

Women's Paths Today

Magazine



Helping Women Help Themselves



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Note: All the victim and suspect are newly named to protect of their universal rights and privacy.

October-December 2013

Issue 31

Welcome from ED

Women's Paths Today magazine is honoured to bring news, case studies, as well as social issues and activities of **Cambodian Women's Crisis Center** to the readers.

Human trafficking, sexual abuse, and domestic violence are still sensitive issues for Cambodia even though there is much prevention from the government to vanquish of brothel and arrest the brokers, the national plan against human trafficking, and adopt of law to prevent domestic violence, and victims protection.

To response with above issues, **CWCC** has implemented many projects to prevent, protect, and advocate promoting a gender-equitable and compassionate society.

To participate in reducing unsafe migration, human trafficking, labour exploitation, and other abuses, as well as to claim legal justice for women and children, **CWCC** has collaborated with **Suppression of Human Trafficking, Smuggling, Labour Exploitation and Sexual Exploitation in Women and Children (STSLs)** organized a sub-national workshop on "Best Practices for Better Management of Migration" with support of **USAID** through **WinRock International**.

This workshop aims to provide the chance for participants to learn about mechanism and good practice of legal recognition for migration workers without legal document.

Moreover, with the support from **Korean government through Korean Women Development Institution (KWDI)**, **CWCC** is providing the training on bakery and coffee making for survivors of GBV living at the safe shelter in Phnom Penh to get their skills after they are reintegrated back to the community.

The success of **CWCC** work is the commitment of all staff and the cooperation with local authority and involved institutions in partnership to promote the effective services of **CWCC** such as social psychological and legal supports to GBV survivors.

I would like to thank to all donor of **CWCC** and especially to **Friendship With Cambodia** and **DCA/CA** for support on **Women's Paths Today** magazine. We wish you all the best!



Pok Panhavichetr
Executive Director of CWCC

Pok Panhavichetr

Executive Director of CWCC

Editorial

Social services are important for the victims of GBV



Ou Mom

Communication Officer of CWCC

Welcome again to **Women's Paths Today!**

While working with **CWCC**, I have been saturated with sympathy for women and children who are GBV survivors. I'm so proud of the management and staff of **CWCC** who have a high commitment to working for the universal rights of the survivors.

To enhance their work **CWCC** organized a workshop to build capacity of the staff, "**Women's Rights and Gender Equity**"

Providing only legal support is not enough. Based on the experience of **CWCC**, providing social services such as psycho-social counseling is one of the most effective ways to empower women and children to claim their universal rights and justice as well as to rebuild their lives.

For example, I recently met with a 36 year-old woman who has reduced psychological distress after receiving social services from **CWCC**.

A 2 year-old rape survivor and her grandmother are feeling stronger for upcoming court proceedings after receiving psychological support from **CWCC** safe shelter staff.

I would like to show my gratefulness to the **CWCC** management team, donors, as well as my colleagues for valuable suggestions and comments on **Women's Paths Today** magazine. We hope **Women's Paths Today** will continue to provide valuable information for the empowerment of women and girls in Cambodia.

Ou Mom



Communication Officer of CWCC

Welcome new staff of CWCC!

CWCC has recruited more staff from July to September this year. Sem Putheary, Data Management Officer in head Office. New staff for Siem Reap Office are Thean Piseth, Admin Officer and Pournng Sakor, Scholarship Staff. New staff for Beanteay Meanchey are: Sor Sopheak, Gender Mainstreaming Officer and Prak Phaliss, Counselor. New staff for Kampong Thom are: Srey Sophannara, Legal Staff; An Sophea, Reintegration Officer; and So Thy, Community Development Officer.



