

REPORT ON THE ADVOCACY TRAINING

16-18 December 2019, FDA – Pyapon

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Introduction

The facilitator conducted three-day the advocacy training for the capacity building of NAG organization at the FDA Office, Pyapon Township, Ayeyarwady Region from 16th to 18th December, 2019. There were attended total 27 (male: 18 and female: 9) participants in Pyapon Township. The training was facilitated by Win Thein Han.

Objectives of the Training

The objectives of this training were to support Civic Society Organizations that work on saving migration, natural resources/ ecology, and upgrading fisheries law & law enforcement to develop their advocacy work respectively. By the end of the training workshop it was hoped that:

- Participants will have identified the key issues relating to saving migration, natural resources/ ecology, and upgrading fisheries law & law enforcement in the region and identified advocacy goals
- Participants will have an understanding of what effective advocacy and how to develop an advocacy plan

Training Approach

In this training, the elicitive participatory methodology was used. This approach highly participatory and assumes all participants were resource persons who bring their knowledge, experience and skills to bear in the training and group learning process. The focus was on collaboration and learning together.

Overview of Training

The expectations of participants

First of all, the participants were brainstormed the expectations of training and then they write down on the post it papers. After that process, all of the participants did stick on the white board. Additionally, one of the participants explained to the audiences deal with their expectations.

What is Advocacy?

All the participants were brainstormed about what was advocacy and why advocacy was important for CSOs. The participants were divided into small groups and discussed based on their experiences and existing knowledge. Each group presented their discussion points and the facilitator noted down on the flip chat. Then the facilitator gave inputs about the definition and characteristics of advocacy.

Advocacy framework

The participants went through the great journey to develop the workable advocacy action plan by using advocacy framework. Firstly, the facilitator explained about step by step advocacy framework. After explanation, the participants were divided into five groups based on the different states and regions. After

that, they intensively discussed about each step and finally they developed the advocacy action plan from grassroots level to national level.

Step 1: Select an issue or problem you want to address

Currently there were many problems and issues in local that was facing. Firstly, participants were brainstorming about the problem and issues that were been facing for long time period. Among the issues and problems, the most important issues and problems were selected to solve for all CSOs around the country.

Step 2: Analyze and gather information on the issue or problem

By using problem analysis tool, each group analyzed the problems and issues that they were facing. It shows the most common issue that they were facing all over the country. Based on the problem analysis, each group developed the advocacy solutions and discussed the necessary information and evidence and where to get these information by how.

Step 3: Develop a goal and objectives for advocacy work

Every activities must have the objective so that the participants developed the goal and objectives of advocacy work based on the advocacy solution. All objectives must be SMART so that the participants re-checked their developed objective with SMART tool.

Step 4: Identify your targets

According to the advocacy solutions and objectives, the targets were identified. Firstly they identified the stakeholders who were directly and indirectly related with the process.

Step 5: Identify your allies

After identification of stakeholders, they also identified the allies and partners who will help and support them along the advocacy process. Besides, the opponents were also identified to take precautions. After that, by using influence/interest grid, the specific targets and allies were selected to implement for each objectives of advocacy.

Step 6: Identify your resources

After identification of specific targets and allies, the available resources were identified because the resources were one of the important factors for the advocacy. The participants discussed the required resources and how they get these resources from where based on their experiences and existing conditions. Most of the resources they identified were funding and technical assistances so that they also identified the possible sources of these resources.

Step 7: Create an action plan

After identifying the specific objectives, each group of participants develop the advocacy action plan for their targets, allies by the availability of resources. The expected results for this advocacy work were also identified.

By compiling these action plan from each group, the overall advocacy action plan for each group was developed. This action plans were aimed the different levels of advocacy.

Conclusion

The participants were satisfied with the course. The majority of participants benefited from the concept and process of advocacy and were happy with the extensive knowledge and experience. According to participants' feedback, the feedback was that the participants had found the training interesting and its practical focus meant that it was viewed as useful. The participants were asked to identify what they saw as the most useful part of the training. Participants had friendly and openly communicated among each other. Active participation and motivation of the participants throughout the entire training.

Annexures

Training Agenda

Time	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
9:00 – 10:30	Welcome and Introduction What is Advocacy?	Wrap up Step 3: Develop an aim and objectives for your advocacy work	Wrap up Step 6: Identify your resources
10:30 – 10:45	Break		
10:45- 12:00	Levels of Advocacy	Step 4: Identify your targets	Step 7: Create an action plan
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch		
1:00 – 3:00	Advocacy Framework Step 1: Select an issue or problem you want to address	Step 4: Identify your targets	Step 7: Create an action plan
3:00 – 3:15	Break		
3:00 – 4:30	Step 2: Analyze and gather information on the issue or Summary of Day I	Step 5: Identify your allies Summary of Day II	Step 7: Create an action plan The whole summary