DPA works to support the rural poor, especially the poorest and the marginalised
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**Our Vision**

All Cambodian enjoy a high quality of life as full citizens, accessing, using and protecting their rights.

**Our Mission**

DPA partners with, empowers and supports poor and vulnerable Cambodians, especially in rural areas, actively contributing to an enabling environment for sustainable and equitable development.

**Our Value**

We have nine values:

1. **Transparency** - We believe openness is essential for earning people’s trust and support.
2. **Accountability** - We believe we must first answer to the people and communities whom we serve. We also recognise the importance of answering to the government, our donors and each other.
3. **Participation** - We believe all people should have a say in the matters that affect their lives, especially poor and vulnerable people.
4. **Partnership** - We believe that strong, respectful and mutual relationships with the individuals, communities, DPA partner organisations, donors, and other stakeholders with whom we work are the foundation of our success.
5. **Equity** - We believe that everyone must have equal opportunities and derive equal benefits from development, regardless of gender, religious, indigenous status or disability. No one can be left behind.
6. **Empowerment** - We believe that the benefits of our work will be sustained only when poor and vulnerable people can exercise their rights, draw on their strength and courage, and seize the opportunities available to them.
7. **Ownership** - We believe that our best work promotes and supports others to take the lead and accept responsibility, when the communities and individuals that we support believe that they are responsible for their own development.
8. **Sustainability** - We believe that development must not only meet the needs of people who are alive now, but must also not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their needs.
9. **Innovation** - We value creativity, learning and taking risks in both ourselves and others.
As the details in this report show DPA has had another strong and successful year in 2014. There are a number of achievements to celebrate, in particular with regards to securing the rights of indigenous people in the Northeast provinces and the work on climate change with different groups. The introduction of understanding about the value chain can only be a good thing as it will help staff to support communities to benefit better in future from Cambodia’s dynamic economic development trends.

DPA continues to be considered a very strong Cambodian partner by several donors, some of whom have nominated the organisation as a ‘strategic’ partner. Almost all of the current donors have indicated their interest to renew project funding after completion of the current round. A related point is that DPA always gets a clean audit report. These facts point to the strength of DPA, not just in terms of program implementation and project management, but also the strength of its systems and procedures for financial management and other internal controls.

Donors also see DPA as a strong partner in advocacy on some key issues of concern for Cambodia’s future. As the Executive Director has noted, DPA has very good formal and informal relationships with a number of key government ministries and institutions, as well as with other actors with similar interests. DPA has become a respected voice in a number of consultation and negotiating processes, which means that it can work on issues of rights and poverty not only at the grassroots, but also at the level of the enabling environment for change. Working bottom up and top down has a much better chance of achieving sustainable change than either approach on its own.

In my annual statement last year I said that we look forward to working with everyone to achieve another successful year in 2014, and that hope was fully realised. None of these achievements could come about without the staff being strong and committed to their work, and being led by capable managers.

On behalf of the Board I would like to thank the staff, management, donors and partners of DPA for all they did to make 2014 another very good year, in which DPA was able to continue its important contribution to the elimination of poverty and injustice in Cambodia.

Ms. Jenny Pearson
Chairperson of DPA Governing Board
This year, DPA has had some notable achievements, especially in the areas of natural resource management (NRM) and food security. Through our endeavors in capacity building and strengthening community rights, we have watched the indigenous people and the women we work with achieve a better understanding of their rights and an increased willingness on their part to participate in village and community development.

I am proud of all that DPA has achieved in the work that we have been doing. We have seen 10 villages in Ratanakiri, Mondulkiri and Stung Treng temporarily secure legal rights to their communal forestland. When they achieve full legal recognition by the Ministry of Interior of their community rights, 1,101 indigenous households will benefit. In another example of the positive benefits of our work, the programme introduced drip systems for growing crops as an innovative way of dealing with drought, with the lack of access to water and in response to shifts in weather patterns, to help beneficiary communities to continue to achieve the highest possible yields from their crops. Likewise, DPA programmes have also mainstreamed the concept of value chain to its staff, so that they can facilitate the economic empowerment of rural communities by better connecting them to their local markets. As a result we have watched communities achieve a better livelihood for their families from increased agricultural and farm animal production and sale.

Coordination and collaboration with relevant stakeholders has been crucial to the success DPA has achieved in its efforts on behalf of Cambodian communities. Staff members of like-minded NGO’s, local authorities and officials from provincial departments and technical offices, and other institutions have participated with DPA in these efforts. At the same time, DPA has profited from the long-standing informal and formal relationships that it has developed inside the Ministry of Rural Development, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Mines and Energy, the Ministry of Environment and private sectors. As a result, the voices of the communities in DPA’s target areas are being heard and their concerns have been the focus of public discussions. As a result, protections and remedies have been incorporated into a number of principles, policies and laws that address their concerns.

Regarding the advocacy work in which DPA is involved, the DPA-Extractive Industry Social and Environmental Impact network (DPA-EISEI) became a member of the technical drafting team for development of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Sectoral Guidelines for mining, oil and gas, along with the Ministry of Environment and Oxfam America.

