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# **The Community Conversations Project: Baseline Survey Report**

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary.....	1
Introduction.....	1
<i>Domestic Violence and Gender Inequality in Context.....</i>	<i>2</i>
A. Understanding the Specific Community Context of Domestic Violence .....	5
B. Understanding Domestic Violence Concepts within the Village Context .....	8
C. Past Actions Taken by the Community to Deal with Domestic Violence .....	10
D. Perception of the Community With Regard to Domestic Violence .....	12
Appendix 1: Cases of Domestic Violence by Gender in Surveyed Villages.....	18
Appendix 2: Profile of Village Respondents.....	21
Appendix 3: Village Respondent Profile by Province.....	23
Appendix VI: Domestic Violence Baseline Questionnaire.....	27

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## Executive Summary

- At the request of UNDP-Cambodia, InterMedia and Green Goal, Ltd., conducted a baseline survey in April 2008 with a total of 304 adult (18+) respondents, of which 220 were randomly selected villagers and 84 were village and commune chiefs in the target area. The target area includes 29 communes (55 villages)—six target communes in Kampong Speu province, 11 target communes in Kampong Chhnang province and 12 target communes in Siem Reap province. Because they play a critical role in the lives of villagers in Cambodia, all village and commune chiefs in the target area were included in this survey.
- The purpose of this baseline survey is to gain understanding of the existing types and definitions of domestic violence from the perspectives of respondents, past actions taken, and social and cultural perceptions in the target villages. This survey was conducted before implementation of the Community Conversations project in the surveyed area, which attempts to address domestic issues and seeks solutions for violence against women and other problems that are barriers to women exercising their rights.
- According to the human rights group ADHOC, domestic violence is a serious social problem in Cambodia and is, in many ways, becoming worse. The impact of domestic violence is significant. Violence through physical, emotional or psychological, economic and sexual abuse/assault is not only a violation of the rights of the victims but also affects the family and/or loved ones, the community and society as a whole. In Cambodia, as in most countries, women are the primary victims of domestic violence, primarily through physical and verbal abuse.

### *A. The Specific Community Context of Domestic Violence*

- Knowledge of domestic violence is commonplace in the surveyed villages. Almost all village and commune chiefs (99 percent), as well as the vast majority of villagers (83 percent) have either heard about or know someone who has experienced domestic violence in their villages in the last 12 months.
- The extent of domestic violence is also significant among the surveyed villages. On average, sampled leaders were aware of nine incidents, villagers six. Generally the husband was the perpetrator.
- Female villagers reported a higher number of domestic violence incidents in their villages than men, especially in the sample villages where the average number of incidents is high. This indicates different perceptions of domestic violence between men and women, which the Community Conversation Project should keep in mind when facilitating opportunities to increase the awareness of domestic violence as a crime.
- Personal experience of domestic violence is relatively common among respondent villagers. Two percent volunteered that they had personally experienced it; 37 percent of villagers witnessed incidents of domestic violence; and 18 percent of village and commune chiefs had direct experience in their communities.
- Drunkenness appears to be, by far, the most common cause of domestic violence, as indicated by two-thirds of village and commune chiefs and villagers interviewed. Drunkenness itself may only be a symptom rather than a cause. Lack of money, joblessness, jealousy and gambling were also cited and may also be causes linked to the use of alcohol.

### ***B. Domestic Violence Concepts within the Village Context***

- Physical and verbal abuse are the most common types of domestic violence in the villages surveyed; however, knowledge of such mistreatment is variable. Both villagers and village and commune chiefs are most aware of verbal abuse. Slightly less common, physical abuse is more frequently heard about by village and commune chiefs than by villagers, perhaps reflecting the need for their intervention when situations are critical.
- Domestic violence issues extend beyond the verbal and evident physical. Other types of perhaps less 'apparent' violence, such as psychological, economic and sexual abuse, also exist in the target villages, indicating that domestic violence is a complex issue which cannot be addressed based only on visual or audible evidence.
- People, in general express disapproval through anger, concern or shock, when they hear of reports or suspicions of domestic violence in their community. However, only a few village and commune chiefs think villagers would react with shock, but rather with silence or tolerance. Some thought they would not discuss it, although an equal number of village and commune chiefs said they would openly do so. Regardless, the general reactions of people indicate they are aware that acts of domestic violence are wrong. This assumption is supported by the responses of the vast majority of villagers and village and commune chiefs that domestic violence is not merely an internal family dispute that should be settled by the family alone. However, more female than male villagers feel domestic violence is more than an internal family issue, which may indicate their desire for external interventions to stop and/or prevent it.

### ***C. Past Actions Taken by the Community to Deal with Domestic Violence***

- People feel they have a responsibility to deal with issues of domestic violence once brought to their attention. Dealing with domestic violence is generally seen as a community issue, and neighbors and village leaders play an important role in interventions.
- In cases of domestic violence among family members, this study indicates that the preferred interventions are conducted by family members and neighbors. In cases of domestic violence among neighbors, the more direct intervention of village and commune chiefs is preferred. After this, police intervention is sought.
- As might be expected, the majority of village and commune chiefs would intervene by getting together to find ways to resolve the problem. Villagers feel village chiefs, rather than commune chiefs, should have the responsibility of intervention, again reflecting their perception that domestic violence is a community matter.
- Most said perpetrators are reprimanded by village chiefs; some respondents said they are arrested and imprisoned. Some village and commune chiefs feel villagers tolerate perpetrators. Villagers provide moral support to victims, but a small number of respondents said victims are blamed as though they deserved it.
- Almost all villagers and all village and commune chiefs believe perpetrators should be punished. Village and commune chiefs and male villagers prefer community reprimand as an appropriate punishment; women prefer tougher approaches, such as imprisonment.

#### *D. Perceptions of the Community with Regard to Domestic Violence*

- Both village and commune chiefs and villagers think victims need medical and legal assistance and counseling, yet more than two-thirds of villagers said this type of service is not available in their villages. Some village and commune chiefs believe some services are available in their villages, which perhaps indicates villagers' lack of awareness of such services.
- Direct personal intervention is the prime course of action among villagers; police involvement seems to be a last resort, only after intervention by neighbors and/or village chiefs, again reflecting people's perception of domestic as a personal/community issue.
- This baseline survey reveals that although the majority of villagers and village and commune chiefs intervene when domestic violence occurs and feel perpetrators should be punished, domestic violence still seems to happen regularly. Perhaps addressing the root causes, such as drunkenness associated with poverty, jealousy and gambling, can help prevent it. Another means would be to empower potential victims or provide legal and social pressures to prevent potential perpetrators from acting in the first place.

#### *E. Conclusion*

- This baseline shows that domestic violence is relatively common in the surveyed areas. However, the differences between men and women and village/commune leaders in their perceptions of domestic violence and attitudes toward both victims and perpetrators show that the Community Conversation Project facilitators should consider having separate sessions for men, women and villager/commune leaders on their underlying assumptions about domestic violence.
- It is clear the vast majority disapprove domestic violence, but it is not clear where each group draws the line—how they distinguish violence from mere domestic disputes, at what point they think there should be an intervention and why, and who should intervene for what types of domestic violence. When these areas are thoroughly discussed, the facilitators can address the gaps in their perceptions of domestic violence, and discuss ways for the community to educate each other about the seriousness of domestic violence as a crime and prevent domestic violence in their own villages.

## Introduction

At the request of UNDP-Cambodia, InterMedia and Green Goal, Ltd., conducted a baseline survey in March-April 2008 with a total of 304 adult (18+) respondents, of which 220 were randomly selected villagers and 84 village and commune chiefs in the target area. The target area includes 29 communes (55 villages)—six target communes in Kampong Speu province, 11 target communes in Kampong Chhnang province and 12 target communes in Siem Reap province. Because they play a critical role in the lives of villagers in Cambodia, the survey included all village and commune chiefs in the target area.

The purpose of this baseline survey is to obtain information about the cultural, social and legal effects of the domestic violence which occurs in the target areas, before the Community Conversations project is implemented. This initiative will attempt to address domestic issues and seek solutions to prevent violence against women and to other issues that pose barriers to exercising their rights. Once the CC project is successfully implemented, another survey will be carried out in the target area to determine changes in attitudes, perceptions and beliefs related to domestic violence issues.

According to the human rights group ADHOC, domestic violence is a serious social problem in Cambodia and is becoming worse. Domestic violence not only affects victims, but also family and/or loved ones and the community as a whole. Violence through physical, emotional, psychological, economic, and sexual abuse/assault is a violation of victims' rights. As in most countries, women are the primary victims of domestic violence; in Cambodia, it usually takes the form of physical abuse.

Domestic violence is a sensitive issue which many people may not want to discuss with strangers. Although InterMedia tried to phrase the questions in a way that would not cause discomfort or embarrassment, some respondents, particularly those who have experienced domestic violence, may not have felt able to provide honest responses.

The following analysis attempts to provide the facilitators of the Community Conversations project with a clearer insight into:

- the specific community context of domestic violence;
- domestic violence concepts within the village context;
- past actions taken by the community to deal with domestic violence; and
- perceptions of the community about domestic violence.

## Methodology

The survey fieldwork took place from March 29<sup>th</sup> – April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008 in the three target provinces. The sampling frame used for this survey is the complete list of all target communes and villages of the UNDP Community Conversation Project. To ensure the randomness of the sample, this survey adopted a stratified sampling in three stages: the villages as the first stage of sample selection, households as the second stage, and respondents 18 and older as the third stage.

In the first stage, all 55 villages were selected as the primary sampling units (PSUs) in 29 communes in three provinces. Four sample households were then selected in each sample village by using the Right-hand Rule. Every fourth household was chosen and the starting point was randomly chosen by drawing a number. For each sample household, the questionnaire interviewers chose a respondent by using the Kish Grid method.

For quality control purposes, 100 questionnaires or approximately 33 percent of the total questionnaires were randomly chosen by fieldwork supervisors. They verified the answers with the interviewees to make sure the interviews took place and the answers were correctly recorded. If any mistakes are found and some questions not answered, the interviewers were required to go back to obtain correct answers.

The fieldwork supervisors reported some respondents showed some discomfort during the interview, particularly female respondents. The refusal rate for this baseline survey is 9 percent—19 village respondents refused to answer. The primary reasons for refusal included the fear of getting into trouble with their village chiefs or husbands, no free time, and shame. This survey also includes more women (64 percent) than men (46 percent), mainly because men were away for the campaigns for the upcoming national elections. For the same reason, the fieldwork teams experienced difficulty interviewing village and commune chiefs during this survey period. This suggests that it may be best to avoid any political events as respondents may associate the research with the political events and might discourage participating in the survey interviews, especially when the survey deals with sensitive issues.

### *Domestic Violence and Gender Inequality in Context*

**Domestic violence** against women remains widespread in Cambodia. According to 2005 Demographic and Health Survey, 22 percent of married women between 15 and 49 have experienced physical violence, most commonly by their husbands.<sup>1</sup> The Cambodian government has made some progress in recent years in establishing a legal framework to address increasing gender-based abuses. In October 1992, the Convention for Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) was ratified by the Cambodian authorities, and in 2005, a Law on Domestic Violence against Women was adopted. However, law enforcement is extremely weak and compounded by a corrupted legal system.

