



**International Bridges to Justice
Annual Progress Report [from July 2013 – June 2014]
Achieving Comprehensive Legal Aid in Cambodia**

1. Summary data

Grant Agreement #	64667
Name of organisation	International Bridges to Justice (IBJ)
Project title	Achieving Comprehensive Legal Aid in Cambodia
Project manager's name (& position)	Mr. Ouk Vandeth (Country Program Manager)
Location/s	Cambodia: Court of Appeal, Battambang province, Banteay Meanchey province, Kampong Thom Province, Pursat Province, Prey Veng Province, Rattanakiri Province, Mondulkiri Province, Takeo Province, Kandal, Kampong Speu, Phnom Penh, with legal services provided to neighbouring provinces on a case-by-case basis (Pailin Province, Oddear Meanchey Province, Preah Vihear Province, Kampong Chhnang Province, Svay Rieng Province, Stung Treng Province, Kratie Province, and Kampot Province).
Total funding	USD 900,000
Implementing partner/s	/
Start date	21 November 2012
Finish date	30 November 2015

Narrative report

2. Summary of progress**2.1. Project overall objectives** (as stated in final proposal accepted by DFAT)

IBJ's goal is to create a sustainable criminal justice system that guarantees all citizens the right to competent legal representation, the right to be protected from cruel and unusual punishment, and the right to a fair trial.

IBJ's overall objective is to ensure enhanced delivery of justice and the implementation of the rule of law, particularly at the local level, by building and strengthening key foundations of an effective justice sector throughout Cambodia. Specifically, the development of trained and accountable justice officials, effective legal aid providers, and citizens who are knowledgeable of their rights and responsibilities.

Specific Objectives:

Objective 1: to provide high quality legal aid services to the poorest of the poor, and to provide access to legal counsel for the accused as soon as possible upon arrest, so to eliminate instances of torture or other inhumane treatment, excessive pre-trial detention and reduce prison overcrowding.

Objective 2: to build capacity and develop collaborative relationships with key justice stakeholders that will strengthen good governance, including: the Ministry of Justice, Department of Prisons, Cambodian National Police, Court Officials, and other local and national officials who are in the best position to ensure good governance and the protection of the rights of the accused.

Objective 3: to inform ordinary citizens of their rights and empower them to demand their rights in the context of any interactions with the Cambodian justice system.

These three objectives are service-oriented in nature. In addition, the three year grant includes an **Objective 4:** to develop the understanding within government of the value of legal aid so that government develops over time the political will to implement and support national legal aid on its own behalf.

2.2. Activities

Note: IBJ is reporting its activities for the period running from 1 July 2013 to 30 April 2014. The results and progress achieved in May and June 2014 will be communicated in the next progress report for Year 3 of the project, due on 15 January 2015.

a. Legal defence services in provincial courts and at the Court of Appeal

IBJ provided free legal defence services to poor accused citizens at the earliest possible stage in the arrest and detention process through its eight Defender Resource Centres (DRCs), its head office in Phnom Penh, and its office at the Court of Appeal. For another 10 months, IBJ was able to maintain its local presence through the DRCs and to keep a full-time legal aid team, maintaining legal aid services in remote provinces where there are otherwise no legal aid services available for accused people and also very few lawyers or legal aid organizations. This local presence in a total of 20 out of 25 provinces confirmed IBJ's contribution to the expanded reach of Cambodia's legal aid services.

b. Access to Justice Roundtable discussions

During Year 2, IBJ organized roundtable discussions according to the initial proposal, while also further developing their scope. IBJ continued to organize roundtable discussions in order to bring together provincial justice sector stakeholders (judges, prosecutors, prison officials, police officers, government officials, CSOs) to discuss the interpretation of unclear articles of the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure and follow the strict implementation of the criminal procedure. Representatives from the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and the President of the Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia (BAKC) alternated chairing the discussions, which were designed to address local justice stakeholders' demand for clarification on the meaning of the law and to make participants aware of the role and importance of a defence lawyer. Roundtable discussions enable IBJ to engage national authorities in a dialogue about the current criminal justice system. This is an important step towards building deeper governmental support for providing free legal aid services. The roundtable discussions are an important component of the collaboration between IBJ and the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and the Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia (BAKC). In line with IBJ's concentration on providing early access to legal counsel to eliminate investigative torture, IBJ also developed and organized roundtable discussions that were chaired by provincial prosecutors and attended by judicial police officers. In the chain of criminal procedure, provincial prosecutors are the link bridging law enforcement and judicial authorities. These roundtable discussions aimed to address police officers' questions regarding the implementation of the Code of Criminal Procedure and focused particularly on diversifying investigation techniques. The aim of these talks was to decrease the strong tendency to rely on confessions made during the police stage to convict the accused.

