

ACTION BRIEF: ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL STATISTIC ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The purpose of this action brief is to outline potential next steps for establishing a mechanism to collect statistics on the prevalence of domestic violence (DV) and to monitor the implementation of the Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence and the Protection of Victims (DV Law). This data is essential for the continued progress of the Cambodian Millennium Development Goal that reads “collecting annual statistics to monitor violence against women by 2005” (Target 3.19).

The brief is based on research conducted in the summer of 2006 by GTZ’s Promotion of Women’s Rights Project for *Establishing a National Statistic on Domestic Violence: Existing Mechanisms, Opportunities and Strategies*. For more complete information, reference the full report.

THE SUGGESTED INDICATORS

The suggested indicators for a national statistic on DV include:

- Number of cases reported to village and commune authorities
- Number of administrative decisions filed
- Number of criminal investigations initiated
- Number of protection orders issued
- Number of prosecuted perpetrators

These indicators were selected on the bases that they were *clearly measurable, closely followed the DV Law, and represented the minimum that could realistically be collected across organizations and/or institutions at this time*. The indicators are not exhaustive; rather they were designed as a *pragmatic foundation* for monitoring domestic violence.

THE NEED FOR MINISTRY SUPPORT

Sources for data related to DV include the local government, legal (including police and courts), and health sectors. Support from the Ministries relevant to those sectors is crucial for developing a comprehensive and sustainable data-collection system. First, studies suggest that victims of domestic violence seek assistance from authorities more often than they seek assistance from NGOs.¹ Additionally, Ministries already have mechanisms in place to collect data, even if that data is not domestic violence specific. Furthermore, Ministries have unique access to official records related to domestic violence. Finally, Ministries control what information to collect and the statistics generated from that information.

MINISTRY OF PLANNING (MOP)

MoP develops and distributes village and commune data books that collect information on local social and economic factors of development, which are then compiled into commune and district profiles. MoP recently agreed to integrate questions on the number of reported cases of domestic violence and the number of administrative decisions filed in the newly-revised commune data books. The number of reported cases will be derived from domestic violence tables distributed in recent trainings by MoI’s DoLA and MoWA to be completed by village chiefs.

ACTION:

- **Assist** MoP’s office under H.E. Hou Taing Eng at with this fall’s training of local data collectors on the new data books.

¹ MoWA, ed., *Violence against Women: A Baseline Survey* (2005). The subgroup of those who sought help was not representative.

- **Advocate** with this office to generate charts on each of the new DV indicators in the commune, district and provincial profiles before the new data books are distributed.
- **Work together** with this office to make adjustments to the data books as needed, including **advocating** to change the village data book indicator from number of households facing domestic violence to reported cases of domestic violence.
- **Ensure** that there is no confusion between village-level indicators intended to collect the number of civil and criminal conflicts and the number of households facing domestic violence.
- **Advocate** for inclusion of indicators related to the number of reconciliations performed by local authorities in future data books.

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR (MOI)

MoI's Criminal Department collects and compiles national police statistics on general crimes. As of December 2005, the Criminal Department began compiling national statistics on DV-related criminal investigations with respect to murder, battery with injury, and destruction of property. MoI's Department of Anti-Human Trafficking and Juvenile Protection (AHTJP) has a database that tracks, among other offenses, human trafficking, attempted rape, rapes committed, indecent assault, and sexual exploitation. The trafficking database is not yet national.

ACTION:

- **Communicate** with the Criminal Department to determine what efforts were successful in advocating for differentiation by DV. **Consider** these lessons when advocating with other relevant Ministries.
- **Establish** a point of contact within MoI's Department of AHTJP and **keep informed** of the national progress of the database.
- **Work with** that contact to determine whether and how to integrate the data from the trafficking database into a broader statistic on violence against women. Bear in mind the concern that police units may report their statistics to both the Criminal Department and AHTJP.

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE (MOJ)

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) is responsible for collecting and compiling statistics on court activities. Three departments within MoJ track court activities: the Criminal Department, Prosecutor's Department, and Civil Department. There is currently no mechanism within MoJ to track criminal prosecutions related to DV or the number of protection orders issued in accordance with the DV Law. UNICEF is currently working with MoJ to research the design of a new criminal database to track all penal infractions, with a special focus on cases involving child victims and child offenders. JICA is working to revise MoJ's civil court forms and related summary reports.

ACTION:

- **Keep abreast** of developments on the UNICEF-sponsored criminal database by maintaining contact with Ana Janet Sunga of UNICEF. **Attend** the workshop scheduled for August to discuss the design of the database.
- **Advocate** with UNICEF and MoJ for inclusion of fields that would allow for differentiation by DV in the new criminal database.
- **Work with** JICA and MoJ to develop a standard form for issuing protection orders and a method for recording protection orders in the provincial monthly civil reports.
- **Establish** a point of contact in MoJ's Civil Department and **advocate** for national tracking of protection orders.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH (MoH)

MoH's Health Information System (HIS) primarily tracks the prevalence medical conditions and disease. Currently, HIS does not track DV-related physical injuries. Efforts are underway by MoH to develop a national Injury Surveillance System (ISS). The current draft intake form records information about the victim and lists DV as a type of violence.

