Photo Album
Executive Summary

Program 1. Education for Democracy and Elections Program

Program 2: Strengthening Genuine Democratic Elections Program

Program 3. Women’s Empowerment in Politics Program

Program 4. Democratic Governance Reform Program

Program 5: Organizational Capacity Development Program
During the project implementation in 2020, COMFREL faced different difficult situations, including political pressure, and the Covid-19 epidemic. Due to the Covid-19, some activities, including debates in the provinces and monitoring the voter registration were rescheduled. However, COMFREL, its staff members, its board members, and member organizations at all levels worked flexibly to achieve its expectation based on the project plan and achieved multiple significant achievements as planned.
In 2020, COMFREL conducted 6 debates on “Principles of Democracy and genuine elections” in 6 provinces, including Kampong Chhang, Siem Reap, Kampong Cham, Banteay Meanchey, Battambang, and Kandal province. These debates were to give a chance to participants to learn about the principles of democracy and genuine elections, provide recommendations regarding genuine elections to submit to the government, political parties, CSOs, and other relevant stakeholders. It was attended by 248 participants (54.83% female) from university students, CSOs, its network, farmers and community people and 13 speakers shared about democracy in Cambodia and elections. Participants gained knowledge about civic rights, democratic principles, understanding of the mechanisms of free and fair elections, the rule of law, and the peaceful transfer of power. There were some recommendations regarding elections collected from the participants. This debate was taken as a video to serve for the VOC radio program.
Although COMFREL staff required to work at home during the Covid-19 epidemic, the radio program kept broadcasting as scheduled. 365 (225 live and 140 rebroadcast) sessions of “VOC” radio programs were hosted with a total of 499 speakers (23% female), facilitating outreach and public awareness on a multitude of issues. Also, 315 people (22% female) still called into the program to express opinions, make requests, and direct questions to the speakers. COMFREL’s radio program also contributed to this change, with a number of controversial issues being raised, particularly one that allowed uncertainty over the timing of the state of emergency.

In addition to radio programming, COMFREL has a Facebook page to disseminate information regarding society, politics, and economics. 6,589 articles on democracy, elections, and good governance and 8 press statements were released, and 19 video animation spots, including 7 from gender unit were produced and uploaded on its Facebook page. COMFREL’s Facebook page reached 31,595 ‘likes’. 52 electoral digest segments were released to its network through the mailing list. Furthermore, COMFREL also conducted a total of 7 online surveys through its page to assess the quality of its radio program, satisfaction with COMFREL video animation, the importance of the radio program, useful of COMFREL Facebook page.
1.1 Debates on Democratic Rights and Civic Duties

The debates on “Principles of Democracy and Genuine Elections” in 6 provinces
1.2. Radio program broadcast and Live on Facebook Page

COMFREL's radio programme “the Voice of Civil Society (VoC)” via FM105 Radio station, broadcasts every day from 7:30 to 8:30 am, Monday to Saturday.
1.3. Multimedia education for democracy and elections

Why do we need candidacy of female politicians?

Video Animation Spots and Online Survey
9 meetings were conducted to talk and discuss the LANGOs and findings on the audit voter list report 2019 with key stakeholders including independent analysts, technical group, NEC, CSOs. COMFREL continued to meet with its technical team and other CSOs to collect the recommendations to improve LANGOs as a controversial law. After meetings among CSOs groups, two key points were agreed together to raise to the MoI: 1) detailed discussion of the road map and submitted to the MoI to clarify the time to amend the law and 2) ask the Ministry to discuss only among the working groups that have already made the recommendations. 6 recommendations regarding the MoI’s implementation were also proposed by this technical team to the MoI in the meeting. Although it did not show any results as a formal letter, the MoI warmly welcomed the CSOs’ recommendations, and in the practice of the MoI, it showed any positive changes regarding organizational registration and local authorities’ interruption.
There were two workshops conducted related to the update of the draft access to information law and proposed amendments to LANGOs’ challenges and recommendations on LANGOs enforcement. These were attended by the CSOs, a legal consultant and legal specialist, and key stakeholders. This was to improve some articles including article 3, article 19, article 29 of access to information law. This draft law will be enforced after submitted to the National Assembly and the Senate for decision. CSOs once again strongly urged the Royal Government working group led by the MoI as the following: 1) to amend the 14 articles of LANGO which are proposed and concerned by CSOs groups. They included Article 1, Article 7, Article 8, Article 9, Article 10, Article 11, Article 20, Article 24, Article 25, Article 26, Article 30, Article 31, Article 32, and Article 35. 2) to speed up the process with a clear roadmap to finish the draft amendment law to LANGO as soon as possible. 3) to provide CSOs an opportunity to further study the content to be drafted in the draft amendments law and 4) to continue to cooperate and inclusively discuss the transparent content of the draft amendment law with CSOs in further steps till the draft law is adopted by the legislations.