c. Community Legal Awareness (CLA) Campaigns

During Year 2, IBJ continued to raise Cambodian citizens' awareness of their legal rights with CLA campaigns. IBJ lawyers conducted the campaigns in remote areas, where people would otherwise have no information on legal issues and legal aid services. Additionally, CLA sessions served as a

tool for IBJ to disseminate information about the existence of the provincial DRCs to the surrounding communities, so that IBJ may receive future cases by word-of-mouth from members of the community, family members, friends, and neighbours alike. Throughout the CLA sessions, IBJ lawyers answered participants' questions, which often related to issues and situations in their daily lives. At every presentation, IBJ also distributed leaflets written in Khmer on legal rights. For each CLA campaign organized, the IBJ lawyers invited local authorities to attend in order to enhance their understanding of the law and build their capacities to advise their local community on legal issues. While pursuing the organization of its own CLA sessions, IBJ facilitated and participated in several Road Mobile Shows in partnership with the East West Management Institute (EWMI) within the geographic coverage of DRCs 1, 2, 3 and 4. The Road Mobile Shows were dynamic, participatory events that both showed many movies and organized quizzes on legal issues. IBJ lawyers answered to the legal questions raised by participants. Moreover, IBJ and EWMI developed and distributed several legal dissemination materials to help IBJ lawyers to conduct their sessions. IBJ has been working on continuously improving the quality of its legal awareness activities. IBJ drew on its 6-year experience in promoting community legal awareness to identify the best techniques to use in such campaigns and provided in line with those methodologies to its lawyers and lawyer assistants for the benefit of the Community Legal Awareness with EWMI.

d. Lawyers trainings

In order to enhance its legal aid lawyers' and lawyer assistants' knowledge in a number of legal areas and to increase their capacity to provide quality legal aid services to the people, IBJ conducted several lawyer training sessions. IBJ's legal team and the IBJ Country Director and the Deputy Country Director-Legal Advisor determined the topics of each training session according to where they saw room for improvement. This year, a focus was put on trial advocacy skills and techniques to interpret the provisions of the Criminal and Criminal Procedure Codes. One training session was led by three experienced prosecutors from the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC). Through this initiative, IBJ endeavoured to bring its lawyers in contact with a different legal approach by way of savvy advice from professionals that are usually their opponents in the court room. Furthermore, IBJ organized a workshop with partner pro bono public law firms, Vishnu Law Group and Samreth Law Group, for all lawyers to share their experience in their respective areas of legal expertise. In addition to law-focused training sessions, IBJ organized similar training sessions designed to hone the skills necessary for lawyers and lawyer assistants to conduct their activities in an effective and efficient manner. Indeed, to increase the impact of its CLA sessions, IBJ conducted a training session to present new law dissemination tools and methodologies. Similarly, IBJ organized a complementary training session to strengthen its lawyers' and lawyer assistants' skills both project management and monitoring and evaluation.

e. Radio Rights Awareness

IBJ continued to broadcast four-minute radio spots explaining the legal rights of the citizens and of the accused. The radio ads also informed people about IBJ's work and provided the hotline phone number and address of the nearest DRC. This program was broadcasted in all eight provinces covered by a DRC, plus Pailin and Preah Vihear provinces. Furthermore, IBJ recorded live radio talk shows which were broadcasted on national radio stations. During the shows, IBJ lawyers answered live questions and discussed the following topics: the rights of the accused, the rights of a suspected person in police custody, the role of the investigating judge and the rights of the accused during the investigation stage. At IBJ's request, two lawyers from the BAKC, two lawyers from another NGO and one private lawyer co-hosted the radio programs.

