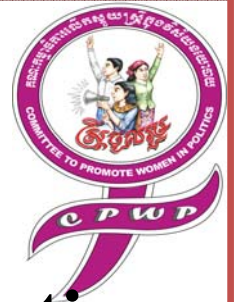




First Activity Report



Promoting Women in Democratic Decision Making in Cambodia

Report period February 2007-May 2007

Contract Period February 2007 – February 2009



Submit to UNIFEM, Cambodia Office
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Attachment:

1. Annex I: Next quarterly of CPWP Activity Plan

Promoting Women in Democratic Decision Making in Cambodia

Report to the UNIFEM (Cambodia Office)

By: CPWP Secretariat, SILAKA

I. Introduction

In February 2007, on behalf of CPWP, SILAKA and UNIFEM came under a contract to enhance the women leadership in decision making in the commune/sangkat level. The project started from February 2007 to February 2009 (Total of 24 months).

This project is a joint initiative of the Committee to Promote Women in Politic, CPWP, seven Cambodian NGOs who bring expertise and experience from a range of technical areas critical to the promotion and inclusion of women in public decision-making. The seven Cambodian NGOs are Gender and Development for Cambodia (GAD/C), Women for Prosperity (WFP), Committee for Free and Fair Election in Cambodia (Comfrel), Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI), Cambodian Women for Peace and Development (CWPD), Neutral and Impartial Committee for Free and Fair Election in Cambodia (NICFEC) and SILAKA as the Secretariat General of CPWP. The implementing partners of this project will be only among 6 partners: CWPD, Nicfec, Comfrel, GAD/C, WFP and SILAKA.

The CPWP has been operating in Cambodia for the past two years with the effort from all partners. Funding and technical support were received from various local and international donors, namely GTZ, UNIFEM, UNDP, UNFPA, MOWA, the World Bank, the United Nation Democracy Fund, and the French Embassy. CPWP, through its 7 members implemented activities to bring about the increase of women councilors at the recent April election. CPWP has implemented the activities in 12 provinces in the campaign and intensive voter education and training of women commune candidates.

CPWP has a strategy to promote women in decision making at the Commune Level in Cambodia in the upcoming election in April 2007. The strategy includes the following:

1. Organize forums at the district level, aiming at potential candidate, political parties, and the general public to create conducive environment for women candidates.
2. Train women candidates from the political parties before the election to build their capacity to prepare and mount the political campaign in March 07
3. Advocacy at the national, provincial and district level to advocate to put women at the top of the list prior to the candidates lists are submitted to National Election Committee;
4. A Media campaign to include the publication of posters, booklets, TV and radio spots to be distributed and to be aired in different station prior to election in April; Further, member organization Nicfec implement 120 drama sessions prior to the election.
5. Train elected women commune counselors after the election.

CPWP Goal:

1. Increase women in commune and sangkats from 9% to 15% in 2007 through promoting political parties using 30% quota system and in place women candidates at the top list;
2. Promote NGO and associations and the media to support the promotion to the above goal to the general public on the importance of gender and women representatively in the communes and sangkats;

3. Increase the capacity of local organizations to increase capacity of women candidates in developing proposal, organizing, and implementing their campaign in public forums based on sharing knowledge, techniques, experiences and resources.

II. Objectives and Strategy of the project

Project aims to increase the numbers of women candidates running for local government seats and to build their capacity to influence local policy and spending decisions. It will also contribute to their creation of a positive environment for women's participation in public office by focusing efforts on the primary targets of local, provincial and national administrators and political party leaders, potential female candidates and voters; and the secondary target of the general public. Finally, It will contribute to the mobilization of women's support networks, who will design, implement and monitor their own strategic action plans, and will help to ensure sustained momentum in the area of women's participation in public decision-making and the promotion of an inclusive gender equality agenda.

The project strategy, to enhance women's political participation is threefold. This involves advocating for women's access to decision-making positions in local government, strengthening women candidates' capacity to run for election and advancing the women's rights agenda once they are elected. The project will achieve the aforementioned results through capacity building and advocacy.

