

Annual Progress Report 2023

The purpose of the annual progress report is to give a brief overview of current project status and progress so far. The report should adhere to the results framework in the agreement with approved updates. Please ensure that you are reporting against the project's annual plan for 2023.

(Name of Project): Somleng Prey Lang

Date of last revision: 22 Jan, 2024

OVERVIEW

Implementing partner organization	PNKS (Light of Hope)																													
Project title	Somleng Prey Lang Project																													
Country and area of intervention	Country: Cambodia <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Province</th> <th style="text-align: left;">District</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Commune</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Village</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="3">Preah Vihear</td> <td rowspan="3">Chey Sen</td> <td>Chrach</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thmea</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Putrea</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="3">Stung Treng</td> <td rowspan="2">Thala Borivat</td> <td>Anlong Phe</td> <td>5+2¹</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kang Cham</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Siem Bok</td> <td>Siem Bok</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Siem Bok</td> <td>3+1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Province	District	Commune	Village	Preah Vihear	Chey Sen	Chrach	6	Thmea	3	Putrea	3	Stung Treng	Thala Borivat	Anlong Phe	5+2 ¹	Kang Cham	5		Siem Bok	Siem Bok	4			Siem Bok	3+1
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Project period	January 2023 – December 2027																													
Budget 2023 (please indicate currency)	USD 477,714																													
Project goal	The Indigenous community is living in harmony and peace together.																													
Digni number (If not relevant, put N/A)	10960																													



1. Project indicators

- 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).
- 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).

2. ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS

Please provide a narrative assessment of the project's progress and results for the reporting year as documented in the results framework. Assess the projects progress towards achieving the outcomes:

Outcome 1: Youth and CIDGs working collectively to identify and address community challenges together

The collaboration between youth and CIDGs in identifying and addressing community challenges has shown positive progress. In the Somleng project of 2023, 18 CIDGs and 4 clubs conducted regular meetings, exceeding the initial target. Additionally, 3 new CIDGs and 2 SKYE clubs were formed, further expanding the project's reach. During these meetings, the groups discussed various issues such as drug use, loan debt crises from Micro Finance Institutions, poor road conditions, sanitation problems, climate change, water scarcity in the dry season, and living conditions. The project has also provided capacity building to CIDGs and youth, enhancing their skills in leadership, management, mobilization, saving bookkeeping, facilitation, and peace-building.

The youth and CIDGs have initiated 18 small-scale activities with the project's support, including road repairs, bridge construction, village cleaning, tree replanting, and income-generating projects such as raising frogs, poultry, and vegetables. These initiatives have benefited at least 610 indigenous community members. The project has also focused on building the capacity of SKYE club members through active citizen sessions on topics like youth and the environment, leadership, health, and advocacy. A youth networking group was formed in one province, bringing together members from various youth groups, including the SKYE clubs of Somleng Prey Lang project. One SKYE club in Preah Vihear organized a youth concert to raise awareness about Kuy culture, domestic violence, nature conservation, and children's education. These performances received positive feedback from the community and local authority demonstrating the impact of the youth clubs' social work.

Furthermore, 65 CIDG members and youth actively participated in commune council meetings, public forums, commune investment plans, and dialogues, surpassing the planned targets. The collaboration between CIDGs, youth, and local authorities has resulted in impactful projects. For example, the repair of a 100-meter road in Phlaoch village showcased effective mobilization and collaboration with local authorities. The mobilization of resources for building CIDG offices in multiple villages highlights the commitment to creating sustainable spaces for community activities. The project has also successfully addressed infrastructure challenges by collaborating with local communities on road construction and bridge development. CIDG



leaders have played a crucial role in resolving conflicts related to public land abuse and school land issues, contributing to community development and peaceful resolutions.

The end-of-year survey indicates a high level of satisfaction (76.36%) among households benefiting from the CIDG and youth works, reflecting the perceived effectiveness of the project. Additionally, the establishment of the "Provincial Youth Network" fosters collaboration and knowledge exchange among youth from different districts. The SKYE clubs' activities in promoting social culture, awareness, and community engagement demonstrate the multi-faceted approach to youth involvement and impact. These concrete examples highlight the positive progress and impact of the project in achieving Outcome 1.



In the photo, we witness a collective effort as people come together to construct a bridge connecting Spong village too neighbouring communities. The mobilization and teamwork displayed by the individuals demonstrate their commitment to improving connectivity and facilitating easier access other villages. The construction of this bridge will undoubtedly enhance transportation and foster closer ties between the communities.

OUTCOME 2: The Indigenous community living around Prey Lang is practicing diversified income-generating activities through climate-smart agriculture techniques and adaptation.

Although the achievement is still limited, the Indigenous community living around Prey Lang has successfully practiced diversified income-generating activities through climate-smart agriculture techniques and adaptation. The project achieved its goal of having 20 farmers adopt climate-smart agriculture techniques. Specifically, 3 families are raising catfish in small plastic containers, 11 families are raising frogs in small plastic containers, and 4 families are raising chickens in safe cages. These farmers have embraced these techniques because they find it easier to raise frogs and chickens and grow vegetables, as it requires less water, takes up less space, and is resistant to climate change.

The project also focused on promoting income diversification among community members, and it successfully reached its target of 10 farmers generating new income. Nine families engaged in various activities such as becoming trainers, selling breeding frogs, raising pigs, producing local rice wine, and practicing chicken and vegetable farming. The income generated from these endeavors or initiatives had a positive impact on their livelihoods, as it increased their overall income, reduced their reliance on a single income source, and improved their resilience in the face of environmental changes.

The income generated by each farmer from different sources, such as frog raising, chicken farming, catfish farming, sugarcane cultivation, pig raising, wine production, and vegetable farming, is outlined in the provided



table. This demonstrates that the farmers were successful in generating income from multiple sources, which contributed to their overall income diversification and enhanced their resilience.

So far we are having 25 farmers adopting climate-smart techniques. Some are found successfully cultivating frogs and catfish in small plastic containers, which required less water and saved time. They also used safety cages for raising piglets, chickens, and ducks, allowing for day and night farming while minimizing additional expenses by providing natural or domestic feeds. Another source of income was sugarcane cultivation, which added diversity to their farming practices. By investing in small aquatic plants for natural feeding of catfish and chickens, they were able to reduce feeding costs. Additionally, some farmers invested in purchasing different breeds of ducks, chickens, and piglets, and increased their capital by supplying these animals to local retail shops.

