

## **Workshops on Cambodia Millennium Development Goals (CMDG)**

Beginning on December 17, 2009, 33 workshops on CMDG (Cambodia Millennium Development Goals) with 745 participants (including 208 women) were organized through the project titled *"Happy Mountain Bird -Ensuring Access to Primary Education for Children of the Poorest Families"*. The final workshop concluded on February 15, 2010.

The participants included representatives of the District Office of Education, commune council members, village chiefs, school principals, Community Based Facilitators (CBF), Community Based Education Promoters (CEP), NGO staff members, and other local stakeholders. A summary background on CEDAC was presented and critical information about HMB3 and the CMDG were raised for presentation and plenary discussion during the workshop. The workshops were organized to increase the understanding and capacity of the abovementioned local authorities and other local stakeholders on CMDG. All nine goals of CMDG were presented and discussed with a focus on the first goal to "eradicate extreme poverty and hunger" and the second goal to "achieve universal nine year basic education: Ensure all children complete primary schooling by 2010 and nine-year basic schooling by 2015" because of their strong relevance to the implementation of HMB3. The workshop also discussed more on how local community, local authorities, and other main stakeholders participate and contribute to reaching the number two goal of CMDG.

About 90% of the total participants learned and understood that the CMDG will improve their commitment to ensure a good primary education within their respective communities. Furthermore, it provides a good opportunity to the school teachers/school principals, local authorities, and other local stakeholders to actively discuss education issues in their respective communities concerning their efforts to achieve the number two goal of CMDG. Moreover, an action plan was developed by the participants in order to contribute to accomplishing primary children's education goals.

This is the third phase of the project being implemented by CEDAC to support 34,000 of the poorest children in 300 villages across 40 communes in Kompong Chhnang Province. CEDAC began implementing a project focused on ensuring access to primary education for children of the poorest families whose pilot phase ran from 2005-2007. The second phase was implemented in 37 villages from 2006 to 2008. In total, the project has supported 1,298 families to send 35,744 children to go to school in 386 villages.

