



អង្គការអភិវឌ្ឍន៍សហគមន៍ជនបទ និង បរិស្ថាន (អា-សេ-ដូ)

**RURAL COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT
DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION
(RCEDO)**

**ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT OF
Community Empowerment toward
Socio- Economic Development
and Democracy.**



Reporting period: January 01, -December 31, 2012
Submitted to Diakonia Cambodia

By January 2013

Prepared by: RCEDO Banteay Meanchey Province, Cambodia
**Contact Address: Road # 2, Kampong Svay Village, Kampong Svay
Commune, Serei Sophorn District. Tel: +(855) 54 958 942 / 012 284 345**
Email: rcedobmc@forum.org.kh
Website: www.rcedo.org

DIAKONIA ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT COVER SHEET

Title of the project: Community Empowerment towards Socio-Economic Development and Democracy.

Name of Donor Agency: DIAKONIA,

Name of the Organization: Rural Community and Environment Development Organization (RCEDO),
Address: Road #2, Kampong Svay commune, Serey Sophone town, Banteay Meanchey Province, Cambodia
Tel: +(855) 54 958 942, or (855) 12 284 345
Fax: +(855) 54 710 446 /
Email: rcedobmc@forum.org.kh
Web-page: www.rcedo.org

Location of the project: 37 target villages of Tapho, Sarong, Phkoam commune, Svay Check district, Banteay Meanchey Province.

Target Group: Poorest of the poor, vulnerable people (PLHA, OVC, widow)

Duration of the project: 12 months

Reporting Period: January 01, to December 31, 2012

Total Annual Budget: US\$50,992 (included change gained US\$2,459.44)

Actual Expenses for the reporting period: US\$ 47,285.83

Name, Signature of the accredited official of the implementing agency of the project and date:



Sam Serey Wathana,
Executive Director of RCEDO
Banteay Meanchey Province, Cambodia

Date: 22 January 2013

List of Acronyms	
CBO	Community based organization
CC	Commune council
CFC	Community forestry committee
CRR	Community researching report
CRT	Community research team
FA	Forestry administration
FFS	Farmer field school
HC	Health center
NCDD	National Committee of Democratic development
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NRM	Natural resource management
OVC	Orphaned vulnerable children
PDA	Provincial Department of Agriculture
PLHA	People living with HIV/AIDS
SHG	Self-help groups
VDA	Village development actors

DIAKONIA

ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT 2012

- 1. Name of organization: Rural Community and Environment Development Organization (RCEDO)**
- 2. Project title: Community Empowerment towards Socio-Economic Development and Democracy.**
- 3. Project country: Cambodia**
- 4. Period covered by the report: January- December 2012 (12 months)**
- 5. Total budget Year 2: US\$50,992 (included change gained US\$2,459.44)**
- 6. Reporting date: 21 January 2013**
- 7. Location of the project: 37 target villages from 4 target communes (Tapho, Sarong, Phkoam, Trease), Svay Check district, Banteay Meanchey Province, Cambodia**
- 8. Target group: Poor and Vulnerable people (PLHA, OVC, widows)**
- 9. Summary of the proposed projects:**

This Annual report of community empowerment towards socio-economic development and democracy project was implemented by RCEDO in Banteay Meanchey province for the year 2012. This project was funded by Diakonia Cambodia for the year 2012. It was implemented from January 01, to December 31, 2012 (12 month period).

The project aimed to strengthen the Village Development Actors (VDA), Community Based Organizations (CBOs), NGOs networking groups, local authorities and line government officers to actively participate in good governance for improving social economic development, social accountabilities and peace- democracy.

1. Empowered target communities, VDAs, CBOs and local authorities within target communes to actively participate in good local governance and decentralization for sustainable development.
2. Improved food security for poor families and vulnerable groups and selected beneficiaries within target communes through sustainable agriculture activities.

3. Improved the target beneficiaries, CBOs; NGOs and local authorities effectiveness in community participation in Natural Resource Management (NRM) as climate change intervention.
4. Strengthened staff capacity in effectiveness of project management and implementation for sustainable organizational development.

This annual report compares the achievements against planned activities and logical framework matrix (attached in annex A). This annual report presents results of project implementation, outputs, outcomes and impacts achieved during the certain period. The information in this report was collected from the field staff's through monitoring reporting, field observations and group discussions with the target beneficiaries.

