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YOUTH RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
(YRDP)

Engaging Youth In Personal & Societal Structural Change

By



**Empowering and Developing
Critical Thinking Skills and Social Conscience**

Introduction to YRDP

- ▶ A leading local youth organization since 1992, registered with Mol 1999, NO 891 សង្គម
- ▶ To empower youth to be committed and active citizens who take concrete action that influences and changes other people for promoting peaceful, just and democratic community development.



- ▶ Since 1992, more than 50,000 youth (42% female) from around 18 provinces and 32 higher education institutes have participated in YRDP activities
- ▶ In 2011 YRDP planned to engage around 9,040 young people and between 2012–2014 more than 30,000 in YRDP activities focusing Peace-building, Social Accountability & Good Governance, Extractive Industries, Climate Change ..

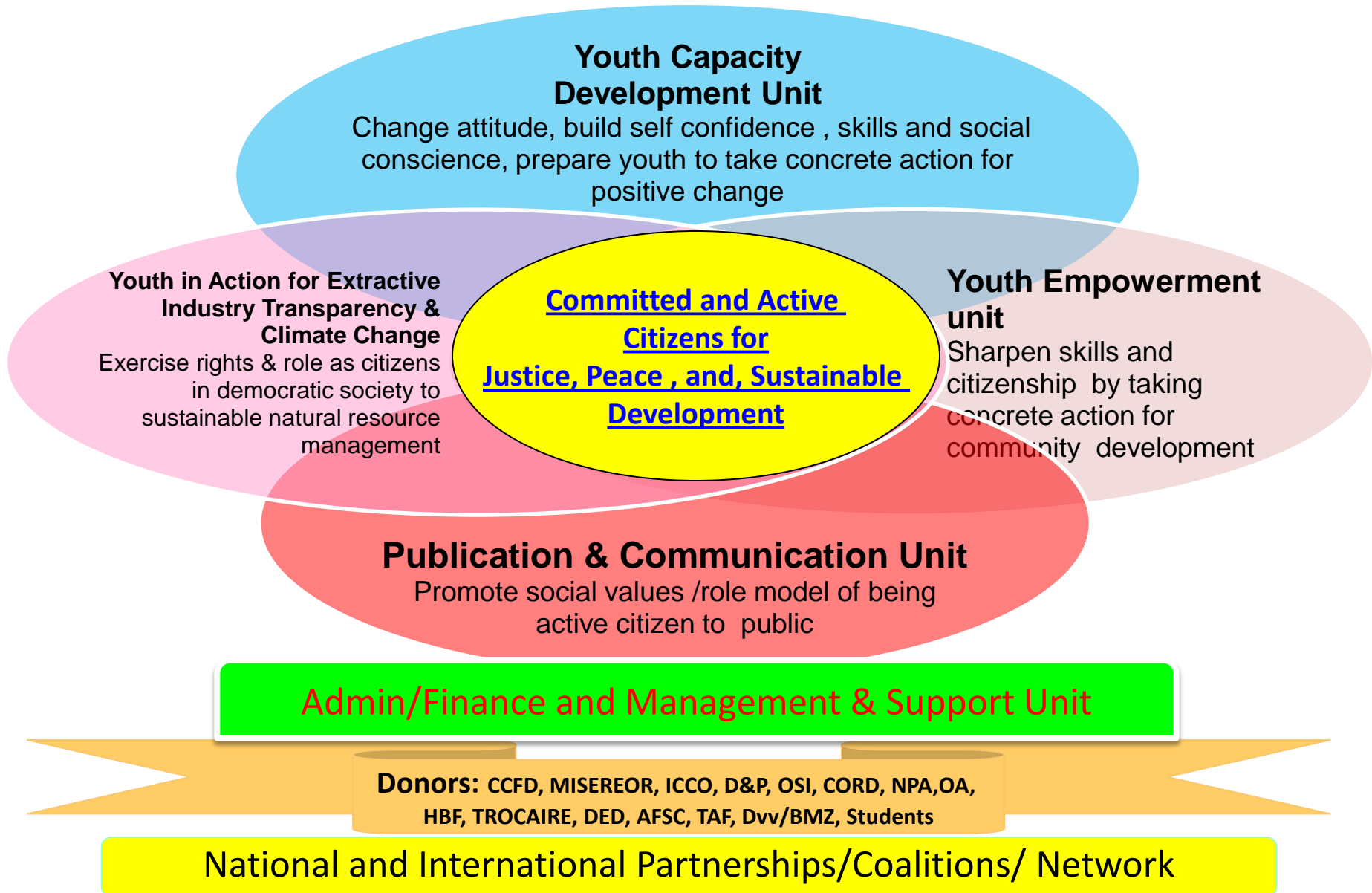
Current Actual Context in Cambodia

- ▶ Democratic Governance: Decentralization/SA, corruption
- ▶ Freedom of Expression: Criminal Regulation, Peaceful Demonstration Law, NGO Law, Gangster Decree (Morality)
- ▶ Management of Natural Resources: Extractive Industries–Mining, Oil and Gas; Environmental destruction,
- ▶ Political Targeting to Youth: Youth Associations in all Provinces (political manipulation and incitement)
- ▶ National Youth Policy (hopeless, fear, unemployment)
- ▶ Lack of critical thinking skills, social conscience
- ▶ Conflict (tension: Cambodia–Thai–Board conflict, historical conflict) and land dispute

How YRDP contribution

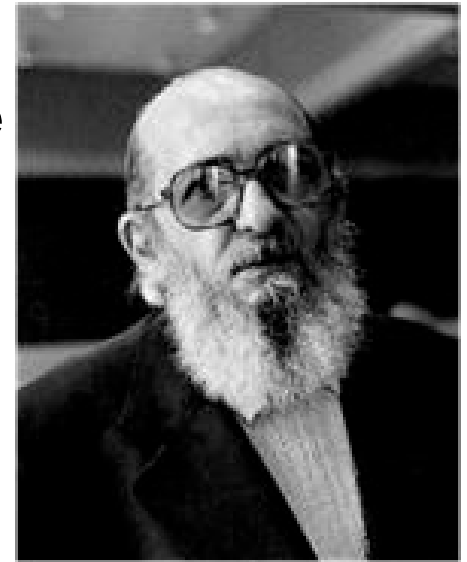
- ▶ YLSA Project train young people to be part of SA Monitoring
