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(Light of Hope)



Somleng Project

# Annual Report

## 2020



This program supported by



# Annual Progress Report 2020

The report should adhere to the results framework in the agreement with approved updates and should be accompanied by a copy of the latest approved results framework. Please make sure that you are reporting against the project application 2020.

## Somleng Project Cambodia

### 1. General

<b>Local partner</b>	PNKS
<b>Project title</b>	Somleng Project
<b>Digni number (If not relevant, put N/A)</b>	N/A
<b>Project period</b>	Jan 2020 – Dec 2022
<b>Budget 2020</b>	\$354,102 (S-PV=\$ 205,530 & S-KS=\$145,782)
<b>Country and area</b>	Cambodia
<b>Project goal</b>	PNKS goal for 2017-19 includes individual, group and systemic change. Central is people in our target areas seeing opportunities for improved living conditions, freedom, environment, and hope, are accessible and the future is in their own hands. These BP will connect and empower individuals, groups and whole villages to define and find ways to realize their aspirations. VDAs can best do this if they have strong relationships with their VDC, CC and SSCs, and the behavior, attitudes, relationships and policies of these organizations is aligned towards grass roots participatory village development. The systemic dimension of PNKS' goal therefore is strong relationships and common direction amongst VDA, CDA, VDC, SSC and CC.
<b>Which Mission Alliance Strategic Goals does the project respond to?</b>	
<b>Digni Thematic Areas (GRF) (If not relevant, put N/A)</b>	Mandatory: Civil Society Others: Poverty Reduction
<b>Which UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) does the project respond to?</b>	SDG #1 No Poverty SDG #3 Good Health and Well-being SDG #4 Quality Education SDG #6 Clean Water and Sanitation SDG #10 Reduced Inequalities

## 2. Project Progress and Results

- 2.1 Key Numbers: Please update the project's Key Numbers table with results for 2020 and attach it to this report.

Please see attached [annex 1 – Key number](#)

- 2.2 Please attach the project's results framework with updated results for 2020. Based on the structure of the approved results framework, please describe progress towards achieving the objectives of the project and analyse the change in indicator values for the reporting period (2020).

Please see attached [annex 2 – result frame work](#)

- 2.3 Are there any unintended project results that are not captured in the results framework? If so, please give a description. Please also include rights that have been strengthened for the target group if they are not already mentioned under question 2.2.

Project cooperated with District Women and Children Committee (DWCC) and Commune Women and Children Committee (CWCC) to raise awareness on state laws on gender-based and domestic violence in 29 villages in Preah Sdach. We have been working closely in 2020 with the department to keep those who are most vulnerable safe from harm during Covid-19. The project also provide two sessions on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) commune councilors, village leaders, VDA, CDA in three communes—L'vea, Angkor Reach and Chey Kampok in Preah Sdach. Mrs. Sieng Soky, Chey Kampok commune council member said "domestic violence decrease 30% in 2020 in her commune" and Thom village leader in Angkor Reach commune said the domestic violence decreased from 30% to 5%. He added that people were no longer afraid to report cases of domestic violence to the local authority according to the focus group discussion in the Danmission partner mid-term evaluation 2020.

All PNKS projects took part and contributed to fight Covid-19 pandemic in the target areas in Cambodia. Please see detail activities in [annex 3 – Covid-19 activities](#).

Drug abuse became more and more concern among youths and especially the teenage students. The project cooperated with district police to raise drug abuse awareness in some schools and target community. This is a prevention measures the project took.

- 2.4 What do you consider to be the most important result(s) achieved by the project in the past year?

The Somleng project successfully phased out from 5 villages in Kampong Trach and 12 villages in Kampong Speu. Prey Veng planned to phased out 14 villages by end of 2020 but delayed because Covid-19. All 14 villages are ready to be phased-out.

Remarkably, people were able to speak up to have their voice heard. CDA were able to attend commune council meeting which they used this opportunity to share community concerns especially those who poor and vulnerable, including Covid-19. The government released cash aid scheme to support poor on a monthly basis.