f. Legal Aid Hotline

IBJ maintained its hotline phone number nationwide in order to enable people to call a lawyer right after an arrest. The hotline allows IBJ to provide the fastest possible legal representation to detainees and enables anyone seeking advice regarding various legal issues to speak to a lawyer. Contact details of the hotline number were given during IBJ's radio programs and the CLA sessions.

g. Regular CSOs/partners meetings at the local level

IBJ conducted regular meetings in each of its provincial DRCs with CSOs/partners working in the justice sector in the same province. These meetings were useful for disseminating information about IBJ and for IBJ to learn about other organizations as well. Increased cooperation among CSOs at the local level enables better coordination between their respective actions. The CSOs/partners meetings have helped IBJ and other organizations to establish a system of mutual referrals of cases.

h. Success Stories

In order to show its impact, IBJ drew upon emblematic stories from its caseload in which the rights of the accused were protected and the cases achieved positive outcomes thanks to the involvement of IBJ’s lawyers. Some of these case studies were published on IBJ’s blog or on donors’ websites to provide a clear look into the realities of what IBJ does, and the changes that its work is able to bring to real systems and real peoples’ lives.

i. Policy Dialogue to build political will for national legal aid

IBJ has been striving to facilitate the policy dialogue for national legal aid throughout its whole project, taking a multi-level approach. At the local level, IBJ’s implementation at the DRCs provides a concrete example of effective legal aid and a model for how it can be provided consistently across the country. On the national scale, IBJ has continued step-by-step to build upon its existing cooperation with relevant state institutions by endeavouring to involve them in its activities. For instance, inviting representatives from the MOJ or the President of the BAKC to chair the roundtable discussions is an important component in building deeper governmental support for overall engagement in providing free, locally-based legal aid services. In this way, IBJ also ensures that local concerns are echoed at the national level by bringing together provincial and national justice stakeholders. Furthermore, IBJ participated in the National Conference on Legal Aid as a guest panellist in late November 2013. This was an opportunity for IBJ to present its locally-based, cost-effective model that can be replicated on a national scale. The outcomes of the conference showed that it is still very important keep open the dialogue with the BAKC and work closely with them to support the improvement of their Legal Aid Department. IBJ will take more concrete steps in this direction in the coming months in order to establish the bases to transfer the responsibility of a functioning legal aid system to the government.

2.3. Results achieved to date

Activities	Year 2 Targets	10 Month Reporting Period	Comments
Legal Aid Services	120 cases received per DRC (for a total of 1,080 cases)	931 new cases received	Between July 2013 and April 2014, IBJ lawyers received 931 new cases, for a total of 1,240 clients. IBJ will very likely exceed its annual objective of receiving 1,080 new cases during the last two months of the grant agreement for Year 2. In conjunction with the new cases received, IBJ lawyers closed 621 cases, out of which 51% resulted in a positive outcome as defined by IBJ (2% were dismissed during the investigative stage, 7% led to acquittals, and 43% received reduced or proportionate sentences). 57 clients were released on bail. Most importantly, in all cases undertaken by an IBJ lawyer, clients had the benefit of legal representation and received the full extent of their right to due process under the law. These results stem from IBJ lawyers’ systematic efforts to decrease the likelihood of detention for the