Notably, Mr. Sim Mean, a poor farmer, used the income to meet his family's basic needs, such as providing white rice, buying school clothes for his children, and acquiring frog nets to sell to other farmers in his village. Mr. Vin Rom, a member of the Kuy ethnic group with a disability, raised frogs, chickens, and vegetables. He also invested his rotating capital in a local retail shop. These farmers recognized that their local products alone were not sufficient to meet the community's needs. Therefore, they planned to share their farming techniques with other farmers and expand their operations in the future to meet the growing demand within the community.



In the photo, Mrs. Rin Rom, a resilient farmer living in Toal village, as she initiates the establishment of her home garden. Alongside her existing frog raising activities, Mrs. Rom is taking proactive steps to reduce her dependency on paddy rice cultivation and income from the forest. By diversifying her agricultural endeavors, she aims to ensure a more resilient and sustainable livelihood. Mrs. Rom's determination to cultivate a home garden showcases her commitment to self-sufficiency and adaptability in the face of changing circumstances.

OUTCOME3: Community people access to safe water sources and enhanced health center services for community health care practices.

The community people around Prey Lang have gained access to safe water sources and enhanced health center services for community health care practices. The project has not only achieved but exceeded its target by providing safe water access to a total of 1,014 new people. This was made possible through the support of 14 pumping wells that were established in six villages, with the establishment of Water Management Committees (WMCs). The WMCs were trained on their roles and responsibilities, blueprint design, pricing and quality standards, monitoring and maintenance procedures, and reporting. Furthermore, the project extended its support to four Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) facilities in primary schools, benefiting both teachers and children.

The impact of the project on the community's access to safe water has been significant. Reports from the Kang Cham WMC indicate that community members have experienced a notable decrease in the challenges and accidents associated with fetching water from streams and rivers, regardless of the weather conditions. Moreover, the need to purchase water during the dry season has reduced. In Kang Kngaok village, 35 families no longer rely on fetching water from the river or purchasing it. The pumping wells have provided a reliable



and accessible source of water for various purposes, including drinking, household use, personal hygiene, laundry, and livestock rearing.

The provision of safe water access has not only enhanced the community's overall well-being but also improved their health practices. With reliable access to clean water, community members can maintain better personal hygiene, reduce the risk of waterborne diseases, and ensure the health and cleanliness of their households. The availability of water in primary schools has also contributed to improved sanitation practices and hygiene education among teachers and children. Overall, Outcome 3 reflects the successful efforts of the project in providing safe water sources and enhancing health center services for the community's well-being and healthcare practices.



In the photo, school children at Spong Primary School assessing safe water from the school facility. This initiative aims to reduce waterborne diseases and improve school attendance. By providing access to clean and safe water within the school premises, the children can maintain their health and well-being, thus minimizing the risk of water-related illnesses. This effort not only promotes a healthier learning environment but also encourages regular school attendance, as students can focus on their studies without the worry of waterborne ailments.

OUTCOME4: Children from the indigenous Kuy community and poor families are able to attend and enjoyed school finish at least 9th grade

The project has made some progress in this outcome by effectively enrolling 81% (119 children) of the total 147 community children aged 6 years old into 1st grade for the 2023-2024 school year across seven target primary schools. The primary objective of the project was to ensure that all indigenous children aged six were registered for school, serving as a primary means to achieve its outcome 4.

However, there are still challenges observed in the target schools, resulting in high drop-out rates. Among the schools facing difficulties are Chamraeun, Damnak Trach, Thmea, Spong, Doung, Kaes, and Krobei Mouy. Spong primary school, located in a remote village, has seen seven students sadly choose not to proceed to Grade 7 despite successfully completing primary education. Factors contributing to this decision include economic challenges and the considerable distance of the secondary school from their homes. Some parents prefer having their children assist with farm work rather than continuing their education.

Despite these challenges, there have been positive changes observed through the school library initiative, with students at Kang Cham and Krobei Mouy primary schools actively engaging in reading books provided by the project and participating in reading competitions. Additionally, the project has had a positive impact on individuals like Mrs. Sokhen, who has experienced personal transformation and positive behavioral changes



through her involvement in the project and gaining knowledge on topics such as peace, child's rights, and women's rights.

Enrollment Snapshot: Percentage of 6-year-old school-age children in grade 1 for the school year 2023-2024

Through the school library initiative, project staff observed a positive shift in behavior and culture among students at Kang Cham and Krobei Mouy primary schools during small break times. Some children enthusiastically engaged in reading books and even participated in friendly reading competitions with their peers on a daily basis.

Mr. Meach Sarieng, the deputy school director of Kang Cham primary school, shared insights from the logbook, indicating that approximately 18-20 children visited the school library every day during small break time.

Additionally, Mr. Khut Sokhum, a teacher of Krabei Mouy school, utilized storybooks provided by the project. He conducted free reading sessions for 15-20 struggling students in grades 3-6 every evening, contributing to the academic support provided by the initiative.

Dropout Analysis

Out of the students who successfully advanced to secondary education (grade 7) for the 2023-2024 school year, 23% of 6th graders decided not to proceed. This decision was primarily influenced by the distance of the secondary school from their village and their family's financial situation. For example, Spong village stands out as particularly remote, with the nearest secondary school located nearly 20km away. Seven students, who had completed primary education successfully in Spong village, decided not to continue to grade 7.

Various factors contributed to this decision, with economic challenges and the considerable distance to the secondary school being the most significant. Project staff noted that parents often prefer their children to assist with farm work at home rather than attending school. One parent stated, "I believe completing grade 6 is sufficient for my child. I am content if my child acquires basic reading, writing, and math skills. At their current age, they can contribute significantly to our farm."



In the photo taken at Ph'av Primary School, we witness a project that provides support to educate children and school teachers about child protection. This initiative aims to enhance the safety of children, ultimately leading to improved school attendance and creating a supportive learning environment. By raising awareness and providing education on child protection, the project aims to empower both the students and teachers with the knowledge and skills necessary to ensure the well-being and security of children within the school premises. This comprehensive approach not only promotes a safer environment but also fosters a positive atmosphere for learning and personal development.



2.1 Are there any project results that are not captured in the results framework? If so, please give a brief description

Youth Development

The SKYE curriculum training was provided to the SKYE club members, enabling youth to understand their roles and become more active in social work. This training helped empower them to contribute meaningfully to their communities.

SKYE Clubs Educational Concert:

SKYE Clubs Educational Concert: This year, the SKYE clubs in Thmea and Chrach communes worked together, bringing a total of 36 youths, with 24 of them being female, to organize an "Educational Concert" at Pakdevoat School in Chrach commune, Chey Sen district. The concert had several positive outcomes. Firstly, approximately 1,000 people attended the concert, which helped improve the local police's perception of the SKYE club activities. Earlier in 2023, the local police had been monitoring the youth clubs due to suspicions of their involvement in the opposition movement, possibly related to the national election. However, the successful concert helped change their perception.

