



Empowering target-group

At ICC, we believe that there should be an open platform where the target group and beneficiaries are able to meet, discuss, share knowledge and skills, and work together for community development initiatives. Moreover, in order for this to happen there needs to be a clear vision and participation from all the relevant local stakeholders in order to formulate initiatives that can be done through sustainable means. As a result, local Communities of Practice (CoP) were organised by ICC-VIDP for engaging all Community and Church Mobilisation (CCM) practitioners in a process of collective learning in using their own initiative for their community development.

Local CoP are created in order to provide a sharing platform where local leaders can share their own ideas and skills in order to initiate local initiatives that can benefit both the community and also to strengthen the relationship between the local churches and other local stakeholders. The practice of CMM/Umoja introduced to target communities allowed them to feel ownership towards their own community development through sustainable practices and greater cooperation between each local stakeholder. The resources needed for community development initiatives are pooled from the community themselves through fundraising and voluntary donations for collective benefits.

One of the good examples from this local CoP is a church that is located near the border between Cambodia and Vietnam. At first, the local community (including the village chief) do not really like the church because they do not really know much about this local church. However, after a while the community started to work with the church leader as they have been receiving skills training such as raising animals, vegetables, and so on. This has resulted in many people who are able to make their own living through this newly acquired skill. They also have their own development initiative which focuses on building community roads; right now they have already built three roads and are continuing to conduct more fundraising in order to build more roads in the future.

On the 4th of October, ICC-VIDP also hosted a local CoP conference in Phnom Penh city where every church leader and local authorities from ICC-VIDP target area came together to discuss, training, and propose new development initiatives through various action plans and a new vision for what they want to achieve in the upcoming year.

Currently, ICC is working very closely with the local churches in 5 different provinces through the VIDP project via the CCM/Umoja approach in order to continue to improve the community's livelihood and to create a sense of ownership as well as a sense of belonging for their own community so that the local CoP could become sustainable and pro-active when the ICC-VIDP project ends.