

COMFREL Annual Narrative Report 2010



គម្រោង COMFREL

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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's People Party
CPWP	Committee to Promote Women in Politics
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
D&D	Decentralization and De-concentration
DDWG	D&D Working Group
EMOs	Election Monitoring Organizations
FUNCINPEC Cambodia	National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperation
H.E	His Excellency
KYA	Khmer Youth Association
LICADHO	Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights
LPF	Local Public Forums
Mol	Ministry of Interior
MoWA	Ministry of Women's Affairs
MPs	Members of Parliament
NA	National Assembly
NEC	National Election Committee
NGOs	Non Governmental Organizations
PDP-Center	People Development and Peace Center
RFA	Radio Free Asia
SRP	Sam Rainsy Party
TVK	National Television of Kampuchea
UNDEF	United Nations Democracy Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
VOC	Voice of Civil Society

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 enhancing free and fair election preparation at all phases towards democratic and genuine elections within the country.

COMFREL is maintaining its best efforts and pursuing commitment with its core mission of creating informed and favorable climate for free and fair elections and meaningfulness of post-elections time. With this in mind, COMFREL is proud once again to present this annual report, consisting of ten sections and covering from October 01 to September 30, 2010 to the public, especially to our concerned stakeholders.

In whole, this report highlights seven core programs, descriptive of overall picture and activities of COMFREL in 2010. Upon one month to another, each monthly report from every section of COMFREL showed data inputs responding to yearly program with high appreciative achievements. Some impacts were noticed both at national and grassroots levels out of COMFREL's overall performance. In all, increased awareness among Cambodian people and voters every year, likewise this year 2010, 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 were always committed through thick and thin together to bring COMFREL's mission and goal into reality. Special thank goes to COMFREL Expatriate Advisor Mr. Patrick Mosolf, who provided technical assistance in commenting on and editing this English report, and 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 deep 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, namely Oxfam Novib, Forum Syd, Norwegian People's Aid, Trocaire, One World Action, European Union, UNDEF and UNDP, as well as partners from within and outside Cambodia.

Phnom Penh, 30 March 2011

KOUL Panha
Executive Director
COMFREL

I. Executive Summary

As planned, COMFREL completed all seven programs set in the project on Strengthening Citizen's Participation in Decision Making and Democratic Governance. These programs are as follow: (1) advocacy and legal study; (2) media and campaign; (3) building capacity for local network and citizen's participation in local governance; (4) monitoring and voter voice/forum; (5) civic education and gender; (6) staff capacity building and sensitization on gender, youth and HIV/AIDS as well as (7) Special Project: survey on evictee voter Registration in 2009, including those with HIV/AIDS, and re-audit of voters not registered on 2008 voter list. Below are some outcomes resulting from the implementation of these programs by all COMFREL staff and volunteers at the national, provincial and local grassroots levels at each program.

Based on COMFREL's estimation, around 20% of the recommendations in relation to drafts of the penal code, anti-corruption law, the national budget, the policy on freedom of information and creation of the election recommendations, political finance and election system which were produced and sent to the NA, the government and relevant establishments have been accepted and supported by legislators and the government. However, it has been difficult to effectively influence leaders to change the draft laws or policies. At the same time, COMFREL contributes to the reforms of the following existing laws/ draft laws:

- *Electoral Reform*: COMFREL has contributed to a small change in updating the voter registration form, as the Ministry of Interior and the NEC have formed a technical group to update the voter list and voter registration. The format of the voter list has been improved even though there is no legal reform of the election system, improvement in equal access to broadcast media and electoral tribunal/electoral dispute resolution.
- *Anti-Corruption Law*: In cooperation with other civil society organizations such as the Coalition of Integrity and Social Accountability (CISCA) and human rights organizations, COMFREL increased civil society voice and voter's voice, and contributed to pushing for the adoption of the Anti-Corruption Law in April 2010, despite some shortcomings in the final version of the law.
- *Freedom of Assembly*: COMFREL and other civil society organizations such as human rights organizations advocated for more freedom of assembly and a better law on demonstrations. The Law on Peaceful Demonstrations was ratified by the National Assembly in October 2009.
- *D&D and Sub-National Democratic Development*: A National Program for Sub-National Democratic Development 2010-2019 was adopted by the government in early 2010. Beginning in 2010, the RGC has taken steps to implement the National Program on Sub – National Democratic Development (2010-2019) to devolve more power to the local level and empower citizens to participate in sub-national democracy. However, the sub-national elections system does not reflect the objective of democratic development as the ordinary voters cannot strengthen the accountability of elected officers. Through surveys and forums, COMFREL found that the public does not have confidence in this electoral system, and citizens have asked for a system of direct elections to select the provincial, municipal, district and khan levels of the government.

COMFREL contributed to the empowerment of civil society and voters through increasing knowledge and understanding of democratic rights, responsibilities and the democratic system by its live broadcasts and re-broadcasts of its radio program called "Civil Society Voice", publication of press releases/articles, campaigning, and the COMFREL website with updated news relevant to political reform and human rights.

There has been an increase in interest in COMFREL's radio program Civil Society Voice (VOC) from civil society organizations, the Cambodians for Resource Revenue Transparency (CRRT), human rights organizations (ADHOC, LICADHO, CCHR), Cambodian Defender Project (CDP), Cambodian Economic Association (CEA) and Centre d' Etude et de Développement Agricole Cambodgien (CEDAC) as COMFREL involved their leaders in discussion on major issues such as the human rights situation, good governance, in particular administration

reform, anti-corruption, resource revenue transparency, economic land concessions, development policy and the national budget.

Some organizations such as Gender and Development for Cambodia (GAD/C), the Committee to Promote Women in Politics (CPWP) and the Cambodia Disabled People's Organization (CDPO) have requested COMFREL to extend the number of broadcasting times in order to raise more topics relevant to current issues to promote democratic messages and campaign activities. They also have asked COMFREL to allocate some of its radio programming to broadcast and disseminate their respective organization's programs.

Based on the survey report on Participation and Democratic Governance in 2009, Voice of Civil Society (VOC) radio broadcasts gain 42% of listeners, among whom 27.8% listen to these programs every day, 36.2% listen to these programs two or three times a week, another 27.5% listen occasionally and 8.5% listen once per week.

There is generally more participation of communities, including marginalized youth, women, men and minorities, in local decision making. During this fiscal year, 3,744 (1,579 female) participants, including 182 (40 female) indigenous people, 266 (125 female) youths attended COMFREL's 49 forums to freely express their views, needs, problems and requests for better local development. Forum participants are courageous to raise their concerns, needs and commune issues to be discussed and resolved during the forums. Without fear of retaliation, they openly speak their mind to seek solutions from local authorities and involved institutions.

District and commune councillors, in general, now open up space for participation in public forums and for comment in order to provide appropriate solution for the participants. They are committed to resolving people's problems in their own commune even though they are unable to deal with some high-profile issues related to land grabbing and land disputes. This year, 74 (seven female) district councilors and 124 (29 female) commune councilors participated in the forums. As a result, 37 cases (11%) raised were resolved.

COMFREL's programs such as government watch, parliamentary watch, voter benchmark workshops, and Samleng Mchas Chnaut forums (Owner of Voting Power) contributed to the increase in the accountability of elected officials' performance and fulfillment of their electoral platform promises in response to the needs of voters in each constituency.

COMFREL's articles, press releases and reports on Parliamentary and Government Watch provided citizens with significant information which they can utilize for close follow up on the work of the NA and the government whom they voted for. Reports were regularly republished in local newspapers (62 times) and quoted by radio broadcast journalists such as VOA, RFA and RFI. They are also posted on COMFREL and other website addresses, such as RFA, Everyday.com, Koh Santhepheap and frequently used by a variety of stakeholders (political parties, elected officials and civil society).

According to COMFREL's Mission Observation Checklists, the number of field visits by MPs has remarkably increased if compared to that in 2009. This year, 109 MPs (female 22) conducted field visits to constituencies for a total of 1,750 times, a 71% increase from only 1018 times in 2009 recorded by COMFREL. The greater number of MPs field visits to constituencies, the more chances local voters can raise their concerns and needs to seek solution from them.

This year, there is a better cooperation between MPs and COMFREL in recording MPs' field visits to constituencies. In the previous year, COMFREL was very difficult to gather all information relating to CPP MPs field missions to constituencies since CPP MPs were unlikely to get involved with COMFREL activities. Now, MPs are more open to collaborate with COMFREL in collecting their information.

Some most important priority sectors proposed by voters in almost all constituencies were accomplished. For example, the anti-corruption law was approved by the NA in 2010. Further, the Phnom Penh City Hall issued a directive to close pharmacies without license. Phnom Penh authorities gave pharmacy owners one-month period to complete their license forms or face closure. In addition, one case of land disputes raised in Kampong Speu's Voter Benchmark Workshop has now been resolved.

569 voters (female 182 or 30%) who took part in six forums on "Samleng Mchas Chnaut" organized by COMFREL learned how to rate the performance of their elected officials at both national and provincial levels. Most voters evaluate that most of the benchmarks were slightly and averagely accomplished. There were only a few benchmarks that most voters evaluated as fully accomplished for instance the national benchmarks such as adoption of the Anti-Corruption Law, building local roads & bridges in Kampong Speu, the government's measures against local illegal fishing and logging in Kampong Chhnang, establishment of technical training for local farmers in Siem Reap, rehabilitation of local infrastructures and recognition of fishing communities by local authorities in Kampot.

In cooperation with other CSOs, COMFREL has contributed to gender equality endorsement through increasing awareness among women and men, improving attitudes of major political parties, and enhancing the capacity of female elected officials. For instance, COMFREL's publication of education materials and its radio program on women's political participation and "Women Can Do It" have contributed to increasing awareness among women and men. Almost 70% of Cambodian citizens support the idea of both women and men becoming political leaders. Most respondents (88%) support the establishment of a law or policy on reserving seats for females as MPs or commune/sangkat councilors, according to COMFREL's survey findings on Participation and Democratic Governance in 2009.

In addition, 104 COMFREL Women Network Activists (CWNA) who have been trained by COMFREL in five provinces (Kampong Cham, Kampong Chhnang, Takeo, Kampong Thom, and Preah Vihear) are able to take local actions to promote their commune interests. They are willing to promote gender equality in their community via their non-paid activities. According to COMFREL's research findings report on Situation of Female Commune/Sangkat Councilors in Local Performance in 2010, 78.2% of women trained by COMFREL have now increased capacity to solve women's and children's issues. They motivated and educated other women in their communes to take care of their own hygiene, to have their health checked regularly, to allow their children to go to school and to motivate village chiefs, committees and associations to resolve domestic violence. They have also integrated gender equality into district programs and set up commune women's networks so as to help women and children who face difficulties.

COMFREL successfully conducted a survey on "Evictee Voter Registration in 2009, including those with HIV AIDS, and Re-Audit of Voters Not Registered on 2008 Voter List". The survey report along with recommendations was sent to political parties, the NEC and relevant establishments. There was also a reaction from elections stakeholders on the recommendations to put pressure on the NEC to establish a registration office in the villages where many evictees and people living with HIV/AIDS are living.

COMFREL's capacity as an election monitoring expert and trainer has been internationally recognized. For instance, COMFREL's Executive Director and other officers were invited to help train civil society members and trainers for election observers during preparation for the Afghanistan parliamentary elections and Burma elections in 2010.

Although some problems arose during the project implementation, COMFREL was still able to manage those problems and successfully proceed with the completion of planned activities following the existing plan. In addition, COMFREL also gained some lessons from the project implementation. These lessons will play a significant role in guiding COMFREL toward its goal for the implementation of next year activities.

II. Specific Objectives

1. **Advocacy and Legal Study (ALS):** To increase civil society input into and influence on the development of the policies and the legal frameworks related to political reforms and democratic governance that comply with sound human rights and democratic principles.
2. **Media and Campaign (MAC):** To intensify campaigning and gather support from the public, especially through the media, in advocating for electoral and political reforms in particular good governance, and D&D.
3. **Building Capacity for Local Network and Citizen's Participation in Local Governance:** **To increase civic engagement with elected officials in the decision-making process and local governance.**
4. **Monitoring and Voter Voice (MVV):** To increase transparency in the performance of national elected officials and ensure fulfillments of the electoral platform.
5. **Civic Education and Gender (CEG):** To increase awareness among women and men, improved attitudes of political parties, and enhance capacity of female elected officials
6. **Staff Capacity Building and Sensitization on Gender, Youth, and HIV/Aids:** To strengthen capacity and system of the internal organization through capacity building of staff and sensitization on gender, HIV/AIDS and youth.
7. **Special Project: Survey Report on Evictee Voter Registration in 2009, Including those with HIV AIDS, and Re-Audit of Voters Not Registered on 2008 Voter List:** To conduct a survey on Voter Registration and Eligible Voters with HIV/AIDs and force eviction which contributes to help to safeguard the rights of Cambodian voters

III. Completed Activities

III.1. Advocacy and Lobbying/Legal Study

III.1.1. Monitoring of Draft Regulations/Laws (MDR)

As one of the most important parts of its activities to promote democracy and governance in Cambodia, COMFREL conducts advocacy and campaign activities with relevant stakeholders to influence them to make decisions which will favor the proper functioning of electoral system.

COMFREL Advocacy, Monitoring and Media Units participated in 45 meetings, eight conferences and 17 workshops organized by civil society organizations to monitor and discuss draft laws by encouraging debates and providing comments on statements as well as draft laws/policies as listed below:

- Election reform
- National Program For Sub-National Democratic Development 2010-2019
- Draft NGO law
- Draft National Budget Law
- Law on Peaceful Demonstrations
- Policy on Freedom of Information
- National Strategic Development Plan 2009-2013 (NSDP)
- Preparation for NGO statement to the Government Donor Coordinating Meeting (GDCC)
- Position Paper to 3rd Cambodia Development Cooperation Forum (CDCF)
- Anti-Corruption Law

III.1.2. Developing Draft Recommendations (DDR)

COMFREL has been working to prepare advice to the Cambodian government and other stakeholders on the following recommendations on the existing laws, draft laws and policies:

(a) Election Reform

COMFREL prepared some prioritized recommendations for reform, to be used in advocacy and lobbying with donors, members of the NA, the government and major political parties as follows:

- There should be a law on political party finance delineating disbursement of funds to the benefiting political parties. Funds would be distributed according to proportion of the vote received, and is intended to increase transparency of the budget used in election campaigns.
- The legal framework for media should be strengthened to ensure compliance with equal and equitable principles and balance of information for election competition of all political parties.
- To promote women's' participation, a minimum quota of 30% should be adopted by all government institutions and should be included in membership regulations of all political parties, which must be achieved by next year.
- To reform the electoral system, it is recommended to implement a mixed system which allows independent/individual candidates as well as political parties (using party lists) to run for posts at all levels of the government.
- The government should change the system of election of the new Provincial/ Municipal and District/ Khan councils so that the Cambodian citizenry directly elect these councils, rather than being elected by the existing commune councils.

In April 2010, COMFREL submitted five recommendations related to voter list checking and voter registration to the Technical Working Group (TWG) of the Ministry of Interior (MoI) and the National Election Committee (NEC) during a seminar on "Voter Registration, Revision of Voter Lists, and Identification Documents".