The subject of domestic violence is not publicly discussed and abuses are rarely reported in Cambodia. The reasons behind this are complicated and often intermingled. Lack of education and awareness of legal rights are major causes, and many villager respondents mentioned them this baseline survey. More than 25 percent of women who have been subjected to sexual and physical domestic violence do not think they have been abused.<sup>2</sup> Fear of retaliation and financial costs—which most Cambodian women can't afford—to bring a case to the court or even obtain a medical certificate from a doctor to prove the abuse also discourage many Cambodian women from taking legal action. Above all, cultural elements as well as widely accepted norms of conduct for women seem to be the biggest and the most disturbing factors in the persistence of domestic violence. Traditional beliefs about the subservient role and status of women and social stigmatization of those women who take legal action against their husbands contribute to a culture of impunity that gives perpetrators the “right” to abuse. Some women do not wish to report abuses or to involve authorities due to the shame and social stigma. Furthermore, there is enormous social pressure on women, both from legal authorities and from the community itself, to remain with abusive husbands, which may even legitimize the violent behavior. Even in serious cases of exploitation and abuses, women often seem to obey traditional values and forms of community arbitration and accept monetary compensation rather than legal justice.

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<sup>1</sup> The World Bank: *Cambodia Gender Assessment*, Accessed from <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/EASTASIAPACIFICEXT/CAMBODIAEXTN/0..contentMDK:20264079~pagePK:141137~piPK:217854~theSitePK:293856,00.html> on May 29, 2008

<sup>2</sup> Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights, *The Situation of Women in Cambodia*, July 2004, Accessed from <http://www.no-trafficking.org/content/pdf/situationpercent20ofpercent20womenpercent20inpercent20cambodiapercent20julypercent202004.pdf> on May 29, 2008



Women's weak social and economic positions make them even more vulnerable to physical attacks and abuses. Many women could not help themselves financially if they were to leave an abusive relationship. In many cases, women simply choose not to pursue legal action because they risk losing financial support for themselves and their children if a husband is imprisoned. Those who do often face discriminatory judicial and legal systems which sympathize with men and often emphasize reconciliation. Among police and legal authorities, there is an overall indifference towards domestic violence because they consider it a private or domestic matter. This is the case in the survey areas where villagers are most comfortable with community arbitration.

Rape within marriage is not a crime under Cambodian law. Domestic violence is not only restricted to women. Children under 15, especially in rural areas, are frequently victims of parental physical and sexual abuse. The root of such violence can be traced back to cultural norms that place women and children in subservient positions. There also seems to be a strong link between increased domestic violence and growing poverty and lack of education. There is a higher level of violence among poor women in the countryside where levels of literacy and education are low. According to research conducted by the Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights, 19.8 percent of female victims have no education at all.<sup>3</sup>

Women's inability to assert their rights, both financially and legally, and a corrupted legal system in which officials often take bribes from offenders, seem to reinforce a culture of impunity and tacit acceptance that emboldens unlawful settlements (as many as 60 percent - 70 percent of all reported abuses against women in Cambodia are settled out of court) and other outlawed actions against women, such as prostitution, rape, trafficking and forced labor. Although it is hard to change traditional norms and "codes of conduct" imposed upon women, raising women's awareness of their legal rights and establishing an effective legal system that seek to protect women from abuse seem to be essential in fighting against domestic violence in Cambodia.

**Gender inequality** is another serious problem in Cambodia. Cambodia is a hierarchal society with traditional attitudes and cultural norms that give women limited options and opportunities, and also affect domestic violence. Although there have been some positive trends, such as increasing enrollment of girls in elementary schools and growing job opportunities for women, the majority of Cambodian women remain marginalized and have less access than men to resources, education, employment, health care, representation in government or participation in the decision-making process.

## 1. Education

Although almost equal numbers of boys and girls are enrolled in primary schools, the gender disparity increases dramatically as they progress to higher levels of education. Girls tend to drop out of school at a higher rate than boys; repetition rates are also higher for girls, and their attendance is lower than boys. A positive trend is that enrollment of girls into primary school from the poorest communes has been dramatically increasing; however, higher costs and traditional attitudes toward girls' education are the main obstacles keeping girls from pursuing higher education. Illiteracy rates are very high: 25 percent of men and 45 percent of women are completely illiterate, and 71 percent of women and 50 percent of men are functionally illiterate.<sup>4</sup> With low levels of education, women have few, if any, employment opportunities.

## 2. Employment

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<sup>3</sup> Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights, *The Situation of Women in Cambodia*, July 2004, Accessed from <http://www.no-trafficking.org/content/pdf/situation%20of%20women%20in%20cambodia%20july%202004.pdf> on May 29, 2008

<sup>4</sup> The World Bank: *Cambodia Gender Assessment*, Accessed from <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/EASTASIAPACIFICEXT/CAMBODIAEXTN/0,,contentMDK:20264079~pagePK:141137~piPK:217854~theSitePK:293856,00.html> on May 29, 2008



Cambodia's female labor force participation rate is 82 percent, the highest in the region. However, the options for women are largely limited to the agricultural sector, garment industry, or informal sectors, such as domestic helpers or traders. Again, traditional beliefs about "appropriate" occupations for men and women have shaped existing inequalities in labor market. Men often easily find better-paid jobs outside agricultural sector. On average, men's wages are 33 percent higher than those of women. Choices in employment and wage differences are, of course, also closely associated with the levels of education. High levels of illiteracy and lack of education put women in a disadvantaged position in employment. About 90 percent of Cambodian women are employed in the garment industry and an estimated 100,000 women work in the sex industry, often without any social and legal protections. Most women earn minimum wages and work under horrible and unhealthy conditions.

### 3. Health

Access to health care is a major problem in Cambodia for both men and women. However, due to their lower social and economic status, women are more vulnerable to health risks than are men. About 66 percent of women and 87 percent of babies under 1 year old are anemic. Maternal mortality is one of the highest in Asia—437 per 100,000 live births.<sup>5</sup> Restricted access to maternal care and health workers' low professional skills are key factors contributing to the high rate of maternal and infant mortality. Cambodia has also the highest prevalence of HIV/AIDS in Southeast Asia. The number of women living with HIV continues to increase while the number of men living with HIV has been decreasing. The sex trade and social and cultural norms make Cambodian women especially susceptible to epidemics. Women are usually vulnerable to transmission of sexual diseases from their clients and even their husbands.

### 4. Agriculture and Rural Resources

More than 65 percent of women are farmers, and are responsible for 80 percent of food production. Despite this significance, few rural women have access to rural services and markets. Their lack of awareness of their rights and limited access to information make it difficult for them to benefit from existing bank loans and credit. Women do own land, but their land holdings are generally much smaller than those of men; they often face the risk of losing land and impoverishment in case of divorce or death. Women also are less likely than men to leave their villages to seek better opportunities due to their domestic responsibilities and lack of education.

### 5. Women's Representation in Politics and Decision-making

Cambodian women have limited representation in the government decision-making process from the local to the national level: Although 20 of the 123 (16 percent) of parliamentarians elected to the National Assembly in 2004 and 14.6 percent of council seats filled in the 2007 Commune/Sangkat council elections are women, women constitute only two out of 37 Ministers (5.4 percent) and 8 out of 127 Secretaries of State (6.3 percent). In the total labor force, one-third of professional and technical workers are women but they comprise only 14 percent of legislators, senior officials and managers.<sup>6</sup>

In sum, poverty, lack of education, cultural norms, traditional attitudes toward women, corruption and a weak legal system place Cambodian women in a weak economic, legal and social position, and make them vulnerable to domestic violence.

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Equity, Growth and Poverty Reduction in Cambodia, 2004, Accessed from <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTCAMBODIA/Resources/293755-1181597206916/ExecSum-E&D.pdf> on May 29, 2008

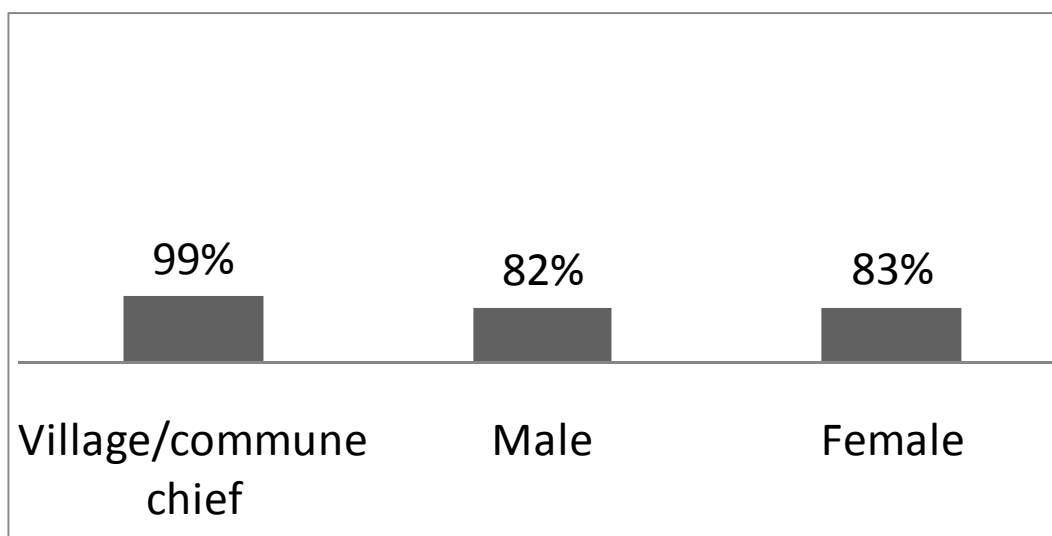
## A. Understanding the Specific Community Context of Domestic Violence

This section discusses the awareness level, frequency and some of the main causes of domestic violence in the target area of the Community Conversations project.

This study shows domestic violence is relatively common in target areas. Almost all village and commune chiefs have either heard about or know someone who has experienced domestic violence in their villages in the last 12 months. More than 80 percent of villagers, both men (82 percent) and women (83 percent), are aware of the domestic violence in their villages (see *Graph A.1*). Village and commune chiefs' knowledge of incidents of domestic violence in their villages is higher than that of the villagers, probably because of their leadership role.

The extent of domestic violence is also significant among the surveyed villages. On average, sampled leaders were aware of nine incidents, villagers six. In general, women reported higher incidences of domestic violence than male villagers (see Appendix 1 for gender disaggregation by commune/village). The husband is the perpetrator in most domestic violence cases in the target area.

