

# Activity Report

SGBV Awareness activity in Oudomxay / Lao PDR / July 2018

## National Society

Lao Red Cross

### Summary of Activity:

Following the SGBV research in Lao PDR by Lao Red Cross and IFRC, one recommendation was to organize awareness raising activities to prevent and eliminate violence against women, boys and girls in the communities where the research was conducted. The Advancement of Women, Mother and Child work together with LRC Youth and Volunteer organized a series of training and workshop to conduct a youth-led awareness activity in Baeng district, Oudomxay province.

Purpose:

- to disseminate the SGBV research results and strengthen the gender network in Oudomxay
- to train the Youth on Youth Empowerment in Community (YEC) with focus on GBV prevention
- to raise awareness on GBV prevention

Expected outcomes:

- Youth gains more understanding on G&D as well as SGBV and can promote GBV prevention
- Community members are aware of GBV and its impact both for individuals and wider community which would contribute to the long-term behavioral change

### Activity details

23 July 2018 : Training on G&D with focus on SGBV to Youth and gender network in Oudomxay

- Lao NCAW advisor presented the gender work in Lao PDR as well as law and legal frameworks on violence against women
- LRC G&D focal point presented the SGBV definition, SGBV research results and the recommended follow-up activities on SGBV prevention
- LRC G&D focal point introduced the MSC and how to use it in an emergency

24 July 2018 : Training on G&D with focus on SGBV to Youth and gender network in Oudomxay (continued)

- Participants reviewed the basic terminology on gender and diversity and SGBV
- LRC G&D focal point met with the gender network and presented the referral system for SGBV survivors by referring to the one based on LRC Child Protection Policy
- Participants identified their role and responsibility to disseminate the SGBV research

results and to take action when SGBV occurs. This information would be assembled and submitted to the provincial branch and then to LRC management to set up the network.

25-26 July 2018 : Youth training with focus on GBV prevention

- 8 from 18 Youth in Baeng district were trained to be actors in a play called “Mirror” which portrays a story of a family experiencing domestic violence. (Annex 1)
- LRC G&D focal point and Lao NCAW advisor supervised the practice.
- All the team travelled to Napa village, 1<sup>st</sup> village to hold the awareness activity

27 July 2018 : Awareness activity in Napa village

- 250 villagers (100 women, 50 children) attended the event
- LRC G&D focal point presented LRC’s work, role and responsibility, and the results of the research before presenting the show “Mirror”.
- 8 Youth performed the show raising awareness against domestic violence and how to prevent it.
- Students from Baeng district sang a song promoting gender equality.
- At the end of the show, there was a session for Q&A with the villagers. Key questions were asked such as “How domestic violence could affect your family? How to prevent GBV?”

28 July 2018 : Awareness activity in Mang village

- 350 villagers (105 women, 57 children) attended the event.
- Same topics and activities were presented as the 1<sup>st</sup> village

29 July 2018 : Debriefing in Xay district (team feedback and budget summary)

30 July 2018 : LRC G&D focal point and Lao NCAW advisor travelled back to Vientiane

### Highlights and Achievements

- Government staffs from several departments in Baeng district have learned about the ASEAN SGBV research results as well as gender work at national and international level. They also know better LRC gender work.
- The gender network has discussed on the referral system for SGBV survivors. Each member has agreed to write his/her own role and responsibility in order to set-up the referral system at district level. Baeng district would be a pilot for this.
- LRC gender network has expanded to the district level which did not exist before.
- Youth has been trained to raise awareness against SGBV

- A total of 600 people from 2 villages learned about SGBV research results and watched the show performed by Youth. They have better understanding on SGBV and its danger (direct and indirect). Heads of the villages are aware of the importance of this issue and agree that we should disseminate further the research results to promote the behavioral change, to prevent or eliminate the violent habits and to create safe environment for all.