DPA acknowledges that the support and participation of other stakeholders have contributed to the organization’s successes. Moreover, the project could not have achieved what it has without the help and commitment of all DPA staff and especially the DPA Governing Board and funding partners. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to thank to all DPA staff members at all levels and thank our funding partners who have provided moral and financial support, and practical advice.

Mr. Mam Sambath
Executive Director of DPA
Overview

Development and Partnership in Action (DPA) is a Cambodian non-government organisation (NGO) which localised from an international NGO called CIDSE. The organisation has been active in Cambodia for over 30 years, tackling issues as diverse as building capacity to community leaders, gender equality, natural resource management, food security, small business, health, WASH and water management. It has adapted as an organization to address emerging issues such as climate change and the impact of extractive industries as these topics have become more and more relevant in the Cambodian context.

DPA has applied its new strategic plan, 2013-2016, which envisions an end-state where all Cambodians enjoy a high quality of life as full citizens, accessing, using and protecting their rights. This strategic plan also focuses on the areas of natural resource management, climate change resilience and food security, support for grassroots organisations and social enterprises and other initiatives related to livelihood. DPA continues to apply the key approaches that they have long been committed to, Community Organising (CO) and Rights Based Approaches (RBA), as they work to empower and support poor and vulnerable people, build community resilience, build engagement and cooperation with relevant stakeholders and advocate for an enabling environment for sustainable development. By these means, and through these approaches, poor and vulnerable Cambodians in target areas will see an increase in their access to rights and resources, improved livelihood, increased ownership, improved capacity for participation, increased opportunities for leadership by women, the youth and indigenous people (IP) and increased community resilience in the face of natural hazards and disasters.

DPA has three main programme areas: Integrated Community Development Programme (ICDP); Partnership Programme (PP) and Development Education and Advocacy Programme (DEAP).
Programme Summary

Integrated Community Development Programme (ICDP)

DPA’s Integrated Community Development (ICD) programme continues to work in four provinces: Ratanakiri, Mondulkiri, Stung Treng and Preah Vihear. The programme has focused on capacity building, gender mainstreaming, improving food security, WASH and water resource management, natural resource management (forest and river resource conservation and protection and communal land titling), agriculture, social enterprise and other livelihood initiatives, disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and emergency response.

ICD teams have worked closely with community members to improve their knowledge and to coach and mentor them as they apply new skills and to build their capacity to carry out activities on their own.

While the majority of the ICD programme activities involve a rights-based approach, the programme has also been piloting people-led development and aims to incorporate elements of this into its work. Staff members have also worked to build links between communities and relevant government departments, private companies and middlemen or markets.

Key achievements include:

- Ten villages in Ratanakiri, Mondulkiri and Stung Treng provinces have temporarily secured communal land use and management for 1,101 indigenous households as they near full legal recognition of their communal land by the Ministry of Interior. Of these, the Community Land Titling project in five villages (in Stung Treng and Mondulkiri provinces) reached the final step of the CLT (IP community land registration)
- Seven indigenous villages in Ratanakiri, Preah Vihear and Stung Treng provinces have reached the final step prior to being given a legal certificate of community forestry (CF) handover from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries for their community forests.
- Two community fisheries and two community fishery fish sanctuaries (CFi and CFIFs) which were created in five villages of Stung Treng Province have succeeded in increasing fishes in their fish stocks in 1,523 hectares of river and seven hectares of deep fish breeding spots to benefit 1,117 households or 4,493 people in five villages.
- In Ratanakiri, Community Action Plans (CAP) for disaster preparedness and emergency response were developed in 12 target villages and 29% of the proposed activities in CAPs were incorporated into the Commune Investment Plan (CIP). Eight village disaster management teams (VDMT) were formed and are functioning. They have developed disaster (emergency) response plans in response to the risk of future floods. During floods in the reporting period, the VDMT in Chey Udom Commune evacuated 35 poor families and 15 children tending cows to safe ground. 355 farming households supported by the project in Ratanakiri and Stung Treng planted rice and crops resilient to drought and flood by employing seasonal calendar cropping and water conservation techniques in the context of the application of the integrated farming system; 135 households increased rice yield by 0.35 ton per hectare; and 193 farmers increased incomes from sale of paddy rice and vegetable production.
- Three Agricultural Cooperatives (AC) in Ratanakiri Province are functioning well and their members are able to benefit from lower costs by using cooperative rice mills rather than private mobile rice mills. By comparing to last year, the three ACs’ members increased by 47% (from 155 to 228 members) while their running capital have increased almost three times (from 24.63 million to 69.82 million Riels). Of these, 02 ACs earned five million Riels from their rice mill service and rice purchase and sale.
Programme Summary

Integrated Community Development Programme (ICDP) (cont.)