(b) Freedom of Expression, Information, and Assembly

COMFREL's Media Unit and Legal Officer have been assigned to participate in and follow up on activities of the Alliance for Freedom of Expression in Cambodia and the working group of freedom of information. COMFREL is a member of a coalition of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) coordinated by the Cambodia Center for Human Rights (CCHR), which produced a report entitled "Freedom of Expression in Cambodia: Cambodia Gagged: Democracy at Risk?" in September 2010. The report was released on the eve of International Day of Democracy–15 September 2010. The main recommendations are as follows:

- The government should decriminalise disinformation and defamation, and the provisions in the Penal Code are interpreted in line with international standards on freedom of expression.
- The government and local authorities should be committed to ensuring that journalists and others in the media are not intimidated or threatened whilst exercising their profession and their fundamental right to freedom of expression.
- The government should improve access to television and radio broadcasts available to the opposition, or opposition viewpoints
- The government should cease making charges against opposition MPs, journalists, human rights defenders and villagers on grounds of defamation and other charges, in order to ensure that they are able to freely criticize and challenge the government and the ruling party as is their right and duty.
- In order to improve the function of the National Assembly, the internal rules and statutes of the parliament need to be reformed to allow all parties to speak during the NA's sessions and to remove clauses which enable prosecution of MPs for expressing opinions in the conduct of their duty as MPs.
- The government should improve the 2005 guidelines of the Ministry of Interior and develop clear guidelines/laws on peaceful demonstration, which are communicated to law enforcement officials and local authorities, so that they respect the right to assembly in line with international standards, and

inform law enforcement personnel and local authorities at all levels of their obligations to respect and protect human rights

(c) Anti-Corruption Law

In cooperation with other civil society organizations such as the Coalition of Integrity and Social Accountability (CISCA) and human rights organizations, COMFREL enhanced the civil society voice through its radio program and voter's voice through forums, pushing for the adoption of the Anti-Corruption Law in April 2010. Recommendations were created to ensure the political independence of the Anti-Corruption Body. The law also shall provide physical and legal protection of the individuals seeking to come forward with information about corruption, and require public servants to disclose their wealth and assets.

(d) Political Campaign Finance

COMFREL produced and distributed a book on Political Campaign Finance consisting of laws on Political Campaign Finance, and reports on Political Campaign Finance and case studies from other countries, namely Afghanistan, Indonesia, Canada, France, England and USA to political parties and electoral stakeholders. These laws and cases will be used to compare to the Cambodian situation and inform the debate about such rules and regulations here. COMFREL also drafted two letters of recommendations on creating a law on Political Campaign Finance and Public Subsidies for Political Parties based on Article 28 of the Law on Political Parties.

(e) National Budget Law

In cooperation with experts of Cambodian Economic Association and leaders of human rights NGOs, COMFREL conducted two roundtable discussions on 2010 draft budget laws which were broadcast through the "Voice of Civil Society"- COMFREL's radio program. COMFREL Executive Director was invited to be a Facilitator in the Briefing Workshop on "the 2010 Budget: Transparency and Poverty Reduction" organized by the NGO Forum in Cambodia on 28 November 2009 at the Imperial Garden Hotel. The main recommendations and comments from these roundtable discussions and workshops suggested the government and members of the National Assembly to increase revenues through effective implementation of good governance reform and more budget allocation for education, health, agriculture and local elected councils, in particular commune councils.

(f) D&D Reform and Sub National Democratic Development

COMFREL's Network Unit has followed up on civil society activities related to D&D and participated in a consultation workshop on the National Program for Sub-National Democratic Development conducted by the Ministry of Interior. COMFREL keeps its recommendations that the government should change the system of election of the new provincial, municipal, district, khan councils so that the Cambodian citizenry directly elects these councils, rather than being elected by the existing commune councils. The indirect elections in Cambodia do not ensure the accountability of the elected officials, the right of Cambodian citizens to choose their representative is not fulfilled in these elections. The government should reform the electoral system in particular commune council elections, implementing a mixed system which allows independent candidates and/or individual candidates as well as political parties to run for posts at all levels of the government. An effective mechanism to make commune performance transparent is to create more space for citizens to be involved and monitor performance. Citizens also need basic civic education so as to allow them to participate freely in access to public information and government affairs.

III.1.3. Seminars and Press Conferences (SPC)

COMFREL held two workshops and one national workshop about participation and democratic governance, political campaign finance and political empowerment of women and gender policy for political parties and commune councils. The events are described in more detail below:

- 26/01/2010: COMFREL's Advocacy Unit in cooperation with the Monitoring and other units launched a workshop on Participation and Democratic Governance at the Sunway Hotel with a total of 93 (25 female) participants including two parliamentarians, community representatives from all provinces, two ambassadors, five political parties and 19 NGOs.



COMFREL's Workshop on Participation and Democratic Governance on January 26, 2010 at Sunway Hotel

It was presided over by two members of COMFREL's board of directors, COMFREL executive committee, UNDP representative and an independent analyst. The workshop highlighted four important topics: the survey finding report on 'Participation and Democratic Governance', provision on Democratic Governance, guideline on 'public consultation' and the report on COMFREL's 24 Voter Benchmark Workshops. The participants got awareness of the importance of their participation in observing MPs' performance at all levels and had chances to build good relationship with MPs and to raise problems for solutions from MPs.

- 26/5/2010: COMFREL held a seminar on Political Campaign Finance at the Imperial Garden Hotel with a total of 50 participants from all elected political parties, INGOs and NGOs. Speakers are members of the National Assembly and Secretary of State), a representative of the French Embassy, and a Country Director of International Foundation for Electoral System (IFES). The seminar aimed to understand political campaign finance and discuss / explore different possibilities or advocacy strategies for the creation of a new law on Political Campaign Finance or making amendments to the existing election law or regulations.



In the seminar, all elected political party representatives fully support and agree to create a law on Political Campaign Finance.

- To have information and understand the situation related to Women's Political Empowerment and Gender Policy for Political Parties and Commune Councils, COMFREL's Education and Gender Unit in cooperation with its Media, Monitoring, and Network Units and Advocacy Officer conducted a study with five elected parties and the Department of Local Administration (DOLA) at the Ministry of Interior. Then on September 14th, 2010, in cooperation with the Committee to Promote Women in Politics (CPWP) and Gender and Development for Cambodia Organization (GAD/C), COMFREL education and advocacy units launched a national workshop on "Political Empowerment of Women and Gender Policy for Political Parties and Commune Councils" at the Cambodiana Hotel with a total of 98 participants (female 59) who were representatives from the five elected political parties, the Ministry of Interior, national and international NGOs and media outlets.



A national workshop on "Political Empowerment of Women and Gender Policy for Political Parties and Commune Councils" on September 14, 2010

Three main objectives of this conference were as follows:

- Increase the participants' awareness of the political empowerment of women and the need for the development of a gender policy in government and political parties;
- Push for a campaign to create an action plan or gender policy for political parties and commune councils; and
- Promote an action plan or gender policy within political parties and commune councils through recommendations from the conference.

As a result, based on COMFREL's self assessment and small/big group discussion in the workshop, all five elected political parties and the Ministry of Interior (local administrative department) fully accepted and agreed with the creation of a "Gender policy for political parties and commune/sangkat councils" to promote gender equality in political and social affairs, and particularly to motivate and empower women in politics at all levels.

After the workshop, COMFREL noticed that the National commune council league started compiling gender policy for commune/sangkat councils. Additionally, a FUNCINPEC representative showed their full support for the determination of a 30% quota for women, according to a report on a three-day consultative meeting from September 6th to 9th, 2010. Meanwhile, the government plans to conduct a National Forum on "the Promotion of Women's Participation in Decision-Making at the Sub-National Level in November 2010 at the Inter-Continental Hotel. The participants in the forum will be encouraged to call for an increase in the number of women to be elected in the 2012 Commune Council Election and 2013 National Assembly Election.

III.2. Media and Campaign

III.2.1. Neak Kloam Meul Bulletin

During 2010, COMFREL produced four volumes of the Neak Kloam Meul Bulletin numbered 40, 41, 42 and 43. 16,000 copies of them (4,000 each) were produced and distributed to COMFREL's local networks, NGOs and International Organizations, government agencies, libraries, embassies, and local residents during COMFREL's local public forums. The four volumes were distributed to a total of 14,832 people (female 27%) as detailed in the table below.

<i>Target groups reached by the NKM Bulletin</i>	F (%)	M (%)	Subtotal
COMFREL's Local Network activists	30	70	9,200
NGOs/civil society	30	70	3,180
Government officials and Embassies	20	80	2,452
Others (guests, students, for filing purposes...)			1,168
Total			16,000

The bulletin mainly covers some main issues as follows:

- Checking of the voter list and voter registration 2009
- Election experiences from the U.S, Afghanistan and Indonesia
- Women and politics
- Obstacles in the legislative process and policy making
- Introduction to political finance
- Parts of COMFREL's Parliamentary Watch report (published independently)
- Survey report findings on citizen's participation and COMFREL's Voter Benchmark workshops
- COMFREL's 2009 report advocating for democratic reform: Cambodia democracy, elections and reform
- Introduction to political campaign finance
- Case studies on political party funding and political corruption in East Asia from Japan, South Korea and Taiwan

Articles and Publications

COMFREL produced and released 36 press releases with regard to the Anti-Corruption Law, 3rd anniversary of the International Day of Democracy, announcement on COMFREL's TV education spot, radio broadcasting schedule, "Impact of Political Conflict in 2012", results of Voter Evaluation of Elected Officials' Performance toward Benchmarks, the announcement of local public forums and COMFREL's Local Watchdog Award program.



Most of COMFREL's articles and press releases are regularly republished in local newspapers.

III.2.3. 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”

COMFREL continues to organize and broadcast a coordinated program, “the Voice of Civil Society” on the radio. The program is a 60-minute radio broadcast aired from Monday to Sunday mornings from 7:30 to 8:30 am (aired live from Monday to Saturday and rebroadcast on Sunday) on FM105, and FM90 in Phnom Penh, relayed to FM 90.25 in Battambang and FM 88.5 in Kampong Thom, and rebroadcast in FM 95.5 in Siem Reap. Including live and re-broadcast shows, the VoCS program went on air a total of 1,383 times with 485 guest speakers (female 107) who are NGO presidents and directors as well as 970 callers (female 67), of which 117 were new callers. Its radio programs continue to reach a large audience of people, since radio is the form of media most commonly used by Khmer people. The total audience of all five radio stations is estimated to be 6 million, of which 42% listen to COMFREL’s radio show (finding from COMFREL’s VRA survey), meaning that COMFREL reached approximately 2.5 million people through its radio shows.



Women Can Do It radio program is broadcast every Tuesday from 7:30 to 8:30 am with female guest speakers from various NGOs and involved establishments.

Note: The broadcasting on FM90, 88.5, and FM90.25 is a relayed broadcast from FM105. It is a one-hour program every Monday to Friday from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.

COMFREL also recorded roundtable discussions on special subjects, including five episodes about the Khmer Rouge Tribunal in response to a request from ADHOC, and three roundtable discussions on the draft Penal Code. Then these three roundtable discussions were broadcast on the radio. In addition to the radio media, COMFREL continues to operate and update its website, which has developed to become a major source of information and knowledge. Almost all COMFREL documents, bulletins, reports, press releases, etc., are released on its website, in addition to other more traditional forms of media. The website (along with many of the documents cited in this report) can be viewed at www.comfrel.org.

III.3. Building Capacity for Local Networks and Citizen's Participation in Local Governance

III.3.1. Training for provincial secretaries, local activists and watchdogs

COMFREL operates an extensive local network which performs various duties as part of COMFREL's continuing efforts to promote democracy and citizen's participation. The network includes a provincial secretary, a district contact person, local level activists and local watchdogs, and extends to 23 provinces and the capital.

- Production of the training manual

COMFREL's Network Unit produced the 1st step training manual and 2nd step training manual for its local networks (district contact persons, commune activists and local watchdogs). The 1st step-training manual contains modules about sub-national administrative management, decentralization, de-concentration, good governance, citizens' participation, gender and local actions (local public forums, follow-up forums, meetings between forum groups and commune councils and the award program). Further, the 2nd step training manual is composed of four chapters: local grassroots advocacy, extracted National Program for Sub-National Democratic Development, commune/sangkat finance management and report writing.

- Publication and distribution of training manuals

200 copies of the 1st step training manual were published and distributed to COMFREL local network members who attended the two-day training in Phnom Penh.

- Training

COMFREL's Network Unit conducted four two-day trainings including both the 1st step training and 2nd step training manual for its 118 local network members (female 34) at the National Pediatric Hospital from November 24th to 25th 2009, 18 to 19 March 2010, 27 to 28 May and 22 to 23 September, 2010, respectively. The training aimed to strengthen the capacity of COMFREL networks nationwide, enhance social development and follow up on commune council performance. See the table below for different groups of participants.

Target groups	Number of participants		Sub total
	Male	Female	
District contact persons	23	7	30
Commune activists	40	15	55
Local watchdogs	21	12	33
Total	84	34	118

To facilitate the four trainings above, COMFREL invited 11 master trainers to be resource persons leading the training and coaching the participants. Methods used by the resource persons were as follows: (1) warm-up by trainers to get participants involved; (2) brainstorming (giving participants a topic/picture and ask them to discuss,

share and define definition/themes); (3) lecture (presentation on theories and experiences relevant to each module); (4) questions and role playing by participants; (5) reflection on practical exercise and theories; and (6) TV spot on citizens' rights in participating in and evaluating the commune council performance (showing a TV spot then asking them to share their points of view about the TV spot message).



A training on "Advocacy and Network Mobilization" for COMFREL's local network members is presented by COMFREL's Media Coordinator on 19 March 2010 at the National Pediatric Hospital.

Two tests (pre-test and post-test) were used to measure their knowledge of the training material before and after the training. Through the two tests, COMFREL determined that the participants are now more aware of the training subjects after completing these trainings. Based on the results of the two tests, their knowledge has increased by 12% from 54% measured by the pre-test to 66 % measured by the post-test.

After the trainings, the training participants were assigned to seek information in relation to their own commune budget by filling in COMFREL's Commune Budget Checklist and sending it back to the COMFREL headquarters. This assignment was relevant to one of the training schemes on commune budget monitoring and it aimed to guide those trained local network members to applied their skill and knowledge acquired during the training into monitoring their respective commune council's performance and the commune budget. According to a phone interview with three participants who attended one of the trainings above, they were aware of the training contents though they faced some difficulties in getting accustomed to some key terms related to National Program for Sub-National Democratic Development and Advocacy. After filling in the Commune Budget Checklist, the three noted that they had no problem with the checklist, but they did have a communication problem with local authorities when asking for commune budget information because their respective commune chief told them to get the information from their own commune clerks who required them to have a mission letter from COMFREL's head office before they could get an interview with those clerks.

III.3.2. Follow-up meetings

COMFREL's Network Unit conducted two follow-up meetings with its 23 (10 female) provincial secretaries at COMFREL's office on January 27th and 23 to 24 August 2010, respectively. The meetings aimed at gathering the provincial secretaries to report the current situation taking place in their respective provinces and problems they had encountered when implementing their assigned task as COMFREL's provincial secretaries. In the meeting, COMFREL also informed them about their new plan and activities. The meetings covered three points as follows:

- Reports from provincial/municipal secretaries: The reports included the completed activities, the general situation in each province, and reflection on previous local forum organization. Provincial secretaries stated that they faced some difficulties in getting local authorities' permission in their competent area. Further, questionnaires of pre and post tests were so long and difficult to get the meaning cross; that's why some participants were passive and made no question to ask the guest speakers. To make the pre and post tests simple and easy to be completed by forum participants, the Local Public Forum Officer reduced the number of questions on those tests and told provincial secretaries to assist forum participants who have difficulty filling in the tests by explaining the meaning of the questions to them before letting them provide their answer.
- The Network Unit's plan and activities: This unit's plan and activities include local forums between commune councils, district councils and citizens, women's forums and capacity building for COMFREL's provincial secretaries.
- The Plan of the Monitoring Unit: It was a report on the general situation in Cambodia and the results of Parliamentary Watch. The unit instructed provincial/municipal secretaries in how to use internet and email.

III.3.3. Local Public Forums

COMFREL recognizes the value of local level governance, and the importance of encouraging and reinforcing citizen participation in commune level governance. As a result, COMFREL in 2010 implemented numerous local public forums which involved both local citizens and various local government figures, especially district and commune councilors. COMFREL facilitates interaction between the people and their elected representatives, and builds citizen confidence through the process.

COMFREL conducted 49 local public forums on "District & Commune Councils and Citizens" in all provinces across the country with 3,744 (1,579 female) participants, including 288 (36) local elected officials who are district councilors and commune councilors. The forums strengthen the interrelation between elected officials and residents and provide more opportunities to local residents to meet their commune councilors to raise current issues/needs faced by local residents and seek for solutions together. Forum participants are also informed of promises or new plans made by commune councilors in these meetings.

The table below shows the details of the locations, dates and number of participants in each local forum.

