



កម្មវិធីអភិវឌ្ឍន៍ធនធានយុវជន
YOUTH RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
(YRDP)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

“Youth Engagement in Social Actions” – Baseline Survey

1. PROJECT TITLE: Youth Initiatives for Political and Social Action (YIPSA)

2. INTRODUCTION

1. Organization Background

a. YRDP

Formally initiated in October 1992 and legally registered with the Ministry of the Interior in 1998, the main goal of YRDP is to empower youth to become committed and active citizens with a better quality of life¹ through taking concrete initiative and motivating others for promoting sustainable peace, justice, and democratic society. Internally, YRDP commits to be a leading youth organization with local, regional and global recognition for its quality of critical thinking skill development for both staff and youth. YRDP believes that *“The future of our country as well as the future of our lives depends on the quality of our thinking.”*

YRDP encourages both male and female youth to reflect on themselves and their situations, to be initiative, to find honest and wholesome ways of making a living and to actively participate in the development of their country.

More than 22 years of experience working with youth, YRDP has learned that to have youth representatives in local, sub national and national elected bodies is very important for youth to strive for substantial change in Cambodia. In the new strategic plan 2015-2020 therefore, YRDP is highly committed to working with other networks to encourage under-30 youth to stand as representatives for election in local, sub-national and national level.

b. COMFREL

Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia (COMFREL) has now participated in the 1998, 2003, 2008 and 2013 National Assembly Elections, and the 2002, 2007 and 2012 Commune Council Elections. COMFREL is currently engaged in lobbying and advocating for improvements to the legal framework for political and electoral reforms; it has active preparations for future civic education and it also monitors the performance of parliamentary members to assess their fulfillment of political platforms. COMFREL endeavors to build the capacity of its own network as well as those of our partners at national and provincial levels. COMFREL conducts public forums and assesses the performance of commune councils by focusing on the issues of local governance and participation of citizens in local bodies to build democracy from village-level upwards.

¹ Safe and dignified work adhering to the minimum wage, freedom of expression, and the presence of social conscience and competence

c. YCUD

Youth Coalition for Unity and Development (YCUD) is the only youth alliance committed to increase youth representation in decision-making at the sub-national and national level. YCUD advocates for the enforcement and implementation of the National Youth Policy and greater youth representation in politics.

YCUD registered with the Ministry of Interior in 2014 and was founded by leaders of various Cambodian Youth Organizations. YCUD, a coalition of seven youth NGOs, engages in high-level policy advocacy for better national policy enforcement. YCUD supports youth advocacy activities from grassroots to established organizations, as well as regional and international exchange programs.

YCUD envisions a harmonious society where Cambodian youth are fully engaged in sustainable development and peace.

2. Development of Youth in Cambodia in relevance to Civic Participation

a. Youth Situation in Cambodia

The National Institute of Statistics data shows that, in 2005, youths in Cambodia made up more than 30 per cent, equal to over four million, of Cambodia's population, which is approximately 14 million in total. This estimate refers to those reaching the eligibility age for voting (over 1.7 million) to those of around 30 years old. Since 2005, the amount of youths under 30 years old has increased by an average of 200,000-300,000 per year.²

Cambodian youth are playing very important roles in social and political activities even though their opportunity in political ranks is still limited to some extent (as detailed below). Since 2013, it is observed that young people are increasingly engaged in volunteer work, community work and humanitarian work with youth NGOs and other independent youth groups. Alongside this, youth also get engaged in exercising their civil and political rights through voting, election campaigns, election monitoring and advocacy for election reform, social justice, environment and natural resources.

Within Cambodia's context of democratization and its progression towards democratic governance, rule of law and social justice, the scenario of a culture of dialogue between groups of different political views is becoming imminent. For this reason, an increasing number of young Cambodians are optimistic about future of their country, so they are willing to actively engage in social development within a variety of fields.

b. Youth involved in Politics

Youth is the most crucial actor in the electoral process and according to the National Election Committee's data there were 54 per cent of eligible people are youth aged from 18 to 35 years old. Stating that among the 11,459 newly elected commune councils for this 3rd term, 598 (5 per cent) were youths, with 281 (around 47 per cent) women.

