

WORKSHOP

"Building an Asian community of practice on monitoring and budget analysis"

09-11 July 2007 Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Organized by SILAKA and Social Watch
in collaboration with OXFAM- Novib/KIC

PARTICIPANT'S QUESTIONNAIRE

SYSTEMATIZATION OF EXPERIENCES

To be submitted before 3 July, 2007

Congratulations on being selected to participate in the workshop. Since this workshop is based on the exchange of knowledge contained in specific practices, please fill in this form as fully as possible so that we can make the most of it. If you have any queries about how to complete it, do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you.

I. Personal and Contact Information

Gender | F | | M |

Name(s) | SIVHUOCH

Surname (s) | OU

Nationality | CAMBODIAN

Name of the Organization/Movement/Community (and Acronym)

NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGO F)

Describe your current position in the organization

Budget Monitoring Project Officer

Web site | www.ngoforum.org.kh

II. Description of experiences and selection of a practice:

Please answer the following questions. Use the necessary space.

What is a practice?

We understand a practice to be a process, strategy or activity of an organisation or a group of organisations to achieve social change. A practice may vary from an agricultural technique or an educational method to more complex processes like international coalition building. Its scope may be limited, but it may also correspond to entire projects or programmes.

1. Which are the principal fields of expertise of your organization? (E.g., social development, human rights, budget monitoring, sexual and reproductive rights, etc)

We are a network NGO working on three broad programs with our members, which include Environment Program, Land & Livelihood Program and Development Issues Program. So in general, we work on various social development issues. The budget monitoring project stays under the Development Issues Program. Though the project has gained some currency through the release of our budget analysis, and various presentations, it is still too early to say we are an expert in the field; however, we have some basic background on the area.

2. Which are the main strategies used in your organization? (E.g., education, research, campaigning, advocacy, lobbying, satisfaction of specific demands, etc.)

We have adopted certain strategies: research, campaigning, advocacy, lobbying, and carrying out trainings and workshops to empower the members and local constituents.

3. Among the activities and experiences of your organization, please choose one you consider relevant to be transmitted to the other participants. The practice selected should be a specific action, plan, intervention or process in one of the four topics that will be explored in the workshop (ESCR, Budget analysis, monitoring, advocacy). And you should be able to divide it into the following elements:

a. Summary of the practice (no more than 5 lines, please).

Budget analysis. We did the analysis of the 2007 budget law.

b. Motivation: Situation or problem that the practice aimed to resolve.

The budget is the key instrument of the government; however, we as NGOs cannot identify budget problems unless the study is carried out. Therefore, the analysis will be the prerequisite to other budget work.

c. Objective(s)

We try to scrutinize the budget in a number of ways. First, we seek to explore the improvement of the budget compared with that of last year. Second, we look the pro-poorness of the budget. Third we investigate the credibility of the budget in the priority sectors, that is, comparing the allocations and the implementation. Fourth, we examine the budget of certain overspending non-priority sectors. We tend to raise the budget awareness through disseminating the results found.

d. Strategies used to solve the problem or situation.

We used the budget laws in 2006 and 2007 and some document from the Ministry of Economy and Finance as the base for our research.

e. Resources (financial, human, materials, etc.).

We worked with the Economic Institute of Cambodia to conduct the research. The financial support is from the International Budget Project.

f. Level of action (local, national, regional and/or international, and if there are any relations among them)

National.

g. Brief description of the process (main activities, beneficiaries, when and where it was carried out, methodology, collaboration with partners, etc.).

As our nature is network-based. We identified the issues with the consensus from our members prior to the study. Then EIC carried out the research, with their findings, we checked them and readjusted them to fit our advocacy agenda before releasing it to the media.

- h. Main results and changes made during the implementation (if it is still running, please comment on the potential outcomes, obstacles, etc.)

Media coverage led to strong reaction from the government ministries we identified and the Ministry of Economy and Finance gave us some budget document which we had never received before. Later the ministry held a budget workshop possibly in reaction to our findings. The main result is the government knows that NGOs are watching them from behind; hence we help keep them on the right track.

3 Evaluation of the Practice.

1. What is the general evaluation of the practice? Was the practice successful in achieving the objectives stated? Was the situation/problem resolved?

We see that the analysis is fruitful in the way that the government is on the alert when it comes to the budget. Also, with our facts and figures found, NGOs which are more aware of the budget issues. However, it a long process...

2. What were the key factors for success or failure?

The key factor is the government and other actors trust our findings. However, the certain ministries seem to be unhappy with our figures, so the very basic question is whether they will improve their budget or not. That means we need to follow up more.

3. What are the major lessons learned?

We spent too much time to conduct the analysis; however, it led to good findings and strong impact.

Please submit this questionnaire before **3 July 2007** to:

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