			accused people and to reduce the prison population. Throughout the pretrial phases of a case, IBJ lawyers advocate the release of the accused when allowed by the circumstances of the case and oppose to systematic, routine pre-trial detention. When contacted from the police stage, lawyers try to negotiate with the police not to send the case to court. At the prosecution stage, lawyers try to obtain the dismissal of the case. Lawyers also advocate the release of the accused during the investigation conducted by the investigating judge and challenge the decision to keep the accused in detention through bail applications. At the trial stage, IBJ lawyers always argue to obtain proportionate or mitigated sentences.
Legal Aid Services in the Court of Appeal	140-180 cases received from the Appeal Court	177 cases received by the IBJ's office at the Court of Appeal	The IBJ lawyer working at the Court of Appeal received 177 cases, representing a total of 249 clients. The caseload received from the Court of Appeal is large, but the IBJ lawyer managed to close 118 cases over the reporting period. The lawyer obtained positive outcomes in 12% of the closed cases (4% of cases led to acquittals and 8% of cases received reduced sentences).
Access to Justice Roundtables	4 roundtable discussions organized with 100 justice sector stakeholders	8 roundtable discussions (including 4 supported by the Australian Embassy) bringing together 202 justice stakeholders.	IBJ held 8 roundtable discussions involving 202 justice stakeholders, including 1 defence lawyer, 5 prison officials, 8 prosecutors, 8 judges, 21 representatives from CSOs, 25 military police officers, 59 representatives from local and national governmental authorities (from various administrations such as the Women Affairs' Department, the Fishery and Forestry Administrations, among others), and 75 judicial police officers. After any given event, all participants stated that they had a better understanding of the law and of the criminal justice system thanks to the clarifications made by the guest speakers. Participants also underscored that they were enabled to reach a common understanding, thereby facilitating the undertaking of a shared responsibility to implement the law. Through the roundtable discussions, participants were also given a chance to interact with each other, which enhanced their understanding of other stakeholders' roles, and will increase the cooperation across the different occupational groups involved in the criminal justice system. For instance, a representative from the Department of Women's Affairs reported to have changed her view on the role of the judicial police in the criminal justice system and realized that the police were neutral as opposed to partial. The outcomes of the roundtable discussions also translated into greater

			cooperation between IBJ and justice stakeholders. As a matter of fact, 48% of the cases received by IBJ were the result of referrals made by the judiciary.
Community Legal Awareness (CLA) Campaigns	<p>24 CLA campaigns and village-based forums conducted.</p> <p>At least 1,200 Cambodian citizens made aware of their legal rights and obligations, including 50 community members.</p> <p>At least 6,000 individuals indirectly informed on legal rights and obligations.</p>	<p>37 CLA events conducted (supported by other donors).</p> <p>2,007 people informed on their legal rights.</p> <p>Around 10,035 people indirectly informed on their legal rights and obligations.</p>	<p>Thanks to support from other donors, IBJ was able to conduct a total of 37 CLA events, directly involving 2,007 citizens and indirectly involving an additional 10,035, as IBJ estimates that each participant lives or interacts with at least 5 other people and accordingly transmitted their knowledge about legal rights and information about IBJ. Moreover, IBJ partnered with EWMI to conduct Community Road Mobile Shows, organizing movie nights in 12 different communes in Takeo, Pursat, Prey Veng and Ratanakiri provinces, which gathered around 2,400 participants in total. For each of the 37 CLA sessions, IBJ invited the Village or Commune Chief as well as other local authorities. Overall they warmly welcomed the event as they wanted to learn more about the law themselves. Indeed, they are often situated in remote areas, but still have the responsibility to implement the national law. As one Village Chief stated to IBJ, “there can be less crime in a community after a CLA session, as people become aware of what is legal and what is not”. IBJ maintained its rooting within the local communities receiving almost half of its cases from the accused or his/her family (48%). CLA sessions, coupled with the radio programs and the hotline, empowered the community to know better the law and to dare to stand up when they see that local authorities try to exceed their power. CLA sessions empowered Cambodian people to exert their rights and know where to find a lawyer.</p>
Training for lawyers (funded by other donors)	20 lawyers and investigators trained.	2 training sessions. 13 IBJ lawyers and 10 IBJ lawyer assistants trained twice. 5 lawyers from partner organization participated in one of the training sessions.	<p>All training sessions organized by IBJ over the reporting period improved IBJ lawyer and lawyer assistants skills to defend the accused people and to be a good advocate in the court room. In September 2013, IBJ organized a two-day workshop on Community Legal Awareness Methodologies, Strengthening Internal Capacities and Sharing Legal Experience. On the first day, IBJ lawyers exchanged their experiences with 5 lawyers from its partner pro bono law firms (Vishnu Law Group and Samreth Law Group). On the second day, IBJ lawyers and lawyer assistants received training from an experienced practitioner of community legal awareness and EWMI. In March 2014, a two-day legal training session was led by three prosecutors from the ECCC for all IBJ lawyers and lawyer assistants in order to</p>

