL had a meeting with ERA members in COMFREL office to update and share the development of election reform/NEC/Donors and political situation and to share plan information on the voter/civic education of the ERA members and mapping.

30 May 2016: COMFREL in cooperation with ERA, held a meeting with European Union (EU) in EU office to update the electoral environment and the situation of NEC's independence and its credibility to prepare and administer the next general elections in 2017 and 2018.

24 May 2016: COMFREL in cooperation with ERA, held a meeting with Kofi Annan Foundation delegation in COMFREL office. COMFREL staff reported to him on the situation of electoral environment that could be affected severely because of the political tension.

27 April 2016: COMFREL in cooperation with ERA had a meeting with the president of NEC at NEC office on "Cooperation between NEC and Civil Society". In that meeting, COMFREL staff briefly reported its action plan for voter registration monitoring, voter list auditing, voter educations and electoral observer deployment. This agenda was

taken into account by NEC.

22 March 2014: COMFREL and ERA members had a meeting in COMFREL office to update and share the development of election reform/NEC/Donors and political situation, share plan on the voter information/education and civic education of the ERA members and presented a plan on election monitoring from new voter registration to commune council election including voter registration monitoring. This was attended by 15 people (2 female) as ERA members.

26 January 2016: COMFREL had a meeting with ERA members in COMFREL office to discuss any need of ERA statement/ or open letter to US and ASEAN summit, ERA position with old NEC secretary general and NEC's plan on voter education and Jointly priority recommendations for NEC workshop on voter registration on 28 January 2016. The meeting also followed up a plan of the monitoring of voter registration and audit of voter list. It was attended by 13 participants (15.38% female).

06 January 2016: COMFREL had a meeting with ERA members in COMFREL office to discuss political situation and selection of NEC secretary general and deputy and ERA position, preparation to join the NEC workshop on new voter registration regulation on 3rd January 2016. This meeting also discussed the assessment of the commune council election law and preparation of a roundtable discussion. A joint plan of monitoring and audit of new voter registration in May and discussion on possibility of joint audit of the Khmer ID Card situation on particular communes also made in the meeting.

1.3 Studied Reports/Statements and Recommendations

COMFREL launched the 2015 reports on Democracy, Elections, and Report in Cambodia on 29th March 2015 at COMFREL's office. It was attended by 11 stakeholders (1 female), domestic and international journalists. The main purpose was to present its findings from one year period of observing the situation of democracy in Cambodia. At that time, many questions were raised on how to measure the level of democracy in Cambodia and prediction about the situation for upcoming 2017 and 2018 election. It was printed 150 copies of report and sent to the stakeholders. It was also uploaded on its website and Facebook page.



The 2015 reports on Democracy, Elections, and Report in Cambodia was launched on 29th March 2016 at COMFREL's office

COMFREL also produced 21 recommendations regarding regulation and procedure for voter registration and procedure for selecting a secretary general, deputy secretary general. One recommendation related creating a voter registration group in remote village, the authority right to question and verification on the legitimate documents for those who are suspicious of unable to speak Khmer correctly and the rights to vote and stand for election for those who are in condition of pre-trial and convicted. These recommendations were sent to NEC.

There were at least 4 recommendations sent to the NEC (please see the attached file). One recommendation regarding the extension of voter registration date was sent to NEC on 30 November 2016. 3 recommendations related right to register of members of the armed forces and electoral security to NEC on 28 October 2016 including 1) ensure the right of the police, the arm forces and election security for vote 2) it must not establish the separate station for only police, the arm forces and the

election security who are having the mission and 3) NEC should release a separated instruction to the authority to have the right to make a residential prove or identity certificate for voter registration for the immigrants along the border. On 26 October 26, 2016, COMREL sent a summary report on VRM to the NEC. On 22 December 2016: COMFREL produced 14 recommendations for the draft of procedure and regulations for election of commune in 2017 and sent to NEC.

16 of 39 recommendations made to the NEC were endorsed by the NEC.