There is also a noticeable improvement of education and healthcare provision in the target community. The data indicates that about 94% of the total 108 interviewees are no longer seeking traditional medical and unlicensed medical practitioners. And the vast majority of interviewees, 89.81%, think that healthcare services in their community are better than in 2015. And approximately 64.81% of them agree that healthcare services are cheaper and more affordable than ten years ago. When healthcare service is better and more affordable, they are able to invest in their children's education. The figure suggests that 87.04% of the total respondents have invested in the education of their children. Those investment are more on stationary, English and vocational training program, helmets and bikes. And overwhelmingly 62.69% of interviewees agree that Somleng has contributed to the improvement of education opportunity in their community. Building on these, it is evidence that Somleng project has contributed to poverty alleviation in Cambodia. This is taken from an assessment done by Policy Lap Cambodia. A full report of the assessment is in the attached.

### **Other observations**

In Ponhea Leang village, a girl joins the saving monthly with the VDA. She said "I save because I will have money when I am in high school and when I am in university. This will help reduce my parents' burden when I am in university."

VDA in Kampong Basrey village supported 120,000 riel (USD30) to buy some soil to raise the land at the preschool in the village that was muddy during the rainy season; and another 40,000 riel (USD10) to renovate the preschool latrine. Moreover, the VDA and VL saw part of the 3,000 meters village road was under water or broken in the rainy season. VDA and VL worked together to raised 1,700,000 riel (USD425) to renovate the road. The fund supported by VDA, community and some generous people was used to buy soil from the mountain for road maintenance and the community people helped to level the soil.

Mr Sok Oddom, a school teacher and a member of school support committee of Phnom Pit primary school in Kampong Speu, made an announcement to the parents that school has an education saving fund. This saving was initiated by the VDA in Chek village with a grant of 1,000,000 riel (USD250) as seed fund. The purpose of this education saving is to support children when they finish preschool, they could afford continue to secondary school and school. He encouraged parents with children studying from grade three to start saving for their children.

Some VDA revised their bylaw and interestingly they decided to invest in snack for VDA meeting and CDA meeting so that they can continue functioning after PNKS phased out.

- 2.5 Change stories: Please use the format provided when collecting stories and attach at least 10 change stories from a diverse group of project participants, including all gender, ages and participant categories in the target group.

Please see in **annex 4 – Change Stories**

- 2.6 Please attach photos of good quality that illustrate the project activities and results in the past year. Kindly attach these separately as JPEG files and label the files according to activity and/or result.

Please see in the attached separate **annex 5 – Photos of project activities**

- 2.7 Crosscutting issues: Explain how the project has been gender inclusive, included persons with disabilities, and been considerate of the environment in the past year. If any of the crosscutting issues are embedded in the project objectives, it is not necessary to repeat the information here.

**Environment:**



Project has mainstreamed the waste management to 20 villages. Project staff with VDA conducted home visits to promote safe environment in the community. Ta Pong village is plastic free village. Sellers of small shops in the village attended village cleaning event and they learnt from event to manage their waste and reduce using plastic as much as they can. Mr. Sith Samphors in Svay Char village has a child who attended with youth group to clean the village every month. Project also supported 2700 tree seedlings to six different communities where they use to grow trees. This event helped and promoted younger generation to love and keep the environment safe. The message in the picture says ‘clean environment starts from me’.

**Gender:**

Every activity, event, the project mainstreamed gender equality and equity and ensured equitable number of women and girls participated and benefited from the project work. Nonetheless, there are still majority of men dominate the top or important position in the commune council, village leaders, VDA leaders and CDA.

**Inclusive:**

Project worked with the commune council/ village leaders/ CIP committees improve inclusive development and ensure the most vulnerable people’s voice are heard and that they participated in CIP process.

In December 2020, with the support of Transform Aid, PNKS conducted a two-day in-house-training on Inclusion and Gender Equity. Despite we heard about the inclusion for many years but this first time we received a formal training on inclusion. The project plans to share the inclusion knowledge to the community next year.

- 2.8 To what extent has the Project been implemented as planned? Give a brief account of deviations that could affect achievement of the objectives and describe what has

been done to deal with the deviations. Please include planned activities that were not carried out this year and whether they will be implemented at a later stage.

The Somleng planned 90 activities to implement in 2020. However, only 61 activities were implemented. Some activities were carried out by the VDA, CDA and VL. Other activities that involved many people, were broken into smaller ones. This took the project more time to implement. Yet 29 activities were cancelled due to Covid-19. That was accounted for 32% of action plan that were not carried out. Please see the report against annual plan in **annex 6 – Report against annual work plan** and annex 3 for activities related to Covid-19 for detail.

- 2.9 Which internal or external risk factors (identified previously or new) have affected the implementation of the Project in particular? Please provide a brief comment only on the most significant risk factors or deviations and changes from the original risk analysis of the Project.