INTERVENTION ACHIEVEMENT

Within the last 12 months of year 2012, RCEDO staffs learned and achieved the following outputs and outcomes:

Objective1: *The Village Development Actors (VDAs), beneficiaries and local authorities within target communes had empowered and actively participating in local governance for sustainable development.*

Achievement of Activities implemented:

- RCEDO has completed its planned activities with the outputs of established VDAs in the selected target communities. They gained knowledge on VDAs formation process and internal management by group rules developed. VDA groups are well managing community resources and participated with local authorities in improving local governance by actively raising their concerns on CC administration and public service delivery through CC meeting and community researching report (CRR).
- VDA Groups have their own inputs and resources to support their group members to start up agriculture activities and small business initiatives, group action plans, and emergency relief support.
- The key actors of the advocacy team (CRTs, VDAs or CBOs) within target communities are promoting and able to work as a representative of local citizens and dialogue with local authorities like commune councils (CCs); public service providers and NGOs toward good governance and social accountabilities demand.
- The results of the project activities include directly increasing the citizen participation in good governance process and building capacity and relationships between state and non-state actors within target communities

through directly discussing and disseminating information and dialogue about their concerns and demands needed for improvement or changes.

- The local authority members of 4 target communes fulfilled their roles in social accountability through delivering human rights, domestic violence and other laws to their people especially at Topho, Treas Phkoam and Ponley commune.

See photos#1-2:



Objective2: *The poor and vulnerable groups had decreased by 50% their number of months facing food insecurity.*

Achievement:

- Target beneficiaries have gained knowledge on rice and vegetable production through Farmer Field School techniques and received farming inputs for practices within their group. Most of SHGs have applied and used their knowledge to start up farming or small business initiatives for generating income. Through field monitoring, most of the attendants have applied their knowledge to start up practices on farming products and produced fresh vegetable for consumption in the family.
- The VDA Groups have their own inputs and resources to support their group members to start up agriculture activities and small business initiatives, group action plan, and emergency relief support within their group.
- Poor Farmers and SHG members used capital for starting up a variety of income generation activities such as vegetable growing, chicken raising, pig raising and weaving to support their families and children.
- VDAs and SHG leaders gained basic knowledge on internal group management; financial management and have actively participated in the project. (See photos #3-4).



Objective3: *The poor and vulnerable groups within target communities have improved their health and sanitation practices, HIV/AIDS prevention, and received social economic supports.*

Achievement:

- In the project period, the selected beneficiaries had access to information on basic health care, sanitation practices, well cleaning, latrines usage, mosquito net use, and drinking safe water. They had participated in a village cleaning campaign organized by commune council for preventing their family and children from contracting mosquito transmitted diseases.
- PLHA/OVC patients had participated in group project activities such as health care services, animal raising or farming activities without any discrimination, and they had access to vegetable growing, animal raising and rice seed for gaining income.

Objective4: *VDA, Community Forestry Committee (CFC), and authorities had improved their effectiveness of Natural Resource Management (NRM) and have increased community participation.*

Achievement:

- The target beneficiaries gained knowledge and actively participated in natural resource management, climate change issues, community forest prevention, and formation process of forestry areas. They had greater awareness of environmental and forestry issues and made a formal registration application to submit to Forestry Administration (FA) office and provincial level for community conservation. The local authorities and CF committees had taken into account forest logging in the selected target areas.
- NGOs/CBOs networking group became a partnership between state institution and non-state-actors in sharing information and knowledge on local governance; building community's voices, responding to the community concerns and needs. They had identified training need and developed a joint action plan for state actor capacity building in the future intervention
- The collaboration between the target communities, local authorities, FA officer and NGOs built a stronger relationship for dialogue and negotiations with

military officials for finding the formal viable solution of land grabbing areas (See photo # 5 &6).



The target community, in collaboration with local authorities, police and FA work to stop the illegal deforestation in forestry areas at Phkaom community forestry.



RCEDO is organizing workshop on NRM and Climate Change Adaptation to target group at Preah Net Preah district.

Objective5: Improve RCEDO organizational management system and staff's capacity and skills in order to ensure the effectiveness of project implementation.

