



### 3. Experiences of the Core Team:

It was a success for the project that of a total of **636 distributed questionnaires, more than 84% (= 536) were completed and sent back to KID.**

The extensive participation of interviewees and their general attitude in explaining at great length what happened to them shows that the majority of respondents do not want or cannot forget the past. Most of them did not want to be interrupted while answering the questions. Sometimes the interviewers had difficulties moving them to the next questions as they wanted to add more and more to each question and often came back to the previous question. For some the interview could have taken several hours. So, it was helpful to have calculated two hours or more for each interview.

The interviewees rarely showed signs of tiredness or impatience although they were asked as many as 22 questions out of which some were rather hard to answer.

Most of the interviewees seemed to be honest in answering the questions and did not have difficulties to show their real feelings and needs. Only a few interviewees were suspicious about the topic and asked if the interviewer came from a political party. And only a few did not feel safe to talk in the beginning, but quickly gained confidence in the course of the interview as they felt acknowledged by the interviewer.

The Core Team were happy and appreciated the interviewees sharing their darkest experiences. We became curious and wanted to know more. We also became thoughtful about the experiences of our family members we did not know of before.

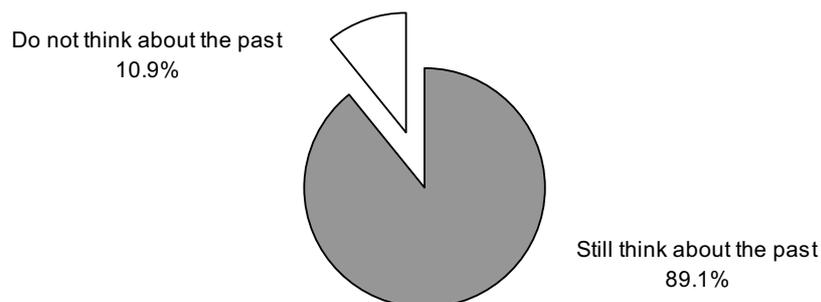
On the other hand we were sad and touched by the troubling stories we heard directly from survivors for the first time in our lives. Sometimes interviewees cried and required the full attention of the interviewer. This was a personal challenge for all interviewers. Yet, the remaining feeling is the Core Team's self-confidence in talking frankly to people about the Khmer Rouge regime and feeling safely to ask intimate questions.

We learned to connect and adapt to very different types of personalities.

### III. Most Important Results of the Survey:

In KID's view, **the most important findings** to come out of this research are as follows:

1. **The vast majority of the Cambodians who participated still think about the Khmer Rouge years (89.1 %).**





76.9 % of the respondents still think about the past because they are still angry about what happened to them. 48.6 % wonder why they had to go through the ordeal and 42.7 % of the respondents are still fearful<sup>3</sup>.

The gender of the respondents does not influence whether they still think about the past or not: 87.9% of women and 90.1% of men still think about the past.

When compared to DC-Cam’s results of 2002, the number of respondents thinking of the past has increased significantly: in 2002 “only” 58.75% still thought about the past. Today it is 89.1%.

The reason for this increase might be the ongoing discussion on the KR trial reminding survivors of their ordeal.

**2. 96.8 % of the respondents want to have a Khmer Rouge trial.**

Women (97.5%) and men (96.2%) equally want to have a trial.

In its survey of 2000 the “Center for Social Development” (CSD) has found that 82% of the respondents wanted to have a trial.

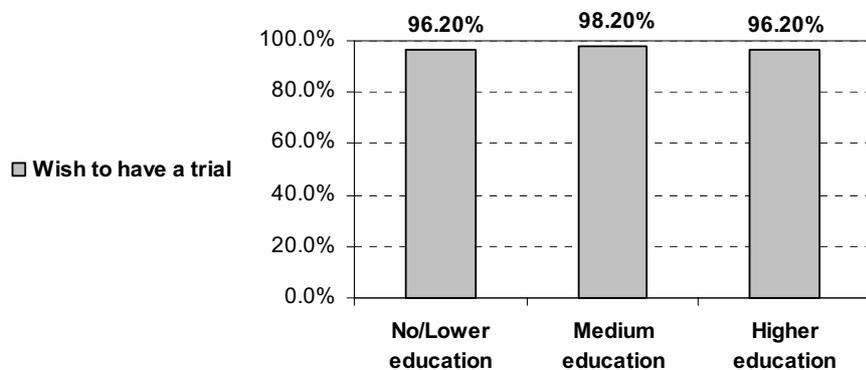
Two years later in 2002 this number slightly decreased by 10% to 72% when respondents in a survey from the “Documentation Center of Cambodia” (DC-Cam) answered that they want to see “a trial to be set up soon”.

But still it is clear that the majority of interviewees want a trial.

The **education level of the respondents** does not influence their wish to have a trial. The level of education was divided as follows:

- No/ Lower education: Never studied or only Primary School
- Medium level of education: Secondary School, High School and Technical/Vocational Center
- Higher level of education: University and Post-Graduate studies

The graphic shows that the vast majority of interviewees with no/lower, medium and higher education level want to have a trial.

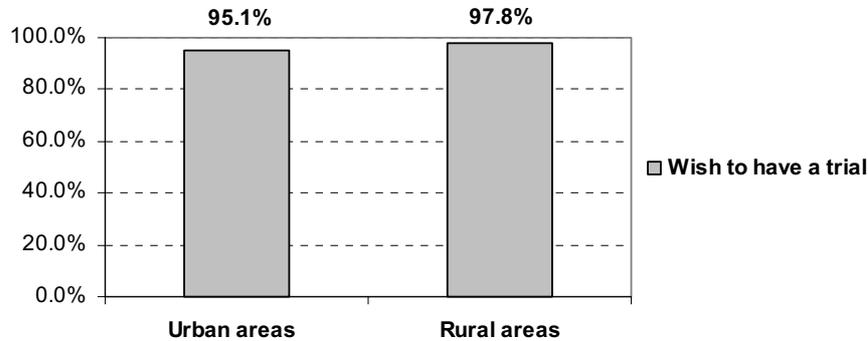


Note: 18 out of 536 people (=3.4%) did not answer each question

<sup>3</sup> Note that multiple answers were allowed in many questions so the numbers do not always add up to 100 %.



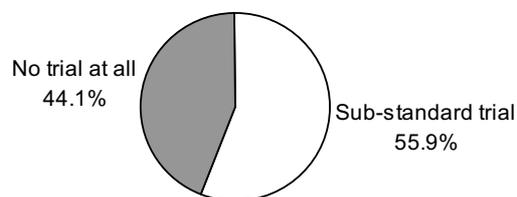
The **respondents' places of residence** do not influence their wish to have a trial either. Interviewees from urban and rural areas likewise wish to have a trial.



61.3 % of our interviewees expect that a KR trial will bring justice. 22.9 % disagree and think that a tribunal will not bring justice. Only 7.6 % say that a trial will provoke new fighting. It is astonishing that out of these, most respondents are not scared – as one might presume – but rather sad (72.5%) or angry (77.5%) when they talk about the past.

- 3. There are still **24.6 % of the respondents who are not aware of a KR trial** being set up in the near future although negotiations between the UN and the Cambodian Government have been published widely and have been going on for at least the last five years. Out of this 24.6% respondents **73.3% are women** and **26.7% are men**.

- 4. The most interesting result is that **almost half of the participants (44.1 %) prefer to have no trial at all than just a sub-standard trial**.



That means many respondents are well aware that a second-class standard of justice at the KR trial may have serious long-term consequences given the country's ongoing problems with rule of law.