No	Date	Commune	Province	Number of participants		Sub total
				Male	Female	
1	13/11/2009	Sen Monorom	Mondolkiri	31	27	58
2	11/12/2009	Krong Tes		32	32	64
3	12/03/2010	Romnea		52	36	88
4	03/05/2010	Sre Ompoun		51	34	85
5	17/09/2010	Sokdum		27	53	80
6	17/02/2010	Tropeng Prey	Oddar Meanchey	26	64	90
7	09/06/2010	Ampil		43	18	61
8	31/08/2010	Tropeng Tav		53	39	92
9	22/02/2010	Sandan	Kampong Thom	30	35	65
10	24/02/2010	Otavau	Pailin	40	52	92
11	25/02/2010	Porpeil	Kampong Chhnang	32	31	63
12	18/03/2010	Kampong Harv		51	79	130

13	10/03/2010	Peam Ror	Prey Veng	48	22	70
14	19/05/2010	Prey Pnau		51	21	72
15	17/03/2010	Koki Som	Svay Rieng	48	35	83
16	06/04/2010	Chrey Thom		52	28	80
17	30/08/2010	Tasous		57	23	80
18	19/03/2010	Prey Sor	Phnom Penh	48	22	70
19	24/03/2010	Soeurng	Rattanakiri	52	10	62
20	10/04/2010	Ta Lao		26	42	68
21	23/03/2010	Pneanch	Kampong Speu	61	19	80
22	25/06/2010	Tuol Ampil		58	31	89
23	24/09/2010	TangSya		51	14	65
24	25/03/2010	Prey Nob	Sihanoukville	46	16	62
25	29/03/2010	Komphuon	Stung Treng	37	43	80
26	02/04/2010	Tropeng ROUNG	Koh Kong	29	41	70
27	22/07/2010	Dong Tong		38	39	77
28	21/09/2010	Stung Veng		20	55	75
29	05/04/2010	Tmor Andoek	Kratie	37	32	69
30	10/06/2010	Kampong Kor		33	35	68
31	06/04/2010	Phnom Dey	Banteay Meanchey	73	26	99
32	04/06/2010	Slor Kram		38	44	82
33	09/07/2010	Roharl		51	18	69
34	09/04/2010	Ro Ang	Kampong Cham	46	53	99
35	23/04/2010	Reul	Siem Reap	41	33	74
36	21/05/2010	Sam Roang		47	23	70
37	26/04/2010	Trea	Takeo	54	21	75
38	27/08/2010	Kvav		50	23	73
39	12/05/2010	Takream	Battambang	57	9	66
40	10/06/2010	Bansay Treng		46	30	76
41	16/07/2010	Prey Touch		44	34	78
42	26/05/2010	Ponhea Pon	Kandal	45	27	72
43	22/07/2010	Kan Dauch		56	27	83
44	31/08/2010	Prek Roka		35	46	81
45	25/06/2010	Tnout Chom	Pursat	39	23	62
46	28/06/2010	Boeng Sala Kang Tboung	Kampot	69	11	80
47	29/07/2010	Boeung Touk		27	43	70
48	21/09/2010	Tropeng Preing		47	32	79
49	08/07/2010	Cham Reun	Preah Vihear	40	28	68
Total				2,165	1,579	3,744

And the following table shows different groups of participants in the 49 forums above.

Target groups	Number of participants		Sub total
	Male	Female	
District councilors	67	7	74
Commune councilors	185	29	214
Local police chiefs	51	0	51
Village chiefs and members	297	36	333
Citizens	988	945	1,933
NGO representatives	40	12	52
Ethnic minorities	142	40	182
Youth group members (aged 18 to 30)	141	125	266
COMFREL network members	254	385	639
Total	2,165	1,579	3,744

In the forums, 452 (160 female) of the participants, approximately 12% of the total participants, raised 320 issues with regards to seven main issues: infrastructure, public security and order, land dispute resolution, local governance, women and children's issues, natural resource management, and education. Among all the 320 issues raised, 37 cases (11%) were resolved, 127 (40%) were clarified, 76 (24%) were promised to be resolved and the other 80 cases (25%) were unable to be resolved since those issues required intervention from the higher level than district/commune councilors. Most of the cases have been clarified by the invited district and commune councilors.



More local citizens, women in particular, participate in and raise their issues to seek solutions from district, commune councils during COMFREL-organized local public forums in 2010.

Note: The invited commune councilors could not take any concrete action at their level on the unresolved cases, or the big issues. Nonetheless, they said they would bring those cases to the higher levels, especially to district and provincial levels in order to seek intervention.

Some issues raised in COMFREL's forums were widely broadcast by media outlets in order to make the issues better heard. For instance, the concern about extinction of Cambodia fish species in Tonle Sap Great Lake raised by 130 forum participants in Kampong Chhnang province's Kampong Harv commune was further broadcast by Radio Free Asia in order to disseminate the information to Cambodian people and involved institutions, in particular the government.



A local resident is raising his commune current issues to find responses from seven invited guest speakers (two district councilors and five commune councilors) during COMFREL's local public forum between District/Commune Councilors and Residents on 25 June 2010 in To Tuol Ampil commune of Kampong Speu's Borseith district with a total of 85 participants (female 33).

Later on, some cases were gradually resolved by commune councilors, such as one case in Banteay Meanchey's Banteay Neang commune where COMFREL Commune Activist observed that his commune chief built a road and dug a canal following his promises to local citizens during a COMFREL forum. In addition, there was good cooperation between the commune councilors and local authorities in cracking down on illegal fishing and preventing local domestic violence.

Below are some selected cases with high prevalence raised by participants and then resolved, clarified, or promised to be resolved later by the invited district and commune councilors:

- o Infrastructure: Participants attending the forum held in Chambok Koang village, Tasuos commune of Svay Rieng's Svay Chom district requested the commune councilors to reconstruct three lines of commune roads crossing Boeung Bondeng village, Krok village, Trobek Prohong village and Tasous Pagoda. In response to the request, Mr. Keo Chhit, one of the commune councilors in the forum, said that the commune had already planned to construct the three lines of roads requested. The road reconstruction would commence in November, but the commune could only rehabilitate a commune road which is 1,800 meters long crossing the three villages due to commune budget limitation. He added that the remaining two roads would be reconstructed in the next year with financial support from the commune budget and people's contribution.

Further, Residents in Prek Roka commune, Kandal province's Kandal Stung district requested the commune chief to rehabilitate Orbeng Major channel in the commune since there is not adequate water in the channel. As a result, farmers cannot pump water into their respective rice fields. In response to this issue, the invited commune chief said that he had received the request several times but the problem is that the channel is shallow and its length is short. To resolve this problem, he suggested the village chief to make a precise plan for him and he would do his best to deal with it for the people. However, this issue could not be handled

at that time as the water was rising. But the commune chief promised to restore the channel during the dry season next year.

- Public security and disorder: Most of the public security issues were about minor offenses: theft, gambling, drinking and talking loudly which disturbed the neighbors. The councilors suggested people to either call the police or report the cases of the aforementioned problems to the commune office by precisely writing the date and location. The authorities would take concrete actions against such offences to bring safety and public order back.
- Land dispute resolution: Forum participants in Sandan commune suggested the councilors to resolve a problem related to a 30x70 meter, public plot of land in Bachey village, a former public hall space, which has now been illegally occupied by three families. They want the commune councilors to take the land back from the three families since they need the land to building a public hall or to construct a state school for their children. The commune councilors said that they had already heard about this issue, but until then there had been no complaint made by local people yet. Thus, the councilors asked local people to submit a complaint with their own thumbprint to the commune office first, then the authorities would take legal action against the illegal public land occupation.
- Local governance: Participants in the local public forum held in Samrong commune of Siem Reap province's Sout Nikom district asked their respective commune councilors to clarify the amount of money to be paid for the issuance of a marriage certificate, birth certificate, land title, land occupation certificate with the purpose of selling or buying, and other legal instruments approved by the commune. The commune councilors responded that there is no requirement to get fees from ordinary people when they asked for the issuance of the things described above. The amount of money to be given to the commune councilors solely depends on people's kindness. The councilors would accept any money given by them.
- Women and children's issues: Domestic violence is still a big issue among people living in rural areas, in particular the poor. Most participants requested their respective commune councilors to train people on how to handle conflict/domestic violence and to disseminate the disadvantages of violence to all Cambodian people across the country. Most of the commune councilors who attended the forums said the commune had no budget to cover trainings and information dissemination. However, they called for local and international NGOs to educate people about the impact of violence and to seek more funds to support any project that aims to reduce the percentage of domestic violence in Cambodia.
- Natural resource management: Illegal fishing is a fiery issue among people living around Tonle Sap Great Lake, particularly those in Kampong Chhnang province. These villagers are seriously concerned about the extinction of Cambodian fish species, thought to be caused by the harmful fishing practices of Vietnamese fishermen and collusion between businessmen and the local authorities. With that concern, all 130 forum participants in Kampong Chhnang province's Kampong Harv commune asked their commune councilors to take immediate action against illegal fishing practices; otherwise, some fish species will become extinct and the people's livelihood will be affected. A commune chief and the district council chief of Kampong Leng district suggested that local people lodge a complaint and submit their own thumbprint to local authorities to seek a solution. They promised to minimize illegal fishing cases next year by cooperating with local authorities to seize illegal fishing tools and arrest wrong-doers. This case was also broadcast by Radio Free Asia to disseminate the issue to involved institutions, in particular the government.

Residents in Boeung Touk commune, Toek Chhou district, Kampot province asked if the commune councilors had taken any immediate measures against fishing crimes with illegal fishing tools in Kep Thmey village, Toteng Tngay village and Roluos village. With regards to this case, the invited commune councilor

explained that in order to successfully resolve this case, people themselves had to report the illegal fishing case to the community. Then the community would forward the case to the village, the police station and the commune. After receiving the complaint, the commune would resolve the case for them.

- Education: Forum participants in Kampong Speu province suggested their commune councilors to seek ways of dealing with the problem that students are required to give their teachers some money even though they are studying during their normal class hours. Their commune councilors explained that they had already discussed this issue with school principals in the commune and had taken action against it. On the 19th of each month, the commune councilors hold a meeting with school principals and state teachers to listen to the schools' current issues, to find solutions and remind the teachers of the code of ethics for state teachers.

- Selection of COMFREL local watchdogs

After the forums, 92 (43 female) of the 452 outspoken participants were selected as COMFREL's local watchdogs whose assigned task is to observe the fulfillment of promises and performance made by their respective commune councilors.

- Women Can Do It Forums (WCDI Forum)

In cooperation with Education and Gender Unit, COMFREL's Network Unit conducted five public forums on Women Can Do It in which district councilors and commune councils could meet with their local people to discuss and resolve current issues arising in their own commune in five provinces with a total of 305 participants (female 256). The three main objectives of the forums were as follows:

- To increase people's awareness of the importance of equal participation between men and women in political and social affairs;
- To inform them about their commune council's promises and new commune development plans in response to resolving issues faced by women and children; and
- To provide local residents with more chances to raise concerns over women's and children's issues.



A forum on "Women Can Do It" held in Orrusei Commune of Kampong Chhnang province on September 25, 2010 with 64 participants, 56 of whom are women

The table below shows the details of locations, dates and the number of participants.

No	Date	Commune	Province	Number of participants		Sub total
				Male	Female	
1	31-08-2010	Sala Visay	Kampong Thom	7	49	56
2	09-09-2010	Robiet	Preah Vihear	8	53	61
3	24-09-2010	Ampil	Kampong Cham	6	55	61
4	25-09-2010	Romench	Takeo	20	43	63
5	25-09-2010	Orrussei	Kampong Chhnang	8	56	64
Total				49	256	305

And the following table shows different groups of participants in the five forums above.

Target groups	M	F	Total
Commune councilors	4	10	14
District councilors	0	9	9
Public services	1	14	15
Village chiefs/ deputy/ members	4	42	46
Citizens	35	120	155
Political party representatives	0	12	12
Religious leaders	0	1	1
COMFREL networks	1	14	15
Youth groups	2	3	5
CBOs	0	2	2
Commune chief/ deputy	2	0	2
Political party activists	0	12	12
Women's movement/network/ focal points of commune	0	14	14
Deputy governor of districts	0	2	2
Lawyer	0	1	1
Total	49	256	305

In the forums, COMFREL found some main obstacles preventing women from participating in social affairs and developments. Those obstacles included:

- Domestic violence
- Hygiene and sanitation
- Women and children trafficking
- illiterate or limited knowledge of housewife which result in being insulted by their respective husband
- Most of housewives lack legal knowledge; as a result, they are easily cheated by ring leaders who exploit their labor force

Having found these obstacles, all female participants in the five forums make the following requests to the government, elected officers, NGOs and INGOs:

- Provide job opportunities to all Cambodian people in order that the corruption can be alleviated.
- Help develop better communes.
- Disseminate legal framework and laws to all people, in particular women nationwide.

- Take strict measure to strengthen law enforcement and the judicial court against women and children trafficking and illegal transmission of women to abroad.
- Provide more fund to build health care institution for orphans.

III.3.4. Follow-up Dialogue and Establishment of Local Forum Group

- Establishment of local forum groups

In order to follow up on the work of the local public forums in more detail, COMFREL established five local forum groups in five different provinces (Kampong Thom, Prey Veng, Mondolkiri, Battambang and Kampong Cham). Each local forum group is composed of four members: a district contact person, a commune activist and two local watchdogs. The local forum groups conducted some actions at the local level, including observing the fulfillment of promises by commune councilors after the public forum conducted by COMFREL, observing commune council meetings, interviewing local people and commune councilors about local governance, and organizing special meetings with the commune councils in order to resolve major problems.

- Follow up on Local Public Forums

COMFREL's local forum groups held 10 follow-up local public forums in 10 communes of 10 different provinces with a total of 501 participants (female 137) as listed in the table below:

No.	Date	Commune	Province	Number of participants		Sub total
				Male	Female	
1	22/03/2010	Boeung Bot Kandal	Pursat	33	14	47
2	24/03/2010	Cha Chhouk	Siem Reap	26	11	37
3	23/04/2010	Samrong Ler	Kandal	33	16	49
4	19/05/2010	Banteay Breal	Kampong Chhnang	34	11	45
5	19/05/2010	Steng Trong	Pailin	25	16	41
6	08/06/2010	San Monorom	Mondolkiri	24	16	40
7	24/06/2010	Sre Krosang	Stung Treng	22	15	37
8	18/07/2010	Tropeng Russei	Kampong Thom	22	9	31
9	19/07/2010	Phnom Kok	Rattanakiri	111	9	120
10	22/07/2010	Bit Trang	Sihanoukville	34	20	54
Total				364	137	501

The table below shows the number of participants in the above-mentioned follow-up forums.

Target groups	Number of participants		Sub total
	Male	Female	
District councilors	7	0	7
Commune councilors	34	7	41
Village chiefs	43	1	44
Local police officers	9	0	9
Local citizens	111	92	203
COMFREL networks	41	7	48
Minority groups	102	21	123
Civil Society representatives	3	4	7
Youths aged from 18 to 30	14	5	19
Total	364	137	501



Citizens have chances to assess thier respective district and commune councils' performance toward their promises in the previous local public forums through COMFREL-organized follow-up forums.

There were 54 cases raised, of which one case (1.9%) was resolved, 13 cases (24.1%) were clarified, 16 (29.6%) were promised to be resolved and the other 24 cases (44.4%) remain unresolved. After the follow-up forums, COMFREL's Network Unit produced a case on indigenous people who are at risk of losing land, and are demanding an immediate resolution from authorities in Rattanakiri province.



45 (11 female) local citizen participate in a follow-up forum between District, Commune Councils and Citizens on May 19, 2010 in Banteay Preal commune of Kampong Chhnang province to see if their concerns/requests raised during the previous forum have been resolved by the district and commune councilors.

After the forums, COMFREL noticed new improvements in some of the communes where COMFREL had organized the forums. For example, in Boeung Bot Kandal commune of Pursat province, councilors fulfilled their promises and took some actions to develop the commune. The first commune councilor explained that after

listening to and identifying the problems raised by participants in COMFREL's previous forum, his commune councilors discussed together to find out the main problems and included them into their commune development action plan. Of the problems identified, one addressed by his commune councilors was about restoration of a commune canal. The commune chief said that the restoration of the commune canal would be started this year since an expert from the involved ministry had already paid a field visit to conduct an in-depth study of the project.