2. Media Programme (MEP):

2.1 Broadcasting Radio Programme

Radio Broadcasts

COMFREL's media unit's ongoing activities are as follows:

- Continuation of the broadcasting of information on COMFREL's activities.
- Live broadcasting of COMFREL's radio

programme the Voice of Civil Society (VoC) via FM105 Radio station every day from 7:30 to 8:30 am Monday to Friday. The Voice of Civil Society consists of daily programmes on differing topics:

- 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 Programme
- Sunday : Re-broadcast of Kloam Meul Pracham Sapada (Weekly Watch) and Youth Public Forum.

The total number of live aired and rebroadcast radio programs during this period was 359 (247 live and 112 rebroadcast). The table below shows the number of times VoC programs were broadcasted, both live and rebroadcast, each month via FM 105 station in Phnom Penh.

Daily radio programmes broadcast on FM105 radio station.

	Sub total			
	January-November		Live	Rebr
	Live	Re-br. ¹		
<i>Voter Voice</i>	96	30	96	30
<i>Women Can Do It</i>	21	7	21	7
<i>Human Rights</i>	46	7	46	7
<i>Weekly Watch</i>	30	21	30	21
<i>To Go Or No to Go</i>	36	16	36	16
<i>Critical Law</i>	18	31	18	31
TOTAL (each month)	247	112	247	112

The VoC Programme table and broadcast stations:

N	Radio Station	Location	No. of Broadcasts/Live		Hours	Speakers				Organizers/Facilitators		No. of Callers/Discussants	
						CSOs		BoD					
						F	M	F	M				
			Re-Broadcast	Live		45	336	0	21	99	135	291	1007
1	FM 105	PNH	112 times	247 times	359 Hrs								
2	FM 95.5	Siem Reap	Times		Hrs								
3	FM 91.5	PNH Penh	Time	times	Hrs								
Total			112 times	247 times	359 Hours	381 Persons	21 Persons	234 Persons	1298 Callers				

¹ Re-br. is an abbreviation of Rebroadcast.



Within the reporting period, there were 68,874 downloads of the radio programs on COMFREL’s website including 23,643 downloads from “Voter’s Voice, 13,079 from “Human Rights”, 9,850 from “Women Can Do It”, 9,687 from “Weekly Watch”, 7,729 from “Youth Program” and 4,886 from “Critical Law”. There were also 24,396 downloads of the 2015 annual reports on COMFREL’s website.

2.2 Social Media, Animation and Caricature

□ Articles/Press releases: (email list and website)

-1475 articles and press releases including 1440 articles and 35 presses release posted on COMFREL’s website and Facebook related to elections, democracy, National Election Committee and voter registration...etc

38 articles related to COMFREL’s work were written by local and international newspapers including RFI, RFA, Phnom Penh Post and VOD, VIM, DAP.

□ Social Media (website)/Android IOS Application:

The table below shows the number of viewers accessing to COMFREL’s social media such as website, Ustream, Facebook and Youtube.

During the reporting period, there were 31,196 page views on COMFREL’s website: www.COMFREL.org and 12,465 page views on COMFREL’s Election Campaign Website named “Cambodian Voter Voice”. COMFREL’s Facebook reached 46,375 fans’ ‘likes’ on the page and CVV also received 651 ‘likes’. Noticeably, there were more nine times increase in fans’ “Like” on COMFREL’s Facebook page compared to previous one, 4, 872 “Like” because COMFREL produced and posted many animation video spots which got the public’s interest.