In the commune/Sangkat elections 2012 the youth, defined as age group between 18 and 35 years, represented the largest electorate with 54 percent off all registered voters. Moreover, for

² First Revision Population Projection for Cambodia 1998-2020, National Institute of Statistics and Royal University of Phnom Penh, in 'CAMBODIA: Sharing Growth, Equity and Development Report 2007', World Bank, June 2007.

the first time in election history new voters made up more than 1-2 million of registered voters. Since 2008, the amount of new youth voters has increased by a rate of 300,000 per year. All contesting political parties have reacted on this demographic change and have targeted youth in particular in their campaigns. Among the most active political parties in this regard were the Cambodian People Party (CPP), Sam Rainsy Party (SRP) and Human Rights Party (HRP). The CPP for example have created a new youth movement called the “Quickly Reaction Youth Movement”, which is led by Hun Manet, the son of Prime Minister Hun Sen. In election campaigns the CPP tried to attract more youth through entertainment programs including comedy shows and concerts with popular stars. CPP used its party working group network intensively to mobilize activists and voters’ support among the youth. The SRP and HRP did likewise, but they focused in their campaigns more particularly on university students and youth garment workers. In addition, civil society organizations including COMFREL tried to mobilize the youth for the elections. COMFREL conducted a radio program on the elections called “Go or not go”. Other education programs for youth were run by the International Republican Institute (IRI), who organized youth debates on party politics and training for activists of political parties. The Youth Council of Cambodia (YCC) and Loy9, beside others ran media education programs in order to encourage youth participation.³

Positively, the number of elected youth commune councilors and youth commune chiefs has increased in comparison to previous commune/sangkat elections. In the commune/sangkat elections in 2007 only 163 youth candidates were elected, which equaled to 1.43 percent of the total 11,353 elected commune/sangkat councilors⁴. In the most recent commune council election, 615 youth candidates (among them 293 women) were elected, which equals now to five percent of the total number of 11,459 commune councilors. CPP had the highest number of youth candidates elected. Totally 423 youth commune councilors and 16 youth commune chiefs were elected of which seven are young women. The SRP followed with 145 elected youth candidates of which two were elected as commune chiefs. The HRP provided 39 elected youth candidates, the FUNCINPEC four elected youth candidates, the NRP one elected youth candidate and the LDP three elected youth candidates.

The trend that youth voters (defined as age group between 18 and 35) play an increasingly decisive role in elections continues, as already observed in the commune elections 2012. In order to attract more youth voters, all contesting political parties have increased efforts to recruit younger candidates to contest the election, though the number of registered youth candidates (between 25 and 35 years) remains comparably low to the number of registered candidates above 35 years of age. The Law on the Elections of the National Assembly (LEMNA 2008) allows eligible voters of 25 years and older to register as a candidate. The NEC registered in total 179 youth candidates for this election. This equals to 20 per cent of the total number of 886 registered candidates from the eight contesting political parties.⁵

Similar to women candidates, most youth candidates were registered by smaller political parties. Among those were the LDP with 70 youth candidates, which was 57 per cent of the total number of the candidates registered by this party and KAPP with 24 youth candidates, which was 20 per cent of the total number of candidates registered by this party. From the main contesting parties, the CNRP had registered 14 youth candidates, which was 11 per cent of the total number of its registered candidates, followed by FUNCINPEC with six youth candidates, which was 5 per cent of the total number of its registered candidates. The CPP had only 4 youth candidates registered, which was only 3 per cent of the total number of its registered candidates. The CPP youth

³ COMFREL: Final Report and Assessment on Commune Elections 2012, 07th November 2012, www.comfrel.org

⁴ COMFREL: Final Report and Assessment on Commune Elections 2012, 07th November 2012, www.comfrel.org

⁵ COMFREL: 2013 National Assembly Elections: Final Assessment and Report.

candidates included Hun Manet (30), a son of Prime Minister Hun Sen and Sor Sokha (32), a son of Sar Kheng, Minister of Interior.