Follow-up forum participants highly assessed the fulfillment and performance of district and commune councilors at the grassroots level through COMFREL's score card given to them during the follow-up forums. The score cards were used to evaluate commune councils' performance. Based on the result of the score cards given by 284 participants who attended 10 follow-up forums in 10 of the 47 communes where COMFREL had organized the forums to discover and evaluate commune councilors' performance on their promises during the previous public forums, COMFREL noticed the followings:

- 91% of 284 participants have heard of or know about commune council's promises to develop and solve problems in their commune
- 75% of the participants were satisfied with the responses/performance toward their respective commune councils' promises
- 76% of the participants were satisfied with commune councils' problem solving in the previous forums
- 60% of the participants responded that their commune councils' information dissemination about decision making at the commune level and public budget to the public was satisfactory.
- 78% were happy with the commune councils' actions in encouraging people to take part in decision making and commune plan development.
- 76% were satisfied with the commune council's problem solving as relates to land disputes, minerals, forestry and fishery.

- Local forum group and commune council meetings

COMFREL's local forum group under the supervision of the Network Unit conducted six Citizen and Commune Council meetings in the three provinces of Banteay Meanchey, Kampong Speu and Oddar Meanchey, with a total of 101 (25 female) participants listed in the table below:

No	Date	Commune	Province	Number of participants		Sub total
				Male	Female	
1	08/10/2009	Srah Reang	Banteay Meanchey	15	2	17
2	09/10/2009	Banteay Neang		12	3	15
3	15/01/2010	Preah Nipean	Kampong Speu	9	4	13
4	17/09/2010	Skoh		7	9	16
5	22/03/2010	Bansai Reak	Oddar Meanchey	12	4	16
6	23/03/2010	Bo Sbov		21	3	24
Total				76	25	101

The table below shows the number of participants in the meetings.

Target groups	Number of participants		Sub total
	Male	Female	
Commune councilors	18	4	22
Local police officers	3	0	3
Community representatives	3		3
Village chiefs	23	1	24
Citizens	14	14	28
Youths aged from 18 to 30	5	4	9
COMFREL networks	10	2	12
Total	76	25	101

The meetings aimed to evaluate the efficiency and quality of the commune council meeting process and to follow up on the achievements made by commune councilors who were invited to participate in COMFREL's local public forums. The meetings gave a chance to both commune councilors and citizens to raise their achievements and concerns. The commune councilors got a chance to meet their citizens and unveil their recent accomplishments, and local citizens also had a chance to raise the current issues in their commune.

The issues raised in the meetings concerned land disputes, illegal logging, domestic violence, fishing using electronic tools, drug trafficking and the complaints of students' parents about state school teachers requiring their children to pay them money to study during official class hours. As a result, most issues were included in the commune council meeting agenda, and both commune councilors and citizens worked together in order to find solutions.

With regard to problem solving in Kampong Speu's Preah Nipean commune, the commune chief said that his commune had invited COMFREL's local watchdogs to participate in the monthly commune council meetings in order for them to raise and discuss issues with councilors. Then, some issues were included in the commune priority project. For instance, this year his commune plans to build more gravel paths across the commune to make it easier for people to traveling and transport their agricultural products. Moreover, the number of illegal fishing cases drastically decreased since the local authorities had cracked down on the practice of illegal fishing by confiscating 10 electrical fishing instruments. In addition, sand-loading tracks agreed to slow down their speed when crossing the commune after the drivers were invited to attend the commune meeting and listen to citizens' concern over their sand transporting activities.

For the case in Oddar Meanchey's Bo Sbov commune, the commune councilors said that after the COMFREL's local public forums they noticed people in their commune were active in participating in commune activities and working together with the commune councilors to seek ways for dealing with the problems in the communes. With people's cooperation, for instance, the commune authorities cracked down on gangs and arrested a drug smuggler before he distributed the drugs to people in the commune.

III.3.5. Research

A research team, composed of nine (five female) members from the four units Media, Network, Monitoring and Education, was formed to conduct a research on Situation of Female Commune/Sangkat Councilors in Local Performance in five provinces: Takeo, Kampong Thom, Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Cham and Preah Vihear. Three main objectives of conducting this research were as follows:

- Be aware of the current situation of female elected commune councilors at grassroots level.
- Find out men's opinion on female councilors at grassroots level.
- Discover differences between women and children in communes with female elected councilors and those in communes without female elected councilors.

The research team conducted four series of internal meetings to develop a research plan, design a methodology and three types of research questionnaires for female elected commune councilors who attended a series of trainings on Women Can Do It conducted by COMFREL, for male elected commune councilors and for ordinary people with a sample of 100 respondents. The research sample was selected from 10 communes in 10 districts of the five provinces above.

Then, from April 1st to 9th, 2010, all research team members paid field visits to interview 94 local respondents (female 59) in the five provinces. The core purpose of conducting field interviews was to gather primary data on

the current situation of female elected commune councilors' performance at the grassroots level for the survey finding report. The table below shows the different types of respondents in those provinces.

Types of interviewed respondents	F	M	Subtotal
Elected commune councilors	14	21	35
Ordinary people	2	14	16
Commune focal points	8		8
Local police officers	1		1
District Women's Affairs Department officer	1		1
Deputy district governor in charge of Women and Children's Issues	1		1
Female elected district councilors	1		1
Village chief	4		4
Political party activists	18		18
Female NGO members	9		9
Total	59	35	94

All interviewed questionnaire forms were collected and sent to the COMFREL head office for data entry and analysis. After data entry and analysis, COMFREL's Senior Researcher revised and finalized the research findings report. The report was then presented in a workshop on Empowerment of Women in Politics and Gender Policy for Political Parties and Commune Councilors on September 14th at the Cambodiana Hotel. The findings report is being compiled for book publication.

The survey had found that 78.2% of women who were trained by COMFREL have now been encouraged to solve women's and children's issues. They motivated and educated other women in their communes to take care of their own hygiene, to have their health checked regularly at health centers, to allow their children to go to school and to motivate village chiefs, committees and associations to resolve domestic violence. They have also integrated gender equality into district programs and set up commune women's networks to help women and children who face difficulties. COMFREL-produced research finding report was presented in a national workshop on Empowerment of Women in Politics and Gender Policy for Political Parties and Commune Councils on the 14th of September at the Cambodiana Hotel. The findings report is being compiled for book publication.

III.3.6. Awards for Local Watchdogs and Local Forum Groups

COMFREL established an evaluation team in a bid to encourage COMFREL local watchdogs to maintain their local observation roles. The team is composed of seven members, two of whom are from the Education and Gender Unit; one is from the Media Unit, and the rest are from the Network Unit.

The team developed an evaluation principle and the selection criteria for awarding the top three most prominent local watchdogs for this fiscal year. The principle also outlined the procedures to use the award application form by all contestants and the timeframe of the award program implementation. The team finalized the guideline on the Award Program and then selected four local watchdogs to receive an award from COMFREL. They are from Svay Rieng, Rattanakiri, Banteay Meanchey and Kampong Chhnang province.

On January 27th, 2010, COMFREL celebrated the award granting ceremony for COMFREL local watchdogs at its central office with a total of 25 (10 female) participants, including 22 provincial secretaries and three local watchdogs, so as to congratulate the award-winning watchdogs and recognize their outstanding performance in their own commune. Their roles are to observe the performance of commune councilors, to be involved in establishing a relationship with commune councilors or conducting a forum to facilitate communication between

commune councilors and local residents. Further, they also initiated the idea of conducting interventions to help local residents, by reporting problems and bridging gaps in information between residents and commune councilors, as well as completing other tasks serving the interest of the people in their own commune.



COMFREL issued a press release on the Local Watchdog and Forum Group Award Program, detailing more information about the award-winning watchdogs.

COMFREL's Award-Granting Ceremony is held to congratulate four of its local watchdogs who work voluntarily for COMFREL at the grassroots level on January 22, 2010.

In 2010, COMFREL's Network Unit reviewed the existing application form for COMFREL's watchdogs and forum groups. The revised form was sent to local watchdogs and local forum groups who are interested in the award program and want to reveal their achievements in communes. The interested watchdogs and forum groups are required to complete the form and sent it back to COMFREL's headquarters and then await the results released by COMFREL to select the three most outstanding watchdogs for the program.

III.4. Monitoring and Voter Voice (MVV)

III.4.1. Government Watch: Fulfillment of Political Platforms and Promises

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 a result, COMFREL has compiled the following reports:

- Report on the Royal Government's fulfillment of its political platform with precise indicators.
- Report on Government promises for its 4th mandate political platform fulfillment from 2008-2009.
- A report on Cambodian Democracy, Election and Reform in 2009 which was produced and released to the public in early 2010.

COMFREL also developed an internal webpage to post all the collected information about the government's fulfillments of political platforms and promises on COMFREL's server.

III.4.2. Parliamentary Watch: Performance of Elected Officials and the National Assembly

- Parliamentary Watch

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. COMFREL staff observed 31 sessions of the NA (including 12 extraordinary sessions).



COMFREL's NA observers record MPs' expression of views on draft law debate at the NA session hall for the analysis of MPs' activities in 2010.

Outside of the session, COMFREL observers also communicated with NA commissions, the NA general secretariat, political parties and MPs about the process of the meetings, discussion of draft laws, the activities of MPs and other information relevant to the NA. Additionally, the observers recorded data on MP's expression of views into COMFREL's database system. In this fiscal year of COMFREL, the NA adopted 17 laws, including some major laws such as Penal Code, Peaceful Demonstration, Expropriation and Anti-Corruption law.

- Observation of the National Assembly's Field Visits

COMFREL also observed MP activities/missions to constituencies throughout the capital and 23 provinces by deploying observers to observe the activities of each MP in each constituency. Observers are assigned to communicate with and contact the branch offices of political parties and MPs' offices in constituencies or directly contact with MPs. Then they have to complete the Mission Observation Checklist for monthly reports to the COMFREL head office. For this fiscal year, COMFREL received 311 Mission Observation Checklists, both hard and soft copies.

The table below shows the number of MPs paying field visits and MPs' total field visits to constituencies by each political party.

Political party	Number of MPs paying field visits				Number of total field visits by MPs from each political party		
	M	F	Total	% of MPs paying field visits in each party	Number	% of field visits by MPs in each party	Number of field visits by each MP on average
CPP ¹ (90MPs)	59	19	78	86%	943	61%	12
SRP (26 MPs)	18	6	24	92%	397	26%	16
HRP (3 MPs)	3	0	3	100%	180	12%	60
FUN (2 MPs)	2	0	2	100%	6	1%	3
NRP (2 MPs)	1	0	1	50%	8	1%	8
Total	83	25	108		1,534	100%	14

¹ CPP, SRP, HRP, FUN and NRP are acronyms referring to the Cambodian People's Party, the Sam Rainsy Party, the Human Rights Party, the Funcinpec Party and the Nationalist Party whose former name was Norodom Ranariddh Party.

According to the checklists obtained, 108 members (female 25, 19 of which are CPP members and the other six are SRP members) of the parliament conducted field visits to constituencies a total of 1,534 times with five main reasons listed in the table below:

Objectives of field visits	Political parties					Total number of field visit for each objectives
	CPP 78	SRP 24	HRP 3	FUN 2	NRP 1	
Visiting people in constituency, gift giving and project inaugurations	658	168	52	2	3	883 (57%)
Strengthening internal party networks	181	189	113	3	2	488 (32%)
Group missions and accompanying leaders to hold ceremony in the party, attending conferences or inaugurating new public achievements	84	0	2	1	0	87 (6%)
Attending forums and workshops conducted by NGOs	8	20	11	0	3	42 (3%)
Intervening and helping people to solve their problems	12	20	2	0	0	34 (2%)
Total number of field visits by each party	943	397	180	6	8	1, 534 (100%)

Based on the table above, the majority of MPs' field visits to constituencies are focused on visiting people, gift giving and project inaugurations (57% of total field visits) followed by strengthening internal party networks (32%); group missions and accompanying leaders to hold ceremony in the party, attending conferences or inaugurations (6%); attending in Forum and workshop conducted by NGOs (3%); and intervening and helping people to solve their problems (2%).

- Production of reports on Parliamentary Watch

To facilitate access to this information for ordinary Cambodian citizens, COMFREL produced and released the following reports:

- Three quarterly Parliamentary Watch reports were produced, which described debates at the National Assembly session hall, MPs' field visits to constituencies, the issuance of intervention letters, criminal charges against opposition MPs over a border issue, MPs' perspectives on the implementation of the Anti-Corruption law, verbal clashes between ruling party MPs and opposition MPs during an HIV/AIDS conference and a chronology of events in relation to MPs and the NA.
- COMFREL produced and printed an annual Parliamentary Watch report for a period from October 2008 to September 2009 which described COMFREL's evaluation of the performance of MPs' work at the National Assembly and constituencies. 700 copies of the report were sent to 123 parliamentarians through the NA expert commission channel, political party offices, the NA secretariat department, 20 journalists and 100 voters. Further, the reports were distributed to the public on its mailing list (which totals 553 individuals) including members of the media, MPs, NGOs, government ministries, and voters. They are frequently republished in local newspapers such as *Rasmey Kampuchea* and *Koh Santhepheap*; quoted by radio broadcast journalists such as VOA, RFA and RFI, and posted on other



websites such as RFA, everyday.com.kh, Koh Santhepheap and cited by a variety of stakeholders (political parties, elected officials and civil society).

From time to time, COMFREL receives both admiration of and reactions against its Parliamentary Watch report from MPs. For example, H.E Cheam Yeap admired COMFREL's Parliamentary Watch reports, stating that the record of CPP MPs' field missions to constituencies is accurate, whereas MPs from the Human Rights Party (HRP) complained that the number of their MPs' missions should be more than COMFREL's figure. This feedback has led to better cooperation between MPs and COMFREL in recording MPs' field visits to constituencies since MPs from the SRP and the HRP agreed to send their monthly mission reports to COMFREL's head office. Additionally, the National Assembly (NA) President's assistant also gave COMFREL his contact number to get CPP MPs' mission reports.

- Producing National Assembly Directory in Khmer and English versions

COMFREL produced the National Assembly directory in Khmer version in October and launched a press conference on 27 October 2009 with the presence of funding partners and media groups. In the conference, 750 directory books out of 2,000 were distributed to funding partners, media outlets, MPs and NA staff, libraries, students, ordinary people, community leaders, COMFREL activists, commune councilors, IOs and NGOs, some RGC staff, provincial authorities and relevant stakeholders.

After the publication and distribution of the Directory, various stakeholders including foreign embassies, state institutions, media institutions, local and international NGOs, ordinary citizens, students and universities directly contacted COMFREL to request a copy of the Directory. As of October 2010, 1,250 copies were distributed.

Below are some comments by users of COMFREL's Directory of MPs.

- Journalists from different media outlets approached COMFREL to request a copy of the directory. Among them, one journalist said, *"The book is very useful as it helps me a lot in contacting MPs whenever I want comments from them."* *"The Directory contains all MPs' updated information and current phone number(s),"* he added.
- A voter from Kampong Cham province said that the directory is very important for ordinary people to know their MPs and parliamentary offices in each constituency. It also raises people's awareness of MPs' background, their party alliance and their valid contact number.
- The Advocacy and Policy Institute (API) requested 25 copies of the Directory to distribute to its community leaders for contacting MPs.
- Pannasastra University of Cambodia (PUC) requested COMFREL to provide some copies of the Directory as it wanted to show the Directory at the university library.
- A Social Secretary from the Embassy of Sweden said, *"With thanks, I would like to inform you that the Embassy of Sweden has requested five more books for use in the Embassy and for some of our technical staff. It is useful for us to have it and we will use it with our work".*

COMFREL also translated the NA directory from Khmer into English. 300 copies of the National Assembly directory in English were printed and sent to political parties, Phnom Penh-based embassies and civil society organizations. COMFREL still continues distributing the directories to other involved institutions and stakeholders. After the distribution of COMFREL's NA directory in English version, there have been more demands requesting COMFREL for more copies of the directory since some users view it as a vital source for their workplace.