- ▶ Provide safe place for young people to express their idea and know how to provide effective feedback.
- ▶ Youth initiative on Oil and Gas_ YIOG Project
- ▶ Train young people to be active citizens and develop critical thinking skills
- ▶ Youth Coalition– YCUD for Youth Policy Implementation
- ▶ Annual Youth Forum and regional events bring sensitive issues affecting youth for discussion
- ▶ Working Group for Peace: Peace Rally, Peace Conference and Peace Biking; dialogue (Cambodian, Thai, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam, China)

YRDP PROGRAM OPERATION



How to engage Critical Thinking among youth: our approach

- **Brazilian educator, Paulo Freire (1921-1997):** Education for empowerment must go beyond the acquisition of knowledge and operate from the premise that people not only have the ability to know reality but also the capacity for critical reflection and action for change
- **YRDP uses a variety of participatory & experiential learning methodologies**
- **Critical Thinking and Empowerment is incorporated into all YRDP activities**
- **We focus on issues of concern to youth, university in particular**
- **We promote volunteering and community involvement to turn knowledge into action, so young people apply what they have learned**
- **We see young people as Development Partners**





*What kind of
community do
you want?*



Visiting poor community where many issues happened and then reflecting on the issues



*Poor community and
Campaign "Keep Our Country Clean"*



Democracy students meeting with representatives of the opposition party, Sam Rainsy Party (SRP) and the ruling party, Cambodian People's Party (CPP) to discuss how democracy operates in society.