Achievement:

- The organizational policies of RCEDO have been revised, updated and authorized by the top management level of the organization. Governing board and management team meetings are regularly conducted for making decisions, reviewing policies, organizational management and creating the strategic plan for 2013-2015. RCEDO invited representative of CCs, SHG, CBOs, line government officers, RCEDO staff and RCEDO governing boards to attend.
- RCEDO organized 4 board meetings with management team to discuss and finalize internal policies, project designs and review the organizational management systems and its structure for the future projects. All policies were approved and put in place for practice within the organization. The

Organization's policies and financial reporting were deemed acceptable by our auditor and donors(See photo#7,8,9)



Conducting the 3 year strategic planning workshop with involvement from stakeholders at Siem Reap on 19-21 November 2012



RCEDO conducting Quarterly Board meeting with Management team to discuss and finalize the internal policies and organizational structure.



RCEDO staffs attending community organizing training course with ZOA technical Adviser at RCEDO office.



RCEDO staff conducting provincial workshop on Good Governance and Social Accountability for CBOs, LINGOs; local authorities and government department officers



RCEDO staff participating at CC monthly meeting in Ponley commune to discuss about CC service improvement.

Photo# 12,13: Gender equity training activity at Tapho commune.



RCEDO facilitated with PDWA officers to organize training course on Gender equity and domestic violence to target beneficiaries at Tapho, Sarong commune of Svay Chek district.

Photo# 14,15 below: Farmer Field School demonstration activity on rice production farms at Tapho



RCEDO facilitated with PDA officer to provide sustainable agriculture skill training through Farmer Field School process to VDA members at Tapho commune of Svay Check district.

Photos16-19: improved Civil Society Networking; Exposure visiting by Donors to RCEDO target areas;



RCEDO organizing CNGO networking group meeting with INGOs; LNGOs and Government officer at TDSP office



RCEDO organizing CNGO member meeting to meet and discuss with CCC about NGO- GPP process and new training programme at RCEDO Office.



Program Officer of Diakonia and TAF officers visiting target beneficiaries of SHGs, VDAs, CRTs and local authorities at RCEDO Tapho commune of Svay Check district.

10- Results / Achievements (using indicators) analyzing text

Annex with figures

Activities were taken (Year- 2012)	Results of the project (Indicator of achieved)	Outcomes (Indicator of achieved)	Impacts
Output 1.1: <i>The target beneficiaries, VDAs/CBOs will be strengthened so that they can participate and voice out their difficulties and concerns on local governance and public services delivery</i>			
1.1.1. Raised community awareness on civil rights, decentralization, good governance and peace-democracy.	-782 local people (211 females) attended. Participants included: local people, authorities, district councilors, policeman, local public providers, NGOs and Line government.	- Through post survey 65% of attendees gained knowledge and better understanding on good governance, decentralization, organic law and NCDD strategy.	- The local public service delivery is acceptable for local people to use in order to increase livelihood and improve the living condition of the poor.
1.1.2. Provide training to target beneficiaries (VDAs, CRTs, CBO, CFs, CCs) on CC law, Organic law & local governance process	- 83 participants (11 females). They were representative of provincial offices, National Committee of Democratic development (NCDD); district governors; line government department officers and NGOs across the province. - There were 48 participants, 11 females. The participants are the representative of line government department ¹ and International and Local NGOs.		- Grassroots advocacy team was established in the target community in order to dialogue with the government actors for better demands on public service delivery. - The local citizens are satisfied with public service providers (like CC, HC staffs, PS teachers) changed their attitude and behavior for local users.(reported by
1.1.3. Conduct training course on gender equity, including domestic violence awareness to VDAs, CBOs, CFC & local authorities	- There are 2 courses consisting of 56 participants (28 female - 12 of attendees have used the knowledge to continue disseminate to their people in	- Access to information on gender equity, domestic violence and women trafficking and migration intervention	

¹ Provincial Department of Education, Youth and Sport (PDoEYS), Provincial Health Department (PHD), Provincial Department of Woman Affair (PDoWA), Provincial Department of Rural Development (PDoRD), Provincial Department of Agriculture (PDoA), Provincial Department of Environment (PDoE) and cluster school director; District Governor, District Council; Operational District (OD) of Phnom Srok, Preah Net Preah and Svay Chek and Serey Sophorn city, District Department of Health and Education.