III.4.3. Voter Voice and Workshop/Forum

- *Voter Benchmark Workshops (VBW)*

During the reporting period, COMFREL conducted a total of eight Voter Benchmark Workshops (VBW) with the objectives of:

- ❖ Making voters aware of the 2008 elected government's political platform and rectangular strategies;
- ❖ Empowering voters through their participation in identifying benchmarks in priority sectors necessary for their own constituency;
- ❖ Collecting the benchmark indicators in a report, making it easier for people to follow up on the government's activities in response to those indicators; and
- ❖ Using the benchmark indicators to push the Royal Government as well as elected officials to put them into effect.

COMFREL invited 20 honored guest speakers to preside over the workshops, including four parliamentarians, four deputy provincial governors, 11 provincial councilors and one deputy chief for the provincial cabinet. The presence of those MPs and authorities were significant to demonstrate that they were aware of the ten prioritized needs raised by their citizens. Typically, they normally assured that those ten priority needs will be taken into account and added to the agenda of NA meeting.



90 participants (female 31) participate in COMFREL's Voter Benchmark Workshop on October 02, 2009 in Pursat province to set up 10 priority sectors in their constituency for submitting to the government and MPs.

A total of 689 people (213 female) participated in COMFREL's Voter Benchmark Workshops, as detailed in the table below:

No	Date	Province	Number of Participants		
			Male	Female	Total
1	02/10/2009	Pursat	59	31	90
2	16/10/2009	Oddar Meanchey	69	16	85
3	16/10/2009	Preah Vihear	42	39	81
4	30/10/2009	Sihanoukville	84	12	96
5	11/11/2009	Phnom Penh	45	43	88
6	13/11/2009	Kandal	65	20	85
7	18/11/2009	Banteay Meanchey	59	21	80
8	27/11/2009	Stung Treng	53	31	84
Total			476	213	689

And the following table shows different groups of participants who joined the forums above.

Direct Target Groups reached	Number of Participants		Total
	Male	Female	
Government Officials	27	7	34
Member of commune councilors	21	0	21
Village chiefs	6	0	6
Deputy Village Chiefs	6	1	7
Community Group leaders	7	4	11
Community representatives	24	10	34
NGO representatives	65	17	82
State school teachers	20	13	33
Local residents	199	100	299
Students	69	51	120
COMFREL's local networks	32	10	42
Total	476	213	689

Additional documents produced by COMFREL such as Neak Kloam Meul (observer bulletin), the report on the implementation of the RGC's platform and question and answer booklet on citizen participation and good governance were also distributed to the workshop participants.

- Reports on Voter Benchmark Workshops/material distribution

COMFREL, after each workshop, produced and released a short report detailing the benchmarks and the commitments made by government/ political representatives. There were eight reports in total. The report facilitates monitoring of and communication with elected officials. For each report, COMFREL selected 10 priority sectors set by the workshop participants to be forwarded to MPs and the government. The most common prioritized sectors in each constituency include adoption of the anti-corruption law, technical agricultural trainings, social land concessions, salary raises and judicial system reform. In most cases the parliamentarians responded by showing support and promising to address them by forwarding the priorities to the government.

COMFREL, in addition, produced a report on 24 Voter Benchmark Workshops held nationwide in Khmer and English versions. 1,000 copies of the report were printed, 400 of which were sent to all MPs, government ministries, the government working group on the National Strategic Development Plan for 2010-2014, related NGOs, COMFREL's provincial secretaries, provincial authorities and relevant stakeholders.

Meanwhile, 50,000 leaflets which contain the benchmarks of priority sectors in each constituency, 2010 calendar and MPs contact were produced and distributed to COMFREL's provincial secretaries to further distribute the materials to local people in their individual province.

- Samleng Mchas Chnaut Forum (Owner of Voting Power Forum)

Having set up an action plan, produced a methodology on how to conduct the forums in Khmer and English, and bought 100 sets of Audience Response System Equipment to be used in Samleng Mchas Chnaut forums (Owner of Voting Power Forums), COMFREL conducted a press conference on the launching of the Audience Response System at its head office on 27 April 2010. The purpose of the conference was to introduce the Audience Response Equipment for evaluating the fulfillment of elected officials toward the 10 priority sectors set by local residents in each constituency during the Voter Benchmark workshops organized by COMFREL in 2009.

To follow up on performance and fulfillment of elected officials toward the 10 priority sectors set by local residents in each constituency during the Voter Benchmark workshops in 2009, COMFREL conducted six Samleng Mchas Chnaut forums in six provinces with a total of 568 voters (female 182). It can be seen that, in the forums, approximately 30% of voters are the people who also joined the Voter Benchmark workshops held last year. Therefore, they can understand and follow up what is the progress on each identified benchmark.

The table below details more about locations, dates, and number of participants in each forum.

No.	Date	Province	Number of participants		Sub total
			Male	Female	
1	30/04/2010	Kampong Speu	62	32	94
2	09/06/2010	Rattanakiri	70	10	80
3	23/06/2010	Pailin	65	35	100
4	09/07/2010	Kampot	72	31	103
5	27/07/2010	Siem Reap	49	36	85
6	12/08/2010	Kampong Chhnang	68	38	106
Total			386	182	568

The table below shows the different types of participants in these forums.

Direct Target Groups reached	Number of Participants		Total
	Male	Female	
Parliamentarians	3	2	4
Government officials	34	2	36
Provincial councilors	16	2	18
Commune councilors	12	3	15
Village chiefs	14	4	18
Deputy village chiefs	13	1	14
Community group leaders	33	15	48
NGO representatives	46	13	59
Local police officers	5		5
State school teachers	10	2	12
Local residents	131	120	251
Students	37	12	49
COMFREL's local network	32	6	38
Total	386	182	568

All voters were allowed to use the Audience Response Device to give an evaluation score on each priority benchmark. With this device, they could provide a fair, secret and democratic determination on actual progress of identified priority benchmarks. COMFREL's Monitoring Unit produced six reports on each of the voters' assessments on outcomes by giving score toward the priority sectors fulfilled by elected officials and the government.



COMFREL's forum on Samleng Mchas Chnort (or Voters' Voice Forum) held in Kampot constituency on 09 July 2010 with a total of 103 voters (female 31). In the picture, a voter is asking guest speakers who are members of the National Assembly and provincial councilors from different political parties about their fulfillment and performance toward the set priority sectors or benchmarks in Kampot constituency.

The following is the average evaluation (from did not accomplish at all to fully accomplish) of voters on the accomplishment of benchmarks evaluated by 569 participants who attended six Voter Voice forums above:

- 30% said the benchmarks were not or slightly accomplished (0%-20%);
- 32% said the benchmarks were to moderately accomplished (21-40%);
- 24% said the benchmarks were averagely accomplished (41-60%);
- 10% said the benchmarks were largely accomplished (61-80%);
- 4% said the benchmarks were almost or completely accomplished.



Most voters in Samleng Mchas Chnaut or "Owner of Voting Power" forums organized by COMFREL in six provinces in 2010 evaluate that most of the benchmarks fulfilled by MPs and the government in their respective constituencies are slightly and moderately achieved.

III.5. Civic Education and Gender (CEG)

III.5.1. Radio Call-in Show (RCS)

Along with “Civil Society Voice”, COMFREL’s radio call-in show named “Women Can Do It” is broadcast in a 60-minute time slot 26 times (live 23 times and re-broadcast 3 times per month). The show provides a forum for people, especially women, to ask questions and receive answers. It also raises public awareness of gender policies for political parties, importance of gender equality in politics, women’s rights, and HIV/AIDS in relation to rights and political participation. COMFREL’s team, composed of three COMFREL staff members, conducted the show by inviting speakers, such as NGO leaders, legal experts and consultants, to share their points of view regarding the above topics and audience questions.

Topics of the program brought for discussion are issues concerning women such as women’s qualifications in social affairs and politics; the role of women in the capital, provincial/town, district/khan councils; discrimination against women; women and social development; the Khmer social ethic; Chbab Srey Chbab Bros (Morality for Both Men and Women); the influence of foreign cultures on Khmer culture; the potential of young women in contributing to national development; objectives of celebrating Women Right’s Day; marriage among youth; domestic violence and the importance of marriage certificate for women; characteristics of women in leadership; how to motivate more women to be leaders and decision makers; experience sharing of COMFREL’s local women’s network; gender in the education field; and gender and climate change.

Meanwhile, there is a talk-back discussion which allows callers, both men and women, to call in to the show to share opinions, experience and/or to raise questions to the guest speakers. There were 106 callers, of which 26 (approximately 24%) are women, who shared their point of view on air in the “Women Can Do It” radio program. For the program, two outside speakers were usually invited to conduct the programs from Cambodian NGOs and the Ministry of Women’s Affairs.

III.5.2. TV/Radio Spots (TRS)

- Broadcasting of TV spot on Citizen’s Participation, Commune/Sangkat Councils and Women’s and Children’s Issues

The TV education spot on “Citizen’s Participation, Commune/Sangkat Councils and Women’s and Children’s Issues” which was made in 2009 was broadcast on CTV9 four times, and APSARA TV channel 11 eight times, for a total of 12 times. The broadcasting aimed to stimulate people’s participation and their will to resolve women’s and children’s issues in their commune councils and committees in charge of women and children. Further, the audio version of this TV spot was broadcast as part of COMFREL’s Women Can Do It radio show around 7 times from 7:30-8:30 am on FM 105, FM 90, FM 90.25, and FM 88.5. Moreover, the educational TV spot was shown in Women Can Do It trainings and forums 12 times.

There were approximately 700,000 TV viewers at home (according to the CTV9 and APSARA TV11 channel survey result) who saw the TV spot. After the broadcast, COMFREL also conducted a survey with students and citizens over their opinion toward women and children’s issues. The survey result shows that most students and citizens said women and children’s issues are important for all of us. Moreover, COMFREL’s Education and Gender Unit also called eight people living near the place where the spot was made, who said the spot is meaningful. It could encourage current commune councilors to think more carefully about women and children’s issues. All of them also suggested that it be rebroadcast.

- Producing of TV Education Spot on People's Right to Participation in Observing the Commune Budget

Having received comments and approval from the Local Administrative Department of the Ministry of Interior, COMFREL produced a TV spot on People's Right to Participation in Observing the Commune Budget. This spot aims to raise the public's awareness of commune/sangkat budget sources and its expenditures as well as how to monitor the commune budget. The TV spot was then displayed three times from 27 to 29 September from 17:20 pm to 17:58 pm on SEA TV channel.

After the broadcast, some of the audience were aware that they have the right to ask and to monitor commune council budget sources and expenditures. They thought that this spot encouraged them to be involved in commune council activities. Nowadays, some citizens go to see information at the commune/sangkat office. Some dare to ask commune councilors about their budget, about the reason why their respective commune councilors do not build the roads or sewers, etc. The audiences also suggested that the spot be re-broadcast on all TV stations and more times.

In addition, the spot on was shown in 49 local public forums on "District & Commune Councils and Citizens" in all provinces across the country with 3,744 (1,579 female) participants, including 266 (125 female) indigenous people, and 639 (385 female) youths aged 18 to 30.

III.5.3. Printed Materials and Distribution (PMD)

COMFREL's Civic Education and Gender Unit produced and printed educational materials as follows:

- 15,000 copies of 2010 calendar (poster style) with a slogan 'More Women, More Power and More Resolution'.
- 15,000 copies of the booklet "73 Questions-Answers: Aide-Memoire of People's Knowledge after the Elections on Participation and Democratic Governance"
- 15,000 copies of the Picture book on "People's Participation, Commune Councils and Women and Children's Issues"
- 15,000 stickers with the slogan "Meaningful Democracy, State Having Female Leaders, Harmonious Life, and Prosperous Society"
- 650 T-shirts with the slogan "More Women, More Power, More Solution" for female trainees in Women Can Do It (WCDI) trainings and participants in WCDI forums
- 330 handouts for WCDI female trainees
- 20 training manuals (methodology books) for WCDI female core-trainers



COMFREL's printed materials in 2010

All education materials described above and 8,050 Q-A Booklets (printed in 2009) were distributed to local and international NGOs, donors, the government, political parties, involved institutions, WCDI female trainees, including female commune/district councilors, women's affair officers, deputy district governors, teachers and COMFREL's networks and Women Network Activists (CWNA) for further dissemination to residents in their individual communes. The materials were also distributed to 1,620 people (female 70%) through public forums between district/Khan and commune/Sangkat councilors and citizens; public forums on Women Can Do It; the National on Women Political Empowerment and Gender Policy for Political Parties and Commune Councils; and the forum on "Election and Democratic Space". At the same time, COMFREL also offered materials, especially picture book and stickers, to citizens in five WCDI target provinces: Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Cham,

Kampong Thom, Takeo and Preah Vihear. COMFREL's educational materials reached **65,756** direct beneficiaries (**47,436** = 72.14% female), based on reports from COMFREL's provincial secretaries, CWNA and the work plan.

III.5.4. Training on Empowerment of Women in Decision Making"

- CPWP Training

From the 13th to the 15th of July, 2010, COMFREL conducted a training in "Strengthening Women's Network" in Kampong Cham province's Kampong Siem district with 30 (26 female) participants from four political parties, namely Cambodian People's Party, Sam Rainsy Party, Funcinpec and Nationalist Party. The table below shows the number of participants from each political party.

No	Political Party	M	F	Subtotal
1	Cambodian People's Party	4	11	15
2	Sam Rainsy Party	0	5	5
3	Funcinpec Party	0	5	5
4	Nationalist Party	0	5	5
Total		4	26	30

The training aimed to strengthen female commune councilors' and political activists' capacity in gender and decentralization, to raise their awareness of leadership and problem solving, and strengthen their lobbying and communication skills, and educate them in the training topics of gender equality, problem analysis and solution, leadership, lobby skills and communication skills.

After this training, all Women Political Activist Networks (WPAN) were aware of gender, human rights, local advocacy, taking care of women and children's health, meeting preparation, report writing and facilitation skills. 60% of WPAN of all political parties have the ability to disseminate these sessions. WPAN of all political parties reported that they gained a lot of knowledge.

- Women Can Do It (WCDI) Training

- Development of training curriculum and education materials
 - COMFREL produced and printed 330 copies of trainee handouts and 20 copies of a manual (the teaching methodology book) on 'Empowerment for Women in Decision Making' for training commune councilors, village chiefs, political party activists, district councilors, staff at district departments of Women's Affairs, communities and NGOs under the WCDI project.
 - Prepared training documents for the five target provinces.
- Training

COMFREL's Civic Education and Gender Unit conducted 10 three-day trainings (one training each district) in "Women Can Do It and Women's Empowerment in Decision Making" for 361 female participants who are members of political parties, COMFREL's networks, CBOs, district councilors, commune councilors, village chiefs, sub-village chiefs, village assistants/members, teachers, students, health center officers, 1st/2nd deputy commune chiefs, deputy district governors, police, focal persons in charge of women and children's affairs, women's movements, local women's affairs chiefs/officials, commune clerks and district/commune officers.



(Left) 30 female participants are being trained in “leadership” during COMFREL-organized-three-day WCDI training on November 15, 2010 in Kampong Thom province’s Prasathsambo district, and (right) the participants are divided into a number of small groups to discuss and share their ideas on the training contents.

These trainings contained seven sessions on gender, leadership, democracy and women’s participation, argument, speech and debate, domination techniques and problem solving, advocacy and campaigning as well as information about the Committee of Women and Children Affairs at the Commune/Sangkat level. The goal of the trainings was to strengthen women’s capacity in leadership, political affairs and lobbying, to make them confident in actively participating in politics and social affairs; to motivate women and pave the way for them to build good relationship with local authorities, political parties, involved institutions and civil society organizations; and to support the establishment of women’s network from the local to the national level.

The details of locations, dates and the number of participants in each of the trainings are listed in the following tables.

No	Date	District	Province	Number of female participants
1	20-22/10/2009	Roveang	Preah Vihear	30
2	17-19/07/2010	Cheysen		30
3	13-15/11/2009	Prasathsambo	Kampong Thom	30
4	23-25/07/2010	Brasat Balang		30
5	03-05/09/2010	Baray	Kampong Cham	30
6	17-19/10/2009	Kampong Siem		30
7	17-19/09/2010	Tbong Khmom	Kampong Chhnang	30
8	10-12/09/2010	Stoeung Trong		30
9	03-05/10/2009	Rolea Pa Ear		30
10	03-05/09/2010	Kampong Tralach		31
11	17-19/09/2010	Samaky Meanchey		30
12	16-18/10/2009	Koh Andet	Takeo	30
Total				361

Below are the numbers of different target groups who attended the training above.