III. Achievements

Mobilizing support:

CPWP have achieved in developing a common strategy to increase women in the 2007 commune/Sangkat election. Proposals were developed for all 7 members and one for the overall proposal for all partners. CPWP and members have raised fund from several source and successfully partnered with: GTZ, UNIFEM, UNDP, UNFPA, MOWA and PACT/USAID. CPWP as a committee has received fund from the World Bank, UNDEF through UNIFEM to implement our activities and lately from French Embassy for covering 2 full staffs.

By the end of March 2007 CPWP and its partners have received support from the following donors:

- UNDEF funded CPWP through UNIFEM from February 2007- December 2008 to conduct community-based voter outreach **18** public forums in three provinces: Takeo, Kampong Cham and Kampong Thom. There are **20** trainings women candidates, activists and network in targeted.
- World Bank funded for: 1 training of trainer session (TOT) which was later used for 2 forums and 1 training session, and 7 training sessions of candidates and 6 forums. So in total there are 8 trainings and 8 forums.
- UNIFEM fund media advocacy and lobbying activities with political parties to SILAKA.
- UNDP and UNFPA through MOWA fund WFP to conduct 15 training sessions and GAD/C to organize 5 forums and a refreshment training of trainer.
- GTZ funded GAD/C to implement forum and training of the trainers for forum organizers.
- GTZ funded CPWP to organize launching program in October, 2006 at Sunway Hotel
- Recently CPWP got fund from French embassy to cover 2 staff salary for support CPWP process in communication and network.

The fund received from UNDEF for 2007-2008 activities will cover 3 provinces (Takeo, Kampong Cham, and Kampong Thom), provinces with low women representation (4-5%) in the last election. We will also provide training to local activists and help them build networks in the provinces we will be working with. We have been meeting monthly to share information, distribute tasks, plan new activities, and solve problems. We have reasons to believe that there is a significant increase in placing more women at the top of the list among the 4 political parties (including NRP).

Total activities Implemented by members of CPWP:

With the other support from other donors, CPWP members organizations have conducted a total:

1. 27 forums at the district level;
2. 1 TOT on organizing forums and a refreshment course,
3. 31 training sessions for women candidates'
4. 1 TOT for training of candidates for Commune/Sangkat,
5. 120 comedies session at the local level;
6. 1 special historical event on March 03, 2007 at Wat Phnom for evoking people remembers to look back to Cambodian women in history and to install this spiritual motivation in young generations 'mind.

Publication:

CPWP and the members has published:

1. 7800 booklets on: Why do we need women in decision making?
2. 6000 brochures: CPWP background information and members
3. 3,140 T-shirts: Vote for party with women at the top of candidates list
4. 1520 handout for train candidates
5. 6000 posters with message: Women must be involved to protect the interest of women and children
6. 2000 posters for 3 march ceremony
7. 1 radio spot for campaign: How to vote for women at the next commune/sangkat election?
8. 1 round table discussion in TV9 on "Women Participation in Politics"
9. 2 songs: Promoting women to stand and vote for women at the commune/sangkat election;
10. 1 video spot (or voxpop) on people view on female leaders.

Media campaign and Lobbying:

CPWP and members mount a media campaign advocate for the public to vote for party with women on the top of the candidate list. CPWP members also lobbied national leaders of political parties, provincial, district and commune level in 8 provinces (personal meetings to place women at the top of the list prior to the election.)

Summary activities/Result supported by UNDEF and next plan

Intended Outputs	Key Activities	Activities/Result from February – May 2007	Plan for next quarter
<p>Output 1 CPWP, with a well-functioning secretariat, becomes a strong network of women's organizations to promote women's political participation in Cambodia.</p>	<p>1.1 Establish CPWP secretariat offices, including hiring of staff, developing implementation plan and project management mechanisms.</p>	<p>1.1.1 Prepare Office rental/ equipment purchased CPWP took over one office room locating in the SILAKA office location. The purchase was implemented with SILAKA administration following proper guidelines. Purchasing of equipment include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) LCD projector, 2) 2 computers, 3) 1 Hand phone 4) 1 printer; 5) 1 camera; 6) 1 scanner; 7) 2 desks, and 2 chairs 8) 1 set of table with 4 chairs <p>The budget expend: \$5,739.08</p> <p>1.1.2 Hiring Staff From February 2007, the project started. CPWP was operated with one officer from SILAKA, and later joined by the CPWP Coordinator in March 26, 2007. The recruitment of the Coordinator was approved by the CPWP members. She was SILAKA staff, working in support of the secretariat since March 2006.</p> <p>The budget expend: \$2,465.60 TOTAL BUDGET Exp: \$8,204.68</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruit 2 staff with French Embassy support. • Discussion with members on organizational development of CPWP to prepare strategic planning, supported by GTZ. • Consult with financial accounting to discuss system and policy with members.

