



ពលរដ្ឋនៃក្តីសង្ឃឹម
Ponleu Ney Kdey Sangkhum
(Life of Hope)

Somleng Project



Report
2020-2022



This program supported by



Final Report 2022

The purpose of the final report is to provide a full account of the results achieved in the project period. The final report should be submitted for the last year of the project, covering the entire project period.

The report should adhere to the results framework in the agreement with approved updates and must be accompanied by a copy of the latest approved results framework.

The results given should primarily refer to outcome-level results.

(Name of Project): PNKS (Light of Hope)

(Country): Cambodia

OVERVIEW

| | | | | |
|--|--|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Implementing partner organization | PNKS (Light of Hope) | | | |
| Project title | Somleng Project | | | |
| Country and area of intervention | Country: Cambodia | | | |
| | Province | District | Commune | Village |
| | Prey Veng | Preah Sdach | Angkor Reach | 19 |
| | | | Chey Kampok | 12 |
| | | | L'vea | 11 |
| | Kampong Speu | Bosedth | Toul Sala | 4 |
| | | | Svay Chocheb | 4 |
| | | | Svay Rompear | 4 |
| | Kampot | Kampong Trach | Kampong Trach Keut | 2 |
| | | | Kampong Trach lech | 2 |
| | | Phnom Saley | 2 | |
| Project period | January 2022 – December 2022 | | | |
| Budget 2022 | \$96,735 (global budget Somleng project) | | | |
| Project goal | <p>PNKS goal for 2020-23 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.</p> | | | |

1. Project Results

- 1.1 Key Numbers: Please update the project's Key Numbers table with results for the reporting year and annex it to this report (in Excel). Please find it in the **Annex #1**
- 1.2 The project's results framework: Please update the results framework with results for the reporting year and annex it to this report (in Excel). Please find it in the **Annex #2**
- 1.3 Please provide a narrative assessment of the total project results for the entire project period. The narrative assessment should be based on the project's results framework, after comparing each indicator's result to its target for the reporting year, looking at what the project has achieved in total, compared to what it had planned to achieve. Focus on results on outcome level and explain how the results have been documented¹.

Village Development Association (VDA)

VDA sees itself as a CSO that is critical to its own community's development, with a role to assist individuals, support community groups and identify and mobilize action around whole community problems. Their attitudes include focus on poor, justice inclusion, equity, gender equity and environmental sustainability. They see working co-operatively with larger structures, advocacy or even grassroots protest as ways they might work.

Expected to see

- All 58 villages will be phased out by end of 2022.
- Each VDA has at least two bookkeepers.
- VDA reviewed their by-laws and other policies on regular basis.
- VDA access their annual performance

Like to see

- VDA strengthened their leadership and worked to improved sustainability.

Love to see

- VDA have ownership in leadership and behaviour change that could bring about positive change in the community.

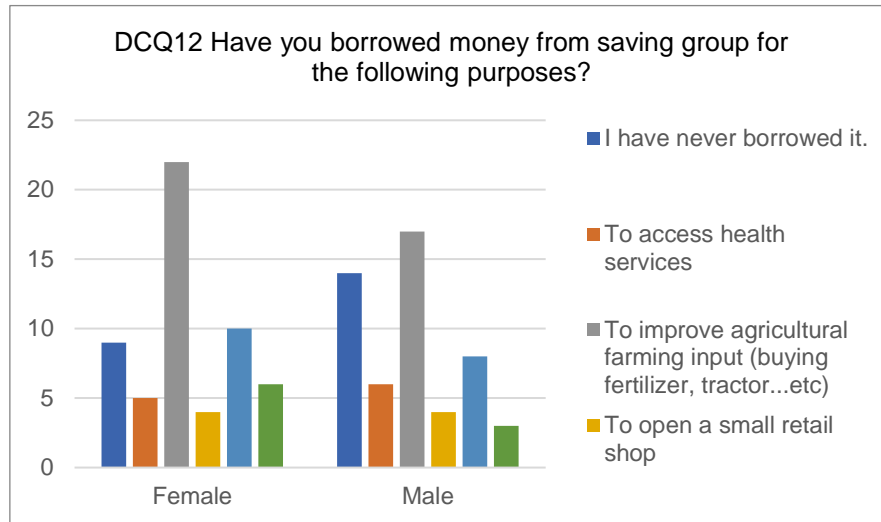
The project has been able to phase out from all 58 target villages within the period 2020-2022. 6 villages in Kampong Trach district, Kampot province, 12 villages in Basedth district, Kampong Speu province and 40 villages in Preah Sdach district, Prey Veng province. One village in Preah Sdach (Thom village in L'vea commune) was dissolved in 2019.

The phasing-out ceremony was conducted publicly with recognition of local authorities, boundary partners and stakeholders. The last phasing-out ceremony was conducted in 2022 with 75 participants (f=26), a person living with disabilities, a representative from the provincial department of rural development and a district governor.

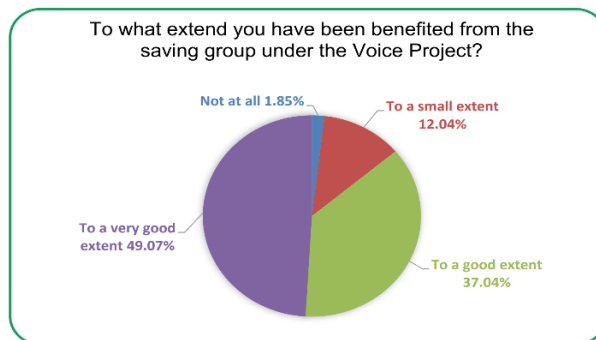
During the donors visit in 2019, they found one main issue, VDA members were on job migration. One VDA could not hold meeting for almost one year because the VDA leader was on job migration. And when bookkeepers were on job migration, no one could keep up the bookkeeping. The project saw the need for reviewing bylaws. Therefore, the project supported the VDA to review their by-law and to have two bookkeepers for each VDA. The two bookkeepers have been able to

secure bookkeeping work that they played a role as a safety net especially when one bookkeeper is on job migration.