**GRAPH A.1: DID YOU HEAR ABOUT OR DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO HAS EXPERIENCED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN YOUR VILLAGE IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS?**



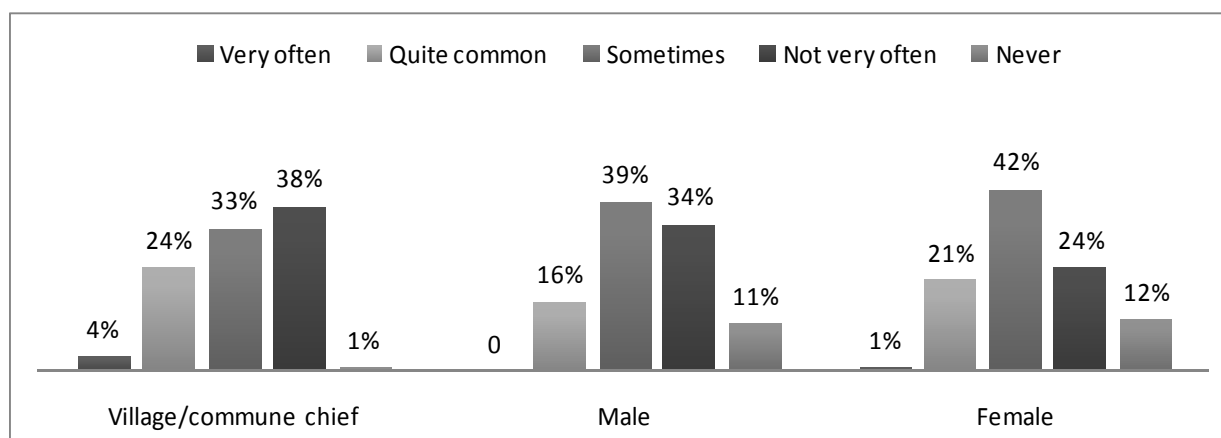
Base=304 adult respondents in Community Conversation Target Area (84 village and commune chiefs; 220 villagers)

In many communes of Siem Reap provinces, the average number of incidents mentioned by the village and commune chiefs was much higher than in the other two provinces; five out of 12 target communes reported somewhere between 13 and 36 cases in the last 12 months. Villagers from the same communes also reported higher incidences of domestic violence, although their average number is relatively lower than that reported by village and commune chiefs (See Appendix I for disaggregated data by commune/village).

As for the frequency of incidents of domestic violence, levels are high for both leaders and villagers. However, women seem to think domestic violence occurs more frequently than do male respondents; 55 percent of men said domestic violence occurs at least sometimes, 64 percent of

women reported sometimes or more often in their villages (see *graph A.2*). Sixty-one percent of village and commune chiefs said domestic violence happens at least sometimes.

**GRAPH A.2: HOW OFTEN DO YOU THINK DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OCCURS IN YOUR VILLAGES?<sup>7</sup>**



Base=304 adult respondents in Community Conversation Target Area (84 village and commune chiefs; 220 villagers)

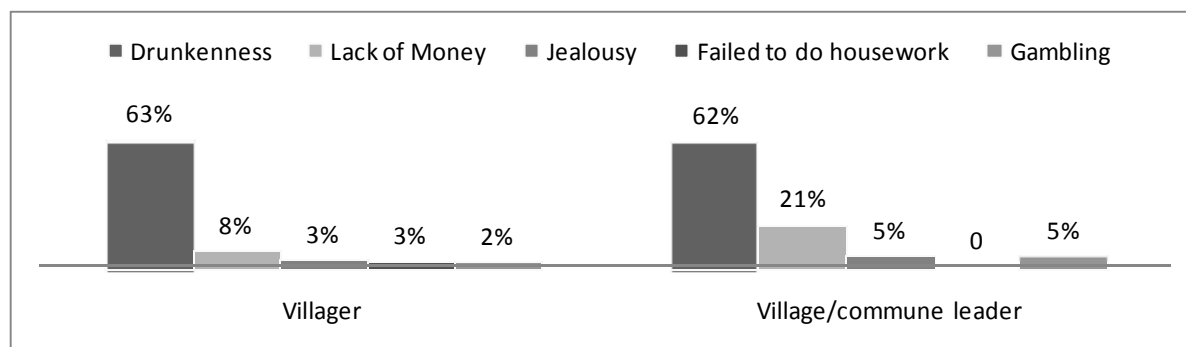
Almost all men, women and village and commune chiefs reported that perpetrators of domestic violence are usually “husband against wife.” Interestingly, 97 percent of women mentioned “husband” as the perpetrators; a few men included others such as “parents against children” (5 percent) and “other relatives” (3 percent). A very small number of each group (4 percent for village and commune chiefs, 3 percent for men, and 2.6 percent for women) mentioned “wife” as the person responsible for domestic violence.

Drunkenness or use of alcohol, poverty, gambling, and jealousy are some of the main causes of domestic violence; drunkenness, by far, is the biggest cause. When asked to rank the top three causes of domestic violence in order of importance in their villages, 62 percent of village and commune chiefs and 63 percent of villagers chose drunkenness as the primary cause, followed by lack of money (21 percent for village and commune chiefs and 8 percent for villagers). The second leading cause was also drunkenness (15.5 percent for villagers and 23 percent for village and commune chiefs) also followed by lack of money for the village and commune chiefs (23 percent), and gambling for villagers (13 percent). Villagers (16 percent) named lack of money as the third main cause; village and commune chiefs named jealousy (14 percent).

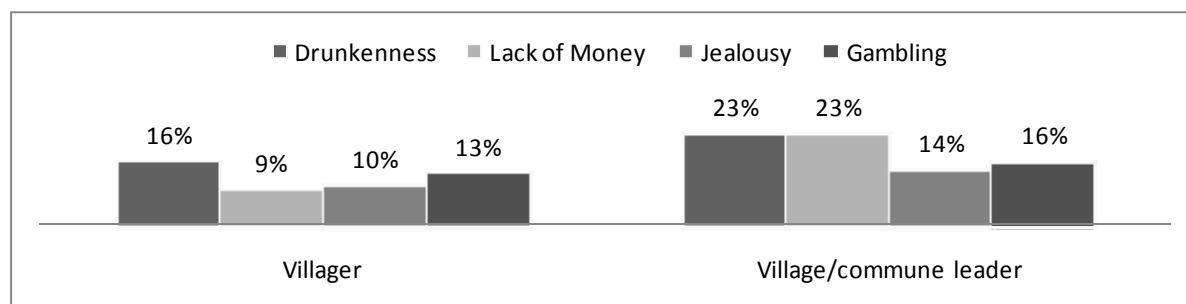
<sup>7</sup> When there is an interesting difference between male and female villager responses, the graph/chart is disaggregated to male and female.

**GRAPH A.3: WHAT ARE THE TOP CAUSES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN YOUR VILLAGE?<sup>8</sup>**

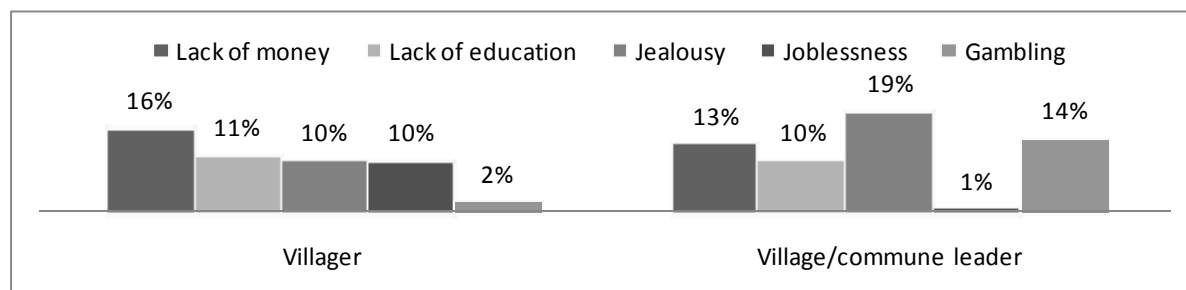
***The First Cause***



***The Second Cause***



***The Third Cause***



Base=304 adult respondents in Community Conversation Target Area (84 village and commune chiefs; 220 villagers)

Since use of alcohol may be a symptom rather than a cause, other major causes, such as lack of money, joblessness, gambling and jealousy, may often lead to drunkenness, which in turn may facilitate a domestic violence incident.

In sum, awareness and frequency of incidents of domestic violence is high among village and commune chiefs and villagers in the surveyed area. Generally, the husband is the perpetrator. The top cause is alcohol use, perhaps directly or indirectly linked with poverty, gambling and jealousy.

<sup>8</sup> Respondents were asked to choose the causes of domestic violence in order of importance. The top cause is tabulated based on all the first choices of respondents; the second cause is based on their second choices, and the third cause is based on their last choices (See Appendix 3: Baseline Survey Questionnaire for reference).

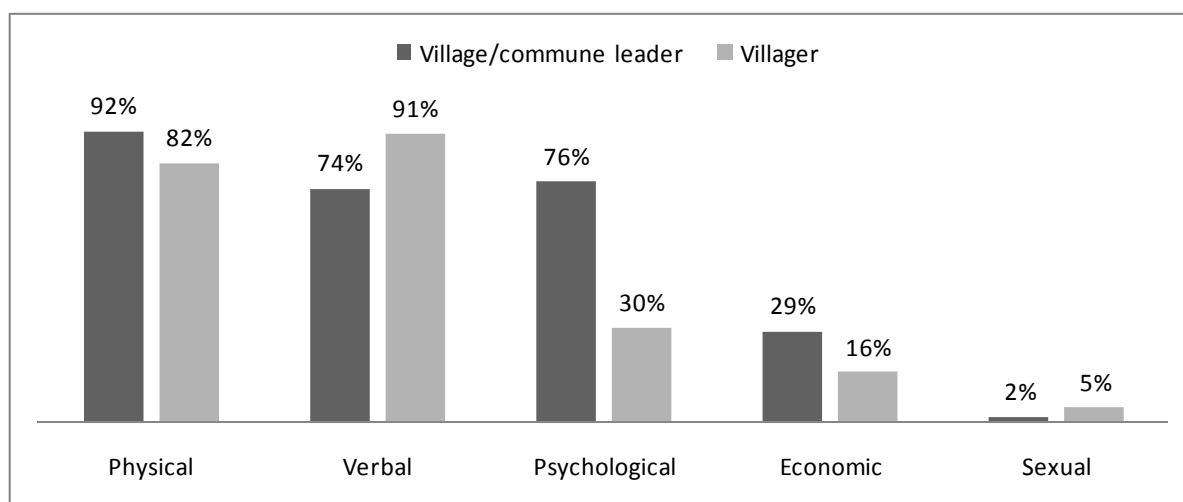
## B. Understanding Domestic Violence Concepts within the Village Context

This study shows that people broadly define domestic violence as physical and verbal abuse. When asked about what kinds of domestic violence people have heard about in their villages, physical assault was the most common answer among village and commune chiefs (92 percent); more villagers cited verbal assault (91 percent), although physical assault was not too far behind (82 percent).

That village and commune chiefs are more inclined to see domestic violence as physical assault indicates they are usually involved when violence is out of hand and their intervention is needed. Many villagers (particularly women) see it as verbal abuse, perhaps because that type of violence happens more regularly but yet is not visible enough for interventions. Likewise, psychological abuse is another situation predominantly of concern to leaders.

Graph B.1 shows different types of abuse that takes place in the target villages. Physical and verbal abuse are the most common types, but occurrences of other types of violence may imply that domestic violence in Cambodia, at least in the target area, is a complex and multi-faceted issue and requires a series of dialogues not only with victims but also with the community leaders and villagers who witness it.

**GRAPH B.1: WHAT KINDS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT IN THE VILLAGE?<sup>9</sup>**



Base=304 adult respondents in Community Conversation Target Area (84 village and commune chiefs; 220 villagers)<sup>10</sup>

When domestic violence occurs in the villages, villagers most frequently react with anger (51 percent), outrage (43 percent) and/or shock (45 percent).<sup>11</sup> More than three-quarters of village and

<sup>9</sup> In the baseline survey questionnaire, there were five types of abuse considered domestic violence. Physical and sexual abuse involves physical violations that may cause physical injury; verbal abuse usually includes shouting insults, condescension and intimidation. Psychological abuse involves manipulation and threats that often make victims feel vulnerable, helpless and scared. Economic abuse manifests in withholding food or other material needs of the victim.