- 158 farmers who plant both lowland and upland rice in Stung Treng have adopted the system of rice intensification and 314 farmers are using organic farming practices. Additionally, the farmers in Preah Vihear have conserved 55 traditional rice varieties, used compost and shared good practices among other farmers. 330 target households in Ratanakiri increased their agricultural rice, soybean and vegetable yields significantly. This has contributed to the reduction of food shortage from 2.5 months to 1.5 months and 194 of them have benefitted from increased income from two different kinds of cash crops. Two bamboo shoot processing groups supported by the project in O’Chra and Srae Ampil villages Mondulkiri Province increased income around US$ 278.75 from the sale of dried bamboo shoots. 76 households had enough water from a repaired dam in Mondulkiri to irrigate 45 hectares of paddy land in Srae Ampil village.

- 595 households in Ratanakiri, Mondulkiri and Stung Treng now have improved access to clean water and to sanitation facilities through the construction of wells and latrines supported by the ICD programme. 66% or 1,491 of 2,263 villagers who accessed to WASH education, and new water and sanitation facilities (well, water filter, latrine) supported by the project have benefitted from a reduction in the incidence of water-borne diseases.

Partnership Programme (PP)

The Partnership Programme (PP) continues to support 21 Cambodian non-government organisations (CNGOs), community based organisations (CBOs) and agricultural cooperatives (ACs) in eight provinces. The programme aims to enable these to be capable of empowering and supporting poor and vulnerable people to sustainably improve their livelihoods. PP adopts DPA community organising and rights-based approaches to work with partner organisations on food security and income generation, climate change adaptation, natural resource management, gender mainstreaming, domestic violence and partner capacity development.

Key achievements included:

- 1,861 households learnt and practiced relevant rice production techniques and income generation skills. The rice yields in their fields increased between 1.7 to 2.1 tons per hectare. These households grew at least one new business: home gardening of vegetables, animal husbandry, or home groceries, mobile dessert vendors, mobile dry and smoked fish vendors.

- 428 members, of whom 167 are female, among the 139 VDAs that partner organisations have helped to create, improved their self-management skills.

- DPA’s 11 partner organisations are in the process of development and strengthening agricultural cooperatives. This structure is the basis for the development of self-reliance and sustainability.

- 3,906 ID Poor I and II households of partner target beneficiaries learnt and practiced climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction knowledge.
Programme Summary

Partnership Programme (PP) (cont.)

- Seven partner organisations are working with 14 CFs, CFi and CPAs (Community Protected Areas). Out of the 14 CFs, CFi and CPAs, nine have been recognised by the government and are being assisted to implement their management plan, while the other five are in the process of development and preparing for government recognition.
- 12 partner organisations have developed gender equality promotion policies and are implementing them.
- 1,183 target beneficiaries, of whom 50% were women, received capacity building on gender mainstreaming, women empowerment, and domestic violent prevention.
- 728 members, of whom 313 are female, of a total of 289 VDAs, practiced capacity building activities on facilitation skills and women in leadership.
- Of 714 domestic violence cases made public by community members, domestic violence law stakeholders addressed 661.
- All partner organisations except ACs are using DPA’s Capacity Assessment System to improve their organisational and programme management capacity.

Development Education and Advocacy Programme (DEAP)

Given the need to address emerging and current issues in our programme areas (within the DPA ICD programme and among partner organisations), DEAP provided internal support to the ICD and to the Partnership programmes in implementing the Rights Based Approach (RBA) in development activities and facilitating them to deal with emerging development issues specifically related to gender and development, protection of natural resource rights related to land and forestry management, extractive industry (EI) social and environmental impacts and EI resource revenue management. The key working strategies of the programme emphasizes capacity building, networking, supporting advocacy initiatives, engaging in advocacy and facilitating the establishment of communal land titling (CLT). The work by DEAP within DPA and with its partner organizations on these issues has had significant positive effects.

Key achievements include:

- Positive behaviour changes among beneficiaries as both men and women are willing to share ideas in public contexts, to discuss the most relevant gender and women issues, and speak to each other in a respectful manner.
- Women have an increased understanding of their rights and they increasingly involved themselves in decision-making process with regard to household assets and the use of family income.
Young people, especially young women, are more involved in community development activities and advocacy work to address gender and natural resource rights issues in their communities.

The number of women who are members of community forestry committees and community advocacy focal points (CAFP) has increased. For example: in ICD-Preah Vihear, 40% of the CAFPs are women and in ICD-Stung Treng, 50% are.

Community members in Teun, Taheuy and Khmeng villages have moved to step two of the communal land titling – IP Legal entity registration process. To date, important documents, including the village statutes of the three villages, letters of recognition of the membership of indigenous community committee and application forms to become an IP legal entity were approved by local authorities (at the commune, district and provincial levels) and the local administration department of the Ministry of Interior (MoI). Currently, the MoI is reviewing the application before issuing recognition letters of IP legal entity.

Target communities have increased their capacity and are able to stand up to advocate with relevant duty bearers to promote and protect their rights to manage their own natural resources and for sustainable community development.

