



# COMFREL

## Annual Narrative Report

# 2011



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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
EMOs	Election Monitoring Organizations
FUNCINPEC	National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperation Cambodia
KYA	Khmer Youth Association
LPF	Local Public Forum
LTOs	Long Term Observers
MoI	Ministry of Interior
MoWA	Ministry of Women's Affairs
MPs	Members of Parliament
NA	National Assembly
NEC	National Election Committee
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NRP	Norodom Ranaridh Party
PDP-Center	People Center for Development and Peace
PEFOC, J	People's Forum on Cambodia, Japan
RFA	Radio Free Asia
RFI	Radio France Internationale
SRP	Sam Rainsy Party
SVR	Survey on Voter, the Issuing of Form 1018 and Voter Registration
STOs	Short Term Observers
TVK	National Television of Kampuchea
UNDEF	United Nations Democracy Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VOA	Voice of America
VOC	Voice of Civil Society
WPAN	Women Political Activist Networks (WPAN)

## FOREWORD

The Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia (COMFREL) serves to promote democracy and citizen participation in the spirit of building capacity for nationwide networking and cooperation with its member organizations and partners. Free and fair elections are entirely necessary for the progress of democratic development in the country. Therefore, COMFREL is dedicated to 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 10 sections and covering from October 01 to September 30, 2011 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 2011. 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 outcomes 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 2011, 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 Intern Mr. Bruno Smith, 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: Oxfam Novib, Forum Syd, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), Trocaire, European Union, British Embassy, One World Action and Committee to Promote Women in Politics (CPWP), as well as partners from within and outside Cambodia.

Phnom Penh, 03 May 2012

**KOUL Panha**  
Executive Director  
COMFREL

## I. Executive Summary

In fiscal year 2011, the Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia (COMFREL) serves to strengthen citizen's participation in decision making and democratic governance in the spirit of building capacity for nationwide networking and cooperation with its member organizations and partners. All staff members at all levels implemented activities set under the seven specific objectives mentioned above to reach its overall goal.

Almost all activities under the supervision of COMFREL's five units, namely Advocacy and Legal Study Unit, Media Unit, Network Unit, Monitoring Unit and Education and Gender Unit have been completed smoothly in accordance with the time frame. 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 results have been noticed both at national and grassroots levels out of COMFREL's overall performance.

***More democratic governance: Increased 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.***

In June 2011, COMFREL produced 500 copies of three books compiled from the consultation report on Election and Democracy, and the report on Election and Democracy Forums and Policy Recommendations. The books include some recommendations related to Media Access of Political Parties, Election Campaign Finance, Voter List and registration, the National Election Committee, Electoral System and Civic Education. The books were sent to political parties, electoral stakeholders, the government institutions and NGOs, INGOs.

COMFREL's advocacy unit and core team conducted consultations and four forums on election and democracy. The forums will invite and involve speakers and participants including leaders of NGOs, legislators, councilors, and government officials, totaling approximately 400 participants.

***Empowerment of civil society and voters through increased knowledge and understanding of democratic rights, responsibilities and democratic system: Strengthen "Civil Society Voice" and E-Campaign in Gathering of Public Support through the Media, E-mailing List, Website and Publications Advocating for Political Reforms and Human Rights***

In 2011, COMFREL broadcasted radio shows on FM 105, a total of 365 times, of which 250 were live broadcasts, and 115 times were re-broadcasts. In addition, COMFREL radio shows were broadcast from FM 90 in Phnom Penh, FM 95.5 in Siem Reap, FM 90.25 in Battambang, and FM 88.5 in Kampong Thom. The overall number of hours of live broadcast was 501 times, with an additional 559 times of re-broadcast episodes.

COMFREL's Network conducted 51 Voter Voice Workshops in remote communes to encourage voters to discuss and identify five priority agendas in their remote communes with a total of 2,957 participants (female 34%) in 18 provinces. COMFREL invited the participants who are eligible voters from community representatives, CBOs, NGO networks as well as commune and village authorities to set up the five most priority needs in their respective commune. Local leaders from major political parties were also invited to the workshops to listen to and give comments on voter's agendas.

***Enhanced political capital through increased popular participation in local governance and regular interaction with elected and government officials, and heightened level of practice of political participation of women, and youths along with a realization of the benefits of participation***

COMFREL conducted 14 local public forums which involved both local citizens and various local government figures, especially district and commune councilors. There were 960 participants (female 363), including 187 (127 female) indigenous people, 99 (46 female) youths aged from 18 to 30, 19 (one female) district councilors and 57 (seven female) commune councilors. These forums contribute to the increase their awareness of the rights and obligation of people participating in local governance as well as roles of district and commune councils.

The forums also 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. Some issues raised in COMFREL's forums were widely broadcasted by media outlets in order to make the issues better heard.

In the forums, approximately 12% of the total participants raised 87 issues. Among all, 11 cases (13%) were resolved, 33 (38%) were clarified, 20 (23%) were promised to be resolved and the other 23 cases (26%) were unable to be resolved since those issues required intervention from the higher level than district/commune councilors.

***Accountability of elected officials to voter constituencies established as well as National Assembly members accountable to provincial constituencies: Increased information, evidence and "voter voice" to effectively influence national elected officials' performance and fulfillment of their electoral platform promises***

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 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).

COMFREL released four issues of quarterly Parliamentary Watch reports to the public through its own website ([www.comfrel.org](http://www.comfrel.org)) and mailing list distribution to media and ongoing contacts in civil society and the public.

Fulfillment of benchmark promises in political platforms are assessed and scored by voters through four forums with constituency residents. Four reports of voter scoring on fulfillment of benchmark promises are produced and released through media. 347 voters (female 95) participated in scoring performance and fulfillment of elected officials toward the 10 priority sectors in Prey Veng, Uddor Meanchey, Takeo and Sihanouk Ville constituencies.

### ***Gender equality endorsement by increasing awareness***

700 copies of the 73 Question & Answer book on “Democratic Governance and Participation” and 50 copies of the book on “Gender Policy and Women Empowerment in Cambodia” were produced and distributed to NGO partners and local women network. Distribution of these materials contributed to increased debates among stakeholders and interests of donors and study institutions.

After COMFREL released the report on Gender Policy and Women Political Empowerment in Cambodia, many stakeholders, political parties and journalists were very interested in the report. With frequent meetings with each of political parties with NA seats, COMFREL noticed there was a process of developing a gender policy and promoting women participation in politics within individual party. Some main political parties have been in the process of producing a gender policy and other parties promised to have it. At least three political parties are committed to allocate some budget to female candidates for election campaign, whereas two other parties cannot afford this.

### ***Strengthen capacity and the internal organization through capacity building of staff and sensitization on gender, HIV/AIDS and youth***

COMFREL created and implemented the explicit strategy on how to approach youth through the establishment of social media such as Facebook and voicemail. COMFREL produced and broadcasted a video spot on young voters and election information through social media.

COMFREL developed an annual plan for building staff capacity and sensitization on gender and HIV/AIDS through trainings and workshops. The plan includes internal trainings on result based management and project cycle management, statistical analysis, and English through which staff can obtain knowledge and skills to implement the project activities.

In January 2011, COMFREL’s Education and Gender Unit conducted a survey on Gender Policy implementation within COMFREL workplace with all its central staff members. The purpose of this survey is to find out the development of Gender Policy being implemented within the organization and to improve the weaknesses of Gender Policy implementation to ensure that there is gender equality for decision making and responsibilities between male and female workers.

### ***Special Projects: contribution to enhance outcomes***

COMFREL in cooperation with other CSOs conducted four forums on Elections and Democratic Space (FOREDS) in four provinces. Participants expressed their preferences by voting on the recommendations/solutions raised in the forum, expressing their real will. For example, political parties want to discontinue issuing form 1018, but in the result of voting, the participants supported keeping form 1018, which shows that the participants know their real need.

A range of government figures and civil society members, are more aware of options and possibilities for improving the democratic system in Cambodia. At the same time, a range of concrete recommendations and proposals for reform of the democratic system and laws was articulated, recorded and sent to the appropriate authorities, and can now be used as a framework for continuing advocacy efforts with decision makers.

In cooperation with Handicap International - HI, Cambodian Disable People Organization - CDPO and its partner NGOs, COMFREL conducted a Survey of Political Participation of Women with Disabilities. This finding report is a useful source of information and recommendations for all

stakeholders to better understand and promote greater participation of women with disability in political process.

COMFREL in cooperation with Butterfly Works designed a new website: [www.cambodianvoterveoice.org](http://www.cambodianvoterveoice.org). This website is a place to collect and spread out information related to election irregularities and voter education. Moreover, voters can check the website and produce their own report on the election issues if they witness any election irregularities or intimidation. COMFREL used two telephone number lines: 010/015 802 777 in order to provide information related to Election especially on voter education.

Further, COMFREL contacted some phone news service providing companies to offer a SMS service with low rate and an IT company to create a picture message to be sent general voters for the upcoming elections. COMFREL conducted a press conference to inform the public about the launching of its new website and phone numbers. Recently, COMFREL has been in the process of establishing tools and documents for the project implementation. These tools and documents can also be used by other stakeholders to monitor their respective activities.