Target groups	Number of female participants
Public servants (teachers, local police, commune clerks ...etc)	38
Deputy district governors	7
District councilors	19
Commune councilors	70
(district) women's movement/ women focal points	20
Political party members/activists/representatives (district/commune/village)	77
Village chiefs/deputies /members	63
COMFREL's networks	26
CBOs(CPN, ADHOC, World Vision)	15
commune chiefs/ 1 st /2 nd deputies/ members	9
Women's affairs officers of district commune/ villages	14
Students	3
Total	361

To involve the participants in the training process, to encourage them to speak publicly and to enable them to further disseminate the training contents to their individual commune residents, facilitators used some techniques such as dividing the participants into small and big discussion groups, asking them to conduct role plays after the lecture sessions, showing their discussion results, illustrating pictures to make them understand the training schemes, allowing them to raise questions and showing COMFREL's TV spots for discussion.

During the training, there were two different tests (pre and post tests) used to measure participants' understanding of the training contents before and after the training. Based on the consolidation of the test results, participants increased their understanding of the training subjects by 20%, from 70% measured by the pre-test to 90% measured by the post-test. After the trainings, 50% of the participants disseminated the knowledge they acquired in the trainings further to local women's networks and the grassroots in their own commune.

Among all trainees, COMFREL chose 104 COMFREL Women Network Activists (CWNA), of which 59 are from CPP, 19 are from SRP, nine are from other parties, eight are from NGOs, and eight are public servants, from five provinces (Kampong Cham, Kampong Chhnang, Takeo, Kampong Thom, and Preah Vihear, from 20 different districts. These Women Network Activists are supposed to take local action to promote their commune interests.

- Conducting 'Women Can Do It' Forums

In cooperation with the Network Unit, the Education and Gender Unit, also conducted five forums on 'Women Can Do It' or 'Empowerment of Women in Decision Making' (as shown in above section of Forum 3.3).

III.5.5. Other activities

- NGO exhibition

From November 17th to 18th, 2009, in cooperation with Star Kampuchea, COMFREL exhibited its achievements and printed materials to the public at the National Institution of Education. The main purpose of the exhibition was to provide more opportunities to the public to be aware of good governance, COMFREL's service delivery and achievements and to enhance relationships among the government institutions, civil society organizations, media, communities and other stakeholders. These materials included 500 picture books, 200 Observer bulletins, 2,000 Q&A books, 100 stickers, 100 copies of Parliament and Government Watch Reports, and 40 copies of the 4th Mandate MP directory.



COMFREL exhibits its printed materials and achievements to the public, students and youth in particular, on November 18, 2009 at the National Institution of Education.

- Celebration of International Democracy Day

On the 15th of September, 2010, COMFREL held a press conference with around 30 journalists and members of CSOs to celebrate and hold discussions on International Democracy Day, with the slogan "Cambodia Needs Political Tolerance and More Democratic Space".

- Celebration of Human Rights Day

On December 10th, 2009, COMFREL, one of the NGOs marking Human Rights Day, with its 25 central office staff enthusiastically participated in the International Human Rights Day march near the Independence Monument with other NGOs and INGOs from every corner of the country so as to celebrate the 61st Anniversary of Human Rights Day. COMFREL's Media Assistant was invited to be a Master of Ceremonies (MC) for this significant event. The INGOs and NGOs taking part in this march raised one joint slogan for all Cambodian people, "We All Need Freedom of Expression and Justice".



COMFREL's 25 central staff members participate in the International Human Rights Day so as to celebrate the 61st Anniversary of Human Rights Day on December 10, 2009 near the Independence Monument..

Before the celebration of Human Rights Day, COMFREL's officer was actively involved in the preparation with the Cambodian Human Right Action Committee (CHRAC) by attending six meetings to discuss a welcome speech, general situation of human rights in Cambodia and the location where the event would be held.

III.6. Staff Capacity Building and Sensitization on Gender, Youth, and HIV/AIDS

(See section V)

III.7. Special Projects:

III.7.1. Special Project: Survey on Voter Registration and Eligible Voters with HIV/AIDS and Forced Eviction

The Survey on Voter Registration and Eligible Voters with HIV/AIDS and Forced Evictions is a small project for the period from October 2009 to March 2010. The survey project's vision is to safeguard the rights of eligible Cambodian voters with HIV/AIDS. The survey is a systematic and statistically relevant assessment and investigation of the 2009 voter list, and of what, how and why they had or did not have problems with voter registration. The survey discovered: i) the results of the estimated number of eligible and registered voters with HIV/AIDS in the 2009 voter list; ii) explanation of what, how and why eligible voters with HIV/AIDS were able or were not able to register for voting. The sample size is 336 eligible voters. The study location is at three communities/villages in Phnom Penh.

After training field interviewers, the team conducted a check on the performance of field interviewers who were responsible to conduct interviews with the project target group in three communes: Damnak Trayeoung, Trapaing Angnhan and Trapang Krasang of Phnom Penh's Dangkau district, incorporating the data gained from the field interview forms into a Database and analyzing the data, COMFREL produced a survey finding report on Voter Registration and Eligible Voters with HIV/AIDS and Force Evictions. 300 copies of the report were printed and distributed to relevant NGOs, the NEC, journalists and relevant establishments.

Having printed the report, COMFREL held a roundtable discussion on the survey findings by inviting 30 participants from among COMFREL partners, COMFREL's donor organizations, political parties, and local and international media groups to listen to the findings of the report and provide recommendations. The report along with recommendations was submitted to the National Election Committee, the Ministry of Interior, political parties and other stakeholders. There



COMFREL holds a round table discussion with 30 electoral stakeholders, political party representatives, NEC representatives and its donors so as to present the finding report and receive recommendations from them.

was a reaction from the NEC stating that the survey findings report did not reveal anything new. Nevertheless, the NEC suggested to all people who are eligible to vote to register for the next election.

III.7.2. Special Project on FORUM on Elections and Democratic Space

In order to support advocacy on election reform, UNDP developed this project, for which COMFREL successfully won funding. On 29 September 2010, in cooperation with other Units, the Network Unit conducted one workshop on Election and Democratic Space in Prey Veng province with a total of around 100 participants. COMFREL invited MPs from the Nationalist Party and Human Rights Party and representatives from the Mol and two civil society leaders to be guest speakers in the workshop. The workshop discussed recommendations and strategies for improving the function of elections and democracy in Cambodia.

IV- International Seminars and Missions

- ✓ In September, 2010, COMFREL's Media Officer was asked to be a member of ANFREL's capacity building team to train the trainers and core observers of Election Monitoring Organization (FEFA).
- ✓ In May 2010, COMFREL's Executive Director and Media Officer had an international mission to observe the 2010 Automated Elections in Philippine. Through the election observation, COMFREL learned the strengths and weaknesses of the automated elections process.
- ✓ The Executive Director, the Senior Program Coordinator and the Monitoring Coordinator were involved in sharing COMFREL's election activity experience with Burmese civil society organizations working inside Myanmar. The Center for Peace and Conflict Studies (CPCS) carried out the project on "Preparing Myanmar Civil Society for Elections". COMFREL was asked to host four half-day meetings with around 50 members of Burmese CSOs at COMFREL's office from January to March 2010. The Executive Director was also invited as a trainer to be involved in training on election monitoring for 35 members of Burmese CSOs. One training was organized by CPCS held in Yangon from 24 to 30 April 2010, and other one conducted by ANFREL was held in Chiang Mai from 23 to 26 June 2010.
- ✓ The Executive Director was invited by the European Commission to join a Domestic Observer Forum that took place in Brussels on the 14th and 15th of July 2010. He was asked to be one of the rapporteurs during the closing plenary session; he presented the conclusions of the working sessions.

V. Staff Development and Training

To ensure the effectiveness of the implementation of COMFREL's core programs, COMFREL developed an annual plan for building staff capacity and sensitisation on gender and HIV/AIDS through internal and external trainings and workshops. The plan included human resource management, training and staff development, through which staff can obtain knowledge and skills on research, and legal/political /development analysis, computer software, English-reporting and human resource management. The trainings/workshops were divided into two parts listed below:

V.1. Internal, External and International Trainings for COMFREL Central Staff

- Internal trainings

- ✓ COMFREL has been providing its central office staff with free of charge English classes to improve their English skills, particularly listening and writing skills. The class is supervised by COMFREL's expatriate advisor who assists COMFREL staff members in producing accurate English sentences and guides them to speak English correctly. The class comprises a rotation of three activities- 1) conversation, 2) writing practice, and 3) reading and pronunciation practice, usually with some reading material related to

COMFREL's work or current affairs in Cambodia. They now improve their English after attending the English class with COMFREL's Expatriate Advisor as they are able to speak and write emails in English for internal communication in the workplace with better sentence structure and fewer spelling mistakes.

- ✓ On 25 May 2010, COMFREL provided its central office staff with a training on team building. The training covered six main points: the importance of teams within organizations, enhancing teamwork and values, enhancing team performance with emotional intelligence, communicating for team building, communicating with emotional intelligence as well as problem solving and decision making. After the training, the staff members increased their knowledge of team building as they improved the atmosphere of the team work within the individual units. Additionally, there is good cooperation among all central staff as each of the staff can share and collect information from one another and work together to enhance their quality of the unit's core programs.
- ✓ On August 19th, 2010, COMFREL conducted a one morning session on the Legal Framework on Sub-National Administration and Sub-National Administration Support Mechanism for its central staff by inviting one resource person from the Ministry of Interior. The training aimed to raise COMFREL central staff's awareness of the process of sub-national administrative management.
- ✓ On July 7th, 2010, COMFREL conducted a one morning session on Stress Management for its central office staff at the meeting room by inviting two resource persons from TPO (Trancultural Psychosocial Organization). The training aimed to raise participants' awareness of stress, the influence of stress and how to deal with stress using some practical stress management methods. It covered six main points such as the meaning of stress, the root causes of stress, kinds of stress, stress symptoms, individual awareness of stress and how to handle stress effectively. After the training, they were aware of the root causes of stress in the workplace and how to handle with it.



COMFREL's central staff members participate in a training on Stress Management presented by two specialists from Trancultural Psychosocial Organization on July 7th 2010 at COMFREL's meeting room.

- ✓ COMFREL provided its research team with a training course on research processes and how to conduct research by inviting a research specialist to be a training instructor. The course gave the research team some details on each phase of the research process.

- External trainings

- ✓ From 6 to 20 November 2009, A Network Assistant and a Monitoring Assistant participated in one five-day training of trainer on Methodology Course Training at Community Legal Education Center (CLEC) in Phnom Penh. The training aimed to enlarge master trainers' understanding of new training methodologies which they would apply into upcoming project training activities. As a result, they understood new training methodologies which they can apply to COMFREL's training activities after attending a series of trainings organized by COMFREL's partner organizations.

- ✓ From 14 to 18 December 2009, a COMFREL Gender Focal Point was invited to attend a training on Follow-Up on Gender Policy in Sihanoukville, organized by Forum Syd. This training centered on the process of developing and revising COMFREL's internal gender policy following consultation with Forum Syd.
- ✓ From 12 to 15 January 2010, a Gender Officer was invited to attend a training course on 'How to Mainstream Gender' into projects, as well as a presentation on Gender Activity Educating System of the CPWP project at the office of Gender and Development Organization. The training aimed to push the NGO members of the CPWP to develop a gender policy for their own organization.
- ✓ From 6 to 8 April 2010, three COMFREL staff members, a Senior Research Officer, a Report Writer and a Network Unit Assistant attended a three-day workshop on Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation, conducted by Forum Syd in Sihanoukville province. The purpose of the training was to introduce the concept of results-based monitoring and evaluation systems through the connection among each Forum Syd partner organization's M&E team. After the workshop, all participants from Forum Syd partner organizations became M&E focal points for sharing monitoring and evaluation information with Forum Syd. Three COMFREL staff members, a Senior Research Officer, a Report Writer and a Network Unit Assistant increased their knowledge on the concept of results based monitoring and evaluation systems, project cycle management and report writing after attending a series of trainings provided by Forum Syd. They become M&E focal points for sharing monitoring and evaluation information with Forum Syd.
- ✓ From 07 to 12 June 2010, COMFREL's Network Assistant attended a TOT training in "Accountability in the Cambodian Context on Democratic Development" conducted by SILIKA organization with the support of the World Bank's PECSA project in Sihanoukville province. The purpose of the training was to raise participants' awareness of social accountability and to manage their respective organization in the way that sustainably contributes to the development of Cambodia.
- ✓ On 5 July 2010, COMFREL's Education and Gender Officer attended a two-day training in Security Risk Assessment at the NGO Forum.
- ✓ From 27 to 30 July 2010, the Media Coordinator participated in a three-day training on FOI TOT in Sihanoukville.
- ✓ From 05 to 18 July 2010, a Monitoring Assistant attended a training in debating and producing media in Southeast Asia, sponsored by the Open Society Institute-Youth Initiative in Chiang Mai, Thailand.
- ✓ From 21 to 23 September 2010, Report Writer and Media Assistant participated in a three-day training in Project Cycle Management and Report Writing in Siem Reap Province.
- ✓ From 20 to 22 September 2010: an Education and Gender Officer attended a training in Quantitative Research at PYD International organization.

- International trainings

- ✓ From 23 to 31 January, A Monitoring Officer (Ms. Kong Ravine) had an international mission to participate in an international training program on Human Rights, Peace and Security in Sweden. The training focused on human right and right-based approach, conflict analysis, the transition from violence to peace, methods for analyzing conflict based on the rights-based approach, security in post conflict situations and organizational management.

- ✓ From 01 to 07 February 2010, a Media Officer had an international mission to Colombo, Sri Lanka to participating in the Asian Regional Workshop on Advanced Tools for Domestic Election Monitoring with 27 participants from 13 different countries in Asia. The workshop gave the COMFREL's representative new ideas of high-tech tools which might be effective in Cambodian election monitoring. The workshop trained participants how to use high-tech election tools in the election monitoring process. It also trained the participants in some monitoring activities such as filling out observation checklists, sending data through SMS, observing the complaint process, monitoring public budgets and mapping the election data results.
- ✓ The Executive Director attended an international workshop on Electoral Justice that was organized by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), the Non-Aligned Movement for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM-CSSTC) and the United Nations Development Programme – Regional Centre Bangkok (UNDP-RCB) in collaboration with the Asian Network for Free and Fair Elections (ANFREL) and the Centre for Electoral Reform (CETRO) held in Bangkok 30 March to 1 April 2010. The workshop introduced the concept of Electoral Justice, which is an expanded view of electoral dispute resolution which includes the consideration of preventative and alternative measures to electoral dispute resolution. It is hoped that understanding this new concept will help improve the handling of electoral disputes and outcomes of elections.
- ✓ From 14 to 18 July 2010, COMFREL's Senior Coordinator has an international mission to have an in-depth study of the Malaysia National Election Committee in Malaysia. In Malaysia, he gained some knowledge of the preparation and electoral system of the Malaysia National Election Committee; division of the top three powers in the country: legislation, government and judiciary; situation of female candidates standing in the political parties and roles of the opposition party while working with the ruling party.

V.2. Training for Provincial Secretariats

- ✓ COMFREL continues to support the English program for eight selected provincial secretaries in their respective provinces. COMFREL's provincial secretaries are able to use English for workplace communication. Now they can send email in English to COMFREL's email address when sending their monthly report. Further, they understand the concepts and process of writing investigative reports.
- ✓ From 23 to 24 August, 2010, COMFREL's Network Unit conducted a two-day training in investigation theory and practice and how to write an investigative report at the National Pediatric Hospital in Phnom Penh with 26 participants (female 13) including 23 provincial and three head office staff members.

V.3. Sensitization on Gender, Youth and HIV/AIDS

On the 1st of March 2010, COMFREL's Education and Gender Unit invited Mrs. Ros Sopheap, the director of Gender and Development Organization, to present a topic on 'Gender and HIV/AIDS' to 36 (13 female) COMFREL central staff at its head office. The presentation aimed to raise the central staff's awareness of Gender and HIV/AIDS, to celebrate the Women's Rights Day and build good relationships among all staff. The presentation aimed to build general awareness of HIV/AIDS and seek mainstreaming strategies to disseminate HIV/AIDS knowledge at the workplace. After the presentation, all COMFREL staff members were aware of the current HIV/AIDS situation in the workplace and know how to avoid HIV transmission. In addition, COMFREL produced an HIV/AIDS policy to be used within the organization.