	<p>1.2 Schedule regular meetings for coordination of work, sharing of information and organizing.</p>	<p>Secretariat coordinate regular monthly meetings with members and appropriate stakeholders and other meeting organized as needed. 9 meetings took place from Feb to May 2007:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) February 14, at Silaka office: A main topic of discussion is for organizing of 3 march ceremony; 2) March 22, at Silaka office: the agenda of the meeting are: report on activities done, the feedback of handout for train women candidates, CPWP next step in planning and reports analysis and format; 3) April 05 at Silaka office: A main topic of discussion is for sharing information on monitoring result of commune election 2007 and indentify key issue and discuss next steps; 4) April 09 the CPWP get together for the Khmer New Year to toast the New Year and to congratulate on the job well done of members of members at Tai Meng Plaza Hotel! 5) April 24, at Silaka office: Main topic is CPWP evaluation plan by Ingird Fitzgerald; 6) May 02, at Silaka office: Main topic is for discussing about session plan for 2nd lobby in the 8 provincial funded by UNIFEM; 7) May 07, at Silaka office, to discuss on assessment of interpersonal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The secretariat will continue to coordinate regular monthly meetings with members and appropriate stakeholders. Other meetings will be organized as needed. • Coordinate members meeting with UNIFEM monitor/evaluator. • Collect information for UNIFEM monitor/evaluator. • Coordinate for members training needs.
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		<p>communications training needs of women commune counselors;</p> <p>8) May 16, at CWPDP office: to present the draft result of the assessment on interpersonal communication training needs of women commune counselors that was conducted in the Kg. Thom province on May 10-11.</p> <p>9) May 18, at Silaka: the main topic is for identify activities strategy for post CC election and present financial report of World Bank and UNDEF.</p> <p>TOTAL BUDGET Exp: \$428.58</p>	
	1.3 Develop a strategy for information dissemination, including the monitoring of how information has been used.	In the process with UNIFEM monitor/evaluator.	To developed the strategy and plan with support of UNIFEM Monitor/evaluator.
	1.4 Coordinate development of training modules (pre- and post-elections), field test modules and facilitate training activities.	Interview women commune councilors for their training needs during 2 nd lobby. Pre election was conducted by WFP- Post test is in the process, and GAD is in charge.	<p>1. Gather information on currently training conducted for commune councilors.</p> <p>2. Consulted with MOI and other NGO on training needs and gaps recommended</p> <p>3. Collected training materials currently available.</p> <p>4. Interview women commune councilors for their training needs during 2nd lobby.</p> <p>5. Research for additional materials for training curriculum.</p>
	1.5 Reporting	CPWP secretariat will report to UNIFEM every quarter June, Sep, and Dec 2007, Mar,	This is the first activity report to UNIFEM. The next report will be in

		June, Sep, and December 2008.	September 2007.
	1.6 Collecting data	Data was collected but not yet analyzed. This will be done prior to the reporting period of 6 months and with the support from UNIFEM monitor/evaluator.	Date will be collecting prior to the reporting period of 6 months and with the support from UNIFEM monitor/evaluator.
	1.7 Financial auditing of SILAKA	N/A	Reported to UNIFEM Cambodia during a meeting on____ that there is no budget to cover the financial auditing. SILAKA as the lead agency will need the advice from UNIFEM, on which line item to allocate for this purpose. Financial auditing will be conducted after the end of the contract period.
	1.8 Final reporting	N/A	Final reporting will be submitted with the report from the financial auditing report.
Output 2 Potential women candidates in 3 provinces have the skills, knowledge and ability to run for the 2007 elections.	2.1 Conduct 20 training sessions of potential women candidates, including on pre-election strategies, campaigning techniques and fundraising, governance issues and parliamentary procedures, in Takeo, Kampong Cham and Kampong Thom.	CPWP planned to conduct 10 training session for 1 year project and 6 training sessions will be implemented before commune election 2007. In Takeo was conducted 3 trainings session by WFP and NICFEC 1) 2 training sessions was implemented by WFP for 64 female candidates on 01-03 March 2007 that from SRP: 16, CPP:16, FCP:16 and NRP: 16 and budget expense is \$6,005.31 2) 1 training sessions was implemented by NICFEC on 20-22 March 2007 with 27 female candidates that from SRP:10, CPP:8, and FCP:9 and budget expense is \$2,878.40	Training for commune counselors elected will be done after the curriculum and materials will be developed. Please see future plan of activities, attached.