ACTION:

- **Maintain** contact with the individual at MoH responsible for the ISS. Though MoH is taking the lead on this initiative, Jean Van Wetter and Sann Socheata of Handicap International are very involved in the process and may be able to offer insights and/or provide updates.
- **Determine** what DV-related information MoWA would like recorded by the ISS and advocate with the responsible parties at MoH. **Decide** whether the information recorded in the current draft form is sufficient or if MoWA wishes to advocate for additional fields, such as history of violence, type of domestic violence inflicted, relationship between victim and perpetrator, and whether a medical certificate was requested. If MoWA wishes to advocate for additional fields, work with MoH to determine whether this information is best captured in the common form or under a separate section.
- **Attend** follow up workshops on the ISS to ensure that DV-related information is recorded by the system and gain insight into the future data-collection mechanism.

Referral hospitals, also under the authority of MoH, issue the medical certificates necessary to prosecute criminal complaints related to DV. In Phnom Penh, the Municipal Referral Hospital tracks the number of rape forms and violence certificates issued on a monthly basis for the year, but does not differentiate between types of violence. Though the hospital submits these statistics to the Municipal Department of Health, it is unclear whether MoH compiles national-level statistics.

ACTION:

- **Determine** whether there is a national mechanism to track medical certificates. **Follow up** on the possibility that MoH's Hospital Services Department compiles these statistics.
- **Advocate** with MoH to standardize the procedure for issuing and tracking medical certificates across Cambodia.
- **Advocate** with MoH for differentiation of the tracking mechanism by DV.

HOUSING THE STATISTIC

For a national statistic on DV to be sustainable, regular and efficient, data will need to be collected and compiled by a central body. Not only will this ease the flow of information from partner Ministries, but it will also help reduce statistical error. Ideally, this data would be linked through CAMInfo.

ACTION:

- **Research** a suitable central body for the DV statistic and ultimately, the larger statistic on violence against women. By mandate, NIS collects national statistics and would seem the likely home. If MoWA wishes to house the DV statistic, it must carefully research its existing capacity and be confident that it can process this statistic and the larger statistic on violence against women.
- **Obtain** assurances from that body to collect DV-related statistics.
- **Facilitate** discussions with partner Ministries on the possibility of sharing their data with this central body through a formal mechanism. This may require establishing a working group.

List of Possible Contacts			
Institution	Interviewee and Title	Contact	Notes
Handicap International	Jean Van Wetter, Coordinator of Operations	023 217 300 jean.vanwetter@hib-cambodia.org	Helped develop database to monitor traffic accidents. Also involved in efforts to develop ISS.
Ministry of Health, Department of Planning and Health Information	Dr. Sao Sovanratnak	ratnakss@yahoo.com	Extensive knowledge of Health Information System.
Ministry of Health, Municipal Health Department (Phnom Penh)	Dr. Sour Salan, Deputy Director of Department	012 768 999 sour_salan@hotmail.com	Managed an initiative to record gender-based violence at health facilities that ended in 2005.
Ministry of Health, Municipal Referral Hospital (Phnom Penh)	Dr. Lek Se, Deputy Director	011 858 599 or 023 881 612	Knowledge of Phnom Penh Municipal Referral Hospital's mechanism to track medical certificates.
Ministry of Health, Injury Surveillance System	Dr. Phok Chansophea	012 924 967	Facilitated preliminary workshop on ISS.
Ministry of Interior	Brig. Gen. Mak Chito, First Deputy Director of Criminal Police Department	012 935 937	Knowledge of Criminal Department's efforts to track DV-related murder, injury and destruction of property investigations.
Ministry of Justice (Criminal Affairs)	Pao Bunthoeun, Deputy Director of Penal Affairs and Communication Phay Chantrasith, Deputy Director of Prosecutor's Affairs Department	023 219 571 (Chantrasith)	Knowledge of MoJ's mechanism to track criminal court statistics.
Ministry of Justice, Civil Department	Chheang Hourt, Deputy Director of Civil Affairs	011 884 515	Knowledge of MoJ's mechanism to track civil court statistics. Attended PWR's Project Planning Workshop for the Second Phase.
Ministry of Planning, General Directorate of Planning	His Excellency Hou Taing Eng, MoP, Under Secretary of State of MoP/Secretary General of CNMC	023 720 901	Authority over village and commune data books. Point of contact for this fall's training.
Ministry of Planning, National Institute of Statistics	Lars Olsson, Chief Advisor Richard Öhrvall, Advisor, Household Surveys	012 415 406 (Olsson) lars.henrik.olsson@teila.com 012 189 9594 (Öhrvall) richard@varia.nu	Advisors to capacity-building project at NIS. Involved in efforts to develop the next Cambodian Socio-economic Survey.
UNICEF, Seth Koma	Yi Kosalvathanak, Assistant Project Officer	023 426 214, ext. 159 kyi@unicef.org	Knowledge of MoP's commune database and the recent revisions of the commune profiles.
UNICEF, Child Protection	René Poirier, UNICEF Database Consultant Ana Janet Sunga, Project Officer (legal)	camtek@hotmail.com (Poirier) asunga@unicef.org (Sunga)	Assisting with MoJ's new criminal database. Both also have knowledge of MoI's trafficking database.