During the concert, the group raised 365,300 riel (equivalent to approximately USD 92) through the sale of flower wreaths and bottled water. The funds raised were used to purchase school materials for 10 underprivileged children who attend Pakdevoat School. This initiative aimed to ensure that these children have the necessary resources to regularly attend school and participate in their education.

The capabilities of the youth involved in the concert have received praise from their parents and community members as well as the local authorities. This recognition has served as a significant source of motivation for the young participants to continue their efforts. Miss. Sam Ranny, the SKYE club leader in Chrach commune, shared a touching personal story. She mentioned that as a result of attending the educational concert, her uncle decided to stop consuming alcohol. This positive change led to a decrease in incidents of domestic violence that were previously influenced by alcohol. Miss. Sam Ranny's testimony highlights the transformative power of the SKYE club activities and their ability to bring about positive changes within the community.

Community Initiatives for Development Groups (CIDGs):

Three Community Initiatives for Development Groups (CIDGs) in Pakdevoat, Phneak Roluek, and Phlaoch villages have successfully established their CIDG offices. The primary purpose of these offices is to hold meetings and store CIDG materials and documents. Additionally, the CIDGs have aspirations to expand the office space and use it as a community marketplace in the future. This initiative aims to support and motivate the community by providing a platform for them to sell their products.

Environmental Conservation and Awareness:

The project supported and collaborated with Prey Lang Community Network (PLCN) to undertake several activities focused on environmental conservation and raising community awareness. These initiatives included organizing awareness campaigns, tree replanting events, protection efforts, patrolling of protected areas, and a forest festival. Key highlights from these activities are outlined below:

Awareness Campaigns and Tree Replanting: The project successfully conducted awareness campaigns and tree planting activities, aiming to educate both students and the wider community on the importance of environmental conservation and the role of trees in combating climate change. These trees are not only crucial for absorbing carbon dioxide but also provide a multitude of benefits including habitat for wildlife, prevention of soil erosion, and improvement of air quality.



Provision of T-Shirts for Human Rights Day: To support Human Rights Day, the project distributed 50 T-shirts. This gesture not only aided in spreading the message of human rights and environmental conservation but also helped in promoting unity and a sense of belonging among the participants.

Support for Forest Festival: The project supplied essential materials, including fuel and monk's blanket cloth, for a forest festival held in the Kbal Kla protected area. This festival served as a platform to celebrate the forest's significance, foster community spirit, and further educate attendees about the importance of preserving natural habitats.

Provincial Youth Networking:

The project has established a provincial youth network for youth in the target area, which encompasses Chey Saen, Stung Treng, and the TBCD project. This network brings together youth members three times a year for meetings, reflection, and learning opportunities. In late 2023, the network members collaboratively developed a Terms of Reference (ToR).

The provincial youth network currently consists of approximately 15-30 members, including 9 committee members. As part of their annual plans, the network aims to organize three meetings per year. To enhance learning, facilitate knowledge sharing, and promote exposure to different experiences, the committee members take turns selecting meeting venues. This rotation system encourages a dynamic and inclusive environment that fosters personal and professional growth among the network members.

Community Cleanliness Initiatives:

A series of village cleaning campaigns were conducted in six villages across two communes. The first set of campaigns took place in the villages of Spong, Toal, Kampong Pang, and Doung, which are located in the communes of Anlong Phe and Kang Cham. The second set of campaigns targeted the villages of Thmea, Sre Veal, and P'nhak Roloek in the Thmea commune. These campaigns garnered active participation from a diverse range of community members, including commune police, commune councils, local authorities (LA), youths, CIDG members, teachers, and school children. The participants joined forces in collecting waste along village roads, in public spaces, and throughout the villages, with the primary objective of raising awareness about environmental values and the impact of climate change on community well-being. The collective effort strongly emphasized the importance of proper waste disposal and encouraged community members to utilize designated bins for effective waste management. By disseminating information and promoting responsible waste practices, these campaigns aimed to serve as a model for others to follow in managing waste both within their homes and in public spaces.

Follow-up Observations:

Project staff observed a sustained practice of cleanliness in the four initially targeted villages. There was a notable improvement in cleanliness compared to previous conditions, with residents taking daily responsibility for their surroundings. The installation of multiple garbage bins across these villages has contributed to this positive change. Reports from CIDG in Doung and Kang Cham villages, along with feedback from project staff Ty Sokleak, Vichetra, and Ret Sonna, highlighted the clean environment and the community's commitment to waste management, reflecting overall well-being.

Post-campaign observations revealed that in P'nhak Roloek village, 10 families crafted wooden garbage bins, while in Sre Veal village, 25 families opted for paper boxes for waste disposal. Additionally, 25 families in Thmea village purchased plastic baskets for managing their household waste, demonstrating a community-wide effort towards better waste management practices.

Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion:

Local authorities and NGOs in Stung Treng, including PNKS joined forces to promote Open Defecation Free (ODF) in the province. According to the department of statistics, in Thala Barivat district, 87.28% of households now have access to household latrines.



2.2 How has empowerment of the target group(s) changed? (maximum 1 page)

The empowerment of the target groups has undergone significant changes through the implementation of PNKS's community-led development and participatory action approaches. These approaches have been instrumental in working with various groups such as the Community Initiatives for Development Groups (CIDGs), youth SKYE clubs, School Management Committees (SMCs), Prey Lang Community Network (PLCN), and Health Posts (HP) to mobilize local resources and facilitate decision-making processes. The goal is to ensure active participation, mobilization, and self-driven decision-making in community development efforts.

CIDGs and youth SKYE club have benefited from monthly meetings and capacity-building initiatives, which have empowered them to identify village issues, engage in annual planning, write proposals, and submit requests to other stakeholders. Additionally, the development of Terms of Reference (ToR) and bylaw has provided guidance for their activities and development initiatives, including construction design, criteria for chicken raising, frog and vegetable growing, and the careful management of materials.

To further empower the target groups, the project has provided them with relevant organizational skills through Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions. These skills encompass Community-Led Development, Participatory Action Research (PAR), Climate Change and Environmental Degradation Risk and Adaptation Assessment (CEDRA), bookkeeping, land law, human and indigenous rights, financial literacy, peace-building, planning, good governance, community initiatives (CI), leadership and management, SKYE curriculum, and Value Chain. The CIDGs have utilized their ToT skills to facilitate meetings and events, sharing responsibilities such as inviting participants, setting up schedules and agendas, appointing facilitators, and documenting minutes.