<sup>10</sup> In case of multiple responses, all percentages are based on the number of total respondents throughout this report.

<sup>11</sup> Anger, outrage and shock are expressions of disapproval, although shock also implies some level of disbelief that domestic violence has occurred in a certain setting in this case.

commune chiefs (78 percent) said people react to domestic violence in their villages with anger. Many (42 percent) thought the reaction would be outrage. Village and commune chiefs did not think villagers would react with shock if they hear about the reports of domestic violence in their villages. Rather, some thought villagers would react with tolerance or silence.

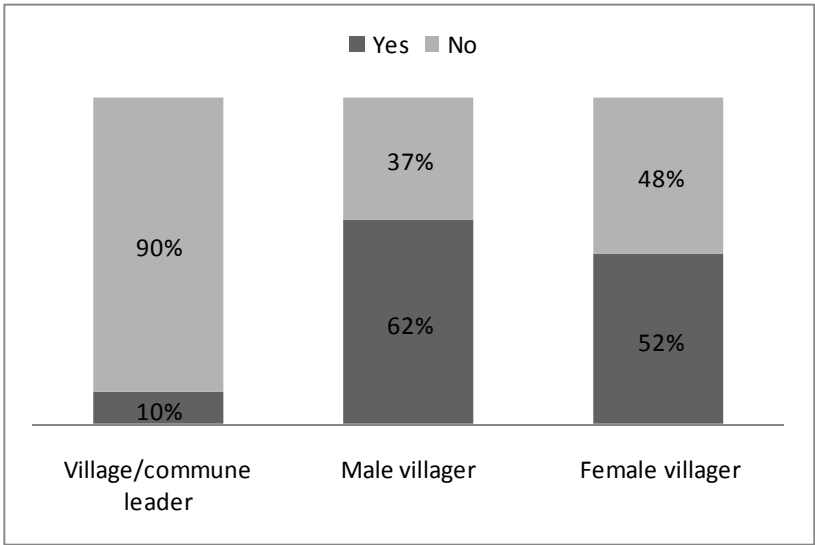
People’s different but strongly emotional reactions to reports of domestic violence in their villages show they understand it is wrong.

Asked what comes to their mind when they hear the term domestic violence, “physical abuse” topped the list for at least half of the village respondents (56 percent). Other descriptions included “getting drunk and committing violence to their wives,” “destroying the house property,” and “hurting family members”—all of which could also be termed “physical abuse.” “I wonder if it could happen to me,” “unhappy family,” “pity for children and women who are beaten” and “poverty” were also named.

More than a third of villagers based their responses on their personal experience, be it witnessing some of kind of domestic violence (37 percent), or from actual personal experience (2 percent).

Village and commune chiefs defined domestic violence slightly more broadly, to encompass both physical and non-physical abuse, perhaps reflecting their exposure to less overt incidents in their capacities as leaders. Forty-one percent said physical abuse or beating wives after getting drunk is what comes to their mind first. Some leaders also mentioned emotional abuse (10 percent) and poverty (10 percent). Eighteen percent of the leaders said their answers were based on personal experience of what has happened in their villages.

**GRAPH B.2: DO YOU THINK DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS AN INTERNAL FAMILY DISPUTE AND SHOULD BE SETTLED BY THE FAMILY?**



Base=304 adult respondents in Community Conversation Target Area (84 village and commune chiefs; 220 villagers)

Most village and commune chiefs do not think domestic violence is merely an internal family dispute and should be settled by the family; graph B.2 shows only 10 percent of village and commune chiefs believe so. However, 56 percent of villagers think it’s a family issue—the primary reason is that only the family understands what is really going on (85 percent of those who said yes). Still, about half of female villagers disagree that it is a domestic matter; they would like it to be settled by someone else because village chiefs and neighbors may be able to resolve the issues

and perpetrators may listen to them (95 percent of those who said no). Perhaps this implies the helplessness of women in dealing with domestic violence and their need for outside help.

To summarize, physical and verbal abuse are common types of domestic violence in the target area. However, other more subtle and less visible and audible types of mistreatment exist in these villages, indicating in-depth dialogs with community members and victims to address the issue are needed. People’s high levels of emotional reactions to the reports of domestic violence in the surveyed area also indicate they are aware it is wrong.

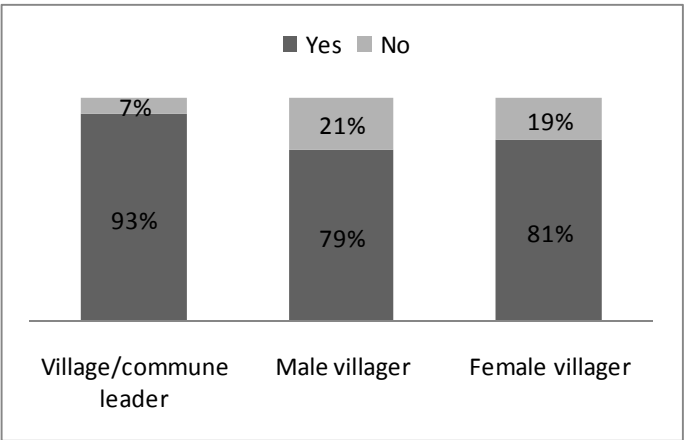
**C. Past Actions Taken by the Community to Deal with Domestic Violence**

Understanding community leaders’ and villagers’ past actions taken to address incidents of domestic violence helps uncover what traditional or current solutions are available and identifies gaps in intervention and prevention methods.

This baseline survey reveals that informal or traditional interventions by neighbors and village leaders are the most common in these target villages. Neighbors play an important role in intervening when domestic violence occurs. All village and commune chiefs said neighbors or other villagers will intervene in such cases (see *Graph C.1*); 74 percent of villagers and 100 percent of village and commune chiefs mentioned that neighbors have tried to stop violence. Village chiefs seem to play an important role—close to two-thirds of village and commune chiefs (68 percent) and more than half of villagers (56 percent) said village chiefs intervened in the past in cases of domestic violence (see *Graph C.2*).

Although many believe it is not an internal family matter, the emphasis on the importance of neighbors implies that villagers desire to resolve domestic violence among themselves.

**GRAPH C.1: WHEN/IF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OCCURS, WILL NEIGHBORS/VILLAGERS INTERVENE?**



Base=304 adult respondents in Community Conversation Target Area (84 village and commune chiefs; 220 villagers)

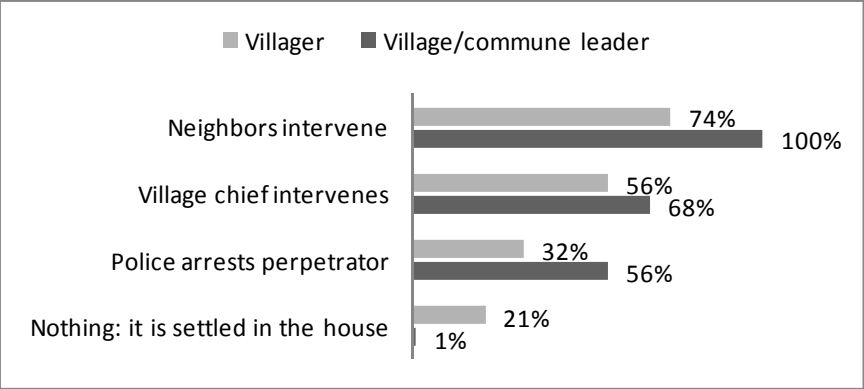
Respondents also see police as having some role. A quarter of village and commune chiefs mentioned the involvement of police in interventions; 17 percent of villagers mentioned this. It seems that the police get involved in domestic violence issues in these villages, but villagers seem to prefer that the village chief be responsible for intervening and executing punishments.

When an incident of domestic violence occurs which may need some kind of intervention beyond family and neighbors, the first choice of authority is village and commune chiefs. The police are second choice, preferred more by village and commune chiefs than by villagers.



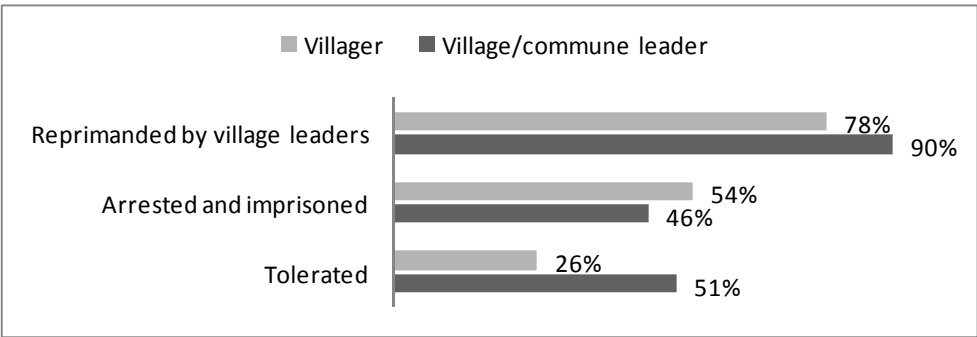
Along with relatively high awareness of domestic violence, there is a clear desire among both villagers and village and commune chiefs to act if presented with such an issue. Only 1 percent of village and commune chiefs say if an issue of domestic violence is brought to their attention, they would do nothing; 11 percent of villagers say likewise.

**GRAPH C.2: WHEN/IF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OCCURRED IN YOUR VILLAGE, WHAT WOULD HAPPEN?**



Base=304 adult respondents in Community Conversation Target Area (84 village and commune chiefs; 220 villagers)

**GRAPH C.3: HOW WOULD THE PERPETRATORS BE TREATED IN YOUR VILLAGE?**



Base=304 adult respondents in Community Conversation Target Area (84 village and commune chiefs; 220 villagers)

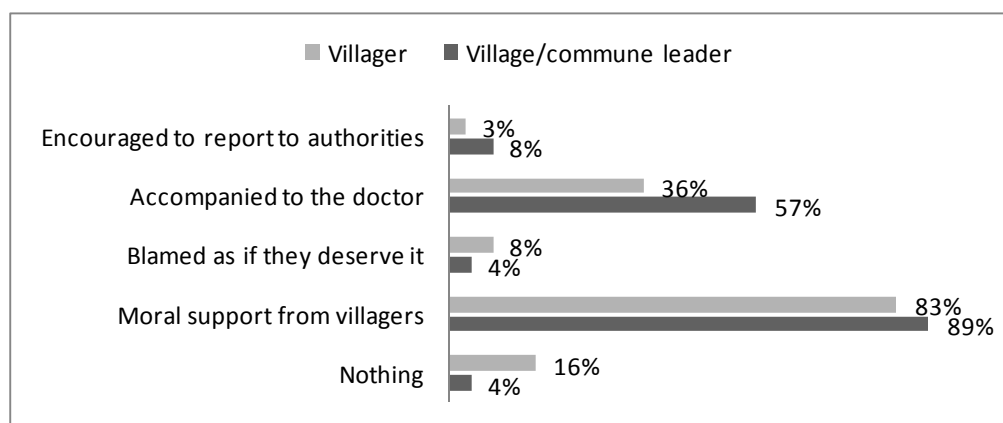
Answers to the question about how perpetrators are treated in their villages were diverse. Most villagers and village and commune chiefs said they are reprimanded by village leaders, but more than half of the villagers said they are arrested and imprisoned. Although it appears villagers do not prefer police action during interventions, they seem to prefer the police more than they do the leaders when it comes to dealing with punishment after the intervention.