Activities were taken (Year- 2012)	Results of the project (Indicator of achieved)	Outcomes (Indicator of achieved)	Impacts
1.1.4. Citizen's engagement in follow up the public service improvement at CC meeting	<p>12 target villages of 6 communes. It mean that, Gender focal person had built and taken place within target community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RCEDO's staff organized CRT monthly follow-up meeting in 3 target communes (Phkoam commune of Svay Chek district, Ponley commune of Phnom Srok district and Tean Kam commune of Preah Netr Preah district). 72 people (48 females) attended. - RCEDO facilitated with free-land consultant to conduct field survey on 211 key people (96 females) for gathering information on good governance and social accountabilities practices. 	<p>was made available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CRTs and RCEDO team formed focus groups on satisfaction and dissatisfaction of service users. 	<p>CRT at follow up meeting).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The whole target villagers in the villages have awareness and access to information on gender equity and domestic violence. - CCs and village chief in the Phkoam and Tapho communes said that CRT member is the key person resource in each village, so CRT can work together with CC and Village Chiefs to lead and develop village action plan and data base collection in their communities.
Outputs1.2: Local authorities and public service providers more responsive and engaging in good governance and social accountability.			
1.2.1.:Provide the support to local authority in delivering information on human rights, local governance and democracy to their people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 24 CC meetings and 9 district council meetings in 6 communes of Svay Check and Preah Net Preah districts. 615 people (105 female) attended. - 8 public service providers (5 Cluster schools, 1 CCs and 2 health centers) received finance support for improving 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The government actors and non-state actors created a CSO networking group on good governance and SAs to share the challenges and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The local citizens concerns and other difficulties were considered by local authorities and high government officers during public forum.

Activities were taken (Year- 2012)	Results of the project (Indicator of achieved)	Outcomes (Indicator of achieved)	Impacts
	good governance and SA practices.	problems encountered across the province.	-The local public service delivery is acceptable for local people to use in order to increase family livelihood.
1.2.2: Conduct 4 society networking group meetings among NGO, CBO and state actors on social accountability and good governance at provincial level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 NGOs & CSOs networking meetings conducted with CNGO Network and CCC to share information and experiences on good governance and building the relationship with civil society across Banteay Meanchey province. - There were 78 participants (12 females). The participants came from CBOs, Community Forestry Councils, CCs, CRTs, NGOs, CCC staffs and line department officers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The local people raised their concerns like high charges for local services and their difficulties with service providers. It is shown that the local people are aware with the policy of government and accountability of public service delivers. 	
1.2.3: Follow up meeting and workshop to dialogue and advocate among CRTs, VDAs, CBOs and state actors about progress of quality servicer improvement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 meetings on public services improvement organized in 2 districts (Svay Check and Preah Net Preah). 49 relevant stakeholders (9 females) from 6 target communes participated. 		
Outputs: 2.1: VDAs, SHG groups & CBOs are effectively functioning and managing community resources for sustainable livelihood from agriculture development activities.			
2.1.1: Farmer Group formulated as VDA of SHGs and trained on group rules, management structure, record keeping, loan management & technical skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 32 group leaders of VDAs strengthened on booking keeping, loan recording, revolving fund management and information sharing. - 3 new SHGs in 3 villages formed and trained on management structure including group rules, group saving, group meeting, record keeping, and loan management. Each group received revolving fund amount of \$250 to start farming production 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community asset established for sustainable use in supporting the poorest families within target community. - The whole community has access to rice seeds for farming 	

