

WOMEN'S ACTION FOR CHANGE



NEWSLETTER

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Banteay Meanchey Edition

ABOUT WEST PROJECT

Under the support from Voice Program through Oxfam, CWCC has been implementing a project named 'Women's Empowerment for Social Transformation (WEST)' in the 3 target districts of Banteay Meanchey: Mongkul Borei, O' chrov and Svay Chek. The "WEST" Project is part of CWCC's advocacy program that is implemented to empower and build confidence of women and girl survivors of GBV (sexual abuse, trafficking/exploitation and domestic violence), women and girls with ability, older women whose children migrate to work in

Thailand, and women migrant workers, to enable them to express their needs and claim their rights for access to services needed. To date, the project has formed and built capacity of 12 women support groups with 180 members, one women provincial network and six social ambassadors to influence service providers in addressing the needs of vulnerable women and girls.

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AN ATTITUDE CHANGE TOWARDS THE FAMILY'S HAPPINESS

At the age of 60s, Pep is living in Sophy Tbung, Ouchrov district in Banteay Meanchey with grand children and husband. Her children migrate to labour in Thailand. Even though, she paid a great contribution to the family, she suffered from violence when her husband got drunk. Pep used to leave home with grand children to escape from violence. Her husband begged her to return home with promise of stop doing violence in the house. But, he did not keep his promise.

One day, Mrs. Eing Sinath, leader of Women Support Group under Women's Empowerment for Social Transformation project insisted Pep to apply to be a member of the group. In the WSG, Pep and other members received many trainings. Pep found interest with GBV training the most. She realized that her husband commits violence at home because he believes that he has power over her. He did violence to show his strength in power.

Pep gained more knowledge on self development and feel confident in speaking out, to public. She talked in radio programme "Women's Voice for Change".

Mrs. Pep tried to transfer key training messages to her husband. She convinced him to consider the concept of mutual respect and support between husband and wife. They applied the concept into practice to manage anger and reduce violence in family.

Later, Pep realized that her man had changed a lot. Although he still drinking, but he stop beating her.

Mrs. Pep feels warm with the Women Support Group as it was forum for her to exchange knowledge and obtain new skills. She thanks CWCC that funded by VOICE through Oxfam Cambodia supporting her community. She thank to facilitators who demonstrated ways to reduce domestic violence and promote leadership in herself and the rest of WSG members.



PRE-8 MARCH CONSULTATIVE MEETING

According to Pok Panhavichetr, CWCC ED, on 7 February 2020, at Sunway hotel Phnom Penh a total of 29 women from self-help groups, women's Ambassador, gather views around preparation of women's day. The idea was to select key message that address current problems and needs of local women.

Nuon Bopha from Women's Affairs Municipal Department declared strong support to CWCC in their mission of strengthening and empowerment women survivors of violence, domestically, sexually and women with disability and migration. After Thak Socheat, PM of CWCC, presented achievement to date, Phil Sokear, represent women with disabilities described problems that faced by her community including discrimination problem, and negative assumption on disabled people that cannot do anything. She mentioned that service for them was not enough.

Hem Rina, Social Ambassador gave a note about changes in life of women. Many of them feel free to talk and seek assistance from local authorities.

In that meeting, Kim Vet from O'Chroav commune office, appreciated good cooperation between CWCC and local authorities. She showed evident about herself that she feel confident and be able to communicate with other institutions. She wished to continue the project for another couples of years in her responsive commune.

After that, 3 small groups were assigned to select one topic for the event. Finally, they selected a theme: Promote service delivery without discrimination.

This mean that people still keep urging local authorities, especially service providers to provide services to survivors including, Survivor from domestic violence, Sexual harassment and rape, violence against women with disability and elderly people had been discussed.

district building under the theme: Promote service delivery without discrimination. The Event chaired by Koeung Vannak, Deputy governor of Banteay Meanchey , Meng Kim Huoy from women's affairs, Chan Ratana from social affairs and Van Sinha from district office. Other officials from departments and military personals and community people with a total of 500 participated to the event.

CWCC Banteay Meanchey Provincial Coordinator, Im Rithy, based in Banteay Meanchey noted that the event is for reminding public understanding on Women Human Rights, challenges that are facing by women and girls in the form of domestic violence, sexual harassment, violence against disabled women, elderly women and those who face problem in migration for work in neighboring county and require support to access justice.

Si Nha declared of her strong support to CWCC's implementing project - Strengthening Women's Empowerment for Change. The women's Affairs representative Kim Huoy noted that CWCC has cooperated well with her department in implementing this project.

The deputy governor also expressed his strong support to CWCC to implement the project that focus on women survivors in domestic violence, sexual harassment, violence against disabled women, elderly women and migrated women. He urged authorities to improve service provision to people especially women and girls with disabilities without discrimination.

It is noted that theme for Women's Day was selected by women fro target provinces in a meeting in Phnom Penh on 07 February with participation of 29 people - Promote service delivery without discrimination.



STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT FOR CHANGE

Local authority and sectoral representatives appreciated and grant congratulation to the results made by a project name: Women's Empowerment for Social Transformation "West", implemented by CWCC , funded by VOICE programme of Oxfam Cambodia.

These remarks were done in the celebration of the International Women's Day in O' Chrov of Banteay Meanchey province that was organized in the compound of



A LESSON OF UNDOCUMENTED MIGRATION

Thuy Pheap, 53, took her family undocumented migrate to Thailand for earning income to clear debts.

The way this family choose for migration resulted not as expected. They took high risk by crossing border through unofficial border crossing point, walking through plantations and face risk with land mines. At work, they were cheated by the owner of factory and they received little payment.

Pheap decided to move back home with shameful feeling. She hid herself from everyone as to avoid queries from them. That time, she lost confidence at all.

In 2018, sister Kim Huon Kim Leang who is the leader of Women Support Group in the village advices Pheap to apply for membership of the group. It was under the project ' Women's Empowerment for Social Changes'.

It was the time that Thuy Pheap learn about safe migration. She accepted the value of legality of migration that prevent migrants from cheating from bad people. In addition, she and other members receive Leadership Training too.

It seemed that WSG had demonstrated safe approach for migration, Phaep and family dis second time of migration legally. This time, they worked freely under protection of the law. They gain a lot of money and all debts were cleared.

Sister Thuy Pheap thank the CWCC, funded by programme VOICE through Oxfam Cambodia for supporting her community. She thank also to facilitators for demonstrating them safe migration technique and develop her leadership skill.

Finally, Pheap accepted that the Women Support Group has great value for women and people in community.

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