Communities have been more active in advocacy work to address emerging development issues.

Increased solidarity and relationships between community members and relevant stakeholders has been observed.

Community members are more confident about expressing their views and performing advocacy in the government and the private sector, using information that they collected.

Network members at the national and sub-national level have collaborated in useful ways by forming a special working group for specific cases related to encroachment on forestland and illegal logging and organized and participated in joint advocacy initiatives.

About 35% of trained Community Mining Focal Persons (CMFPs) become local educators and informants for EI impact issues, indigenous people’ rights, Free, Prior, Informed, Consent (FPIC), EIA process, Cooperate Social Responsibility (CSR), business and human rights. 60% of trained CMFPs and affected villager began to use FPIC through monitoring the operation of mining companies and actively participating in the village meeting/forum.

About 40% of affected villagers were able to discuss, raise their voices and concerns, and seek responses during consultative and public forums from local authorities and relevant stakeholders.

Through the radio programme called “FPIC and Public Participation in EIA process”, the public and in particularly youth are now more aware of EI issues regarding impacts, revenue, information disclosure, and environmental issues.
Integrated Community Development Programme

The contribution of agricultural cooperative help to reduce poverty of community

One of DPA’s objectives is to improve the food security in target villages, which directly relates to improvement in their living conditions. One way to this is to increase agricultural productivity, by improving the organisation, management and business knowledge among farmer groups and enhancing sales and marketing potential. Therefore, DPA works with community organizers and demonstration farmers to improve skills within the community, as well as cooperating with the Ratanakiri Department of Agriculture to disseminate knowledge and train villager on sustainable agriculture to secure food for their daily consumption.

Deylo is a village located in the Chey Udom Commune, Lumphat District of Ratanakiri Province. It is about 40 kilometers from the provincial center, Banlung Town. Most people in Deylo Village are subsistence rice farmers. However, drought and floods frequently occur in this village making it harder for villagers to secure food for daily consumption and lead some villagers to borrow money from middlemen and moneylenders to cover the shortfalls in their income.

Due to this situation, in 2014, DPA-Ratanakiri supported and facilitated the community in Deylo village to establish an agricultural cooperative which they called Udom Meanchey Deylo. It began with a membership of 44 (34 women). This cooperative offers credit and savings, loans for the improvement of agricultural productivity, hand tractors. It also offers rice milling, marketing and other services that serve the interests of the members. Through the agricultural cooperative, members can save money for emergencies and can borrow money at low rates. Since it was established, the membership of the Udom Meanchey Deylo agricultural cooperative has increased to 72 members.

Mr. Seung Seb, the Chairperson of the Udom Meanchey Deylo agricultural cooperative said, “Since we established this agricultural cooperative, community members’ lives have become easier. For example, when we previously used mobile (commercial) rice milling services, we lost and missed a lot of rice. So now, we have our own rice milling service. Besides this, the members can borrow money for emergency response with low interest rate more easily than we can borrow money from the bank or moneylenders.”

DPA is a local organisation with financial support from donors inside and outside the country. DPA partners with, empowers and supports poor and vulnerable Cambodians, especially in rural areas, to actively contribute to an enabling environment for sustainable and equitable development to make a positive change in their lives.
The construction of hand pump wells ensures access to safe water for villagers in Srae Ampil Village

Health is still a major issue in Cambodia and access to safe water is a problem, particularly for poor families and people living in rural areas. Water is an essential element for people everyday – for drinking, cooking, farming and more. In the rainy season, it may not be difficult for rural people to find water but in the dry season, they often have to walk far from their homes to locate water. Thus, it takes a lot of time, energy and strength to carry this heavy water such long distances.

Ms. Noeun Srey Touch, 22, is a farmer who lives in Srae Ampil Village, Srae K’tum Commune, Keo Seima District, Mondulkiri Province with her parents and her four siblings. Previously, in the rainy season, she and others in the village traveled to fetch water from a stream that lay about 600 meters from the village for household uses like washing, cleaning, cooking and drinking. However, because of the stream’s steep banks, villagers could easily slip into the water. Another problem was that during the dry season (December to April), the turbidity of the water increased. “Due to these problems, the villagers dug a small hole along the stream to get the water.” said Srey Touch.

As a part of its project focusing on disaster risk reduction and water management, the Integrated Community Development Programme of DPA in Mondulkiri province (ICD-MDK), installed two hand pump wells in Srae Ampil village to improve the community’s health, sanitation, hygiene as well as to help them to manage water for planting crops. After the wells were constructed, the ICD-MDK team also helped local households, who had access to the well water to organise themselves into water-user groups to maintain and manage the well for longer use. A three-person committee including the chief, vice-chief and treasurer was elected to manage needed repairs, and it was communally decided that each family to use the pump would pay at least 500 riel (about thirteen cents US) each month towards the maintenance fund.

In 2014, Srey Touch was elected the treasurer to collect money from each family in her village to maintain and repair the wells as needed. Furthermore, Srey Touch also plays important role in explaining to the villagers the importance and the benefits of using pump wells. Currently, there are 26 households totaling 99 people, 60 of whom are female are using this well.