		<p>In Kampong Thom was conducted 2 trainings session by SILAKA and GAD/c</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) 1 training sessions was trained by GAD/C on 12-14 March 2007 with 27 female candidates that from SRP:10, CPP:9 and FCP:8 and budget expense is \$3,002.72 2) 1 trainings session was implemented by SILAKA on March 12-14 2007 with 22 candidates that from SRP:6, CPP:7 and FCP:9 and expense is \$2,140.50 <p>In Kampong Cham was conducted 1 trainings session by CWPD</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) One training was conducted by CWPD in Kampong Cham province on 22-24 February 2007 with 30 female candidate from four political parties (SRP=9, FSP=5, CPP=11, NRP=5). This training was covered by the World Bank because of the remaining fund from organizing Training of Trainer was raised by WFP through Ministry of Women Affairs. <p>Conclusion: There were 170 female candidates, from 4 political parties SRP=51, CPP=51, FCP=47 NRP=21, attended 6 trainings sessions conducted by CPWP partners. They were prepared for the April 1,2007 commune/sangkat counselors election.</p> <p>TOTAL BUDGET Exp: \$14,691.08</p>	
	2.2 Organize training workshop	N/A	CPWP (CPWP members with TA) is

	for elected councillors to strengthen their skills and knowledge, including on parliamentary procedures, advocacy around gender concerns, management skills and resource mobilization.		reviewing the training Curriculum and materials for training women councilors and peer activists network. This activity is responsible by GAD/C. The training will be implemented by members' organizations. GAD/c is preparing the work plan and budget. Women councilors will be trained in the topics identified from October 2007-June 2008
	2.2 Provide technical assistance and support to set up peer support network and to develop a strategic action plan to monitor women's political participation and decision making.	N/A	Project date: December 2007 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 peer networks will be facilitated by commune women councilors in each province. • Peer network will also include women activists. It is expected that each network will meet quarterly; According to the meeting on May 18, 2007 draft strategy and budget for organize network activists will be done by WFP and CPWP Network Officer (supported by French Embassy).
Output 3 Political parties and local administration leaders are aware of the importance of their support for women's leadership.	3.1 Hold regular meetings with provincial governors, commune council chiefs, and political party leaders to draw attention to the significance of including women candidates on their lists. (6 times with top governors, 13 times at	This activity was supported by UNIFEM SEAP. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 5 lobbying at the national level conducted from June to July 2006 by CPWP members. CPWP delegation at National level including the main three political parties representative, Minister of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize 3rd consultative conference (female CCs, Women parliamentarians, women political leader, MoI and MoWA) in December 2007 • Lobby with 4 political parties (CPP, SRP, FSP and NRP) at the