More village and commune chiefs think the perpetrators are often tolerated than do villagers. Villagers prefer interventions by other community members, but women in particular want

perpetrators to be punished by the police. This indicates that villagers, particularly women, feel punishment should be more severe and/or overt than do village and commune chiefs.

Community help for victims of domestic violence is clearly available in the form of “moral support.” The vast majority of village and commune chiefs and villagers said victims receive such support from the villagers. Some said victims are taken to the doctor, but more village and commune chiefs chose this answer than did villagers. This could be because village or commune leaders do not get involved unless the situation is serious and there are injuries that may need medical treatment. This answer also implies that some violence taking place in the target area involves injuries requiring medical attention. A few said, however, there would be no help for the victims or that they would be blamed as if they deserved the violence.

**GRAPH C.4: HOW WOULD THE VICTIMS BE TREATED IN YOUR VILLAGE?**



Base=304 adult respondents in Community Conversation Target Area (84 village and commune chiefs; 220 villagers)

In sum, village chiefs and villagers/neighbors intervene when domestic violence occurs. Perpetrators are usually reprimanded by the village chiefs or arrested by the police. There is little tolerance among villagers, although village and commune chiefs believe that a relatively high level of perpetrators would be tolerated in their community. Villagers seem to see the police as a potential way to address the domestic violence issue—which the Community Conversation can point out to village and commune chiefs. Most villagers and village and commune chiefs believe victims receive moral support from villagers and sometimes medical assistance.

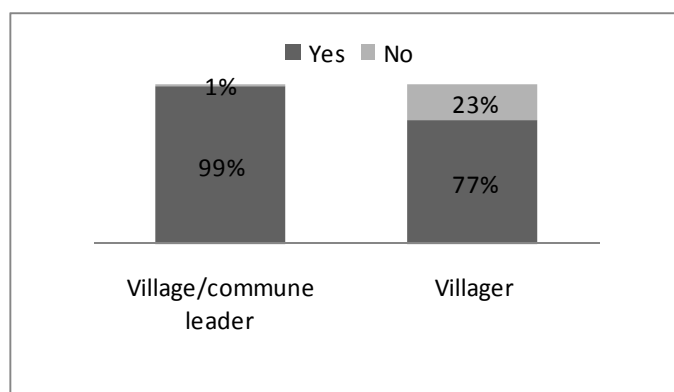
## D. Perception of the Community With Regard to Domestic Violence

This section deals with the existing community perceptions regarding whether and how people address domestic violence in the surveyed area in terms of interventions, punishments and services available for the victims. Almost all village and commune chiefs would take any action to intervene in a domestic violence incident. Twenty-three percent of villagers said they would **not** intervene if their neighbor was a victim of domestic violence. Seventy percent of those who would not intervene said they are afraid the perpetrator will hurt them, and 33 percent said it is not their business.

Direct personal intervention is the prime course of action among villagers. Among those who said they would intervene, 60 percent of men said they would go straight to the victim’s house and stop the perpetrator. Almost half of women said they would do the same, but 22 percent would report

the incident to the village chief, compared to 12 percent of men who would do so. About half of village and commune chiefs said they would get together with the perpetrator and/or the victim to resolve the problem and provide advice, indicating this is the role they believe they are to play as community leaders. Police involvement seems to be a last resort, only after intervention by neighbors and/or village chiefs.

**GRAPH D.1: IF YOUR NEIGHBOR WAS A VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, WOULD YOU TAKE ANY ACTION TO INTERVENE?**



Base=304 adult respondents in Community Conversation Target Area (84 village and commune chiefs; 220 villagers)

**TABLE D.1: IF YOU TOOK ACTION FOR A NEIGHBOR WHO IS A VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, WHICH ACTION WOULD YOU MOST LIKELY TAKE?**

	Village/commune leader	Male	Female
Go to victim's house and stop perpetrator	34%	60%	47%
Bring victim to safe place	5%	10%	11%
Report to village chief	1%	12%	22%
Report to police	7%	5%	9%
Ask elders or village leaders to intervene	2%	2%	1%
Get together to resolve problem and provide advice	49%	12%	11%
Arrest perpetrator	1%	0	0

Base=252 adult respondents in Community Conversation Target Area (83 village and commune chiefs; 169 villagers)

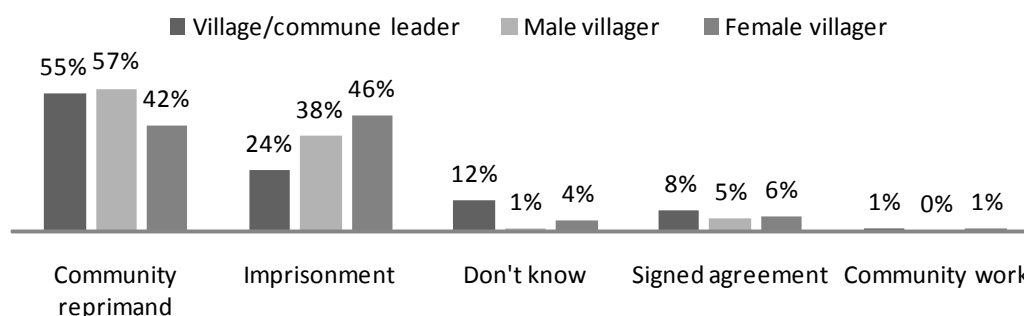
**TABLE D.2: IF SOMEONE IN YOUR FAMILY SUFFERED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, WHICH ACTION WOULD YOU MOST LIKELY TAKE?**

	Village/commune leader	Male	Female
Go to victim's house and stop perpetrator	34%	41%	40%
Bring victim to safe place	1%	13%	9%
Report to village chief	0	13%	20%
Report to police	0	3%	6%
Report commune council	1%	0	0
Ask victim's parents to intervene	2%	3%	5%
Ask elders or village leaders to intervene	2%	1%	1%
Get together to resolve problem and provide advice	58%	25%	20%

Base=299 adult respondents in Community Conversation Target Area (83 village and commune chiefs; 216 villagers)

Almost all said they would intervene if the victim is a member of their family (98 percent for villagers). More than half of village and commune chiefs (58 percent) said they would get together to resolve the problem and provide advice if a member of their family was a victim of domestic violence. More men and women also chose this option compared to the action they would take for their neighbor. About 40 percent of villagers would stop the perpetrators themselves, indicating that they would like to resolve their issues on their own and use more conciliatory action with family rather than direct intervention, compared with how they would intervene in cases involving their neighbors.

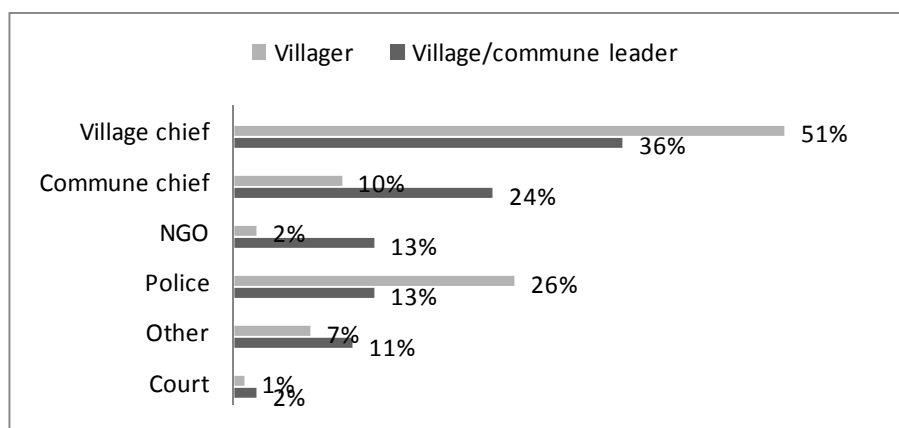
**GRAPH D.2: WHAT MEASURES WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PERPETRATORS?**



Base=298 adult respondents in Community Conversation Target Area (84 village and commune chiefs; 214 villagers)

In terms of consequences in a case of domestic violence, women, usually the main victims of such violence, want to see the toughest consequence, almost half (46 percent) preferring imprisonment. Village and commune chiefs and male villagers, on the other hand, prefer a “softer” approach. More than half of village and commune chiefs (55 percent) and men (57 percent) thought community reprimand would be appropriate punishment.

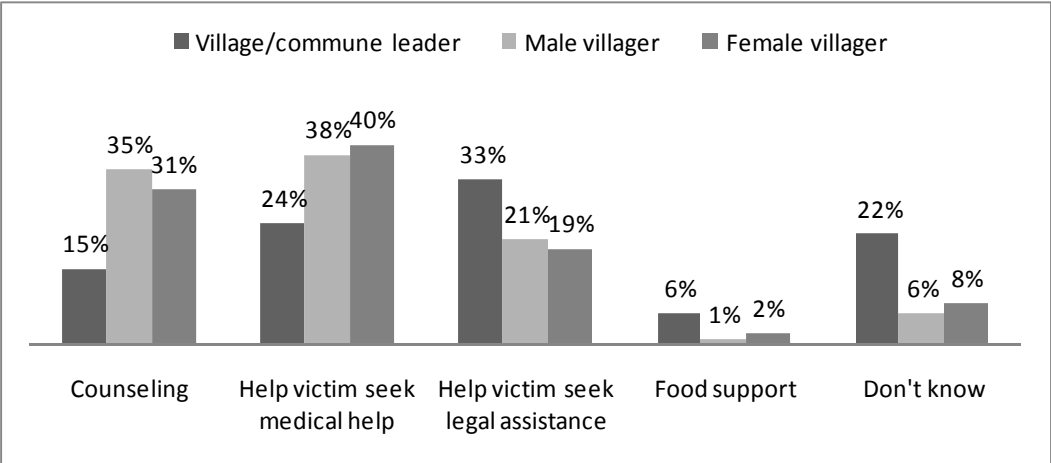
**GRAPH D.3: IF MEASURES ARE TAKEN, WHO SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR EXECUTING THE MEASURES?**



Base=304 adult respondents in Community Conversation Target Area (84 village and commune chiefs; 220 villagers)

In terms of executing the perpetrators' punishment, more than half of villagers thought village chiefs should be responsible for this; some thought the police could do this. Some villagers chose commune chiefs to execute the measure, but it seems most prefer village chiefs or the police over commune chiefs.

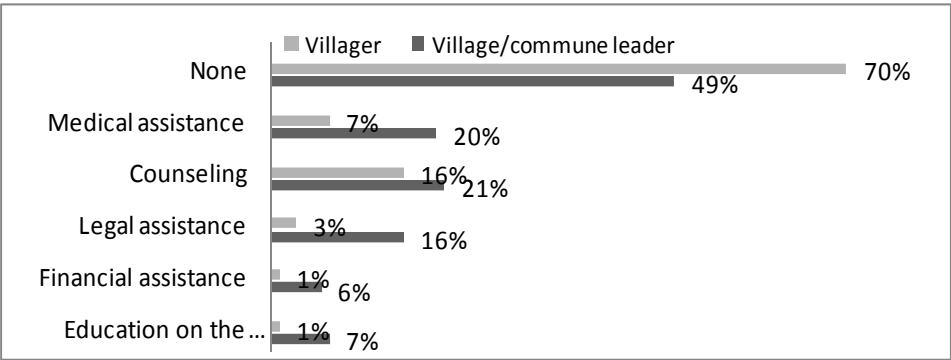
**GRAPH D.4: WHAT KIND OF ASSISTANCE DO YOU THINK THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS NEED?**



Base=304 adult respondents in Community Conversation Target Area (84 village and commune chiefs; 220 villagers)

Although both villagers and village and commune chiefs would like medical assistance, counseling and legal assistance in cases of domestic violence, more than two-thirds of villagers said none of this is available in their villages. However, village and commune chiefs claim they have access to medical assistance (20 percent), counseling (21 percent) and legal assistance (16 percent), which indicates most villagers are not aware of these services.