According to the report of saving in Preah Sdach, the total saving in three communes in December 2022 is 766,968,300 riels (approx. \$187,065). The people found the saving helpful and easy to access. According to assessment study in 2021, the people use the saving mainly for:



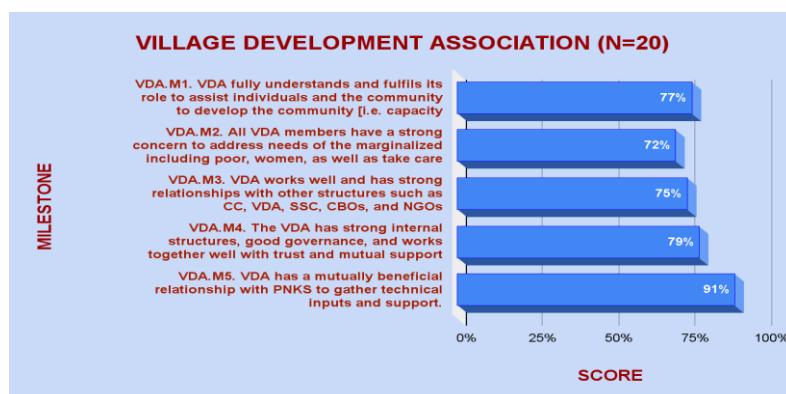
According to the assessment study conducted in 2021, 49% of the people said positively about the saving group. About 2% people interviewed did not benefit at all from the saving group.



In addition, according to the assessment study in early 2021 found that the development budget from the saving group has been allocated for local development over the past ten years. The vast majority members of the savings group, including their leadership, say they have allocated some budget, approximately \$1,000 per commune annually, generated from the interest to support the development agenda in their commune. This budget is managed by heads of saving groups and Village Development Association (VDA). The allocation of the budget is made in line with the interest and the need of the community following the consultation with group members and their community representative. The report added, the saving programme has also contributed to the strengthening of financial independence among women in the community. There are a number of development literature suggesting that the absence of financial independence among women make them vulnerable to abuses and lack of access to equal opportunity compared to men.

Not all saving groups have performed well, according to the evaluation 2022, the Chek savings group has performed very well, whereas Cho Cheb has performed less well. The reasons for success [lesson learned] are: 1) commitment of savings group members, 2) monitoring and support from local authorities, 3) transparency and trust of saving group leaders, 4) clear structures and frameworks for operating the saving group, and 5) flexibility of the saving group to run small businesses and invest saving money to get more savings funds. The saving groups that have performed exceptionally are those that have taken further initiative, such as seeking outside capital or investing their capital in profitable business ventures that benefit all saving group members.

The recent evaluation of the Somleng project also provided a strong VDA leadership and networking (chart below).



Village Leaders (VL)

VL understands itself as a government structure whose responsibility is to SERVE THE PEOPLE.

Expected to see

- VL cooperated well with the VDA to deal with their community's issues, especially the issues of ID poor families.

Loke to see

- VL worked well to serve the community without political bias.

Love to see

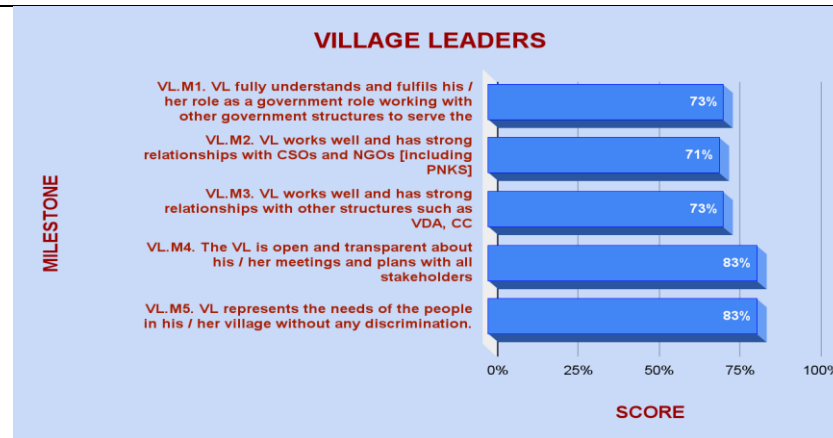
- VL set a good role model for younger generation.

Village Leaders actively supported the work of VDA. They attended VDA monthly meeting. They urged villagers to join VDA and to be members. They worked with VDA to mobilize resources to contribute to VDA works such as road renovation, supporting ID poor families, supporting the funeral and people who suffered from road accident.

The VL also helped identify the right ID poor families to receive social fund from the government during the pandemic. They promoted and supported household latrines, especially ID poor families. They spent home visits to understand the situation of the poor and provided counselling to family who committed domestic violence. All village leaders are expected to serve the community without political bias and discrimination. There's no sign of major political discrimination observed.

During the pandemic, the VL, VDA and SSC worked closely and effectively together to educate their community people about the new disease.

According to the recent evaluation for village leaders, they ranked themselves low on relationships with other CSOs (71%) and strong relationships with other structures (73%) and understanding its role (73%). The highest scores were openness and transparency (83%) as well as non-discrimination (83%).



Chek village is role model village that all community members (198 families) are part of the VDA and join the saving group. They believe and trust to VDA leader and village chief to lead them. Mr. Tep Loern said that “my saving amount has increased to more than 1,000 million riels (approx. 250,000 US dollars)”. The savings provided loan to community members for income generating activities. They provided free interest loan to the poor families. They use part of the interest from the loan to development and road repair. The project phased out from the village in 2019 but the VDA still perform well.

The improvements are attributed in the forms of public outreach, training, and campaign between PNKS staff members with beneficiaries, and its boundary partners namely the Village Development associations (VDAs) and Village Leaders (VLs). The vast majority of respondents say they have attended hygiene and healthcare training provided by PNKS staff members. On top of these, they also report community-lead events and initiatives like hygiene campaigns, community cleaning, mother and infant mortality, and the funding of information boards on hygiene and the importance of a good living environment.

Commune Development Association (CDA)

CDAs see themselves as the coordinating and advocacy arm of a network of VDAs. Their vision of development is responsive civil society organizations in close co-operation with government. They are motivated by a poor focus, an understanding of natural and legal justice and rights and advocacy.

Expect to see

- CDA reviews their by-laws and other policies as necessary and on a regular basis.
- All CDA assess their own performance on an annual basis.

Like to see

- CDA strengthened their sustainability to oversee the VDA.

Love to see

- CDA can self-support to a relevant and sustainable network.

CDA is a VDA coordinating body. They provided management, technical and advisory support to VDA including bringing the VDA voice to the commune council meeting. They are representing the community and protect the interests of the local community.

CDA conducted their own meeting every quarter. Most of the meeting they reflected and discussed lesson learnt around their work, their leadership and their management to better support VDA.

CDA has strong commitment and they possess some necessary and competent skills such as bookkeeping, facilitation skill, problem solving and proposal solving. Project also linked them to Network Prey Veng (NPV) where they could engaged with other NGOs for learning and sharing.

In the Network Prey Veng, they started to have build relationship with Adhoc Association and Transparency International Cambodia. As results, they improved their planning and supervision. CDA performed well to support VDA saving and their recordkeeping. In 2022, during staff turnover, the project decided not to recruit a replacement instead the project recruited 3 CDA to work for the organization.