			<p>discuss selected provisions of the Cambodian Criminal and Criminal Procedure Codes in light of international jurisprudence. This allowed lawyers to gain a better understanding of the substance of the law and to learn strategies for formulating arguments for the judges when there are doubts on interpretation. On the second day, the IBJ legal team demonstrated their advocacy skills in an 8-hour long mock trial, with feedback and advice from the trainers. Subsequently, IBJ organized another two-day training session on project management conducted by VBNK (Facilitating Learning and Capacity Development).</p>
Radio Rights Awareness	10 Radio Rights Awareness programs broadcasted.	10 Radio Rights Awareness programs broadcasted in province. 5 Radio talk-shows broadcasted on national radio stations (funded by other donors).	<p>Over the reporting period, IBJ continued to broadcast its radio programs in ten different provinces through local radio stations, empowering people, even in remote areas, to know about their legal rights and to find a lawyer. In addition, the 5 live radio talk-shows gave IBJ and other participating lawyers the opportunity to directly answer 23 calls from citizens raising legal questions and issues.</p>
Legal Aid Hotline		486 calls received through the hotline	<p>Since its establishment in January 2013, the number of calls received through the hotline remains at a steady average of 50 calls per month. Calls received from the hotline enabled a rapid and immediate communication with a lawyer if people are confronted to criminal proceedings.</p>
Quarterly meetings with local CSOs	4 per DRC per year (for a total of 36 meetings).	22 CSOs meetings.	<p>During the reporting period, IBJ DRC lawyers have conducted 22 CSO meetings engaging 151 community workers in total. IBJ plans to conduct 11 more meetings before the end of the Year 2 period. Meetings with local NGOs proved to be useful for workers involved in the justice sector to exchange information and strengthen mutual referral of cases. From July 2013 to April 2014, IBJ received 37 cases from CSO partners (3% of the total number of cases received). Furthermore, CSO meetings enable organizations to address common challenges and collectively propose solutions. For instance, in response to the difficulties to access to the prison in Battambang, local CSOs have decided to take action and write a joint letter to the provincial prosecutor to raise the issue.</p>

In-depth case studies	At least 1 produced per DRC per year.	13 success stories collected.	IBJ documented 13 success stories over the reporting period, with the following breakdown: DRC1: 1, DRC2: 2, DRC3: 1, DRC4: 2, DRC5: 1, DRC6: 2, DRC7: 1, DRC8: 1, Court of Appeal: 2.
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2.4. Progress

The project is being implemented effectively and IBJ is in a very good position to meet its objectives and expected outcomes. IBJ made slight modifications to the initial work plan, but it caught up on delays, adapted some activities in order to meet the work plan's initial targets, and even surpassed some of its expected results. Beyond achieving the work plan's quantitative targets, the measure of the progress of the project also lies in the changes in stakeholders' behaviour attributable to IBJ's actions.

IBJ has worked towards the achievement of the project's specific objectives, all of which strive to support and strengthen the pillars of a functioning justice system in Cambodia. IBJ endeavours to build model legal aid centres with a view to encourage the institutionalization of legal aid services throughout Cambodia. The ability to ensure a physical presence in a province strengthens IBJ's overall capacity as it moves forward in developing a culture of routine legal aid in local justice stakeholders' attitudes and perspectives. Undoubtedly, change in justice stakeholders' behaviour is a key condition to the achievement of the overall objective. In all but a few provinces where IBJ lawyers are working, judges and prosecutors warmly welcome this on-the-ground presence as it enables them to process cases faster, especially for juvenile and felony cases where the representation of a lawyer is mandatory. One important accomplishment of the project thus far has been the acknowledgment from several justice officers that IBJ's local work is essential for the court to follow Cambodia's Code of Criminal Procedure and for the justice system to work effectively. They often raise the issue of the lack of legal aid lawyers based in the provinces and request IBJ to hire at least another lawyer per DRC. Accordingly, IBJ has observed a heightened demand for legal aid from court and prison officers to help avoid delays in trial and prevent overcrowding in prison. Beyond the increased demand, justice stakeholders now seem to have a better understanding of the role of a defence lawyer. They share the view that legal aid defence lawyers fill a current gap in the Cambodian criminal justice system, and that they are key bulwarks for the protection of the rights of the accused. For instance, several judges and prosecutors have emphasized during interviews conducted by IBJ that defence lawyers help by informing the accused of the logistics of the proceedings and/or bringing exculpatory evidence to trial, thereby facilitating informed communication with the accused and easing the decision-making of the judges. The perception of the role of criminal defence lawyers as an important one is progressively taking root in justice stakeholders' comprehensive understanding of the function of the criminal justice system, though admitted there is still room for improvement. Moreover, these changes in justice stakeholders' behaviour positively impact the outcomes of the cases. During the reporting period, IBJ lawyers still obtain successful case outcomes in more than half of the closed cases, which shows both the efficiency of IBJ's lawyers' defence skills and a positive trend in courts' practice.