**GRAPH D.5: WHAT KIND OF ASSISTANCE IS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE TO VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN YOUR VILLAGE AND/OR COMMUNE?**



Base=304 adult respondents in Community Conversation Target Area (84 village and commune chiefs; 220 villagers)

Regardless of the community's willingness to intervene and punish the perpetrators, domestic violence continues to happen relatively frequently in the target area. Although it is important to increase awareness of the importance of community interventions and other options to deal with perpetrators, addressing the root causes of domestic violence, such as drunkenness associated

with poverty, jealousy and gambling, can be one way to prevent it. Another way would be to empower potential victims, as well to provide the legal and social pressure that would prevent potential perpetrators from committing the violence in the first place.

The Community Conversations project can explore different ways to empower victims and discourage the perpetrators, as well as to educate community members, all of whom are potential interveners in cases of domestic violence.

## **E. Conclusion**

This baseline survey has found that domestic violence is relatively common in the surveyed areas, and the vast majority of respondents—both village/commune chiefs and villagers—are aware of domestic violence cases in their villages. There is a general tendency to believe that domestic violence is an internal or community matter and should be addressed within the community. However, women's perceptions of how domestic violence has been and should be handled are slightly different from men. Women reported a higher number of domestic violence incidences in their villages, and fewer women than men think it is an internal family matter that should be addressed within the family and community.

In this context, the Community Conversation Project facilitators should consider having separate sessions for men, women and villager/commune leaders on their underlying assumptions about domestic violence. It is clear that the vast majority disapprove of domestic violence, but it is not clear where each group draws the line; i.e., how they distinguish violence from mere domestic disputes, at what point they think there should be an intervention and why, and who should intervene for different types of domestic violence. After these areas are thoroughly discussed, the facilitators can then address the gaps in their perceptions of domestic violence, and discuss ways for the community to educate each other about the seriousness of domestic violence as a crime and to prevent domestic violence in their own villages.

In addition, villagers' awareness of assistance available to the victims is relatively low compared to the village/commune chiefs. It is not clear how much assistance is actually available in each village or commune, but if assistance is indeed available, perhaps this should be communicated more clearly to villagers as well as to village/commune chiefs. The Community Conversation Project facilitators may consider covering this aspect during project implementation by making sure participants know about available assistance and how to access it.

The baseline survey has provided an overall picture of how villagers and village/commune leaders perceive domestic violence and what actually happens in the target villages. However, the survey has raised more questions which should be addressed in the next round of surveys. For instance, Siem Reap has higher incidences of domestic violence compared to the other two provinces. Although there may be various factors which explain the difference, they are not clear just by looking at the survey results. In addition, there are different perceptions which exist between male and female villagers, and between villagers and village/commune leaders. Again, the survey findings do not find the reasons for the differences. It is important to include these questions in the next round of surveys, and it is also important to consider semi-structured interviews with some respondents to understand the reasons in an ethnographic way to substantiate the survey findings.



## Appendix 1: Perceived Cases of Domestic Violence by Gender in Surveyed Villages

### 1-a: Kampong Chhnang Province

Kampong Chhnang		Female Villager	Male Villager
Commune	Village	Mean	Mean
Chres	Kbal Damrey	4	3
	Prabacheak	3	2
Or Russey	Kralanh	4	2
	Khnung	2	4
Peany	Soben	5	2
	Takol	3	1
Khun Rang	Serey	2	0
	Lbeuk	4	0
Chhnok Trou	Chhnok Trou	4	2
	Kampong Preah	3	0
Melum	Melum	2	0
	Srah Keo	6	3
Kbal Toek	Taing Sya	3	3
Khlong Popok	Trapaing Krabao	1	3
Aphiwat	Trapaing Prinh	3	3
Cheap	Sre Rabang	5	0
	Koh Kandal	4	3
Taing Krasaing	Chambak Kantreanh	0	5
	Kok Puoch	0	5

### 1-b: Kampong Speu Province

Kampong Speu		Female Villager	Male Villager
Commune	Village	Mean	Mean
Kak	Pchek	6	1
	Cheung Phnom	3	2
Phong	Dambok Khpus	3	2
	Trapeang Leap	3	0
Por Mreal	Salam	2	3

	Tagnuan	3	13
Ksem Ksan	Kakab	3	2
	Damnak Trach	7	3
Meanchey	Turnup Ang	3	2
	Sdok Saat	3	3
Veang Chass	Chen Dam Mlou	5	0
	Khleang Pram	1	0

### 1-c: Siem Reap Province

Siem Reap		Female Villager	Male Villager
Commune	Village	Mean	Mean
Damdek	Damdek Leu	1	6
	Or Rolus	5	0
Popel	Damrey Kon	13	2
	Prey Lean	17	14
Khna Sanday	Sanday	14	4
	Banteay Srey	5	5
Rum Chek	Veang Tatum	4	5
	Rum Chek	17	4
Boeng Mealea	Boeng Mealea	2	9
	Trapeang Russey	9	0
Svay Leu	Bet Phka	30	10
	Trapeang Khma	9	4
Krabei Real	Boeung	7	0
	Rokar	0	6
Reul	Kork Trach	7	0
	Trapeang Russey	4	25
Trapeang Thom	Ta Ei	30	7
Kandek	Kork Thlork	13	3
Svay Dangkum	Stoeng Thmey	2	3
	Svay Prey	8	20
Slar Kram	Mondul	9	6

	Chong Kao Sou	4	8
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## Appendix 2: Profile of Village Respondents

### 2-a: Sex

	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Female	130	59.1%
Male	90	40.9%
Total	220	100%

### 2-b: Age

	Number of Respondents	Percentage
15-24	47	21.4%
25-34	57	25.9%
35-44	52	23.6%
45-54	33	15.0%
55-64	21	9.5%
65+	10	4.5%
Total	220	100%

### 2-c: Education

	Number of Respondents	Percentage
No formal education (cannot read)	47	21.4%
No formal education (can read)	15	6.8%
Primary not completed	82	37.3%
Primary (1 to 6 grades)	23	10.5%
Lower secondary not completed	21	9.5%
Lower secondary (7 to 9 grades)	15	6.8%
Secondary School not completed	6	2.7%
Secondary School (10 to 12 grades)	10	4.5%
Undergraduate	1	0.5%
Total	220	100%

**2-d: Employment Status**

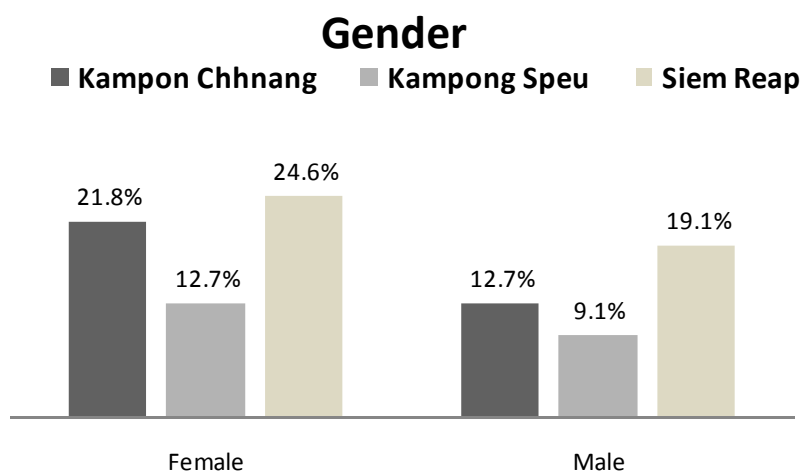
	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Working (full time and or part time)	182	82.7%
Not working	38	17.3%
Total	220	100%

**2-e: Occupation**

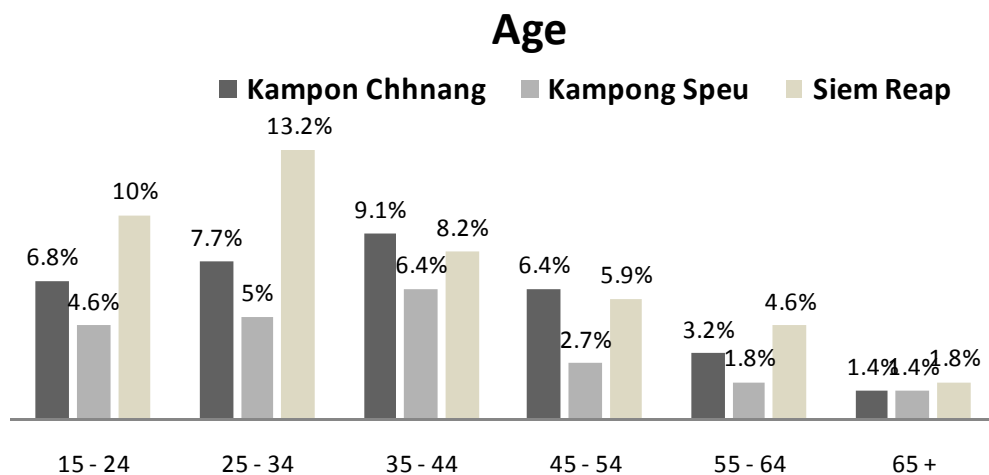
		Number of Respondents	Percentage
	Armed Forces	2	0.9%
	Professionals	1	0.5%
	Technicians and associate professionals	4	1.8%
	Sale and service workers, shop attendants etc	2	0.9%
	Skilled agriculture and fishery workers	123	55.9%
	Craftsman, building workers and related trade workers	18	8.2%
	Plant and machine operators, vehicle, and assemblers	2	0.9%
	Street vendors	12	5.5%
	Wage laborers	15	6.8%
	Local authorities	3	1.4%
	Total	182	82.7%
	No Answer	38	17.3%
Total		220	100%