In spite of its good performance toward the outcome achievement, some barriers still exist to block the smooth process of the project implementation. Some serious cases such as serious flood and no permission from authority caused delay of the planned programs. Nevertheless, these obstacles in return allow COMFREL to experience and learn new things to avoid further same problems when implementing its project activities in the next phase. These useful knowledge and experiences have been described in the lessons learnt section.

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



### 1. Vision

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

### 2. Mission

To help to create an informed and favorable climate:

- 1) For Free and Fair Elections through lobbying and advocacy for a suitable legal framework, education to inform voters of their rights and monitoring activities that both discourage irregularities and provide comprehensive monitoring data to enable an objective, non-partisan assessment of the election process, and
- 2) For meaningfulness of Post Elections through education and public forums to encourage citizens to participate in politics and decision-making, advocacy/lobby for electoral reforms that increase accountability of elected officials and provide comprehensive monitoring data to enable an objective, non-partisan assessment of the fulfillment of political platform and performance of elected officials.

### 3. Specific objectives

1. **Advocacy and Legal Study (ALS):** To increase civil society input into an influence on the development of the policies and the legal frameworks related to political reforms and democratic governance that comply with 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, Youth and HIV/AIDs.
7. **Special Projects:** a) Forum on Elections and Democracy (FOREDS); b) Survey of Political Participation of Women with Disability; c) Building Democracy in Cambodia the Cross Media Way (social media and mobile phone), d) Strengthening Fairness and Integrity in 2012 commune council elections. These projects contribute to supporting and enhancing specific objectives from 1 to 5.

### **III. Completed Activities**

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

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

As one of the most important parts of its activities, promoting 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 organised more than 30 routable discussions through radio broadcasting, Civil Society Voice “VoC” and actively participated in 31 discussion meetings, three conferences and eight workshops organized by civil society organizations or working groups to monitor, discuss draft laws and provide comments on statements as well as draft laws/policies and regulations especially on Draft NGO law, Draft NGO Position Paper, Draft Content of Legal Framework on Political Campaign Finance, Draft Regulation on Voter Registration and Update Voter List, Recommendation on National Election Committee Composition, Draft Procedure on Creation of New Communes and Draft National Budget Law.

##### **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 to be used in advocacy and lobbying with donors, members of the NA, the government and major political parties. These recommendations are related to election reform, voter education, voter list, voter registration, media services, national election commission, political campaign finance, election system, and freedom of expression, information and assembly.

COMFREL, in particular its media unit, is an active member of the Freedom of Information Working Group – FOI. The FOI had developed a proposed law on access to information which has been endorsed by some members of the national assembly. However the proposed law has been rejected by the government and ruling party. The government’s draft policy on access to information has been also delayed to be endorsed. COMFREL in cooperation with the FOI continue to persuade the ministry of national assembly and senate relation and inspection (MoNASRI) to finalize and send the draft policy on access to information to the Council of Minister for approval as soon as possible.

After having held a series of meetings with each elected political party to discuss the matter related to election reform, COMFREL noted that all parties (except the ruling party) expressed their skepticism over NEC’s composition. Then, COMFREL advocacy initiated or engaged in another meeting with the ministry of interior, elected political parties, western embassy officials including British Ambassador ( other US, Australian, French officials), UN agents ( such as the Special Rapporteur of the Cambodian Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and UNDP officials) to discuss democratic space, governance and election reform, in particular voter registration, voter lists and NEC’s composition for next elections.

Consequently, a meeting of all elected political parties, civil society organizations and NEC, excepting the ruling party reached a joint agreement and signed a Policy Recommendation Paper requesting that NEC's composition from the national to local grassroots levels shall comprise of representatives from all political parties. The recommendation was then sent to the NEC and all key stakeholders. Nevertheless, it was rejected by the NEC referring the matter to the National Assembly or the Council of Ministers.



COMFREL organized a short dialogue meeting with representatives from all elected political parties (except the ruling party), the NEC, UNDP and IFES to present and discuss its commendation on reforming of NEC's composition on 8 August 2011.

COMFREL produced and distributed a book on Political Campaign Finance consisting of laws on Political Campaign Finance, 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.

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

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

COMFREL held a seminar and take part in one dialogue on election campaign finance for all political parties. The events are described in more detail below:

On 08 August 2011: COMFREL organized a short dialogue meeting with representatives from all elected political parties (except the ruling party), the NEC, UNDP and IFES to present and discuss COMFREL-produced recommendation on reforming of NEC's composition in order to gain trust from competitive political parties in election. Consequently, all parties reached a joint agreement

and signed a Policy Recommendation Paper requesting that NEC's composition from the national to local grassroots levels shall comprise of representatives from all political parties. After compiling and analyzing the outcomes of the seminar, COMFREL produced 20 copies of the recommendation and distributed them to all the participants and stakeholders. Nevertheless, the recommendation was rejected by the NEC referring the matter to the National Assembly or the Council of Ministers.

COMFREL advocacy unit, in particular its Legal Officer in cooperation with International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) and other civil organizations held another dialogue with four elected political parties (except Cambodian People's Party) to discuss the draft content on Political Campaign Finance Law and on the First-Step Initiative of Voluntary Disclosure of Political Parties' Income Sources. During the discussion, the representatives of each party showed their desire to have the Political Campaign Finance Law and their willingness to voluntarily disclose their respective party income sources.

**Celebration of Human Rights Day:** On 10 December 2010, COMFREL, one of the NGOs marking and celebrating the 62<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the 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. Before the celebration of Human Rights Day, COMFREL's officer was actively involved in the preparation with the Cambodian Human Rights Action Committee (CHRAC) by attending six meetings to discuss a welcome speech, the general situation of human rights in Cambodia and the location where the event would be held.

**Celebration of International Day of Democracy in 15 September:** Phnom Penh, 14 September 2011-On the occasion of the International Day of Democracy, the Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia (COMFREL) is celebrating the efforts made to realize democracy in Cambodia but it is also advocating for further reforms to enhance previous efforts. This day is a chance for Cambodia to show its full support for the universal value of democracy. COMFREL is taking this opportunity to encourage the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) to make greater efforts to enact reforms in the interest of democracy promotion.



COMFREL celebrated the International Day of Democracy to congratulate its Executive Director on receiving a Ramon Magsaysay Award equivalent to the Noble Peace Prize of Asia with invited distinguished guests who are representatives of Ambassadors, chiefs of NEC Legal Department and COMFREL donors on 14 September 2011.

Meanwhile, COMFREL also produced and distributed a press release (in Khmer and English versions) on “A Chance to Celebrate and Reflect” to the local and international media, then it was quoted on radio VOA, RFA, RFI and published in the Phnom Penh Post and the Cambodia daily. At the same time, COMFREL conducted a gathering at Tonle Basac restaurant with 90 participants to representatives of Ambassadors, chiefs of NEC legal department, media and COMFREL’s donors, partners and central staff. The purpose of this gathering was to congratulate COMFREL Executive Director Mr. Koul Panha who had been granted a prestigious Ramon Magsaysay for his work with the Committee for Free and Fair Elections.

## **2. Media and Campaign**

### **2.1. Neak Kloam Meul Bulletin**

#### **Neak Kloam Meul Bulletin**

During 2011, COMFREL produced four volumes of the Neak Kloam Meul Bulletin numbered 42, 43, 44 and 45. 3,000 copies of Neak Kloam Meul Bulletin 45 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 copies of this volume were distributed to a total of 2,700 people (female 30%).

The bulletin mainly covers some main issues, as follows:

- A series of Quarterly Parliamentary Watch reports.
- Cambodia’s election background.
- Commentary on Cambodia’s voter list system which needs improving.
- COMFREL’s 2009 report advocating for democratic reform: Cambodia democracy, elections and reform.
- Recommendations on Election and Democratic Policy.
- Election reform and citizen’s participation in election and right to vote.
- Case study of political campaign finance in France, Indonesia, and USA.
- Checking of the voter list and voter registration 2009.
- Election experiences from the U.S, Afghanistan and Indonesia.
- Survey report findings on citizen’s participation and COMFREL’s Voter Benchmark workshops.
- Introduction to political campaign finance.
- Case studies on political party funding and political corruption in East Asia from Japan, South Korea and Taiwan.
- Gender policy and women empowerment in Cambodia.
- Strategic plan for strengthening the demand for fair elections and democratic governance.
- Success case of fishery issues which have been solved after COMFREL workshop;
- COMFREL Executive Director awarded Nobel Price Award of Asia 2011.

#### **Articles and Publications**

COMFREL produced and released 71 press releases with regard to the following main issues:

- COMFREL daily radio programs.
- Announcement of COMFREL local public forums.
- Report on Cambodian Democracy, Elections and Reform.
- Report on Gender Policy and Women Political Empowerment in Cambodia.
- Reports on Voter Voice Workshop in Remote Areas across the country.

- COMFREL’s award program for its local watchdogs for year 2010.
- Voter registration campaign.
- Celebration of International Day of Democracy, and
- COMFREL Executive Director awarded a Noble Peace Prize of Asia 2011.