I changed having more confidence to speak out with LAs. I can do more awareness raising on gender, gender equality is important as both men and men have equal rights. If communities are aware of this, it would reduce domestic violence. Said CDA in Angkor Reach.

PNKS built my capacity, now I can take note, interview communities asking them about their issues, I can conduct training about health issues, hygiene, environment and I can do bookkeeping, manage saving funds. Said CDA in Angkor Reach.

I learned about humble working with the poor and PwD and built relationships with VL, CC, and communities. Said CDA in Chey Kampok.

I learned about planning, facilitating meetings and awareness raising and I also learned from the communities as well on identifying issues. Said CDA in Chey Kampok.

My community values me as I am a woman leader. This allowed me to support other women who have challenges with their livelihood. Said CDA in Angkor Reach.

Moreover, two young women, they're enthusiastic about their community development. They would like to see the quality of life of their community. They were trained by the project and practiced their skills. They were working hard to serve their community while they VDA/CDA. They became a role model for many community people. During the commune election in 2022 were elected to be commune councilors. Mrs. Chhay Somaly from Kampong Trach CDA, became a commune councilor and is responsible for Commune Committee for Women and Children. Mrs Hout Chenda CDA Kampong Speu became the 1st deputy of commune council. She is responsible for ID poor families and relationship with Civic Social Organization (CSO) in her commune.

Other CDA members after PNKS phased out, they are partnering with World Vision Cambodia (WVC) for both sponsorship recruitment and development.

However, CDA still face a number of challenges. Some members are old it is not easy to introduce them to new technology. It is hard to find a replacement of old and inactive members. Young people are away on job migration. Some CDA were not able to review their by-laws. Covid-19 also impacted the work of CDA due to restriction for travel and they could not meet regularly.

Commune Council (CC)

CC has a good connection to the people. They serve the people well without political discrimination. They show love and respect toward the poor.

Expect to see:

- CC created opportunities for ID poor, women, children and people with disabilities to participate in commune investment plan.
- CC fulfil their role and responsibility effectively to serve the interests of the public

Like to see

- Some community concerns are brought to commune investment plan for intervention.
- CC put people, not political party first.

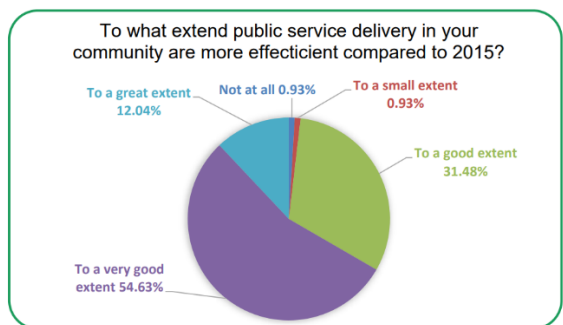
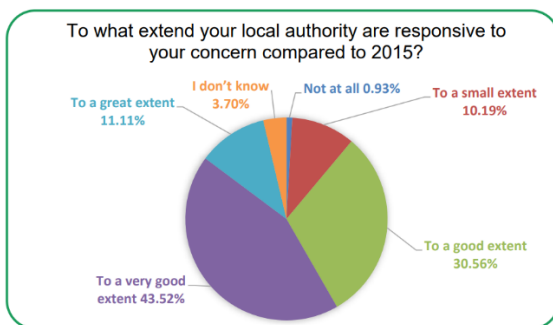
Love to see

- CC has pro-poor development plan.

Project conducted inclusive training and Commune Investment Plan refresher to local authorities and Boundary Partners (BPs) to enable them to focus more on gender equity, disability and democratic approaches in holistic development and the rights of people to be informed.

Because of the PNKS project, CDA representatives attended in a few of commune council meetings this allowed more community voice to be heard. CDA spoke positively about the commune council, especially around transparency and accountability. It was also observed that commune councilors spent visits to target villages to learn about the issues in the community. Commune councilors witnessed some growing concerns of social issues such as gambling, drug abuse and thief. In addition, the price of agriculture dropped and in contrast imported agriculture equipment, materials such fertilizer price increased. People lost in investing in agriculture that they migrate for job elsewhere. In the past years commune council were busy in combating and educating people about Covid-19. No political bias or political discrimination observed though it is now one single party in the commune council.

Community reported improvement of the commune service including transparency. They have full time service. They listened to the community’s concerns. All communes completed the childbirth registration within 30 days after delivery baby and completed other administrative letters within only 1-2 hours every day. People were happy with this improvement. Mr. Um Lach, deputy of commune council in Chay Kampok said “We give priority to administrative services. People need them soon. Before we always asked them to wait. Sometimes, we could complete for them for days.” Mr. Chin Phol, VDA leader said, “Commune council services are better, let the community attend CC meetings to raise up community concerns, to find resolutions to address the remaining issues.”



School Support Committee (SSC)

SSC work and support the improvement of education in the school they are working in. They have ownership and responsibilities for their own school and education development by connecting to concerned bodies

Expect to see:

- SSC strengthen their engagement with community people and other relevant actors for supporting school development.

Like to see

- SSC can self-support to a relevant and sustainable network.

Love to see

- The School Steering Committee serves the school well.

School Support Committee (SSC) was changed to school management committee (SMC) by the Ministry of Education, Youths and Sports in 2020. SMC conducted child enrollment campaign and invited children’ parents and caregivers to attend new year school opening ceremony. They informed to all parents to take care to their children and encourage/ support them both at school

and home. The first enrollment registration with 6 years (72 months) is helpful for children growing and education quality for their future, especially they motivated the child with 4-5 years in community preschool too. These are movement stages to link children to an environment outside and start critical thinking better than at home. They said children grow in spiritual, energy/ physical, wisdom and social environment. The parents who participate agreed with school directors and contributed 1,000riels per month for one child for monthly electricity cost. The parents requested to school directors, please strengthen teaching and learning with quality to children, should have books for reading and drawing in the library. There are new children enrollment 90 children or 12% of total 745 children, and 2.4% or 18 children are dropout school in 2022.

