



អង្គការសហការ
INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION
CAMBODIA

International
Cooperation
Cambodia

Annual Report 2017



ICC Cross Cutting Issues

Social progression

Economic progression

Environmental sustainability



Introduction

At the beginning of 2017 ICC committed and engaged itself in a new sector of work - in the anti human trafficking sector. A new 3-year project called Trafficking Response started January 1 in Prey Veng province, Preah Sdach district. ICC has for years worked with target communities in this district, where various community based organisations have been established, working in successful collaboration with local authorities. The Trafficking Response project is utilising this active civil society and the commitment of local authorities, to empower people in Preah Sdach district to avoid and combat illegal migration, labour trafficking and modern-day slavery.

During 2017, ICC reviewed and upgraded its Strategy Plan, with the aim to elevate and build upon current work. A new Strategy Plan for 2018-2021 has been approved and put into force from the beginning of the new year. The strategic focuses are designed with the aim to improve Cambodians' livelihood, strengthen their contribution to the society, and experience legal justice. ICC continues working with the least-served people in Cambodia, with the aim to see long term sustainability of ICC's work under local ownership and leadership.

In addition, ICC was strengthened through various organisational development programs

and initiatives in 2017. To mention some, ICC as an organisation received training on advocacy, rights based approach, report writing, Juvenile Justice Laws, and internal working standards were upgraded as well.

ICC Beyond program, which is an ICC consultancy program available to civil society organisations, was promoted to a number of local NGOs and religious institutions during 2017, in order to make the brand known to the civil society. ICC Beyond program provided services to clients related to financial systems and proposal writing.



Working with the least-served people

Children are some of the least-served people in many countries, including Cambodia. The Cambodian government is working towards successful implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and one step is the setup of a Commune Committee for Women and Children (CCWC) throughout the country. During May to July 2017 the ICC Design Intervention Committee conducted a study about the functioning of the CCWC structure and the possibility for collaboration. Different informants were interviewed, including children and parents/caregivers.

Some of the outcomes from the study are, that children and young teenagers know that their livelihood is not optimal, and expressed a need for the CCWCs to intervene for them. Some of

their requests were: support to avoid children dropping or being taken out of school, provide good schools with good education and facilities, help to stop domestic violence, and combat child sexual and labour abuse.

Parents and caregivers expressed appreciation for the CCWC work and engagement in their community. In some communes CCWC are doing awareness raising on child rights and nutrition for children. Parents and caregivers confirmed the need of having a CCWC, especially in reporting to higher authorities when sexual abuse happens to children or women. Also it was expressed that the CCWCs have an important role in supporting pre-schools in the community, for the benefit of younger children.



Furthermore, from this study the ICC Design Intervention Committee learned that the CCWC staff have passion and empathy for creating better livelihoods and circumstances for children in their community. The extent of social problems affecting children is large, and the Government is seeking to provide CCWC staff with new knowledge in different technical areas. One area in which CCWCs are involved, is to ensure children are provided with a birth certificate when they are born. Some parents neglect to provide their children with this legal status, but CCWCs give priority to this issue in order to fulfil the civil rights of the child.

Empowering target groups

A group of regular rice-farmers in Svay Rieng province feel proud of themselves, because, at the end of 2017, they completed the process of planning and setting up their own Agriculture Cooperative, based on regulations set by the government. The Agriculture Cooperative is now a reality, which will benefit farmers in various ways, and at the same time give status to the farmers. As the group of farmers expresses: *"An Agriculture Cooperative is the legal framework for farmers in Cambodia, which gives us confidence in our profession, and at the same time we are being recognised by the government"*.

These farmers, from one of the target communes of the ICC FAST project (Family And School Transformation), went on an exposure trip to visit an Agriculture Cooperative outside of their commune. They were excited about what they learned from this Agriculture Cooperative, and could envision that if they had their own Agriculture Cooperative it would create a legal framework for their farmers and for the 11 Self Help Groups in their commune. When they returned back to their commune, they started to explore how to set up an

Agriculture Cooperative with guidance from FAST project. The farmers decided that the purpose and functions of their Agriculture Cooperative should be: 1) Agriculture product trading; 2) Savings service; and 3) Networking and marketing.

Each of these three functions are all meant to benefit local farmers in the commune, and especially the Agriculture Cooperative shareholders. It is of benefit for farmers, that they can buy agriculture products cheaper from the Agriculture Cooperative, compared to buying from middlemen. Farmers can save their money and/or make loans from the Agriculture Cooperative, with better conditions than if done via banks or micro-finance institutions. The Agriculture Cooperative transfers technical knowledge to farmers, which has been learned from NGOs and government departments. Furthermore, the Agriculture Cooperative also helps farmers to sell their products at favourable prices and under fair conditions. The benefit for the shareholders is, among others, that they gain from the profit made by the Agriculture Cooperative.