#### Lessons learned

##### Success factors:

- Good support from LRC leadership on the implementation of this activity.
- Good coordination with LRC provincial and district level.
- Clear planning and guidance from LRC leadership as well as advice from IFRC on the technical content and budget contributed to the achievement of this activity.
- Participants paid much attention to the training and practiced actively.

#### Challenges

- Activity was organized in rainy season which caused difficulty to the transportation. Team could go only to 2 villages instead of 3 due to the road condition (inaccessible village, landslide,...).
- Due to the dam collapse in Attapeu at the end of July, the team was called back to Vientiane urgently to support the operation. This is the reason why the team ended the mission 2 days earlier than planned.

#### Way forward

- Continue disseminating the research result to another district in Oudomxay

#### Suggestion

- The activity timeframe should take into account the weather factor in order to avoid the delay caused by difficult transportation
- SGBV is an important issue which should be integrated in response operation in Attapeu and other affected provinces.

### Government Involvement

Lao NCAW advisor was actively involved as advisor and trainer for LRC staff and Youth.

Government staffs in Baeng district attended the training (Ministry of Education, Provincial cabinet, Ministry of Justice, etc.)

## Gender of Participants

Community members: 600 people (205 women, 107 children)

Participants attending G&D training: 37 people (27 women) including 18 Youth

## Photographs & Stories



Opening speech by Deputy Head of LRC Oudomxay branch and Lao NCAW Advisor









G&D training 23 – 24 July 2018, Baeng district







Youth training on YEC 25-26 July 2018, Baeng district





Youth practiced the play called “Mirror” focusing on domestic violence.  
25 – 26 July 2018







Villagers attended the awareness activity in the evening  
27 – 28 July 2018



Road condition in Baeng district during the implementation of this activity.

Original report in Lao by LRC Deputy Head of the Advancement of Women, Mother and Child Work / LRC G&D focal person

## ANNEX 1

Remark : This is the original script of the play “Mirror”. It was revised following IFRC PGI advisors before the actual play but we do not have that latest version in English.

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### Title: “The Mirror”

At a restaurant

Ninxay: Hey! How is it going my friend? It’s been a long time since we saw each other. Come have a couple glasses of beer with me.

Boun: Sure, I’ll have a couple drinks. It has been awhile.

Ninxay: Waitress! What kind of food do you have? Could I get 2 beers and some snacks as well?

Boun: So, how is everything going my friend? How is business?

Ninxay: It alright, but not as good as before. Anyways, let’s get drunk. I just sold some corn, so I’ll take care of the bill. Waitress! Can we get more beers?

Boun: Oh, what about your wife and kid? If you use all the money to buy beers, what are they going to eat? Why don’t you keep it for them?

Ninxay: Never mind them. I’ve earned the money, I’ll use it. Let’s drink.....It’s late now, I have to go home. I’m afraid my wife won’t let me into the house.....Waitress, bill please?

Good luck my friend, I’ll see you next time.

Scene 2

Father: This broom needs to be stored away after use. Son! What are you doing? Where is your mom?

Son: I’m studying. Mom is cooking in the kitchen. Dad, can I have some money to buy school materials to prepare for the exam?

Father: What money? There is none. I’ve spent it all with my friend. Go ask your mom. Hey, *mom* (“referring to his wife”) is the food ready? I’m hungry.

Mother: It’s ready. Come eat.

Father: What is this? There’s only vegetable and sauce. Where is the meat and fish? Why didn’t you buy any?

Mother: There’s no money. The money you gave me last week was all spent. I asked you for money this morning, but you didn’t give me any.

Father: I already told you I didn’t have money.



Mother: You don't have money for your family to eat, but you sure have a lot for alcohol.  
Father: I told you I don't have money. Even if you do, it's my money. I've earned it. Whether I give it to you or not, it's my choice.  
Mother: That's not the right thing to say.  
Father: Why not?  
Mother: Because.....  
Father: Stop! Don't argue with me. I'm a man. I'm the head of this family. Everything I say is right.  
Son: Mom. Dad. Stop fighting.  
Father: Stop! You're just a kid. It's none of your business. Go to bed. As for you, come here...  
Son: Everyday, they always fight. There is never peace here, like other families. It's stressful to think about it. I'm going out to relax and have fun.

