



អង្គការសហការ
INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION
CAMBODIA

International
Cooperation
Cambodia

Annual Report 2016



Empowering Communities, Empowered Nation



Introduction

2016 was the year ICC's PARCE project (Poverty Alleviation through Rural Community Empowerment), was completed after previous successful implementation of Phases 1 and 2. During the exit phase, emphasis was on ensuring that four Agriculture Cooperatives (ACs) in Preah Sdach district and Prey Veng province are strong and independent enough to carry-on on their own, with various individual and group members e.g. self help groups, established under PARCE. The intention is still to empower these ACs with social businesses, which is currently being explored. There is reason to be proud of the outcome and impact of PARCE's work in Preah Sdach district over the years, which has significantly empowered the local farmers. ICC



will continue working with the farmers and their network, through the Trafficking Response project, a new project, with a focus on reducing labour trafficking and combating human trafficking and modern-day slavery in Preah Sdach district (see more below).

In 2016 ICC started new project phases for two existing projects, VOTC3 and iBCDE2. Furthermore, various organisational development programs were implemented in areas of Right-based Approach, Consultancy, Child Participation and Research & Reading Trends. These initiatives have strengthened ICC as an organisation.

In addition, ICC was strengthened through an intentional focus on Quality Management, and implementation of the new ICC Minimum Quality Standards on all levels of the organisation. Also, emphasis has been on ICC advocacy approaches, and how to work strategically with advocacy in the various ICC projects.

ICC Beyond was also launched in 2016, which is an ICC consultancy program available to civil society organisations, providing services related to organisation, administration and development work.

Working with the least-served people

ICC's newly started anti-human trafficking project, Trafficking Response, has in 2016 conducted a research and tested how to reduce human trafficking in Preah Sdach district. ICC has been working in this district for years, and been a witness to the increased level of labour migration - both legal and illegal. The main destination for migration out of the country is to Thailand, and most labour migration to Thailand is done illegally. A number of migrants have faced problems with the Thai authorities e.g. some have been arrested, or sent to jail. Even as a high number of people from Preah Sdach district are migrating to Thailand, many villagers are still unaware of labour abuse and human trafficking connected to labour migration; raising their awareness is one of the aims the Trafficking Response project plans to address.

ICC has learned, that labour migration also affects Buddhist institutions. Most of the pagodas in ICC's target areas in Preah Sdach district mainly have monks under 18 years old, and some even down to the age of 10. It is a new trend that pagodas are now accepting boys as the majority of those who become monks. This is due to the fact that as younger men have migrated from the district, in order to keep the pagodas operating, young boys are accepted. Also, poverty pushes parents to send their boys to live in the pagoda, and to be cared for by monks, which seems to be on a larger scale now than in previous years. ICC has learned, that when boy-monks leave the pagodas, they leave because they need to find a job and provide for their families. A majority of the boy monks migrate into construction work, factory work or seek to find jobs in other countries, like Thailand.

Furthermore, boy-monks have low educational backgrounds and come from very poor families, hence migration for work is, for many of the boy-monks, the only option after ending their service in Buddhist pagodas.

In 2016, the Trafficking Response project taught leaders of both Christian churches and Buddhist institutions about the risk of illegal migration and labour trafficking, in order to empower them to help protect their communities. Also the project assisted religious leaders to have access to information, so that they can now equip villagers to do legal and safe migration for work.



Empowering target groups

For many Cambodian youth, school-fees are paid by their parents, even up to university level. But for those youth who have poor parents with not sufficient income to pay for their children's education, they are often forced to stop their education and give up their dreams.

ICC's FAST project (Family And School Transformation) came a long way in 2016 in addressing this problem by working directly with youth and creating youth clubs in Svay Rieng province. Youth who are members of these youth clubs learn in democratic ways how to organise themselves and take responsibility for their lives. Through sport, dialogue and social gatherings they are developing a healthy lifestyle based on core life-values and strong self-esteem. Also the FAST team teaches the youth about such things as safe migration, human rights, self-management, planning, etc.

Most of the established youth clubs have decided to have their own savings/credit programs. FAST is assisting them in setting up the program, and

are coaching the youth on useful purposes for taking a loan in the program. Those youth who have the ability to continue their studies at high school and university start to save their money in the youth clubs, so that they have additional money for school fees and study materials. With good education, youth have much better opportunities for finding proper jobs. Those youth who do not wish or do not have the ability to study at high school and university, instead use the saving/credit program to prepare for their future e.g. as farmers. Some youth are taking out a loan to start fishponds; others are taking out loans to start small businesses.

Furthermore, in 2016 some of the youth clubs have engaged themselves in community development tasks, which are recognised highly by the villagers and local authorities. ICC believes that by including and empowering youth, a stronger foundation is made for reaching lasting changes and improvements for the Cambodian people, both now and in the future.