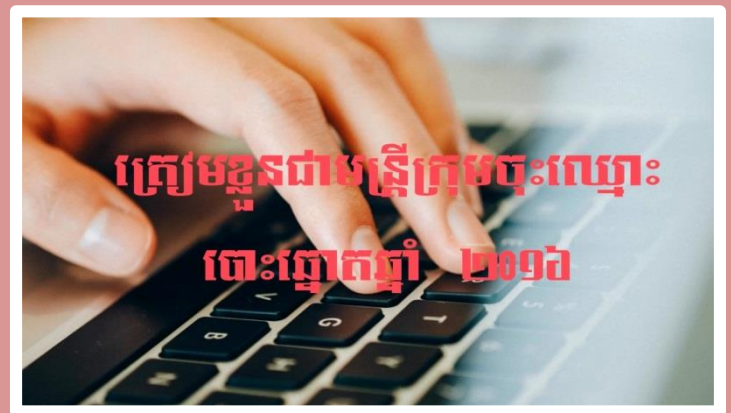
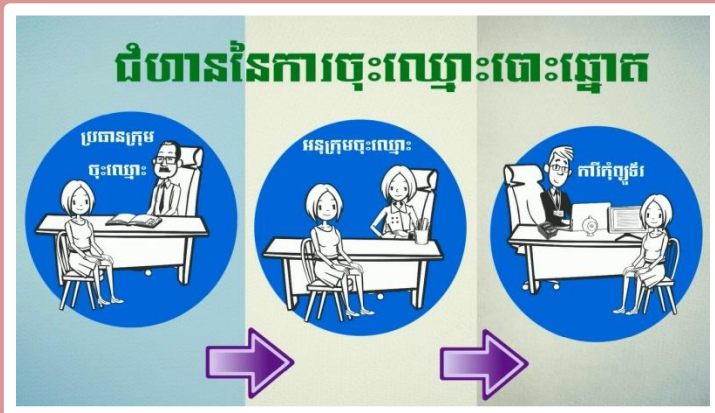
□ Animation video spots:

COMFREL produced 26 animation video spots to educate the public about electoral process with the topics following:

- A tool for immigrants to raise your concern related to new voter registration
- How to get a resident certificate?
- A date of voter registration
- Law on Commune/sangkat Council Election
- To receive Khmer ID
- Prepare yourself (youth) to be a registration officials
- Criteria for registration

- What is registration important?
- Prepare yourself (youth) to register your name
- Why does monk need to go to vote?

- Go to vote
- Calendar for Commune Council Election



Topic of Animations

During the reporting period, these animation video spots had more than 2 million reaches, 694,328 views and 19,194 shares on COMFREL’s Facebook.

3. Monitoring Programme (MOP):

3.1 Government Watch and Score Card on Fulfillment of the Government Platform Promises

□ Forum on voter score cards and the government’s fulfillment of platform promises:

There were 14 forums on voter score cards and the government’s fulfillment of platform promises with 377 (28%) participants in 14 capital and provinces such as Bantey Meanchey, Thboung Kmom, Kampong Chhang, Kompong Speu, Kompong Thom, Kandal, Prey Veng, Preah Vihear, Ratanakiri, Preah Sihanuk, Siem Reap, Svay Reang, Takeo and Phnom Penh. These were attended by the university students, youth, garment workers, indigenous people and NGO representatives. All participants had an opportunity to give score twice on the government’s fulfillment of platform promises,

pre-test and post-test. Four sectors as imprecise indicators were put in the assessment.

- Sector01: National Defence, Security and public order
- Sector02: Strengthening the public administration, decentralization and deconcentration, code of conduct and judicial system and anti-corruption
- Sector03: Economic development
- Sector04: Education development, health, employment, culture and social affairs

□ Report of government watch and score cards:

The 2015 final report on the assessment and voter’s score card on the second year fulfillment of political platform was launched on 23rd February at COMFREL’s head office and was printed 150 books for distribution purpose.

COMFREL staff produced a 6-month report on Government Watch.

Fulfillment of political platforms of the Royal government of Cambodia of the fifth legislature of the NA were held in Phnom Penh and province.



3.2. Parliamentary Watch and Tracking/Scoring and Ask the MP (Members of Parliament)

□Quarterly and annual reports:

COMFREL produced the annual report on parliament and its members and launched on 18th February 2016 at Khmer Sorin restaurant. This report printed 150 books for distribution purpose to the stakeholders.

□Tracking/Scoring MPs platform:

The platform was launched and received 94 people interact and score MPs with the platform.

3.3 Monitoring of Political Related Corruption and Misuse of State Resource

□ Collection data from observers and others:

COMFREL staff filed the data related corruption and misuse of state resource sent by provincial secretaries in order to compile the report at the end of year.

□ Data from media monitoring:

COMFREL staff also filed the collected data from the social media and TVK.

COMFREL launched the 2015 reports on Misuses of State Resources and Political Related Corruption on 29th March 2015 at COMFREL's

office. It was attended by 11 stakeholders(1 female), domestic and international journalists. The main purpose was to present its findings from one year period of observing the situation of democracy in Cambodia. At that time, many questions were raised on how to measure the level of democracy in Cambodia and prediction about the situation for upcoming 2017 and 2018 election.

