

EC Partner

Gender and
Development for
Cambodia - GAD/C

Facts and Figures

- EC contribution:
€100 000 (66.7 % of
the total)
- Duration: 2007-2009



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Human rights and democracy

Ending domestic violence in Cambodia

"Besides collecting fodder and cutting grass to feed our buffalos, my husband helps me not only with my small business, but even with cooking. He also waits for me, so we can have lunch and dinner together. Now there is no more violence."

Mrs. Mei Vuoch, villager in Khvav village, Pursat province



Context

Gender disparities in social and political affairs exist in Cambodian society. Domestic violence is widespread in Cambodia, especially in the areas selected by the project. The elimination of violence against women is a prerequisite for building a prosperous country as well as for improving living standards. The project aims at reducing all forms of violence, implementing gender equality policies, changing social attitudes that discriminate against women, and improving women's access to justice and legal protection.

Objectives

- To improve the respect of and the ability to exercise women's rights and political representation.
- To build a Cambodian society where women's rights and their roles and representation in social and political affairs are fully respected.
- To raise the awareness of human rights and women's rights in the communities, and to support the illegal action in social and political affairs.

Impact

- 42 gender grassroots activists in the three selected communes provide counselling, lobbying, campaigning and advocacy work on women's rights and human rights.
- Over 3 700 women and men have confirmed that they have gained more knowledge through these grassroots activities about their rights, so that they can exercise their rights more effectively, and increase their political and social participation.

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EuropeAid

A better life in Khvav village

Things are definitely improving for **Mao Phon** and his family. Shouting, insulting, and domestic violence have become things of the past. Now conflicts are resolved in peace. Mr. Mao Phon has not only ended the violence in his family, but now he even works hard to help his wife in the business and with housework.

With a smile on her face, Mrs. Mei Vuoch, Mr. Mao's wife, states that not only she, but also her neighbours, are proud of her husband for abandoning his alcohol addiction and the domestic violence it caused.

"I am very happy and I love him much more than before, now that there is no more violence. Besides collecting fodder and cutting grass to feed our buffalos, he helps me not only with my small business but even with cooking. He also waits for me, so we can have lunch and dinner together," added Mrs. Mei.

Mao Phon's family was one of the families afflicted by domestic violence in Khvav village in Pursat province. The couple married in 1998, and the domestic violence began soon after the birth of their first child in 1999. Their family was very poor and Mao Phon spent much of his time going out with friends and drinking alcohol. His bad habits frustrated his wife, who would become upset and insult him. This in turn angered her husband, and the situation would degenerate into domestic violence.

Since the start of project in 2008, the family has received counselling, and joined several capacity-building workshops, as well as the monthly law dissemination meetings provided by grassroots gender activists at village level. The couple learned to understand the negative impact of domestic violence, the equal rights they both enjoy, and how respecting these rights could contribute to improving their living conditions.



Mr. Mao Phon, after helping some house work, he feeds the animals