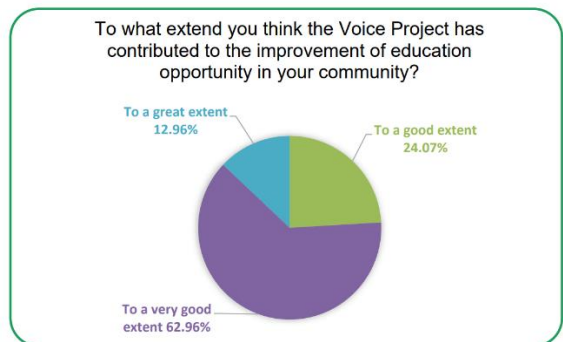
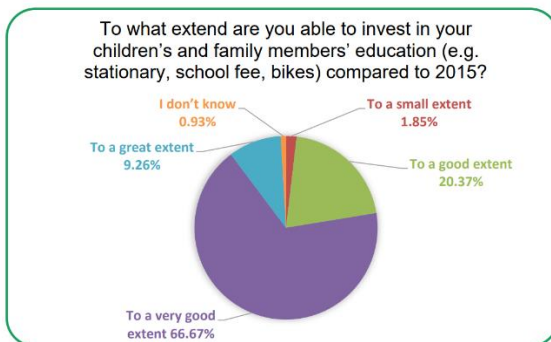
Currently, Room to Read organization is a part of improving children’s reading in Somleng Prey Veng project and world Vision Cambodia supported in Boseth district, it has library books, schedule for reading, and strengthens teacher capacities. SMC has mobilized other resources to improve school environment like school gate, school fences, platform concrete, play-ground, children sport etc.

According to the assessment study in 2021, they found approximately 62.04% of respondents say their children and family members have a better opportunity to attend school at a very good extent compared to 2015, followed by 22.22% of a good extent, and 13.89% of a great extent. Moreover, about 75% of the total respondents say they are able to send their children to school to a very good extent, followed by 13.89% of those who say a good extent. These confirm the fact that education opportunities for children in these areas have been improved, thanks to the improvement of health provision in the community.

1.4 To the extent possible, please assess the likelihood of achieving the planned impact of the project. (maximum ½ page)

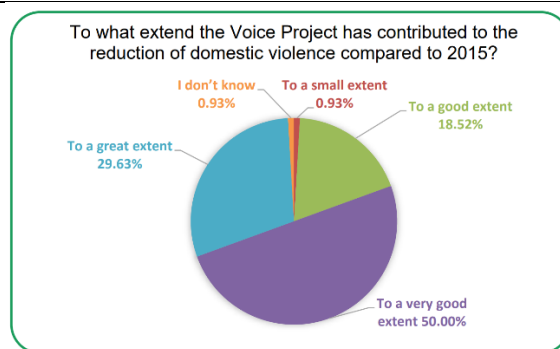
Improved children education

The project has been working with VDA/CDA and local authorities to improve local livelihoods through agriculture training and community development. According to the assessment study, almost 67% said they were able to invest more money on their children education.



Reduction of domestic violence

The assessment study also found that the Somleng (Voice) Project significantly contributing to the reduction of the domestic violence.



In addition, according to the recent evaluation the respondents found that PNKS Somleng was able to: 1) understand and address community needs, 2) work with government actors to hold them accountable, and 3) strengthen relationships of trust, and respect. The evaluation concurs with this survey score, but notes that the impact is variable depending on the locale. Indeed, It is worth noting there is a differential impact, across communes of the Somleng Project, as follows: Toul Sala has less results compared to Svay Chocheb with more sustainable results. In Prey Veng, Chey Kampok witnessed fewer results than Levea and Angkor Reach. The results in Kampot compared favorably to other provinces.

- 1.5 Are there any project results that are not captured in the results framework? If so, please give a brief description. These results must also be documented. Please also include how the target group(s) has been empowered if this is not already mentioned under question 1.3. (maximum 1 page)

Project contributed some materials to 04 community pre-schools as Takork, thom, Thnot Chris in L'Vea commune, Svay toul in Chay kampork commune and 01 church (Abundant Life Church). The community schools received play-ground, fix school building and cleaning school environments and teaching aid. The church received play ground and improving environment cleaning. Because the community preschool faced challenges with roof building of damage and very small rooms, dusty, lack of writing tables and chair, school fence, school gate, teaching aids martials (3 group of nutrition, vegetable naming, animal naming, numbering and khmer letters, puzzle matching), and school improve environment and safety. More, they need play-ground for child movement and team building, They contributed with labor, cash, construction fee, time etc with project. Project supported rare materials to them.

Project provided a small fund to community initiative proposal writing in during 03 years ago, they mobilized the community people and link to other stakeholders to child benefits and youth protection to avoid drug users and negative affect to their education. Moreover, they attracted their caregivers/ parents to understand the children's advantage and take more care to children both teenage until youths from home and schools. The children have been received protection from social and neighbors and household as well. Project seen school teachers, SMC, local authorities, parents, youths and caregivers to attend and awareness on children projection in their community. They dialogue together and seek support from each factor to promote safe guarding well in their community. There are 582 participants involved.

In Covid-19 from 2020-2021, Cambodia was locked down, All Cambodia people can't moved a cross provinces, attend workshop, trainings including get income generation or jobs outside. They are available by online connection. So project created online platform to work with the community partners, and monitor all project activities by this approach, they started new experiences with social media and chart groups to connect each other like telegram, chart massager, and google meet. They look to interest and get benefits from social media to promote community development, communication, sharing experiences, sharing information, meetings, and researching with skill. It is difficult to adapt to technology with they have limited capacity, internet services, more expense, But currently, they still work and connect together by this platform as well.

3 CDA Representatives from 3 communes are registered in Prey Veng Networking members (CSO network), they attended and shape their capacity supported by NPV and CCC like reviewing on Cambodia Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), Social protection law, WASH principle, More they attended to understand LANGO reviewing, supported by Legal Aid of Cambodia (LAC). They have the opportunity to build capacity and share experiences and link to other sectors. Mr. Chin phol, CDA in Chay Kampok commune, he was to be a key farmer from CBO for Prey Veng provinces and he was trained to be a trainer by CCC after the committee recruited.

- 1.6 What do you consider to be the most significant change achieved for the target group(s) through the project intervention? Please provide a short summary. Please describe key factors and chain of events in achieving these changes. (maximum 1 page)

Saving Group

The saving groups allow members to access loan for micro business to generate income and secure their livelihoods. Members could also access to loan if any emergency case. The loan could also access at night time if there's a case of emergency.

Local Commune's Voice Heard

Never before, local community could now attend commune council meeting which their concerns and problems are identified and addressed accordingly by the duty-bearers. Although after the phasing out of PNKS Somleng project, local community through CDA continue to attend commune council meeting.

Civil Society Organizations

VDA and CDA became a civil society organization that based in the community after the phasing out PNKS. Some VDA and CDA started link themselves to NGOs to continue functioning. World Vision provided some development fund to some VDA in Kampong Speu. VDA in Preah Sdach started to link themselves to human rights association defenders (Adhoc) and Transparency international in Cambodia.

CDA Members Became Commune Councilors

Two CDA members were elected by the people and became commune councilors. They were equipped by the project the skills, knowledge and passion to support their community development.

- 1.7 Change stories: Please use the Mission Alliance Change Story Form provided when collecting stories and attach at least 2 change stories from project participants.

