Community Training and Hearings
Community Empowerment Program

• Delivers Community Training

• Facilitates Community Hearings
‘...empower communities by enhancing their knowledge, skills and awareness; and build their confidence, so that they are able to seek resolutions to human rights violations affecting them, rather than be lead in response to them...’
Community Training
Community Training

Community training is:

- Needs based
- Learner centred
- Community focused

It covers:

- Introduction to Basic Human Rights
- Land Law
- Advocacy
Community Training Kampong Cham
Community Training

Focused on the empowerment of marginalised and vulnerable rural and urban communities

- Awareness raising - Human Rights & Democracy
- Knowledge development - Land Law
- Skills building – Advocacy
Community Training

“Knowing your rights is the first step to defending them”

Bridges Across Boarders
Community Training Kampong Speu
Human Rights

• Introduction to the basic rights and freedoms ALL humans are entitled to

‘the recognition of the inherent dignity and of equal inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world’

— Universal Declaration of Human Rights

• Under Article 31 Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia human rights are protected by Cambodian Law
Community Training

Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the UN Treaties On Human Rights
“In Cambodia rampant economic development is fuelling discontent and creating social, economic and cultural upheaval through forced evictions, loss of natural resources and an inaccessible legal system. Cambodians are fighting back using active nonviolence.”

Chris Baker Evens
Community Training - Advocacy

Advocacy skills for people to promote and protect their rights

- Challenge Identification
- Evaluation
- Planning
- Action
- Research
Community Training
Community Hearings
Community Hearings

• Alternative conflict resolution mechanism

• Create opportunities for communities to engage with the democratic process

• Widens democratic space, encourages and empowers people to speak about their situation

• Provide a safe, civic space where communities can voice their concerns, ask questions and express their views directly with those who have the power and influence to bring about peaceful, mutually agreeable resolutions to the conflict
Community Hearings

Invited guest panelists include representatives from:

- All political parties
- Provincial Authorities
- District Authorities
- Commune Authorities
- NGO’s and other civil society organisations
- Perpetrators
Community Hearings
Community Hearings

Issues raised by communities include:

• Lack of consultation
• Lack of, or inappropriate, compensation
• Forced evictions
• Land being cleared without advanced warning
• Land titles not being recognised by Authorities
• Restrictions on accessing land
• Companies and Authorities reneging on promises
• Intimidation from the police and company ‘guards’
• Fear of retribution for speaking out
• Officials stating that villagers would not be affected by land concessions when in fact there were
Community Hearings

Responses to issues raised by villagers include:

• Establishment of working groups to map out village land and the land granted to companies through concessions

• Establishment of working groups to seek peaceful resolutions to human rights violations and conflicts

• Parliamentarians writing intervention letters to Ministers

• Reductions in land concessions

• Better compensation for villagers
Project Outcomes: 2007 - 2010

Trainings
• 80 Courses delivered
• 3,013 Participants
• 1,144 (38%) Female
• 1,869 (62%) Male

Hearings
• 86 Hearings facilitated
• 19,702 Participants
• 7,155 (36%) Female
• 12,547 (64%) Male

Outcomes
• Strengthened Communities
• Empowered Communities
• Engagement in Democratic Process
• Continued Dialogue
• Government Intervention
• Reduction in Land Concession Sizes
• Compensation
• Increased Media Coverage

Cambodian Center for Human Rights (CCHR)
Project Outcomes: 2007 - 2010

Communities have used their newly acquired skills and knowledge to continue to engage in the democratic process and seek resolutions to ongoing conflicts resulting in:

- Interventions by the government and/or parliamentarians (CPP, SRP, HRP, FUNCINPEC)
- Interventions by District Councils and Provincial Councils (with jurisdiction over the affected communities)
- Agreement by the parties to the land conflicts
- Decisions by the National Authority for the Resolution of Land Disputes
In 2010 a number of resolutions were achieved, including:

• Negotiations by an empowered community with a private company leading to the resolution of an 18 month old conflict in Koh Veng Village, Battambang Province.

• An intervention by the Commune and District Authorities in Teuk Itot Village, Kampong Chnang which lead to a satisfactory resolution to a conflict between villagers and the Community Chief.

• Interventions by a member of the Royal Government of Cambodia – Defense Minister Tea Banh in a land conflict in Siem Reap Province; and by National Assembly Member Chau Sophorn in Takeo Province, on the behalf of vulnerable and marginalised groups affected by land conflict.
Project Outputs 2007 - 2010

Radio shows - expanding the reach of the project

• All Community Hearings are recorded and broadcast
• Over 770 hours of shows aired to date
• Potential to reach 85% of the population
• Initially 2 radio channels, expanded to 6 in August 2010
Project Outputs 2007 - 2010

Online platforms - expanding the reach of the project

• CCHR’s website – project information is posted
• YouTube - all Community Hearings are filmed and posted
• Flickr – event photos are shared
• Facebook – updates and photos uploaded
• Sithi.org – cases recorded and reports posted
For more information

Please contact:  info@cchrcambodia.org

Or visit:

www.cchrcambodia.org
www.sithi.org

CCHR’s Human’s Rights Library