Bookkeeping skills have been imparted to saving groups to enable them to accurately record member savings, loans, and interests. Community-Led Development (CLD) has played a crucial role in equipping CIDG leaders with the understanding that community prosperity is a collective responsibility. CLD skills have been employed to promote community participation, prioritize issues, mobilize resources, and foster a sense of community independence and ownership. The youth SKYE program has improved community members' financial literacy and active involvement in their communities. CEDRA has served as a valuable tool for assessing climate-related risks and planning agricultural activities, particularly for the CIDGs engaged in farming.

To put these acquired skills into practice, the project has provided guidance, follow-up, coaching, and gradual autonomy to the target groups. As a result, the CIDGs and youth clubs have successfully mobilized community members for activities such as trash collection, road repairs, environmental clean-up, reforestation, and the construction of CIDG offices. The SMCs have achieved notable progress in creating safe school environments, including safe schoolyards and comfortable classrooms for students. Furthermore, safe water access has been established in four out of the eleven engaged schools, leading to improved overall health and regular school attendance among students.

The empowerment of the target groups is evident in their increased participation, ownership, and self-reliance in community development activities. The project's interventions and capacity-building efforts have equipped these groups with the necessary skills and knowledge to drive positive change within their communities. As a result, the community has taken more ownership in addressing community issues by contributing money, equipment such as tractors, labor force, and materials to build fences around wells and community ponds, as well as fixing schools and roads.

2.3 MA crosscutting issues: Please fill in the table.

Crosscutting issues	Successes in the past year	Challenges in the past year
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<p>Anti-corruption in the local communities</p>	<p>The Board has approved a new version of the PNKS finance policy, which will take effect at the beginning of 2024. This updated finance policy includes enhancements in anti-corruption measures, conflict of interest policies, whistleblowing, and an anti-corruption code of conduct. All PNKS staff members are required to sign and acknowledge the anti-corruption code of conduct and to disclose any potential conflicts of interest, such as family business involvements. Furthermore, PNKS enforces strict disciplinary measures against any staff members found engaging in fraudulent activities, and they may also be subject to legal action.</p> <p>Early 2023, PNKS engaged K Professional Accountant for the external audit. During the year, PNKS conducted two external audits. The first audit focused on the Mission Alliance fund, covering the period from January to April 2023, and was held in May 2023. The second audit included the entire organization, reviewing the period from January to December 2022.</p> <p>PNKS conducted an annual internal financial monitoring (internal audit) exercise through its Finance and Admin Team (FAT). This exercise was conducted in October 2023, and its findings were compiled into a report. This report was then shared with project staff to guide improvements in implementation. The review covered all transactions that occurred from January to September 2023, as well as aspects of procurement, cash management, and asset management. During this exercise, FAT also took the opportunity to highlight relevant points from the finance and staff policies that aligned with their findings from the Internal Finance Monitoring process.</p> <p>In 2023, FAT held quarterly meetings in March, June, September, and December. The aim of these meetings was to enhance financial practices and address any financial challenges encountered by the projects and the organization.</p> <p>In every quarterly Board meeting, the Finance Manager presented updates on PNKS's financial status, including budget versus expense reports and explanations for any variances, to keep the board members informed.</p> <p>PNKS developed its website, www.pnksCambodia.org, where content related to reporting issues involving Anti-Corruption and Safeguarding was designed and announced to all staff members in May 2023.</p> <p>Regular and surprise cash-on-hand (CoH) and petty cash counts were conducted 16 times at the Phnom Penh office, 20 times at the Stung Treng office, and 16 times at the Chey Saen office. These counts involved project staff, finance staff, and Mission Alliance representatives during their visits. Regarding cash in the bank, the finance and admin staff are responsible for recording transactions in the PNKS accounting system and reconciling bank cash monthly.</p> <p>During training/workshops, staff members clearly announced food allowances and provided participants with detailed guidelines for travel expenses, which required a signature or thumbprint for verification.</p>	<p>We discovered that the section of our website dedicated to receiving public complaints regarding anti-corruption and safeguarding was non-functional for a period of time. This issue has now been resolved, and the feature is operational once again.</p> <p>When conducting spot checks on per-diems and allowances received by participants in training sessions, events, workshops, etc., we found that approximately 70-80% of participants could not recall the exact amount of money they received. While they remembered attending the workshop and receiving the funds, their inability to recall the specific amounts made verification challenging.</p> <p>There have been community concerns regarding the strict requirement for signatures and thumbprints. Many community members, facing difficulties with signing due to illiteracy, have been reluctant to provide thumbprints. However, they have made efforts to sign, despite these challenges.</p>
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	<p>The Finance and Admin Officer conducted spot checks with beneficiaries and suppliers from January to December 2023. In the Somleng Prey Lang project in Preah Vihear office, these were performed biannually, while in Stung Treng province, occurred quarterly.</p> <p>In PNKS's current policy and practices, the staff members who are responsible for entering transactions into the accounting system must be different from the person who is managing cash on hand.</p> <p>When projects provide allowances and materials to community members, a distribution list is presented with the expenses. This list included essential information such as the recipient's name, contact number, item name and quantity, date received, and the recipient's signature.</p> <p>In May 2023, the Finance Manager conducted a one-and-a-half-day training session on fraud prevention for all S-PL staff in Preah Vihear.</p> <p>All types of agreements or contracts, including those with constructors, incorporate a clause 'committing to fraud prevention', which contractors were required to read before signing. This year, the project included such clauses in contracts for building WASH facilities, well digging, bus rental, facilitator service agreements, and constructing latrines.</p>	
<p>The human rights, including the rights of people with disabilities</p>	<p>The project consistently motivated Boundary Partners (BPs) to recognize the importance of including people with disabilities (PWD) and marginalized individuals in their groups and activities. The project emphasized the need for BPs to consider accessibility, including slopes for people with disabilities when constructing facilities or buildings.</p> <p>As a result, people with disabilities and children were actively invited to participate in meetings, trainings, and social development work, and had the opportunity to voice their opinions. This inclusive approach contributed to a significant reduction in student dropout rates.</p> <p>Mrs. Sien Sokhoeun, 54, the deputy chief of CIDG and chairperson of the market group in Chrach village, Chrach commune, expressed her satisfaction, saying, "I am happy with myself after PNKS sent me to learn about human rights, including indigenous people's rights. I feel that the community pays more attention and responds to my ideas and suggestions. I have a better understanding of rights such as the right to live, participation, setting up independent groups to promote our income, and protecting natural resources."</p> <p>Mr. Pang Soth, 51, the chief of Pakdevoat CIDG in Chrach commune, stated, "After joining the human rights training, including indigenous people's rights with PNKS, I feel stronger and more confident in exercising my rights, such as freedom of expression, establishing community-based organizations (CBOs), relying on non-timber forest products, and understanding rights related to state public land and social land."</p>	<p>Activities related to human rights have been met with sensitivity in Chey Sen district, particularly with the district governor. There have been instances where the governor has either disallowed or raised numerous questions when the project attempted to carry out activities related to human rights, such as training or events. There have been restrictions placed specifically on human rights activities, including training sessions or events.</p>