Please find two change stories in the attached **Annex 3**

- 1.8 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 find the photos related to project activities in **the link below:**
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1KgrZSB6booKyNiaROq7Yb5EbF6CQaG6a?usp=share_link

- 1.9 In case the objectives were not achieved, please describe the reasons behind this. Reflect on the handling of internal and external risk factors identified before and during implementation of the project, including risks for financial irregularities. (maximum 1 page)

There are a few points to face challenges in this phase; there is also evidence that PNKS has shifted their approach during COVID-19, using online technologies and providing personal safety equipment for villagers during the pandemic. The following factors also served to undermine impact:

- Lack of trust among and between some villagers, local authorities
- Continued discrimination [usually political] by some local authorities in service provision
- No motivation on the part of education school directors to improve their schools
- Inability or unwillingness of poor people to apply what they have learned to improve their livelihoods
- Failure of savings groups due to leadership, structure, and trust problems
- Migration of villagers to work overseas or in factories
- Lack of youth involvement that could be seen to sustain the Somleng activities
- Lack of ability of villagers to save because they needed to use all money for health care treatment.
- Failure to maintain physical plant (i.e. buildings) or other infrastructure or systems that had been handed over by PNKS

- 1.10 Has the project implementation had any unanticipated positive and/or negative consequences? If so, please describe these. (maximum 1 page)

As the availability of massive micro credit, people are in debt. The saving group set up by PNKS could only provide small loan.

According to the evaluation in 2022, the work of PNKS with Somleng has been found to complement, or fit with, existing government and civil society initiatives quite well. Their work has also avoided duplication or overlap with existing CSO efforts. The SSC in KS-SC noted how well PNKS had worked with WVI, who had taken over from PNKS after they phased out. This also contributes to sustainability [see separate section]. In that same commune, VLS noted that PNKS made connections as well with CARE and WV, the latter who actively supported after PNKS had withdrawn, particularly in their common interest areas of gender equality, health, fish ponds, and children's clubs. PNKS was cited as having good relationships with CRS, FLD, CEDAC, VSO and with GIZ, RACHAR, Hellen Keller, PADEK, CLA, and Vattanak Pheap. In Prey Veng PNKS cooperated with PRASAC and also their work complemented the Tonle Sap project [PV-LV-SSC]. In some cases, as noted by VDA in KA, after CEDAC phased out home gardening, PNKS took over.

- 1.11 Please make a brief assessment of how the project has contributed to strengthening the local civil society (Please include examples and results. (maximum 1 page)

Project worked with existing group (PNKS formed VDA/CDA) and government structure (LA, SMC) to dialogues to provided good services with transparency and efficiency to the vulnerable people and disability people. Gender equity are improvement, children protection awareness are understood deeply both local authorities and community people. Discrimination are reduced. The change through project has provided knowledge and skills, networking, forum event to VDA members and community people. They have experiences in fishing raising, chicken raising, vegetable planting to get income. More, they have able to facilitate the meetings, conducted dialogue forum,

conducted villagers to clean villages, fix road, have community initiative management, help in social works and concerns to children issues and disable people, recording the saving and report, take minute, develop group planning, and have good relationship with local authorities, have empowerment and friendly. They have networking in and out. Actually, there 3 CDA representatives in Net Prey Veng (NPV) members.

By Covid-19 for 2 years, Project has used alternative strategy and supported to farmers, boundary partners by online. It is new tool and limited both project staff and community. However, project tried to adapt in Cambodia locked down.

- 1.12 Please make a brief assessment of the cost efficiency of the project, that is, of how project implementation costs relate to achieved results on output level (cost efficiency) using examples to illustrate. Please also describe the local contribution to the project, whether through manpower (volunteers) or other forms of contributions. (maximum 1 page)

Every project implementation, project always make community assessment, community problem analysis, planning and implementation with community participation. Project used community-led development to empowerment to BP. More, Project has PNKS existing policy, staff commitment and community principle to manage to ensure sustainability.

Project staff commitment: they have high commitment to work with community people, ID poor families, disability people and honesty, comedown every challenge. They tried to respond the community needs with transparency and dialogues.

Community-led development approach is an approach for empowerment to community people and humility. They known something their needs, challenges, resolutions together. The stakeholders are a part of support and success to change the situation.

PNKS has adopted DFAT's 8 value for money principles: 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. Of these, #5, #6, #7, and #8 were evaluated. In terms of #5, performance of PNKS staff in achievement of the results is found to be high.

The risk management framework, however, is not comprehensive and has not considered a wide range of risks that PNKS actually experienced during the Somleng implementation, including: staff turnover and the public health crisis [i.e. pandemic]. Moreover, the pandemic has taught all CSOs the need for greater business continuity and risk management in programming. As a result, *PNKS should improve its risk management protocol with greater involvement from the Board in continuous monitoring of: a. Safety & security, b. Ethical, c. fiduciary, d. Operational, e. Compliance, f. Reputational and g. Informational [see [Interaction](#) for more guidance].*

Regarding evaluation results, it is clear that PNKS staff and management are quite focussed on achieving the results of the Somleng project, and have involved boundary partners considerably in the achievement of these results. The progress against expected values in LFA demonstrates this. Lastly, regarding accountability and transparency, as these are core values of PNKS the evaluation finds that the Somleng project has done quite well in these areas, involving and including stakeholders such as boundary partners, and feeding back information to them as well as involving them in decisions.

In general, PNKS *partnerships* with boundary partners, including CDA, VL, SSC, CC, and VDA are universally strong. Only in one case (CC from KS-TS) did the commune council note some strain in the relationship with PNKS.

As noted elsewhere, PNKS staff are appreciated by CMs for their timeliness, respect, humility, good cooperation, and inclusive attitudes. They are admired for their planning and coordination abilities, how they value the participation of community members, and their patience. PNKS is noted as 'teaching how to fish' not 'giving a fish' - meaning they have not replaced the capacity of their BPs, instead they have built it.

2. Cooperation – Sustainability – Lessons Learned

2.1 Has the project been implemented in cooperation with other donors? If yes, please explain. (maximum ½ page)

Diaconaat-CGK

- Diaconaat-CGK provided some fund specially for large community pond construction to sustain water sources for the remote communities in the time of greater impact from the climate change.

Tearfund Australia

Funded the project

Tearfund also supported organizational development on:

- Development of policy concerning Prevention of Sexual Exploitation Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH)
- Adaptive management during the pandemic
- Supported 8 project staff to visit partner in India.
- Introduced PNKS to learn with ACFID
 - Four Board members and a Program Development Manager completed "Introduction to Safeguarding" with Learn with ACFID.
 - A program development manager and 6 project staff completed "Introduction to Climate Change and Development" with Learn with ACFID.

