

## Table of Contents

- Joint Gender Training in Phnom Penh
- Pilot site visit in Siem Reap Province by H.E. Minister of Women's Affairs and officials of the partner line Ministries
- Site selection for pilot activities in Kampong Thom Province and Tboung Khmum Province

## Recent Activities

### Jan. 2020

- Phnom Penh
  - Joint Gender Training
- Kampong Chhnang Province
  - End-line survey preparation
- Siem Reap Province
  - Pilot site visit by the Minister of Women's Affairs and partner line Ministries
  - The second gender training
- Kampong Thom Province and Tboung Khmum Province
  - Pilot activities' preparation (pilot site selection)

### Feb. 2020

- Kampong Chhnang Province
  - The second gender statistics workshop
  - End-line survey including case study session
- Siem Reap Province
  - Business Training (Business stakeholder analysis)
- Kampong Thom Province
  - The second WEE-WG meeting
  - Feasibility survey in the candidate sites (8 villages) for the pilot activities
- Tboung Khmum Province
  - The second WEE-WG meeting

Please visit JICA's website and JICA Cambodia Office's Facebook page to learn more about our activities:  
<https://www.jica.go.jp/project/cambodia/023/index.html>  
<https://www.facebook.com/JICACambodia/>

## Joint Gender Training in Phnom Penh

PGM-WEE conducted a joint gender training in Phnom Penh at the end of January 2020. The participants were officials from eight provincial departments in the five target provinces: Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Thom, Tboung Khmum, Siem Reap and Kampong Cham provinces. The training was divided into two days, and a total of 193 people, including counterparts from Ministry of Women's Affairs (MOWA) and officials from partner line Ministries, attended the training.



Participants in the Joint Gender Training (Phnom Penh)

The training aimed to improve participants' understanding of women's economic empowerment (WEE), including basic concepts such as "gender" and "empowerment". It also intended to promote understanding of the importance of gender mainstreaming in their administrative operations and services. Ms. Akane Totani, the team leader of PGM-WEE, facilitated the training. She encouraged active discussions and interactions among the participants, mainly through group works.



Group Discussion during the Training

Through this gender training, participants were able to gain a common understanding that the pilot activities supported by the project aim to promote WEE through livelihood improvement, and that the project will focus on five elements for the promotion of WEE (opportunity to participate, information sharing, sharing roles and responsibilities, control of income, and decision making). In particular, for those involved in Kampong Thom and Tboung Khmum provinces, where the pilot activities will be launched soon, it was possible to clarify the direction of the project prior to pilot site selection and planning of activities. It resulted that their understanding of the objectives and scope of the pilot activities became more precise. Besides, through this opportunity, concerned officials from each province, including the Chair of the Women and Children's Consultative Committee and the Chair of WEE Working Group (Deputy Governor), could come together to share their experiences and learn from each other.

## Pilot Site Visits by H.E. Minister of Women's Affairs and Partner Line Ministries (Siem Reap Province)

In the mid-term review and Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) held last December, it was pointed out that PGM-WEE needs to be more active in involving officials from the partner line Ministries into the project activities. Following this recommendation, H.E. Ing Kantha Phavi, the Minister of Women's Affairs, officials from eight partner line Ministries, including Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and Ministry of Commerce, and the member of the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) visited the project pilot site in Siem Reap on January 14<sup>th</sup>. Through this visit program, the concerned officials recognized that PGM-WEE has been implementing the pilot activities smoothly in cooperation with Siem Reap's provincial government. Notably, they learned that the project has been providing skill training for women for small-scale businesses by effective manner in collaboration with the relevant provincial departments. Our project will take this opportunity to support the promotion of WEE in Siem Reap Province in further cooperation with the partner line Ministries as well as the provincial departments.



Women group for broom making (Knar Por CBT site)

## Gender Training – What is WEE ?

At the same timing of the visit program in Siem Reap mentioned above, the second gender training for villagers was conducted in Kompong Phlok CBT site on Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> and in Knar Por village on 15<sup>th</sup>. In this training, the villagers had a group discussion to understand the process of WEE. They deepened their understanding that the purpose of the pilot activities is not only to improve livelihood (earn cash income), but also to empower women and realize gender equality through the income generating activities. In Kompong Phlok CBT site, the results of the group work were shared with H.E. Minister and other officials who visited the village. It was reported that illustrations were effectively used in the training to help villagers, who are mostly illiterate, understand the concept of WEE, and that women were willing to share their experiences and actively exchanged their opinions through the group work.

## Site Selection for Pilot Activities (Kampong Thom and Tboung Khmum Provinces)

In Kampong Thom and Tboung Khmum provinces, site selection for pilot activities is underway. Based on the results of the interviews, which focused on gender issues and business situation, with five women's groups at the candidate sites in each province, the selection criteria for the pilot activity were developed. The criteria consist of 10 items, such as consistency with provincial policies, business potential, active participation of women and commitment of local authorities.

After having approval of the selection criteria by WEE-Working Group (WEE-WG), MOWA counterparts and officials from partner line Ministries and provincial departments have been conducting feasibility survey: 1) interview with local authorities, 2) gender-specific focus group discussions with villagers and 3) market survey in each province. The final site selection will be made after analyzing the result of the survey.



Focus group discussion with female farmers during the interview with village women (Kampong Thom Province)

### Promoting women's empowerment through livelihood improvement (A Case from Kampong Chhnang Province)

The pilot activity (support for chicken raising activity) has been completed in Kampong Chhnang Province. As a result of improving livelihoods through the chicken raising activity, how the target women changed is presented below as a case of WEE.

#### ◆ Story from a training participant (Name withheld, Female, Married, Three children)

The farmer, together with her husband, attended pilot activities 11 times in total. They learned how to build a shelter through technical training by PGM-WEE, and started keeping chickens in the shelter instead of free-ranging as they learnt. Also, frequent water changes and the practice of keeping the shelter clean helped the chickens become healthier and grow better. Since it brought a positive impact on income, her husband became interested in such changes and began to work with her on chicken raising. Gradually, she became able to state her opinion to her husband more often without hesitation. She also shared with her husband what she learned in the gender training, and she is now able to decide on daily expenses and control household income. Sometimes, there used to be domestic violence, but it is no more happening these days.