

Case Study

The changes after attending the training on Human Rights and Advocacy

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Cooperative and Civil Society Development is a project of ADDA/READA Cambodia, and is operating in Prey Lean Village, Po Pel Commune, Sotr Nikum District. Prey Lean Village is located in the remote area in Siem Reap. The total population living in this village is around 1680 people (850 female) which make up approximately 300 families. The people are making their living through rice farming, planting vegetable and selling labor. Under support from ADDA/READA, the villagers had formed itself into a Self Help Group since 2008. This group is named Woman Helps Woman.

It is noticed that most of the villagers and the SHG had not yet registered the birth certificates for their children; nor applied for land ownership, marriage certificate, and death certificate; nor obtained family books. The reason is that they don't realize the importance of these documents.

ADDA/READA cooperates with Legal Aid of Cambodia to provide the training on Human Rights and Advocacy to the villagers and SHG, aiming that these people and SHG will understand more about their rights, particularly the importance of having the above documents. For instance, death certificate will proof their

widow/widower and family difficulties, land ownership will secure them from land encroachment; etc. After the training, the people sense these documents are quite crucial and they need to have them for their identities, legal protection and other financial benefit.



Activities training

Mrs. Choem Cheng Chenda, 28 years old, who is working as an assistant of SHG, said that the birth certificate is very important for her in registering her children at school. She is trying to explain everybody in her village and encourages them to apply for these documents, saying that "you've got to get it when you don't want it, so that you have it when you need it".



Activities SHG's member and people participated training with LAC

We, further, conducted a follow up interview with the chief of Commune Council, Mr. Suom Oum, and found that there are more people applying for these legal documents such as birth certificates, marriage certificates, and death certificates. For instance, there are 10 people from Prey Lean Village, 10 people from Kriel Puong Village and 8 people from Por Pel Kandal obtained their birth certificates from the commune. What is more, another 3 families are applying for land ownership.

Mr. Suom Oum has mentioned that this training on Human Rights and Advocacy is tremendously important. It sheds the light on the villagers and makes them pay more attention to the developments around them including the progresses of the government's procedures.