c. Challenges of Youth in Standing for Election

Young people's political engagement from ages 18 to 30 is still limited to some extent in local, national and national levels. According to the recent figure issued by the National Election Committee (NEC), 54 per cent of youth are aged from 18 to 35. Youth are the backbone of sustainable development; however, their direct engagement in political area is still limited. They have minimal chance in exercising their civil and political rights. In 2012 commune election, 46.21 per cent of 2536 youth who did not go to vote claimed that they have a problem in finding their name, or they did not have their name registered.⁶

COMFREL has observed very low voter registration rates of youth in some communes/sangkats of the provinces of Kampong Chhnang, Sihanoukville, Kampong Cham, Kampong Speu and Preah Vihear province. COMFREL also estimates that only about 65 per cent of youth turned out to vote. COMFREL's voter survey, which was conducted after the elections, found that among the 2,536 interviewees who had not voted, 46 per cent were in the age group of youth. 42 per cent of them reported that they wished to vote but they had not registered their names because they lacked the documents showing their identity, had moved their place of residence or were not properly informed about the voter registration. Other respondents lacked confidence in the elections or found them unimportant.

In the 2013 national election, few youth candidates were successful in obtaining a parliamentary seat. As outlined in the report, most youth candidates had been treated similarly to female candidates registered by smaller political parties, while the main contesting parties failed to register more youth candidates, lowering their chance to win parliamentary seats. Of the 176 registered youth candidates for this election, only 3 youth candidates were elected into parliament for the fifth legislature. This includes two CPP youth candidates, Hun Manet (30), a son of Prime Minister Hun Sen and Sor Sokha (32), a son of the Minister of Interior, Sar Kheng, and one CNRP youth candidate, Korng Kim Hak (33).⁷

d. Policy in Favor of the Youth

Cambodia has some public policies related to youth development. Based on National Policy on Youth Development (NPCYD) approved by the royal government of Cambodia on 24 June 2011, youth are treated as the backbone and undeniable element in promotion of economic, social, and cultural sectors and sustainable peace for the present and future.

According to **Law on Election of Members of the National Assembly** (LEMNA 2008), youths who are 25-years of age or older are eligible to stand for the parliamentary election.

3. Rationale of Research

Cambodian youth represents 33 per cent of the entire population, but their role as representatives in local, subnational and national level is very low. According to National Election Committee's data, in the commune/Sangkat elections 2012 the youth are defined as age group between 18 and 35 years old, and they represented the largest electorate with 54 percent of all registered voters.

⁶ Summary Finding by COMFREL: Commune Council Election 2012

⁷ COMFREL: 2013 National Assembly Elections: Final Assessment and Report.

As aforementioned, only 5 per cent of 11,459 councils elected in 2012 commune/Sangkat election are youth, and very few were voted in the parliamentary 2013 election. Based on proportion, such a small number of youth voting in both local and national level cannot represent the increasing number of youth, which has been rising by an average of 200,000-300,000 per year.⁸

Accordingly, Youth Initiative for Political and Social Action Project (YIPSA) under the YES Act Program of YRDP is working with our networks; namely, COMFREL and YCUD in order to encourage more youths under 30 years old stand for election, in particular the 2017 commune election, and the national election in 2018.

To achieve this, YRDP has initiated a survey in order to find out youth's attitude, knowledge and practice in their political candidacy at national and sub-national level. Consequently, YRDP has developed joint strategies with COMFREL and YCUD to conduct surveys on youth's perspectives on youth candidates for national and subnational elected bodies.

The result of the survey will be used for dialogues with political parties, so that youth political candidacy is taken into account by the main political parties; and with the expectation that political parties will in response increase the amount of youth candidates. The survey results will also be publicized through a workshop, radio programs, and a press conference.

4. GOAL OF THE SURVEY

The goal of this survey is to find out youth's perspectives on youth candidates for national and subnational elected bodies. Its result will be used to advocate for more young people under 30 years old to be voted for in national and subnational elected bodies.

