



KEY NOTES

- ⊕ *Back to work under precaution*
- ⊕ *The mindset that make difference*
- ⊕ *Module III of Peace Training in Timor Leste*

⊕ **Back to work under precaution**

CWS Security Assessment Team returned from the Cambodian-Thai border in Preah Vihear, Banteay Meanchey and Battambang provinces where they looked at community and staff security following the 15 October crisis near the famous Preah Vihear temple. The troop mobilization since July 15th has affected CWS operations in those provinces. Currently overall situation is quiet with both national armies pulled back a bit hoping for a diplomatic solution which is more distant with the current upheavals in Thailand. However in Choam Khsant district, Preah Vihear province, the daily life is back to normal. CWS staff returned to work and living in the village on November 17, 2008 following full orientation including security training, security planning and finally a security risk preparation on Sunday 16th, 2008. The border conflict is unresolved to date and PADEK will be planning for dry season contingencies.

However, while the press continues to highlight the historic Preah Vihear area, we found that in CWS partner operating areas (KNTO), the north-west around 50 percent of the total population (163 families) in two villages in Banteay Meanchey province are displaced to temporary settlements located about 5km from village centers. Many families have been staying in makeshift shelters such as goat stables, tents or thatch covers and children are not schooled. As would be

expected in a displacement, water and sanitation is a serious issue threatening health of children and parents.

For first response, the Royal Government of Cambodia has cooperated with the Asian Development Bank to release short-term emergency food assistance in two villages. The government has not yet confirmed any further assistance.

CWS Cambodia has approached CWS Asia Regional office to request approximately USD 29,000 to set up an emergency response for the period of 3 months starting from December 01.



Internal displace people (IDP) in temporary resettlement at Chob Kokir durring security assessment

The USD29,000 is targeted for temporary school set up, school feeding, Water, and sanitation and food assistance.

⊕ **The mindset that make difference**

The villages of Yeang commune¹, are just 16Km from a main road but in rainy season from May to November, it takes from 6 to 7 hours to get in or out. The Mother Child Health (MCH) supplementary feeding foods are transported by small boat or tractors with trailers while CWS staff walk the muddy road wading through deep water or riding an oxcart. Nevertheless CWS staffs still get there with critical food for vulnerable people. Such visible commitment

¹ Choam Khsant district Preah Vihear province on the Thai Cambodian border

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gains respect and appreciation which in turn encourages villagers to join new ideas with some sense of hope for change. With hope villagers risk participation in something not yet “tried or true” such as village planning, committing already limited resources for a yet unseen “project implementation”.

One elder in Yeang village said “I appreciate CWS staff commitment and persistence to come to work here during rainy season when even our people find it very difficult to travel outside due to floods and muddy roads.”



Impassable road in Yeang commune, Choam Khsant, Preah Vihear

The village chief of Kong Yong “The trouble that CWS staffs go through to get food here on time on impossible roads shows their accountabilities for their work”

Chey Pisith, CWS staff “To achieve what we (CWS and the people) have planned together, I did not hesitate to try to reach them despite the conditions...if the situation of Cambodia - Thai border become more escalated, their worry and fear alone, would disturb my peace of mind (as their friend)”.

As their reward, 192 infants, 36 nursing mothers, and 38 pregnant women from 6 villages were helped under Mother and Child Health (MCH) Program.

CWS and WFP signed MOU for 3-year pilot program to reduce the incidence of underweight and malnourishment as well as aim for critical health improvement of pregnant and lactating women. Because of the impassable roads, people in Yeang commune, do not often access the town for either business or health service. Women and children suffer from lack of food and dietary diversification.

📌 **Module III of Peace Training in Timor Leste**

As part of the CWS Asia Regional office approach to shared resources and expertise, CWS Cambodia has supported CWS Timor Leste to build peace in their country with reciprocated benefit to the Cambodia peace effort. The training was designed in three modules to provide to CWS Timor Leste staff and Local partners and youth groups concepts basic to peace building.

Founded on the training module I and II conducted in November 2007, May and August 2008 in “conflict identification and analysis, the this module covered an introduction to local capacities for peace building and orientation to reconciliation including Restorative Justice.

The training was offered to 32 Timorese including 13 women. 18 participants were CWS Timor Leste and local partner staff (Ba Futuru, Youth for the Future, Sanggar we Turu and Hari-Dame, and 14 people are youth from CWS Timor Leste programming. Timorese people in some areas are still in the custom of traditional justice for the widespread violations of human rights. In order to build on this practice and seek recognition for the victims and to promote possibilities for peace, and reconciliation, the course on Restorative Justice was the main focus. Participants were also able to find out how identity and stereotype affect justice and reconciliation.



Working as group, “What is justice?”

Participants have leabred from the training. PADEK TL staff have learned how to organize and conduct trainings fitting the goals and target, and CWSC staff have developed their peace training capacity to more global understanding. All participants have asked CWSC to seek further funding to support this in depth contextualized approach.