



REPORT OF LCFG WORKSHOP

The Learning and Communication Focus Group Workshop (LCFG)

1. The Learning and Communication Focus Group (LCFG) Workshop, deemed as the Third LCFG meeting, was held on May 28, 2009 (whole day), and chaired by Mr. Por Phak, Director of International Relations Department, Ministry of Interior, Assistant to Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Ministry of Interior and DFGG Project Director. The objective of a workshop was aimed to promote cross-fertilization and synergy, and furthermore intended to conduct learning stocktaking of relevant GG/DFGG experiences in Cambodia as well.

2. Attended the LCFG workshop were: LCFG members from both state institution (PCO/MOI, MONASRI, AC, RNK and OWSO/DO) and non-state institution (Padek, KIND, Star Kampuchea, VBNK, the New Life of Cambodia). Total 35 participants (see list of participants attached).

3. Mr. Por Phak, DFGG Project Director and as a chairman of the workshop, welcomed participants and expressed his high regard and appreciation to all LCFG members on their participation in this workshop. After that, he gave a speech on the overview of the DFGG project and its implementation particularly he highlighted the role and responsibility of the Project Coordination Office (PCO), MOI and especially he emphasized the significant role of learning component that can be a useful input to add more value to DFGG project implementation. At the end, he welcomed and introduced the speakers as Mr. Ung Vannthoeu, Team leader of Income Restoration Program, Stung Chhinit, Cambodia, Mr. Pen Sony, Executive Director, the New Life of Cambodia, and Mr. Kep Kannaro, Executive Director, Padek organization to participants and wishing that workshop get success with productive results.

4. Workshop Session: the workshop has three presentations:

i) Income Restoration Program, Stung Chhinit (January 2006 to July 2008), presented by Mr. Ung Vannthoeun, PhD, MD, MBA, BBA, Team leader of the Stung Chhinit Program.

ii) The Local Good Governance Project (2005-2007), presented by Mr. Kep Kannaro, Executive Director, Padek organization.

iii) Civic Engagement for Land Right Project, presented by Mr. Pen Sony, Executive Director, the New Life of Cambodia organization.

5. Presentation Session:

The first presentation is Income Restoration Program, Stung Chhinit, undertaken from January 2006 to July 2008, presented by Mr. Ung Vannthoeun, Team leader of the Program. The main purpose of the program is to improve income generation capacity of people living around Stung Chhinit area, specifically the people affected by the Project. For better understanding the presentation, he divided it into three main points: 1) Framework of the Program, 2) Activities and Results and 3) key Remarks. The detail content of that to be described below:

- In the framework of the Program, there are two main activities: i) Activities Designs, Planning and Implementation, ii) Follow-up and Backstop Support.

In activity Designs, Planning and Implementation, he noted that it is necessary to conduct Geo demography Analysis, conduct survey on Activities Involved in the Area, Business Situation and Opportunities, KAP Analysis of the Affected People and Affected People Resources Assessment.

- For Activities and Results: he presented the result of assessment and noted that the establishment of Self-help Group, Credit Facility, Agricultural Production Training, Off-farm training and employment and Follow up and Backstop support are critical input and need to be undertaken.

- Key Remarks: Considerations relevant to Participatory Approach. He emphasized that participatory methods are relevant at all stages, from initial policy formulation and program appraisal through the different evaluation stages including program planning, program implementation and improvement, and impact assessment at the ex post stage. To success in using participatory approach, we have to consider 3 points: People (short term oriented, low education, not active); Local values (local culture, existing practice, preference/desire) and Resources (basic needs, place, time). Additionally, he noted that the Strategy to mobilize an active participation it should be simple, friendly and trust.

After presentation, there are number of questions has been raised.

