Project Number: 37269-013
22 February 2013

Greater Mekong Subregion: Rehabilitation of the Railway in Cambodia Project

Progress Update - Expanded Income Restoration Program

Prepared by:

Kay Leak
EIRP Coordinator

The views expressed in this report are the views of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), or its Board of Directors or the governments they represent. ADB does not guarantee the source, originality, accuracy, completeness or reliability of any statement, information, data, finding, interpretation, advice, opinion, or view presented, nor does it make any representation concerning the same.

Asian Development Bank
Acronyms:

- AH - Affected Household(s)
- EIRP - Expanded Income Restoration Program
- SG - Self-help Group
- CDF - Community Development Fund
- SSNF - Social Safety Net Fund
Contents:

- General Structure of SG
- I. Basic statistics on the SGs
- II. Status of EIRP implementation
- III. Relocation site situation
- IV. SG Capacity Assessment
General Structure:

General Assembly

Leader

CDF

SSNF

Member and Training

Finance
I. Basic statistics on the SGs

1. 13 SGs have been formed thus far in 5 sites (8 in Poipet, 1 in Battambang, 1 in Pursat, 2 in Phnom Penh, and 1 in Shihanoukville)

2. Total number of member: 404 AHs

Notes: Affected Household (AH), Self-help Group (SG), Community Development Fund (CDF), and Social Safety Net Fund (SSNF).
3. **$281,472** already disbursed to 12 SGs covering 384 AH members. (1 new SG in Poipet is recently organized and has not yet received its EIRP funds, with the indicative amount of 450$/AH (CDF) + 250$/AH (SSNF) + 33$/AH (Admin)

4. 100% of all AHs on site are members of the SGs, except Poipet where efforts to organize more SGs are ongoing. Only a few AHs in Phnom Penh site have not yet joined an SG.
5. Loan from CDF: 211 AHs have taken loans so far in the amount of $86,055 in low interest loans (1% per month set by the SGs)

6. Grant from SSNF: So far 64 AHs have availed of SSNF mostly for health reasons. In total they have received $4,225, of which $440 is non-interest bearing loan and $3,785 is grant.

7. SKY health insurance for 41 members: $1,375.5 from SSNF used to pay SKY health insurance to cover Feb-August 2013 (approx. $34 covers all household). Some members decide not to join SKY then they will still cover by SSNF.
II. Status of EIRP implementation

1. Loan and Repayment: All AHs that already got loan for their livelihood (CDF) in all sites are able to pay their monthly amortization, mostly as scheduled, except in Phnom Penh site where 4 AHs have not yet paid for January (start of repayment of principal + interest in November 2012 for 10 months).

Note: After EIRP Fund transfer to the SG account, SG committee able to manage to prepare the member livelihood proposal and review to provide loan with very low interest to help them in their livelihood. 95% of the AHs received loan from SG for their livelihood.
2. Some of the AHs request for bigger loan for their business after payment of their existing CDF loan.

3. Almost all of the AHs that got loan from CDF used the loaned amount efficiently (for improving their livelihood), and about 10 AHs did not follow their business plan.

4. SGs in all sites collect savings from members each month. However, only a majority of members in each SG is able to give their monthly contributions regularly.
III. Relocation site situation

1. Access Road: All access roads are alright, except for Pursat and Shihanoukville which were damaged by the floods. They are now in the process of getting fixed.

2. Internal Road: All site have good road, except for Poipet which need improvement urgently.
3. Water: All AHs have access to water. The management of water is differently from site to site

- In Poipet Site: the local AH manage to supply water to their members at the Site. There are also hand pumps.
- In Battambang site: local businessman supply water. SG is in the process to connect water to each AHs from an additional tank that will be built.
- In Pursat Site: IRC already transferred the water management to the SG as they requested.
3. Water: All AHs accessible to water. The management of water is differently from site to site

- In Phnom Penh Site: Almost 100% AH located to the site connected to the clean water of the government, except few family in process because they switch the plot.

- In Shihanuk Ville site: There is no water supplier in the site, however there are wells provided by the project. Except few well not work well.
4. **Electricity:** All AHs connected to electricity, except in Phnom Penh where about 3 households have yet to get electric connections.

5. **Site Development:** In general, all sites are better in many ways than their previous places.
IV. SG Capacity Assessment

Current Condition:

1. SG leaders in all groups are very active; other officers are active mostly during review and decision of requests for CDF loans and assistance from SSNF. Recommendations: (i) Clearer delineation of roles and responsibilities among officers and members; (ii) practice delegation of tasks and authority; (iii) training
2. Coordination and unity in the SG is much better if compared to early 2012
3. Willingness to volunteer to work for the SG needs to improve
4. Officers lack capacity to monitor the livelihood activities of the members.
5. Financial management and recording knowledge and skills still limited. These need improvement.
Capacity building Needed:

1. Facilitation
2. Community management and Leadership
3. Entrepreneurship
4. Positive Mind set training and Facilitation skill training
5. Planning and livelihood proposal monitoring
6. Minute taking and report
7. Financial record keeping and report preparation