4. Gender Programme (GEP):

4.1. Radio Call-in Show ‘Women Can Do It’

In cooperation with the media unit, the civic education unit hosted 28 sessions (19 live and 9 rebroadcast) of the 60 minute radio call-in show, ‘Woman Can Do It’, on FM 105. The programme discussed women in elections, politics and the promotion of women in processes of and decision-making.

The objective of the discussions was to strengthen women’s confidence in their job performance, enhance gender equality, and motivate all political parties to consider placing women on their candidate lists. The radio shows featured feedback and interaction by allowing listeners to call-in and share their ideas, experiences and/or to raise questions. There were 125 (43.20% female) callers and 55 (60% female) speakers.



‘Women Can Do It’ radio programme on “Young Women Forum” on 03 November 2016

4.2. Political Gender Watch (Monitoring of Women Elected and Women’s Political Participation in Politics)

25 February 2016: COMFREL held a round-table discussion on “Political Gender Watch Report: Assembly and Women Parliamentarians’ and Empowerment of Women Commune Councilors in their performance at local levels”. The main purpose was to present its findings for the year regarding the monitoring of gender in politics and to deepen the public, institutional, and legislative discussion of gender equality and empowerment. This included concrete strategies, commitments and solution to improve the number of women in government and the role of elected women

representatives, as well as the response of the legislature and RGC to women’s and children’s issues. This was attended by 53 participants (27 female) from local and international NGOs, the women’s caucus in parliament, the Ministry of Women’s Affairs and other stakeholders. The participants provided important feedback and clarification of the information entailed in the report and the process enhanced dissemination and public education efforts. 150 copies of the report were printed and disseminated to partners, female parliamentarians and relevant stakeholders. This report was also uploaded on COMFREL’s website and Facebook page.

A round-table discussion was held on “Political Gender Watch Report at the Imperial Villa and Hotel



4.3. Joint Actions for Women’s Political Empowerment and Leadership

02 December 2016: COMFREL staff attended a meeting organized by Women for All at the Silaka Office to talk about a short training on “Internet Security”, and to share input on regional and national women’s issues, and discuss mobilization and action strategies for women’s empowerment in the upcoming election.

13 September 2016: COMFREL staff conducted a one-day training on method of observation and quantitative data collection regarding female political participation, the obstacles for women in the voter registration process, and how to fill a comprehensive report based on familiarity with regulations and procedures of voter registration. It

was attended by 25 participants (21 female equal to 84%), including COMFREL observers, network members and other relevant stakeholders.

08 September 2016: The Education and Gender Coordinator attended a meeting with CPWP at the Silaka office to discuss about surrogacy in Cambodia and its implication. The presentation was given by Mr. Rodrigo, Feminist Policy, Advocacy and Communications Advisor-GIZ, Security system for human rights defender and trip visit to 5 human rights defenders at prison.

2 March 2016: COMFREL, CPWP and Women for All Group jointly organized the 106th International Womens’ Day, funded by OXFAM. It was attended by 220 stakeholders (90% female)

including female MPs, ministry representatives, political party representatives, commune councilors and CSOs. The main purpose was to encourage women to vote in the 2017 commune/sangkat election, and to enhance understanding women’s leadership in commune/sangkat councils for positive change at the community level and to strengthen solidarity among different stakeholders to promote women’s rights. The participants improved their understanding and capacity to promote the importance of women’s participation and leadership at the sub-national level. This forum also coordinated opinions and strategies to mobilize promotion of women’s participation in the commune/sangkat council elections.

19 January 2016: COMFREL staff attended a meeting with the Ministry of Women Affair to prepare for the 105th International Women’s Day on “Investment on Gender Equity to Promote Sustainable Development”. As a result, the meeting agreed on some activities such as a campaign, debate, roundtable discussions, and education in schools and garment factories.