1. What is a strategy to make people participating in the Stung Chhinit Project?
2. What are the mechanisms that can be used for coordinating the project implementation at a local level?
3. Is incentive be used for people participation?
4. What are the mechanism that has been used for training and how to make people use the knowledge from the training for improving their livelihood?
5. What is a factor that make people do not want to leave their village?
6. What are concrete tools and methods to be used for mobilizing community participation?
7. The project is successful, ADB evaluation report, is documented all lessons and experiences for sharing purpose?
8. What is a strategy to prevent the people from negative impact of Stung Chhinit Project?
9. What is a strategy to restore income of affected people?

All questions, from various participants, have been answered and furthermore reasonable clarification to be made for better understanding and learning purpose.

The second presentation is Local Good Governance undertaken by Mr. Kep Kannaro, Executive Director, Padek organization. The main objectives of the project are: 1) promoting people participation in development of their commune and 2) building trust and cohesiveness between the people and the commune councilor. The content of presentation:

1. Padek brief history in Cambodia
2. Strategy of the organization
3. Coverage areas
4. Why local Good Governance Project
5. Project Impact
6. Recommendation for Learning

In the beginning of a presentation, he briefed a history of Padek organization in Cambodia, which established in 1980s by five Oxfam, and then he presented a strategy of the organization mainly the Integrated Community Development Model especially people's

Organization (Self Help Group, Water user group) and the Development Coordinator (such as Village Development Committee (VDC), Commune Resources Center Management Committee) and Resource Persons/Expert committee (expert in agriculture, Fishery, Livestock, Health, Midwife, Conflict Resolution, Literacy Teacher...etc).

After that, he go to Local Good Governance Project which started in 2005 with piloting in two communes in Siem Reap and expended to every commune in 2007, after second term of CC election. In addition, he explained clearly on why this project taking place? the reasons are: capacity of Commune Councilor is limited, especially in promoting people's participating in development process, many people do not know the mandate of CC, Decentralization is the new concept in Cambodia, the bottom traditionally unaccustomed to exercising rights, the top have little experience in delegating authority, low trust between people and elected CC ..etc.

To deal with those challenges and issues, he presented the main project activities which have been implemented namely Support and Facilitate meeting between the Commune Leaders and the CC, Commune Council mandate awareness and Solidarity building/Exposure trip. After that, he presented an Impact of the project which have been achieved such as CC always invites CCBO to participate in monthly meeting, Allow public to observe and listen to the CC discussion on development issues, CC participate in every development activities raise by CCBO, CC presents CIP to CCBO including budget (income and expenses), Accepting comments and suggestion from CCBO, CC allocates some fund for CCBO implement development activities, CCBO assists CC to collect contribution from the people in implementing infrastructure projects, CC and CCBO collaborate in solving conflict more effective in their community and Good relationship between CC and CCBO.

After presentation, there are number of questions has been raised.

1. What is a strategy to build capacity of Community?
2. What kind of assistance from National level to Sub-national level during Padek project implementation?
3. How CCBO members were selected?
4. If Padek facing a problems in term of different view or ideas from target commune, what is a ways or methods to be applied?
5. What is lessons to be learnt regarding to raise awareness of CC towards community participation and leadership spirit?
6. What kind of incentive that can be used for mobilizing CC and CCBO working together effectively and efficiency?

All questions, from various participants, have been answered and furthermore reasonable clarification has been made for better understanding and learning purpose.

The third presentation is Civic Engagement for Land Rights Project, presented by Mr. Pen Sony, Executive Director, the New Life of Cambodia organization. The main objective of the project is to promote understanding and civic engagement in Land Registration Project. The outline of presentation:

- Introduction to the New Life of Cambodia (NLC)
- Land Registration System in Cambodia
- Civic Engagement for Land Rights Project (CELRP)
- Successful Options in CELRP
- Threats/Difficulties in CELRP
- General insights and Recommendations

At the beginning of a presentation, Mr. Pen Sony would informed that this output is combined from many projects undertaken by NLC. After that, he presented the main features of Land Rights Project which started from Land Registration System in Cambodia. Currently, there are 2 Land Registration: i) Sporadic Registration and ii) Systematic Registration. The Sporadic Land Registration is displaying nationwide; it's covering all districts in Cambodia, and Systematic Land Registration is not covering all districts but right now it's working in 11 districts of 11 provinces. It's managing LMAP. The provincial Governors in above-selected provinces are delegated for adjudication on land. Concerning to Civic Engagement for Land Rights Project, he noted that the essential tools and techniques needs to be used for this project are Citizen Rating Report (CRR), Land Law Education (LLE), form Community Land Committee (CLC), Citizen Group (CG), conduct Village Land Profile(VLP), Watchdog, organize Coordination and Cooperation Meeting and Advocacy (debate and petition).