Increased demand for legal aid services from justice sector stakeholders is accompanied by a high number of cases received by IBJ from the community (48% of the total cases received). The high number of cases from community referrals shows that people have been empowered to find a lawyer and know where to go to ask for help in case of arrest or accusation. The numerous questions that participants asked during CLA sessions about concrete, daily life situations which involve legal issues also demonstrate a heightened interest from the community for legal issues. Local authorities and justice stakeholders are also asking for more informational law dissemination activities, in their post-CLA survey feedback and in the suggestions made by roundtable participants.

3. Changes and reasons for changes

IBJ made several adjustments to its work plan during the implementation of the project in response to delays caused by external factors. Overall, these adaptations have not impacted the achievement of the project's expected results. First, IBJ rescheduled several CLA events because of the national election campaign in July 2013 and the post-election uncertainties. IBJ also reprogrammed several roundtable discussions due to the unavailability of the initial guest speaker, the Secretary of State of the Ministry of Justice. Mindful to find key speakers in order to ensure the receptiveness of the participants, IBJ invited the President of the BAKC to chair some of its roundtable events. In 2014, IBJ started to organize its events by alternating between one of these two speakers. Additionally, IBJ started to conduct roundtable discussions at the provincial level, inviting local prosecutors to chair the discussions. These adaptations gave IBJ greater flexibility and increased capability to organize the discussions and are likely to prevent further delays in programming the activity.

IBJ also had to revise its budget in October 2013 due to an unexpected lack of funds from other donors. As a result, the budget needed some slight adjustments in order to meet the emerging modifications, but the changes did not affect the outcomes, results, or quality of the project. On the contrary, IBJ was able to conduct an even larger number of CLA sessions thanks to the reallocation of its global budget and the available support from other donors. Finally, as of the reporting period, IBJ has noticed that a lot of money is remaining in budget for investigation line for cases at the Court of Appeal. This is due to the rapidly increasing number of cases that are received by the IBJ lawyer, which creates a backlog of investigations to conduct. Thanks to the support from other donors, IBJ will be able to hire one more lawyer and one more lawyer assistant to work at the Court of Appeal to spread out the workload.

4. Disaggregation of data by women and people with disabilities

Over the course of the reporting period, IBJ handled cases involving 166 female clients representing 13% of the total number of clients. Almost half of the people who attended a CLA session (48%) were women. Of the roundtable participants, 26 of the 202 were women. IBJ's staff is 46% female (18 staff members, including 3 lawyers and 1 lawyer assistant).

IBJ prioritizes cases of accused juveniles and women and continues to cooperate with LICADHO on their *Adopt a Prison Project*, which is focused on pregnant women and children in prison. LICADHO refers about 3 cases per month to IBJ.

IBJ represent the cases of 11 persons with disabilities.