5. SPECIFIC TASKS

1. The consultant will conduct desk reviews and face-to-face interviews in the field relating to youth's perspectives on youth candidates for national and subnational elected bodies.
2. All desk review documents need to be provided to the internal research team (YRDP, COMFREL, and YCUD).
3. Methodology will be included face-to-face interview, focus group discussion, case study, observation and questionnaire and etc. At least 50 per cent of sampling size will be young female activists.
4. The consultant will produce a full report on the findings of the literature review, analysis in Khmer and English language including detailed references of the sources used. This report needs to be submitted to YRDP in soft copy (MS Word and PDF format) and 4 hard copies (2 copies in Khmer language and 2 copies in English language).

6. SCOPE OF WORK

1. The survey will focus on the following areas:
 - Determine levels of civic engagement and types of participation
 - Find out attitude, knowledge and practice of young women and men in direct political participation, in particular those standing as national and subnational representatives.
 - Identify youth challenges in standing for election and obstacles obstructing young people from standing for national and subnational representatives.
 - The target area for the survey shall be throughout Cambodia, using region-based mapping. At least four region-based mapping is required: Phnom Penh, Coastal, Tonle Sap, Plain and Plateau/Mountain.

⁸ First Revision Population Projection for Cambodia 1998-2020, National Institute of Statistics

- At least 1,520 sampling is required, and 50% of sampling size should be women
 - At least 95 per cent validity of survey is required
 - Interviewees are aged from 18 to 30
2. The methodology of the survey will be as follows:
 - Qualitative and quantitative research
 - Participatory approach shall be applied
 - Two technique: in-depth interviews and group discussion shall be used to collect data
 - A gender disaggregation of the data is required.
 3. The survey tool was a questionnaire used to conduct verbal interviews that collected information on:
 - Demographic factors
 - Knowledge about representative democracy
 - Attitudes about political participation
 - Political engagement and election
 - Civic engagement practices
 - Youth perspectives on youth political candidacy in national and subnational level.
 4. The questionnaires developed for interview are based on the indicators stated within the project document.
 5. The consultant will work closely with the internal research team such as project officers from YRDP, COMFREL and YCUD coordinator.

6. QUALIFICATIONS OF THE CONSULTANT

- Master's degree in Social Science (Politics, International Relations, Law), or other relevant fields.
- Strong background of research in political science, and will have in-depth concepts of political culture in Cambodia.
- Proven experience with impact assessments and evaluations of the political culture in Cambodia and political behavior of Cambodians.
- Extensive experience in research, project baseline study of at least 5 years, preferably in the areas of youth engagement in politics, youth resource development, democratic citizenship education, youth engagement in good governance, peace building or political culture.
- Profound competences in different data collection methods and data analysis (qualitative and quantitative).
- Experience in sensitivity of the Cambodian context.
- Excellent English communication skills.

7. TIMEFRAME OF THE SURVEY:

The total of the baseline survey is 7 weeks, starting from **9 October 2015 to 6 November 2015**. The final report will be submitted to YRDP no later than **27th November 2015**.

8. PROPOSAL FORM

The proposal for the survey submitted to the internal research team (YRDP, COMFREL, YCUD) must include:

- A proposed methodology for conducting the survey
- Proposed work plan
- The researcher's full Curriculum Vitae
- A breakdown of the costs, including printing costs

9. PAYMENT PROCEDURE

The total cost of the survey will not exceed USD 20,000.00. Payment to the consultant will be made in three installments upon satisfactory completion of the following deliverables, 1st installment of **40 per cent** upon signing of contract; 2nd installment of **30 per cent** upon submission of draft survey document to YRDP; and final installment of remaining **30 per cent** upon submission of the final survey document.

10. SUBMISSION OF THE SURVEY REPORT

The draft report of the survey must be submitted to the internal research team (YRDP, COMFREL, and YCUD) by 14 November 2015 and the final research report and executive summary must be submitted to the internal research team by 27 November 2015.

The report has to be submitted to Mr. Cheang Sokha, Executive Director of YRDP via e-mail director@yrdp.org or Mr. REN Chanrith, Project Officer of Youth Initiative for Political and Social Action via email chanrith@yrdp.org.

Date: 28 Sept 2015
Prepared by:

Ren Chanrith
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Date: 28 Sept 2015
Approved by:

Cheang Sokha
Executive Director