Tearfund is promoting

- Value for money
- Climate change adaptation lens
- Stick to the evaluation recommendations

Danmission

- Funded the project
- Learning Forum for Peace and Development: Learning Forum for Peace and Development (LFPD) was set up by Danmission and its partners for more than five years. PNKS is part of the learning forum. The learning forum meet two times a year for two day. Partners can decide topics for the meeting. Often the LFPD invites well-known speaker to provide political and social analysis for the participants. The participants who participate the LFPD are varies – NGO staff, community people, and CBO. The LFPD helps the organization and community members see bigger picture of the social and political trend including the civic space.

- Supported a Program Assistant to attend a five-month Change Maker Program in Denmark.

Transform Aid International (TAI)

- Supported in the development of policy concerning Prevention of Sexual Exploitation Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH)
- Community of Practice on Gender Equality Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI)
- Participatory Action Research (PAR)
- Adaptive management during the pandemic
- Supported Program Development Manager and Finance Manager to attend two online courses called “Planning for Financial Sustainability” and “Fighting Fraud in NGOs” with Humentum
- Provided Gender Equality and Social Inclusion training

TAI conducted:

- Fraud risk assessment
- PNKS financial system review

Mission Alliance

- Funded the project
- Supported and trained CEDRA to PNKS staff
- Funded Coffee Talk network which allowed all Mission Alliance meet on a regular basis to share learning and experience.
- Provided parenting skills to key project staff
- Supported Child Representative Program
- Facilitated organizational self-assessment
- Provided value chain training to key project staff
- Supported a joint-Youth Camping with other Mission Alliance partner.
- Provided anti-fraud training to PNKS finance department

Peace Bridges Organization

- Provided peace training to key community leaders including local authorities and trained long term peace trainers to 10 PNKS staff.

2.2 Has the project been implemented in cooperation with national and/or local authorities? If yes, give a brief comment. To what extent has the project been in line with the development plans of national authorities? Please give a brief assessment. (maximum ½ page)

Project has implemented annual planning for 3 years from 2020-2022. We have cooperated with Commune Councils, district governors, provincial governors and local authorities.

Provincial government: Project attended provincial meetings a lots to report and raised project face challenges to deputy provincial leaders like difficulty to cooperate with the relevant provincial level in term of DSA conflicts, submitting the permission letter to all level when project works in the villages/ commune, covid-19 responding, WASH strategy to be Open Defecation Free (ODF) finished, Provincial Department of Rural and Development (PDRD) involved in phased out events, annual general meetings and encourage to association members to strengthen and honesty in the saving and attended in national workshop in Prey Veng province with Ministry of Rural Development on new strategy 2020-2030. Provincial Planning Department (PPD) cooperated with project to provide the Commune Investment Plan (CIP) refresher courses to send to commune council members for 3 communes. They understood clearly on CIP process, commune collection, priority issues, compile community needs and find out local

partners and provincial relevant to supporting and agreement. They are well understanding on the concept of 3 years of planning moving and actual every year planning.

District: Project has cooperated with district government as well; attended district meetings conducted by district leaders, integrated commune investment planning, selected district citizen office representatives by an election, PNKS is one of the committee members to the selection. District governor representatives are always involved and supported in another forum events, phase out events. They always supported every project activity and sent representative officers involved with.

Commune level: project is easy to work with them both capacity building and contributing. Project trained them on gender and inclusion, critical thinking and analysis, and transparency services. They contributed to share experiences and evident practices to the community people in women right day, children right day, human right day, public dialogues.

2.3 Please give a brief account of how the project has safeguarded each of the following crosscutting issues:

| Crosscutting issues | Overall successes | Overall challenges |
|---|---|---|
| <p>Anti-corruption in the target area</p> | <p>All PNKS staff are members required to sign anti-corruption code of conduct and disclosure conflict of interest (business declaration). Moreover, in each staff contract, PNKS mentions severe discipline if any staff commit fraud.</p> <p>2 finance staff members joint Digni anti-corruption workshop with Mission Alliance for 2 days in March 2022. After the workshop, project finance and admin officer shared what they learned from the workshop to project staff.</p> <p>PNKS hired external audit to audit financial transactions for Jan-Dec 2021 in Jan 2022. Beside external audit, Finance and Admin team conducted internal financial monitoring 1 time in 2022 to review financial transactions and practices from Jan-Sep 2022. The report of internal financial finance monitoring was produced and shared to project to take action and improvement the implementation.</p> <p>In year 2022, Finance and Admin Team conducted 3 times meeting in Jul, Sep, and Dec 2022. The purpose of meeting to strengthen the financial practice and find solution that project facing on financial issue. The agendas to discuss in meeting such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How to follow up and monitor project expense and explanation. | <p>In 2022, PNKS did not have the opportunity to refresh training on anti-corruption to all project staff. However, the internal training of anti-corruption will be conducted in May 2023.</p> <p>PNKS has not been able to set up complain mechanism for public to report any irregularity. In late 2022, PNKS develop a hotline for public to report any irregularity or misuse of fund concerning the fund of PNKS.</p> |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Follow up the progress of financial system review finding and recommendation by donors - Strengthen the spot check and recording - How to prepare agreement with constructor or supplier by added anti-corruption awareness. - Asset management - How to keep documents safe. <p>In 2022, PNKS separated person who hold cash different from person who responsible for posting transactions in QuickBooks system. This practice helps us to avoid to irregularity or correction of figure for gaining fund.</p> <p>In the PNKS staff conference in Jun 2022 and the present of internal finance monitoring findings in Oct 2022, Finance and Admin Team refreshed finance policy to S-PL staff members.</p> <p>Every quarter during PNKS board meeting, Finance Manager always updated financial status and summary the expense and explanation for board members.</p> <p>In Oct 2022, finance manager attended workshop with CCC that focus on Internal control and complaint with resource person from audit firm.</p> <p>Look at our community people in our target, PNKS printed anti-corruption& safeguarding sticker that contain hot-line which allow people to report corruption that related to PNKS fund or any safeguarding issues by PNKS staff. The stickers are used and stick on the wall or any place that closed to community people.</p> | |
| <p>The human rights, including the rights of people with disabilities</p> | <p>PNKS worked with boundary partners on human right approach, like conducted human right day, Human right awareness, trainings, workshop on role and responsibility of local authorities and citizen right, dialogues forum event and public services forum. They started understanding They started use their right with commune councils, village leaders, district governors and raising concerns to them. They feel like the local authorities are respected and accountable, valuable to each other and people better in Commune council monthly meetings, CIP process, take home visit with ID poor families, respond</p> | <p>Cambodia's strategy is applied to decentralization or bottom-up after first National election 1993, and stated in Cambodia assembly, but National levels (Ministries) are always practiced top-down approach. More, the community people haven't knowledge and empowerment enough to debate, discussion, decision making with local authorities, they thought that LA is a power people from top level to lead and thrive them. Moreover, they have feel like the political party into public services deeply. It is difficult to apply the National</p> |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| | to victims affected by disaster, priority community needs by pro-poor. | strategy/ law and abuse, especially it caused injustice in Society. |
| Environment and vulnerability to climate change | The community people/ partners are interested to environmental issues and climate change more than before. They collected waste free both home and public venues from 2-4 times per year. They conducted environmental forum with duty barriers, led village cleaning compete, and selected adaptation option to climate change like multi fruit planting, vegetable planting with less water, drip pipe water, dig small pond to reserve the water in dry season, using seeds resistant in environment. The currently, the community adapted with climate change and environment are better. | |
| Women's rights and gender equity | The community people told us the men empower to women alots. They understood on women right, gender equity by trained, meeting, women right day, awareness, and socialize talking, the government and CSOs created guidelines for women right improved. Actually, government and political party have internal role to increase 40% of women in leadership from National to bottom. PNKS always promoted gender (women) in small group leader, club, included training, workshop, meeting in real practicing. Eg. Every staff planning, we seen women, disable people, children, vulnerable group people are invited and participated. The selection BoD members, consultant, staff recruitment was consideration every time. | Project observed the community people are increasing and can't stop using chemical fertilizers, chemical pesticide, especially they through out organic fertilizers, traditional pesticide and original seeds. E.g. They collected cow dang to dry and collect into plastic packs and then they sold to Vietnam or other provinces in 2,000-3,000 riels per pack and they agreed to buy chemical fertilizers 180,000-200,000 riels per pack from market to replace. Even though, project try to explain and illustration to them, they knew and accepted but they look like to difficult to apply. |

