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INTERNATIONAL  
COOPERATION  
CAMBODIA

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Cambodia**

# Annual Report 2015



International Cooperation Cambodia (ICC), an innovative Christian development organisation committed to serving the least-served across the Kingdom of Cambodia.



## Introduction

In 2015 ICC involved itself in exploring new innovative methods in development work, e.g. contributed towards the research, reflection and design of two Interact regional programs on Child Rights and Anti Human Trafficking. In 2016, after becoming a partner in these two regional programs, ICC will gain access to relevant capacity building within the two sectors, and access to a network of other civil society organisations in the region. It is believed that working on a regional level, in addition to strengthening ICC's work in the two sectors in Cambodia, will enable ICC to contribute to an overall protection of children' rights and to combating human trafficking in Southeast Asia.

Another innovative approach ICC has explored this year is the use of social business as a localisation approach. Possible social business setups were explored with some of ICC's target communities, in order to enable years of development work to be sustainable long term,

after ICC's involvement ends. Right now a social business plan is being designed for potential foreign investors to consider. Please see more details below.

ICC also seeks to be innovative in the selection of new target groups. In 2015 ICC came a long way in exploring working with elderly people and those in need of palliative care. It has been decided that when the right technical people and sufficient funding are in place, ICC will begin working with these new target groups.

Furthermore, ICC's currently running projects have in the year 2015 elevated their work in responding to the needs of target people with innovative, participatory and respectful approaches. This work could not be done without ICC's good collaboration with stakeholders, who provide expertise, support and advice so that project goals can be reached.

## Working with the least-served people

Farmers in Cambodia have low status and are poor, many with a very low level of education - hence ICC is working directly with farmers in Svay Rieng, Prey Veng, Mondulkiiri and Ratanakiri provinces. In the FAST project ten new target villages in Svay Rieng province have been selected after the pilot phase finished in 2014. FAST project is providing farmers with new agricultural techniques, and using model-farmers from the pilot phase to demonstrate successful improvements to new farmers. Also FAST staff has been able to benefit from the PARCE project's years of experience working with farmers in Prey Veng province, synergy being achieved between the two projects in the south.

The iBCDE project has in 2015 been collaborating with ECHO Asia, who specialize in obtaining and safely storing rare agricultural species. A number of rare species in Ratanakiri and Mondulkiiri provinces have been lost in some communities, but via this collaboration iBCDE staff and farmers have been able to find them again, and are now protecting and growing them in nurseries. Proper storage of the plants and seeds aims to ensure they will still be available for the generations to come. The collaboration with ECHO Asia reached

completion at the end of 2015, but iBCDE staff will continue to work with farmers in both provinces.



Another least-served group of people that ICC has started working with lately, is the Jarai community. Towards the end of 2015, after iBCDE staff's intensive work with Jarai people, Provincial Educational Department in Ratanakiri and the Ministry of Education, the Jarai alphabet was approved and is now released.

## Empowering target groups

By the use of participatory tools, the iBCDE project has enabled indigenous target communities to identify their problems and concerns via dialogue. In 2015 target communities in Ratanakiri and Mondulkiri provinces started to develop their own village-plans, thus being proactive in determining what changes they wish to aim for. By making their own plans they are motivated, committed and have ownership. iBCDE staff coach and monitor the villagers, ensuring action is taken according to the village-plans and is followed up. Furthermore, the iBCDE project provides technical expertise and tools that will empower the villagers to reach their goals.

The VIDP project continues to mobilise churches to improve their members' lives with what they have available of natural resources, knowledge, networking opportunities, etc. In 2015 the project started to empower churches to take their work to the next level, by expanding it to non-Christians in their communities. Even as community people may have different religious values and principles, they all have needs and rights to improve their livelihood and escape from poverty. These communities will become role-models for others to prove and demonstrate, that when people join together they can change their situation, despite religious believes.

Another example of people coming together for a cause comes from the VOTC project. The project promotes child rights and child protection in Pursat and Takeo provinces by teaching church leaders in these subjects. Afterwards the church leaders teach what they have learned to their villagers, in order to stand strong in combating child abuse and exploitation together. A significant impact was seen in the target communities in 2015, as villagers, local authorities and religious institutions engaged themselves in protecting their children. Children have reported that now they feel safer and more protected by their caregivers.



## Bridging authorities and civil society

PARCE and iBCDE projects have come a long way in positively bridging target communities with their local authorities. This includes empowering target communities to advocate for their own concerns, and not depend on ICC. Now they know how and where to bring up their concerns, but they still need more encouragement and support from the projects to grow and stand strong.

PARCE project's emphasis has been to train and empower Agricultural Cooperatives to be one voice on behalf of their members towards the local authorities in Prey Veng province. Agricultural Cooperatives have built up a respectful and useful collaboration with the local Commune Councils and Village Development Committees. Together they seek to address the needs in the local villages, and jointly improve the

livelihood of farmers. But also they come together to improve the farmers' knowledge and skills, in order to be prepared to respond to climate changes and new demands and supplies in the agricultural sector.

The iBCDE project has linked target communities to relevant civil society groups in order to advocate for their land rights and indigenous people's rights. The aim is to see indigenous people advocating for their own rights and needs, one important tool in this process being language. iBCDE project supports bilingual education for students in the lower grade of public school, until they can follow education in the Khmer language. As a result of iBCDE staff's promotion of education.....

amongst rural communities, people are beginning to understand how language enables them to be active and responsible citizens in their own communities, daring to link with local authorities. In 2015 iBCDE project tried something new to

promote education: a mobile library, offering reading materials in various indigenous languages. The mobile library has proven to be successful in creating interest for language learning and education.

## Innovative & sustainable development work

Social business is a new innovative approach for localisation of ICC's development work. Together with Viator in 2015, ICC started exploring a social business setup in Prey Veng province between four Agricultural Cooperatives and Norwegian

investors. The aim is to ensure the long term sustainability of development work via an agricultural social business; for instance PARCE project's work with self-help groups and agriculture productivity groups.



Throughout 2015 all of ICC's development projects have been striving to work towards sustainable outcomes by using innovative approaches. Hence, for all of ICC's projects service delivery is kept to a minimum, to the extent possible, in order to avoid dependency on ICC. Instead, ICC projects focus on capacity building and empowerment of people based on their legal rights, and by mobilising them to join together in group formation. By being members of strong civil society groups people will be able to help themselves and to speak up with one voice to address their problems and concerns.

## Plans for 2016

ICC plans to become more involved in anti human trafficking activities via Interact's regional program. This will be done via ICC's newly designed Trafficking Response project, 2016 being the pilot phase period. This is a new sector for ICC to get involved in, and the aim is to approach the work in pioneering ways, as yet unused in this sector.

In 2016 ICC will launch its new involvement in the development sector called "ICC Beyond". ICC Beyond is a consultancy program available to civil society organisations, providing services related to organisation, administration and project implementation. The competence of ICC Beyond is

based on ICC's direct involvement in development work for 25 years. As an organisation ICC has built up a significant level of local and professional experience and knowledge in development work in Cambodia, which will be utilised in the ICC Beyond program.

Internally, 2016 will be a year with focus on quality management, striving and reaching for higher standards in work performance and project impacts. This will enable ICC to work effectively and efficiently with target groups, and for ICC to be upfront and prepared for the changing environment in the development sector - both on national and international level.

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<b>List of ICC project name abbreviation</b>	
FAST	Family And School Transformation
iBCDE	identity Based Community Development and Education
PARCE	Poverty Alleviation through Rural Community Empowerment
VIDP	Village Integrated Development Project
VOTC	Voice Of The Children



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