#### **External Risk**

Covid-19 was the main external risk that have a great impact on the project implementation. 90 activities planned for 2020. 61 activities were implemented. Some activities were carried out by the VDA, CDA and VL. Some activities were broken into smaller ones which took more time to implement. 29 activities were cancelled due to Covid-19. That was accounted for 32% of action plan that was not carried out. Nonetheless, the projects used fund from suspended activities to cover the expenses related to Covid-19 education and prevention the target community and in Kampong Speu it went beyond target community. Detail Covid-19 activity report is in the annex 3. During the project planning and design, the pandemic was not in our thought and mind or we had it in our risk reduction plan. We did not prepare for this pandemic. Next year the project will adopt the adaptive management approach to mitigate the Covid-19 risk believed to continue.

#### **Staff Resigned**

Four staff resigned in 2020 across the organization – two Community-Led Development Motivator, one Admin and Finance Officer, and one support staff. This put pressure to the project when time the project was able to implement activities and when activity split into smaller ones.

- 2.10 Have any of the risk factors mentioned under 2.9 had unintended negative consequences for any of the following crosscutting issues? If so, please describe.
- anti-corruption
  - the environment and vulnerability to climate change
  - human rights, including the rights of people with disabilities
  - women's rights and gender equality

Covid-19 impacted the rights of assembly only but this is acceptable.

- 2.11 Which lessons have been learned in the past year

During the project planning and design, the pandemic was not in our thought and mind or we had it in our risk reduction plan. We were not well prepared when the pandemic came.

During the pandemic tragedy, we learnt that VDA, CDA, local authorities and other stakeholders are working harder than ever with good cooperation and consultation to respond to the Covid-19 crisis. The government decided cash aid scheme to support the poor families on the monthly basis. The selection process was fair. Very small irregularity identified.

Project staff and VDA/CDA and commune council members experienced with social media platform such telegram, messenger, Zoom to communicate and meeting for work and share useful information.

- 2.12 Please make an assessment of the Project's cost efficiency on output level (products and/or services).

PNKS used 'Value for Money principles' to guide us in project designing and planning. The value for money principles also shared with potential community members, especially those who applied for Community Initiatives Small Grant. The value for money principles are 1. cost consciousness, 2. encouraging competition, 3. evidence based decision making, 4. proportionality, 5. performance and risk management, 6. results focus, 7. experimentation and innovation, 8. accountability and transparency. This eight principles was shared by Tearfund Australian and those principles were very helpful and served as guides when we designed and decided on our action plan.

- 2.13 Sustainability: Describe what the project has done in the past year to ensure sustainability of the project efforts.

PNKS works with Boundary Partners to influence behavior change and to be the change agent in the community for the sake of poor community after PNKS. We have noticed some key strengths of our community-based organization below:

VDAs has strong management and moving toward sustainability.

VDAs are practicing their resources mobilization in their community for roads repair, preschool and supporting the poor. They raised fund within their community and World Vision to address some identified issues.

VDAs asked community for their participation and decision making in a collective way.

Almost all VDAs developed their own financial policy. It is basic enough for them to use and to guide for appropriate decisions and rules.

VDA and VL work well together to serve the interests of their community. They plan fund raising together. They work together to solve the problems.

They reviewed their bylaws to address some lesson learnt. vice-chair become chair if chair is absent without notice for a period of time.

PNKS completely stops supporting snack for VDA meeting but VDA continue to meet, to serve, and discuss issues in their community. Table below show number of VDA continue their monthly meeting in the last six months. However, Covid-19 also made most VDAs unable to conduct regular meeting, especially from March to June.

Based on project overall assessment, 47 VDA strengthened their leadership and moving toward sustainability. Below are some keys noticeably:

- VDAs closely with local authority. They attended local authority meeting sharing the community concerns. Local authorities are happy to have such a supportive group to help their community. They met, the identified issues and they prioritized them to best interest of their community. However, VL are still strongly influenced by the ruling party.
- Majority of VDAs have the capacity to mobilize resources including to write basic proposal for supporting their community.
- VDAs and CDAs are excited and involved more in social work. During the review of their bylaw we saw they allocate some saving income to support community development work. Most importantly they are protecting the interest of their community.
- Some VDAs allocate some saving income to support CDA meeting.
- All VDAs have their annual village development plan.