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

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

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

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



(From left) Mr. Long Panhavuth, Project Officer of Cambodian Justice Initiative, Mr. Koul Panha, COMFREL Executive Director, Ms. Seng Threay, CIVICUS and Mr. Sok Sam Oeun, Lawyer and CDP Executive Director, are discussing the Monitoring Process of ECCC Trial on Friday, 14 October 2011 at COMFREL’s Studio Room.

In 2011, COMFREL broadcast radio shows on FM 105 a total of 365 times, of which 250 were live broadcasts, and 115 times were re-broadcasts. In addition, COMFREL radio shows were broadcast from FM 90 in Phnom Penh, FM 95.5 in Siem Reap, FM 90.25 in Battambang, and FM 88.5 in Kampong Thom. The overall number of hours of live broadcast was 501 times, with an additional 559 times of re-broadcast episodes.

The following is the VoC Program Table, which shows all the broadcasts through various stations:

No	Radio Station	Location	No. of Broadcasts/Live		Hours	Speakers				Organizers/Facilitators		No. of Callers /Discussions	
						CSOs		BoD					
						F	M	F	M				
			Re-Broadcast	Live									
1	FM 105	PNH	115 times	250 times	365 hrs	133	365	1	35	45	51	82	925
2	FM 90	PNH	32 times	99 times	131 hrs								
3	FM 95.5	Siem Reap	366 times	0	183 hrs								
4	FM 90.25	BB	27 times	104 times	131 hrs								
5	FM 88.5	K.Thom	19 times	48 times	67 hrs								
<b>Total</b>			<b>559 times</b>	<b>501 times</b>	<b>877 hrs</b>	<b>498 persons</b>	<b>36 persons</b>	<b>96 persons</b>	<b>1,007 callers</b>				

**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. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011 onward, COMFREL broadcasts and rebroadcasts the daily radio programs only via FM 105 HMz (Phnom Penh) and FM 95.5 MHz (Siem Reap), respectively as COMFREL faces a shortfall of fund to run the relayed radio programs to two other stations in Battambang and Kampong Thom provinces.

COMFREL recorded three roundtable discussions on the draft law of Union two times, and draft law on public procurement. The purpose of recording the discussion is to gather recommendations from NGO leaders and forward them to law makers and relevant establishments.

### **COMFREL website**

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](http://www.comfrel.org).

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

#### 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, district contact persons, local level activists and local watchdogs, and extends to 23 provinces and the capital.

#### Trainings

In 2011, COMFREL conducted three trainings so as to strengthen capacity of COMFREL local networks. The trainings were directed to the provincial secretaries, and it covered topics such as conducting workshop in using computer with Unicode, how to enhance their capacity in using the internet, performing as website checking, the use of email and Skype during the election observation, and how to use SMS via mobile phone. The details of each training are as follows:

5 April 2011: COMFREL's Network Unit conducted a two-and-a-half day training on how to conduct Voter Voice workshop in remote communes and social media (how to Unicode, modem, internet and Microsoft Offices) with its 21 (11 female) provincial secretaries at the COMFREL head office. This training aimed to strengthen capacity of all COMFREL provincial secretaries on conducting workshop, using computer with Unicode as well as enhancing their capacity of internet using such as website checking, email, Skype, etc.



Monitoring Unit Coordinator is explaining some techniques on social media, how to use email, website and Skype to provincial secretaries at COMFREL's meeting room on 5 April 2011.

The training outlines were as follows:

- How to conduct voter voice workshop in remote areas:
  - Introduction on voter voice workshop plan.
  - Workshop background.
  - Workshop outlook.
  - Workshop objectives and expected results.
  - Strategies for organizing the workshop.
  - Role and responsibility of workshop organizer.
  
- Social media project:
  - Action plan.
  - Material distribution (computer, modem and Internet and Email manual).
  - Introduction to how to operate computer, how to use Microsoft Office 2007, Skype, Unicode, Email and website.

From 23 to 25 August, COMFREL's Network Unit conducted a three-day training on Voter Registration Observer (VRO) and Misuse of State Resource for its 44 (17 female) local network members who are district long term observers and provincial long term observers at COMFREL's head office. The purpose of this training is to strengthen capacity of COMFREL district contact persons and provincial secretaries on the election observation with a focus on misuse of state resources, voter registration and how to collect information.



Workshop participants are divided into four groups to discuss and share their ideas on training contents of election observation and misuse of state resources on 24 August 2011 at KYA head office.

The number of participants is listed in the table below:

Target groups	Number of participants		Sub total
	Male	Female	
Provincial Secretaries	11	10	21
District contact persons	16	7	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>44</b>

The training outlines were as follows:

- Procedure on voter list checking and voter registration.
- Major issues to be noticed.
- Method on how to collect information.
- Observation of the misuse of state resources during an election period.
- Use of E-media, Facebook.
- Reflection on organization of voter voice workshop in remote areas.
- Audit of voter list and voter registration.
- Use of SMS for a research.

From 22-23 September 2011: COMFREL's Network Unit conducted a two-day training on the evaluation of performance of commune councilors and representatives of local political parties toward commune priority needs set by the residents participating in the voter voice workshops in remote areas for its 24 (five female) local network members in Phnom Penh. The main purpose of this training was to strengthen the local network members' knowledge on how to use workshop score cards and how to send SMS via mobile phone and method on how to collect data.

The contents are as follows:

- People's score card: method on evaluation and introduction such as interview, interviewers, target group and evaluation form:
  - Problem identification or needs.
  - How to evaluate and collect data.
- Introduction to functions of mobile phone:
  - Sending SMS via mobile phone.
  - Distribution of 10 mobile phones to the participants.

For these trainings above, two COMFREL master trainers used the following methods to train the participants: (1) warm-up by trainers to get participants involved; (2) lecture (presentation on theories and experiences relevant to each module); (3) questions and answer by participants; and (4) reflection on practical exercise and theories.

### **3.2. 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.

### **Local Public Forums**

COMFREL's Network Unit conducted 14 local public forums on the subject of "District & Commune Councils and Citizens" in 11 different provinces with 960 participants (female 363). The forum aims to strengthen the interrelation between elected officials and residents and provides more opportunities to local residents to meet their commune councilors to raise their current issues/needs and seek for solution together. Forum participants are also aware of promises or new plans made by commune councilors.



Local people have chances to express their points of views to seek solutions from local authorities during COMFREL-organized public forums on 23 December 2012 in Pong Roh commune of Kampong Chhnang.

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

No	Province	Commune	Date	Number of participants		Sub total
				Male	Female	
1	Siem Reap	Svay DangKom	22/10/2010	51	19	70
2	Kampng Cham	Kvoet Thom	24/10/2010	30	31	61
3		Kok Srok	14/11/2010	41	26	67
4	Preah Vihear	Sro Yong	27/10/2010	46	18	64
5	Ratanakiri	Ka Lai	15/11/2010	28	23	51
6		Pok Nhay	13/12/2010	51	22	73
7	Takeo	Smoang	19/11/2010	40	41	81
8	Pailin	Stung Kach	23/11/2010	33	31	64
9	Stung Treng	Pluk	23/11/2010	47	28	75
10	Sihanouk Ville	Chamkar Loung	29/11/2010	34	13	47
11	Kampong Chhang	Pong Roh	23/12/2010	45	22	67
12		Relea Pha Eah	06/01/2011	46	21	67
13	Kandal	Koh Kel	24/12/2010	47	26	73
14	Mondulkiri	Bou Sra	27/12/2010	58	42	100
<b>Total</b>				<b>597</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>960</b>

And the following table shows different groups of participants in the 14 forums above.

Target groups	Number of participants		Sub total
	Male	Female	
District councilors	18	1	19
Commune councilors	50	7	57
Village chiefs	79	20	99
Local police officers	17	0	17
Local citizens	232	197	429
COMFREL networks	34	5	39
Civil Society representatives	14	0	14
Youths aged from 18 to 30	53	46	99
Minority groups	100	87	187
<b>Total</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>960</b>

The forums gave more opportunities to local residents to meet with their commune councilors so as to gain more knowledge and benefits, as the following:

- Increase their awareness about the rights and obligation of people participating in local governance as well as roles of district and commune councils.
- Obtain more chances to raise current problems/needs, and
- Build relationship with commune councilors to together find ways in response to the problems.

COMFREL has noticed that the participants raised 87 cases with regard to eight main issues: infrastructure, public security and order, land dispute resolution, local governance, women and children's issues, natural resource management, education and others. The table below shows the number of cases resolved, clarified and promised to resolve by the invited guest commune councilors.