*Sem Putheary, Data Management Officer
in the Head Office*



*Srey Sophannara, Legal Staff
in Kampong Thom*



*An Sophea, Reintegration Staff
in Kampong Thom*



*So Thy, Community Development Officer
in Kampong Thom*



*Thean Piseth, Admin Officer
in Siem Reap*



*Pournng Sakor, scholarship officer
in Siem Reap*



*Sor Sopheak, Gender Mainstreaming Officer (left)
and Prak Phaliss, counselor in Banteay Meanchey*

Visit from USAID to CWCC Siem Reap

Cambodian Women's Crisis Center was honored to host the visit of the Deputy Assistant Administrator of **USAID**, Greg Beck.

The Deputy Assistant Administrator visited **CWCC** safe shelter in Siem Reap in July to learn about the activities and impact of the **USAID** supported **Counter Trafficking in People 2 (CTIP2)**.

After listening to the presentation of Executive Director of **CWCC** about **CWCC** services for GBV survivors, Greg Beck also visited the survivors at the safe shelter.

This is not the first time for **CWCC** to host the representatives of **USAID** to visit **CWCC**. The activities of **CWCC** in "**New Hope**" project have response to the goal of **USAID** in reducing human trafficking.



Greg Beck, USAID Deputy Assistant Administrator visits the girls at the shelter



Group picture of Greg Beck, management and the staffs of CWCC at safe shelter in Siem Reap

A day with the Shelter Officer of CWCC (Phnom Penh)

Sin Lypov, the Shelter Officer of **CWCC** Phnom Penh, started working at **CWCC** in 1997, when **CWCC** was just founded. She has two daughters and two sons. She lives with her youngest daughter in Takmao, Kandal Province.

She wakes up at 5am to do exercises and some housework before having a shower and going to work. Her daughter takes her by motorbike or she travels by motor taxi with her breakfast of porridge or bread.

Lypov arrives at the shelter between 7:30am and 8:00am. Her first task is to check each department of the shelter such as day care, literacy, sewing, cooking, souvenirs class, and so on whether the teachers come and the students miss their classes.

Lypov is always careful with the sanitation and health care of the clients and staff at the shelter, she used to work for the government in the medical system in the 1960s.

She has to manage thoroughly the needs of clients at the shelter. She reviews the budget a few times a month for all expenses including medical health care and transportation of the clients, and so on.

The Shelter Officer said she feels like the shelter is her home. She is responsible for managing nine staff and about 30 clients and their relatives. She is very patient in coordinating and solving problems with sympathy and compassion and treats everyone as her family.

She said that people management is the most difficult issue she faces. The most common problem is arguments between clients whose behaviour is impacted by their experience of violence. Generally, the counsellor plays an important role in providing counselling to the clients but other staff also provide support for the clients related to sanitation, morality, human universal rights, and so on.

Lypov has lunch at the shelter with several staff who also prefer to have their lunch there. After having lunch, she continues to manage the activities of each department and sometimes writes reports. She said that she rarely has free time because she always spends it with other staff, consulting on work and sometimes even providing counseling to individuals and groups, for the clients who need her help.

Lypov is responsible enough to spend some time on the weekends finishing her work and she rarely takes leave. She said if she takes leave no one can replace her.

She arrives home after work at about 6pm or 7pm. Exhausted from her work, she usually takes a rest with entertaining TV programs when arriving home. She cooks and has dinner with her daughter. She spends some of her weekends meeting with her family and annually travels with **CWCC** staff and management for the staff meeting to reduce stress and build good relationships with her colleagues.

PYD provides funding to CWCC

PAZY DESARROLLO, a Spanish organization, has provided funding to CWCC to implement the “**Young Men Stop Violence**” Project in two communes in Kampong Thom Province. The overall goal of the Project is for young men to contribute to a reduction in gender based violence in their communities.

Young men, aged 15-24, will join together to form 15 village youth groups. They will participate in education about gender equity and violence against women and their role to affect change in community attitudes and behaviors.



Activities of meeting between CWCC and local authority to create youth group in implementing the project “Young Men stop violence”

Two girls reveal the broker's tricks

Facing sewing machines, two girls carefully listen and happily follow their trainer's instructions, but their moods change and tears start falling when they start talking about how they were sold for sex.