### **Chek VDA**

VDA management and leadership in Chek village in Kampong Speu has been very successful in saving and organizing public support for development. Their saving fund reaches 436,487,000 riel. The saving works as revolving fund in the community. People use loan for improving their livelihoods. Loan is given to community in Chek village and 8 people from non-target villages (Chocheb: 3, Chrey: 2, Anlung Leak: 1, Trapang Ktom: 5). The association learnt many people in the community bought fertilizer for their paddy rice farms. The sellers in the market make a lot of profit and gave no proper instruction how to use the fertilizer. The VDA decided to run the business, buy and sell fertilizer in the village. This helped reduce the cost for the people and also gave proper instruction how to use the fertilizer.

In the past several years, VDA in Chek actively involved in improving the life of the community including fixing the village road, contributing building school fence in Phnom Pit primary school, and building village hall. Their 2021 plan is 1. Build a public latrine at the village hall, so people have a place to go to when there's a call of nature during village meeting. 2. Build a road from the village to their paddy rice, so it is easy for people to transport rice to the village during harvest time. The VDA had 55 members in 2014 and now the VDA has 179 members. Almost the entire village are part of the saving and the VDA. They work together collectively to solve problems, challenges they put priority on by themselves. Mr. Kim Nhounh, the head of the VDA said, the strengths of the VDA lie on trust building, transparency and collective decision. He said, when decision is needed, all members need to take part so they also feel of ownership. In addition he said, VDA works closely with village leaders and village elderly for wise advice.

VDA in Chek village granted 1,000,000 riel (USD250) to support Phnom Pit primary school saving. They would like to encourage the school, the parents to save for their children education. In the future their children might need more money for their education. They said 'PNKS did this to us so we would like to do the same to others to thank PNKS.' In 2020, VDA in Chek village renovated 200 meters of village road.

- 2.14 If applicable: Please give an overview of recent reviews/evaluations carried out in the Project. How did these contribute to learning and improvement of the Project?



PNKS hired an external consultant from Cambodian Policy Lab who freshly graduated master degree from Australia to look at the community 10 year report then he decided to go further. So two consultants from the Cambodia Policy Lab interviewed 108 beneficiaries and stakeholders in Kampong Speu, Kampong Trach and Prey Veng in December 2020. Please see [attached Project Assessment Study report](#).

### 3. Financial reporting

- 3.1 Have there been any incidences of financial mismanagement throughout the year? If yes, please give a short summary.

No

- 3.2 Which preventive measures have been taken and/or capacity building been done to prevent mismanagement?

PNKS took part of sensitive areas in the policies and gave orientation to all project staff one time in 2020 during Staff Conference in September 2020. The purpose was to refresh their memories and practices according to PNKS policies. The policies included finance policy, staff policy, child protection policy, anti-corruption code of conduct and value for money.

PNKS conducted regular internal financial monitoring (internal audit). This year we conducted in August and September 2020 across PNKS projects and offices—in Preah Vihear, Prey Veng, Kampong Speu and Phnom Penh head office. The purpose of the internal audit was to detect irregularities, how the organization's policies were being followed, how external audit's recommendations were being implemented and to strengthen the organizational financial practices. This year however we failed to visit beneficiaries to confirm goods received due to Covid-19.

PNKS project conducted weekly devotion at the project site. During the devotion the project took some time, but not every devotion to talk about corruption that it's sin against God. The purpose to bring corruption in the devotion time was to refresh staff's memories.

In the beginning of 2020, the organization's Finance and Admin Team (FAT) asked staff to declare family business and sign it. This was the organizational effort to avoid conflict of interest and stated in Anti-Corruption Code of Conduct.

The organization's FAT planned to improve spot-checks to at least five suppliers/beneficiaries in a project in a quarter in 2020. However, the whole organization only conducted seven spot-checks in 2020. The team failed to implement its plan because they forgot the plan and they only performed spot-checks when they suspected the financial transaction.

In July 2020, the project conducted annual project reflection and planning with target communities. The project used part of the session to share anti-corruption policy of PNKS and how corruption impact development work.

In S-PV project allowed one representative from each commune in Preah Sdach in monthly staff meeting. During the meeting, sometimes the project shared and

refreshed all staff and community's memories about anti-corruption and PNKS policy.