A presentation on "Gender and HIV/AIDS" aims to raise COMFREL's central staff members awareness of Gender/HIVS and how to work with People with HIV/AISS within the organization on March 01, 2010 at COMFREL's meeting room.

COMFREL finalized and adopted the internal youth policy for its staff. The purpose of the policy is to encourage and give opportunity for youth to participate in its organizational structure and to increase effectiveness in workplace through vocational training and knowledge without discrimination against nationalities, color, sex, religion and disability. Meanwhile, a report on youth baseline data was produced after COMFREL conducted a survey on COMFREL's youth situation.

Meanwhile, COMFREL have amended its internal gender policy by including the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) into the amended gender policy.

VI- Reflection, Monitoring and Evaluation

VI.1. COMFREL Staff Retreat

From 05-08 January 2010: COMFREL organized a staff retreat in Sihounouk province with 36 participants (female 12), including three members of the COMFREL board of directors, 24 central staff members, eight provincial secretaries, and one expatriate advisor. The main purpose of conducting the staff retreat is to discuss

weakness and implementation of policies of Gender, Youth and HIV/AIDS as well as to enhance cooperation among COMFREL staff members after one-year project implementation.



(Left) COMFREL's staff retreat was held on January 05, 2010 in Sihanouk province with 36 participants (female 12) so as to discuss weaknesses and implementation of Gender, Youth, and HIV/AIDS. (Right) the participants were divided into small groups to find out recommendations to improve the implementation of Gender Policy and Youth and HIV/AIDS Policy within COMFREL's workplace.

VI. 2. Monitoring of Radio Broadcasting

COMFREL Media Unit conducted face-to-face interview with 15 listeners on the phone and got the following strengths, weakness and recommendations of its radio program.

▪ *Good points*

- The program covers major and current events with reliable information.
- It raises listeners' awareness on democracy, human rights, elections, social affairs, and politics.
- It gives people, in particular youth, a chance to express their view, concerns, problems/challenges and questions to find solutions from guest speakers. Though their problems could not be resolved, those problems were heard by both authorities and the government.
- The program gets strong support from listeners wishing to call to the programs.

▪ *Weak points*

- There is a technical problem related to the sound system producing sound which sometimes makes it difficult to listen to
- The program has few youth voices
- Callers are often the same persons

▪ *Recommendations*

- The broadcasting time should be extended.
- Broadcasting capacity should be improved so that people living in remote areas can listen to the programs.
- Members from the government should be invited to be guest speakers
- Discussion time should be added with a focus on the topic by compressing the time allocated for information sharing.
- COMFREL's radio programs should center on youth issues to attract more youth listeners.
- If possible, COMFREL should call back to listeners who wish to express their point of view.

VI.3. Monitoring of local public forums, follow-up forums and commune council meetings

Monitoring of local public forums and follow-up forums

COMFREL's Executive Director and five staff members paid a total of eight field visits to monitor five local public forums in Banteay Meanchey, Takeo and Kampong Thom and Kampong Speu provinces and two follow-up forums in Pursat and Rattanakiri provinces. Based on the field monitoring, COMFREL's monitors provided some recommendations on how to improve the implementation of activities of the public forums and follow up forums:

- The forum should not be located in a commune office because some participants would not feel comfortable asking questions and the commune councilors are too busy with their respective tasks at the commune office; that's why they did not fully participate as guest speakers. Instead, the forum should be held at a public school or a pagoda.
- COMFREL's local activists should be assigned to invite people to the forum rather than allowing commune councilors to manage this task.
- There should be a separate methodology for conducting public forums with minority groups. The methodology should include an easier process, use of the language of minority groups and provision of means of transportation for participants and guest speakers.
- Forum organizer(s) shall inform clearly about the date and time of the forum, to avoid forcing guest speakers to await participants. Forum organizer(s) should encourage participants to be on time; otherwise, the majority of time will be lost thanks to waiting. This caused the guest speakers to have inadequate time for resolving problems.
- The civic education spot should be displayed before the time when the participants are allowed to raise issues. Doing so will give them the opportunity to be more clearly aware of their right to participation and to motivate them to freely speak out their mind. Based on this observation, the participants were reluctant to raise their concerns. But after showing the education spot, they were more assertive in expressing their point of view. This shows the effectiveness of the video spot.
- Forum organizer(s) should interpret the meaning and roles of citizens in expressing their views so as to encourage them to be brave and be precisely aware of their roles.
- The forum facilitator should divide the participants into small groups in order to give them more time to discuss and raise main issues. Group division can reduce the unimportant issues and repeat issues. It also saves some time for the commune councilors to pay attention to the problem solving/clarification.
- Forum organizers should have a precise procedure for selecting local watchdogs; the selection process should be open, equal, participatory and transparent.

Monitoring of commune council meetings

On October 8th and 9th, 2009, COMFREL's Network Unit assistant had a field visit to monitor and evaluate two Commune Council meetings conducted by COMFREL in Banteay Meanchey province. The meetings were held in Srah Reang village, Srah Reang Commune and Banteay Neang village, Banteay Neang commune of Monkulborei district, Banteay Meanchey province with 32 participants (female 5). The monitor found some main points with regards to strengths and weaknesses which provide recommendations to improve the meeting of commune council with local residents, including:

- Men and women should be equally invited to the meeting.
- Second deputy commune chief in Banteay Neang commune requested that COMFREL help his commune promote more awareness of legal principles on illegal fishing and domestic violence among his commune's citizens.

VI.4. Monitoring of COMFREL's education material distribution and WCDI trainings

- Monitoring of COMFREL's education material distribution

On 29 January 2010, a Senior Researcher paid a four-day field visit to follow up on the dissemination of COMFREL's education materials (Picture books, Question & Answer books, stickers, aide-memoire documents on participatory and democratic governance) in Kampong Cham province. The objective of his visit was to find out the quality and efficiency of the distribution of COMFREL's printed education materials in this province. He selected a sample of 17 people for the interview. The monitoring suggested recommendations to improve the dissemination procedure, including:

- There should be a follow-up activity to monitor the material distribution performed by district contact persons and commune activists.
- Education material distributors (district contact persons and commune activists) should receive the material directly; so that, COMFREL staff at the head office have a chance to explain to them about the themes and importance of all the materials.
- COMFREL should consider allocating some budget to district contact persons and commune activists for their material-distributing activities from home to home.
- There should be COMFREL volunteer focal trainers responsible for educating voters directly.
- A schedule for material distribution should be developed, which would be useful for distributors to sign on after their activities are completed. Doing so would avoid the materials being left untouched.

Monitoring of WCDI trainings

- On October 19th, 2009, the Education and Gender Coordinator conducted a mission to monitor COMFREL's Women Can Do It training course on "Empowerment of Women in Decision Making" in Kampong Cham province, Kampong Siem district with 30 female participants.
- On November 14th, 2009, the Education and Gender Coordinator paid a field visit to monitor the training on Women Can Do It and Empowerment of Women in Decision Making in Kampong Thom province's Brasatsombo district.
- From 22 to 26 July, 2010, Education and Gender Officer paid a field visit to monitor the training on Women Can Do It and Empowerment of Women in Decision Making in Kampong Thom province's Prasat Balang district.
- From 3 to 6 September, 2010, Education and Gender coordinator paid a field visit to monitor the training on Women Can Do It and Empowerment of Women in Decision Making in Kampong Chhnang province, Kampong Tralach district.
- From 29 to 30 September, 2010, COMFREL's Master Trainer paid a field visit to monitor the commune meeting, training, dissemination of COMFREL's education materials at village and women network's quarterly meeting in Kampong Cham province's Kampong Siem district.

VII. Problems Encountered

During the implementation of its core program at the national and local levels, COMFREL encountered the following problems:

- COMFREL's radio program on "Human Rights" supported by ADHOC concluded as ADHOC finished its project. Listeners who like listening to this program feel sorry that they are no longer able to listen to the program any more. They think the "Human Rights" radio program is very useful for them since they can get knowledge of human rights from it.
- There is a radio technical problem related to the sound system producing sound which is sometimes difficult to listen to. New callers faced difficulty in accessing to the program because often the same callers know how to access the program quickly.

- Some local activities could not be conducted as planned. For instance, four local public forums (one in Kampot, another in Koh Kong and the others in Phnom Penh) were delayed because the municipal/provincial authorities did not grant permission to COMFREL's organizers. Consequently, COMFREL faced difficulty in asking elected councils to join the forum. A "Women Can Do It" training in Takeo was also delayed because the expected participants were invited to welcome the Government's delegation making a field mission in the area. Nonetheless, the training was rescheduled to be held in October.
- The number of participants attending some of the forums did not reach the expected figure (80 participants per forum) as local residents either could not come due to the rain or were busy working at their own paddy field during the rainy season period.
- It was difficult to implement the forum evaluation form to measure participants' awareness during the forum because the participants who raised many questions are illiterate. In the forum where indigenous groups attended, participants might face difficulty in Khmer language skills as most of them are illiterate and can only partly understand Khmer language; they also faced difficulties in filling in the forum evaluation form.
- COMFREL's provincial secretaries continued to report that they had difficulty recording the number of field visits to constituencies by each MP because most MPs did not inform the provincial parliamentarian office when they scheduled and conducted field visits about their field missions. Because of this, the provincial secretaries lost some data relating to the total of MP's field visits in each month. As a result, some MPs complained that COMFREL had not reported their total field visits to constituencies accurately.

VIII. Lessons Learnt and Experience

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

- Radio broadcasting is a good program for promoting NGOs' activities and identities.
- The Voice of Civil Society, COMFREL's radio program, allowed partner civil society organizations to host its program with their own moderator. To ensure the quality of the program, new moderators of its partner program need to be ready and professional for showing in public. Being well prepared and organized prior to the live radio program by moderators can avoid criticism from the audience. COMFREL's media coordinator and senior moderators should help coach them and allow new moderators to learn the practices of moderators for a few months.
- Social media such as Facebook with updated information can persuade youth to debate and raise their opinion.
- Selection of local network members with better qualifications (ability to read and write)-resulted in a better training process as they are active and get involved in the training. They are also able to share their point of view relating to the training discussions and make questions to ask master trainers. In addition, providing a training manual composed of lessons with simplified words, pictures and a glossary at the back cover, displaying a video spot which is parallel to the training schemes, role playing, practice and implementing group discussions are effective techniques helping trainees quickly understand the training contents.
- Having an interpreter for indigenous people attending forums increases the amount of interaction to those who cannot understand Khmer language to raise their issues and to be involved in the forums.
- Reducing the number of questions on the public forum pre and post tests (from eight questions to five questions) has resulted in better and more accurate data given by participants as they are more focused on the questionnaires and willing to provide their honest answers.

- Allowing participants who can read and write to do the score cards reduced the amount of data errors to some extent and made information in response to the score card more reliable.
- 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.
- To get comments or feedback from ruling political parties/RGC and MPs on the report/recommendations, it is crucial to have the report/recommendations published in the media, which acts as the main bridge in conveying information between voters and elected officials.
- Sumleng Mchas Chnaut Forum (or Owner of Voting Power Forum) is an excellent voter empowerment tool in which voters own the agenda. The methodology allows voters to set priority benchmarks in their individual constituency in a bid to seek for resolution from elected officials and members of the National Assembly. In the forum, voters are motivated to give an accurate, secret and democratic evaluation score on each priority benchmark for both elected officials and the members of the National Assembly. Voters can also take the floor to publicly admire, or blame/criticize the elected officials' performance and fulfillment. The forum makes people be an active voter and reminds the elected officials of their duties in serving the people's interest between elections.
- For "Women Can Do It" trainings this year, the number of trainees from different political parties was not equal, since the number of trainees from the CPP is more than that of other parties. To have the same number of training participants from each political party, COMFREL needs to determine the numbers of trainees from each party by directly sending an invitation letter to all party headquarters.

IX. Summary of Financial Statement

COMFREL's Financial Report in the period of October 1, 2009 to September 30, 2010

No	Items	Amount	%
1	Opening Balance	\$165,319.71	
2	Revenue		
2.1	Funds Received		
2.1.1	Oxfam Novib	\$52,764.00	11
2.1.2	Forum Syd	\$100,071.00	21
2.1.3	Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)	\$94,802.27	20
2.1.4	United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF)	\$141,219.09	31
2.1.5	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	\$36,846.60	8
2.1.6	Trocaire	\$19,600.00	4
2.1.7	Handicap International (HI)	\$10,211.40	2
2.1.8	One World Action (OWA)	\$7,760.75	2
2.1.9	Committee to Promote Women in Politics (CPWP)	\$2,378.01	1
	Total Funds Received	\$465,653.12	99
2.2	Bank Interest	\$477.87	0.4
2.3	Other Income	\$2,378.01	0.6
	Total Revenue	\$467,372.45	100
3	Disbursements		
3.1	Core Administration	\$82,999.24	15
3.2	Lobbying and Advocacy	\$27,740.38	5
3.3	Media and Campaign	\$68,491.37	14
3.4	Building Capacity for Local Network and Citizen's Participation in Local Governance	\$144,226.55	26
3.5	Monitoring and Voter Voice	\$73,958.20	13

3.6	Civic Education and Gender	\$85,137.62	16
3.7	Staff Capacity Building	\$13,441.50	2
3.8	Equipment and Furniture	\$16,732.80	3
3.9	Contingency	\$1,405.25	1
3.10	Quality Assurance (Finance & Activity Evaluation)	\$11,302.64	2
3.11	Special Project	\$16,777.24	3
	Total Disbursements	\$542,212.79	100
4	Funds at ending of September 2010	\$90,522.91	

X. Annex: Three Success Cases and One Case Study in 2010

Box 1: Nine Children with HIV Positive Parents Receive Support After COMFREL Organized a Meeting in Kampong Speu

Nine children (seven girls) with HIV-positive parents got support from a charity organization in Kampong Speu province's Chamkar Moan town five months after their difficulty was raised during a meeting between the commune council and citizens held by COMFREL's local forum group in Roeung Poeng village, Skhos commune, Samrong Toang district on 19 July 2010.



Among all, nine children (seven girls) whose difficulty was raised in a COMFREL-organized meeting received sponsorship from Sao Sary Organization

With the organization's sponsorship, the nine children each get a dozen notebooks, two school uniforms and a pair of shoes every year. Those who stay at the organization can also receive money from 300 to 3,500 riel per week for primary students and 6,000 riel per week for secondary students. In the organization, they have two meals per day, and they can learn English and computer free of charge. Some of the nine children also received a bike from this organization for riding to school.

It should be remembered that in the meeting there were 16 participants, including one commune councilor and four village chiefs. The participants raised a few issues that their commune had encountered in order to seek solutions from the invited commune councilors. Among all, the issue of finding sponsorships for orphans whose parents died of AIDS or children with HIV/AIDS positive parents was the most prioritized issue that the invited councilors and village chiefs promised to solve. Mr. Roath Yoeum, representative of Shkos commune councilors who was invited to the meeting, said, *"On behalf of a local resident guardian, I am very delighted to help children in crisis whose parents died of AIDS, and other poor children in the commune."*

After the meeting, the commune assigned all 21 village chiefs in the commune to identify children with HIV-infected parents or parents who died of HIV/AIDS and children with extremely poor parents. The village chiefs were also asked to report more information about those children's residence. They found nine children (seven girls) in three villages, Prey Trach, Prey Rongang and Tonloab, whose parents died of AIDS or whose parents had been infected with HIV/AIDS.

Having received the reports from the village chiefs, the commune made a plan to seek a charity to sponsor the children. The plan consisted of three parts: announcement of the search for a charity from inside and outside the commune, asking permission from abbots across the commune to put a charity box in their respective pagoda, and asking local residents in all 21 villages to contribute 100 riel per month to help the children. Nonetheless, only the first two parts of the plan were successfully implemented.