Bopha and Vatey are 14 and 15 year old cousins who lived in Takhmao. Their mothers work as cleaners and runners in small restaurants and their fathers work, respectively, as a driver and a factory worker.

The younger cousin Bopha attended grade 5 near her house but Vatey had to dropout in grade 2 on account of her family being poor. In their free time, they enjoyed playing at a neighbor's house. This allowed the girls to know a woman who always gave them money, and who lived in a rented house nearby.

"We didn't just follow the stranger but we've known that woman for many months and we just thought she's generous. On that day she asked us to go to have the soup with her, first we hesitated to go but because we wanted to respond to her kindness, we just followed her," says Vatey.

"When arriving at a hotel in Phnom Penh, she asked us to stop to pick up her nephew and we saw her secretly talking on the phone. After that, she asked us

to go upstairs with her to the 9th floor," Vatey continues.

"We felt too scared to go into the room but she pushed us in while a big man in the room pulled us into the room," she adds.

Bopha tells, "He warned us not to shout out or he would kill us and he forced me to have sex with him and forced my cousin to go to have a bath and after that he had sex with her too. We were crying so hard but we were too frightened to shout out loud because he was always threatening us."

Later on, the girls saw the man call the same woman and he proceeded to pay her. The girls were continuously warned not to tell anyone or their entire families would be killed.

Upon returning home, Vatey's mother felt that something was wrong with her daughter. Only after constantly asking her daughter did Vatey reveal what had happened. Vatey and her mother filed a complaint and the police referred them to find support from **CWCC**.

Since June 19th, both girls have been staying at **CWCC's** safe shelter and they have been receiving legal and psychological support. They are able to safely continue their studies at the shelter as the case progresses. **CWCC** will also provide the lawyer for the upcoming court hearing.



Bopha and Vatey are learning sewing at the safe shelter of CWCC in Phnom Penh

Survivor receives treatment after living with mental problem for 10 years

A 36-year-old woman is happily cooking in a wooden house. She does not display any sign of psychological stress despite suffering from a mental problem for 10 years.

Her village is roughly 10km from Stoung market in Kompong Thom province, but during the rainy season, it is only possible to reach her village by a 2 hour boat ride from Stoung market.



The Reintegration Officer of CWCC in Kampong Thom (left) is providing psychological counselling to the survivor

Mlis* disappeared for many years after her mental illness. It is possible that she was abused or exploited during this time.

Mlis's brother told Women's Paths Today that he doesn't really know the reason behind Mlis's psychological stress and mental breakdown.

He continued that sometimes the villagers saw Mlis at Stoung market, Kampong Thom market, and various other locations so they decided to help and they brought her back home.

However, Mlis would disappear again for three years. The family heard that Mlis would completely undress in public, she was pregnant and that her baby died, and that she also broke her leg and arm in a traffic accident.

At the time, despite her family bringing her back home and selling many properties to pay for her treatment, Mlis' situation did not improve.

Luckily, the Department of Women's Affairs was interested in her case and decided to fund her recovery. **CWCC** has worked closely with NGOs and the Department of Health in Kampong Thom for Mlis to receive aid in terms of shelter, medicines, psychological support and the like.

"Her life was so miserable. We did not think she would be alive and be able to recover like this," Mlis's brother continued.

CWCC has intervened in Mlis's case since early of 2012. She was reintegrated to her community in April of this year with life-start-up support such as rice, cookers, plates, a mosquito net, blankets, and so on.

With **CWCC** intervention, the district referral hospital has provided-monthly medical health care for Mlis.

Without any discrimination from the community, she is now living at her brother's parents-in-law and is able to help considerably with the housework.

According to the doctor, Mlis may be able to make a full recovery within the next year.

Capacity Building for CWCC staff on Women's Rights and Gender Equity

To effectively implement projects working to promote women's rights and gender equity in Cambodian society, **CWCC** organized a workshop on "**Women's Rights and Gender Equity**" in August at the Tonle Bassac Restaurant in Phnom Penh.