After explanation of each item above, he presented a Challenges/Difficulties and gave Recommendation/Suggestion to serve as lessons learnt for the workshop participants.

I. Challenges/Difficulties:

- PDMUCC did not admitted the efforts of NGOs in land law education;
- Lack of cooperation and coordination because of DLO has no operational budget for field and outreach activities (budget lines for field activities aren't dropped to DLO) and there have not enough of field staff in DLO;
- The time (from application time until data collection time) and levy in sporadic land registration still be prolonged and inaccurately;
- There have no official entry- points, PSG/NGO cannot access regularly and comfortably to meet DLO, District Governor, PDMUCC and Provincial Governor.

II. Recommendation/ Suggestions:

- DLO should have a budget line/package for operational and field activities (outreach education, observation, investigation, measurement, adjudication etc.)
- DLO and land registration activities should be integrated under the domination of district council and it should be devolved;
- Should be having additional staff that they must be recruited from the local-educated people;
- Should be having new sub-decree to limit the specific time in land registration and observation system such as the time of acknowledging receipt to applicants and for receiving the land titles etc. If possible, this sub-decree should emphasize about the dimensions of mountain etc.;
- Should be coordinated to have CCM meetings in district and Provincial levels that CBOs, CGs, NGOs and Private Agents are allowed to participate;
- Should be allowed NGOs for access to the training of trainer sessions on Land Law.

After the presentation, there are number of questions has been raised.

1. Do they have OWSO/DO project in the areas where the New Life of Cambodia organization is implementing the project,?
2. Is NLC have a plan to working with OWSO/DO project?
3. Why donors pay money (US\$ 20) for land registration for the poor family and how can ensure the good governance and transparency in the process of project implementation?
4. What is different between sporadic land registration and systematic land registration?

5. How much a price for sporadic and systematic land registration? and what is different?
6. What are the reasons that NLC compensate money for land registration?

All questions, from various participants, have been answered and furthermore, sometime a reasonable clarification has been made for better understanding and learning purpose.

7. Plenary discussion: the main purpose of plenary discussion is attempted to elicit the lessons and experiences through project implementation presented in the three presentations. Participatory approach, tools and methods were selected to be a theme for discussion. Before go to discussion session, Mr. Chheav nak, workshop facilitator, has made orientation on workshop objective especially emphasized that participatory approach is a core point to be worked out. Additionally, to serve as background and knowledge for discussion, he proposed participants to consider some critical outputs relevant to participatory approach (Stung Chinit Income Restoration Project).

- Participatory methods are relevant at all stages, from initial policy formulation and program appraisal through the different evaluation stages including program planning, program implementation and improvement, and impact assessment at the ex post stage. There is increased use of participatory methods for various purposes including organizational strengthening, understanding and negotiation of stakeholders' perceptions and increased public accountability.
- Participatory methods and techniques tend not to follow a blueprint or standardized procedure. They are used creatively and generatively, often in combination. The methods used are often considered less important than the attitudes and beliefs of those carrying out the investigation.

8. At the closing of workshop, Mr. Bouth Chik, DFGG Project Manager, expressed sincerely appreciation to participants who devoted times and energy to the workshop and , and he informed that the necessary documents relating to DFGG Project implementation and output of the workshop results will be sent to LCFG members for information and references.

9. The Meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM. the same day in a cordial atmosphere.

Phnom Penh, May 28, 2009