No.	Opinions/local issues raised	Issues raised		Results of problem solving in forums							
				Resolved		Clarified		Promised to resolve		Unresolved	
		cases	%	cases	%	cases	%	cases	%	cases	%
1	Infrastructure	18	20.7%	5	5.7%	3	3.4%	6	6.9%	4	4.6%
2	Public security and order	12	13.8%	2	2.3%	3	3.4%	2	2.3%	4	4.6%
3	Land dispute resolution	18	20.7%	0	0.0%	7	8.0%	6	6.9%	6	6.9%
4	Local governance	15	17.2%	1	1.1%	11	12.6%	2	2.3%	1	1.1%
5	Women and children's issues	3	3.4%	1	1.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	2.3%
6	Natural resource management	10	11.5%	0	0.0%	5	5.7%	2	2.3%	3	3.4%
7	Education	3	3.4%	1	1.1%	0	0.0%	1	1.1%	1	1.1%
8	Others	8	9.2%	1	1.1%	4	4.6%	1	1.1%	2	2.3%
<b>Total</b>		<b>87</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>26%</b>

Based on the table, out of 87 cases, 11 cases (13%) were resolved, 33 (38%) clarified, 20 (23%) were promised to resolve later and the other 23 cases (26%) unresolved.

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

### **Selection of COMFREL local watchdogs**

After the forums, COMFREL selected 25 (13 female) participants to be COMFREL's local watchdogs so as to monitor the performance of and promises fulfilled by their commune councilors.

### **Voter Voice Workshop in Remote Communes**

#### **- Concept note development**

In February 2011, COMFREL's Network Unit held four internal meetings in a series with its members to discuss the organization of Voter Voice Workshops in remote areas at COMFREL's meeting room. The purpose of these meetings was to develop a concept note on the organizing of 100 workshops in remote areas under a financial support from EU. The duration of this project is two years. After the meetings, the draft concept note was produced. The draft contains five main points such as introduction, goal and objectives of Voter Voice Workshops in Remote communes, workshop expectation, methodology and an annex.

In the draft, COMFREL decided to let participants in each workshop set up five priority sectors which need to be fulfilled by elected commune councils. The pre and post-tests of the workshops were also developed to measure participants' understanding of the achievements fulfilled by their individual commune councils.

#### **- Organization of Voter Voice Workshops in Remote Communes**

COMFREL's Network conducted 51 Voter Voice Workshops in remote communes to encourage voters to discuss and identify five priority agendas in their remote communes with a total of 2,957 participants (female 34%) in 18 provinces. COMFREL invited the participants who are eligible voters from community representatives, CBOs, NGO networks as well as commune and village authorities to set up the five most priority needs in their respective commune. Local leaders from major political parties were also invited to the workshops to listen to and give comments on voter's agendas.

See the table below for more details about locations, dates and number of participants.

No	Province	Commune	Date	Number of participants		Sub total
				Male	Female	
1	Kratie	Srae Cha	28/03/2011	30	25	55
2		Boeung Char	25/04/2011	36	17	53
3		Our Krieng	27/04/2011	39	8	47
4		Kampong Dam Rei	21/06/2011	19	36	55
5		Thmey	23/08/2011	38	16	54

6		Phnhi Meas	26/04/2011	41	37	78
7	Koh Kong	Chrouy Prosh	28/04/2011	25	32	57
8		Brolay	18/07/2011	32	18	50
9	Prey Veng	Prey Kandieng	26/04/2011	52	4	56
10		Koh Sampov	29/04/2011	57	12	69
11	Kampong Cham	Chan Moul	11/05/2011	44	13	57
12		Choam	12/05/2011	40	03	43
13		Lvaeng Roeusey	24/05/2011	40	10	50
14	Siem Riem	Lvea Kraing	26/05/2011	40	11	51
15		Sre Noy	11/07/2011	33	17	50
16		Kroya	12/05/2011	45	14	59
17	Kampong Thom	Doung	16/05/2011	46	14	60
18		Kompong Kor	25/05/2011	32	27	59
19	Kampong Speu	Trapaing Chor	24/03/2011	37	18	55
20		Dambouk Roung	23/06/2011	35	17	52
21	Kandal	Lerk Dek	20/06/2011	42	23	65
22		Chheu Khmao	15/03/2011	48	2	50
23	Stung Treng	Koh Srohlay	17/06/2011	34	16	50
24		Koh Preah	21/08/2011	34	25	59
25		Serei Mongkul	25/06/2011	30	25	55
26		Ka Leng	27/06/2011	34	32	66
27		Kis Chong	30/06/2011	45	20	65
28		Poey	18/07/2011	34	18	52
29	Ratanakiri	Nhang	25/07/2011	36	29	65
30		Taveng Leu	23/08/2011	26	37	63
31		Boh Kham	22/08/2011	20	33	53
32		Patei	15/08/2011	48	12	60
33		Batang	12/09/2011	31	28	59
34		Samki	15/09/2011	34	15	49
35	Mondulkiri	Dak Dam	28/06/2011	35	42	77
36		Sre Hoy	12/08/2011	39	22	61
37		Ro yor	24/08/2011	46	37	83
38		Sreh Khnom	14/09/2011	43	18	61
39	Kampong Chhnange	Krang Skea	07/07/2011	41	11	52
40		Plov Toeuk	21/07/2011	23	34	57
41	Banteay Meanchey	Boeung Beng	12/07/2011	36	24	60
42		Sambo	15/07/2011	43	10	53
43	Pursat	Chheu Tom	18/07/2011	56	10	66
44		Orousoum	16/08/2011	19	19	38
45	Battambang	Koh Chivaeng	15/07/2011	28	32	60
46	Oddar Meanchey	Beng	25/07/2011	41	9	50
47		Krosang	19/08/2011	44	38	82
48	Takeo	Kampong Reap	28/07/2011	47	4	51
49		Jerng Koung	19/08/2011	51	4	55
50	Preah Vihear	Kampong Sro Lau Moey	15/08/2011	56	28	84
51		Thmea	19/09/2011	41	15	56
<b>Total</b>				<b>1,946</b>	<b>1,011</b>	<b>2,957</b>

The table below also shows the different participant groups.

Target groups	Number of participants		Sub total
	Male	Female	
Commune councilors	157	25	182
Village chiefs and local political parties	335	41	366
Minority groups	312	247	559
Local citizens	514	319	833
Youths aged from 18 to 35	376	290	666
Community representative or Civil Society networks	145	41	186
COMFREL networks	107	48	155
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,946</b>	<b>1,011</b>	<b>2,957</b>

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

1. Be aware of rights, roles and obligations of voters to find out priority needs in local development.
2. Provide voters more opportunities to participate in and debate current commune needs/concerns so as to set up their respective most five priority commune needs, and
3. Compile all priority needs in remote communes/Sangkat in a report which enables the workshop participants remember easily, in order to push the fulfillment of commune councils toward the established priority needs and to include them into political platform of political parties for the 2012 commune/Sangkat election.

One day prior to each workshop, the workshop working group held a meeting to explain the workshop objectives and the workshop strategy used to determine the five priority needs. During the full-day workshop, participants were divided into three plenary groups so as to discuss and set up their most five important commune needs they wanted to be addressed. Then, all needs were gathered and classified into groups; next the classified needs were discussed in detail and selected by the participants as the five priority needs in their commune.

After the workshops, COMFREL produced 51 reports on the five priority needs in each commune and sent them to political representatives at provincial, district and commune levels, local watchdogs and the participants (See COMFREL's separate press release on each of Voter Voice Workshop in Remote Area, which is available on its website: [www.comfrel.org](http://www.comfrel.org), for more details on the five priority needs in each commune).



Various activities of participants (including indigenous groups) during the discussion of creating and choosing five most important priorities which need to be addressed by local leaders in COMFREL-organized Voter Voice Workshops in Remote Communes in Banteay Meanchey, Pursat and Kampong Chhnang provinces in July 2011.

- Selection of COMFREL local watchdogs

After the workshops, COMFREL selected 148 (47 female) participants who can read and write SMS to be COMFREL's local watchdogs so as to monitor the performance of and promises fulfilled by their commune councilors and local leaders from major political parties and to bring information relevant to their five priority needs from COMFREL head office to local residents in the commune.

- Production of a TV spot on Voter Voice Workshop in Remote Communes

To display the whole process of how the voter voice workshop in remote area was organized to the public, COMFREL produced an 11-minute TV spot on Voter Voice Workshop in Remote

Areas, aiming at disseminating the workshop core objectives and the importance of organizing it. The public can view it on COMFREL’s website.

### 3.3. Follow-up Dialogue and Establishment of Local Forum Group

#### ***Follow up on Local Public Forums***

COMFREL conducted two follow-up local public forums with a total of participants 225 (female 76) in two provinces as listed in the table below:

No	Name of location	Commune	Date	Number of participants		Sub total
				Male	Female	
1	Svay Rieng	KorkiSoam	09/09/2011	29	11	40
2	Koh Kong	TropeangRoung	12/09/2011	14	18	32
<b>Total</b>				<b>43</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>72</b>

The table below shows the number of participants from different groups in the forums.

Target groups	Number of participants		Sub total
	Male	Female	
Commune council	5	1	6
Village chiefs	3	1	4
Citizens	24	20	44
NGOs	0	0	0
Youth group (from 18 to30)	7	5	12
COMFREL networks	4	2	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>72</b>

The follow-up forum aimed to monitor commune councilors’ performance on their promises during the previous public forum held by COMFREL.



Local people raised issues and sought responses from local authorities over their promise fulfillment performance during COMFREL-organized follow-up public forum on Tropeang Roung commune of Koh Kong province on 12 September 2011.