B- Election Projects: Voter Registration

5. Election Monitoring and Audit: Core Team

5.1. Material Development and Training for Observers

5.1.1. Material Development

COMFREL staff reviewed, redeveloped and produced the observers’ manual, checklist and

questionnaires for voter registration monitoring, as well as 260 T-Shirts for election observers. The Core Team also prepared guidelines for training of trainers, guideline for e observers, a code of conduct, a training agenda, and an online training video. COMFREL staff produced questionnaires and guideline for the P2L (people to list) component of registration evaluation.

5.1.2. Recruitment and Selection of Observers

COMFREL selected 5 master trainers (COMFREL staff), 12 master trainer assistants (41.67% female) including 1 from CDPO, 1 from CPWP, 2 from YRDP, 2 from PDP Center and 2 from NICFEC. In addition, COMFREL selected 25 trainers including 14 from provincial secretaries, 5 from ADHOC provincial coordinators, 3 from PDP Center staff, and 3 from NICFEC provincial coordinators. COMFREL selected 422 volunteer observers from 17 NGOs, to observe the voter registration process. COMFREL also selected a total of 562 Voter Registration Observers (34% female) for VRM, including 312 observers for 3-day observation, 250 observers for 12-day observation.

5.1.3. Training

COMFREL conducted 25 trainings in 25 capitals and provinces with 566 people (34% female). The purpose was to build capacity for monitoring and ensure preparedness for observation and accurate data collection during the voter registration period.

We conducted 5 training workshops with CSOs for voluntary citizen observer. Cooperation and engagement occurred with the following NGOs: LICADHO, YRDP, HRTF, CYN and KYSD.

Date	Name of NGOs	Male	Female	Total
06 Sep 2016	LICADHO	52	2	54
08 Sep 2016	HRTF	11	5	16
10 Sep 2016	YRDP-	45	47	92
17 Sep 2016	CYN	13	17	30
21 Sep 2016	KYSD	12	13	25
	Total participants	133	84	217

5.2 Deployment of Monitoring and Observers

COMFREL initiated the deployment of its 12-day observers (250 observers) between 1-4 September, 2016, and 3-day observers (312 observers) on 1 September, 2016. COMFREL received 1,116 questionnaires from a survey on

VRM from Province Secretaries and input the information into its database.

COMFREL made two audits of the voter registration process, evaluating both people to list (P2L: interview the people to verify with list) and list to people (L2P: select the names in the list and

verify with the people). COMFREL selected 26 (81 female) to conduct VRA and P2L and facilitated the provincial secretaries to gather the data regarding challenges of voter registration. COMFREL also assessed the province where the percentage of eligible voters that did not register was high, in order to propose to the NEC to extend voter registration.

5.3 Reporting

COMFREL staff produced a first summary report on voter registration monitoring and a report on the selection of voter registration teams. A first summary report on VRM was sent to NEC on 26 October 2016. The report on voter registration monitoring was produced.

C-Special Projects (SPP)

6. Project on Strengthening the Defense of Human Rights in Cambodia and Myanmar (SDHR): NEU

6.1 Strengthened Capacity of HRDs and HROs in Areas of Documentation, Advocacy, Peaceful Human Rights Defence, Rights Based Approaches (RBA)

The SDHR Team conducted the SDHR's regional meeting on 3-6 May, 2016 in Phnom Penh. It allowed for a reflective discussion of the project achievements and challenges in 2015 and the expected activities for year 2. This meeting was attended by 12 participants: 3 from COMFREL, 5 from Cord, and 4 HRDs from CPN and CYN.

COMFREL staff had a meeting with SDHR on 2 March and 23-26 March, 2016 at Cord office to discuss and develop the session plan of multi-stakeholder process MSP and how to do conduct the capacity building and coaching. The meeting agreed to produce a 4 day training session plan on the multi-stakeholder process, and impart coaching and leadership skills (with a clear topic, objective, and methodology for each session).SDHR team conducted the 4 day-training for HRO's staffs from 29 March to 01 April, 2016 in Sihanouk Province. The main purpose was to learn about and understand the MSP (multi-stakeholder process) in the context of programming and engagement strategy, provide participants a chance to share experiences and insights on the MSP, and catalyze collaborative learning on how insights can be acted on and achievements can be strengthened on the basis of basic principles and techniques of multi-stakeholder engagement and communication. There were a total of 34 participants (12 women) from the following partners: 5 participants from

CIYA, 5 participants from FACT, 5 participants from CDPS/CPN, 5 participants from CYN, 5 participants from CCFC and 9 participants from COMFREL.