YRDP volunteers, community youth, villagers and children conducting a campaign on Drug Reduction and Promoting a peaceful community



668 participants including university students, representatives of local and international NGO, embassy and representatives of government sector are participating in Annual Youth Forum under the topic of “The ASEAN’s Opportunity for Youth”

Young Leaders for Social Accountability Project

- I. Background
- II. Goal and Objectives
- III. Framework & expected result
- IV. Main activities
- V. Achievement
- VI. Challenges & Lesson Learnt



I. Background

-Mid 2009- Mid 2010: Under PECSA program, 5 villages of Pau Angkrang Commune, Basedth District, Kampong Speu Province.

- Mid 2010-2011: Under YRDP's donors, extent to 3 more villages of Pau Angkrang Commune, Basedth District, Kampong Speu Province.

- 2011&2012: Under DFGG: Two comunes in Basedth: Pau Angkrang and Nitean Commune, Basedth District, Kampong Speu Province.



II. Goal & Objectives

Goal: To empower young people to be active agents in bringing the gap between commune council and community members by promoting public consensus and local ownership of issues and their solutions.

Beneficiary: YRDP selected 20 youth(university students) of equal sex to work as a part of volunteer Core Group (CG) on this project in the mandate of one year term. The main beneficiary are community members and commune councilors.



-Approach:

- *Build Capacity*
- *Promote access to information*
- *Monitor service delivery*
- *Build Partnership*



III. Framework and Expected Result

Outcomes Framework

Project outcomes (medium term)

- Young people are empowered, join a growing alumni network of young social accountability students, contribute to a body of knowledge relating to social accountability, and the role of young people.
- Communities (villagers and local authorities) are able to mobilize people and resources when an issue arises, can engage effectively with each other, build relationships and have increased mutual trust within and between villagers, commune and provinces. Are better prepared for decentralization reforms, including increased funding, use more transparent, inclusive and equitable decision making processes, experience improve quality of life.

Activities outcomes (short term)

- Young people are engage in community development, improve their capacity, knowledge and confidence to engage in and facilitate social accountability
- Communities (villagers and local authorities) improve their capacity, knowledge and confidence relating to social accountability, increase the quality and frequency of communication with each other, are better equipped to write and implement a community development plan

IV. Main Activities

1. Capacity building to Youth core group 15days intensive training consists of:

1.1 Indoor training: Leadership, Good Governance and Social Accountability

1.2 Exposure to experiences senior speakers from Mol, Civil Society and Independent consultant

1.3 Field study



Speaker sharing on SA tools



In door training, experiential learning activity on leadership



Field study at Nitean Commune

2. Awareness raising activities
 3. Relationship and Team Building
 4. Exposure Trip
 5. Information Sharing activity
 6. Capacity Building for Key Activists (by core group and experts)
 7. Public meeting
 8. Commune council monthly meeting
 9. Formation of Community Based Organization
 10. Checklist and Feedback box
 11. MoU between commune council and key activists
 12. Commune Council Exchange
 13. Campaign and Social accountability fair
- Baseline study
Monitoring and Evaluation





Small group discussion of key activists in drafting the monthly planning of public meeting

Information sharing after exposure trip from Svay Rieng Province at Public meeting organized by Key Activists in 11 villages of Pau Angrang Commune



Role play of student core group on Rights and obligation of citizen during capacity building workshop



*Commune councilor
exchange
experience
during
exposure trip
in
Battambang*



Commune Council
Experience Exchange

V. Achievement

I. Quantitative

Year	Number of activity	Number of people reached		Youth core group members
		Total	Women	Promotion
Mid 2009	39	1138	496	1 st : 20 (F:09)
Mid 2010	16	729	291	2 nd : 14 (F:03)
2011	41	5522	2847	3 rd : 13 (F:05)
2012	32	1850	910	4 th : 18 (F:09)
Total	128	9239	4544	65 (F:26)

I. Qualitative

-Youth Core group

Main changes

1. Gain the concept and practical experiences of Leadership, good governance and social accountability.
2. Can play roles actively as the coordination body to closely work with community people and commune councilors.
3. Build more network in social accountability work and know how to facilitate the workshop and meeting.
4. Be mature workers and capable to put words into action for change.
5. Be more independent, wiser decision making and social participation.
6. Be role model of sense of volunteering for social accountability and strengthening good governance.
7. Gain more critical thinking skill and problem solving.
8. Be more effective communicators and coordinator of the event.
9. Can take the lead in any social activities.