In the forum, one issue raised in the previous forum has been resolved. The issue is related to a request for the construction of 10-kilometer road linking from Kokisoam commune to Kandeang commune of Svay Rieng province. The road was successfully constructed in the last July 2011.

### **3.4. Research**

#### **Production of book on the finding report on Situation of Female Commune/Sangkat Councilors in Local Performance in five provinces**

COMFREL produced the final research finding report on Situation of Female Commune/Sangkat Councilors in Local Performance in five provinces: Takeo, Kampong Thom, Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Cham and Preah Vihear.

The finding report 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 is in the process of publishing this report.

#### **Research on Commune Budget monitoring and commune council performance**

The research team assigned 30 (nine female) COMFREL local network members who had been trained on grassroots, national program for sub-national democratic development, commune budget monitoring and local actions to conduct interviews with their individual commune councilors in order to gather information about the commune budget and the assessment of commune council performance. To conduct interviews, they used COMFREL's designed interview questionnaires which are composed of five main points: adoption of commune budget; commune budget management and the use of commune budget, commune revenue resources, transferring process of commune budget and financial report dissemination. On the 07 February 2011, 20 interview forms were sent to the COMFREL head office for data entry and analysis. Then, the finding report was released.

### **3.5. 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 evaluation team selected top six applications among 29 applications submitted to COMFREL's central office by 29 local watchdogs in 12 provinces. Then the team assigned its five members to conduct field interview with those selected watchdogs. Three out of the selected applications were ranked from number one to number three for the winning of Local Watchdog Award program thanks to their model roles in serving their respective communes and people in year 2011.

Their roles are observing the performance of commune councilors; being involved in establishing a relationship with commune councilors or conducting a forum to facilitate communication between commune councilors and local residents; initiating 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. These winning-award watchdogs are from Banteay Meanchey, Pailin and Svay Rieng provinces.

On 8 April 2011, COMFREL organized an award-granting ceremony on best performance of local watchdogs in 2011 to congratulate its five award-winning local watchdogs ranked from number 1 to number 3 at the COMFREL head office. Participated in this event are the Executive Director, an executive committee, an evaluation commission, 21 provincial secretaries and three local watchdogs.

## **4. Monitoring and Voter Voice (MVV)**

### **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 promise of the political platform fulfillment in the fourth mandate from 2009 to 2010.
- 500 copies of the report on Government Fulfillment of Political Platform.
- Combined Report on the Voters Scoring on the Performance of Elected Officials toward the benchmarks.

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.

### **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 14 sessions of the NA. 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 two amendments of the election law, nine draft laws, one proposed law and two agreements.

### **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 875 Mission Observation Checklists, both hard and soft copies.

The table 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 in average
CPP <sup>[1]</sup> (90MPs)	58	17	75	83	1294	55	17
SRP (26 MPs)	17	6	23	88	574	24	25
HRP (3 MPs)	3	0	3	100	405	17	135
FUN (2 MPs)	2	0	2	100	67	3	34
NRP (2 MPs)	2	0	2	100	14	1	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>2,354</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>22</b>

According to the checklists obtained, 105 members (female 23, 17 of which are CPP members and the other 6 are SRP members) of the parliament conducted field visits to constituencies for a total of 2,354 times with five main reasons listed in the table below:

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<sup>[1]</sup> 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.

Objectives of 2,354 field visits by 105 MPs	Political parties					Total number of field visit objectives
	CPP 75	SRP 23	HRP 3	FUN 2	NRP 2	
Visiting people in constituency, gift giving and project inaugurations	729	205	260	10	2	1,206 (51%)
Strengthening internal party networks	228	309	130	30	3	700 (30%)
Group missions and accompanying leaders to hold ceremony in the party, attending conference or inaugurating new public achievements	310	4	3	24	4	345 (15%)
Attending in Forum and workshop conducted by NGOs	17	24	12	3	5	61 (2.5%)
Intervening and helping people to solve their problems	10	32	0	0	0	42 (1.5%)
<b>Total number of field visits by each party</b>	<b>1,294</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2,354 (100%)</b>

Based on the table above, the majority of MPs' field visits to constituencies were largely focused on visiting people, gift giving and project inaugurations (51% of total field visits) followed by strengthening internal party networks, group missions and accompanying leaders (30%, and 15%, respectively). The interventions in people's problems and attendance in forums/workshops held by NGOs represent a total of about 4% of the total field visits.

### **Production of Parliamentary Watch Reports**

COMFREL released four issues of the quarterly Parliamentary Watch reports to the public through its own website ([www.comfrel.org](http://www.comfrel.org)) and mailing list distribution to media and ongoing contacts in civil society and the public. The report included the following information:

- MPs' field visits to constituencies, issuance of intervention letters.
- MPs still face trouble as the process of restoring MP immunity is not clear.
- MPs' membership depends on their respective political party.
- Procedure of the distributing of draft laws does not comply with the existing NA external regulation.
- Updated MP contact list (Up to now this year, seven MPs have been replaced (five are from CPP and the other two are from SRP).



(Left) COMFREL Monitoring Assistant is collecting NA information for her quarterly progress Parliamentary Watch reports on ASEAN Inter Parliamentary Assembly at the Peace Building on 23 September 2011.

### 4.3. Voter Voice and Workshop/Forum

#### ***Samleng Mchas Chnaut Forum (Owner of Voting Power Forum)***

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 four Samleng Mchas Chnaut forums in four provinces with a total of 347 voters (female 95). It cars are the people who also joined the Voter Benchmark workshops held in 2009.

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	02/11/2010	Prey Veng	58	22	80
2	25/11/2010	Uddor Meanchey	67	11	78
3	31/05/2011	Takeo	62	28	90
4	03/08/2011	Sihanouk Ville	65	34	99
<b>Total</b>			<b>252</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>347</b>

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

Direct Target Groups reached	Number of Participants		Total
	Male	Female	
Parliamentarians	3	0	3
Government officials	21	5	26
Provincial councilors	6	0	6
Commune councilors	26	3	29
Village chiefs	17	0	17
Deputy village chiefs	7	0	7
Community group leaders	13	1	14
NGO representatives	26	9	35
Local police officers	4	0	4
State school teachers	13	9	22
Local residents	89	55	144
Students	18	10	28
COMFREL's local network	8	3	11
Political Party member	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>347</b>

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 four reports on each of the voters' assessments by giving score toward the priority sectors fulfilled by elected officials and the government.

## 5. Civic Education and Gender (CEG)

### 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 24 times. 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.

The radio show program was divided into two parts. First, each guest speaker would give an introduction and information relating to the discussion topic. The second part of the show is call-in time. Local residents would call in and share their ideas on the discussion topics. Most of the callers would share what happened in their commune. The questions raised by callers were clarified by guest speakers while discussing a variety of topics relevant to the democratic governance which aims to increase knowledge of local citizens, in order to give them more understanding on government's policies & government institution framework and strategic work plan.



(Right) Ms. Nhean Mony Vann, Liaison Officer of the Open Institute, Ms. Hem Vanna Reit, EYC Development and Community Network Officer, and two COMFREL radio moderators are discussing a topic on Rights of Young Women on 13 July 2011 at the COMFREL Studio Room.

Meanwhile, there were 96 callers, of which 26 (approximately 27%) were women, who shared their point of view on the air in the “Women Can Do It” radio program. In addition, 11,565 public viewers listened to this program through COMFREL’s website. For the program, two outside speakers from Cambodian NGOs and the Ministry of Women’s Affairs were usually invited to conduct the programs.

Topics of the program brought for discussion are issues concerning women, as listed below:

- Women’s qualifications in social affairs and politics.
- Promotion of women participation in leadership at sub-national level.
- Law enforcement against domestic violence and protecting victims are our obligation.
- Report on Situation of Female Commune/Sangkat Councilors in Local Performance.
- Youths’ helping of women is like helping themselves and the society as a whole.
- Political participation of women with disability in Cambodia.
- Women and state financing from political parties.
- Women’s participation in local political arena.
- Impact of integrating Cambodia into ASEAN toward Cambodian women.
- What should be done to increase a number of elected female commune councilors in the upcoming 2012 commune election.
- Cambodian women toward development as well as gender and climate change in political sector.

## 5.2. Printed Materials and Distribution (PMD)

COMFREL's Civic Education and Gender Unit produced 150 copies of the book on "Gender Policy and Women Empowerment in Cambodia" and distributed them to NGO partners and local women network.

### **Material distribution**

In April, COMFREL's Education and Gender distributed the copies of the book on "Gender Policy and Women Empowerment in Cambodia" to NGO partners, local women networks and workshop participants. The book was also posted on COMFREL's website.

## 5.3. Training on Empowerment of Women in Decision Making

### **CPWP**

During this fiscal year, COMFREL's Education and Gender Unit, as a member of CPWP completed the following activities in five target communes in Kampong Siem district, Kampong Cham province with 26 Women Political Activist Networks (WPAN) from CPP (11 persons), SRP (4), HCP (4) persons, NP (4) and HRP (3). COMFREL also completed the following activities:

- 30 commune meetings.
- 30 times of outreach activities (commune disseminating activities).
- First and second district meetings as well as capacity building.
- Five commune public forums (one forum in each commune).
- Three trimester meetings, and
- One mid-day district local public forum and one night district local public forum.