The SDHR team conducted a half-day Partners' Executive Director meeting on 14 January 2016 in Phnom Penh. A total of 16 participants (3 women) from the following partners attended the meeting: 2 participants from COMFREL, 3 participants from CCFC, 2 participants from CYN, 2 participants from FACT, 1 participant from CDPS/CPN, and 2 others from CIYA.

The SDHR team conducted a 4-day foundation training for HRO staff on Conflict Sensitivity in Human Rights work from 29 December 2015 to 01 January 2016, in Sihanouk Province. There was a total of 33 participants (9 women) from as following partners: 6 participants from CIYA, 5 participants from FACT, 5 participants from CDPS/CPN, 5 participants from CYN, 5 participants from CCFC and 7 participants from COMFREL.

6.2 National Conference on Human Right Defence and Peace building

5 and 6 December 2016: The SDHR team conducted a regional meeting at the CORD Cambodia office to revisit SDHR goals and objectives, to discuss year 2 accomplishments and challenges, and to review and discuss the action plan for year 3. The meeting also enabled the concerns of participants from each project stakeholder to be addressed and mobilize the provision of assistance needed to accomplish the SDHR Project. There were a total of 9 participants (4 female): 1 COMFREL, 4 SDHR Myanmar, 4 Cord Cambodia.

1-2 December 2016: The SDHR team conducted a National Conference on "Integrating Peace into Human Rights Work in Cambodia" in Phnom Penh for two days to share the results of the Desk Review of Human Rights practices and challenges after the National Election 2013, and to offer a forum for dialogue among HROs, government agencies, and CSOs. The event functioned to form a consensus on the types and causes of human rights violations, and on ways to address the cause of the problem in order to coordinate on a common agenda for promoting and respecting human rights in Cambodia. There was a total of 124 participants (35 female): 50 COMFREL, 35 GADC, 20 HRDs from Laos and Myanmar, 1 UNOHCHR, 2 National Assembly, 1 Ministry of Interior, 1 European Union, 1 Swedish Embassy, and 14 from media and NGO partners.

SDHR team conducted 3 sub-conference consultations on “Human Rights and Challenges” to cultivate a space for dialogue between HRDs and decision-makers, and for promoting the voice of HRD’s in their capacity to influence policy-makers to respect human rights. It was also to empower and organize HROs and HRDs to increase and strengthen networks among HROs/NGOs, to add to the overall engagement of civil society with government agencies, and to urge the government to effectively address natural resource exploitation and responsiveness in support of human rights defenders.

- On 23 September 2016 in Siem Reap province with 28 participants (9 female) including: 2 COMFREL Head Office staff, 3 COMFREL Provincial Secretaries, 3 ADHOC personnel, 15 HRDs, 3 local level government officials, 1 Cord Cambodia staff, 1 CIYA staff.
- On 27 September 2016 in Kampong Chhnang province with 32 participants (17 female) including: 1 COMFREL Head Office staff, 3 COMFREL Provincial Secretaries, 26 HRDs, 2 Cord Cambodia staff.
- On 05 October 2016 in Monduliri province with 13 participants (5 female) including: 1 COMFREL Head Office staff, 2 COMFREL Provincial Secretaries, 10 HRDs.

22 September 2016: The SDHR team conducted a meeting at Siem Reap province to address major challenges and expectations from the Sub-Conference Consultation Workshop. The organized plan required finalization for the upcoming National Conference Consultation, as well as the report to be produced. There were a total of 8 participants (3 female) including: 3 COMFREL Provincial Secretaries, 2 COMFREL Head Office staff, 2 ADHOC personnel, 1 CIYA personnel. After the Sub-Conference Consultation, HRDs considered choosing their representative for the National Conference Consultation.

The SDHR team conducted 9 network meetings with its target group in 9 provinces to strengthen communication and collaboration on the developments in human rights practice and challenges HRDs have been facing in their communities. A key issue taken under consideration was sharing information and updates related to voter registration.