Bridging authorities and civil society

ICC's VOTC project (Voice Of The Children) works towards successful implementation of the Convention on the Right of the Child (CRC), by training and empowering church leaders to promote child rights and good parenting skills in their communities.

Starting from 2016, VOTC has a new emphasis to

empower the civil society to network and advocate intentionally with the local authorities. It includes extending the project focus to work with Commune Councils, village chiefs, police forces and government schools. Church leaders, previously trained by VOTC, are playing a key-role in networking and advocating.

Good results are already seen from working directly with government school teachers. After conducting a Parenting Skills training for government school teachers, the participants demonstrate new understanding of a child's developmental stages.

They have also gained new understanding about the value of children and about the role of parents and caregivers. This is a changed mindset, which is core for changing old traditions and habits, and for laying the foundations for better child welfare in Cambodia.

Improved livelihood for vulnerable people in Cambodia is not a task only for the authorities to solve, but a joint effort and collaboration between the civil society and the authorities. ICC's VIDP project (Village Integrated Development Project) is, like the VOTC project, working towards empowering the local communities, but in collaboration with local authorities. In 2016 VIDP

worked towards equipping and empowering their local target churches to collaborate with the local authorities, in order to ensure community development for all villagers, and not only Christian villagers. This contact to the local authorities opens up opportunities for advocacy, both for VIDP and VOTC projects.



Innovative & sustainable development work

ICC's iBCDE project (identity Based Community Development and Education) is currently working with indigenous minority communities in the North-Eastern region in Ratanakiri and Mondulakiri provinces, using an innovative approach called "Dialogue Team". The purpose of using Dialogue Teams is to carefully work in dialogue with the target communities in order to identify their needs and together generate feasible solutions. The iBCDE Dialogue Teams hold a number of various participatory tools, helpful for the communities to envision what they would like to be improved, and how to make it happen. The average Cambodian people, and in particular indigenous people, are not used to speaking up and expressing their opinion, hence the Dialogue Teams encourage and empower them to dare to share their joint community voice. iBCDE project has seen significant results from this approach in 2016, and communities are now more motivated and engaged in developing their own communities compared to previous years.

An example of how Dialogue Teams facilitate the communities to take action dealing with their own problems, is from an indigenous village where

women now dare to talk about sensitive health subjects. Now these women are interested in discussing their health issues very openly, in order to find a way to protect their health and to access proper health care.

Even if there still is more work to be done before the target indigenous communities have fully reached their visions, the communities see the usefulness of working together with iBCDE Dialogue Teams, as they believe sustainable community development work must happen with their involvement.



Plans for 2017

From the beginning of 2017 the Trafficking Response Phase 1 project will begin, based on lessons learned during the pilot phase in 2016. Furthermore, a VOTC spin-off intervention related to Child Rights Advocacy will be designed based on a study, planned to be conducted in 2017.

ICC still has a strong motivation to get involved in an end-of-life-care intervention and in an environment intervention. Progress towards both new interventions will be given high priority in 2017, in order to define the best innovative involvement of ICC in these two areas. Also, priority will be given towards ICC Beyond, and a marketing strategy will be developed to make ICC Beyond known and attractive to Cambodian civil society organisations.

In 2017 ICC will pilot a new implementation method of ICC's Cross Cutting Issues (CCI). The

purpose is to create a framework and processes that will allow for all CCI activities to be intentional and targeted, in order to contribute successfully to ICC's development work.

ICC's current Strategy Plan will expire at the end of 2017, hence a process of revising the current Strategy Plan will take place throughout the year. The aim is not to create a total new ICC Strategy Plan from 2018 onwards, but to build upon ICC's strengths and opportunities within the current strategic direction and focuses.

On an organisational level, ICC will continue to sharpen and deepen its involvement with advocacy strategies and quality management. This will enable ICC to stay relevant as an INGO, capable of responding to needs and requests effectively and efficiently, both in 2017 and in the future.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to the following ministries and organisations whose generous support and assistance is vital to the work of ICC in Cambodia:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport; Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation; Ministry of Rural Development; Ministry of Health; Interact; Cambodia Action; SIL International; Normisjon; Viator; Digni; FELM; Tearfund UK; TEAR Australia; Transform Aid Int.; LEAD Asia; ECHO Asia; EFC; CCC; Micah Network; NGO Education Partnership; and MRO.



ICC Head Office

#7B₁, SORLA street 371(path 4), ORKIDE village, TUEK THLA commune, SEN SOK district, PHNOM PENH

P.O. Box 612 | Tel: +855 (0)92 469 934

Email: info@icc.org.kh | Web: www.icc.org.kh