



BUILDING DISASTER RESILIENT COMMUNITIES IN CAMBODIA II



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BUILDING DISASTER RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Oxfam is one of the consortium members together with ActionAid, Save the Children, People In Need, DCA/CA that received funding support from DG ECHO to implement the project called “Building Disaster Resilient Communities in Cambodia II”. Oxfam is working in Kampong Thom province. Oxfam implemented the project through 4 partners in Kampong Thom province. The project was implemented in five districts, 27 communes and 145 villages. Below some activities implemented by Oxfam’s partners in Kampong Thom province are presented.

Women Saving for Change Activities

As part of this BDRCI project, Saving for Change was implemented by one local partner organization of ActionAid Cambodia (AAC), CHRDI in Banteay Meanchey and four Oxfam partners in Kampong Thom province. The project aimed to support 28 existing groups of 420 members in Kampong Thom province. The groups were set up by a previous ECHO funded project. The project supports the establishment of 116 new groups of 1,740 members (respectively 96 and 20 groups in Kampong Thom and Banteay Meanchey province).

During the project period (April 1, 2014 to October 31, 2015) saving for Change carried out following activities and produced following outputs:

Activity 1: SfC Groups Formation and Support

A total of 18 existing Saving for Change groups (out of 28 planned groups) of 274 women and 39 men were supported by Oxfam’s four partners in Kampong Thom province. Among these 18 groups, 13 groups were graduated as the result of a proper follow up support and based on regular group performance assessment. The project was not able to support the other 10 groups because they were already dissolved before the project started due to mainly migration.

PROJECT

PERIOD

1 April 2014 to
31 December 2015

PARTNERS

Action for
Development (AFD)

Angkar Ponleu
Aphiwat (APA)

Help Old Age and
Miserable People
(HOM)

Environment Support
and Social
Development (ESSD).

TARGET PROVINCE

Kampong Thom

DISTRICTS

Baray, Sandan
Prasat Sambor
Kampong Svay
Krung Steung Sen



Saving for Change group meeting, Kampong Thom province. Photo by: Savann Oeurm/Oxfam

Accumulatively, 137 new savings groups of 1,829 women and 410 men were set up following Oxfam's Saving for Change methodology by AAC's partner in Banteay Meanchey (21 groups of 355 members) and Oxfam's partners in Kampong Thom (116 groups of 1,884). One group of 6 people (of whom 4 were women) in Kampong Thom was dissolved due to inability to increase membership and the size was too small to keep operating. Among these new active groups, 46 groups were graduated based on regular group performance assessment, 16 groups (10%) still need to be strengthened on record keeping, and 32 groups (21%) need to be guided more on how to run their group meetings effectively.

As of September 30, 2015, 154 women Saving for Change groups of 2,546 individual members (of which 82% are women) in the project target villages were active and under the support from project teams in both provinces. Groups were managing a total fund of US\$93,970; 77% of their funds (equal to US\$72,204) was used as loans to their members of which the majority was for crops cultivation (52%) followed by health, small business, and food. 75 (50%) SfC groups out of 154 pooled an extra fund to accomplish their collective social objectives called Social Fund, to a cumulative amount of US\$1,265.



Students answering the questions during DRR day at school in Kampong Thom province. Photo by: Oxfam

Conduct Celebration of IDRR Day at Schools

60 primary and secondary schools in Kampong Thom organized the ASEAN Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Day at their schools between January and March 2015.

The theme of the event was around the concepts of disasters and simple preparedness measures for children for local hazards in their areas. In a one day program the event helped to improve the capacity of teachers and students to prevent losing lives and be ready to withstand disasters that happen in the area, such as floods, drought, storms and other diseases. 12,709 children (47% is girls) and 458 teachers (52% is women) joined in the event. During the day, children enjoyed video shows, games, role-plays, drama performances, and quizzes. Prizes included toothpastes, books, pens, pencils, washing soaps, school bags etc.

The project received strong support from school teachers and school principals. Through conducting DRR days at schools, to some extent, it changed behavior and practice of young children and teachers toward preventing their lives from disasters and increased knowledge of students and teachers related to flood, drought, storm and some other diseases. They also shared the knowledge they gained during the day with their parents, friends and other children.