- On September 9, 2016 in Kampong Chhnang province with 9 participants (3 female) – 1 COMFREL Provincial Secretary, 8 HRDs.
- On September 15, 2016 in Tboung Khmom province with 10 participants (3 female) – 2 from COMFREL Head Office, 1 COMFREL Provincial Secretary, 7 HRDs.
- On September 16, 2016 in Kratie province with 12 participants (4 female) – 2 from COMFREL Head Office, 1 COMFREL Provincial Secretary, 9 HRDs.
- On September 16, 2016 in Siem Reap province with 9 participants (2 female) – 1 COMFREL Provincial Secretary, 8 HRDs.
- On September 20, 2016 in Pursat province with 10 participants (5 female) – 2 COMFREL Provincial Secretary, 8 HRDs.
- On September 22, 2016 in Kampong Speu province with 15 participants (7 female) – 1 COMFREL Provincial Secretary, 1 ADHOC, 13 HRDs.
- On 27 September 2016 in Monduliri province with 7 participants (3 female) – 1 COMFREL Provincial Secretary, 6 HRDs.
- On 18 December 2016 in Kampong Thom province with 7 participants (3 female) – 1 COMFREL Head Office, 1 COMFREL Provincial Secretary, 5 HRDs.
- On 20 December 2016 in Preah Vihear province with 8 participants (2 female) – 1 COMFREL Head Office, 1 COMFREL Provincial Secretary, 1 Independent Teachers’ Association, 5 HRDs.

25-28 October 2016: The SDHR team conducted a four-day training on “NVC & PB Training” to support the development of positive insights into the personal communication practices of HRO staff and knowledge about how to communicate non-violently and to introduce and impart the Cord peace building model. The training enabled an identification of the gaps and priority areas of improvement when integrating peace building into human rights work. There was a total of 26 participants (5 female) – 1 COMFREL Head Office, 3 Cord Cambodia, 2 CCFC, 2 FACT, 2 CIYA, 1 CPN, and HRDs.

20 and 24 October 2016: SDHR team conducted two meetings at COMFREL’s office to discuss the theme of the conference, discussion and

presentation panellists, guest-speakers, the invitation to Embassies and concerned government agencies, and the sub-committee responsible for each task. This included the preparation for the site visit of HRDs from Laos and Myanmar and another 23 HRDs from Gender and Development for Cambodia (GADC). There was a total of 20 participants (9 female) – 4 COMFREL Head Office, 6 Cord Cambodia, 4 CCFC, 1 GADC, 2 FACT, 2 CIYA, 1 CPN.

26 August 2016: SDHR team conducted a meeting at COMFREL’s office with provincial secretaries and HROs to prepare for the Pre-conference Consultation, and to prepare an action plan for the technical team assisting network meetings and coaching. The meeting also allowed for an update for participants on the progress of activities in each province and the specific challenges were encountering. There was a total of 10 participants (4 female) – 6 from COMFREL, 1 from CIYA, 1 from CCFC, 1 from CPN, 1 from ADHOC. The team agreed that the Pre-Conference Consultation would certainly need to involve HRDs and competent authorities in the respective regions. Each conference consultation would collect and documented human rights practices and challenges raised by HRDs for the National Conference Consultation. The Pre-conference Consultation would focus on, “Right of Expression and Assembly, Land Rights, Natural Resources Governance...etc.” The discussion about the coaching and its impact was also made.

12 August 2016: SDHR team conducted a meeting at the COMFREL office to update the progress of the National Conference Consultation, Sub Grants for SDHR NGO partners, to submit the quarterly report, and to discuss financial concerns regarding expenditures and reporting.

There was a total of 7 participants (3 female) – 4 from COMFREL and 3 from Cord Cambodia. The team agreed to hold the conference in accord with the concept note, or if necessary, organize it with private sector. The proposed number of participants was 60, but would increase to 100 depend on the availability of the budget.

06 July 2016: The SDHR team conducted a meeting at the COMFREL office to develop a database and assess progress, identify challenges and gaps in promoting HR in Cambodia. The exchange of views contributed to developing recommendations for the Pre-Conference and National Conference Consultations and for future events. It was attended by 4 participants (50% female) – 1 from COMFREL and 3 from CORD Cambodia.

