



PROGRAMMING

4. YOUTH LED TRAINING

SUMMARY:

Through its youth peacebuilding project CAMP Cambodia created a national children/youth network titled CYP: Children and Youth for Peace. Members included children's clubs, the students' commission and young women's organizations.

CYP decided to organize a campaign against domestic violence. Its first event was a two day program in Rattanak Mondul, a rural area particularly affected by the war as it was the Khmer Rouge's last stronghold. Participants in the workshop included public servants, authorities, teachers, citizens, disabled people and students.

The program included a workshop, public rally and march against violence. The workshop, which was facilitated by youth, began with a discussion on the effect of the Pol Pot Regime on family relationships. All aspects of the event were a big success.

YOUTH AS LEADERS// ADULTS AS PARTICIPANTS A WORKSHOP PROGRAM ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN CAMBODIA

In this interview, conducted just before the workshop, the youth organizers described their plans:

Q. Why did you choose domestic violence as the issue?

A. Many people say that domestic violence is a big problem in Cambodia. They link it to the war, they say it is a legacy of the war. Maybe. We don't have any statistics about this, as before no one talked about – it was just a part of life. Maybe this is something for the NGOs to research. Now everyone just knows that the level of domestic violence is very high.

Q. How did you organize the workshop?

A. Our objective is to give adults a new perspective on this. We hope that we will be able to find solutions together. It will be youth working with adults. The participants are from local authorities such as the local chief of the village. Most of the participants will be men. This is new for us, to be giving a workshop for adults.

Q. Did you have a hard time persuading adults to attend?

A. No, because we have members from the local community in our network. They have credibility with the chief and with the authorities and they talk about the importance of giving children a voice.

We will use the opportunity to communicate and to speak publicly. Also we will be doing a march. Of course we asked advice from them on how to do it. We have invited the provincial governor to come. Unfortunately the governor said he could not come to the opening ceremony because it is so far away. He said he would come if we would pay for his transport but we did not have enough money for that. We also thought he has his own money and we are volunteers.

Q. How has the march been organized?

A. In organizing the march we have learned that you have to be a bit tricky. You have to give them some kind of award. So we have said, "Come to the march and you will get a T-shirt or you will get something." Then once they arrive we tell them about the content of the march. So we can talk about our issues and they will listen but you have to have something to attract them, something that matters to them. Not just what we think is important.

Q. How did you organize it?

A. The network has worked together. We are sharing the responsibility so we did a lot of planning. We have to strengthen our capacity because we're going to be doing this workshop with adults. It is more difficult and it has to be very good.

There are two things: one is about facilitating, the other is about facilitating adults. We have not done that before. It will be a different kind of group. We are going to practise here first so that we are really ready. We will go two days ahead to practise again.

Everyone coming to the workshop has made a commitment to participate in the march and to bring people to the march. It will take place near the bus station in the market. Lots of people are there. We will organize the stage. There will be speeches and presentations. We are also going to give out a quiz about domestic violence. We will give presents for those who can answer all the questions.

Q. This is a lot of work.

A. Yes. The network has organized everything. The network worked together on it: we had to figure out how to do the letter of intent; about the T-shirts that we're going to give out about domestic violence. We had to prepare the test and try it out. The whole team that was elected in December will participate.

We need to make a good impression. We are going to another state where we have not been. We are facilitating adults. This is a big step for us. We want to show that young people have something to say to adults, that we can work with older people, not just with youth.



CAMP and CYP youth on way to workshop, Cambodia