	<p>local level).</p> <p>3.2 Conduct follow and advocate political parties to place women candidates high on the party lists and to use the sandwich system of placing men and women candidates on the list as the election cycle advances and monitor political parties agents' actions and commitments by tracking meeting minutes and/or any written documentation from political parties in response to requested meeting and advocacy.</p>	<p>Women Affairs and Secretary of state of Ministry of Interior. As result: They all warm welcomed and very supportive to what CPWP is doing and they are happy to support or facilitate if we need some help from them to access provincial and district level parties for CPWP activities. Some parties also have similar party policy to promote more women like CPWP, but in somehow quota system is deemed but the practice yet completely acceptable amongst men and there are more concern on women qualification. This will take action step by stem there must be balance between quality and quantity if not the party will fail. All the parties mentioned and concern about the capacity building amongst women candidates because they want women and men run alongside for commune council and also for national arena.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 56 meeting at commune, districts and provincial level in 8 provinces in Cambodia from mid December 2006 to mid January 2007 before the commune election: <p>As result, amongst the 6 implementing NGOs met with 84 persons at provincial, district and commune level in the 8 provinces from 20 December 2006 to 20 January 2007 at time that all political parties were busy in recruiting their candidates and prepare the list for 01</p>	<p>national level; CWPD is developing a revised strategy for advocacy and lobbying. CWPD will develop plan and budget.</p>
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		<p>April 2007 election. All parties also set up their policy to promote more women in politics also in commune council and standing for candidate for commune council. Although parties complained about difficulties in finding qualified women candidates and the numbers of women candidate always less than men candidates but each party also recognize the effectiveness of women attraction supporters for party. But limited knowledge, experience and financial conditions are the barrier for women and these issues need to be solved through capacity building, self- confidence, self-commitment, party support and family, community and society support to encourage for more women participation in decision making. In somehow for opposite party, offends and insecurity also made women hesitate to involve as well.</p> <p><i>This project is coming to a close in June 30, 2007.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Ceremony to Commemorate the Cambodian Heroines in History” was conducted on March 03, 2007 during the international women day, prior to April 1, 07 election. CPWP members and or NGOs formed a committee co -organizing NGOs. It took place in Wat Phnom and ended at Preah Ang Dongkeur with a peace march. There were about 500 participants including invited honored guests and speakers. Minister Ing Kantha Phavi, 	
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		<p>Minister of the Ministry of Women Affairs officiated the event. Guest speakers came from other political parties. The event was organized with the purpose to evoked recognition and dedication to Cambodian women in history and to instill the spiritual motivation in young generations in respect of women and homage to women in leadership in our history and time;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPWP members went to the provinces to celebrate women day; • CPWP materials distributed at all the events organized by members. <p>TOTAL BUDGET Exp: \$3,802.52</p>	
<p>Output 4 Voters are aware of the importance of women's participation in political processes and decision making.</p>	<p>4.1 Develop TV and radio spots (120 spots) with clear and effective messages on the role of women in and their contribution to public office.</p>	<p>Media Campaign</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The radio spot and TV spot that was produced funded by other donors was edited (Sponsor by other donor replace to sponsor by UNDEF) for broadcast in radio, TV and during conduct public forum; • One round table discussion in TV was produced with 2 times broadcast in TV9 by co-organize and share budget with Comfrel. • 12 times of spot that produced by Comfrel was broadcasted in 3 TV stations. <p>TOTAL BUDGET Exp: \$3,439.36</p>	<p>This activity leads by NICFEC according to the meeting on May 18, 2007. Details of the plan are yet to be set by the committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radio and TV broadcasting will be programmed and implemented in the city and in the provinces. Video spots will be with the cable TV company at the provinces. • 4 TV and radio spot will be produced and broadcast 120 times on TV and 100 times on radio. • A revised media strategy is in its development.
	<p>4.2 Develop and produce pamphlets, posters and t-shirts (67,000) for distribution at forums, meetings and trainings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reformat the material already produce for reproduction for the media campaign with proper acknowledgement to UNDEF. CPWP currently have: 1 type of poster; 1 	<p>This activity leads by NICFEC. NICFEC will develop a strategy and message to put in poster, brochure, booklet, and T- shirt.</p>

		<p>booklets, 1 radio spot, 1 advocacy folder, 2 video spots previously developed and produced by Comfrel under funding from UNIFEM, GTZ, and the World Bank.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The materials was produced that funded by UNDEF are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Booklet 5000 2) Training handout 250 3) T-Shirt 1280 4) Brochure 3000 5) Poster calendar for Women International Day 2000 6) Poster calendar for CPWP 2000 All printed materials and T-shirts were used in public forums and trainings. <p>TOTAL BUDGET Exp: \$5,290.29</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPWP will reconsider the reproduction of new message in the preparation for the national election campaign.
	<p>4.3 Organize 18 community-based voter outreach/public forums, including on the importance of voting and to advocate for women's political participation in the 2007 elections.</p>	<p>CPWP planned to organize 10 public forums for 1 year project and 8 forums plan to organize before commune election 2007. But actually, we were able to implement 7 forums because the forum planned by Comfrel was not implemented due to the late of fund released. The other members went ahead with their own fund advance.</p> <p>In Takeo was conducted 1 public forum by NICFEC</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) 1 public forum was implemented by NICFEC on 27 February 2007 with 100 participants in the morning session and 250 people in evening session and budget expense is \$2,796.06 <p>In Kampong Thom conducted 4 public</p>	<p>According to the meeting on May 18, 2007 this activity lead by Gad/c. Gad/c will develop the plan to revise the previous manual as the proposed messages below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The important of women participation at all level 2) Non discrimination on women and men in the community 3) Pay attention elected women to sustain their position 4) We must focus on health, domestic violence, education service to women and children in the community. <p>The forums will be organized from</p>

