

CEDAC Staff Participate in a Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILCs) Training

Five CEDAC staff (including 2 women) participated in and successfully completed a week-long training facilitated by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in the Kampot Province of Cambodia. Other participants included staff from CRS, Caritas, Pact Cambodia and Ponleu Ney Kdey Sangkhum (PNKS). The training's objective was to train Field Agents (FAs) on Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILCs) in order to promote this savings group model and encourage the FAs to implement it into their own savings programs.



Photo taken by Clare Ortblad

During the training, participants gained a thorough understanding of the SILC methodology and logistics, and its implementation process. Furthermore, the training consisted of 9 modules in which participants also took part in a few SILC simulations. These role-play exercises helped the participants to better understand SILCs (including from a target group person's perspective) as well as to anticipate any questions or concerns that their target groups may have. To conclude this training, participants went into the field to apply these new skills on a practice target group, which consisted of both Buddhist and Cham Cambodians (the Cham people are minority, Muslim Cambodians) from an integrated community in Kampot Province.

CEDAC's participating staff gained and shared knowledge about SILCs and general savings groups thanks to this training. Moreover, they enhanced their skills as community facilitators.

Some CEDAC staff members intend to implement aspects of the SILC model into their own savings group programs.