Training on Water Gauge Installation

Oxfam in collaboration with ActionAid and provincial department of water resources and meteorology in Kampong Thom province have set up and installed 49 water rain gauges in 27 villages prone to floods in Steung Sen basin. The set-up of these water gauges contributed to the government commitment to set up an Early Warning System in the province. The water gauges were then attached to the provincial data based for data record and information. Members from Village Disaster Management Group (VDMF) were involved in the installation and set-up of the gauges. Four trainings to build their capacity on water gauges installation, maintenance, and how to read, record, and communicate the information were given to 122 (35 women) VDMG members. In order to be clearly visible, the gauges were painted in 3 different colours: green, yellow, and red. The colour symbolizes normal, preparatory, emergency status of the gauges; and they are visible from a farer distance look.



Water gauge installation in Kampong Thom province. Photo by: Oxfam

Training on Agriculture Techniques

Oxfam and partners have been working closely with the provincial department of agriculture in Kampong Thom to conduct 27 training courses on agriculture and vegetable growing for selected farmers in 27 communes. There were 401 participants (215 women) on these training courses. The participants for these particular activities were small scale farmers in ID poor families. The trainings were part of the improvement of agriculture knowledge and techniques in agriculture in view of drought or floods. Various practices and techniques have been introduced such as land preparation, nursery preparation, planting techniques, pest management, water management, and harvesting.



On site training on resilient agriculture technique, Kampong Thom province. Photo by: Oxfam.

In addition, both technicians from provincial department of agriculture and partner's staff provided regular follow up to trained farmers and gave them support as necessary in order to ensure that they would apply the techniques after attending classes. 65 farmers were selected and given additional inputs such as seeds, nets, fertilizers, and farm facilities to do the demonstration plots on vegetable growing techniques. Farmers demonstrated their interest and gained confidence in applying these techniques. They also shared the knowledge to their neighbors and visitors. More than consumption purposes only, farmers now also sell their products to the market for household income.

Capacity Building of DM Institutions - PCDM, DCDM, CCDM and VDMGs

CBDRR-HVCA training to DCDMs

The trained officers in the above training extended their knowledge and skills on Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) and HVCA to District Committee for Disaster Management (DCDM) members in a four-day training in five target districts between March and December 2014 including one day of field exercise on Hazard, Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (HVCA). The purpose of the trainings was to build capacity of DCDM members on disaster concepts and planning and also to germinate local human resources to further facilitate the same training or exercise for DRR planning in future. In total 124 people participated (33 women) in these five training courses. Each training focused on selected key three areas 1) DRR/DM concepts and terminologies, 2) HVCA tools and practices, and 3) facilitation skills. 8 HVCA tools have been introduced and practiced. These were profile, hazard ranking, seasonal calendar, and disaster timeline; transect walk, hazard mapping, institutional analysis, gender analysis. Complementary to the theory, the participants were divided into small groups and applied HVCA tools.

After the training, 9 of them were identified and selected to support and provide further training to commune committees for disaster management in their respective districts.

CBDRR-HVCA training to CCDMs

Oxfam's partners with supports from selected DCDM trainers conducted 27 training courses on CBDRR and HVCA to their CCDM members. 514 people (137 women) attended these trainings. These three-day trainings were to build capacity of CCDM members on disaster concepts and analysis of disaster risks at their communes. The sessions for training course include disaster management concepts, disaster management structure (from national to sub-national level), climate change concepts and its



foreseen impacts, HVCA (including tools and concepts), DRR planning, and facilitation skills. Various tools and methodologies were applied during the session to live up the training such as presentations, group discussions, role-plays, and exercises. Oxfam's partners have closely worked with DCDM and CCDMs in order to equip them and transfer the knowledge and skills to local disaster management structures. It is to ensure that the capacity is there; and they can sustainably support their people in future even in the absence of outside support. 27 trainees were identified and selected to be trainers for extension training to VDMG members in their respective communes.

Training on Hazard, Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment, Kampong Thom province. Photo by: Oxfam

CBDRR-HVCA training to VDMGs

The selected CCDM trainers in collaboration with technical and financial support from partners have conducted trainings on CBDRR and HVCA to 145 villages. The trainings focused on conducting village level assessment of hazards, vulnerability, and capacity. The courses were conducted with a total number of 3296 participants (1,924 women). Various training methodologies and tools were used including field exercises and practices, group discussions, and presentations. The expectation from the training was that the VDMG members could understand and be able to identify the hazard, assess capacity of their community and report the result to commune council members in order to put in commune investment plan and commune development plan.

For more information

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Save the Children

act:onaid