Activities were taken (Year- 2012)	Results of the project (Indicator of achieved)	Outcomes (Indicator of achieved)	Impacts
	activities. -VDAs & SHG members gained basic knowledge in group operating and resources management.	products and food consumption during food shortages - 45% of total participants had gained knowledge and have conducted the meeting within their members.	
2.1.2-3: Provide agriculture technical skills and farming inputs (seed & revolving funds) to target SHG or farmer cooperative groups.	- 5 trainings course on agriculture production (vegetable, rice and livestock) were conducted. 216 SHG members (100 females) attended and received farming inputs. - One Farmer field school demonstration on rice production conducted. 15 SHG members (5 females) participated.	- 106 attendees have fresh vegetables for consumption, pig/ chickens and earn incomes through sold farming products.	- Farmers have used this technique to apply at the family. - 50% of FFS attendees have gain appropriate skills in farming products.
2.1.4: VDAs; CBOs and target beneficiaries are implementing their initiative action plan through SHG revolving funds support to start income generation & small business activities.	- 3 VDA Group received revolving funds and farming inputs (seeds) and resources to support their group members to start up agriculture activities and small business initiatives, and 4 SHGs received revolving fund to practice farming production. - There are 113 of SHG members received vegetable seeds and loaned revolving fund to practice farming production as small business initiatives such as animal raising and vegetable growing etc.		
2.1.5: Conduct monthly follow up and provide technical advises to VDA members.	- 10 VDA and 32 SHG were selected for annual performance assessment. - 31 SHGs of 32 SHGs completed their	- 8 VDAs (70%) of 10 VDA's achieved an increase in performance	- 218 members (152 females) of VDAs & SHGs have been strengthened on

Activities were taken (Year- 2012)	Results of the project (Indicator of achieved)	Outcomes (Indicator of achieved)	Impacts
	performances assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 99 members (57 females) participated. - 12 of 31 SHGs have functioning and regularly saving and other SHGs are fair and need more strengthening. 	internal management such as monthly meeting, reviewed on book keeping, group recording, action plan and documentation.
Outputs 3.1: Greater awareness among target beneficiaries of NRM, climate change prevention & environmental pollution			
3.1.1: Disseminate basic knowledge on conservation of NRM, World Climate Change issues, forestry laws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 800 target beneficiaries, CFs, and local authorities (520 females) within target communes gained better understanding and actively participate in conservation of NRM. - 6 CF meetings conducted at Phkoam CC hall to discuss and dialogue about deforestation and land issues with military officers & high government officers. 106 local people (31 females) representing VDAs, CFs, CCs, RCEDO, police, chief of village and school teachers participated. - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Target beneficiaries gained knowledge and actively participated in community forest resource prevention - 43 % of workshop attendees changed their attitude and practices of the conservation of forestry lands, and climate change (staff observation). - . 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The collaboration between the target communities, local authorities, FA officer and NGOs had built more relationship for peace-dialogue and negotiates with commander military
3.1.2: Organize District and provincial workshop on climate change prevention awareness and NRM.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 district workshops on NRM and climate change organized in 2 districts. 75 people (10 female) attended. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 65 % of attendees gained basic knowledge on climate change issues and are able to apply it to their work within target 	

Activities were taken (Year- 2012)	Results of the project (Indicator of achieved)	Outcomes (Indicator of achieved)	Impacts
communities.			
Output 4.1: RCEDO has improved its governance and organizational management.			
4.1.1: Conduct board and MT meeting for every 3 month to review internal policy and bylaws.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 Governing board & MT meeting per year - 60% of governing board members are actively leading the organization by joining in meetings, workshops, and working to strengthen the organization to become more effective in the management and sustainability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organizational financial policies and bylaws updated and put in place. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Governing board and MT members have taken action within the organization to solve internal issues among of staff and made the organization act and follow the internal policies. - RCEDO is acting and following the internal policies and by laws within the organization. - RCEDO strategic plan for 2013-2015 has been developed and approved by the governing board members.
4.1.2: Coaching on financial system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 admin/finance staffs attended general administration and financial coaching in PNP. - 60% of staff indicates that they have gained new skills related to their works. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Financial system was upgraded with Quick Book system. 	
4.1.3: Compile all policies and document and apply for CCC Good Practice Project accreditation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RCEDO policies and procedures have improved and have been put into practice in the organization. 		
Output 4.2: RCEDO's staff had improved their knowledge, skills and behavior in order to be effective in their works			

Activities were taken (Year- 2012)	Results of the project (Indicator of achieved)	Outcomes (Indicator of achieved)	Impacts
4.2.1: Provide refresher training on community organizing skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 staffs gained knowledge and experiences and became more professional in project management and implementation. - 60% of staffs improved the intrinsic work value and synergism. - 8 staffs gain new knowledge and skills on database management and data analysis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RCEDO Global proposal for co-funding had been developed based on this 3 years strategic plan. - Organizational strategic plan for 2013-2015 developed and put in place for implementing. 	
4.2.2: Organize Annual staff retreat for reviewing 5 years strategic plan & policy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RCEDO annual staff retreat conducted at Siem Reap to develop strategic plan for next 3 years (2013-2015). - 25 people (CCs, CRTs, CBOs, RCEDO staffs and Board members) participated at this workshop. Through this workshop, attendees have gain knowledge and better understand RCEDO next 3 years plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RCEDO's Strategic Plan disseminated and shared to donors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two more funders are considered RCEDO project for next 2 years.