After implementing the plan, the commune found one charity organization named Sao Sary Organization from outside the commune to help those children. Further, the commune also gathered a total budget of 29,000 riel from one of three pagodas where the commune had put three charity boxes. The money gathered from local residents' contribution was then given to those children.

Box 2: Indigenous Peoples at Risk of Land Loss Demand an Immediate Solution from Authorities

"I am alive again. I no longer die as there are organizations supporting me and making interventions. I hope that there will be solutions so that I can get my land back." said Mr. Broneang Kantai with hope during a follow-up forum held by COMFREL in Ratanakiri province. Kantai has been at risk of losing his land to a plantation company.

Reaching the age of 30, Mr. Broneang Kantai, a member of the Tich Kreung minority group, is married and has four children-two sons and two daughters. He lives in Kalai Tavong village, Phnom Kok commune, Veurn Sai district of Ratanakiri province. He makes a living by planting cashew trees and rice. In addition, Kantai makes an extra living by finding resin to sell to support his family's livelihood. His family can get an annual harvest of only around 900 kilos of rice. His children, like other villagers' children, have no education at all as there are schools, but no teachers in the area.



Kantai, a member of Tich Kreung minority group, raised his hot issue in relation to illegal land grabbing by a Vietnamese company during COMFREL-organized follow-up forum on 19 July 2010 in Ratanakiri to seek immediate intervention from local authorities, district and commune council in particular.

Kantai and his family have lived and been doing farming on 3.5 hectares of land for a long time.. District Environment Officers tried to persuade him and other indigenous villagers in the area to sell their own land to a Vietnamese-owned Cheng Long company, which would then invest in a rubber plantation, but the villagers refused. Since then, the villagers in Kalai commune have been at risk of losing their ancestral land.

Before the arrival of the rubber plantation investment company, Cheng Long, in the area, Phnom Kok commune chief Mr. **Bou Vanthak**, a Lao ethnic, had informed the villagers that they had to pay 19,000 riel for a five hectare plot of land in a bid to avoid land grabbing by the company. Nevertheless, after paying the money required above, the District Environment Officers, in the same year, told Kantai and other villagers not to live on the area anymore as it would be made into conservative area.

Kantai did not follow the order of the District Environment Officers. Then the company, along with the police and military police (PM), came to Kantai's land, looking for him. They asked his wife where Kantai was. His wife responded that he was not at home. Suddenly, Kantai arrived and the company chased after him. Luckily, he was not arrested; he and his daughter ran into the forest. The company also destroyed his crops and farms and then told his wife that, *"they would arrest and imprison Kantai as soon as they see him"*. When the staff of company left, Kantai went to meet the village and commune chiefs to ask for their intervention, but there was no solution. They told Kantai that they would discuss this with the district level officials. The police chief called Kantai on July 18, 2010 and tried to force him to thumbprint, handing over his land to the company, but he did not agree.

On the occasion of participating in the follow-up forum organized by COMFREL in Kalai Tavong village, Phnom Kok commune, Veurn Sai district of Ratanakiri province on 19 July 2010, Kantai was very pleased that he could express his concerns. The forum was a chance for him as well as indigenous people who are suffering from land grabbing by companies and the powerful to voice their concerns and problems in order to be heard and seek intervention by authorities at all levels.

Mr. Kam Feurn, a District Councilor participating in this forum, showed his great attention to the issues raised by the forum participants and pledged to resolve the problems for the victimized people, stating that, *"I ensure that the issues raised by people here will be brought to a district council meeting for solution as I have never been aware of these"*.

Mr. Chuon Pindara, a Ratanakiri-based COMFREL Secretary, said that threatening and intimidation toward Kantai as an honest man are some of the strategies used by the company to deter other indigenous villagers from opposing the company's plan and to push them into selling their land. Readers may note that Kalai Tavong village is one of the five villages in Phnom Kok commune of Ratanakiri province's Veun Sai district. People living in Phnom Kok commune are members of various indigenous groups such as Krin, Prouv, Lao and Loun. They make a living by doing shifting cultivation and depend on forest products such as resin, animal hunting, fruit picking and vine searching.

Box 3: Illegal Fishing Suppressed as a Result of COMFREL's Public Forum in Kampong Chhnang (in Khmer)

ករណីជោគជ័យ

នេសាទខុសច្បាប់ ត្រូវបានដោះស្រាយ ក្រោយវេទិកាខុមហ្វ្រែល

ក្តីបានម្តរបស់ប្រជាពលរដ្ឋក្នុងឃុំកំពង់ហាវ ចំពោះការនេសាទដោយជនជាតិវៀតណាម ដែលប្រើឧបករណ៍អូនក្រឡាស្រី និងបញ្ជាការដាក់សម្រះ នៅក្នុងបឹងសាធារណៈជាលក្ខណៈឯកជន ត្រូវបានដោះស្រាយក្រោយពេលវេទិកាសាធារណៈខុមហ្វ្រែល។ ប្រធានក្រុមប្រឹក្សា ឃុំកំពង់ហាវ អាយុ៦២ឆ្នាំ លោកស្រី មាស ចាន់ ថន បានអះអាងថា ក្រោយពេលចូលរួមវេទិកា ខុមហ្វ្រែលដើម្បីយល់ដឹងពីបញ្ហារបស់ប្រជាពលរដ្ឋក្នុងឃុំរួចមក ក្រុមប្រឹក្សាឃុំ បានសហការជាមួយអាជ្ញាធរស្រុក អធិការស្រុក និងជលផលខេត្ត ដើម្បីរកយុទ្ធសាស្ត្រដោះស្រាយករណី នេសាទប្រើឧបករណ៍អូនក្រឡាស្រីពីសំណាក់ជនជាតិវៀតណាម និងបញ្ជាដាក់សម្រះ នៅក្នុងបឹងសាធារណៈជាលក្ខណៈឯកជន។ លោកស្រីបានមានប្រសាសន៍ថា **“ហួត មកដល់ពេល នេះ យើងបាន សហការដោះស្រាយរួចហើយព្រមទាំងប្រជុំ ប្រាប់ប្រជាពលរដ្ឋ នៅក្នុងឃុំរួចហើយដែរ គឺពុំមានករណីនេះកើតឡើងទៀតទេហើយឆ្នាំក្រោយធ្វើតែតែតឹងជាងនេះទៅ ទៀត”**។

ប្រធានក្រុមប្រឹក្សាស្រុក
កំពុងធ្វើការសន្យាដោះ
ស្រាយបញ្ហានេសាទ
ខុសច្បាប់ និងបញ្ជាដាក់
សម្រះជាលក្ខណៈឯកជន
អំឡុងពេលវេទិកាសាធារណៈ
ខុមហ្វ្រែល កាលពីថ្ងៃទី
១៨ ខែមីនា ឆ្នាំ២០១០
នៅឃុំកំពង់ហាវ ខេត្ត
កំពង់ឆ្នាំង



បញ្ជាក់ពីស្ថានភាពនៅមូលដ្ឋាន ទំនាក់ទំនងស្រុកខុមហ្វ្រែល អាយុ ៣៣ឆ្នាំ អ្នកស្រី យឹម សុផានី បានឲ្យដឹងថា ការនេសាទដោយប្រើប្រាស់ឧបករណ៍ខុសច្បាប់ មានការអន់ថយច្រើន ក្រោយពេលវេទិកា ដោយលោកស្រីសង្កេតឃើញថា មេភូមិ បានដើរប្រាប់ប្រជាពលរដ្ឋថា គេបានកំណត់ក្រឡាអូរលើសពី៣ដី ទើបអនុញ្ញាតអោយនេសាទ ចំណែកបញ្ហាសម្រះវិញ ក៏ពុំឃើញមានទៀតដែរ។

គួរបញ្ជាក់ផងដែរកាលពីថ្ងៃទី ១៨ ខែមីនា ឆ្នាំ ២០១០ អង្គការខុមហ្វ្រែលបានរៀបចំវេទិកាសាធារណៈ រវាងក្រុម ប្រឹក្សាស្រុក ខណ្ឌ ឃុំ សង្កាត់ និងប្រជាពលរដ្ឋ នៅឃុំកំពង់ហាវ ស្រុកកំពង់លែង ខេត្តកំពង់ឆ្នាំង ដែលមានអ្នក ចូលរួម ប្រមាណ ១៣០នាក់ ក្នុងនោះ ៧៩ នាក់ជាស្រ្តី។ កំឡុងពេលធ្វើវេទិកាមានការលើកឡើងនូវបញ្ហាជាច្រើនដូចជា ក្មេងទំនើង ល្បែងស៊ីសង ចោរលួច គោ ក្របី ប៉ុន្តែបញ្ហាការនេសាទនៅតែជាបញ្ហាចំបង និងជាការព្រួយបារម្ភ របស់ប្រជាពលរដ្ឋនៅក្នុងឃុំកំពង់ហាវ ទាំងមូលតែម្តង ព្រោះវាទាក់ទិននឹងការនេសាទប្រើប្រាស់ឧបករណ៍ ខុសច្បាប់ពីសំណាក់ជនជាតិវៀតណាម និងការដាក់សម្រះក្នុងបឹងសាធារណៈរបស់បុគ្គលមួយចំនួន ម្យ៉ាងវិញទៀតបញ្ហានេះ មានការចោទប្រកាន់ថា មានការរួម គំរិតគ្នា រវាងអាជ្ញាធរ និងជនល្មើសថែមទៀតផង។

Box 4: Case Study on Women in Politics in Koh Andet district of Takeo province (in Khmer)

ករណីសិក្សានៅស្រុកកោះអណ្តែត

កញ្ញា **ស៊ីន សាម៉ឺន** អាយុ ៣៨ឆ្នាំ រស់នៅ ភូមិខ្លាត្រហឹមក ឃុំក្រពុំឈូក ស្រុកកោះ អណ្តែត ខេត្តតាកែវ មានតួនាទីជា មន្ត្រីកិច្ចការនារី ស្រុក កោះអណ្តែត។ កញ្ញាធ្លាប់បានចូលរួមរៀនវគ្គបណ្តុះបណ្តាលកម្មវិធី “ **ការផ្តល់អំណាចដល់ស្ត្រី ក្នុងការធ្វើសេចក្តីសម្រេចចិត្ត**” កាលពីថ្ងៃទី ១៦-១៨ ខែតុលា ឆ្នាំ២០០៩ កញ្ញាបានមានប្រសាសន៍ថា “ពីមុនខ្ញុំអៀនច្រើន និងមិនសូវហ៊ាននិយាយ រឺក៏បញ្ចេញមតិនៅកន្លែងធ្វើការទេ ក្រោយពីបានរៀន វគ្គនេះមក ខ្ញុំមានមានសេចក្តីក្លាហានជាងមុន ហើយការងាររបស់ខ្ញុំក៏មានភាពប្រសើរជាងមុនដែរ ” ។

គាត់បន្តទៀតថា “ វគ្គបណ្តុះបណ្តាលនេះមានសារៈសំខាន់ណាស់ ព្រោះវាបានផ្តល់ចំណេះដឹងថ្មី ឯកសារថ្មីៗ ជាពិសេសបានបង្កើនភាពក្លាហានដល់ខ្ញុំទៀតផង” ។ កញ្ញា បានយកចំណេះដឹងនេះទៅផ្សព្វផ្សាយ ដល់ប្រជាពលរដ្ឋ តាមសហគមន៍របស់គាត់ តាមរយៈការប្រជុំភូមិ ការប្រជុំក្រុមប្រឹក្សា និងជាពិសេសនៅកន្លែងធ្វើការរបស់គាត់ផ្ទាល់តែម្តង ។ គាត់ បានបន្តទៀតថា “ ឥឡូវបុរសនៅកន្លែងធ្វើ ការរបស់ខ្ញុំចាប់ផ្តើមគាំទ្រខ្ញុំ ហើយសរសើរថាស្ត្រីឥឡូវក្លាហាន និងចេះបង្រៀនស្ត្រីៗ គ្នាផង ។”



កញ្ញា **ស៊ីន សាម៉ឺន** បានចូលរៀនវគ្គបណ្តុះបណ្តាល ស្តីពី “ **ការផ្តល់អំណាចដល់ស្ត្រី ក្នុងការធ្វើសេចក្តីសម្រេចចិត្ត**” រៀបចំដោយ ខុមហ្វ្រែល កាលពីថ្ងៃទី ១៦-១៨ ខែតុលា ឆ្នាំ២០០៩ នៅស្រុក កោះអណ្តែត ខេត្ត តាកែវ

នៅថ្ងៃទី ៣០ ខែវិច្ឆិកា ឆ្នាំ ២០០៩ កញ្ញា បានផ្សព្វផ្សាយចំណេះដឹងនេះ និងឯកសារអប់រំ ដូចជា សៀវភៅរូបភាព ស្លឹកយំរ និង សៀវភៅសំនួរចំណើយ នៅកម្មវិធីផ្សព្វផ្សាយសុខភាពបន្តពូជ និងអំពើហិង្សាក្នុងគ្រួសារ នៅក្នុងឃុំក្រពុំឈូក ។

មេរៀនដែលខ្ញុំផ្សព្វផ្សាយ គឺ យេនឌ័រ ការតស៊ូមតិ និងបំផុសសេចក្តីក្លាហានក្នុងការធ្វើសេចក្តីសម្រេចចិត្ត ក្នុងការងារសង្គម និងឈរឈ្មោះបោះឆ្នោត ។ ឥឡូវនេះ ស្ត្រីដែលបានចូលរួមវគ្គផ្សព្វផ្សាយរបស់ខ្ញុំ ហ៊ានឈរឈ្មោះបោះឆ្នោត ជាបណ្តាញស្ត្រីភូមិ និងជាតំណាងក្រុមស្ត្រី (អ្នកកាន់ប្រាក់សន្សំនៅក្នុងភូមិ) ។ សព្វថ្ងៃ ខ្ញុំមានក្រុមស្ត្រីពីរក្រុម នៅក្នុងភូមិខ្លាប្រហឹមក ឃុំក្រពុំឈូក (មួយក្រុមបង្កើតដោយខ្លួនខ្ញុំផ្ទាល់) ហើយក្រុមទាំងពីរ មានសមាជិក ៥០នាក់ (ប្រុស ៨ នាក់) ។ ពួកគាត់ មានតួនាទីសន្សំប្រាក់សន្សំស្រូវ និងដាំដំណាំ ដើម្បីបង្វិលជួយស្ត្រីក្នុងភូមិ ហើយនៅពេលស្ត្រី និងកុមារ ក្នុងភូមិជួបការលំបាកឬឈឺថ្កាត់អ្វីនោះ ពួកគេអាចប្រើប្រាស់ប្រាក់សន្សំនេះបាន ។ មិនតែប៉ុណ្ណោះ បណ្តាញស្ត្រីរបស់ខ្ញុំ មានភារកិច្ចជាអ្នកកាន់ប្រាក់សន្សំ ដោះស្រាយ បញ្ហាស្ត្រី និងកុមារ និងផ្សព្វផ្សាយយេនឌ័រ ក្នុងភូមិផងដែរ ។

កញ្ញា បានបន្តទៀតថា " សព្វថ្ងៃ ខ្ញុំមានបញ្ហាលំបាកខ្លះ ដោយសារឆ្នាំនេះក្តៅខ្លាំង ក្រុមស្ត្រីរបស់ខ្ញុំប្រមូលផលស្រូវសន្សំ មិនបានច្រើនទេ ។ អ្វីដែលជាបញ្ហាប្រឈមខ្លាំង គឺពេលខ្ញុំ ហៅស្ត្រីក្នុងភូមិមកប្រជុំម្តងៗ ពួកគាត់មិនស្ទើរចូលរួមទេ ជួនកាលចូលរួមមិនចប់ចុងចប់ដើមទៀតផង ។ ខ្ញុំមានតែឆន្ទៈបើកការប្រជុំ មិនមានថវិកាទិញអាហារសំរន់ សម្រាប់ការប្រជុំទេ ដូច្នេះ ខ្ញុំមានការពិបាកខ្លាំងក្នុងការហៅគាត់មកប្រជុំ ។ ម្យ៉ាងទៀតស្ត្រីក្នុងភូមិ គិតពីការងារផ្ទះច្រើនជាង " ។

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COMFREL's Local Public Forum between
District, Commune Councils and Citizens in 2010

COMFREL's Activities Supported by:

