

PROGRESS IN PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Case studies from Cambodia 2015-16



Multi-sectoral achievements against the objectives of the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women 2014-2018, prepared for the Ministry of Women's Affairs.



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INTRODUCTION



Mr Oudom/CARE Cambodia

Her Excellency Sy Define, Secretary of State, Ministry of Women's Affairs

Addressing violence against women is a priority for the Royal Government of Cambodia. The second National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women 2014-2018 sets out Cambodia's ambitious agenda.

Much progress has been made since the launch of the NAPVAW in 2015.

This document provides a summary update on Cambodia's progress against the objectives of the NAPVAW, with a series of short case studies that describe projects and initiatives being implemented across the country. These case studies are from a cross-section of organisations, and they demonstrate how initiatives to end violence against women are impacting and improving the lives of women in Cambodia.

“ The 2nd National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women (NAPVAW) 2014-2018 was formulated through drawing on good practice and lessons learned during the implementation of the 1st NAPVAW (2009-2013). The review of the 1st NAPVAW highlighted the need for us to shift our focus towards primary prevention so that we can prevent violence against women before it happens. Ensuring that women have access to quality services from trained professionals plays a key role in achieving that objective. However, it is best if we can prevent violence against women from happening in the first place – so education, awareness raising and working with youth are important – and we need to target those who are predisposed to using violence to solve their problems.”

– Her Excellency Sy Define, Secretary of State,
Ministry of Women's Affairs.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN CAMBODIA

Violence against women and girls is a serious human rights violation that restricts the freedoms and advancement of women and girls in Cambodia. Women and girls continue to be subjected to physical, psychological, sexual and economic violence cutting across all divisions of income, culture and class in their daily lives. Violence against women is a cause and consequence of gender inequality in Cambodia and continues to be an obstacle to the sustainable and effective development of the country.

The 2015 'National Survey on Women's Health and Life Experiences in Cambodia' found that one in five ever-partnered women aged 15-64 has experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime. About half (49%) of the women who reported experiencing intimate partner violence had never told anyone about the violence; only 24% of the women had sought help from formal services.

The 2013 study by Partners for Prevention, a multi-agency UN project, revealed that one in three ever-partnered men in Cambodia reported perpetrating physical or sexual violence against an intimate partner, and one in five of the Cambodian males surveyed between the ages of 18-49 years said they had perpetrated rape against a girl or woman either within or outside of a relationship. Over 44% of the men who admitted to rape stated that they had not experienced any legal consequences.

The 2014 Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey revealed that women were twice as likely as men to believe that a husband is justified in beating his wife under certain circumstances (50% women versus 27% men). This highlights the continued acceptance of harmful gender norms in Cambodia and the need to challenge deeply-rooted beliefs and attitudes that still prevail.

“To prevent violence against women, it is important to engage with men and to change attitudes so that all community members understand that gender-based violence and sexual harassment is not acceptable. CARE works in partnership with youth organisations and local authorities who can encourage all community members to get involved. Under the 2nd NAPVAW, CARE is also working with private sector employers to prevent violence against women in some of the most vulnerable groups, such as women who have migrated to urban areas for work. CARE plans to continue its support to business managers to implement workplace policies that protect their workers and prevent sexual harassment from occurring in the workplace.”

– Ms. Joanne Fairley, Country Director of CARE Cambodia

THE 2ND NATIONAL ACTION PLAN TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN 2014-2018

Based on the 2012 review and lessons learned from the 1st National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women (NAPVAW), the 2nd NAPVAW was developed and launched in 2015. Its development used a participatory approach, and included consultation with survivors of violence against women, government institutions, civil society organisations, academic institutions, and representatives from various groups who face increased risks of violence against women.

The overall strategic objective of the 2nd NAPVAW is to reduce violence against all women and girls through increased prevention interventions, improved responses, increased access to quality services and multi-sectoral coordination and cooperation. Five areas were identified as strategic areas of focus:

- 1) Primary Prevention
- 2) Legal Protection and Multi-sectoral Services
- 3) Laws and Policies
- 4) Capacity Building
- 5) Monitoring and Evaluation.

After the adoption of the 2nd NAPVAW, the Technical Working Group on Genders (TWGG) established a sub-group on Gender-Based Violence (TWGG-GBV) to oversee the process of coordination and to monitor the implementation of the 2nd NAPVAW. The TWGG-GBV is chaired by Her Excellency Sy Define, Secretary of State from the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA). Membership of the TWGG-GBV includes cross-government ministry representatives along with donors, and stakeholders from international and national non-government organisations and civil society groups.

The case studies that follow are sourced from members of the TWGG-GBV. They are by no means an exhaustive account of the many projects and initiatives that are currently being implemented across Cambodia in order to deliver the

NAPVAW. But they provide an overview of the many ways in which, just halfway through this plan, the NAPVAW is already impacting women's lives and reducing their experiences of violence.

“ Although it's a difficult issue to tackle, we need to remain positive and committed to ending all forms of violence against women in Cambodia. This will take a long-term commitment and collaboration from all of the involved stakeholders. Violence against women is preventable and with enough resources and partners helping to implement their own action plans, we can continue to make progress on the prevention and prosecution of violence against women as well as ensuring that women and girls experiencing violence get the best support to address their needs.”

– Her Excellency Kim Sethany, Secretary of State, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports



Minimum standards and guidelines

Several new guidelines have been developed or are currently being developed in line with the NAPVAW. These minimum standards and guidelines are designed to ensure that service provision is fit for purpose and meets the needs of people using the services.

- 👤 Referral Guidelines for Service Providers Working with Survivors of Gender Based Violence
- 👤 Minimum Standards for Basic Counseling for Women Victims of Gender Based Violence
- 👤 Clinical Handbook of Health Care for Women subjected to Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence
- 👤 Core Commitments to Prevent and Respond to Violence against Children in Cambodia
- 👤 Mediation Standards and Guidelines

CASE STUDIES

CAMBODIAN STUDENTS CHAMPION WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Impact on the NAPVAW:

Strategic Area 1: *Primary Prevention 3.2.1.2 Education and Youth*

Outcome 2: *Enhanced knowledge and skills of children, youth and adolescents to promote and build gender-equitable, non-violent relationships, and to improve behaviours, and practices on human rights (including sexual rights, gender equality and sexuality).*

Many of CARE's activities to reduce gender-based violence in Cambodia focus on empowering women to have the confidence to stand up for their rights. However, CARE also recognises that engaging with men is key in order to change deep-rooted attitudes.

In April 2014, 15-year-old Sakseth received training from CARE's local partner agency People Health Development (PHD), on topics which are not usually covered by the traditional school curriculum. As well as detailed information on topics such as gender or gender-based violence, Sakseth learned new skills such as how to run informal sessions with groups of students.

He is one of a number of peer educators in his high school in Phnom Penh who conduct education sessions with their peers with the aim of changing attitudes about women. Sessions cover basic topics such as gender or the role of men and women in society. Rather than boring classroom education, attendees join interactive activities like brainstorming ideas or working in groups, using poster materials to represent their thoughts. So far Sakseth has conducted two large education sessions with around 20-25 attendees at each.

Sakseth also conducts informal one-on-one sessions with friends, family and neighbours 2-3 times each month.

"It is common for guys to touch girls and think it is ok. The girls usually shout back and this causes arguments in school. I share messages and information about ending violence against women to encourage boys at school to treat the girls with respect," Sakseth says.

Organisation: CARE Cambodia
Project name: Safe Workplaces, Safe Communities (SWSC)
Project partner: People Health Development (PHD)
Target audience: High school and university students, particularly male, around Phnom Penh.



Sakseth, Peer Educator for People Health Development (PHD)

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Mr Ou Ratanak, Executive Director, People Health Development (PHD)

Mr Ou Ratanak, Executive Director of People Health Development, explains that it is vital to engage boys and men in prevention activities if we are to ever stop violence against women and girls in Cambodia.

“ We want to assist in creating safe spaces in schools and colleges so that female students don’t experience fear or discomfort about going to school. Sexual harassment can impact on their willingness to continue their education, so it’s vital that we work together to eliminate it. Our hope is to create a model high school to combat school sexual harassment and advocate to bring it to the national level so that the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports will consider taking a nation-wide approach to stop violence against women.”

– Mr Ou Ratanak, Executive Director, People Health Development (PHD)

YOUNG MEN USE FILM TO EXPLAIN WHY SEXUAL HARASSMENT MUST STOP

Impact on the NAPVAW:

Strategic Area 1: Primary Prevention 3.2.1.2 Education and Youth

Outcome 2: *Enhanced knowledge and skills of children, youth and adolescents to promote and build gender-equitable, non-violent relationships, and to improve behaviours, and practices on human rights (including sexual rights, gender quality and sexuality).*

Sexual harassment is one of the most common forms of abuse experienced by women in Cambodia, but around 20% of Cambodian men still blame women and girls for the sexual harassment they experience. To challenge this belief, CARE's #WhyStop short film competition asked young men to think about the impact of sexual harassment on women, then make a short film to explain to their peers why sexual harassment must stop.

The competition was promoted to schools, universities and youth groups around the country via social media and a travelling Roadshow. Over 1,000 young people were involved in making films, before 16 finalists were selected and screened at a red-carpet awards event. The finalist filmmakers, all aged between 16 and 29, believe their films send a clear message: sexual harassment must stop.

“ My friends and I decided to make our film for #WhyStop because people don't talk about sexual harassment. I hope people will think about it and start to talk about it. When they know and understand it, they can join us to stop sexual harassment together.”

– Long Sovitou, 26, from Phnom Penh.

Battambang finalist Som Sotheara, 29, sees his entry as a call to action. "My film calls on all men to make a better society and stop sexual harassment," he said. "We can't stop sexual harassment unless everyone is involved. And real men don't sexually harass women."

Organisation: CARE Cambodia
Campaign: #WhyStop Short Film Competition
Project name: Safe Workplaces, Safe Communities (SWSC)
Target audience: Young men aged 15-29
Target area: Nationwide



Student in Ratanak Kiri taking part in the #WhyStop Roadshow.



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#WhyStop Short Film Award winners (from left) Stephen Row, 26, Best Filmmaker over the age of 20; Khan Khav, 18, Best Film; Vy Makara, 19, Best Filmmaker under the age of 20.

Funded by the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women, with additional support from the Australian Government, #WhyStop was endorsed by the Minister of Education, Youth and Sports and the Ministry of Women's Affairs. CARE plans to share the films in schools and on facebook, in Cambodia and around the world.

Watch the finalist films at www.care-cambodia.org/whystop-winners

“It can be difficult for men to understand the impact that sexual harassment has on women, but the #WhyStop films help to raise awareness in the most powerful way. These young men represent the voices for change – they are the strongest advocates for their generation.”

– Pysal Eart, Senior Program Manager, CARE Cambodia.

PRACTICAL SUPPORT FOR PERPETRATORS HELPS FIND PEACE

Impact on the NAPVAW:

Strategic Area 1: Primary Prevention 3.2.1.3 *Family and children*

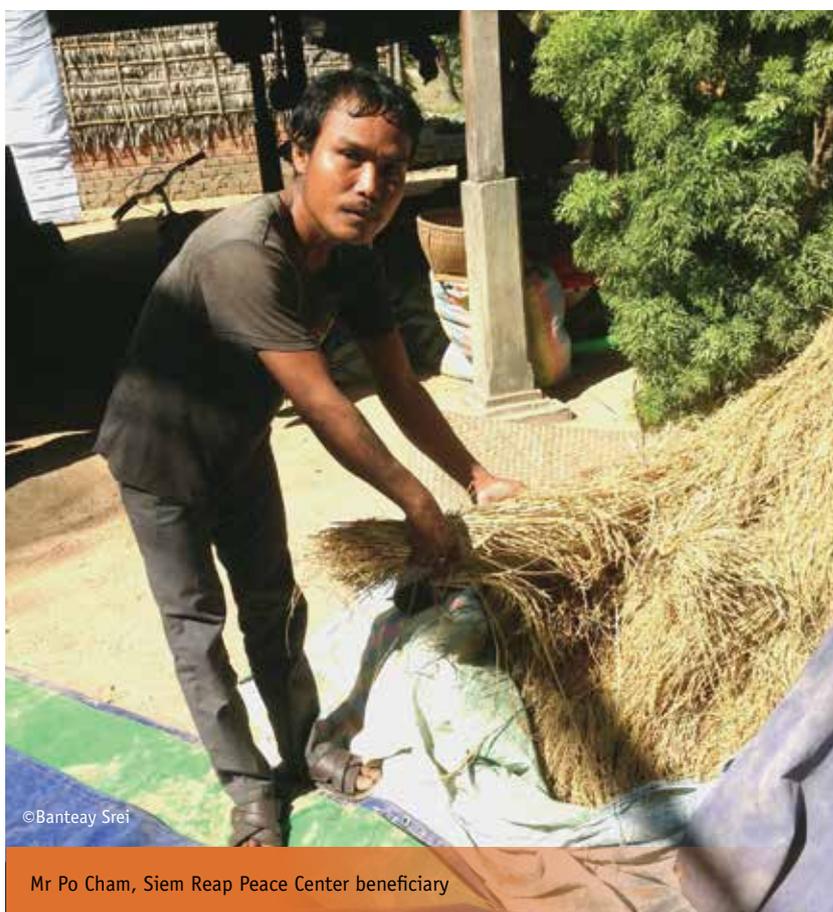
Outcome 4: *Enhanced positive parenting knowledge, understanding and skills among parents and couples to build safe, gender-equitable and non-violent families and environments.*

If violence against women is to be prevented in Cambodia, it is critically important to engage men. Banteay Srei (BTS) has established a Peace Centre in Siem Reap province where men can learn about gender and social norms, and violence against women. Men can also access practical support and counseling and learn about non-violent resolutions.

“In Siem Reap, we run a shelter called the Peace Centre which serves as a safe house for any woman who needs safety and security from gender based violence. We provide counseling, food and a safe place for them to stay. In addition, we have a space for men, to come and meet a male counsellor so that they can learn about gender equality and women’s rights. We encourage them to explore and change their mindset and behaviours so that they do not feel the need to resort to perpetrating violence when they feel angry or stressed. This approach has proven to be very positive and we’ve seen real changes in the way men think and behave. Their wives and partners experience less violence as a result of our interventions.”

– Ms Ponnary Pat, Executive Director,
Banteay Srei

Organisation: *Banteay Srei*
Project name: *Peace Centre*
Target audience: *Women victims and male perpetrators of GBV*
Target areas: *Siem Reap and Battambang*



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Mr Po Cham, Siem Reap Peace Center beneficiary

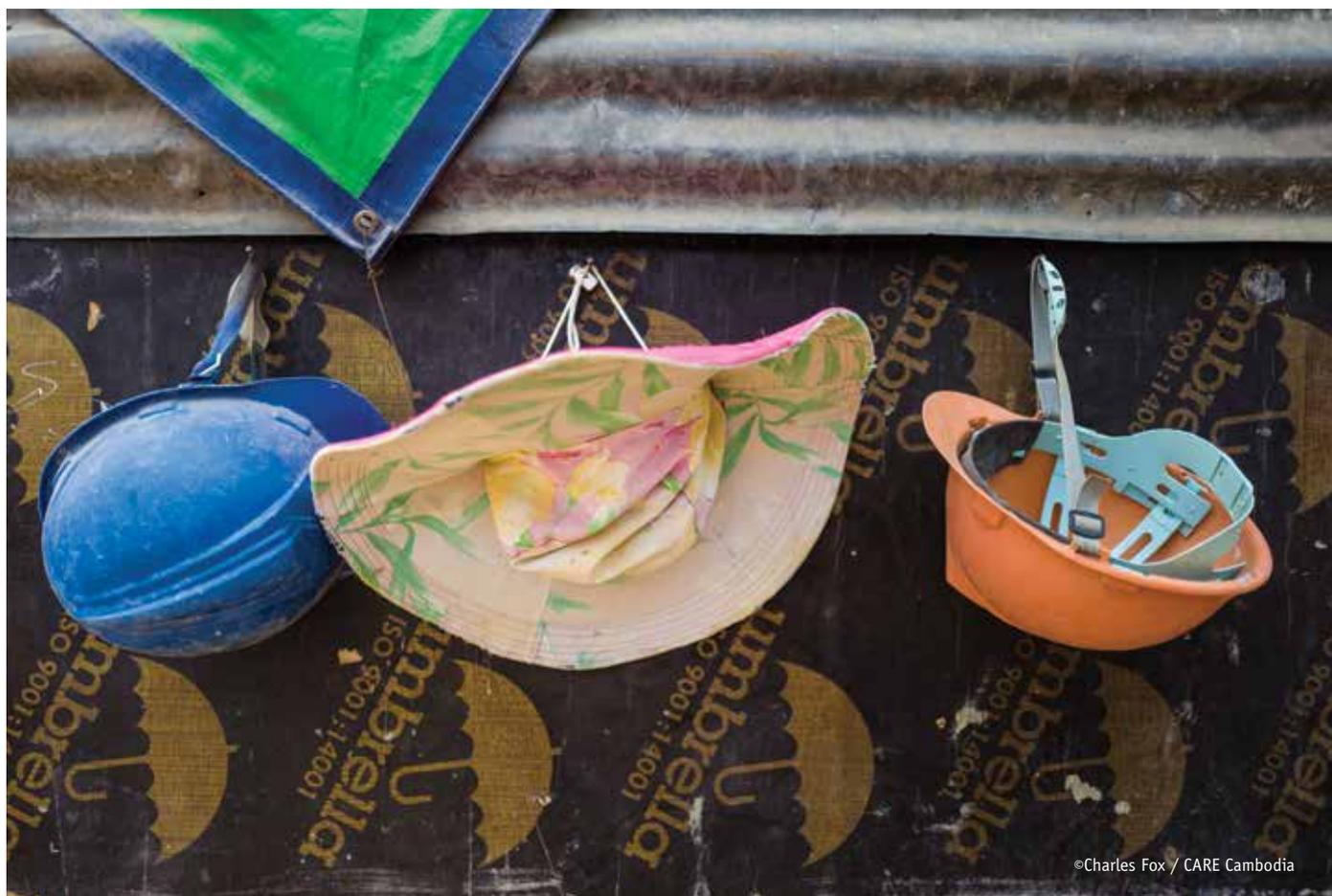
Mr. Po Cham is one of the many men who have benefitted from Banteay Srei's program. After perpetrating violence against his wife and family members, he was referred to the Peace Centre via the Cambodia Women's Crisis Centre who were supporting his wife after she fled his violence.

Cham was working away from home as a construction worker to support his wife and family when he started to drink and it made him angry. Whenever he was drunk, he became very short-tempered, got jealous of his wife and cursed his relatives and neighbours. After beating his wife one day when she was in the final days of her pregnancy, his wife escaped from him to stay at the Cambodia Women's Crisis Centre (CWCC) where she delivered their baby. For six months, Cham was alone without anyone to share his feelings with. He went to meet his wife at CWCC, and the staff there advised him that if he wanted his wife to go back to him, he needed to attend the Peace Centre to receive some support and learn about anger management and domestic violence.

After receiving Counseling at the Peace Centre, Cham stopped drinking and was better able to manage his emotions.

“I was very happy with the service I received as it allowed me to express my true feelings. Now my relatives and neighbours as well as Banteay Srei staff give me words of encouragement. My gentle attitude, humility and good deeds have made the community people, including the village chief, change the way they treat me and they respect me now for making this change. I want this project to help more men who commit domestic violence, so that they too can explore the problems they experience in their daily lives, and remove the impact of the violence that they perpetrate on their families and communities.”

– Po Cham, Banteay Srei Peace Centre beneficiary



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TUK TUK DRIVERS LEARN TO DRIVE CHANGE

Impact on the NAPVAW:

Strategic Area 1: Primary Prevention 3.2.1.4. *Community and Workplace*

Outcome 6: *Changed social environments and norms by strengthening gender equality in the community and workplace to promote cooperation to prevent and respond to violence against women.*

Tuk tuk and moto taxi drivers often work late into the night and, in the course of their work, witness all sorts of events in the community. This includes violence against women. Potential perpetrators and women who have experienced violence are among their passengers. This means that these drivers, who are nearly all men, have a role to play in preventing violence by stepping in, and potentially as the first to assist a person who has been harmed.

CARE Cambodia has been working with People Health Development (PHD) to educate tuk tuk and moto drivers so that they have the knowledge, skills and confidence to assist in preventing violence against women. This has involved a range of capacity building exercises, including training workshops, and promoting participating drivers as champions of change by involving them in events with prominent politicians.

“After I joined the training I have learned that as men, we should not discriminate against women. Instead, we need to respect women. To end violence against women, it is important that we all know the law. We must not commit violence against women because it is illegal. Also, it is important we respect women on an equal basis as men. When we see a girl wearing a sexy dress we should not judge them in a negative way because it is their right. We should not say rude words to them because it is verbal abuse. Women and men are equal, so women can choose how to dress and men must not harass them.”

– Mr. Tuy Sarin, 46 years old, is one of the tuk tuk drivers who was trained by PHD.

Organisation: CARE Cambodia

Project name: Safe Workplaces, Safe Communities (SWSC)

Project partner: People Health Development (PHD)

Target audience: Male moto and tuk tuk drivers in Phnom Penh.



Mr Tuy Sarin, Tuk Tuk driver



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Member of the National Assembly His Excellency Hun Many (centre), Mr Ou Ratanak (PHD), honorary guests and tuk tuk drivers at the launch of the Orange Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women at Sen Sok commune, Phnom Penh

PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN THROUGH RESPONSIBLE DRINKING HABITS

Impact on the NAPVAW:

Strategic Area 1: Primary Prevention 3.2.1.4. *Community and Workplace*

Outcome 6: *Changed social environments and norms by strengthening gender equality in the community and workplace to promote cooperation to prevent and respond to violence against women.*

The Asia Foundation’s research in 2015 on contributing factors for violence found alcohol abuse to be a significant risk factor in triggering violence, both in frequency and severity. Since March 2015 the Asia Foundation and local partners have been implementing the Commune Alcohol Notification System (CANS) with funding from Australian Aid. This system is implemented voluntarily by Commune authorities with support from NGOs. Following a participatory process involving community members, the commune adopts the CANS Deika, a type of by-law that sets limits on the sale, consumption, and advertising of alcohol in the commune.

Organisation: *The Asia Foundation*

Project name: *Commune Alcohol Notification System (CANS)*

Partners: *Punleu Komar Kampuchea Organization (PKKO) and People Center for Development and Peace (PDP-C)*

Target area: *Svay Rieng and Kratie*



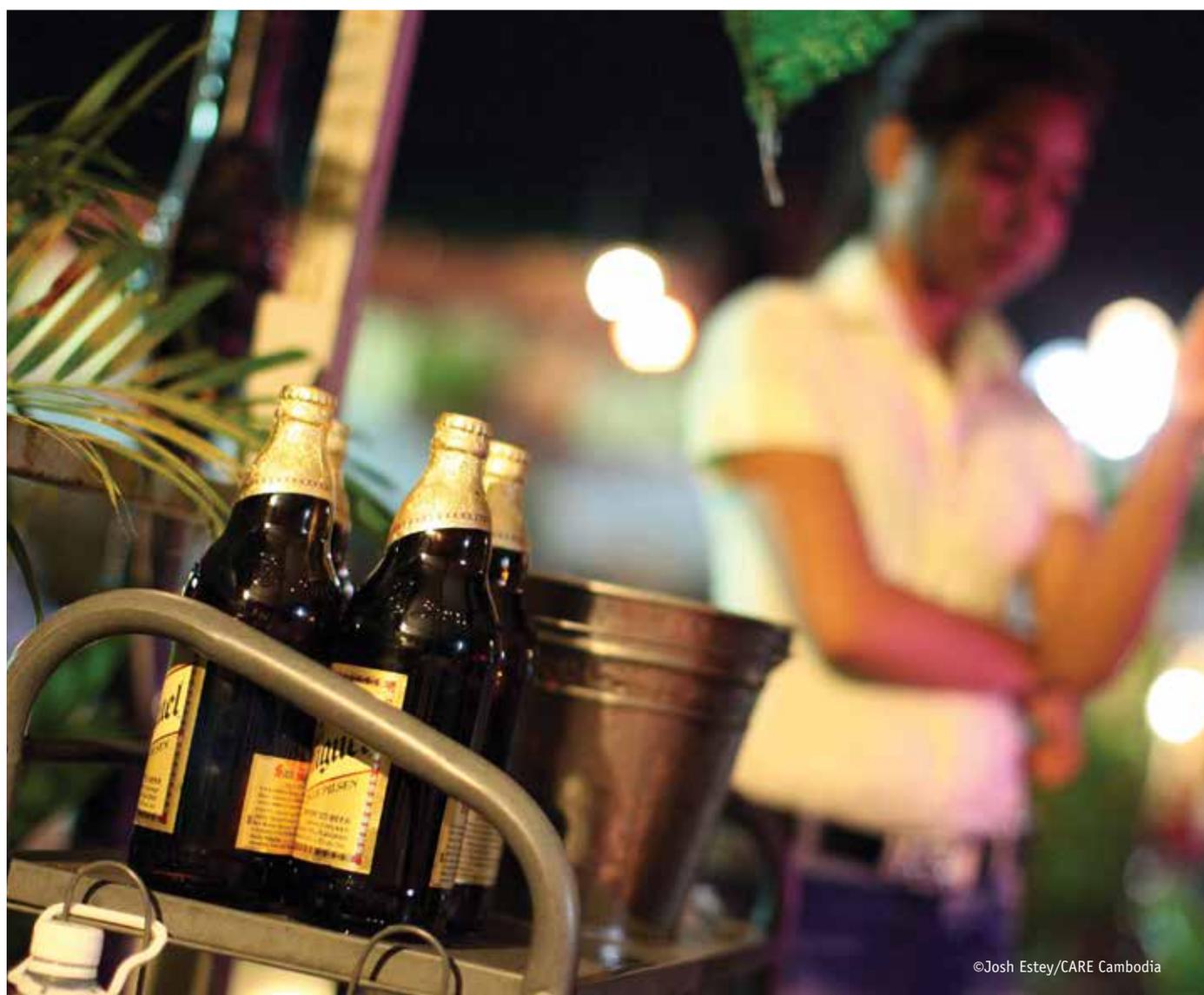
CANS uses a holistic, commune-wide approach involving activities to raise awareness of the harms associated with alcohol abuse and to help people who abuse alcohol (and may commit IPV) to change their behaviour.

This includes community talks and meetings, an awareness campaign with door-to-door outreach, workshops, and a radio talk show. In each commune, a core group of people including commune and village leaders, teachers, health practitioners, peer educators and monks, receive education on responsible alcohol consumption which is then disseminated to inform and support villagers.

These are all promising signs that CANS appears to be contributing to a reduction in alcohol abuse and domestic violence. Behind CANS lies the potential of a new way to approach prevention.

“*The CANS model is particularly cost-effective because it addresses alcohol abuse at the community level and also has the potential to prevent other social harms such as poverty, lack of education, child abuse, diseases, accidents, and other types of violence, and disrupt the intergenerational cycle of IPV.*”

– Sambath My, Programme Advisor, The Asia Foundation



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ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT FOR ALL WOMEN

Impact on the NAPVAW:

Strategic Area 1: Primary Prevention 3.2.1.4. *Community and Workplace*

Outcome 6: *Changed social environments and norms by strengthening gender equality in the community and workplace to promote cooperation to prevent and respond to violence against women.*

The 2013 'Triple Jeopardy' report revealed that women with disabilities in Cambodia face multiple disadvantages as a result of the interplay of gender, disability and poverty. The study found that women with disabilities face much higher levels of gender-based violence and family violence. Women with disabilities' unique vulnerabilities to violence require a considered response, and program planning should be such that services are tailored to ensure that they respond to the specific needs of women with disabilities.

Banteay Srei believes that violence against women can be prevented by working with women in a holistic way to address all inequalities they face. Supporting the economic empowerment of women plays a crucial role in improving women's livelihoods which in turn gives women the confidence to be part of the decision-making processes in their homes and communities. Banteay Srei's livelihood program includes a range of business skills and financial literacy training which focuses on increasing incomes long term. The program also includes training on gender and domestic violence so that participants get an understanding of the law and their rights.

In the past three years, Banteay Srei's focus has expanded to assertively include women with disabilities and aims to tailor their services to be more accessible to women with disabilities. This includes providing resources and transportation to enable women to attend their training at the Women's Development Centre (WDC).

Prean Chenda, 26 years old, has limited mobility. Before she joined the sewing skills training course, she had no income and was fully dependent on her family members for

Organisation: *Banteay Srei (BTS)*

Project Name : *Women's economic empowerment and sustainable livelihoods*

Partners: *Ministry of Women's Affairs provincial departments*

Target audience: *Women who have experienced violence, especially women with disabilities*

target areas: *Siem Reap and Battambang*



©Banteay Srei

Prean Chenda at Banteay Srei's Women's Development Centre

her survival. Chenda experienced discrimination because of her disability and never felt she had a voice in decision-making at home. She never joined any community activities and felt very isolated and unhappy.

Chenda was extremely committed to Banteay Srei's training and welcomed the opportunity to learn about business skills and her rights. She also appreciated the solidarity she received from other women who shared similar situations. After completing the training, Chenda was able to borrow some funds to start her own business which has so far proved successful with plans to expand.

Alongside the benefits of her business, Chenda reports that her life has changed dramatically in her community because of her financial independence. Both her self-confidence and self-esteem have grown which has helped her form lasting relationships with her neighbours. She also now knows how to demand her rights.

“I feel very happy because I have been able to use the skills I've learnt to start and grow my own business. I no longer have to rely on other people because I'm earning my own money now.”

– Chenda, Banteay Srei beneficiary

“First of all, women with disabilities are often deprived of access to a basic education or any kind of information, which means they are most often unaware of their rights. Their limited mobility and accessibility impede on their confidence and self-esteem, and many women with disabilities are very passive in every aspect of their lives, and tend to accept any discrimination as something that they should endure.”

– Ms Pat Ponnary, Executive Director, Banteay Srei



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Training at Banteay Srei's Women's Development Centre

WORKPLACE PROTECTIONS AGAINST SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Impact on the NAPVAW:

Strategic Area 1: *Primary Prevention 3.2.1.4. Community and Workplace*

Outcome 7: *Ensure effective safety and harassment-free workplaces and communities.*

Women working in garment factories, hospitality and tourism perceive a daily risk of sexual harassment. CARE Cambodia is working with these businesses to make sure that there are appropriate workplace policies and protections in place, so that women harassed by co-workers or customers can seek help from their employers. Through consultative processes with businesses and government, CARE has developed a Standard Workplace Sexual Harassment Policy for garment factories, and another policy for hospitality and tourism outlets.

“As well as being a breach of women’s human rights, sexual harassment in the workplace is bad for business as it causes workers to be distracted and less productive. Some factories and hospitality venues understand this but very few workplaces have policies to tackle the problem. CARE worked closely with businesses to ensure we developed policies that can really be used in practice, to make sure women are protected and businesses know how to respond fairly and with confidentiality.”

– Ms. Eart Pysal, Senior Program Manager, CARE Cambodia.

CARE has complimented the workplace policies with additional awareness-raising so that women understand what sexual harassment is and how and where they can seek help. Beer gardens, restaurants and factories, as well as the communities where those businesses are located, have signed up to say "Sexual Harassment Stops Here" by promoting and displaying campaign materials.

Organisation: CARE Cambodia

Project title: *Safe Workplaces, Safe Communities (SWSC) and Protections for Marginalised Urban Women*

Target audience: *Owners and managers of garment factories, hospitality and tourism establishments; female workers, male clients and coworkers.*

Target area: Phnom Penh



©Josh Estey/CARE Cambodia

Garment Factory Worker in Phnom Penh

CARE has also developed a multi-media behaviour change communication package for garment factories. This kit includes the sexual harassment policy, an implementation guide for human resources managers, and five comprehensive training sessions which contain short video dramas, a training manual and a karaoke video. This package enables garment factories to teach their workers about sexual harassment ongoing, and to ensure they have the systems and procedures in place to respond to sexual harassment if it occurs.

“ We want women to be brave so that when they have a problem they seek help. We want bad behaviour to be reported to supervisors so it can be dealt with. When workers understand that this can happen, they will know that if they misbehave there will be consequences.”

– Human Resources Manager of a Cambodian Garment Factory



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CARE's Workplace Sexual Harassment Prevention Package, developed for garment factories in Cambodia

ENTERTAINMENT WORKERS SAY “NO” TO VIOLENCE

Impact on the NAPVAW:

Strategic Area 1: Primary Prevention 3.2.1.4. **Community and workplace**

Outcome 7: *Effective safety and harassment-free workplaces and communities*

Due to cultural attitudes about their work, entertainment workers in Phnom Penh who work as waitresses and hostesses in beer gardens, clubs, karaoke (KTV) bars and massage parlours suffer daily discrimination. ACTED’s research shows that 53% had suffered abuse during the course of their work. ACTED’s ‘Reducing the Risk of Sexual Gender Based Violence Against Entertainment Workers’ project works with these women and ensures its services respond to their needs. To date, more than 7,000 entertainment workers have been engaged through outreach activities.

Organisation: ACTED
Project name: Reducing the Risk of SGBV against Entertainment Workers in Phnom Penh
Partners: Legal Aid of Cambodia (LAC) and Social Services of Cambodia (SSC).
Target audience: 42 business outlets in Phnom Penh (42 peer educator groups).



©ACTED

One of ACTED’s 42 peer educator groups

24-year-old Rottana is one of the ACTED project's peer educators. She works in a restaurant and shares a rented room with some of her colleagues. Initially she joined the project's outreach sessions, but she wanted to learn more about gender and violence against women, so she applied to take on the role of peer educator.

Every month Rottana attends the monthly training sessions and then shares what she has learnt with the other entertainment workers. With the support of ACTED project staff, Rottana conducts monthly outreach sessions in entertainment establishments across Phnom Penh. The sessions are well attended by entertainment workers who are keen to engage on the issues and share their experiences and challenges. Rottana has found the monthly training to be very useful both on a personal and professional level.

“The training has helped me to develop my skills and confidence as a peer educator, whilst also enabling me to build supportive relationships with the other peer educators and training participants.”

– Rottana - Peer Educator for ACTED.

“Through the outreach sessions conducted by the peer educators, we want entertainment workers to understand that they are women who deserve to be valued and respected by their families and society. We want them to understand that violence should not be normal for them and that they deserve to enjoy safe, decent working conditions in the same way as any other working woman.”

– Ms Ginny Haythornthwaite, Country Director, ACTED



©Thomas Cristofolletti/CARE Cambodia

Beer garden waitresses, Phnom Penh

POSITIVE PORTRAYALS OF WOMEN IN THE MEDIA

Impact on the NAPVAW:

Strategic Area 1: Primary Prevention 3.2.1.5. *Media and Culture*

Outcome 8: *Increase media promotion of gender-equitable, non-violent social norms, image, and messages, and capacity of media to report appropriately and sensitively to prevent violence against women.*

Studies conducted by the Open Institute (OI) reveal that media portrayals of women are often negative, and that violence against women is often sensationalised or minimised.

The worst offenders are television stations and there are no regulations or code of ethics to guide them on how to portray these issues sensitively. As a result, the media often puts the blame on women for provoking the violence they experience whilst also stigmatising them as “bad women”. The OI works in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and has a range of activities and strategies to raise awareness of these issues, and challenges negative portrayals of women and violence against women in the media.

“We’ve observed the media broadcasting seriously violent scenes on television, such as husbands beating their wives or threatening them with a gun. This is being shown in movies, dramas and even comedy programmes, with no thought as to how it might impact on the audiences - many of whom will be children and young people. Through this repeated and constant portrayal of violence against women, the violence becomes normalized, and women and girls are vulnerable to increased risks of violence. When a husband beats his wife, the wife has no reaction and accepts it as normal because she sees exactly the same in the TV.”

– Ms Noy Chhorvin, Program Officer, Open Institute

OI works in partnership on the creation of a code of ethics for journalists and media outlets, as well as through social media and other ICT tools. Using creative and innovative

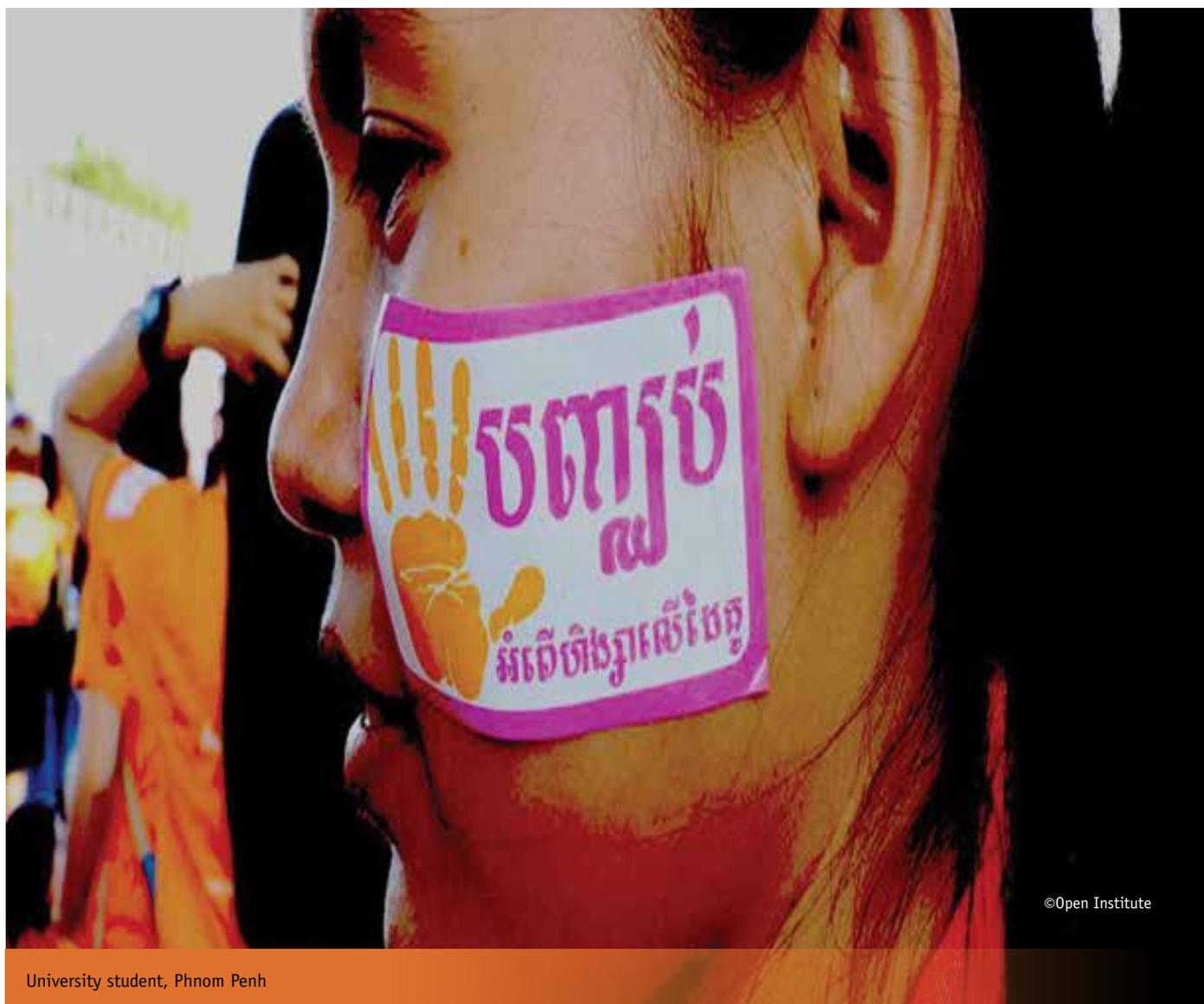
Organisation: Open Institute (OI)
Project name: Preventing Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) through the Media Campaign
Partners: The Asia Foundation; Cambodia Journalists’ Council for Ethics, Ministry of Women’s Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Culture and Fine Art
Target audience: Media outlets across Cambodia; Cambodian Society - specifically young people.



Ms Noy Chhorvin, Program Officer, Open Institute

methods OI is playing a key role in engaging the public to challenge the portrayal and normalisation of violence against women in the media.

For both research and awareness raising, OI works with the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts and the Cambodia Journalists' Council for Ethics, alongside a range of related partners. OI also works to prevent negative portrayals of women through changing attitudes. OI collaborates with 43 volunteer university students from six universities in Phnom Penh to support social media campaigns, post videos and stimulate discussion on the issues on the OI Facebook page. They also take the messages into their universities, work places and social and sporting activities. These young people are effectively acting as Ambassadors of OI, to raise awareness of the issues and to challenge attitudes and behaviours that tolerate and minimise violence against women in the media.



University student, Phnom Penh

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“I want all people to think that the elimination of all types of violence against women is everyone's responsibility. Do not think that it is just the obligation of the government, the Ministry of Women Affairs, civil society or other relevant stakeholders; it is our problem and we need to solve this problem together as Cambodian citizens.”

– Ms Noy Chhorvin, Program Officer, Open Institute

WORKING TOGETHER TO RESPOND TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Impact on the NAPVAW:

Strategic Area 2: Legal Protection and Multi-Sectoral Services 3.2.2.1. *Multi-sectoral Coordinated Response Mechanism (CRM)*

Outcome 9: *Increased coordination and cooperation at all levels, including between ministries, institutions, service providers and civil society in service and response.*

“Violence against women can be prevented if people and the authorities have a commitment to collaborate with each other. People have to report the violence to police. Once the police are informed, they have to take action. Therefore, to prevent violence against women, we need willingness from all parties involved, including law enforcement officers disseminating the law and issues related to violence against women prevention.”

– General Commissariat of National Police,
His Excellency Kim Peap

Women experiencing violence benefit from a coordinated response. This means that local authorities and community leaders work together with on-the-ground service providers to prevent and respond to violence against women. The Cambodian Women’s Crisis Centre (CWCC) plays an important role in providing a holistic response for women and girls who have experienced domestic and sexual violence. CCWC facilitates safe shelter, legal assistance and other services and is linked to a network of service providers and local authorities through the ‘Coordinated Multi-Sector Response Mechanism’ (CRM). The CRM is provided in partnership with the Ministry of Women’s Affairs and GIZ . Over 4,000 women have been reached since January 2014.

In 2012, after experiencing years of physical and sexual abuse, Sinat, aged 53, and her daughter were referred to CWCC’s Safe Shelter by her community representative and the police. Both mother and daughter received immediate health care to deal with their

Organisation: Cambodian Women’s Crisis Center
Project name: Coordinated Multi-Sector Response Mechanism (CRM)
Partners: Ministry of Women’s Affairs, GIZ, Legal Aid of Cambodia (LAC), Transcultural Psychosocial Organisation (TPO), Banteay Srei.
Target areas: Kampong Thom and Siem Reap



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His Excellency Kim Peap, General Commissariat of National Police

injuries and, once they had recovered from those, a range of practical and psycho-social support was provided. With assistance from the police and CWCC, the two women felt confident enough to support a prosecution against Sinat's husband who was ultimately imprisoned for 15 years.



Police training

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“Survivors of violence can have very different experiences, and many different needs. We have learned that an effective network amongst the relevant service providers is crucial in our work to support women. Our approach consists of bringing together the local police and authorities, health personnel and community resource persons; along with other networks based at the district level so that services can be most effectively provided.”

– Ms Pok Panhavichtre, Executive Director, CWCC

Close cooperation amongst all of the relevant local authorities, including the police, health professionals and CWCC, enabled Sinat and her children to be finally safe and free from her husband's violence. Sinat is extremely grateful for the help she received and believes it has helped to change her life.

“Without CWCC and all the other people who helped us, I would still be living in fear for mine and my children's lives - or I would be dead. I really want to thank the organisation for giving me and my children the opportunity to start again without the constant fear of his violence.”

– Sinat, CWCC service user *not her real name

COUNSELING TO HEAL KHMER ROUGE SURVIVORS

Impact on the NAPVAW:

Strategic Area 2: Legal Protection and Multi- sectoral Services 3.2.2.2 Primary Counseling

Outcome 10: *Increased number of primary counseling that survivors have timely access to appropriate and quality services for all survivors of violence against women and their children.*

The Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO) is the only NGO in Cambodia that provides mental health care and psychosocial support to women who survived violence during the Khmer Rouge regime (1975-1979). Many Cambodians continue to struggle and experience a range of trauma related responses in the aftermath of their country's violent history. Being supported while overcoming their experiences is crucial for the recovery of survivors.

The Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC), also known as the 'Khmer Rouge Tribunal', offers a unique opportunity for survivors of the Khmer Rouge to seek truth and justice. For the first time in an international criminal tribunal, survivors of mass atrocities have been included in the trial process as civil parties - permitting them to play a more active role in the legal proceedings with full procedural rights. This active participation in the court can have a hugely empowering impact on survivors of trauma.

“Disclosing past traumatic experiences during the Khmer Rouge regime requires courage for survivors. Mostly they were afraid that other people would know about their problems and maybe judge them harshly, even though they were victims. After the Khmer Rouge regime, most women prioritised the survival of their families. At the same time, they felt that speaking about their traumatic experiences would be too painful. A considerable amount of female survivors were raped multiple times, by many different soldiers, so they felt stigmatised and believed themselves to be ‘bad women’.”

– Dr Chhim Sotheara, Executive Director, TPO

Organisation: *Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO)*

Project name: *Justice and Relief for Survivors of the Khmer Rouge' programme*

Target audience: *Civil parties at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC), including survivors of forced marriage, domestic and sexual violence*

Target area: *Nationwide*



Dr Chhim Sotheara, Executive Director, Transcultural Psychosocial Organization

During the Khmer Rouge regime, one of the TPO’s clients, Mrs Prok Sina who is now 55 years old, was imprisoned in Kampot province for three months, and forced to marry a man she did not know or love. Her lead claim against the regime leaders is that because of the forced hard labour she had to endure, she has never been able to have children.

TPO’s specifically trained Cambodian mental health experts have supported Sina and other witnesses and civil parties during proceedings at the Tribunal by providing a variety of psychosocial services. The services offered include on-site psychological support before, during and after the proceedings; trauma therapies delivered either at TPO or on an outreach basis; alongside community-based truth-telling and memorialisation initiatives, which can help victims find closure by learning more about the events they suffered.



TPO team member Mrs Han Hang, in Battambang

“As for reparations, anything that can help those of us who have suffered psychologically is very helpful. Most people here in Cambodia, especially those over 30 years of age, suffered because of the impact and aftermath of the regime and the civil war. They’ve worked hard to get over it, but they can’t always do it on their own. I don’t know if some of them would be brave enough to tell their story like me, but those who know I’ve spoken about this do call me and talk to me about it now.”

- Mrs Prok Sina - Khmer Rouge survivor

HELPING HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDERS SUPPORT WOMEN

Impact on the NAPVAW:

Strategic Area 2: *Legal Protection and Multi-sectoral Services 3.2.2.4. Health services*

Outcome 12: *Strengthened and more systematic response to violence against women in the health care system*

Women experiencing intimate partner violence in Cambodia are often reluctant to report their experiences to the authorities due to both attitudinal and financial barriers. In many cases, the first and only contact a survivor will have with a professional may be as a result of requiring medical help because of the injuries received as a result of violence. Therefore, it is vital that health care workers have the skills and knowledge to enable them to identify and respond to survivors with sensitivity. This will ensure that women who are experiencing violence receive appropriate health services and are referred to additional services if they are required.

A competent, confidential and professional health service response is critical for survivors of intimate partner violence. To achieve this, CARE Cambodia has supported the piloting of the 'Clinical Handbook of Health Care for Women Subjected to Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence'. Developed by the World Health Organisation, the Clinical Handbook is being used to increase health care professionals' understanding of all forms of violence against women, improve their response as the first point of contact for victims, and provide a standardised clinical management system for survivors that respects the need for confidentiality.

“The Ministry of Health has a strong commitment to implement the Clinical Handbook so that health professionals are more confident to recognise when a woman is presenting as a victim of violence and can provide a sensitive response and appropriate services. We foresee CARE's involvement in this project continuing over the next few years, as the training manual for the Clinical Handbook is developed and disseminated across Cambodia, to ensure all victims of intimate partner violence and sexual violence can feel confident to report their experiences in health care settings.”

– Mr Srun Rachana, Senior Program Manager - GBV, CARE Cambodia

Organisation: CARE Cambodia

Project name: Safe Homes, Safe Communities (SHSC) - Clinical Handbook of Health Care for Women Subjected to Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence

Project partners: GIZ, Ministry of Women's Affairs, Health Care professionals in Phnom Penh, UNFPA, Ministry of Health, WHO, Ministry of Social Affairs, Veteran and Youth Rehabilitation, NGO partners

Target audience: Health Care professionals in referral hospitals and health care centres in Phnom Penh



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Ms Ouch Kimhorn, Midwife

One of the participants of the CARE pilot training, Ms. Ouch Kimhorn believes that having protocols for health staff to follow when they suspect a woman has experienced intimate partner or sexual violence is very important. As a midwife at Pochentong Referral Hospital in Phnom Penh, she may be one of the first responders to a women experiencing violence.

“As health staff, once we understand someone’s situation we can concentrate better on providing them with all of the services they need. I can provide support for more than just their injuries, such as listening to them, understand their concerns and encourage them to have high self-esteem along with ensuring that I can make appropriate referrals.”

– Ms Ouch Kimhorn, Midwife

With technical assistance from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) CARE has piloted and is delivering training to health professionals in referral hospitals and urban health centres in Phnom Penh. To support the delivery of the training, CARE developed their own interim training manual and will play a key role in the development of a national training manual with UNFPA and the National Maternal and Child Health Centre in Cambodia.



A Safe Homes, Safe Communities clinical workshop

ACCESS TO COORDINATED SERVICES FOR JUSTICE AND RESOLUTION

Impact on the NAPVAW:

Strategic Area 2: *Legal Protection and Multi-sectoral Services 3.2.2.5. Legal Aid and Access to Justice*

Outcome 13: *Improved access to justice for all survivors of violence against women.*

Women seeking help after experiencing gender based violence benefit from a coordinated response where the police, legal and health service providers work together. As part of the 'Access to Justice for Women 2' program, Legal Aid Cambodia (LAC) and partner NGOs have teamed up with the provincial Department of Women's Affairs' designated Judicial Police Agents (JPAs), to provide a coordinated response when women report or disclose violence in 45 Communes in Cambodia.

Chantou's story demonstrates how positive results can come from an integrated response between Commune authorities, legal services and psychological services. Chantou is a 46-year-old woman who lives in Kompong Svay district. She married her husband in accordance with Khmer traditions 23 years ago and they had three sons and two daughters. The relationship between Chantou and her husband has been characterized by repeated acts of violence towards her, her children and others in the community. Chantou's husband has been jailed for two years for attacking his neighbour. These acts of violence were often alcohol related.

After a particularly vicious incident last year when Chantou had feared for her life, she wanted to divorce her husband and wanted him to be imprisoned. She spoke to the local commune chief who mediated, requesting that Chantou's husband leave their family home. But he would not leave and even though there were many interventions by the Commune authorities, the abuse did not stop.

Eventually, Chantou's case was referred by the Commune authorities to Legal Aid of Cambodia (LAC) so that a formal solution could be found. Staff of the Access to Justice for Women

Organisation: *Legal Aid Cambodia (LAC)*

Project name: *Access to Justice for Women 2*

Partners: *Ministry of Women's Affairs, GIZ, Sub-national Committee for Women and Children, Provincial Judicial Police Agents, NGO partners in target areas.*

Target audience: *45 Communes in 6 Districts*



2 (ATJWII) Programme investigated and interviewed Chantou, and further discussion then took place with the district and commune police about taking criminal measures if Chantou's husband continued to be violent.

Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO) staff also interviewed Chantou and her husband at their home, and identified that Chantou's husband had significant psychological problems which were also impacting on Chantou's physical, social and emotional wellbeing. TPO developed a case management plan which included a mandatory psychological and medical consultation for both husband and wife. LAC supported this plan by helping Chantou and her husband with travel to the provincial hospital and to purchase the necessary medicines.

“ Things have changed so much since LAC and TPO started to support our family. My husband is getting much better and the violence has now stopped - he's even helping me with the household chores now.”

– Chantou

After three months of treatment, both parties improved significantly. Chantou has ceased taking the medication she was prescribed, but her husband is continuing with his treatment. They're now able to live together and are helping each other to overcome their problems.



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“ This was a case of acute domestic violence which affected all of the family members, the family economy, and the community. The efforts of the local authorities to resolve this case was commendable and they were able to facilitate a cooperative approach with the relevant parties and different service providers to find an effective solution. This came about through good information collection, listening to the victim, considering her rights and needs and promoting good cooperation between the relevant parties. These were the major factors in finding a successful solution in settling this domestic violence case.”

– Member of the Legal Aid of Cambodia Access to Justice for Women 2 program team

COMMUNITY LEADERS EMPOWERED TO ASSIST WOMEN

Impact on the NAPVAW:

Strategic Area 2: *Legal Protection and Multi-sectoral Services* **3.2.2.6: Social Services and Rehabilitation**

Outcome 14: *Establishment of a multi-sectoral, client centered service delivery system that is accessible nationwide and has an adequate referral system with protocols and standards of service.*

Local Authorities, such as Commune Committee for Women and Children (CCWC), are often the first called in the event of violence against women. Ms. Chhneang is a member of the CCWC in Prek Leap Commune, where many women live who have migrated to Phnom Penh to work in the entertainment and hospitality sector.

Security at night was a major concern for the residents in her local area, particularly amongst young female workers who are travelling to and from work after dark.

With the support of CARE International, the police and local authorities in her commune received training on gender sensitivity, women's rights and how to provide holistic services to women experiencing or fearing violence in their community. Ms. Chhneang gained an appreciation of how her role could contribute towards preventing violence against women in her Commune and how to offer responsive protection to women.

In response to the policy on Crime Prevention and Community Safety from the Ministry of Interior, the local authority has allocated more funds to increase lighting along dark streets and roads in her area. Additionally, members of the CCWCs have met with local landlords to discuss safety issues around the rental houses where many migrant women live.

“I learnt a lot from the training courses that CARE Cambodia has organized, and I have shared this with other women in my local area to help them to understand more about gender, sexual harassment, and domestic violence. Through those training courses, I also came to learn that the prevention of violence against women is of critical importance, and that we need to act together on that as a local authority.”

– Ms Sophannary Chhneang - CCWC Member

Organisation: CARE Cambodia

Project name: Safe Homes, Safe Communities (SHSC)

Project partners: GIZ, Ministry of Women's Affairs, Health Care professionals in Phnom Penh, UNFPA, Ministry of Health, WHO, Ministry of Social Affairs, Veteran and Youth Rehabilitation, NGO partners

Target audience: Commune Committee for Women and Children in Phnom Penh



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Ms. Im Boreth, CWCC Samrong Krom, Pur Sechey District



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Ms. Doung Saphoung, CWCC Bak Keang commune

“In terms of prevention, we advise and encourage all rental house owners to install lights in dark areas around their rental rooms so that the women can feel safer when returning home from work after dark. CARE Cambodia’s training helped to build our skills and confidence to negotiate with landlords and facilitate discussions with other people who have an interest in contributing towards preventing violence against women in our community.”

– Ms Sophannary Chhneang - CCWC Member

MAKING PUBLIC SERVICES WORK FOR WOMEN

Impact on the NAPVAW:

Strategic Area 3: *Formulating and Implementing Policies and Laws*

3.2.3.2: *Policy Reviews and Institutional Strengthening*

Outcome 16: *Improved and well-coordinated sector policy framework to effectively respond to violence against women.*

In July 2014 ActionAid Cambodia (AAC) launched the ‘Safe Cities for Women’ campaign and program. ActionAid and their local partners aim to challenge and change the attitudes and behaviours that enable offenders to perpetrate violence and harassment with impunity in Cambodia. The campaign seeks to empower women who are vulnerable to sexual violence and harassment in Phnom Penh. It also actively mobilises and engages with Cambodian youth to support their aims of raising awareness of the issues of consent and bodily integrity and challenging tolerance of violence against women in Cambodian society.

Organisation: ActionAid Cambodia

Project name: Safe Cities for Women ‘Gender Responsive Public Services’ (GRPS)

Partners: The Cambodian Food and Service Workers Federation, CENTRAL, Phnom Penh Local Authorities and Community Leaders

Target audience: Women working in the sex industry and entertainment and garment sectors in Phnom Penh



Samphors shares her experience of life as a beer promoter and her experience of fear in the city, on Voice of Democracy's radio programme.

AAC's partner The Cambodian Food and Service Workers Federation (CFSWF) trains and supports entertainment workers and beer promoters to engage with their local authorities to influence commune planning. This will ensure authorities incorporate issues relating to women's safety and access to public services, such as health and education, in their local areas.

Through her links with CFSWF, Samphors got involved with ActionAid's 'Safe Cities for Women' campaign and program. Samphors received a range of training from CFSWF to build her leadership and facilitation skills. This included training on advocacy, the legal and policy frameworks relating to women's rights and safety in the city, alongside learning how to represent and mobilise women to join her local group and get involved with the Safe Cities campaign.



Samphors (holding microphone) speaking at the CFSWF forum on the rights of Cambodian beer promoters 'Stand up and fight against violence against women' in November 2016.

One of her main responsibilities as a group leader has been to gather the women's issues and concerns through regular meetings with her group members, and then represent them to local authorities so that services can respond to women's needs in their communities. With support and facilitation from CFSWF, Samphors has met with local duty bearers several times and has felt confident to raise the issues that many of her group members face.

Women leaders have built relationships with their Sangkat officials in some districts in Phnom Penh. Over the coming years, ActionAid and their partners will continue to strengthen those relationships and the engagement between the women and their local authorities and community leaders to ensure continued participation in local planning processes.

“I never thought I'd have a chance or the courage to stand up in front of so many people, particularly our community leaders. The issue that I raised with the local authorities was safety at night when we leave work. We need more lights and police patrols because it's a dark walk between our work places and homes; many gangsters hang around and I've also experienced having a thief steal my purse. Our issues have been warmly accepted by the police and community leaders and we are hopeful that we will receive a positive response.”

- Samphors, Beer Promoter



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