<p>Environment and vulnerability to climate change</p>	<p>The project engaged the community in environmental conservation and addressing vulnerability to climate change. In response to forest degradation, the community mobilized local labor and land resources to plant 150 trees connected with awareness of environmental protection.</p> <p>In two villages, Doung and Kaes, the community was mobilized to clean the villages, promoting a culture of cleanliness and sanitation.</p> <p>According to the staff report, the baseline survey conducted among 389 households in 21 villages across 7 communes revealed that 241 households were aware of and acknowledged the existence of climate change and its effects. However, they were unclear about how to actively participate in reducing climate change, particularly in the new three communes. On the other hand, the nine existing target villages demonstrated a better understanding of climate change. They actively engaged in activities such as forest protection, environmental cleaning, waste management, and tree planting. The project provided support and materials to three villages (Thmea, Srae Veal, and Phneak Roluek) in Thmea commune to raise awareness about the impacts of waste and promote community-led waste management practices both at home and in public spaces, serving as a model for others. The project observed that 10 families in Phneak Roluek village constructed wooden garbage bins, 25 families in Srae Veal village used paper boxes for garbage disposal, and 25 families in Thmea village purchased plastic baskets for waste management within their households.</p>	<p>Many community members in the area still hold onto traditional practices and have not yet fully grasped the significance of climate change. Their agricultural activities largely depend on rainfall, without considering proactive planning or utilizing climate change techniques provided by the PNKS project, especially those who own large cassava or cashew nut farms.</p> <p>Although some community members have begun discussing climate change, there is still a limited adoption of climate change techniques within the agricultural sector, despite the information and resources provided by the project.</p>
<p>Women's rights and gender equity</p>	<p>Women's Day:</p> <p>On Mar 7, 2023, the CIDG and community youth of the S-PL project collaborated with NTFP and Chey Saen district to celebrate International Women's Day at the Chey Saen district hall. A total of 74 participants (55 females) attended the event, including CIDGs, community youths from both Chrach and Thmea target communes, district staff members, NTFP representatives, and PNKS. The event aimed to commemorate the contributions of older generation women who advocated for women's rights, reflect on achievements and challenges related to gender and women's rights, encourage women to commit to future progress in gender equality and equity, and promote the courage of all women and girls.</p> <p>Meetings and Home Visits:</p> <p>The project consistently emphasizes the importance of gender balance and the roles of women in development, promoting the idea of inclusive and gender-sensitive development that leaves no one behind. Based on the staff report and FGDs conducted in nine villages across three communes, the community now has a better understanding of gender equality. They recognize that men and women have equal rights, and women have been encouraged to take on leadership roles in society. Notably, during a SKYE young concert event, young girls displayed bravery and motivated other youth to participate.</p> <p>As a result, the project noted that school-age children were being sent to school without gender discrimination. There was also an increase in the number of women in decision-making roles and</p>	



	<p>responsibilities. For instance, Mrs. Pheng Sopheak served as the chief of Chrach commune, and the youth clubs of Chrach and Thmea communes were led by female youth, with Miss. Sam Ranny leading the Chrach commune and Miss. Chey Sidan serves as the Chief of the Youth Club in Thmea commune, among others.</p> <p>Meetings and home visits:</p> <p>The project always motivates BPs to think about Gender and keep an eye on gender balance and gender roles in development and the importance of development that leaves no one behind. Based on the staff report, the baseline survey on the FGD with 9 villages in 3 communes, currently, the community understood the inclusive and gender better. They said that men and women have equal rights, and women were being promoted in social roles, based on the observation, in concert events of SKYE youth, girls were braver and motivated other young youth to participate in concert.</p>	
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3. Learning

3.1 Have there been any unforeseen events? How did this affected the project implementation and how did you deal with it?

Cambodian government has formulated a comprehensive plan aimed at enhancing collaboration with young people and offering free vocational training programs. This initiative seeks to empower and equip young individuals within the community, aiming to improve and support their skills while simultaneously creating employment opportunities tailored to their needs. The implementation of this strategy promises significant benefits not only for the youth but also for the country's economy. However, there are apprehensions regarding the potential influence of the government's political agenda on the independence of these youths.

Cambodia plans to deploy agricultural experts in all communes across the country to work with farmers. Former Prime Minister Hun Sen called for a new strategy in place to deploy agricultural experts in all communes across the country to accelerate the pace of development in the agricultural sector which contributes 22.2 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In 2023, 250 commune agriculture experts were deployed that reached Chey Saen but not yet in Stung Treng. In 2024, the government plans to deployed another 800 experts and hopefully will reached all communes in Stung Treng.

There has been a positive development in the collaboration between the Prey Lang Community Network (PLCN) and Environment officers after Cambodia's new Prime Minister took office. The joint patrols in the forest have become more seamless and the process of obtaining requesting letters has become easier. Additionally, the government has shown increased commitment to protecting the Prey Lang forests.

Watanak Pheap organization, a local organization funded by Plan International, worked closely with the Provincial Department of Rural Development (PDRD) to support the construction of household latrines in line with Cambodia's 2030 strategy for Open Defecation Free villages (ODF). Stung Treng and Preah Vihear provinces have set a goal to achieve ODF status by 2025. Collaboration between local authorities, INGOs, community members, and private sectors has been crucial in building household latrines and providing necessary materials to impoverished families. However, there was an unfortunate incident involving a private construction company from Chey Sen district. The company collected money from community members for latrine construction but failed to deliver the promised materials. The community approached local authorities, but a satisfactory solution has not been found. This has resulted in a loss of confidence among community



members towards private companies, NGOs, and local authorities. The project staff has been following up with the PDRD, local authorities, and district officers to address this issue and find a resolution.

Illiteracy among some community members and CIDG members has posed challenges for their participation in meetings and project activities. The project has been working to overcome this by providing visual aids such as posters and other teaching materials to support their learning and understanding.

Some community members still adhere to traditional practices in their daily lives. They may deviate from the agreed-upon project plans and engage in farming activities only when it rains, disregarding the project's schedule. This has resulted in slower progress in some project activities. The project staff has been encouraging community members to communicate any necessary changes to the agreed dates in advance, so that convenient alternatives can be found.

There have been cases where community farmlands have been encroached upon by mining companies. This has posed a challenge to project activities. The project has planned to mobilize CIDGs and youth to approach relevant authorities to file complaints against these companies and prevent further encroachment on their lands.