The purpose of these activities were to enhance capacity of women network from local political party members and residents especially women in the target five communes of Kampong Cham province; to raise their awareness of domestic violence, women and children trafficking, gender, and maternity and infant welfare.

### **WCDI Training**

Development of training curriculum and education materials;

- COMFREL produced and printed 330 copies of the 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.
- Produced training documents for the five target provinces.
- 130 copies of training manual on Women Can Do It (WCDI).
- 150 copies of T-shirts on WCDI.

### **Training**

COMFREL's Education and Gender Unit conducted seven trainings in "Women Can Do It and Women Empowerment in Decision Making" for 210 female participants who are members of political party activists, COMFREL's networks, district councilors, commune councilors, village

chiefs, sub-village chiefs, village assistant and focal persons in charge of women and children's affairs. See the table below for more details on locations, date and the number of participants in each of the above-mentioned trainings.

No	Province	District	Date	Number of female participants
1	Takeo	Bati	15-17/10/2010	30
2		Kirivong	22-24/10/2010	30
3		Prey Kabas	08-10/07/2011	30
4	Preah Vihear	Sangkom Thmey	01-03/11/2010	30
5	Kampong Chhnang	Kampong Leng	27-30/07/2011	30
6	Kampng Cham	Kong Meas	05-08/08/2011	30
7	Kampng Thom	Sandan	09-11/09/2011	30
<b>Total</b>				<b>210</b>

The table below shows different groups of participants in the forums above.

Target groups	Number of female participants
District councilors	11
Commune councilors	55
Staff at District Women Affairs Department	10
Women network female local points (district and commune levels)	32
Village chiefs and vice chiefs	27
COMFREL networks	20
Civil Society representatives	24
Public servants	13
Local police officers	6
Political party representatives (at village, commune and district levels)	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>210</b>

The training objectives were as follow:

- Strengthen women' capacity on leadership, political affairs and lobby to make them confident in actively participating in politics and social affairs.
- Motivate women and pave way for them to build good relationship with local authorities, political parties, involved institutions and civil society organizations, and
- Support the establishment of women network from local to national level.

The topic of trainings were about gender, leadership, democracy and women's participation, debate, speech presentation, commune management techniques and problem solving, lobby and campaign and the commune committee in charge of women and children's affairs.



COMFREL organized a three-day training on Women Can Do It and Women Empowerment in Decision Making for female members of political party activists, COMFREL's networks, district councilors, commune councilors, village chiefs and sub village chiefs from 09 to 11 September 2011 in Sandan commune of Kampong Thom province.

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 play after lecture session, showing their discussion results, illustrating pictures to make them understand the training schemes, putting them pair discussion, and 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 result, participants increased their understanding of the training subjects by 40% from 50% measured by the pre-test to 90% measured by the post-test.

### **Selection of COMFREL network**

Among all trainees, COMFREL selected 20 persons to be COMFREL's Women network Activists (CWNA), of whom 16 are from CPP, two are from SRP, one is from FUN and one is COMFREL's contact person in five provinces (Kampong Cham, Kampong Chhnang, Takeo, and Kampong Thom and in four districts. They are able to take local action to promote their commune interests.

All woman networks have been monitoring commune council performances and situations of female commune councilors at their communes and send monitoring report to COMFREL every year (one time a year). Some CWNA have effort fully educated people at their work places about Gender, the Importance of Women in Decision-Making, Domestic Violence, Women and Children Trafficking and Domination Techniques and Women Rights, and try to create women group in order to save money and plant crops for helping people, especially women and children.

### **Local Actions:**

#### **❖ Local Learning**

90% of COMFREL's women network activists (CWNA) have competently conducted echo trainings at their communities. This year, they conducted eighteen local awareness courses (local learning) on women empowerment in decision making in five target provinces with a total of 537 (23% male) participants in order to raise their awareness on gender and women's participation in politics.



COMFREL's women network activist is conducting a local training to women in Kampong Roteis village, Kampong Roteis commune of Kampong Thom on 03 September 2011.

See the table below for more details about locations, dates and the number of participants.

No	Province	District	Date	Place	Participants		Total
					M	F	
1	Kampong Chhnang	Kg.Tralach	12/7/2011	Salakhumchres	9	21	30
2		Samakymeanchey	20/8/2011	Sreaphsa village	8	25	33
3		Kg.Chhnang Town	28/7/2011	Kg.Chnang commune	9	23	32
4		Rolea Phaear	13/7/2011	Tavak village	9	21	30
5	Takeo	Kirivong	27/7/2011	Kirivong commune	9	21	30
6		Kah Andet	05/8/2011	District office	8	22	30
7		Baty	11/8/2011	Chambork	10	20	30
8		Tramkak	14/8/2011	Angtasom commune	4	24	28
9	Kampong Cham	Stoeung Trang	19/8/2011	Preakbak commune	9	22	31
10		Kg.Cham Town	13/8/2011	Boeungkok commune	6	24	30
11		TbongKhom	02/8/2011	Vihear Lourng	12	21	33
12		Kg.Siem	01/8/2011	Roang commune	6	24	30
13	Kampong Thom	Brasatbalang	18/9/2011	Salavisay commune	3	17	20
14		Baray	15/9/2011	Baray commune	0	30	30
15		Stoeungsen	03/9/2011	Kg.Roteah commune	0	30	30
16	Preah Vihear	TbeangMeanchey	17/9/2011	Koulen district	9	21	30
17		Rveang	8/9/2011	Rohas commune	9	21	30
18		Cheysen	10/9/2011	Khyang commune	7	23	30
<b>Total</b>					<b>127</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>537</b>

## 5.5 Other activities

COMFREL's Gender Focal Point, an Education and Gender Unit Chief and officer attended four workshops and a press conference held by COMFREL's partners and donors to gain awareness of experience sharing of WCDI program, including completed activities, outcomes, lessons learnt and solutions; Third Assembly on Women in Cambodia; Women's Participation in Politics; and ASEAN Mechanism to Promote and Protect Women and Children's Right.

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

(See section V)

## 7. Special Projects

### 7.1. FORUM on Elections and Democracy (FOREDS)

In order to support advocacy on election reform, UNDP developed this project, for which COMFREL successfully won funding. With support from UNDP Cambodia, COMFREL initiated a series of four Forums on Elections and Democratic Space in four provinces of Cambodia- Prey Veng, Banteay Meanchey, Mondolkiri and Siem Reap. The forums were exceptionally useful as a way to bring together representatives of diverse stakeholder groups to discuss problems and solutions in Cambodia's electoral and democratic system.

COMFREL identified issues that stakeholders wanted to discuss through an extensive consultation process conducted in all four provinces and at the national level. The Forums served both as an educational opportunity and as a chance to discuss and debate various aspects of the electoral system and basic freedoms that are keys to the functioning of democracy.

The forums started out with speeches by civil society leaders, which provided background for participants in the issues to be discussed. Then, the participants divided into four to five discussion groups focusing on different aspects of the democratic system,, and on the recommendations on how to improve in their respective parts of the democratic system. After reporting their recommendations to the whole forum, the recommendations were discussed and commented by the main speakers and one representative of each discussion group. In many cases, the group recommendations were refined to be clearer or more specific. Further comments were heard from members of the Forum.

Finally, each groups' recommendations were voted on by all members of the forum, using a hand-held voting machine, whose votes were received by a COMFREL computer. The results could then be displayed on a viewing screen by the whole forum. After some adjustment and refinement, all the recommendations were approved by the plenary forum, mostly by large margins. The Forum concluded with distribution of all the Forum recommendations, completion of feedback forms, and closing remarks. After reviewing the recommendations of all four Forums, COMFREL refined the recommendations and consolidated them. Then, the recommendations were released to journalists and the public, with some analysis and discussion, at a final workshop held in Phnom Penh.

## 7.2 Survey of Political Participation of Women with Disabilities

COMFREL in cooperation with HI, CDPO, and other partner NGOs conducted a study on Political Participation of Women with Disabilities. This study aimed to better understand the background of participation of women with disability in political process and to provide a useful source of information for all stakeholders that leads to continuation of support to promote the greater participation of women with disabilities in political process.

In the initial stage, COMFREL developed a manual, a questionnaire and a database for the survey of political Participation of women with disabilities. After that, COMFREL conducted training for 38 field interviewers. After the training, all interviewers were sent to conduct field interview with the target groups in two provinces: Kampong Speu and Kampong Cham as well as Phnom Penh municipality. COMFREL contacted NGOs in those provinces to arrange interpreters for assisting the field interviewers in interpreting languages of disable people. COMFREL staff members were also sent to do a spot check to monitor the interviewers' activities so as to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the survey questionnaire forms.

One of COMFREL's main duties was to develop a database system for the data entry and data analysis. All survey forms refilled by the interviewers were collected and sent to COMFREL's head office for database entry and analysis. The finding report along with recommendations to promote political participation of women with disabilities was produced and presented in the workshop with stakeholders in Phnom Penh.