2.4 Please give an assessment of how the achieved project results will be sustained and strengthened after the completion of the project period. If this is not possible, please explain why. (maximum 1 page)

It is more or less a timeline of phasing out with planned details of staff movements to accompany. Therefore *PNKS should update and improve future phase out plans to include the following: 1) capture lessons learned from phased out villages, 2) assess the readiness of villages to be phased out, 3) ensure commitments and capacity from key boundary partners to continue the work of PNKS, 4) establish ongoing mechanisms for monitoring, communication and support [post phase out], and 5) identify key contextual and operational risks related to the phasing out initiative.*

In terms of sustainability, and in specific empowerment - agency - there seem to be two kinds of thinking. *Firstly*, the results brought about by PNKS will be sustainable, because of the willingness, interest, dedication, or commitment of boundary partners and community members.

Strong point will to Continue

The below quotes demonstrate the strong will to continue:

SSC received experiences – set up groups to address the issue and improve quality of education, mobilize funds for school. SSC is committed to continue. PNKS supported planting the trees in schools and wanted us to look after the trees after they phase out. - KS-TS-SSC.

PNKS has put a clear action plan and clear objective. SSC takes over the plan and implements it, we get results. So, SSC will continue their work to improve the quality of education. KS-TS-SSC.

I think the SG will continue, because communities trust strong leadership even after phase out, members even save more money, before save only 500 Rs /month but now 10,000R/month -PV-LV-VDA

PNKS phased out but they handed over a lot of knowledge / capacity to us and we committed to take over and active the same as when PNKS was here. PV-CK-CDA

Change in knowledge - this stays with us forever. - PV-CK-SSC.

The knowledge is long time and I transfer knowledge to my grandchildren. -PV-CK-CM

Without PNKS we Fail

The second school of thought is that the knowledge and capacity is hard to apply and use, and is not long term. Also they believe that the savings groups will fail, without PNKS. This is usually coupled with the statement that ‘we need PNKS to be here more to support us.’ It is not fully understood from the evaluation whether this means: a) they simply want more support from an NGO, or b) they really need more technical support and guidance from PNKS. Further research would be needed to determine this. In this second view, PNKS’ departure has meant lack of sustainability / impact:

Since PNKS phased out, some members have been late in playback. They request a delay. Not all members have borrowed from the group. The loan is less or much, not the same. Some borrow to pay back to other microfinance.-KS-SC-CM

When PNKS worked here SG were still alive but now so weak because group members don’t pay back the loans. It needs to have regular meetings with group members, and improve group structure and explain to them to follow guidelines. Leaders have to respect rules. -KS-TS-VL

Not sustainable because the members could not pay back to SG and they borrow money from SG to pay to others micro-finance, later they could not pay back to both SG and microfinance. They borrow from other microfinance to build houses, spending a lot of money, then they could not pay back. -KS SC-VDA

Yes, the community is aware of the phase out, yes, we have 17 villages in Angkor Reach, some strong and some weak, members not trust because of leadership, not transparency. I help to check the bookkeeping. Some villages do not have clear bookkeeping. I worry about internal conflict as they didn’t trust each other that led to the break out of the group. For my community, we tried to solve the problem as soon as possible. -PV-AR-VL

When PNKS was here they were strong but after phase out became weak. People don’t apply and continue what PNKS has trained and supported so far.-KS-TS-VL

In some cases, there are mixed results. Some indicate that knowledge on laws, agriculture and income generation skills can be sustained, but that some infrastructure such as roads has broken down. Other infrastructure [i.e. within schools] such as community ponds has continued to be maintained. This quote demonstrates how sustainability will rely on the actions of boundary partners themselves:

Capacity on proposal development, evaluation, and budget development are sustained, we knew about these. If the group follows group rules, that group will be sustainable. If the groups don’t respect rules, it will not be sustainable. KS-TS-CC.

The savings groups are a key indicator of how well the work of PNKS has been carried out. Overall, as the trend in PV-AR demonstrates, approximately 80% of the SGs have continued, 20% have not. [CC] The reasons for savings groups failures include: 1) dishonesty, mistrust, discrimination nepotism by the leader, 2) lack of oversight from local authorities, 3) poor sense of ownership or interest by savings group members, 4) faulty or weak governance structures.

The savings group represents a key legacy of PNKS, moving forward there is a need to better understand the reasons for its success. *As such, PNKS should document, replicate, and enhance*

with added value the model of savings groups as the foundation of its community development work in other areas.