With support of **TDH-NL** and **Forum Syd**, the three-day-workshop was coached and coordinated by the management team of **CWCC**.

Pok Panhavichetr said that "**CWCC** have held a lot of capacity building programs for **CWCC** staff and partners for both social and legal services."

The workshop has not only provided extensive knowledge related to women's rights and gender equity, but it also provided a good experience for the participants to learn how to organize effective workshops and training sessions in their respective communities.



The participants are sharing their ideas related to gender equity in the workshop organized by Cambodian Women's Crisis Center



The management of CWCC facilitate in the workshop on "Women's right and Gender Equity"

Two year-old rape survivor seeks for justice

In March of this year, two-year-old Tevy came screaming to her grandmother saying that an old man from the village had “made her bloody and hurt.”

Tevy had been playing at a neighbor's house in Phsar Kandal Thmey Village when she was abducted by a man over 70 years of age, and was taken to his house and sexually assaulted. When Tevy's grandmother took Tevy to the commune health clinic, the moto-driver informed them about **CWCC**.

Tevy and her grandmother have been staying safely

at **CWCC's** shelter in Banteay Meanchey ever since.

Tevy is now three-years-old. She has just started kindergarten and has learnt to speak a lot more. She tells her grandma that she is sometimes-sad because of what happened. She has a serious injury to her pelvis from the attack and often finds it hard to urinate.

However, staying at the shelter has allowed Tevy and her grandmother to receive the psychological support and care that they need. **CWCC** has also assisted in paying for Tevy's hospital fees, forensic exam and legal counseling.

“Before I knew about **CWCC**, I only asked the perpetrator to pay 1,300,000 riel in compensation so that I could take care of Tevy,” said her grandmother. “I did not know how to go to court and press criminal charges against the man.”

However, with **CWCC's** help, the grandmother has taken the case to court for US\$5000 in compensation, as well as criminal charges against the perpetrator. Tevy's grandmother hopes that the man will be not be able to further harm other girls and women. As the case is still before the courts, Tevy and her grandmother continue to stay at the shelter.

“We feel very safe at the shelter and have food and a place to live,” said the grandmother.

“Without **CWCC**, I would never have known how to file a legal complaint against the perpetrator in court,” she continued. “I hope that with **CWCC's** help we can finally get justice for Tevy.”



Tevy hides her face with a toy at CWCC safe shelter in Banteay Meanchey

Self-Help-Groups facilitate improved lives

With the support of **AFAP**, the Self-Help-Group project of **CWCC** has formed five saving groups in Krang Thnung commune, a rural commune in Phnom Penh.

Every month, the Self-Help-Groups gather to collect savings money and discuss their income and living issues. The Self-Help-Group officer said that members from each group selected four members to form a committee which includes a group manager, a secretary who records the account books, a cashbox keeper, and a key keeper.

Rern Pheakdey, the Self-Help-Group officer, notes that initially there were some difficulties in forming the groups. "The village chief and villagers didn't trust us, but we tried to explain and convince them that we will not keep that money so finally we could form the big groups," she said.

Each group started with several members, but with time the number has steadily increased.

Ann Phor, a 48-year-old villager

in Prey Klar village, said that she joined the group in August of last year. She borrowed 100,000 riels to plant water convolvulus. "My family could not earn enough even for our everyday food so we are very pleased that the group can help us in a very difficult situation like this," she said.

Phor said each month she pays back however much she can afford: sometimes 5,000 riels or 10,000 riels. "I think we will be able to save much more money next time and now we have more ideas to generate our income by doing different jobs," she continued.

Other villagers have started joining the Self-Help-Group after receiving information from current members. For example, Morn Hak, a 64-year-old villager in Khmer Ler Thmey village, said that she joined the group on January this year and she started her business of making rugs about five



Women are empowered in Self-Help-Group discussion



A woman from Self-Help-Group borrow some money from the group to make rugs to support her family

months ago by borrowing the savings money with low interest. "I decided to join the group because I thought I could borrow the money to start a job so that I would not have to depend on my children, who also have low incomes," Hak said. "The group also provided me with ideas to start my business."