## Appendix 3: Village Respondent Profile by Province

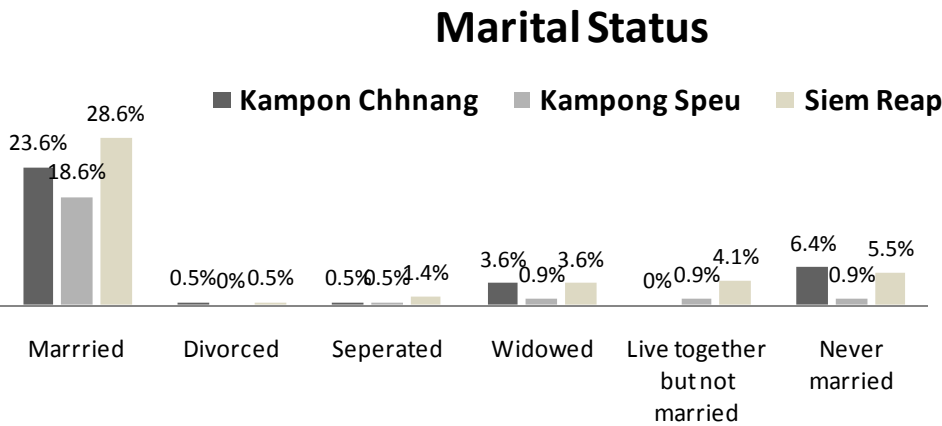
### 3-a: Sex



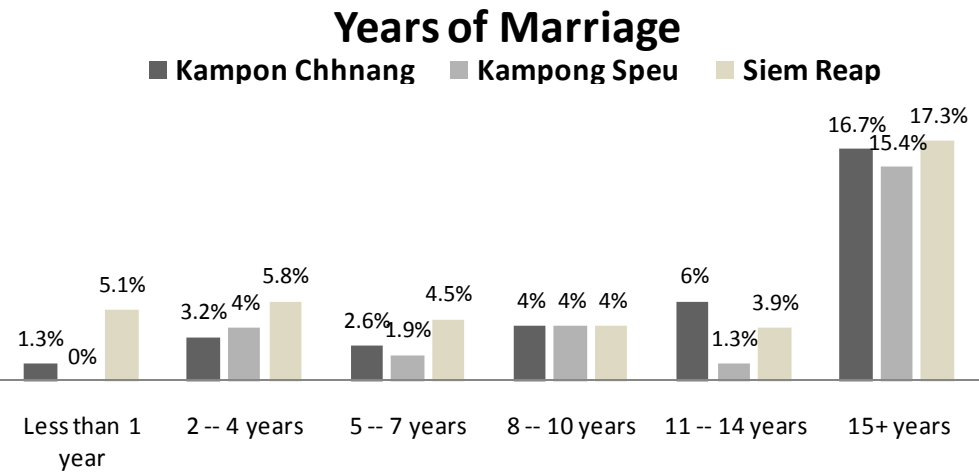
### 3-b: Age



3-c: Marital Status

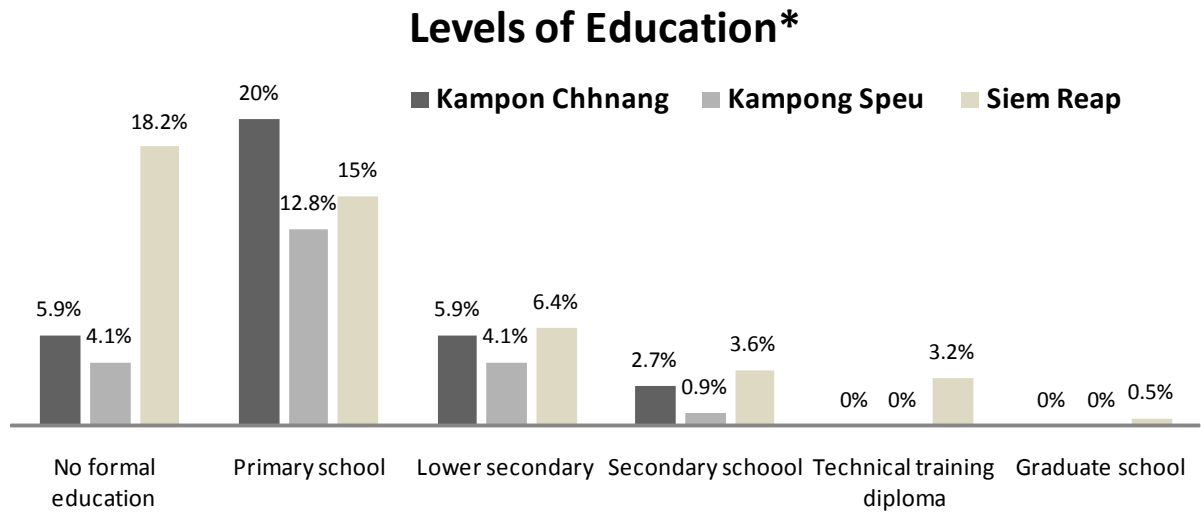


3-d: Years of Marriage

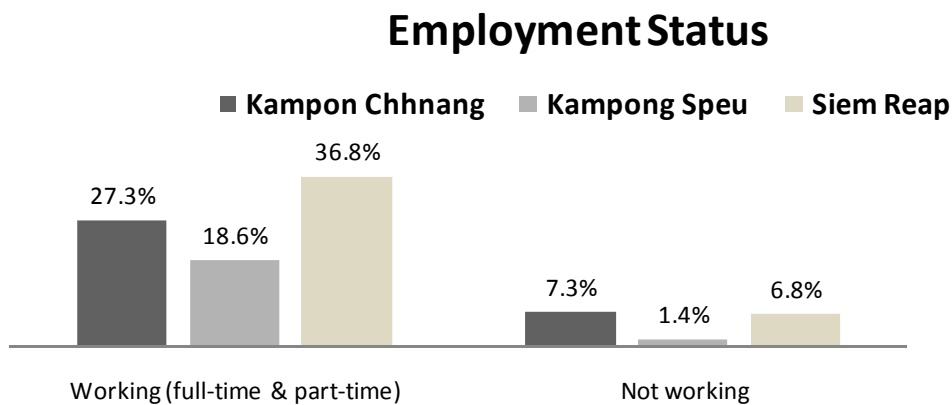




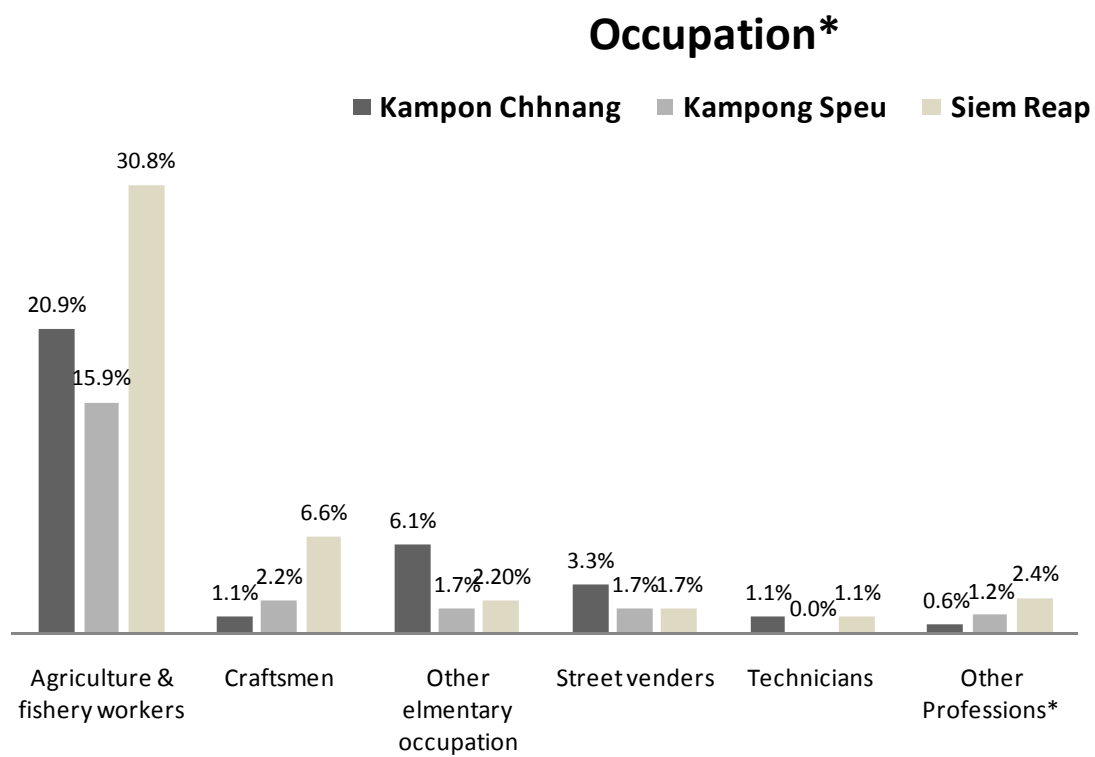
3-e: Levels of Education



3-f: Employment Status



### 3-g: Occupation



## Appendix VI: Domestic Violence Baseline Questionnaire

### BASELINE QUESTIONNAIRE – Community Conversations with focus on Domestic Violence (1st Draft March 5, 2008)

#### To be explained to each respondent before conducting the survey:

*This is a survey about domestic violence in your village. It will take approx. 20-30 minutes to complete. We are using it to understand how our project can better help in addressing the issue of domestic violence for people in this village. Please answer all the questions as honestly as you can, giving as much detail as possible. All of your answers will remain completely confidential; your names will not be used and your specific answers will not be shared with people in your village. All the answers we get will be combined and will form part of one large overall report on the topic of domestic violence. Nobody will know who participated in the survey or where they lived.*

#### Demographic Information about respondent:

a. **Sex:** Female ☐ Male ☐

b. **Age:** 15-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65+ ☐

c. What is your **current marital status**? (Read responses)

	<i>Single code</i>
Married	1
Divorced	2
Separated	3
Widowed	4
Living together but not married	5
Never been married	6
DK/NS	98
NR/Refused	99

d. How many **years have you been married?**

	<i>Single code</i>
Less than 1 year	1
2 – 4 years	2
5 – 7 years	3
8 – 10 years	4
11- 14 years	5
15+ years	6

e. **And what age is your spouse?:**

15-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65+ ☐

f. What level of **education** do you have? (*Probe to precodes below – single answer*):

	<i>Single code</i>
No formal education (cannot read)	1
No formal education (can read)	2
Primary not completed	3
Primary (1 to 6 grades)	4
Lower Secondary not completed	5
Lower Secondary (7 to 9 grades)	6
Secondary School not completed	7
Secondary School (10 to 12 grades)	8
Technical Training Diploma (1 to 3 years)	9
Undergraduate	10
Graduate Degree Holder	11
Postgraduate Degree Holder	12
DK/NS	98
NR/Refused	99

g. What is your present **Employment status?** Are you:

	<i>Single code</i>	
Working (full time and or part time)	1	<i>Go to h</i>

Not working	2	<i>Go to j</i>
DK/NS	98	
NR/Refused	99	

h. What is your main Occupation (Probe to precodes below – single answer):

	<i>Single code</i>
Armed Forces	1
Legislators, senior officials and managers	2
Professionals	3
Technicians and associate professionals	4
Clerical staff, cashiers etc.	5
Sale and service workers, shop attendants etc.	6
Skilled agriculture and fishery workers	7
Craftsman, building workers and related trade workers	8
Plant and machine operators, vehicle, and assemblers	9
Street vendors	10
Other elementary occupation	11
Other.....	12
DK/NS	98
NR/Refused	99

j. If you're **not working**, what is your status?