Every quarter, Finance Manager from the PNKS head office conducted project field visit to monitor financial transaction, practices, how the project implemented internal control and to support the project admin and finance officers. In March 2020, Sreynon, Admin and Finance Officer at S-KS project resigned. We did not recruit a replacement because the project was to close in December. Finance Manager spent her time to train and support project staff to handle basic financial transactions and she oversaw the whole project financial matters.

In 2020, Finance and Admin Team conducted three meetings. Usually the technical meeting was conducted on a quarterly basis. The purpose of this admin and financial technical meeting was to find appropriate ways to support projects including review forms, and policy gaps. Staff capacity 2 weeks to 2 days.

Two staff, Finance Manager and Admin and Finance Assistant at S-PL project to join a one-day fraud training with Mission Alliance. The training gave us better picture about how and why people commit fraud. This helped us with fraud early detection.

- 3.3 *Revised accounts together with the audit report for the Project must be submitted separately in accordance with the agreement. Any significant deviations between accounts and the last approved budget must be explained. If the Project includes other donors, consolidated accounts for the Project as a whole must be submitted.*

#### 4. Additional comments


- 4.1 Optional: Please provide any additional comments to the annual project report in this space.

#### Attestation

I am authorized to enter into legally binding agreements on behalf of the grant recipient, and attest that to the best of my knowledge and belief the information given in this report is correct.

Date: March 3, 2021

Sign:   
Name: Sun Chanthou  
Title: Project Manager

Sign:   
Name: Leak Chowan  
Title: Program Development Manager

## Abbreviation

Abbreviation		Village/Commune Names	
AFO	Admin Finance Officer	AKR	Angkor Reach commune
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome	BOS	Bos village
ARV	Antiretroviral (drug)	BTS	Banteay Sre village
AHPD	Animal Health Production Department	BY	Bayab village
ANC	Antenatal Care	CHB	Chong Boeng village
BP	Boundary Partner	CHH	Chhouk village
CBO	Community Based Organization	CKP	Chey Kampok village/commune
CC	Commune Council	KK	Krasang Koy village
CBNRM	Community Based Natural Resource Management	KP	Kampot province
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation	KR	Kros village
CCI	Community Capacity Indicators	KRV	Kok Roveang village
CI	Community Initiatives fund	KTL	Kampong Trach Lek commune
CIP	Commune Investment Plan	KTK	Kampong Trach Keut commune
CLD	Community-Led Development	PL	Ponhea Leang village
CLDC	Community-Led Development Coordinator	LN	Lun village
CLDM	Community-Led Development Motivator	LV	Lvea village, Lvea commune
CNRP	Cambodian National Rescue Party	LU	Lueng village
COP	Community of Practice	MK	Menong Krom village
CPP	Cambodian People's Party	PBS	Prey Basrey village
CSO	Civil Society Organization	PGL	Ponneah Leang
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction	PLP	Prey Lompeng village
F=9	9 females	PMD	Pramo Dom village
GAD/C	Gender And Development for Cambodia	PPS	Phnom Pra Sat commune
HC	Health Centre	PV	Prey Veng province
PHO	Phnom Penh Head Office	SCC	Svai Cho Cheb commune
ID Poor	Identification Card for Poor household	SK	Svay Kun village
LWD	Life With Dignity organization	SKV	Sieng Kveang commune
MSC	Most Significant Change	SMC	Smong Chueng commune
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization	SRP	Svai Rompea commune
NPV	Network Prey Veng	ST	Svai Toul
OD	Operational District	SV	Svay village
PHD	Provincial Health Department	TCH	Toul Chrey village
PLHA	People Living With HIV/AIDS	TKE	Takeo village
PNKS	Ponleu Ney Kdey Sangkhum	TNK	Tnong Keut village
Ps	Person	TNL	Tnong Lech village
PwD	People with disability	TPP	Trapang Pring village
Q	Quarter	TSL	Toul Sala commune
Riel	4,000 riel is equal to one US dollar	TSP	Toul Sophy village
RH	Referral Hospital		
S-KS	Somleng Kampong Speu		
S-PV	Somleng Prey Veng		
SSC	School Support Committee		
TWG	Technical Working Group		
VAHW	Village Animal Health Worker		
VC	Village Chief		
VDA	Village Development Association		
VDC	Village Development Committee		
VDP	Village Development Plan		
VG	Vulnerable Group—ID Poor families, PWD, and PLHA		
VHSG	Village Health Support Group		
VL	Village Leader(s)		
WMC	Water Management Committee		