This is the first time that Khmer Ler Thmey village has started a savings group. A villager said that it is a successful group because the villagers can borrow money to deal with debt, pay for their children's school fees, operate small businesses from their home and farm, in effect making their lives better.



The strengthening of management on migration to reduce human trafficking

To reduce unsafe migration and human trafficking, Cambodian Women's Crisis Centre in collaboration with Banteay Meanchey Provincial Hall organized the September 10th sub-national workshop on "Best Practices for Management for Better Management on Migration."

With the support of USAID through WinRock International, the workshop was successfully organized under the presidency of H.E Chou Bun Eng, Secretary of State of the Interior Ministry and Suppression of Human Trafficking, Smuggling, Labour Exploitation and Sexual Exploitation in Women and Children (STSLs), with roughly 80 participants sharing their experiences and recommendations for working with migrants.

Pok Panhavichetr, Executive Director of CWCC, said that CWCC's work has found that poor Cambodian people, especially the ones living near the border, still perform unsafe migration and most of them are at risk of arrest, wage exploitation, detention, labour exploitation, human trafficking, and different forms of violence.

Recently, the Cambodian government has implemented several programs to reduce unsafe migration

such as establishing a passport issuing office in Battambang.

H.E Chou Bun Eng said that non-governmental-organizations (NGOs) have contributed immensely in working to reduce unsafe migration and human trafficking.

"We should have a good managing system on migration workers so that we can more clearly measure information about human trafficking, so as to establish better mechanisms to protect and prevent human trafficking," she added.



H.E Chou Bun Eng, the secretary of state and Suppression of Human Trafficking, Smuggling, Labour Exploitation and Sexual Exploitation in Women and Children (STSLs)



The guest speakers waited for answering the questions from the participants in Sub-National Workshop on "Best Practices for Beter Management of Migration"



Tips to Prevent Diseases during Rainy Season

It is raining now and I am really upset because when it's raining heavily, this internet line always in bad shape. It's getting slower and it's hard for me to do my work. But that's not all, as the rainy season sets in, there are several diseases that often occur during this season, we've compiled waterborne diseases and other illnesses children are prone to acquire during this time.

To maintain body condition during the rainy season, I would like to share with you how to avoid diseases during rainy season. I am sure most of us are afraid of diseases infection mostly flu. So, check below tips to prevent diseases during rainy season.



FLU:

- ✔ Always wash your hands properly. Most viruses spread through direct contact, so try to always wash your hands with soap and with warm water.
- ✔ Avoid touching your face. Usually, flu viruses enter through the eyes, nose or mouth. So try not to touch your face too often.
- ✔ Eat foods containing phytochemicals. Phytochemicals are natural chemicals that exist in plants and will give vitamins in foods. This substance is found in green, red and dark yellow fruits or vegetables, so try to eat these foods.
- ✔ Drink plenty of water. Water is useful to lift the toxins in the body. An adults need 8 glasses of water a day. So try to drink plenty of water to remove toxins in the body.



DIARRHEA:

- ✔ When it rains every day, the gutters are usually overflowing and carry parasites, worms and amoebae to the surface. To prevent diarrhea, try to keep clean, get used to wash the hands and feet after a trip.
- ✔ Wear footwear to prevent the spread of dirt or parasites that enter through the skin.
- ✔ Avoid buying food in the streets.



DENGUE FEVER:

- ✔ Be diligent to cleaning gutters, bath, rain water container and weed the garden to avoid mosquito breeding.
 - ✔ Annihilate mosquitoes with insect repellent or insect spray before going to bed or you can use anti-mosquito lotion.
- Always remember that to see your doctor at the first signs to give you an accurate diagnosis. Avoid home remedies or self-medication. Let us take caution during this rainy season. Prevention is always better than cure.

Source: www.homeescapede.com

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