“Now my family and other villagers live in better condition because we have safe drinking water for daily consumption and can save time to earn our livelihoods. I have no more worries about lack of safe water and the risks of collecting the water from far distances and we have the water to water our crops.” said Srey Touch.
New Techniques bring high yield

In an effort to raise the living standards of rural people, the Integrated Community Development Programme of Development and Partnership in Action (DPA) based in Stung Treng Province (ICD-ST) has introduced a new way of farming to a number of rural villages.

In cooperation with the Stung Treng Department of Agriculture, ICD-ST offered training in 13 villages to improve people’s knowledge of effective farming techniques. To improve their yields farmers were introduced to the innovative rice cultivation method called Systems of Rice Intensification (SRI).

Sesan Village, located in Kampung Commune, Sesan District, is one of the target villages involved in the SRI project in Stung Treng Province. The village is composed of 111 households where 485 community members live, 231 of whom are female, and most of whom are farmers.

A father of three children, Mr. Chan Dork, 52, a farmer who lives in Sesan Village said: “In my village, farmers can only grow rice in the rainy season and in the dry season we grow vegetables near our house for food.” Mr. Dork is a model farmer in Sesan Village and attended the training session on specific techniques related to growing rice.

The new rice planting techniques focus on applying low-cost practices for better soil, water and plant management. This includes encouraging farmers to use animal manure or compost as fertiliser to improve the quality of their soil.

To help their rice grow well and mature quickly, farmers were trained on how to choose a pure breed of seed. The new planting technique involves planting seeds on a dry mounded field so that seedlings become swollen. After 8 to 15 days, only the swollen seedlings are selected and these are planted in a row with space around them, so that they receive enough sunshine. When the rice is about to blossom, water is kept just around the base of the rice. Additionally, the farmers are shown the importance of manually weeding their fields so the rice can grow well. Farmers using this rice planting techniques and improving their methods of soil and water management have found that their rice plants are generally healthier, have better roots and are more resistant to pests, diseases, flooding and wind.

In addition, employing these techniques helps farmers to generate more income from higher yields and reducing the money that they have to spend on agricultural inputs such seeds, fertiliser and labour.

“After transplanting my rice using these techniques, I observed that my paddy crops are growing much better than other crops which have been planted using traditional techniques.” As a result, this year, in one hectare of land, I received four tons of paddy rice, while last year my field only produced two tons of paddy rice.” said Mr. Dork.

As a model farmer in the village, Dork also shared his knowledge and experience of practicing the new agricultural techniques with other villagers. “I now know that SRI can help us to get high yields, save time, reduce labour and reduce expenses for seeds.” said Dork. “This year, I can earn three million riels (about SUS 750) from the sale of my paddy rice.”

Following the efforts of DPA’s ICD team in Stung Treng, many farmers in the area have developed an interest in methods such as these, which can improve their rice yields and therefore their livelihoods. DPA’s ICD-ST team continues to support and raise people’s living standards through agricultural sector reform in all of its target villages by providing training, resources and ongoing support.
Integrated Community Development Programme

People-Led Advocacy Initiative to protect the community’s forest

Mr. Chea Dary, 44, and his wife, Chum Thy, 43, have two children. They live in Chork Chey Village, Sangker 2 Commune, Chhaeb District, Preah Vihear Province. Dary is a diligent farmer and very active in development work in the village. He started working with DPA in Preah Vihear province in 2013. “Since I began working and taking part in other activities that were organised by DPA, my life, especially my family’s livelihood changed.” said Mr. Dary.

Previously, his family lived in Thala Borivat District, Stung Treng Province but due to difficult living conditions there, in 2003, his family decided to move to Preah Vihear Province. Currently, his family has 4.5 hectare on which they grow rice, mango, cassava, bananas, jackfruit, sugar cane and soybeans. In addition to this, he grows several varieties of vegetables including cucumbers, cabbages, bitter gourds, string beans, eggplants and water morning glory. His family can earn 3,000,000 riels ($US 750) from selling sugar cane, 1,000,000 riels ($US 250) from selling soya-bean, 1,000,000 riels ($US 250) from selling rice and 3,000,000 riels ($US 750) from selling their vegetables per year.

However, in early 2014, economic land concession (ELC) company cleared the forest and lands of the community members who live in Sangker 2 commune making it difficult for villagers to secure their land.

“It seriously impacted to living condition of community members,” Mr. Dary said. “The Company did not conduct an impact study before clearing the land and the community did not agree with that.”

Due to this situation, the affected communities worked hard to protect their community land and forest resources from encroachment by ELC companies. On behalf of the community representatives, Mr. Dary informed and mobilised other community members in Chork Chey, Sambo and Kra Loat Villages to conduct consultative meetings to find the most appropriate solution and supporter as well as advisors when problems occur.