Fifty community cows have perished, leading to varied interpretations among Kuy community members. While some have resigned themselves to this fate, many in the community, particularly the Kuy, hold beliefs in forest and natural spirits that safeguard the community. They attribute occurrences such as these to the spirits, occasionally becoming angered. In the case of the cow deaths, it's believed that the spirits were displeased and thus claimed the cattle. Upon recent follow-up by project staff to ascertain further deaths, a community member reported that a spirit offering ceremony had been conducted, resulting in no additional cow fatalities. However, there are others who posit a different explanation, suggesting that the cows may have consumed contaminated water and grass near farms where chemicals, such as weed-killing sprays, were used.

- 3.2 Which internal or external risk factors have affected the implementation of the project the most in the past year? Describe how these risks have affected the project implementation, and how you will manage this uncertainty in the future. (maximum 1 page)

Risk Management Update for 2023

During the year 2023, the project implementation was not significantly affected by any internal or external risks. The anticipated major risks were the pandemic and the national election, but they did not pose substantial threats to the project. There were no major issues identified in relation to Covid-19 or the national election in 2023.

However, it is important to note that drought remains an ongoing risk resulting from climate change and environmental changes, which can have a significant impact on local livelihoods. Although the project implementation and local livelihoods were not significantly impacted by drought in 2023, we recognize the importance of continued monitoring and close collaboration with the local community to address any potential immediate interventions that may be required.

Project, under the management of project managers, remain committed to proactive risk management and will continue to monitor and assess the situation closely to ensure the project's success and the well-being of the local community.

New Emerging Risk



- In Thmea commune, some community agriculture land was lost to a company that came to search and do mining for gold and iron ore. On September 11, 2023, the company transported machinery to the construction site, and some community farm lands were forced to sell to the company at the cheapest price of 3,000,000 riel which was around \$750.00 per hectare, according to the commune council and CIDG. The company will take the land anyways if the people do not accept the deal. We believe there are two reasons. One, the company got a licence from the government and, two, people own the farm land but they do not have the land titles. The government refused to give the family land title because they believe people cleared the forests and took the land illegally. PNKS does not know much about this however. The project approached the district governor for more information and the company's name. He said, he did not know. Project staff found a company truck driver when he was fixing his truck on the road. He asked what his problem was and asked the company's name. He said it's Try Pheap's and the mine will be exported to China.

Risk Analysis

Some community members in Chey Saen are at risk of losing access to their farmland, with the risk assessed as level 3 and the potential impact rated as level 4 in our risk analysis matrix. This is due to a mining company being granted permission by the government for underground exploration. Such developments could severely impact family livelihoods through the loss of agricultural land and potential displacement. The risk is particularly high for minority groups within the community.

Risk Mitigation

Given the project's limited information on the issue, collaboration with community youth and NTFP is planned to conduct a study on the affected individuals or families. The evidence gathered will then be presented to the CIDG and commune council for mitigation efforts.

To address this concern, the project is actively monitoring and gathering information on individuals and families at risk from the mining operations. Additionally, the company is committed to close collaboration with local authorities and the community to minimize negative impacts on farmland and surrounding areas. Through this collaborative effort, effective solutions will be sought to balance the mining project's objectives with the preservation of the community's agricultural resources.

- The government's vocational training programs and youth cooperation:

Risk Analysis

The SKYE Club, which initially focused on promoting independence, fighting for social justice, and serving the community's interests, recognizes the potential risks associated with the youth being driven by political agendas. When youth become influenced by such agendas, there is a risk that they may lose their independence and inadvertently contribute to division within the community. This could hinder the SKYE Club's efforts in fostering community harmony and peace. In our risk analysis matrix, this risk is assessed at level 1, with the potential impact rated at level 4.

Risk Mitigation

It is important for the project to approach this issue with sensitivity, as the government's policy itself is aimed at creating opportunities for young Cambodian youth. However, it is crucial to remain vigilant and ensure that the independence and integrity of the SKYE Club are not compromised by political influences. By maintaining a focus on promoting independence, social justice, and community service, the SKYE Club aims to navigate these potential challenges and continue working towards building a harmonious and peaceful community.

Youth Knowledge Development:



Education on Critical Thinking: Encourage critical thinking skills among youth through workshops, seminars, and educational programs. Teach them to analyze information critically, question authority, and form their own opinions based on evidence and rationality.

Promote Civic Engagement: Encourage youth to participate actively in civic engagement activities such as community service projects, volunteering, and involvement in local organizations. This can help them develop a sense of agency and autonomy outside of political influence.

3.3 Sustainability: What has been done in the previous year to promote sustainability of the project results? Which challenges have been encountered when it comes to the sustainability of the project, and what has the project done to deal with the challenges? (maximum ½ page)

In 2023, the project made significant efforts to promote the sustainability of the project results. Several challenges were encountered during this process, and the project took specific actions to address these challenges.

Climate Change: The Climate Change training helped the community gain a better understanding of the impacts of climate change, enabling them to develop and implement adaptation practices. These practices included environmental preservation and sustainable resource management, fostering resilience in the face of climate-related challenges.

Livelihood: The project conducted home visits and assessments and observed improvements in community income and livelihoods. However, some community members heavily relied on natural resources from the forest, which posed a challenge to promoting sustainable practices. To address this, the project team supported the establishment of small businesses and markets through the Community Initiatives for Development Group (CIDG). The CIDG aimed to diversify the types of products available in their market, thereby motivating community members to engage in agriculture techniques and practices.

Saving: Saving groups played a crucial role in promoting financial stability and resilience within the community. However, not all communities were equally focused on saving practices. The project identified 13 saving groups out of the 21 villages/CIDGs in the target areas. To enhance the sustainability of the project, the project team encouraged saving group members to utilize loans for income-generating activities such as buying seeds, agricultural materials, and establishing small businesses. This approach aimed to empower community members economically and promote self-sufficiency.

Business: The project recognized that some community members were not interested in agricultural techniques rather than traditional farming practices. This preference was influenced by the perception that there was an abundance of vegetables and meats available in the forest, and market access was limited. To address this challenge, the project focused on establishing community markets where agricultural products could be sold. It was believed that once community members had their own market, the demand for diverse goods would increase, thereby promoting sustainable agriculture practices.

Local Authorities (LA): Collaborating with local authorities, including commune councils and village leaders, was essential for the project's success. Initially, there was resistance and unfriendliness from some LA members. However, through continuous engagement and dialogue, the project was able to build positive relationships and collaboration with most members. This collaboration was crucial for sustaining project activities even after the project's phase-out. While some challenges remained at the district level, overall, the relationship between the project, local authorities, and community members improved over time.