		<p>forums by SILAKA and GAD/C</p> <p>3) 2 public forums were organized by GAD/C on 13 & 27 February 2007 with 198 participants in the morning session and 1500 people in the evening session and budget expense is \$5,958.73.</p> <p>4) 2 public forums implemented by SILAKA on 08 & 10 March 2007 with 235 participants attended in the morning session and 1100 people in the evening session and budget expense is \$5,676.36.</p> <p>In Kampong Cham was conducted 2 public forums by CWPD</p> <p>2) 2 public forums was conducted by CWPD in Kampong Cham province on 19 & 21 February 2007 with 309 participants attended in the morning session and 1850 people participate in the evening session.</p> <p>These 2 forums were covered by the World Bank because of the remaining fund from organizing Training of Trainer was raised by WFP through Ministry of Women Affairs.</p> <p>Conclusion: There are 842 participants attended the morning session of the local forum, and 4,700 participants in the evening session in 7 public forums.</p> <p>TOTAL BUDGET Exp: \$14,817.70</p>	<p>October 2007 to June 2008.</p>
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IV. Lesson learnt from the activities & problem encountered

1. Strength:

1. There was active participation amongst people in public forums within questions and answers related to leadership in commune/sangkat, exploring their perceptions, worries, experiences and supports or comments toward good governance;
2. The knowledge were transferred to the public on women participation in politics, decision making at the local level, and provide gender knowledge through educative films plying (Good husband), role play, music and gift competition through questions and answers;
3. In forum organizing, methods used were flexible according to circumstances. Methods and tools used were attractive to draw people with various ages and positions through music, role play and happy time;
4. Messages, activities created were able to develop people more active in the public environment to involve in social affair and perception sharing and politics;
5. There are various types of people in the communities that our messages reach on the promotion of women in politics, decision making and in social affairs;
6. There are also good cooperation between local authority in all levels and stakeholders amongst the implementing members;
7. Women capacity and motivation gain more through the forums and trainings;
8. The activities had influence to change people perception, views and motivation in social changes within decrease of discrimination toward women;
9. A lot of suggestions for organize more trainings and public forums prior to the national election. Attitude changes and capacity were built through trainings sessions toward women candidate to extend their knowledge related to their position and involvement.

2. Difficulties:

1. There were times constraints of funding owing to constrain activities implemented by CPWP members;
2. The procedure of funding did not come as planned activities and some CPWP members used their own fund advance but some was not able to implement;
3. The cooperation in submitting activities reports and financial report from CPWP members were not so smooth;
4. There are still some challenges for women to actively involve in politics, decision making and social affairs;
5. Facilitators and staff of partners need to be trained in wider contexts related knowledge on decentralization law, social issues concerning women and men roles, skills in facilitation and training, because
 - o Women candidates have less knowledge of decentralization system for explain their trainees more understand their role in commune work (Some of CCs members also don't understand their role);
 - o TOT was delivered to trainer of CPWP member organization not too clear and difficult to understand the meaning in the book;
6. Women political candidates are illiterate, too old and too young; Difficult to adapt the training to their level; Materials and method were not flexible to their needs.
7. There was suggestion to extend the training duration from 3 to 4 days.
8. Difficulties getting members to turn in their report on time. System on financial reporting must be set up for members.

3. Impact:

From activities implementing there is increase participants understanding on women participation in politics, decision making at grassroots level are more progress and active with men support. Compared to 2002 female candidate are only 16%, but according to the result of issued on women candidate is 21% in 2007 according to NEC report and the number of female candidates from 1-3 in the list were double during 2007 (from 1161 in 2002 to 2328 in 2007).