Currently, the community attempts to collect information, evidence and to document this issue as well as join networks and link with NGOs working on land and forest issues including DPA and also to connect closely with independent newspapers and radio. Meanwhile, community members have decided to file a complaint letter to the district office for legal intervention about this case. At the same time, the affected community members came together as a team to mobilise the resources needed to contribute to advocacy activities. “The community members voluntarily contribute their own money for the process; we want our land back.” said Dary.

DPA’s Integrated Community Development programme in Preah Vihear Province (ICD-PVH) continues to practice the people led development process (PLDP) to enhance community self-reliance and sustainable ability. In addition, the project also encourages and supports the purposes and plans of community members in the village to work hard to protect their community land and forest resources from encroachment by ELC companies and outsiders.
Partnership Programme

Learning how to generate income from vegetable technique practices

The Khmer Community Development Association (KCDA) is one of DPA’s partner organisations. It works in Samlot District, Battambang Province, and focused on food security, income generation improvements, climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and natural resource management.

Mr. In Pouch, 52, and his wife, Un Yon, 47, have four children. He lives in O’ Krouch Village, Ta Tork Commune, Samlot District, Battambang Province. As a young man he was a soldier but after being demobilized by the Cambodian government, he returned to the land and to farming to feed his family.

“In addition to rice farming, I planted some crops for sale to feed my family and to support my children’s education. However, my crops did not grow well, the yields were low and I just was only able to make 7,000 to 10,000 riel (up to $2.50) per day from selling vegetables. This amount of money cannot cover all expenses in the family.” said Mr. Pouch.

In 2014, KCDA collaborated with community representatives to meet and to select farmers to participate in a drip system agricultural project in O’Krouch Village. Mr. Pouch was selected to attend a training course on how to apply this crop cultivation technique.

Mr. Pouch reported that “before attending the training course, I planted crops by using traditional techniques. But after attending the training course, I started to grow vegetables on 40 m² of land by using this system. After, I applied these techniques on my crops, I have seen their growth improve. I can now earn an income amount between 1,000,000 riels and 1,500,000 riels from selling the vegetables that I grow: cabbages, morning glory, eggplants, cucumbers, string beans and chilies.”

Currently, Pouch plans to expand the amount of land that he plants with vegetables. Pouch said “With this system, it not only provides high yield but by using these methods, I can save water and fertiliser, reduce weed growth and plant disease. It makes my crops more resilient to damaging changes in the weather.”

At present, Pouch is really proud of his achievements and productions and he hoped that his family will not experience food insecurity in the future. “I am proud of the skills that I gained and I have shared them with my neighbours and relatives. I hope that they will get a better yield like my family.”

DPA continues to support KCDA and other partner organisations that are involved with communities like Mr. Pouch through building capacity and offering financial support to achieve their goals.
Partnership Programme

Living condition improved through vegetable growing

The Samakum Akpivat Chamros Khum Svay Ang (SACKS) is a DPA partner organisation that works in Svay Rieng Province. Its work focuses on food security, improving income generation, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

A farther of two sons and three daughters, Mr. Tep Lout, 62, is a farmer who lives in Svay Phaem Village, Svay Ang Commune, Svay Chrum District, Svay Rieng Province. His family is one of the poorest families in the village. Besides rice farming, he grows some crops and rears some livestock like chickens and pigs. His family has only a small area of farmland, which meant that his family encountered food shortages and lacked household assets. These problems led him to borrow money from his neighbours in order to meet their food needs.

In collaboration with community representatives, SACKS invited Lout in 2013 to take part in training on techniques of vegetable growing. After the training, he received one package of cucumber seeds, aiming to allow him to practice the knowledge gained from the course.

Talking about his previous farming efforts, Lout said, “Previously, I grew vegetables using traditional techniques. My crops did not grow well and my yields were low. But when I attended the training course organised by SACKS, I learned how to prepare my land better, to select the best seeds, to build a vegetable trellis, and to use natural fertilizers to improve the soil.”

“Since I applied these techniques on my planting crops, I have seen that my crops grow well and I hope my crops will grow well and produce a higher yield than before,” said Mr. Lout.

DPA continues to support SACKS and other partner organisations that are involved with communities like Mr. Pouch through building capacity and offering financial support to achieve their goals.
No violence, family livelihood improved

Violence is a real problem occurring in families on a daily basis. It often affects the livelihood and property of families as well as the children’s future and the development of entire communities.

Mr. Sin Soeun, 48, is a farmer in Chheu Teal Plous village, Svay Ampear Commune, Muk Kampoul District, Kandal Province. Before he joined “Leukstouy Chivapheap Kasekor” (LCK), a DPA partner organisation, Soeun drank alcohol every day and when he returned home, he often hit and yelled at his wife and his children. This behaviour disturbed his neighbours and when he drank, his wife and children were afraid of him. Sometimes they ran away from home and stayed with their neighbors. Soeun never helped his wife with the housework or to earn income. The income that his family made from selling rice, he took to pay off the debts he incurred borrowing money to buy rice wine. During this period, his family did not have enough food to eat. His relationship with his family and his neighbors was very bad.