	<i>Single code</i>
Student	1
Non-working pensioner or invalid	2
Housewife/on maternity leave	3
Temporarily unemployed and looking for work	4
Temporarily unemployed and not looking for work	5
Other non-working ( <i>record and code</i> )_____	6
DK/NS	98
NR/Refused	99

k. What is your **Spouses Employment status**? Are they:

	<i>Single code</i>	
Working (full time and or part time)	1	<i>Go to l</i>

Not working	2	<i>Go to m</i>
DK/NS	98	
NR/Refused	99	

l. What is your **Spouse's Occupation** (*Probe to precodes below – single answer*):

	<i>Single code</i>
Armed Forces	1
Legislators, senior officials and managers	2
Professionals	3
Technicians and associate professionals	4
Clerical staff, cashiers etc.	5
Sale and service workers, shop attendants etc.	6
Skilled agriculture and fishery workers	7
Craftsman, building workers and related trade workers	8
Plant and machine operators, vehicle, and assemblers	9
Street vendors	10
Other elementary occupation	11
Other.....	12
DK/NS	98
NR/Refused	99

m. If your **Spouse is not working**, what is their status?

	<i>Single code</i>
Student	1
Non-working pensioner or invalid	2
Housewife/on maternity leave/house husband	3
Temporarily unemployed and looking for work	4
Temporarily unemployed and not looking for work	5
Other non-working ( <i>record and code</i> ) _____	6
DK/NS	98
NR/Refused	99

## A. Understanding the Specific Community Context of Domestic Violence

**Interviewer Read Out:** I am going to ask you some questions about domestic violence in your village. When I say domestic violence, I am referring to five main types of abuse, namely physical, emotional, financial, sexual or psychological abuse.

1. **Did you hear about or do you know anyone who has experienced domestic violence in your village in the last 12 months?** *(Single answer)*

Yes ☐ (go to Q1a)

No ☐ (go to Q2)

1a **How many cases of domestic violence do you know of or how many cases did you hear about in your village in the last 12 months?** *(Write number)*

\_\_\_\_\_

2. **How often, do you think, domestic violence occurs in your village?** *(Single answer)*

a. Very often ☐ (go to Q3)

b. Quite common ☐ (go to Q3)

c. Sometimes ☐ (go to Q3)

d. Not very often ☐ (go to Q3)

e. **Never** ☐ (Skip to Q8)

3. **Who commits domestic violence in your village?** *(Multiple answer)*

a. Husband commits against wife ☐

b. Wife against husband ☐

c. Parents against children ☐

d. Children against parents ☐

e. Other relatives ☐

4 **Who usually commits domestic violence in your village?** *(Single answer)*

- a. Husband commits against wife ☐
- b. Wife against husband ☐
- c. Parents against children ☐
- d. Children against parents ☐
- e. Other relatives ☐

5. What are the **top 3 causes of domestic violence in your village?** Please rank them #1, 2 and 3. (Probe to pre-codes below – rank only 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>d</sup>)

RANK 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	
a. Drunkenness	
b. Failure to perform household work	
c. Gambling	
d. Joblessness	
e. Exercising dominant power	
f. Jealousy	
g. Lack of education	
h. Drugs	
i. _____ Other _____ (please specify)	

## B. Understanding Domestic Violence concepts within the Village Context

**Interviewer Read Out:** Now I would like to ask you some questions about the kinds of domestic violence which may have occurred in your village.

6. Can you name the **kinds of domestic violence** that you heard about in the village? (Multiple answer)

- a. Physical assault (e.g. hitting, slapping, kicking and punching) ☐
- b. Verbal assault (e.g. shouting and using condescending words that cause hurt) ☐



- c. Psychological abuse (*e.g. threats of abandonment, emotional abuse, etc.*) ☐
- d. Economic abuse (*e.g. withholding food or other materials needs*) ☐
- f. Sexual abuse (*e.g. rape and sexual assaults*) ☐

**7. In general what is the reaction of people in your village to reports or suspicions of domestic violence in your community? (Multiple answer)**

- a. Shock (*e.g. People cannot believe it has happened*) ☐
- b. Anger (*e.g. People get outraged when they hear*) ☐
- c. Upset (*e.g. People are deeply concerned and upset*) ☐
- d. Vengeful (*e.g. People want to take revenge for what happened*) ☐
- f. Silent (*e.g. People do not discuss it or speak out about it*) ☐
- g. Secretive (*e.g. People know it is happening but discuss it discretely*) ☐
- h. Open to discuss (*e.g. People want to openly discuss it to resolve the problem*) ☐
- i. Dismissive (*e.g. People do not want to or intend to believe it is true*) ☐
- j. Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_ ☐

**8. When you *hear the term "domestic violence"*, what is the first thing that comes to your mind? (Interviewer: Please try to write as much of respondents comment as possible)**

**9. Why does that particular thought come into your mind first?** *(Interviewer: Please try to write as much of respondents comment as possible)*

**10. Do you think domestic violence is an internal family dispute and should be settled by the family?** *(single answer)*

Yes ☐ *(go to Q10a)*    No ☐ *(go to Q10a)*

**10a. Explain your answer?** *(Interviewer ask of all respondents)*

**11. Thinking of the types of domestic violence and how, in general they affect the victim, can you try to *describe some of the adverse effects of domestic violence* on the different people involved. I will go through the names of some of them and you can comment on each, one at a time Firstly, how do you think domestic violence affects:**

*(Interviewer – Read out each one and record comments by respondents)*

**a. Victim:**

**b. *Perpetrator:***

--

**c. *Children (if victims are children)***

--

**d. *Wives or Mothers (If victims are children)***

--

**e. *Community***

--

## C. Past actions taken by the Community to deal with Domestic Violence

**Interviewer Read Out:** Now I would like to focus on the action that is taken by the community in dealing with domestic violence. The next few questions will focus on this topic.

**12. Until now, when/if domestic violence occurred in your village, what would happen?** (Multiple answer)

- a. Village chief separate the perpetrator from the victim ☐
- b. Commune chief/village/commune police arrest the perpetrator and detain him/her for a while ☐
- c. Neighbors will intervene to help ☐
- d. Nothing, it would be settled in the house ☐
- e. Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_ ☐
- f. I don't know ☐
- g. No Answer/Refused ☐

**13. When/if domestic violence occurs, will neighbors/villagers intervene?** (Single answer)

Yes ☐ (go to Q13a)

No ☐ (go to Q13b)

**13a. If YES at Q. 13, what would the villagers usually do?** (Multiple Answer)

- a. Go to the victim's house and stop the perpetrator ☐
- b. Bring the victim to a safe place ☐
- c. Report to chief of village ☐
- d. Report/complain to the commune police ☐
- e. Report/complain to commune council ☐
- f. Ask the parents of the husband/wife to intervene ☐
- g. Ask elder or influential person in the village to intervene ☐
- h. Get together in order to find ways to resolve domestic violence ☐
- i. Other: (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_ ☐

**13b. If NO at Q13, why would neighbors/villagers not intervene? (Multiple answer)**

- a. Do not believe it is any of their business ☐
- b. Do not want to draw more attention to the situation ☐
- c. Do not believe it could be true ☐
- c. Afraid of reprisals from the perpetrator ☐
- d. Afraid they would be viewed as trouble makers by villagers ☐
- e. Would rely on someone else intervening ☐
- f. Believe that the village leaders and elders should handle it ☐
- g. Do not care because this is the way things are ☐
- h. Because they feel the victim may have caused it to happen ☐
- i. They believe it was an accident and won't happen again ☐
- f. Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_ ☐

**14. How would the perpetrators be *treated* in your village? (Multiple Answer)**

- a. Tolerated ☐
- b. Reprimanded by village leaders and elders ☐
- c. Arrested and imprisoned ☐
- d. There is no domestic violence in my village ☐
- e. Don't know ☐
- f. Other: (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_ ☐

**15. How would the victims be treated in your village? (Multiple Answer)**

- a. Nothing - pretend that it never happened ☐
- b. Villagers provide moral support to them ☐
- c. Being blamed as though they deserved it ☐
- d. There is no domestic violence in my village ☐
- e. Don't Know ☐

f. Other: (please specify)\_\_\_\_\_ ☐

## D. Perception of the community with regard to domestic violence

**Interviewer Read Out:** In this last section, I would like to ask you a few questions on how you feel your community should or could help in cases of domestic violence, and how you have or would handle a situation of this nature both in terms of your family and neighbors.

**16. What do you think people in the village *should or could* do if they choose to intervene?** (Multiple Answer)

- a. Go the victim's house and stop the perpetrator ☐
- b. Bring the victim to a safe place ☐
- c. Report to chief of village ☐
- d. Report/complain to the commune police ☐
- e. Report/complain to commune council ☐
- f. Ask the parents of the husband/wife to intervene ☐
- g. Ask elder or respected person in the village to intervene ☐
- h. Get together in order to find ways to resolve domestic violence ☐
- i. Other: (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_ ☐

**17. If your *neighbor* was a victim of domestic violence, would you take any action to intervene?** (Single Answer)

Yes ☐ (go to Q17a THEN go to Q.17b)      No ☐ (answer Q17a then skip to Q.18)

17a. Explain your answer (Interviewer – ask all respondents but follow Q16 skip pattern)

17b. If YES (at Q. 17), which action would you most likely take? (Single Answer)

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| a. Go the victim's house and stop the perpetrator                  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Bring the victim to a safe place                                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Report to chief of village                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Report/complain to the commune police                           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Report/complain to commune council                              | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. Ask the parents of the husband/wife to intervene                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g. Ask elder or influential person in the village to intervene     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h. Get together in order to find ways to resolve domestic violence | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| i. Other: (Please specify)_____                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> |

18.If someone in your *family* was a victim of domestic violence, would you take any action to intervene? (Single Answer)

Yes ☐ (go to Q18b)

No ☐ (go to Q18a then skip to Q.19)

18a. If **NO** at Q18, explain your answer (*ask only for NO at Q18 then skip to Q19*)

18b. If **YES**, which action would you **most likely** take? (*Single Answer*)

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| a. Go the victim's house and stop the perpetrator                  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Bring the victim to a safe place                                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Report to chief of village                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Report/complain to the commune police                           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Report/complain to commune council                              | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. Ask the parents of the husband/wife to intervene                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g. Ask elder or influential person in the village to intervene     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h. Get together in order to find ways to resolve domestic violence | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| i. Other: ( <i>please specify</i> ) _____                          | <input type="checkbox"/> |

19. Do you think the person who commits domestic violence should have measures taken against them? (*single answer*)

Yes ☐ (*go to Q20*)

No ☐ (*skip to Q.22*)



**20. If YES, what is the appropriate measure?** *(single answer)*

- a. Imprisonment ☐
- b. Community work ☐
- c. Community reprimand ☐
- d. Other: (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_ ☐

**21. If YES, and measures are taken, who should be responsible for executing the measures?** *(single answer and skip to Q 22)*

- a. Village chief ☐
- b. Commune chief ☐
- c. Police ☐
- d. Court ☐
- e. Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_ ☐

**22. If NO (at Q19), what **alternative action(s)** do you suggest to take against the perpetrator?** *(Interviewer probe for as many alternatives as the respondent can think of)*

**23. What kind of assistance do you think a domestic violence victim needs?** *(multiple answer)*

- a. Counsel the victim in order to relieve him/her from trauma ☐
- b. Help the victim to seek medical/psychological assistance ☐
- c. Help the victim to seek legal assistance ☐
- ☐

d. Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**24. What kind of assistance is currently available to victims of domestic violence in your village and/or commune? (multiple answer)**

- a. Counseling to support the victim in order to relieve him/her from trauma ☐
- b. Medical/psychological assistance ☐
- c. Legal assistance ☐
- d. Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_ ☐

***Thank you for taking the time to answer our questions.***

**Final comments, if any, from the interviewer relating to this interview:**