Bridging authorities and civil society

The ICC iBCDE project (identity Based Community Development and Education), who is working with various groups of indigenous people in Ratanakiri province, is always striving for everyone's participation in target communities in order to reflect, analyse and find solutions together. During such reflection it

was revealed that a community had people living with leprosy. The iBCDE team learned that these leprosy victims are being neglected, and they have no relationship with the other villagers in their community. The community has stigmatised these sick villagers.

ICC's target group is the least-served people, and the organisation does not discriminate against people because of their health. Consequently, iBCDE team started to explore the scope of leprosy cases in their target areas. The iBCDE team afterwards reported on the found leprosy cases at a Provincial Health Department meeting, and about community exclusion of the victims, who are now isolating themselves. At that particular provincial health meeting one representative from the Ministry of Health happened to be present. He was surprised about this information, as the Ministry of Health was of the opinion that there were no longer any cases of leprosy in the area. This was one of the reasons that the National Program of Leprosy has been ended in Ratanakiri province.



The representative of the Ministry of Health requested to make a visit himself to the leprosy victims, which he did in February 2017. During his visit he officially diagnosed leprosy cases. As a result the Provincial Health Department is now again providing health care services to leprosy victims in the province. A strong working relationship is seen between the various department officials, referral hospital and health centres in Ratanakiri province, in order to

address the leprosy disease effectively. Furthermore, the Provincial Health Department has requested the iBCDE team's help in monitoring and collecting information on the variety of leprosy cases in rural communities. This includes data collection on numbers of leprosy patients receiving medicine from public health centres. The project team is very encouraged and motivated with this constructive collaboration between authorities, civil society organisations and communities.

Innovative & sustainable development work

The ICC slogan is "Empowering Communities, Empowered Nation", which means that when local communities are empowered, mobilised and equipped to take care of themselves and their villagers, then Cambodia as a nation is empowered too.

ICC's project VIDP (Village Integrated Development Project) is operating based on the principle of ICC's slogan. The project is doing community development work, taking a starting point in local churches and with their members. VIDP trains and inspires them to take action within their church and families to make improvements with the resources they have from nature, ability, heritage, relationships, etc. Afterwards the VIDP team empowers the church to take their development work to the next level, which is the church inviting their whole community to be involved. The success of community development then becomes a responsibility of the whole community - a joint effort between all. Small initiatives are created

by villagers, which improve their financial situation, security in the village, fosters children's education and protection, and helps to care for the very poor people. This is the essence of "empowering communities".

A local village leader, who has actively engaged with the church in his village to improve his community, says: *"Working together is really important for the community. This habit has sadly been lost for a long time, hence it is really hard to trust and work with each other. I am so happy to see the community working together now. The more they work together, the closer they are. They have started to have a good relationship and they love one another. Love enables them to be humble and learn from each other. I hope to see my community changed for the better in the future. I wish to see that we will work hard together - no matter our religion. Together we will make a secure community for all our villagers"*.

Plans for 2018

The ICC implemented projects are progressing and moving towards long-term sustainability under local ownership and leadership. In 2018 the VIDP project will start its final phase for the period 2018-2020. The iBCDE project is also moving to its final phase, which will be designed and prepared during 2018. The last phase of iBCDE project will be divided into two independent projects for Mondulkiri and Ratanakiri provinces respectively, in order to gain optimal impact and sustainability. The VOTC project has one year left of its final phase, and during 2018 a spin-off project is being designed. The spin-off project aims to elevate VOTC's work related to child protection, but via direct collaboration with Commune Committee for Women and Children (CCWC). Besides that, ICC continues to explore how to be involved in new working areas, such as climate change and palliative care.

During the first half of 2018, ICC will participate in a regional human trafficking study conducted by Interact on: "Local experiences

and perceptions of human trafficking in South and South-East Asia", together with their partners in India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Laos and Thailand. ICC will interview and collect data from a number of people in Svay Rieng province for the research. This local data will also be useful for the ICC Design Intervention Committee in order to explore future ICC involvement in Svay Rieng.



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; FELM; Tearfund UK; TEAR Australia; Transform Aid Int.; LEAD Asia; ECHO Asia; EFC; CCC; Micah Network; NGO Education Partnership; Chab Dai and MRO.



ICC Head Office

#7B₁, SORLA street 371, 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