### Scene 3: At a bar

Noy: Today is not very fun. There is no one to flirt with.  
Tar: That's good, so we can hurry up, finish our drinks and go home. I'm afraid of my mom. Plus, I have exams coming up soon.  
Fon: It's almost time for exams at your school? Good thing, my exams are over with, so I can enjoy my drinks.  
Kinu: I wonder if I'm going to find anyone to drink with.  
Noy: Hey! That's Kinu. Who are you here with? Normally, I've never seen you go to a bar.  
Kinu: Just got some things on my mind.  
Noy: Really? You got a table already?  
Kinu: Not yet, just looking for a seat.  
Noy: Well, come join us. Waitress! Please bring more beers. This is Tar and Fon, my friends. And guys, this is Kinu. He is still single.  
Kinu: Hi everyone!  
Tar: What's wrong? You don't look so happy.  
Kinu: Just got some issues on my mind.  
Tar: Don't think about it too much. You're here with me. I'll show you how to have fun. Cheers!  
Kinu: Wow! Your bracelet is beautiful.  
Tar: Thank you.....Hey! Don't do this....Hey! I told you not to do this. I don't like it....Hey!

Kinu: What?!

Noy & Fon: What's the problem guys?

Tar: Why don't you ask your friend?

Noy: What happened Kinu?.....Tell me.

Kinu: Nothing.

Tar: How could you say there was nothing? You were touching me inappropriately. Your parents didn't teach you not to do this?

Kinu: Hey! Can't you be nice about it? Why you have to talk about my parents?

Scene [4]: At the village office.

Everyone gathered.

Village chief: The parents from both sides are here, correct? Can someone tell me what happened?

Girl side: He was touching me inappropriately, and he was using violence against me.

Boy side: No way! She tried to seduce me. I only touch her a little bit. I didn't do anything. Then she started causing all the trouble.

Girl side: You better watch it!

Girl's mother: Why did you do this? You were touching her and now you're saying she seduced you. This is wrong.

Boy's father: Son, why did you do this? I've never taught you to do so.

Boy: What about when you hit mom? I've always seen it. No one said anything.

Boy's mother: See that? Did you realize that your action taught our son these things?

Village chief: Is that true, that you hit your wife?

Boy's father: It's normal. Hitting each other in the family is normal.

Village chief: Well, what you are doing is wrong. It's against the law.

Women village chief: What do we do now? How does the girl side want to resolve this?

Girl's mom: If he accepts that he was wrong, then that is it. Just don't do this to anyone else. No one likes it.

Boy's father: We are very sorry about this. We accept all wrong doings.

Woman village chief: Well, if both sides agree then we're finish.

Man village chief: I would like to ask the boy's side to stay. I have something to say.

Did you know that what you did was a bad example? Whether you're verbally or physically abusing, it's still an act of physical and emotional violence.

Boy's father: Oh, I didn't know. I thought that men had the rights to do so, since we're head of the family. Everyone had to listen to us.

Village chief: Well, you misunderstood. What you did was wrongful. You must change and be good to your family. If you have any problem, you can come to us and consult with the village office.

Father & mother: In the future, if we have anything bothering us or misunderstanding within our household, we will be more patient and will not use force to solve our problems. Thank you so much for the information and knowledge that you've taught us.

End of scene. They went home together, with understandings between them and the issue. Then there were no more conflicts between them.

Scene [5]: Eating and talking together.

Father: Mom (referring to his wife), I'm sorry about what I did in the past and causing issues in our family.

Mother: Now you know. Don't do it again. Son, you as well. Help out with household chores and watch your sibling[s] for us.

Son: Yes! I will listen to your teachings.

Father: If we didn't have the village chief and the village police talking about violence in family and explaining to us, we would have a never ending problem.

Mother: You are right.

Son: Yes mom. From now on, I won't do that with my friends again.

The End