Key activists

1. Know how to form their self-help group and create their networks
2. Participate more active in commune monthly meeting and raise the issue to be discussed
3. Initiate the activities to settle in commune for the whole commune benefit
4. Understand the concept and some practice of good governance and social accountability, rights and active citizen.
5. Be more ownership of their commune issue and solutions. Reduce the ignorant and fearness of political engagement.
6. Mobilize their commune members by applying soft advocacy method to solve the problem
7. Be more enthusiastic with accessing to information especially from commune
8. Be more closely work with commune councilors and know how to advocate for better changes
9. Increase sense of conscience and community planning development.

-Case study

- Lake conservative by *Prochea karpea* (Initiated by key activists through the impact of project activities) Mr. Neang (Chroneang Chas village)

The influence from various project activities lead to burning desire of key activists youth and villagers to initiate and take action for their commune development. This demonstrated their ownership of their commune issue and solutions. Previous time, this lake was destroyed by some villagers who used illegal finishing equipment. The issue cannot be solved. Now all villagers in the commune dare not used those harmful equipment anymore because of effective initiated action done by Key activists and youth.



Youth group members and key activists clear the lake for being restored and make the lake as conservative lake for whole commune benefits





Key activists participate in commune council monthly meeting and express the collective issues that they got from public meeting with villagers to share during the discussion

Case study:

Mrs. Pich Channa brought up an issue of the letters put in the accountability box by the people in her village for quite a long time with no response until now. Another issue is about the secondary school teacher take money from students if they do not attend the extra class. (extra class requires student to pay wage to teacher so that they will get proper teaching from teacher).



Case study

Mr. Mon & Mr. Chan Vic, key activists in Serein Choubchum village said in the focus group discussion that *“There is a private company in my village that built chicken farm that pollutes the environment of my village by making the water become dirty and has bad smell. These have negatively impacted many villagers’ health. I and many villagers have come together and written a suggestion letter stamped by all villagers’ thumb to commune councilors for solution. About three months later the letter was sent to commune and district level; the company have accepted the suggestion and readjust their farm activity. I am really glad and feel that commune councilor have changed their behavior from ignorant to active help if comparing to previous year when any issue happened it took so long to solve and sometime the issue was forgotten by commune councilors.”*





Rice Bank in Por Angkrang

Rice bank was initiated by key activist Mr. Neang and Mr. Sarith after the exposure trip from Svay Rieng Province. This mechanism help to push the key activists and villagers work more closely.





1st deputy commune chief said that *“I have observed that the villagers now know more about accountability box and they dare to put the letter in the box. It is different from previous time. This month accountability box has 21 letters; which is more than other months. When I attended the district meeting in November, the district officer said that this commune got more letters than other communes in Baseth district and it means people know the accountability box and commune works than other communes.”*



Currently, in this March; there are two episodes were requested to YRDP for being a guest speakers sharing on

1. Youth and Education live on CTN TV
2. Youth and how they can participate with their Commune councilors development work, LOY 9 Program conducted by BCC, on CTN TV



VI. Challenges and Lesson Learnt

1. Relationship between local commune and citizen is less.
2. Different political affiliated support different cases
3. Freedom of expression still a problem
4. Information dissemination from commune to villagers is limited.
5. For almost all local authority commune councilors find civil society activities as the monitor and only attack government not play roles as complimented body or coordination body for the commune development.
6. Youth and man in community migrant and are not interested in their commune development.
7. Decision making process and real power are most of time in the hand of clerk sometime not commune chief or commune councilors.
8. Short term impact and the concerning of sustainable of this governance project is really a major.



*Together for Social Accountability is
together for Sustainable Development*

***Social Accountability is for everyone,
about everyone and from everyone.***