



Civil Society and Pro-Poor Markets Case Study

The CBO and CC Collaboration to Stop Illegal Fishing

Background

Samakum Sang Kros Kaksekor, a Community-Based Organization (CBO) in located in Prean Tum Village in the Kampot Province, was founded on January 20, 2009. In the beginning, one group participated in the CBO, which began with a total of 38 members, 10 of who were women. Currently, two groups are under the umbrella of the CBO with a membership of 64 people, 16 of who are women. The CBO was established to improve food production, increase community funds and improve self-reliance by focusing on the following:

- Collective saving efforts to provide funds for community assistance
- Improvement and promotion of sustainable natural resource management (NRM) to conserve community resources
- Improvement and promotion of agricultural techniques to increase food security in the village

Challenges

Although the Commune Council (CC) recognized the CBO, a gap between knowledge and understanding continued to exist. Communication and cooperation was still limited. Actually, the community had less voice in the local government – many cases of illegal fishing occurred without prevention, there was less participation in the Commune Investment Program (CIP) and less communication and cooperation occurred between the existing CBO and CC. In addition, the community had no representatives to present issues on behalf of the community to the CC members to promote greater communication and cooperation between the CC and the community.

Working Together on CSPPM

Recognizing their need to build capacity, the CBO registered with the Civil Society and Pro-Poor Markets (CSPPM) project in March 2009. Once the cooperation with CSPPM began, the CBO executives received supportive and ongoing technical training from CEDAC staff members. The CBO executives were taught the following concepts:

- Proposal writing and project management
- CBO management
- CBO planning and development
- How to increase the CBO influence with the CC and others agencies
- Community business concepts
- The CIP process and participation

Small Grant Support

With technical support from the CEDAC staff, Samakum Sang Kros Kaksekor developed a small grant and submitted it to CRS. On the July 17, 2009, the proposal was approved and the CBO received a small grant for 326.50 USD. The objective of this small grant was to increase cooperation and communication between the CBO and CCs, and to increase awareness on the CIP development process. The specific grant activities implemented included training on the CIP development process for 8 CBO executives and organizing a public forum to share information with 100 members and link the community to the CCs.



Civil Society and Pro-Poor Markets Case Study

Recently, the CBO developed and submitted another small grant to CRS. The small grant was approved with a total budget of 1,274.80 USD and will benefit a total of 144 people (83 women). The small grant is being implemented – it was used for training on a community shop and an exchange visit. Specific grant activities focus on:

- Training CBO executives and sub-committees on the community shop
- Conducting an exchange visit to see good practices from another community shop
- Meeting for executives to reflect and summarize the lessons and experiences
- Promoting the CBO membership
- Meeting of executives to finalize future plans

Role of CRS

CEDAC began working as a partner with CRS in October 2008 when CEDAC conducted sub-contract work on CSPPM implementation.

Since the implementation of CSPPM began, CEDAC has been supported by CRS in:

- Providing direction on small grant proposal writing and small grant management
- Providing the technical assistance
- Coordinating actions, analyzing experiences and diffusing lessons learned
- Joining field visits to monitor the CBO and provide productive feedback

Achieving Results

Since cooperation with CSPPM began, Samakum Sang Kros Kaksekor has dramatically improved its communication and cooperation with the Sre Chea Khang Cheung Commune Council (CC) members, especially regarding the CIP development process and preventing illegal fishing.

At the public forum on August 30, 2009, the community raised many issues to the CC for response. As a result, the CC promised to stop illegal fishing and decided to collaborate with the CBO to collect the illegal fishing machines. The CBO agreed to inform and educate any persons who have the illegal fishing machines to bring those machines to the CC.

To promote the information on preventing illegal fishing, the CC and CBO organized a ceremony to destroy the illegal fishing machines with the participation of 147 people (65 women). The district governor, district and commune police, commune councils and communities all participated in the ceremony.



“On behalf of Sre Chea Khang Cheung local authorities, I am very pleased and thankful to the CBO for the active collaboration to collect the illegal fishing machines. I also had the honor to organize the ceremony to destroy the illegal fishing machines with the participation of honored district governors and stakeholders.” Mr. Keo Keum, chief of Sre Cheang Khang Cheung Commune, during the ceremony to destroy the illegal fishing machines.



Civil Society and Pro-Poor Markets Case Study

Moving Forward

Based on the 2009–2010 planning book, the CBO will pursue these main activities:

- Providing the Natural Resource Management (NRM) training and educating the community on local natural resources including the documentation of violations or illegal actions
- Participating in the District Investment Workshop (DIW is step 3 of the CIP Development Process)
- Participating in the C/S Funding Allocation Meeting (step 4 of the CIP Development Process)
- Providing written feedback to CC when necessary
- Disseminating market information to the members
- Training small businesses in the community
- Collecting market information and providing it to the community
- Organizing collective selling and/or buying

Lessons Learned

By supporting the CBO, CEDAC learned some valuable lessons:

- To improve the cooperation and communication between the CC and CBO, CBOs should be encouraged to attend the monthly meetings of the CC and should also invite the CC to attend their monthly meetings
- Organizing a public forum is an importance event for providing a chance for the CBO and CC to understand each other
- The CC should be a speaker at the public forum