• Others activities:

- RCEDO invited the Diakonia project team to visit RCEDO project areas and meet with target groups at Tapho commune on 03 July 2012. They were able to watch the participants hold a meeting with local authorities, CRTs and SHG /VDA members. There were around 32 people in attendance (19 females).
- In May, 2 staff members attended a 5 day course on community participatory active research (call CPAR) in BTB. The topics of the training were focused on community development, advocacy skills and research on rights and community needs. After courses were completed there were practice sessions in the field. RCEDO will use Tadong mountain community at Tapho commune for participatory research on community forestry issues. After research the staff will report the findings to their trainers for feedback and comments.
- 20th-21st June 2012, one staff member attended a workshop on DFDD-TAF Project Evaluation organized by SILAKA and facilitated by PRIA from India. This workshop provided information about good governance & social accountabilities, and arranged field visits for data gathering.
- RCEDO had been working on developing a project proposal with other NGO members in the province for Climate Change Adaptation, EC food security and Empowerment of the Civil Society in Oddar Meanchey (CISOM).
- In April 2012, RCEDO facilitated with FAO Evaluation Team mission to visit the project areas and met with project target group in Pong Ro and Changkal commune.
- Participated in ADB Stakeholder consultation workshop for ADB project in Siem Reap province.

b)- Project Activities not done

- There is only provincial workshop awareness no CC law, Organic law & local governance is not done.

17. a)- Rights holders or areas

There has been no change concerning the project target areas during the project period.

b)- Activities, Strategies, Outcomes, Objectives, etc.

There has been no change in the project activities, outcomes and objectives from the original project proposal during the project implementation period for 2012.

18. Assumptions

Through the project activities RCEDO assumed the following:

- The local citizens had raised their opinion for improving the quality of local services through Citizen's Rating Report and are fully supported by line government department officers and local authorities.

- The Government line officers and state actors have changed their attitude and behavior which is a beginning point to achieve an improvement of service delivery after public forum conducted in 2011.
- The community people understood and actively participated in VDA group formation. Community resources were contributed to support the poorest and vulnerable people in a sustainable manner.
- Health statuses of local people and PLHIVs are improving and they are able to participate in animal raising, rice cultivation activities and their own business initiatives in the community.
- Staff capacities have improved and governing board members are more active in their roles. This leads to a more effective approach to achieving the mission of the organization.

19. Implementation problems and challenges.

a)- The problems:

- The National commune council elections delayed project implementation, because all target groups were busy with their political party campaign.
- The Royal Government of Cambodia will authorize NGOs law soon. This law is very strict and will make it difficult for NGOs to implement community empowerment activities in target communities.
- It is difficult to get many of the poorest of the poor to participate in project activities due to the fact they leave their homes to seek work illegally in Thailand.
- There is no sufficient water gate for rice cultivation and animal raising in the selected communities.
- Land grabbing by high government officers and soldiers, and the resulting disputes, caused some of the target groups to lose confidence in the fact that their situation can change. Intimidation or bribery caused some of the group to no longer participate in project activities.
- Project amendment and budget adjustment took a long time to get considered and approved from the donors. This made it difficult for partners to implement certain projects due to lack of adequate funding.

b)- Challenges

- New Commune Council members were elected and did not function well with the project because they had limited knowledge and understanding about their jobs and CC law.
- The commander of the soldiers and some of high government officers still continue grabbing community forestry land. This has caused forestry members, local people and CRTs feel hopeless, lose confidence and in some cases, made CC members want to resign.
- Lack of NGO or civil society networking of good governance and democracy partners in Banteay Meanchey. It was difficult to make a change in public administration reform and resolve land disputes due to lack of collaboration.
- Delay of financial disbursement from donor caused delay of project implementation

- Some CRTs, Forestry Committees, VDAs or SHG members migrated to find work in Thailand and some female were resigned because they entered marriage.

c)- Strategic to overcome the challenges:

- RCEDO tried to encourage community members and local authorities to provide real information that was related to the quality of public services and its local governance for change.
- RCEDO empowered and built up capacity of the village chiefs, CCs, VDC, VDAs and CBOs in order to achieve sustainable development activities within their communities.
- RCEDO continued to provide additional training skills and encouraged the poorest families and SHGs to adopt agriculture techniques through Farmer Field School approaches.
- RCEDO delivered financial support to VDAs. SHGs plan is to promote local income generation without illegal migration and provide local jobs.
- RCEDO is looking for more project funds to increase the salary of current staff and to allow the recruitment of new qualify staff with sufficient skills and experience.

d)- Lessons learned

- Decentralization and Democracy projects are not working well as expected. If we do not improve family livelihood and/or income sources of the target groups and build up the voice of NGOs and CBOs within target areas for dialogue with state actors for Social Accountability practices then they will continue to fail.
- Weak collaboration of NGO networks and line government departments led to lack of support of NGOs in civic engagement of public administration reform.
- Lack of networking between civic society or NGOs and service providers at the provincial level and national level. Good governance projects and civic engagement projects are not strong enough to influence local authorities, line government department officers and the decision-makers without collaboration.
- Supporting VDCs, commune council and district councils to have properly functioning councils and changing their attitude and behaviors is a good beginning point to achieve a betterment of good local governance and decentralization.
- Supporting existing government mechanisms, such as the Health Center committee and the primary school committee, CBOs and VDCs, can contribute to the improvement of public service quality.
- RCEDO need to provide more capacity building to newly elected officials and for women that have low basic education.

20. Budget and disbursement:

(Please see financial report Bar II attached for details)

21. Recommendations and conclusion

A- Recommendation:

would like to recommend as the following:

- Donors should provide more training on technical skills related to environmental protection and climate change adaptation, project monitoring/evaluation, data base management and coaching for improving the overall capacity of the organization.
- The next projects should provide more capacity building to Village Development Committees, new Commune Councils and district councils on roles and responsibilities, CC law, organic law, and good governance concepts in order to upgrade their knowledge and skills.
- RCEDO should work to strengthen competencies of VDAs, CBOs and local authorities on how to strengthen VDAs/SHGs action plans, nutritional food preparation and farmer business activities.
- The project should work to build a strong voice of civil society or NGO/CBO networking across the province for dialogue and advocacy on community land grabbing and other issues with private companies and/or high government officers.
- RCEDO should support small scale irrigation systems, family/community fishpond and bore well/pump well construction in the community.
- Diakonia should support more on exposure visit for sharing information and lesson learned among NGOs partners and selected target communities.

B- Conclusions:

In the reporting period, VDAs/SHGs have strengthened their own objectives to support their group and its members. VDA/SHG structure plays an active role in the community to mobilize local resources into the projects by regularly attending meetings, sharing information and establishing group planning in order to implement the livelihood activities and gain income to support their families. They are more confident after they received new knowledge and experiences; evident by implementing their own initiatives and activities. CRTs, VDAs and CBOs are key actors within target communities and are able to work as a representative of local citizens and dialogue with local authorities like commune councils, public service providers and NGOs toward good governance and social accountabilities demand

The VDA and SHG Groups have their own inputs and resources to support their group members to start up agriculture activities and small business initiatives, group action plans and emergency relief support within their group. Poor Farmers and SHG members used the capital to start up a variety of income generation activities such as vegetable growing, chicken raising, pig raising and the art of weaving to support their families and children

The project established VDAs, SHGs and CRT members as a resource in the community to support local citizens by working and sharing information with local authorities and state actors or local service providers as required by local citizens. The CRT team works as a partnership with the community and CCs in order to

improve the awareness of local people on human rights, decentralization and democracy and become a human resource for community ownership within the target areas. The project has also shown that state actors and non-state actors across the province had presented and disseminated information about good governance, social accountability practices and public administration reform.

Date: 22nd January 2013

Prepared by:



**Mr. Serey Wathana Sam,
Executive Director of RCEDO**