For findings of audit voter list report 2019, COMFREL technical team also had a meeting with the NEC technical team to present COMFREL’s findings report on the audit voter list. As a result, the NEC acknowledged these findings and agreed to review them. The NEC representative added that technical requirements for migrant registration had been made, but the NEC was only waiting for permission. The NEC changed the procedure for collecting estimated statistics in villages, communes, Sangkat, with village chiefs and the chief of police post as collaborators.
A meeting with 10 provincial secretariats (4 female) was organized at Siem Reap province to orient the 2021 work plan COMFREL, and to discuss challenges and lessons learned over mobilizing network for joining sodality activities for electoral support. The meeting produced the result as follows: the challenges for COMFREL to mobilize its networks and participants in the meeting also share that in the past COMFREL was successful in mobilizing its networks through CSOs members, Communities, and teachers of public schools. Following the discussions, there are some possible solutions to effectively mobilize the network.
COMFREL in cooperation with PDP Center and other CSOs organized a national consultation workshop on Proposed Amendment to LANGOs, which was attended by 86 civil society organizations from 75 institutions.
A meeting with the Ministry of Interior related to law on non-governmental organizations and association
2.2 Interparty dialogue/Sodality electoral support

Meeting and training with provincial secretaries through online
2.3 Electoral Monitoring

Activities of COMFREL staff to train, to deploy and monitor the voter registration
The 2019 Voter Registration Observation and Voter List Audit Report

By 2019, 84.76% Registered Voters
26.99% newly 2019 eligible registered voters

Feb 2020
3. Women’s Empowerment in Politics Program

An annual report on Political Gender Watch, “Assembly and Female Members of Parliament and Empowerment of Female Commune/Sangkat Councilors in their performance at the Local Level,” was produced as a soft and uploaded on its Website and COMFREL’s Facebook page and the unit’s Facebook page namely “Women in Politics”. 8 key points of Recommendation were produced in the annual report. Meanwhile, a brief report was released to all media outlets. 100 copies of the annual report were printed and sent to key stakeholders including CSOs, Donors, MoWA, NEC, NCDD, Office of the Council of Ministers, Ministry of the interior, target provinces of education and gender unit, Chief of Sangkat Vilvong, Chief of Sangkat Tek Laak and Chief of Sombour Meas Commune.

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The “Women Can Do it” online/radio broadcasted 51 sessions (36 live and 16 rebroadcasts) were hosted on FM 105 and COMFREL’s online in cooperation with ADHOC, GADC, SILAKA, CIPO, CDPO, CCHR, Khlahan, and NGO-CEDAW…etc. 69 speakers (82% female and some of them have attended the program from 2 times to 6 times). 61 (26% female) and some female callers were engaged with the program many times.

Moreover, this unit conducted one survey on “women's political activists' participation in politics in Cambodia” in 2 provinces and 1 capital city; Kampong Chhnang province and Battambong province, and Phnom Penh city. The survey report will be finished by early 2021.
3.1. Advocacy and Lobbying Campaign to Demand Gender Equality

Activities of Education and Gender unit attending in important events to talk and discuss about the women’s issue and gender’s issue with key stakeholders.
3.2. Political Gender Watch

An annual Political Gender Watch Report on “Assembly and Female Members of Parliament and Empowerment of Female Commune/Sangkat Councilors in their performance at the local level” was produced by COMFREL’s staff and disseminated to stakeholders.
3.3 Survey on women political activist’s participation in politics in Cambodia
3.4. Online/ Radio call-in show ‘Women Can Do It’ broadcast and Social Media
Education and Gender Unit produced some video animation spots to promote gender equality.
Program 4. Democratic Governance Reform Program

2019 annual reports on Democracy and election reform in Cambodia, on the first year fulfillment of the political platform of the sixth mandate government, government watch, and parliamentary watch were produced and uploaded on the website. These reports were also sent to its stakeholders through the mailing list including domestic and international journalists, independent analysis, domestic and international CSOs, and Embassy and were also covered by media outlets through articles papers and discussions.

6 people forums were conducted at Banteay Meanchey, Prey Veng, Siem Reap, Kampoung Chhnang, Kompot, and Kratie province. The forums were held with 2 representatives of the commune council and about 30 participants of each one. Participants and commune representatives had a friendly dialogue and discussed the process of development and good governance implementation in their community. Participants learned about good governance.
COMFREL produced a 2019 annual report on the first year fulfillment of the political platform of the sixth mandate government and uploaded on its website.
Activity of conducting the people forums in the provinces
COMFREL produced a 2019 annual report on Parliamentary Watch and uploaded on its website.
COMFREL produced a 2018 annual report on Democracy, Elections and Reform in Cambodia. This report was uploaded on COMFREL Website.
COMFREL formed an M&E team to help the reporting officer to produce comprehensive reports with quality for the donors. There were 4 people from different units, including Education and Gender unit, Media unit, Monitoring unit, and reporting officer. Three monthly meetings were conducted at COMFREL’s office to update the activities of each unit to all staff. There were also weekly meetings of the management team to update or discuss the important issues of its project.