Today Mr. Sin Soeun says: “My neighbour works for the Community Based Organization (CBO) “Leukstouy Chivapheap Kasekor” (LCK) and one day he came to talk to me and to encourage me to join courses related to gender and the prevention of domestic violence. My family joined LCK five years ago. During our participation, we managed to get loans of 500 thousand, to one million riel, to set up a small business. We also received chicken breeds and training on vegetable growing, animal rearing techniques, and climate change. With motivation from my family and dissemination by LCK, I joined LCK’s various trainings and meetings regarding to gender, women rights, the prevention of domestic violence, and other laws. I am aware of the law on the prevention of domestic violence, and I have reflected on the losses that I caused when I committed violence in my family. This reflection changed my perceptions and my thinking forever. I realize that I have wasted much time and money on unnecessary drinking and spoiled my relationships with my family as well as with my neighbors. As a result, I had to change; in other words, I stopped drinking and committing violence like before. Every day I work on my farm, look after my cattle and poultry, and help do household chores like picking firewood, cooking, and feeding animals etc. In addition, I help instruct and instruct the kids about how to earn a living; and now they all have jobs and businesses. So far, it has been two years since I stopped beating my wife and children, and I have had no rows with my neighbors. My relationship with my wife and children and neighbours has been improving. Our couple consults with each other before we decide to do anything. What makes me feel happy the most is that our family has sufficient food to eat and that our income has increased. As a result, we have built a new house with the money that we have earned.”
Community of Bunong indigenous people in Srae Ampil village advocate for their land

Srae Ampil Village, which is predominately populated by Bunong indigenous people (IP), has many natural resources potentially available for use and a large tract of agricultural land available to the members of the community.

DPA has been supporting this community’s effort to gain a community land title for 523 hectares of community land. This will allow the community members to gain access to the resources of their lands and forests and to manage them. In addition, they also have the opportunity to improve their livelihoods through access to naturally occurring products such as honey, animals, nuts, seeds, berries, mushrooms, oils, medicinal plants, and fuel and resin trees.

Currently, Srae Ampil community has been recognised as a legal entity by the Ministry of Interior, though they are still being affected by illegal logging by outsiders. Economic land concessions have been granted to Sovan Reachsey Company and the company came to clear the forest for the establishment of rubber plantations. This has had a large impact on those who depend on non-timber forest products (NTFP), particularly resin trees which are an important income source for them.

Community representative Mr. Kreut Bunthean, 46, said, “76 families in Srae Ampil Village depend on the resources of the forest and farmland for their livelihoods. They have been able to earn annual income from the forest particular resin trees between 300,000 and 1,000,000 riels (USD$75-250) per year and additional income from agricultural products. However, with thousands of resin trees being destroyed by outsiders, we do not have as much income from this anymore while our farmlands were encroached too.”

Following the community’s request for support, DPA helped them to collect information and shared this with the provincial natural resource management (NRM) network to identify an advocacy strategy. DPA also advised the community as they wrote a complaint letter to the provincial councilor of Mondulkiri Province requesting assistance and intervention. In cooperation with DPA, the provincial councilor of Mondulkiri, the Keo Seima District Governor, and NRM network representatives conducted a field visit to verify this information in person with the affected community in order to report to the provincial governor for legal intervention of this case.

The Mondulkiri Provincial Governor ordered the Keo Seima District Governor to write a letter to Sovan Reachsey Company to recheck their operations and to find a solution for the community. At the same time, DPA and Land and Housing Rights Network (LaHRiN) and Indigenous People and Forestry Network (IPFN) members supported the community as it sent a letter of complaint to the Ministry of Land Management Urban Planning and Construction (MLMPUC), Ministry of Environment (MoE), Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery (MAFF), Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU), and National Authority for Land Dispute Resolution (NALDR). For more support, DPA, LaHRiN and IPFN members communicated their concerns on this issue with the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction (MLMUPC) to seek a better solution. (Continued on page 18)
Community-based monitoring mechanism

As a new and emerging element of Cambodia’s economy, the country’s extractive industry (EI) sector has shifted from primarily exploration to exploitation in their operations. The sector has attracted investment from international and regional companies originating in Australia, Canada, China, India, South Korea, and Vietnam. A legal and regulatory framework began to be developed for this sector in 2012. However, there are still challenges, some of the most important are ensuring that mining, oil and gas companies comply with relevant laws and respect the rights of affected communities and indigenous people. Among these challenges is the fact that the companies have not been as transparent in their plans and operations as they should.

In response to these challenges, the national Extractive Industry Social and Environmental Impact (EISEI) and DPA began to support community mining focal persons (CMFPs) and affected communities in order to monitor the activities of mining companies.

“...the company did not provide any information or talk with villagers about their operations but they destroyed the village graveyard. Because of this, I try to seek for other information regarding the impacts of its mining activities.” said Mr. Sin Nop.

