

# ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR WOMEN II PROGRAMME

## Improving the Response to End Violence against Women and Girls

According to a national survey commissioned by the UN in Cambodia, 32 percent of ever-partnered Cambodian women aged 15-64 experience emotional abuse by an intimate partner in their lifetime, while 21 percent face physical and/or sexual violence (WHO 2015). Another survey undertaken by the UN found that as many as 1 in 5 Cambodian men reported to have attempted or committed violence against women, including rape, and that almost half of the perpetrators never faced legal consequences (Partners for Prevention, 2013).

Since 2002, GIZ has supported Cambodian institutions to put laws, policies and strategies in place in order to address and reduce Violence Against Women and Girls. The GIZ programme “Access to Justice for Women II” (ATJW II) supports the Cambodian Ministry of Women’s Affairs, other government actors as well as civil society organisations to provide a more effective response to Violence Against Women and Girls by enhancing the coordination, availability, accessibility and quality of services for women survivors of intimate partner violence and/or sexual violence and their children in the target provinces of Siem Reap and Kampong Thom.

## Extended and Improved Services for Female Survivors and their Children

Although human rights and gender equity are guaranteed according to the Cambodian Constitution and legislation, women and their children still receive limited protection and inadequate support services when they experience violence.

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Project region	Cambodia
Lead executing agency	Ministry of Women’s Affairs of Cambodia

As a response to this, ATJW II provides technical and financial support for the functioning of a Fund for female survivors of gender-based violence (intimate partner violence and/or sexual violence) which is chaired by the Ministry of Women’s Affairs (MoWA) and implemented by 4 NGOs (Cambodian Women Crisis Center, Transcultural Psychosocial Organisation, Legal Aid Cambodia and Banteay Srei) in Siem Reap and Kampong Thom provinces.

In 2014 and 2015, 4,105 women and girls, survivors of gender-based violence, and their children, received multiple services by the Fund which comprised legal advice and representation, shelter, individual and group psychological counselling, medical care, and vocational training for reintegration.

The ATJW II programme also supports the establishment and functioning of coordination mechanisms at provincial and district levels to enhance case management and referrals of survivors. Both state and non-state actors are members of these mechanisms and discuss on blockages and cases where further attention is required.



Photo left: Regional Training on the Penal Code undertaken in Kampong Chhnang for MoWA Judicial Police officials from five provinces

Photo right: Role Play at the Legal Protection Guideline Training in Kampong Thom



Communications and Social Media  
Team of the Ministry of Women's  
Affairs



Training of Judicial Police Agents in  
Siem Reap

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The ATJW II programme is contributing to improve quality of services to female survivors of gender-based violence in four key areas of intervention, mainly through development, pilot and implementation of several minimum standards: 1) *Guidelines for Legal Protection of Women's and Children's Rights in Cambodia*; 2) *Minimum Standards for Basic Counselling to Women and Girls Survivors of Gender-Based Violence*; 3) *Guidelines for Referrals of Women and Girls Survivors of Gender-Based Violence*; and 4) Piloting in Kampong Thom province the *Clinical Handbook for Management of Violence Against Women in Health Sector*, formulated by the Ministry of Health, WHO and UNFPA.

The processes to develop these standards have brought together line ministries, NGOs and international experts, and consequently contributed to enhance inter-ministerial and multi-stakeholder dialogue and cooperation to fight violence against women in Cambodia.

After partnerships between the previous ATJW I programme and national and local institutions for the deployment of 129 Judicial Police Agents (JPAs) of the Ministry of Women's Affairs under the Domestic Violence Law, the current ATJW II programme is intensifying coaching and capacity development measures to JPAs in Siem Reap and Kampong Thom provinces, so they can provide legal support and referral services to women survivors of intimate partner violence and their children more effectively.

## Accounting Unheard Women in National Policies and Catalyzing Reform within the Government

The ATJW II programme closely supported the Ministry of Women's Affairs to finalise the Second National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women (2014-2018) –known as “NAPVAW II”– and to mainstream disadvantaged groups of women and girls across the Fourth National Strategic Plan for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (2014-2018) –known as *Neary Rattanak IV*– and the Cambodia Gender Assessment of 2014. For the first time ever, the protection of the rights of LGBT people and of women survivors of gender-based violence during the Khmer Rouge regime became part of Cambodian national policies.

The Technical Working Group on Gender-Based Violence, formed by 15 line ministries, CSOs and development partners was reformed with technical support from ATJW II to be more effective in its coordination role for the implementation and monitoring of the NAPVAW II.

Organisational development of the Ministry of Women's Affairs and improvement of its external communications are also in the focus of the ATJW II programme. A coordination desk was established at the Ministry in order to enhance institutional advocacy across the government; a network formed by 79 young professionals was created and is supported; training opportunities and development of guidelines in the field of communications were developed, partly in partnership with *Deutsche Welle Akademie*. As a result, the Ministry's messaging in public statements, social media and communications campaigns is more articulated, progressive and aligned with the women's human rights framework.

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