## 7.3 Building Democracy in Cambodia the Cross Media Way (Social Media and Mobile Phone)

After the workshop in 2010, the Butterfly Works produced an advisory report on how COMFREL should use the tools in the programs. Based on the initial desk research, interviews with relevant stakeholders including Oxfam Novib and COMFREL staff, the advisory report was written and named as "Building Democracy in Cambodia: The Cross Media Way" aiming to increase democracy and good governance in Cambodia through the usage of social media and mobile phone technologies for the period 2011 to 2013.

COMFREL in cooperation with Butterfly Works designed a new website: [www.cambodianvoterveice.org](http://www.cambodianvoterveice.org). This website is a place to collect and spread out information related to election irregularities and voter education. Moreover, voters can check the website and produce their own report on the election issues if they witness any election irregularities or intimidation. COMFREL used two telephone number lines: 010/015 802 777 in order to provide information related to Election, especially on voter education.

Further, COMFREL contacted a few new phone service providers to offer a SMS service with low rate and an IT company to create a picture message to be sent to general voters for the upcoming elections. COMFREL conducted a press conference to inform the public about its launching of the new website and phone numbers. Recently, COMFREL has been in the process of establishing tools and documents for the project implementation. These tools and documents can also be used by other stakeholders to monitor their respective activities.

#### 7.4. Strengthening Fairness and Integrity in 2012 commune council elections

In June 2011, COMFREL started to conduct a voter survey on problem related to electorate and audit of the voter list. The purpose of this survey was to pave way for voter participation in democracy and election process, and to study the accuracy of the voter list 2011. The finding report could be considered as a crucial document for relevant stakeholders to consider whether or not reforming the voter list and current election system in Cambodia.

Meanwhile, COMFREL has also conducted a Media Monitoring and misuse of state resources for all political parties in the upcoming elections. COMFREL produced a preliminary report on the result of observation on voter list revision and voter registration, Media Monitoring and Misuse of state resource in November, and held a press conference to disseminate the findings which includes the followings: observation of the Process of Voter Registration and Voter Revision, Observation on voter registration and voter information dissemination, observation on Political Expression, Observation on Media Political Coverage, and observation on Misuse of State Resource including human resource and equipment/materials.

Before producing the finding reports, COMFREL deployed 342 observers in 24 provinces to observe voter education, voter registration and verification, media monitoring and misuse of state resource. COMFREL also deployed 260 other observers from its networks and partner organizations to conduct the voter survey and the audit of the 2011 voter list. The survey and the audit were conducted amongst a sample of 8,656 voters, drawn from 850 polling stations in 24 capital/provinces. COMFREL recruited 11 volunteers to clean the questionnaire and do the data entry.

COMFREL recruited and trained nine more observers about the methodology used for media monitoring especially the method of the monitoring of misuse of state resources during the election process. They worked in the monitoring of all political parties in the upcoming elections. They monitored 10 electronic media outlets: National Television of Kampuchea (TVK), Cambodian Television Network (CTN), Bayon News TV, National Radio FM 96, National Radio AM 918, Radio FM 105, Radio FM 106.5, Radio Free Asia's (RFA) Khmer service, Voice of America's (VOA) Khmer service and Radio France international's (RFI) Khmer service . They were equipped with computers, nine stopwatches, external hard disks, headphones, recorders and radio.



A Media Monitoring Unit Volunteer is recording data related to misuse of state resources on various TV channels such as TVK, CTN, Bayon News etc. on 25 August 2011 at the COMFREL Media Monitoring Room.

## IV- International Seminars and Missions

- The Executive Director joined ANFREL's board meeting from 22-23 April 2011 in order to prepare its assembly and strategic program. He engaged with the ANFREL Election Observation Mission (EOM) observing the General elections in Thailand scheduled from June 22 to July 6, 2011. He was selected to be the deputy head of the mission. . The Election Day was held in July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2011.
- Because of the executive director elected as one of the 2011 Magsaysay Awardees, from 25 August to 3 September 2011, he went to Manila, Philippines in order to receive the award and join the various awards related activities including lectures and forums on "creating paths for sustainable citizen vigilance in a young democracy" that were held in the university of Philippines and Ateneo University- with their faculty & student.
- The Executive Director attended an inviting Forum that provided opportunities for electoral engagement bodies-EMBs or (election commissioners) in particular from ASEAN to exchange view not only with their peers, but also with practitioners and experts from inside and outside the region. The forum was held in Jakarta Indonesia from 3- 5 October 2011. The National Election Commission of the Republic of Indonesia (KPU) and the International IDEA were hosted and co-organised the forum. The objectives are to bring together electoral practitioners and experts to exchange knowledge and share experiences, to provide a forum for networking, to present opportunities for provoking debate and promoting initiatives. At the end of the forum EMBs and participants endorsed **Jakarta Declaration on South-East Asian Electoral Community 2011. The declaration affirms** that democracy is a universal value based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine through participation their own political, economic, social and cultural systems; agree to lay the foundations for a South-East Asian Electoral Community and to support its inception by election management bodies of South-East Asian countries by the end of 2013. (it noted that this forum need to be reported for the next fiscal year).
- From 1 to 12 July: COMFREL's Monitoring Officer had an overseas field mission to monitor a general election held in Thailand at an invitation from ANFREL international election monitoring network.

## 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 sensitization 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: internal trainings and external trainings.

### 1. Internal trainings

COMFREL central staff attended a series of trainings on result-based management and project cycle management. These trainings were given at COMFREL's head office with a facilitator from Forum SYD, and focused on key terms, such as outputs, outcomes, constraints, lessons learnt, case studies and success cases.

### 2. External trainings

Most COMFREL central staff members, including volunteers, especially Program Officers and Unit Coordinators joined external trainings provided by COMFREL's donors and partner

organizations. The trainings were about CEDAW monitoring and Evaluation, Human Rights, , Gender Analysis of the Decentralization Reform in Cambodia, Gender HIV/AIDS Policy Dissemination, Fundraising System, Joint Climate Change in Initiative, Gender Sensitive Planning, local governance, PME guideline and how to write case study/success story, Application of Social Accountability Mechanism,

### 3. Training for Provincial Secretariats

COMFREL continues to support the English program for eight selected provincial secretaries in their respective provinces.

### 4. Sensitization on Gender, Youth and HIV/AIDS

In January 2011, COMFREL's Education and Gender Unit conducted a survey on Gender Policy implementation within COMFREL workplace with all its central staff members. The purpose of this survey is to find out the development of Gender Policy being implemented within the organization and to improve the weaknesses of Gender Policy implementation to ensure that there is gender equality for decision making and responsibilities between male and female workers.

## VI. Reflection, Monitoring and Evaluation

### 1. COMFREL Staff Retreat

From 03-06 January 2011, COMFREL organized a staff retreat in Koh Kong with 39 participants (female 15), including COMFERL's expatriate advisor, nine (five female) provincial secretaries, one coordinator and 28 staff members. The main purposes of conducting this staff retreat was to

find out COMFREL's strengths and weaknesses, to set up a next strategic plan, to change working atmosphere, and to tie close relationship among all COMFREL's staff members both at the central office and provincial levels.



To find out institutional strengths and weakness and to deepen and strengthen relationship among all staff, COMFREL conducted a staff retreat with 39 participants in Koh Kong provinces on 4 January 2011.

## 2. Monitoring of Voter Voice Workshops in Remote Communes

To improve the process of organizing voter voice workshop in remote areas and to help provincial secretaries conduct these workshops successfully in accordance with the schedule. COMFREL's Network Assistant, Local Public Forum Officer, Senior Coordinator, Monitoring Officer and Media Coordinator did 22 field visits to monitor 22 workshops in order to monitor the process of organizing the voter voice workshop, to coach and instruct the provincial working group how to organize the workshop and to set up priority needs and to see outputs and outcomes of COMFREL-organized workshops.

During the monitoring, they found weaknesses, strengths and recommendations as follows:

### Strength:

- There was a good cooperation between local authorities, civil society organizations and local communities.
- There was a good place for organizing the forum at a pagoda.
- The workshop achieved its expected result because the participants had discussed and set up their five priority needs which were handed in the commune councilors and local political party representatives.
- Most participants are in the middle age from 25 to 60. They were active in group discussion.

### Weaknesses:

- The division of working groups was not clear.
- The volunteers were selected without proper interview.
- The participants came late as they had to spend much time on travelling from their respective home to the workshop.
- Representatives from other political parties, not from the ruling party, did not participate in the workshop, as probably they were not invited by a commune chief from the ruling party (the commune chief was assigned to invite speakers).
- There were not enough seats for the participants.
- The workshop facilitator could not explain the word "voter voice" correctly and did not instruct community leaders in reading their speech.
- The workshop result could not display immediately to the participants because everything was written by hand, no technical tools.
- There was a lack of human resource as the commune is so remote.
- Most participants are male and so elderly that they cannot see the pre and post test
- Participants are not from all villages in the selected remote commune in accordance with the set plan.
- It was difficult to select three volunteers who can write SMS in those remote commune.
- COMFREL's provincial secretary did not involve much in the technical process of workshop, such as, division of group discussion, how to do a brainstorm among group members to raise their priority need and how to classify the priority needs among the participants.
- Changing in a sub-group leader in the workshop led to poor facilitation of the workshop.