Almost unanimous across the data set is the request from boundary partners and community members alike, for PNKS to stay in touch with them. The evaluation team agrees with this request. *Therefore PNKS should establish ongoing mechanisms [light touch] for communication [via messaging], monitoring, and annual reflection with all phased out target groups to continue to capture and share knowledge and lessons learned, for a period of 3 years after phase out.*

- 2.5 Reflecting on lessons learned throughout the project period, please give a narrative assessment of the project's theory of change. Was the project's theory of change sufficient and correct to achieve the intended results on outcome level? (maximum 1 page)

One of the key themes which emerges from the evaluation is how boundary partners learn from each other. This is seen as a key feature of PNKS work, using model farmers and examples to support its experiential learning approach to capacity development. Post phase out in the Somleng villages, this work of exchange and learning should continue. *Therefore, PNKS should identify key 'models' - either in agriculture, savings groups, school management, in the villages where they phased out or will phase out, who are willing and able to share these knowledge and experiences to new intervention areas of PNKS.*

Success factors

In terms of lessons learned, the following success factors have been identified as key to the impact and sustainability of the Somleng project.

- Close monitoring from local authorities
- Strong, transparent, accountable, committed, non-discriminatory and trusted leadership
- Involvement of youth
- Ownership of community members in the initiative
- Good coordination between CDA-CC, VDA-VL, after PNKS handover

A critical lesson learned in fact is the importance of interrelationships among the boundary partners, i.e. CDA-CC, VDA-VL, and SSC with other boundary partners. Those with strong relationships have witnessed greater impact and sustainability, and vice-versa. Indeed, *there is a direct relationship between the level of trust, confidence, and cooperation among boundary partners, and the impact of PNKS' work in Somleng [lesson learned]*. Moreover, individual leadership skills seem to be very important. *Therefore, at an individual level, there is a need for PNKS to better understand [through research] how relationships are built and sustained, as well as the personal characteristics for good leadership [lessons learned]*.

Regarding the savings groups, the reasons for success [lesson learned] are: 1) commitment of savings group members, 2) monitoring and support from local authorities, 3) transparency and trust of SG leaders, 4) clear structures and frameworks for operating the SGs, and 5) flexibility of the SG to run small businesses and invest saving money to get more savings funds.

- 2.6 Please give an overview of all evaluations that have been carried out in the project period. How did these contribute to learning and improvement of the project? (maximum 1 page)

This review, done as an Outcome Harvest (OH) with a PNKS team, used 14 days across all PNKS locations. In summary over 1200 excerpts analyzed with qualitative research software show:

PNKS boundary partners are changing significantly, from direct contributions to people's lives to community infrastructure and problem-solving to relationships with each other which really does improve lives for those to whom they relate. Some of this is still dependent on PNKS support but many boundary partners and people/groups who interact with them (but not PNKS) initiate actions independently. However, PNKS contribution to change, sometimes deep or well 'upstream' (e.g. confidence to face the world) is clearly evident. There is a clear 'step up' in the

depth of change since 2016 when PNKS started OM. Finally, we find PNKS itself with a hardworking, outcome-oriented team and adaptive management is well matched for work in complex development.

The major finding is that huge, rapid changes in the social-political-environmental context in which all PNKS work is nested, mean that many people live outside the ambit of VDA, CDA, Commune Councilors, Village Leaders and School Support Committees.

Somleng Project Assessment Study (Feb 2021)

The study called “Somleng and its contribution to poverty reduction in Cambodia” with the primary objectives of this research study is to assess the project outcomes against its defined objectives: improvement of community health provision, strengthening income generation, and the empowerment of community in the area of social accountability. It also aims to assess the loophole and provide recommendations to guide PNKS for its future initiative and strategic planning in line with its milestone and existing Cambodia’s government policy in the context of social development setting.

Key Learning

The development scholarship suggests that in order to address poverty in Cambodia, there are a need to enhance agricultural input, better access to education and healthcare services (Bylander, 2017; Engvall et al., 2008; Hubler, 2016). Building on these literatures and data from the field study, it is evidence that Somleng project has contributed to poverty alleviation in the Kingdom. And despite the lack of empirical studies to quantify the status of resilience and asset of beneficiaries in the early stage of the project implementation, data from the KII suggests an improvement in terms of access to education, healthcare, and public service delivery.

There is also the growing investment on agricultural input, thanks to the improvement of education and healthcare service in the community. There is compelling evidence which supports this assumption. For instance, there are reports of an increased segment of good consumptions, an increased access to land ownership, and the investment of a large proportion of loan and income on agricultural assets and small businesses. These improvements of living standards and agricultural productivity input reflect the definition and poverty reduction strategy of Cambodia.

The better improvement of agricultural assets leads to a stronger income generation opportunity and better living standards, thus enabling the community to be more assertive toward the participation in decision-making. Indeed, data from the KII indicates that about 73% of the total respondents said they are able to raise their concern to the local authority and about 85% of them say the local authority are more responsive to their concern than they used to be. These reinforce the fact that the project has strongly contributed to community empowerment and social accountability.

- 2.7 Please give a brief account of the remaining challenges in achieving the overall project objective. Use bullet points if possible. (maximum ½ page)

- Covid-19 restriction 2020-2021. It makes project run and support to community very slowly, especial the project provides community capacity building and skill.
- All project staff resign: in phase out period, project staff are not moved to Somleng Prey Lang project, they committed to find new jobs. Project has only one manager.

3. Financial reporting

The financial report together with the audit report for the project must be submitted separately in accordance with the agreement. The financial report shall follow the same budget structure as the last approved budget, include a comparison of actuals against budget, and make it possible to identify deviations between the two. Any deviations of more than 10% between accounts and the last

approved budget must be explained. If the project includes other funding partners, consolidated accounts for the project as a whole must be submitted.

Please find it in the attached **Annex 4**

4. Additional comments


- 4.1 Optional: Please provide any additional comments you may have, that have not been captured elsewhere in the report.

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: 26 Feb 2023

Sign: 
Name: Sun Chanthou
Title: Project Manager

Sign: 
Name: Leak Chowan
Title: Program Development Manager

Abbreviation

| | |
|---------|---|
| (f=5) | Including 5 females |
| BP | Boundary Partner |
| CBO | Community Based Organization |
| CC | Commune Council / Commune Councilors |
| CCC | Cooperation Committee for Cambodia |
| CDA | Commune Development Association |
| CLD | Community-Led Development |
| CRS | Catholic Relief Service |
| GEDSI | Community of Practice on Gender Equality Disability and Social Inclusion |
| ICT | Information Communication Technology |
| IEC | Information, Education, Communication |
| LA | Local Authorities |
| LFPD | Learning Forum for Peace and Development |
| MA | Mission Alliance |
| PAR | Participatory Action Research |
| PNKS | Ponleu Ney Kdey Sangkhum (Light of Hope) |
| PSEAH | Prevention of Sexual Exploitation Abuse and Harassment |
| PwD | People with Disability |
| SSC/SMC | School Support Committee / School Management Committee |
| TAI | Transform Aid International |
| VDA | Village Development Association |
| VL | Village Leaders (a village, a deputy, a member). They are appointed by the commune council. |

VSO
WV

Volunteer Overseas Service
World Vision