D-Monitoring/Evaluation and Capacity Building

7. Monitoring and Evaluation

7.1. Follow up and Monitoring

COMFREL always followed-up and monitored activities and programs through assessment conducted monthly based on the monthly narrative and financial report.

7.2. Annual Financial Audit

The auditors gave 5 recommendations to COMFREL, such as: maintain a separate bank account, improve control over advance clearance, improve control over accounting records, develop a cost-sharing policy, and improve control over journal vouchers. 3 audit recommendations were implemented successfully: maintain separate bank account, improve control over advance clearance, and improve control over journal vouchers.

IV. Staff Development and Training

To strengthen central staff's capacity to perform 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.

26 December 2016: COMFREL staff attended a training on "Gender Sensitivity in the Perspectives on Judicial and Project Management" at the Sunway hotel. The overall objectives of this training were to strengthen the capacities of institutions and improve on gender-sensitivity for both judicial and non-judicial measures that form part of transitional justice mechanisms so that women's perspectives and gender equality are included in all stage of their work.

30 June 2016: The Report Officer and Project Programme Officer attended a one-day training organized by NPA, to introduce the main principles and the importance of M&E tools for writing the deviation report and case study. The event effectively introduced the participants to the format of the deviation report.

07 June 2016: The Report Officer and Administrative Officer attended a one-day workshop and training organized by NPA, to present and discuss capacity-building objectives and plans. Participants gained an understanding of the status of NPA partners in the GPP scheme, and fast tracking plans to gather feedback from partners for an agreement on joint plans to improve reporting quality and institutional governance.

15-16 February 2016: The Monitoring Assistant attended training on "Budget Health Expense"

organized by the NGO Forum. The trainees learned how to analyze the expenditure of the Ministry of Health. On 18 February, the Monitoring Assistant joined a workshop on "Management of Macro Economy and Budget for 2016" at the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

3-7 December 2016: COMFREL staff attended a training conducted by CANVAS (<http://canvasopedia.org/>) at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Non-Violent Strategy and Election Monitoring. The training developed participants capacities to formulated and use non-violence strategies and tools to effectively monitor the election process. This contributed to the level of human resources and means as the disposal of staff and network for monitoring activities. The training built collaboration and channels of communication across participating organizations around a commitment to the principle of non-violence, and on how to effectively implement it in monitoring through study and reflection on the case studies of Serbia and Zimbabwe.

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V. Summary of Financial Statement

Summary of the COMFREL's financial statement in the period of January 1 to December 31, 2016:

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 2016			
No.	INCOMES	AMOUNT	%
1	Asian Network for Free Elections "ANFREL"	\$ 600.00	0%
2	Canada Embassy	\$ 11,459.00	2%
3	EU through CORD CAMBODIA	\$ 60,163.00	11%
4	National Democratic Institute "NDI"	\$ 148,061.00	26%
5	DIAKONIA	\$ 115,986.00	20%
6	Norwegian People's Aid "NPA"	\$ 57,898.00	10%
7	Open Society Institute Budapest Foundation "OSI"	\$ 100,000.00	18%
8	OXFAM	\$ 30,000.00	5%
9	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation "SDC"	\$ 40,000.00	7%
10	Interest and other income	\$ 4,710.00	1%
	TOTAL INCOMES	\$ 568,877.00	100%
No.	EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT	%
1	Core administration	\$ 99,174.00	18%
2	Lobbying and advocacy	\$ 26,140.00	5%
3	Media campaign	\$ 56,118.00	10%
4	Monitoring	\$ 67,355.00	13%
5	Gender	\$ 27,847.00	5%
6	Elections	\$ 128,601.00	24%
7	Special program/Project (NEU)	\$ 120,601.00	22%
8	Staff capacity building	\$ 557.00	0.10%
9	Equipment and furniture	\$ 3,426.00	1%
10	Quality assurance	\$ 5,483.00	1%
11	Contingency	\$ 3,088.00	1%
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 538,390.00	100%
	EXCESS/(DEFICIT) OF INCOMES OVER EXPENDITURES	\$ 30,487.00	

	FUND BALANCE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR	\$ 45,130.00	
	FUND BALANCE AT THE END OF THE YEAR	\$ 75,617.00	