Increase Local Participation in Commune Planning and Housing Solutions in SomrongMeanchey Community in Sangkat Kmon Khan Sensok, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

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Prepared by CEDT

Supported by MISEREOR
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I. Background of Local Community

CEDT has been working in two villages in Sangkat Kmon comprised of four communities (SomrongMeanchey, SenRikreay, SenSousdey, and SenPonler1) since 2013. The number of households in the village is 512, which constitute approximately 2,107 people, and the total land parcels is estimated to be in excess of 248 parcels. These families were former residence from Tonle Bassac who were fired destruction on this area. Former governor of Municipality of Phnom Penh moved them into new location on 26 November 2001 where they staying nearby Anlung Kangan hospital land in Sangkat Kmon Khan Sensok and allowed them to stay there temporarily. But many of them were shard land and let them settle in the area out of hospital land; except, some families were not shared the land by government since government lacks the land to share to them. Therefore, former Governor Excellency Chea Sophara, Municipality of Phnom Penh, allowed them to reside in the land of hospital temporarily. At the same time, King Norodom Sihanuk also let people, who were not shared the land due to lack of sharing land, reside in Anlung Kangan hospital land.

On 20 June 2006, Sangkat and village chief with partly coordination from SUP and USG organized them as community. Later these families started to sub-divide their land and began selling it off to new families arriving from other provinces. Residents’ occupations include construction workers, garment factory employees, students, homemakers and the unemployed.

II. Problems/Challenge

In 2012, commune authorities announced that this community is implemented circular 03 “Resolution on Temporary Settlements on Land which has been Illegally Occupies in the Capital, Municipal and Urban Areas” since they occupied on public state land (cannel and hospital land). They invited the community activists and members to complete statistic survey. Local people were worried that once authorities implement Circular03 to these communities would be evicted them from the place.

During that time, the communities did not access to public services and infrastructures such as school, market, road system and sewer system. Also, their works were further away from settlement, their children drop out of school because of this area is very far away, and some people stopped working then tried to look for new job near their settlements. They were lack of documentation to prove their occupation including family book, residential book, Identification Card, Certificate of Birth.
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Community Mapping in SomrongMeanChey, housing condition before receiving on-site upgrading in 2014

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III. Housing Solution Proposal integrate into Commune Investment Plan (CIP)

CEDT together with others NGOs such as World Vision, FCC and LAC began working with the community (village, commune, and district) to build their knowledge and skills on household and land plot mapping and statistic family documentation in every house, legal education on Land Law2001, Circular03, legal analysis on current status of community land, and organizing community network. WVC and FCC supported the local community on small scale infrastructures and awareness raising on social training (non-violence, non-discrimination of HIV group, women health and so on).

In 2013, CEDT began working these communities and local authorities, conducting community mapping training and household survey information using Circular03 appendix.

Following the development of the community hand-drawn maps, GIS maps and community profiles, CEDT worked with these communities in to develop Community Action Plans and Housing Solution Proposal (Land Sharing and Re-blocking) to integrate into Commune Investment Plan. First proposal from community action plan prioritization was connection to state electricity and clean water to every household, garbage collection, local infrastructures maintenance, and issues of citizenship rights papers (issuance of Family Book, and Identification Card etc.). Second proposal was followed Decision Making Letter from District Governor of Khan Sensok to study possible housing solution option (land sharing and re-blocking) of these four families. CEDT provided technical support for on-site upgrading through land plot layout through re-blocking houses and sharing space community land plot and government infrastructure (open drainage and road corridor). CEDT also assisted to develop cost estimate of infrastructures of road expansion and open drainage. The proposal had been discussed with involved key stakeholders, especially guided by District Governor of Khan Sensok.
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IV. Housing Solution Proposal integrate into Commune Investment Plan (CIP)

As a result, in 2017, City Hall of Phnom Penh and District governor announced to for on-site upgrading by issuing community land title of Somrong MeanChey following community proposal. Later on, in June 2020 City Hall of PhnomPenh provided individual ownership land titling of 215 families with 248 land parcels over 15,314 m² land areas (community house and infrastructures. Each house receives 36 m² with 2meters backyard. 520 meters’ road expansion and open drainage.

Integrate Community Action Plan into Commune Investment Plan

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

- **Sen Sabay Community (SS):** The SS community successfully implemented their plan for the repair and upgrading of the dirt road in May 2013. They collected contributions from all the members totalling $950 to buy 0.2 m³ of sand and gravel. They filled 537m long and 5m wide of the dirt road with sand and upgraded to a graded road.

- **Sen Rikreay:** CEDT assisted the community to prepare the cost estimation to upgrade a dirt road of 0.3 m³ using sand and gravel to a 320m long and 6m wide concrete road.
PUBLIC SERVICES

- Issuance of Family Books and Identification Cards (ID Cards): A follow up was carried out due to the commitment made by the Commune/District Authorities during the Community Action Plan Workshop with communities held in December 2012. As a result, there were 1041 family books and 2000 Identification Card were subsequently issued to the families in seven out of nine communities.

*Community Infrastructure Upgrading (Access Road) in 2020*

Why is this so important?

*Land Plot Code and Verification Family Information on June 2020*
In each of the four communities, through the creating of maps and action plans, community members became empowered through a process that developed joint ownership among the communities and authorities of important community upgrades. The trust and understanding that was generated can now form the basis for long term partnership in legitimizing the communities’ tenure security. It is a step-by-step process, producing clear results in terms of infrastructure upgrades, but more importantly building trust and cooperation between communities and authorities.