

Research summary on Best Practice Recommendations for the Protection and Support of Witnesses before the ECCC

1. Objectives

The objectives of the research were:

- a) To evaluate the protection and support services provided by WESU.
- b) To identify systems and procedures which contribute to witnesses being able to testify in an international war crimes tribunal without experiencing any negative consequences.

2. Methodology

2.1 Methodology considerations

In designing the research, the main considerations were:

- The tight time-scale for the completion of the project;
- The need to interview as many witnesses as possible who had testified at the ECCC;
- The varying skills and experiences of those WESU staff who would conduct the interview, and
- The need to cover all aspects of the witnesses' experience with the ECCC, and to balance this with a need to keep the interview relatively short.

2.2 Interview schedule

Witnesses are being asked question about the following aspects of their experience:

- Their first contact with the ECCC (e.g. anxiety when first contacted);
- Their motivations for testifying;
- Pre-testimony contact with the ECCC (e.g. giving a statement to an investigator);
- The preparation they received for testifying;
- WESU services during the testimony period (e.g. accommodation, security, medical);
- The witness's experience of testifying (feelings before, during and after their testimony);
- Post-testimony services from WESU (e.g. security, maintaining contact with WESU);
- How their family was affected by their being a witness at the ECCC;
- How their community reacted to their being a witness, if their community was aware;
- The witness's opinions about the work of the ECCC (e.g. aims of the ECCC, confidence the ECCC will achieve its aims), and
- The witness's current situation (e.g. their current concerns and psychological well-being).

3. The best-practice recommendations

The recommendations are rooted solely on witnesses' evaluation of their own experience. Whilst this is a valid measure of the effectiveness of the protection and support offered, inclusion of the perspectives of the ECCC staff who work with

witnesses (primarily WESU staff, but also legal personnel) would supplement this understanding.