Mr. Sin Nop is a former village chief and an affected villager living in Outron Village, K’bal Dorey Commune, Sombo District, Kratie Province, where the Chinese mining company called Xing Yuan Kanng Yeak Co., Ltd operates. “I challenged the company and filed claims for compensation because I understand that the company had no rights to do this without informing us.” said Nop.

To further this, on 18 December, 2014, the DPA-EISEI secretariat conducted a field visit to the village, which is surrounded by the company site in Kratie Province, in order to discuss the company’s activities. In addition, the monitoring visit aimed to collect more information from villagers about the social and environmental impacts of the company’s extractive operations. Based on the focus group discussion, health problems and noise disturbances were the most common impacts of company work on the communities. We learned that health problems were sensitive and complex issues: chemical wastes pollute the water and limit the availability of water, bad smells impact on breathing and sound pollution is a constant annoyance. At the same time, the Company’s Environmental Management Plan (EMP) has not been made available to the villagers or made public.

Nop said “The company didn’t follow the law to make sure that its activities did not affect the people who lived around the production plant. Everyone in the village faces the same problem because of its activities, and they can do nothing. It is hard to monitor and follow up with the company since I need to earn money to support my family also.” (Continued on page 18)
As a result, the provincial governor and the company organized a meeting with the affected community. The company proposed to return 250 hectare of land to the community and that the company would provide one million Riel ($US 250) per family as compensation. The community representatives had consulted with DPA and the NRM network for intervention in this matter. 70 of the 76 families in Srae Ampil Village agreed with the settlement and the compensation offered by the company. However, six families, most of whom were indigenous community committee (ICC) members did not accept the offer. Therefore, DPA could not engage in any advocacy when most of the community members had already accepted the company’s offer. However, DPA will monitor the land distribution and continue to support the community to achieve a CLT. Moreover, DPA will consult with the six families who did not agree on what they want to do.

From the conflict between the Sovan Reachsey Company and this community some lessons have been learned. DPA learned that when communities do not have all the information that they need to understand and to support their legal position, and when social solidarity is not as strong as it can be, weaknesses are created that ruthless companies will exploit—as they did in this case. DPA will redouble its efforts to reinforce each threatened community’s capacity for information gathering, strengthen their position, and encourage a collective community commitment to assert and demand protection of the rights that communities have to land ownership. DPA is recommitting itself to support the six families who refused this company’s offer, and to the larger project of advocacy on their behalf and on behalf of other threatened communities. Finally, DPA will continue to work jointly with the LaHRiN and IPFN networks to create a stronger and more effective voice to influence government policy and behaviour and to pressure companies with economic land concessionaire to abide by the laws that demand that they respect private and community owned land and human rights.

Even though Mr. Nop tried his best to monitor the company’s activities, he lacked information related to the legal authority that the company had for its operations (or did not have), about its current operations and activities or its future plans, since the company did not release any of this information to the villagers.

We acknowledge that monitoring the company’s activities is very challenging for communities. They need to have legal support from the local authorities especially and they need to understand more about the process and access to relevant documents, so that they can come up a clear plan, to monitor and to follow up their monitoring activities.

Due to this situation, DPA-EISEI will continue to strengthen the communities’ capacity to monitor company activities and in creating a constructive dialogue with the company.
### Financial Report 2014

**Income statement for the year ended 31st December 2014 (in US Dollars)**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td><strong>1,479,500.72</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,516,032.07</strong></td>
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![DPA INCOME 2014](image)
Financial Report 2014

Expenditure statement for the year ended 31st December 2014 (in US Dollars)

<table>
<thead>
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<th>2013</th>
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<td>Mondulkiri IP and WRM Project</td>
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<td>Emergency Response on flood in Stung Treng</td>
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<td>Humanitarian Capacity Development Plan Project</td>
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<td>6,627.07</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Project Expenditure</strong></td>
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<td>Non Project Expenditure</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenditures</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,463,250.48</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,581,848.09</strong></td>
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</table>
Chiv Vibol, 34, is married with two sons and one daughter. He began working with DPA in 2011 as counterpart staff, and in 2012 he became a full-time staff member of DPA and worked as a community development facilitator in Stung Treng Province.

“DPA is a local non-government organisation which has good policies, accountability and transparency. Previously, I was a teacher in Stung Treng Province. I had no experience regarding development work. But since I started working with DPA, I gained more knowledge and experience regarding community development work including agricultural techniques and community organising approaches in the establishment of communal forests and community fisheries.”

In his free time, Mr. Chiv vibol likes to chat with his friends about other business, and watching television especially sports and art news.
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European Commission (EC)  
Health Poverty Action (HPA)  
Manos Unidas (MU)  
Misereor  
New Zealand Aid Programme, Ministry of Foreign Affair and Trade  
Norwegian People Aid (NPA)  
Oxfam America (OA)  
Oxfam Novib (ON)  
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Trocaire

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Mr. Kim Sereikith, Development Education and Advocacy Programme Manager  
Mr. Kuy Sophal, Partnership Programme Manager

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