School: Initially, schools were not viewed as a priority by the community, leading to high dropout rates and poor school infrastructure. The project recognized the importance of education in improving family income and future prospects. To address this challenge, the project worked with school management committee and community people to take action to improve school facilities, such as filling school yards with soil, fixing school gates, adding reading books to school library and conducting campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of education. These efforts resulted in a significant reduction in the school dropout rate, with Chamreun primary school achieving a dropout rate of only 10.95% compared to the previous 39%.

Overall, the project has made significant strides in promoting sustainability in various aspects, including livelihood, financial stability, business development, collaboration with local authorities, and education. By addressing these challenges and implementing appropriate strategies, the project aims to ensure the long-term sustainability of its results and positively impact the community for generations to come.

3.4 If applicable: Please give an overview of the past year's project reviews/evaluations. What learning and improvement of the project did these contribute to? (maximum ½ page)

Organizational Self-Assessment

Progress made in responding to organization self-assessment recommendations:

Environment Policy Developed and Approved by the Board for the First Time:

Significant progress has been made in environmental sustainability with the development and approval of the Environment Policy by the board. This demonstrates the organization's commitment to addressing environmental concerns and integrating sustainable practices into its operations.

Do No Harm Training for Project Staff: PNKS engaged experts from CCC to deliver Do No Harm training to all project staff, excluding support staff. The objective of this training was to enhance the safety and harmony of project interventions, ensuring that activities are implemented in a way that minimizes potential harm and promotes positive outcomes.

Human and IP Rights Training and Awareness Events: Training sessions on human and intellectual property rights were conducted for community members, local authorities, CIDG, and youth. This initiative involved 27 participants, with 20 of them being female. Furthermore, the project organized several events on important rights-related occasions such as Human Rights Day, Women's Rights Day, Child Rights Day, IP Rights Day, and Disability Rights Day. These events aimed to raise awareness and promote the practice of human rights within the local community, fostering a culture of respect and inclusion.

Data Collection and Management: To improve data collection, staff questionnaires were developed using Kobo Toolbox and Google Forms. This streamlined data collection processes, ensuring efficient and standardized data capture. Data management was conducted using Excel sheets, allowing for organized and accessible data storage.

Training on GEDSI, Climate Change, and Fraud Prevention: PNKS provided training to all staff on Gender Equality, Diversity, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI), Climate Change, and fraud prevention. This comprehensive training equipped staff with the necessary knowledge and skills to address issues related to equality, diversity, climate change, and fraud. Certification was also provided, further validating staff expertise in these areas.

Fraud and Safeguarding Reporting Mechanisms: To enhance accountability and transparency, hotline stickers were developed and distributed to all target areas. These stickers enable community members to report fraud and safeguarding allegations. Additionally, a dedicated space was created where individuals can report allegations publicly and anonymously, providing multiple avenues for reporting and ensuring a safe and secure environment.

Cost Allocation Policy Development: As part of the PNKS finance policy, a cost allocation policy has been developed. This policy outlines guidelines for allocating costs, ensuring transparency and consistency in financial management practices.



In summary, significant progress has been made in responding to the organization's self-assessment recommendations. The development of an environment policy, training initiatives on various rights and topics, improved data collection and management, comprehensive staff training, the establishment of fraud and safeguarding reporting mechanisms, and the development of a cost allocation policy all contribute to the organization's commitment to sustainable and responsible practices. These efforts reinforce the organization's mission and values, promoting positive change and community well-being.

Project Evaluation Recommendations

Progress made in responding to project evaluation recommendations:

Progress Made in Responding to Project Evaluation Recommendations - Summary 2023

1. Review recruitment policy to include more local staff: The project has made progress in recruiting local staff, with five indigenous staff members and four local Kuy interns actively contributing to the project team.
2. Capacity development for local Kuy staff: Two CLDMs are serving in key roles, including one as a member of the Safeguarding Working Group and another as a staff representative in NLT and Board meetings.
3. Recruit Local Kuy interns: The project has successfully recruited four Kuy interns, two based in STT and two in PVH.
4. Be cross-cultural sensitized: Eleven staff members have received cross-cultural training from an experienced professional working with indigenous communities.
5. Review criteria for selecting target villages: The baseline survey indicates that 70.61% of the interviewed individuals are Kuy or have Kuy ancestry.
6. Use Participatory Action Research: Kuy staff members have participated in assessing new target areas and conducting project result assessments.
7. Modify project components to suit IP context: Kuy staff and the Kuy community have been actively involved in project reflection, planning, and implementation of community initiatives.
8. Effective project coordinators: The recruitment process for project coordinators has been finalized, and replacements have been made when necessary.
9. Review recruitment policy: Recruitment announcements have been adjusted to encourage indigenous Kuy individuals to apply and ensure a fair opportunity for them.
10. Build necessary networks: The project actively participates in provincial networks and collaborates closely with Asian Outreach Cambodia (AOC), World Vision (WV), and the Cambodia Indigenous Peoples Organization (CIPO).
11. Replace field staff who have resigned with local Kuy: Three resigned CLDMs have been replaced by indigenous Kuy individuals.
12. Review staffing and restructure: Two indigenous staff members are serving in the local management team.
13. Recruit local and competent PCs: An indigenous Tumpuan has been recruited to replace the ill CLDC in Stung Treng.
14. No alcohol on the job: Alcohol consumption during work hours or at the office has been prohibited, and no instances have been reported in 2023.
15. Share work: The project has implemented a strategy to promote knowledge sharing among team members to ensure seamless task performance in case of absence.
16. "Networking" should be the responsibility of every staff member: The project works closely with Asian Outreach Cambodia (AOC) and World Vision (WV) for effective collaboration.
17. Address the imbalance of men and women: The project sets quotas to ensure balanced participation of women and men in meetings, training sessions, and workshops.