The number of commune council elected is increase 11.261 in 2002 and 11.353 in 2007. For the result of women commune council elected is increase 8.5% in 2002 and 15% in 2007. According to the rate 2007 the female counselors at the communes are increased 74% compare with the previous rate.

Candidate List comparing from 2002 to 2007 Commune/Sangkat election in the 3 provinces that was supported by UNDEF

No	Provinces	Total 2002 women counselors				Total 2007 women counselors				% Changed from 2002 to 2007			
		Chief	V.C	Mem.	Total	Chief	V.C	Mem.	Total	Chief	V.C	Mem.	Total
1	Takeo	01	03	23	27	03	07	68	78	200%	133%	196%	189%
2	K.g Chham	03	14	78	95	06	22	120	148	100%	57%	54%	56%
3	K.g Thom	0	03	25	28	0	12	67	79	0%	300%	168%	182%

Note: Chi: Commune Chief, V.C: Commune Vice Chief, Mem: Commune Member

Candidate List comparing from 2002 to 2007 Commune/Sangkat election

Description	2002	2007	# and % changed
# of Candidates	75,226	102,401	27, 175
# of Female candidates	12, 044	21, 396	9, 352
% of Female candidates	16%	21%	78%
# of women from 1-3 in the list	1,161	2,328	100%
# of Candidate elected	11,261	11,353	92
# of Female candidates elected	954	1,662	708
% of Female candidates elected	8.5%	15%	74%

V. Conclusion

It is imperative to ensure the presence of women who could affect policies and interventions promoting women and children's rights in the commune councils. More women needs to be elected as commune councillors in order to reflect the important role that women play in national and community development, as well as in providing and caring for the families. After all, women constitute 52% of the entire population of Cambodia. Giving women a voice in policymaking is the foundation of popular participation and democracy in any country. Compared to men, women councillors are more likely to address pressing social problems like health, education, gender-based violence and discrimination, community building and so on. At the same time, women councillors need to be empowered in their capacity and skills, supported logistically and financially, and feel secure and safe in order to carry out their duties and tasks to the best of their abilities.

Forum: Although the organizers of the program have faced some challenges and constraints, the forum was helpful in capacity building for local level to promote and support the female candidates in the upcoming commune council elections. It also was successful in terms of achieving the stated objectives and goals (to increase women in commune and Sangkats from 9% to 15% in 2007 and

now we got 15% for election 2007) (*Please see the Result of commune councilor election in 2002 and 2007 by gender in Annex IV*). Female candidates are aware of their potential roles in participation with the political sector. The Forum also developed the perception of the grassroots people about the importance of women's representation in the local decision making. It also brought the consensus of leaders in local level of mainstream political parties about putting women candidates at the top of the candidates list.

Training: They were interacted and shared to each other with good ideas to improve their knowledge related to the real work related to local parties, women issues and local develop in commune council task. The female participants reported that it is a real battle for them this term. They had to compete on equal footing with their male candidates under the democratic system of pre-election that their political parties had set up (only the head of the village and commune councils of the political parties as voters). However, they still feel that this set up was not fair as most of the voters in their parties are male, and that the ballot was not open in front of everyone. We see that the second term of commune/sangkat election will have quality women rather than quantity. We will have women that deserve to be elected due to their competency, and most importantly, we will have elected women who know how to advocate for equal share of responsibilities.

Advocacy: The one day ceremony of "Commemorate the 9 Cambodian Heroines in History" is very effective to Cambodian people. People are very interested and they said that they didn't know about this. And it will be more effective than we use the words "gender" because Cambodian people always said that "gender" is the foreign culture which brought to Cambodia society for making the men goes down. This event made people know that the Cambodian cultural roots believe in giving the leadership role and respect to women in family and society. The round table discussion in TV before commune election 2 days also got surprised from Cambodian people. It is the first time that they saw the very active women to speak in the TV because they never think that in Cambodia society have women who have strong commitment to work in development as the men. This is our Cambodian Women's pride. Adapted materials for commune counselors and women activists should be developed. Further, handbook for gender facts in Cambodia should be pulled together, in a simpler way to advocate with policy and decision makers.