



Empowering target-group

Among the indigenous Tampuan people there exist a valuable norm of caring and providing for each other. This is especially seen in the Tampuan village called Kamen in Ratanakiri province, who is very active in their own community development via their Village Development Committee (VDC). Not only are villagers taking initiatives to improve their livelihood and deal with local challenges through various groups and committees, they have also created a special committee called the Joint Task Committee. The purpose of this committee is to generate income for the village and its villagers, and it is done by growing cashew trees on two hectares of land, allocated to the Joint Task Committee.

The Kamen VDC was established in 2016 by the initiative of the Kamen village and with coordination and assistance from ICC iBCDE project (identity Based Community Development and Education). The purpose of Kamen VDC is to manage, coordinate and support various development groups and committees in the village, in order to create synergy and achieve long term impact. Kamen VDC is setup as a Community Based Organisation, within the structure used for state VDCs. Despite not being a state VDC, Kamen VDC is working closely with its local authorities and is fully recognised by them. The committee has 18 members who represent Kamen villagers, and the VDC is highly accepted and appreciated by the villagers. Some examples of local groups and committees that Kamen VDC supports and coordinates are: Village Sanitation Committee, Art Group, Youth Group, Saving Group, Forest Protection Committee, and Village Focal Point Group.

Kamen VDC fosters cooperation between elderly people and youth in the village, both for the sake of maintaining Tampuan culture and traditions, but also to engage youth in social and development work. Kamen VDC has been successful in terms of reducing domestic violence in the village, as more men commit to being involved in household work. Furthermore, it is seen that more parents send their children to school. Kamen VDC is also doing planning for the future, and has the ability to connect with various potential partners from both the state and civil society sectors in order to seek support and collaboration.

In addition Kamen VDC is acting as a role-model, and is sharing their capacity to other villages. For example, some Kamen VDC members are teaching techniques on toilet-construction for better sanitation, and other members are teaching farming techniques to achieve a better output. Kamen village is now a safer village in many ways, as villagers are active in safeguarding their national resources such as their forest.

The iBCDE team has been successful in setting up 16 VDCs among the 23 target villages among Tampuan, Krung, Brao and Jarai indigenous people. Most VDCs are set up as Community Based Organisations, and some are set up within the government structure. Already these VDCs are demonstrating ownership and commitment, and there are possibilities to further train, strengthen and mobilise these VDCs to take full responsibility for their own development work in each target village, and being recognised by authorities on a sub-national level. The iBCDE team will seek to establish VDCs in all 23 target villages, in order to ensure iBCDE's work will continue after the iBCDE project ends.