18. Conduct social behavior change analysis: The project has recognized that men have less time to participate due to farming responsibilities.
19. Address gender balance in the leadership team: Two Indigenous People (IP) are included in the project's local management team.
20. Seek Indigenous network: The project has established a strong connection with the Cambodia Indigenous Peoples Organization (CIPO).
21. Improve Communication technologies: The project has established a Telegram group to connect youth, CIDG members, and local authorities.
22. Contextualize training materials and other communication materials: The project employs role play, pictures, and community experiences to enhance training effectiveness.
23. Reflect peace training: Peace lessons are being reviewed to tailor them to the Kuy culture and existing knowledge.
24. Address the needs of the local Kuy: The project has supported indigenous people's visits to organizations addressing their needs.
25. Kuy centered: The project has focused on the Kuy indigenous people in its design and activities.
26. Clear purpose: The project has started to provide clarity of purpose in planning activities.
27. Set up quarterly meetings for field staff to meet with World Vision: Regular meetings are being set up to ensure collaboration with World Vision.
28. Seek Synergy: The project works closely with Asian Outreach Cambodia (AOC), World Vision (WV), and the Cambodia Indigenous Peoples Organization (CIPO).
29. Missing Policies: Several policies have been developed and reviewed, including environmental, finance, GEDSI, and safeguarding policies.
30. Network with NGOs that share goals and objectives: The project works closely with Asian Outreach Cambodia (AOC) and World Vision (WV) to align goals and collaborate.
31. Regular meeting with district officials: The project has attended integrated plan meetings organized by the district and invited district council to AGM.
32. Training should be based upon a training needs assessment: The project identifies training needs through assessments before providing specialized training.
33. Adapted training method: The project employs interactive and visual training methods, such as role play, pictures and community engagement, to ensure effective learning.
34. Develop a clear monitoring and evaluation framework: The project has developed a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework that includes key performance indicators and data collection tools.
35. Strengthen community participation in monitoring and evaluation: The project actively involves community members in monitoring and evaluation activities, including collecting feedback and conducting surveys.
36. Improve data collection and management systems: The project has implemented digital data collection tools and established a centralized database for efficient data management.
37. Enhance reporting mechanisms: The project has improved its reporting mechanisms by streamlining reporting formats and providing clear guidelines to staff.
38. Ensure timely dissemination of project information: The project has implemented regular communication channels, such as monthly newsletters and community meetings, to disseminate project information.
39. Conduct regular project reviews and reflection sessions: The project conducts regular reviews and reflection sessions to assess progress, identify challenges, and make necessary adjustments.



40. Implement recommendations from project evaluations: The project has actively implemented recommendations from project evaluations to improve its performance and outcomes.

Overall, although project has not been able to achieve all recommendations, the project has made significant progress in responding to the recommendations provided in the project evaluation in the first year. Efforts have been made to recruit local staff, build capacity among indigenous team members, involve the Kuy community in project activities, and strengthen monitoring and evaluation processes. The project has also fostered partnerships with relevant organizations and addressed gender balance in its team and activities. Continued efforts are being made to address the remaining recommendations and ensure the project's success in supporting the local Kuy community.

How will the learning described in 3.1 – 3.4 be used in the management and implementation of the project moving forward? Please describe any adjustments you would like to make for the project activities, results framework, budget and/or theory of change.

Below are key learnings with could potentially impact on future project interventions:

Government's Vocational Training Programs:

The project aims to investigate the outcomes of vocational training for youths, particularly whether graduates face challenges in applying their skills due to lack of financial resources. The learning and finding could potentially impact project planning objectives and budget.

Deployment of Agricultural Experts in Communes:

Although no activities were observed under the government's agricultural expert program in 2023, the project will continue to study the roles and support provided by agricultural experts to local communities in terms of agricultural techniques. This ongoing research will inform the project's investment in agricultural practices.

Positive Cooperation Between PLCN and the Department of the Environment:

The collaboration between the PLCN and the Department of the Environment offers an opportunity for the project to support forest protection and patrolling efforts within the community. The project will leverage this partnership to enhance its impact on preserving the environment. The project will work closely with the PLCN and the Department of the Environment to develop joint initiatives, share resources, and strengthen community-based efforts in forest conservation.

Illiteracy Among Community and CIDG Members:

The project recognizes the issue of illiteracy among certain community and CIDG members. To address this, the project will invest in literacy classes to enhance their knowledge and promote sustainability within the community. The project will collaborate with local educational institutions, NGOs, and community leaders to design and implement literacy programs tailored to the specific needs of the target community. This investment in education will empower community members and contribute to long-term development.

Potential Loss of Community Farmland Due to Mining Activities in Chey Saen:

The emerging risk of community farmland loss to a mining company in Chey Saen requires the project to conduct a comprehensive study and monitor the situation closely. The project will gather more information about the incident to inform future strategies and responses. It will engage with affected community members, local authorities, and relevant stakeholders to assess the potential impact, explore mitigation measures, and advocate for the protection of community farmland.



In light of these new learnings, the project will engage with project team to develop detailed planning and strategies that could potentially impact planning and approach in 2025. This process will involve consultations with government agencies, local authorities, community representatives, NGOs, and other relevant partners. The project will proactively adapt its activities, approaches, and budget considerations to ensure maximum effectiveness and alignment with the evolving needs and challenges identified through the key learnings.

4. 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. 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.

Finance and audit report are provided separately.

5. Additional comments

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

Commune Investment Plan and Workshops:

The project actively participated in a district integrated workshop for the commune investment plan. During the workshop, the achievements from the year 2023 were reviewed, the annual plan for 2024 was shared, and an official signing ceremony took place with the district governor. This collaborative effort ensured that the project aligned its goals and activities with the broader development plans of the commune and district, fostering a coordinated approach towards community development.

Capacity Building and Training:

The project placed a strong emphasis on capacity building and training for its staff members, aiming to enhance their skills and knowledge. Various training sessions were conducted to address different aspects of the project and promote positive outcomes.

PSEAH (Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment) training was implemented to create a safer environment for the community and children by raising awareness and establishing protocols to prevent and respond to such incidents. This training aimed to safeguard vulnerable individuals and ensure their well-being.

Fraud risk mitigation training equipped project staff with the knowledge and skills to identify and address fraud and corruption. By actively engaging in fraud prevention, the staff became more effective in safeguarding project resources, ensuring transparency, and maintaining accountability.



Do No Harm training was provided to both project staff and select members of the community, promoting a risk-sensitive approach to project implementation. This training aimed to minimize potential harm or negative impacts during project activities, enhancing overall project effectiveness and efficiency.

Value chain training, facilitated by Mission Alliance, focused on forming producer and marketing groups within the community. This training aimed to improve access to better markets, strengthening the community's economic opportunities and empowering them to participate more effectively in the value chain.

Through these comprehensive training initiatives, the project improved the skills, knowledge, and engagement of its staff and community members. This investment in capacity building ensured a more effective and sustainable approach to community development.

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 February 2024

Sign: _____
Name: Sun Chanthou
Title: Project Manager, Stung Treng

Sign: _____
Name: Long Doeun
Title: Project Manager, Preah Vihear

Sign: _____
Name: Leak Chowan
Title: Program Development Manager

Annexes:

1. Key Numbers
2. Results Framework
3. Risk Assessment
4. Financial Report
5. Audit
6. Narrative Report Part 2 (for Digni-funded projects only)