5. Lessons learned (challenges/difficulties and strategies for management)

Feedback from justice stakeholders and lawyers in DRCs 6, 7 and 8 confirm that having IBJ offices located within the courts has positive outcomes in terms of the cooperation between IBJ and court officers and ensuring early access to a lawyer. Indeed, court officers communicate better and more thoroughly with the IBJ lawyers in these concerned provinces. IBJ's presence in the court building itself brings about change in the justice stakeholders' behaviour: the lawyer in Banteay Meanchey (DRC7) noticed reluctance from court personnel to her initial involvement in the first stages of the criminal procedure. She explained to them that since she focuses on legal aspects and criminal procedure, her activities will not be a disturbance of any other kind to them. As a result, several judges now strongly think that IBJ serves to support court procedure function smoothly and helps to reduce the court's caseload. Furthermore, IBJ's location within the court does not really negatively impact IBJ accused people or their families' perception of IBJ. A small number of them still associate IBJ with the court and are fearful to walk in the office. But after explaining the role of the organization and its relation with the court, IBJ manages to build their trust in the organization.

Over the reporting period, DRC lawyers have continued to cover a neighbouring province in addition to the one where they are permanently based. IBJ is well-aware that this expanding coverage puts an additional strain on its lawyers as the number of cases received is augmenting and they have to

conduct investigations and attend trials in two different provinces. Lawyers sometimes have conflicting trial dates or are not able to attend urgent or last minute trials in the province in which they do not have an office. Justice stakeholders themselves have noticed this arrangement and are reiterating their demand for more legal aid services with at least one full-time lawyer per province. Since one of IBJ's priorities is to preserve its local presence to guarantee early access to a lawyer and to build relationships with local justice stakeholders, lawyers try to coordinate their trial schedules with Court Presidents. This approach also aims at deterring judges from referring cases late to lawyers or informing them last-minute about trial dates. To answer to the challenges arising from this geographical expansion, IBJ maintains a dialogue with justice stakeholders to find the best arrangement possible while retaining its own model.

Due to IBJ's geographical expansion, the impact of the CLA and radio programs, and the good relationships IBJ maintains with justice stakeholders, the organization's backlog of cases is increasing as it receives more and more cases. Although the closing of a case does not depend only on the lawyer's efforts, but rather on criminal procedure and on the court's own schedule, IBJ started to prioritize some cases to minimize its backlog (felony and juvenile cases, cases exhibiting excessive pretrial detention). Simultaneously, IBJ opened more legal internship opportunities for young Cambodian law students, as part of a program designed to expose them to the work of a legal aid organization, both in Phnom Penh (2 interns) and in provinces (5 interns). Thanks to support from other donors, IBJ will also be able to recruit a new lawyer and a new lawyer assistant to work at the Court of Appeal, which will help to manage the high number of cases currently received by the lawyer there.

Following the January 2014 field visit in from a representative from the Australian Embassy, IBJ endeavoured to address several noted weaknesses related to internal management and to implement some of the representative's advice in its activities. IBJ's management team decided to give more flexibility to the provincial DRC teams in the organization of their work and in the planning of their activities. As a pre-requisite, IBJ conducted a training session in March for all lawyers and lawyer assistants on project management and monitoring and evaluation skills. At the same time, IBJ has been preparing the transition from a monthly to a quarterly work plan. The new work plan will be fully implemented from July 2014. With regard to activities, IBJ will focus more on governmental administrative policies that can have an impact at the local level and facilitate the implementation of IBJ's activities, such as the National Strategic Development Plan (2009-2013) of the Royal Government of Cambodia. IBJ will integrate the next District Integration Workshop organized by the communes in order to include CLA sessions in the communes' work plan. The IBJ Deputy Country Director will monitor and support the lawyers in their efforts in this direction.

6. Australian government promotion

IBJ always visibly displays support from DFAT in all its programming. Please see the attached photos of the training session conducted in March 2013.



M. Keith Raynor, Senior Assistant Prosecutor at the Office of the Co-Prosecutors at the ECCC, and IBJ lawyers and lawyer assistants at the legal training session on March 24-25 2014.



Mr Ouk Vandeth, IBJ Country Director, opening the Legal Training session on March 24-25, 2014.

Financial acquittal (Annex A) – (refer to file in MS Excel format)

- 7. Insert spreadsheet or table** used in final version of budget accepted by DFAT for project proposal and acquit expenditure-to-date against those line items
- 8. Contributions/income** received from other sources or generated by project
- 9. Copies of receipts** attached for line items over \$500
- 10. Signature and statement** (as in guideline)