### Recommendations:

- Provincial secretaries should be responsible for the formation of the workshop agenda in their own province as they alone could organize the workshop when provincial facilitators are busy. They should be well aware of the workshop procedures and strategies by reading the manual at least three days ahead of the workshop day.
- Provincial secretaries should be responsible for inviting local political party representatives and people by themselves.

- Provincial secretaries should ask the COMFREL head office for help when they are not clear about how to conduct the workshop. This would avoid undesirable workshop results which are not in accordance with the project plan expected results.
- If the workshop schedule is going to be changed, they should inform the head office at least three days in advance.
- All workshop materials, such as, workshop agenda, pre and post-tests, volunteer selection form should be well prepared in advance so as to avoid any shortage of materials as the workshop is so far from the populated place.
- Community representatives should be guided on how to read their speech before the workshop.
- Provincial secretaries should pay more attention to their workshop facilitation especially to the method on how to set up five priority needs within each group discussion, to the combination of the priority needs from all groups and to how to select the most significant needs in each remote commune.

### 3 Evaluation of performance of COMFREL's provincial secretaries

In December 2010, COMFREL evaluated its 23 municipal/provincial secretaries' performance for the year of 2010 based on the five key elements: initiative, duty and team facility, administrative regulation and code of conduct, commitment as well as skills and results achieved. As a result, three outstanding provincial secretaries in Kampong Chhnang, Ratanakiri and Banteay Meanchey were ranked number one, number two and number three, respectively.

## VII. Problems Encountered

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

- ❖ Some local activities could not be conducted as planned. For instance, three voter voice workshops scheduled to be conducted in Preah Vihear province in May 2010. Although commune councillors and local residents were ready to participate in the workshop, the provincial authorities insisted on the delay to conduct the workshop, as the residents in the province were busy with their paddy field during this rainy season.
- ❖ Some activities were also postponed or not able to carry out due to serious flood from August to September 2011. Two other Voter Voice workshops in remote areas in Stung Treng and Preah Vihear provinces were also postponed, as well as voter registration monitoring activities.
- ❖ 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, or their assistants, did not inform the provincial parliamentary office or political party 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.
- ❖ From April 1, 2011 onward, COMFREL broadcasts and rebroadcasts its daily radio programs only via FM 105 MHz (Phnom Penh) and FM 95.5 MHz (Siem Reap), respectively whereas the other two relayed stations FM 90.25 MHz (Battambang), and FM 88.5 MHz (Kampong Thom) were suspended due to the fund shortfall. This suspension will lead to a narrower of its media coverage in far provinces from Phnom

Penh. This will also affect the expected result of reaching the total number of 2 million listeners across the country and some callers in those provinces might not be able to call the radio-call-in show again as the program cannot reach their province anymore.

- ❖ COMFREL faces difficulty in selecting three volunteers from remote rural communes who can read and write SMS on mobile phone where it has conducted the voter voice workshops because their technical knowledge in terms of mobile phone usage is very limited.
- ❖ Voter Voice workshop participants are not from all villages in the remote commune as planned because some villages are very far from the commune and difficult to travel due to commune bad trail.
- ❖ Khmer SMS on voter registration and revision period could not be conducted as planned due to the service of the company. The company does not have this service to provide us the Khmer SMS.
- ❖ COMFREL contacted Smart Latelz to discuss the agreement of providing Khmer SMS to Cambodian voters. Up to now, there has been no cooperation between the two parties thanks to disapproval of the agreement. There were two points stated in the agreement that can effect on the freedom of information and independence of COMFREL. These points were related to COMFREL's responsibility for the Khmer SMS which COMFREL had suggested the company to remove it.
- ❖ 75% of women<sup>1</sup> who are local political party activists/members and independent women that COMFREL compiled in the lists and sent to their parties at the national level to acknowledge their own party membership and to consider their competency to stand for the upcoming commune election were rejected by their respective political parties as not being their local party activists/members. Two main reasons behind this were because all parties were not informed about their local activists/members and because COMFREL and CPWP did not contact them to request for new appointment of their local members to be members of WPAN when the replacement occurred.
- ❖ During the implementation of the FOREDS project, COMFREL faced few difficulties: (1) Time for conducting consultation was rather short, and staff needed to have many meetings with different groups of stakeholders, during the rainy season; (2) The number of women who participated in the Forums was quite low. On the one hand, COMFREL advocates for a 30% quota for women in elected office, but even in its own Forums, the figure for participants usually could not be reached. Many of the women participants were quiet and did not provide much input. (3) The facilitators for the small group discussions were sometimes ill- prepared to facilitate the small group discussion, either because of a lack of background knowledge, or because of a lack of facilitation skills.

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<sup>1</sup> It should be noticed that these women are competent and active in educating and promoting more women participation in politics in their communes after receiving a series of trainings held by COMFREL.

## VIII. Lessons Learnt and Experience

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

- Having an interpreter for indigenous people attending the forum or workshop on voter voice increases the amount of interaction to those who cannot understand Khmer language to raise their issues and to be involved in the forum and workshop.
- Information related to draft laws and the National Assembly's activities can be best collected from individual members of the NA since the NA Secretary is not open to the public for such information. Additionally, the best way to have documents/recommendations sent to the MPs is through each MP's address(es) or their own political parties, except for the CPP MPs, some of whom can be reached via the National Assembly Expert Commissions.
- Increase in cooperation with local organization partners and communities which have networks in provinces, districts and communes makes it easy for COMFREL to organize Voter Voice Workshops in Remote Areas and to invite local residents to the workshops.
- A meeting with a workshop working group one day ahead of the workshop launching to let the group be aware of the workshop objectives, process of conducting the workshop and methodologies used to determine priority needs and to divide role and duties to the workshop participants helps the working group proceed with the workshop organization smoothly as planned.
- COMFREL and CPWP need to contact all political parties at national level especially, to request them for their respective activists or members participating in trainings or other activities. In addition, COMFREL, CPWP and stakeholders need to continue their lobbying and advocating activities with political parties in order to push them to put female candidates at least 30% on the top of the party list.
- Despite the low awareness of participants on election issues and recommendations, the FOREDS methodology provided discussions with a wide range of electoral issues in an open environment. COMFREL responded flexibly and innovatively to the special circumstances of the Forum, when it initiated. Khmer citizens are ready and able to produce recommendations to improve Cambodia's democratic system, and are able to identify problems and injustices in the current system.
- The methodology in organizing the FOREDS allowed us to find out real issues by conducting the consultation first, and then proceed by organizing the forums to find the solution. Through these forums, we are shown the important or real need in education for local citizens, especially minorities. We found that, to educate minority groups, we need to use the minority language, the curriculum should have no technical terms, and the dissemination should be conducted house by house, or via short plays/skits with minority actors in them.
- Forums which involve a variety of actors from different political backgrounds can have a reconciliatory effect and help promote peace building. With clear and deep consultation, some root causes were identified, which made it easy to conduct the forum discussions.

## IX. Summary of Financial Statement

This is COMFREL's Financial Report for a period from October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011.

No	Items	Amount	%
<b>1</b>	<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>\$90,523.00</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Revenue</b>		
<b>2.1</b>	<b>Funds Received</b>		
2.1.1	Oxfam Novib	\$171,384.00	30
2.1.2	Forum Syd	\$118,645.00	21
2.1.3	Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)	\$80,000.00	14
2.1.4	British Embassy	\$9,753.00	2
2.1.5	One World Action (OWA)	\$3,433.00	1
2.1.6	European Union (EU)	\$116,132.00	20
2.1.7	United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF)	\$30,975.00	5
2.1.8	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	\$24,545.00	4
2.1.9	Handicap International (HI)	\$6,808.00	1
2.1.10	Committee to Promote Women in Politics (CPWP)	\$9,156.00	2
	<b>Total Funds Received</b>	<b>\$570,831.00</b>	<b>100</b>
2.2	Bank Interest	\$624.00	0.1
2.3	Returned fund	(\$1,922.00)	0.3
	<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$569,533.00</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Disbursements</b>		
3.1	Core Administration	\$89,140.00	16
3.2	Lobbying and Advocacy	\$22,045.00	4
3.3	Media and Campaign	\$61,770.00	11
3.4	Local Network	\$ 136,124.00	25
3.5	Monitoring	\$ 57,292.00	11
3.6	Civic Education and Gender	\$45,821.00	8
3.7	Staff Capacity Building	\$ 6,450.00	1
3.8	Equipment and Furniture	\$6,695.00	1
3.9	Contingency	\$1,281.00	0.2
3.10	Quality Assurance (Finance & Activity Evaluation)	\$19,245.00	4
3.11	Special Project	\$95,940.00	18
	<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$541,803.00</b>	<b>100</b>

# COMFREL

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

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

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

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

Website: [www.comfrel.org](http://www.comfrel.org)



COMFREL conducted a staff retreat is conducted annually in order to find out institutional strengths and weakness as well as new strategies to improve its weaknesses and to deepen and strengthen relationship among all staff in Koh Kong provinces in 2011.

## COMFREL's activities in year 2011 supported by:

