

Final Report

July 2005 – June 2008



Integrated Rural Development for Displaced Populations in three North-West Provinces, Cambodia

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- (C). Executing Agency: Ockenden Cambodia
- (D). Responsible Person: Nhov Nharn, Managing Director
- (E). In Partnership with: 5 Cambodian Local NGO Partners
(AFEC, KKCBO, CHRD, KBA & ADA)
- (F). Report Date: 10th August 2008
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- (H). Period of project: July 2005 - June 2008 (Three Years)

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The 3 Years' Project Objectives

The projects aim to improve the socio-economic conditions, livelihoods and self-sufficiency of 3,419 vulnerable beneficiaries in 105 recently settled villages in Banteay Meanchey, Otdor Meanchey and Battambang Provinces.

This 3 years project has set seven key objectives:

- 1 Increase management capacity and development skills of the community.**
- 2 Improve income and livelihoods of the community.**
- 3 Raise awareness on the appropriate community oriented use of forests.**
- 4 Increase agricultural production.**
- 5 Increase literacy rates.**
- 6 Improve the general health situation of villagers by increasing their road accessibility and accessibility to safe drinking water.**
- 7 Strengthen community development mechanisms through the formation of Farmers' Association.**

1. SUMMARY

1.1 Summary Details of the Organization and the Project

Organization:	OCKENDEN Cambodia
Operational Partners & Location:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Avenir des Femmes et des Enfants du Cambodge (AFEC) in Malai and Ochrove districts, Banteay Meanchey province. 2. Kon Kleng Community Based Organisation (KKCBO) in Phnom Srok district, Banteay Meanchey province. 3. Cambodian Human Resources Development (CHRD) in Sereisophon and Ochrov districts, Banteay Meanchey province 4. Khmer Buddhist Association (KBA-BMC) in Thmar Pouk district, Banteay Meanchey province and in Samrong and Trapaing Prasat districts, Odor Meanchey province 5. Agriculture Development Action (ADA) in Mong Russei and Koh Kro Lor districts, Battambang province
Length of Project:	36 months (July 1, 2002—June 30, 2008)
Type of Activity:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establishment of agricultural banks 2. Construction of a road 3. Provision of education for empowerment 4. Provision of clean drinking water 5. Establish community structures (Self Help Groups; Community Forestry; Farmers' Associations; Community Experimental Farming Committee) 6. Provide appropriate vocational training to vulnerable men and women 7. Deliver capacity-building training to partner NGOs and community organisations
Actual Beneficiaries	<p>(a) Livelihoods: 1,364 [6,998 with family members],</p> <p>(b) 4,644 family members of the Community Forestry and Road Up grading activities</p> <p>(c) Capacity-building & education: Ockenden, 4 LNGOs partners, 11 CBOs (with 79 executive members) and community representatives. A total of 1,746 participants trained.</p>
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1.2. Overview

The project has been successfully implemented in accordance with the original plan within the 36 month timeframe and budget. Broad objectives have been achieved or exceeded with a discernible and sustainable improvement in the poverty/food security position of target poor families. The project has operated complementarily with similar initiatives funded by UK-DFiD completed on 30 June 2007 "Capacity Building in Good Governance and Decentralisation in Cambodia". These projects have also been subjected to external audit annually.

Ockenden has met its obligations for its co-funding contribution of 8% to overall costs through grants from the Ockenden International, its local partners and existing community based organisations.

Ockenden and its five partners have implemented the programme from 1st July 2005 to 30 June 2008, thus improving the livelihoods of those vulnerable poor displaced people as a result of the civil war in Cambodia within the target areas in the three north-western provinces of Battambang, Oddar Meanchey and Banteay Meanchey so enabling most of them to become self sufficient and achieve better quality of lives. These have been achieved through a series of income generating and skills development activities such as self- help group/savings, agriculture resource banks, seasonal crop production, diversified community experimental farming, community forestry, and vocational training. In addition personal and group skills have been added through literacy and capacity building training with key emphasis on Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and NGO partners. This has been aimed at strengthening the human resources and development structures at the community level for sustained improvement in future years and to ensure pro-poor sensitivity and active participation.

The brief achievements over the three years are summarised as follow:

- *723 have received cows to date from the project and 124 calves so far have been born over the three years with many more cows in calf at this time of reporting. All beneficiaries are now using cow manure for natural fertilisation as well as using their cows for labour (ploughing, pulling carts, etc.). Possession of a cow is the single most important event a poor family can acquire to raise their social status.*
- *One cow breeding compound built with 100 cows in Kon Kleng Community Based Organisation. There are office building, house for normal cows, house for pregnant cows & the young babies and the compost making.*
- *2,225 meter road connected from CBOs Office to Srah Srong and to Chork Phreah Andong upgraded with laterite.*
- *216 have attended literacy courses, and 193 of participants passed and completed literacy course.*
- *30 families in Prey Tralarge commune received cement ring wells.*
- *723 beneficiary families formed into self-help groups against the plan of 500, with micro-credit for rice production, small animal-raising or small enterprises.*
- *3 Community Forestry established and Strengthened:- The Kon Kleng Community Forestry got it legal registration from the Forestry Administration Cantonment. The Community Forestry covers 2,638 ha benefiting to 8 villages of 413 families. And same for the 2 newly established Community Forestry in Samrong and Thmar Pouk districts. These 2 newly established Community Forestry cover a total of 12,872 ha and 1,360 ha and are benefiting to villagers in 28 villages of 4,231 families. Established community forestries, serving villagers, preventing cases of illegal logging and incursions, cases of land-grabbing and cases of wholesale loss of land by the four rich companies, supported by military and some government officials that wanted to do agro-industrial business in the forested areas of the communities*
- *2 Farmer Cooperatives established with 52 families members.*
- *One Community Experimental Farm established in Malai district with water 2 ponds last all*

year long irrigation and consumption. Fruit trees and seasonal crop planting including rice production are being implemented in the farm. Furthermore, Thmar Pouk CBO created their own Community Experimental Farm following the Malai model. Now almost all 11 CBOs have their Community Experimental Farms and are now in operation demonstrating how to grow new and crops and increase yields. They also serve as an important ways to include the extremely poor.

- *50 beneficiaries have undertaken hair-dressing skills training, and received kits for their own business, and practising their new skills as a principal or supplementary income. 40 beneficiaries graduated from the sewing course. 20 beneficiaries graduated from Incense Stick making and 35 beneficiaries graduated from Village Livestock Agent Courses.*

Ockenden has worked, as planned, with its five local NGOs. Together with their associated CBOs, they have continued their series of education and training sessions in capacity-building of their own organisations and emerging civil society groups as well as their staff. Highly successful partnership review seminars as well as the annual conference were arranged each year. This structure, headed by Ockenden-Cambodia now an independent and well-resourced local NGO in its own right, is now well-established and will continue to serve the target communities for many years.

Project Set-up, Program Awareness/Sensitisation

During the first quarter of the project, time and effort was dedicated primarily to the overall set up and preparation prior to activities being implemented.

Project staff were introduced and the contents of the project were explained to provincial, district, commune, and village leaders through formally organized meetings at all respective levels with project goals and objectives distributed and explained.

The partnership agreements were signed with four Cambodian NGOs and one CBO, namely AFEC, KKCB0, CHRD, KBA and ADA.

SECTION I: PROJECT ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS

Activity 1: Establishment of agricultural banks

The provision of agricultural banks is designed to have a more immediate impact on agriculture productivities. This project establishes two types of banks of agricultural inputs –cow banks and cow breeding center - which reduce the cost of living for the households; thereby increasing the number of productive resources they may have.

1.1. Establishing Cow Bank Committees

The aim of the project is to continue supporting the existing cow bank committees and to establish new cow bank committees, which will enable 350 displaced families to receive one cow each.

Cow banks are a very useful tool for ensuring increased agricultural productivity and thus livelihood within rural communities. Cows are a productive asset used for ploughing of farming land and domestic transportation. They also produce manure.

KBA has implemented the cow bank activities in 17 villages, of Banteay Meanchey and Oddar Meanchey Provinces. The plan was to supply a total of 350 cows to families in these villages within three years. This methodology will ensure that over a period of time, villagers are able to purchase as many cows as they need.

The activities undertaken included:

- Strengthening newly formed cow bank committees through formal and informal training and facilitation
- Training the group leaders on account keeping and basic financial management
- Providing basic technical training in cow raising (selection of cow breed, health care and take prevention measure)
- Distributing revolving fund (capital) to beneficiaries to purchase cows
- Training in managerial roles and responsibilities was given to cow bank committee members in each of the newly established cow banks.
- Increasing the number of members on a quarterly basis by using collected repayments/revolving fund.
- Ensuring access to Village Livestock Agent services.

Total beneficiaries: 448 families (2,329 individuals)

Achievements to date:

- Over the three years, by using the capital base (the direct grant from KCF plus contribution) the project has supplied 364 cows to (364) families. An additional 84 cows were purchased by the cow bank members with the revolving funds; taking a total number of cows up to 448. To date, the project has exceeded the three-year plan (350) reaching 448 families as the committees have used the repayments sensibly to purchase more cows for members.
- 124 calves have been born over the 3 years and each calf can be sold at around \$100. so far, there have been 55 calves sold (each family sold one calf for \$100) for supporting their livelihood.

- Over the years, all cow bank members have saved cow manure to fertilize rice, vegetables, watermelon and watermelon, reducing expense and the adverse environmental effects of chemical fertilizer.
- 17 community management structures were established/ strengthened. The NGO and CBO partners have handed over the tasks and responsibilities completely to these community management structures to run by themselves. Ockenden and its partners now act as facilitators and advisors.
- 45 families have used their cows at various stages during the farming season such as land preparation (ploughing, harrowing) and transporting the rice yield from the field to home, and in doing so each member who used their cows reduced input costs from renting cows or other transportation means by around \$US75 per year. The majority of members have not used their cows as focused on cow breeding.

The tables below illustrate the number of cows currently owed by the families:

Year	Partner	No. of cows (planned)	No. of cows (actual)	No. of cows bought by repayments to date	Total no. of cows to date	No. of calves
2005-2006	KBA BMC	50	56	32	88	29
	KBA OMC	100	101	21	122	52
	Sub-total A	150	157	53	210	81
2006-2007	KBA BMC	50	50	10	60	13
	KBA OMC	50	54	16	70	14
	Sub-total B	100	104	26	130	27
2007-2008	KBA BMC	50	50	5	55	9
	KBA OMC	50	53	0	53	7
	Sub-total C	100	103	5	108	16
Grand Total A+B+C		350	364	84	448	124

1.2. Setting up a Community Cow Breeding System (Building Facilities)

After supplying cows to all its members in the CBO working areas, Kon Kleng CBO has now started cow rearing and breeding at the CBO themselves. They have 76 cows in the cow breeding center.

(a) Fencing- Kon Kleng CBO completely made wooden fences around the cow breeding compound (96 m x98 m) using 500 wooden poles.

(b) Building a cow breeding facilities- Kon Kleng CBO has completely built:

- A cow shelter (15m x8m)
- A cow breeding house (7m x4m) used to care cows and new born babies.
- 6 small basins (size: 0.7m x 1m) to keep water for cows to drink
- A compost fertilizer making facility (4m x 2.5m x 2.5 m) (collecting cow manure)

These facilities are home to 76 cows to live and breed. The cows will be sold out when the CBO need to do the community development activities in the community (for public use).

(c) Office building- Using the grant from KCF, Kon Kleng CBO completely repaired one office (7.5mx 7.5m (ground floor and the first floor) with 8 rooms, constructed a

meeting room (6m x 12m) and made extra wire fencing (85mx 40m). The facility is a central point for CBO leaders and villagers to meet and do development work.

Total beneficiaries: 43 families (226 individuals)

Activity 2: Construction of a road

The road connecting Kon Kleng community to the secondary main road is approximately 12 Km in distance (*the initial road upgrading project (2.225 km) was supported by KCF and built by human labor force from the community, and the rest of around 10 km also funded by KCF, is currently being built by a private company using heavy machineries, scheduled to complete within August 2008*). This 12 km road was one of the worst ones in Banteay Meanchey Chey province. It used to be very muddy, sticky and slippery road with many pod holes. The road used to be cut off at few places by floodwater during the rainy seasons, making it impassable for all medium and heavy vehicles.

Total beneficiaries: 413 families (2,647 individuals)

Achievements to date:

The initial road upgrading project was primary focused on repairing of a part of the existing road within the Kon Kleng community which is 2.225 km in length, leading through Kon Kleng, Preah Andong and Changva Touk villages to Tropeang Peas village. Kon Kleng community leaders and 399 villagers have completely repaired the part of the road in the first year of the project implementation. On average, villagers upgraded the level of the road up to 0.8m in height, compacted the soils and paved the road with laterite.

They completely built three wooden bridges [(40mx 3m); (35mx3m); (18mx3m)] and 4 culverts. The community planted 800 trees on the roadsides to prevent the road from washing off by rainwater. The community leaders and villagers raised money of 3,960,000(US\$990) as contribution to the project.

This road is vital for improving the economic and social situation of the community there as it eased communication for the people in the community to transport their produce out to markets and bring goods/products into the community. There are 456 families using this road on daily basis for economic, social and medical reasons.

The road provide accessibility to outside dealers to come and buy agricultural produce and wild vegetables at the grassroots, enabling the people who could not afford to pay for transportation/vehicle to sell their produce and make income at home. Equally importantly, the community in Kon Kleng can now send sick people to health centers more easily.

An irrigation channel has been improved as bridges and culverts were built, allowing water flow from the west (upland) to the east (lowland) where rice crops are cultivated).

Less positive- *Most of trees died due to the droughts. Kong CBO already replanted the trees.*

Activity 3: Provision of education for empowerment

The objective of this project was to increase the abilities of 200 illiterate people from the target areas in reading, writing and calculating up to the level of completion of primary level of the non-formal education. Literacy training seeks to give people not only an education in an elementary skill but a means of improving their knowledge and status within their home and community. The topics extend to other basic educational subjects of relevance to family well-being.

The activities and methodology included:

- Cooperating with local authorities and the deputy director of the Non-Formal Education Office and KBA selected 9 literacy teachers in the 9 different target villages in Oddar Meanchey province.
- The deputy director of the non-formal education office provided training on adult teaching methodology and pedagogy to the literacy teachers.
- The deputy director of non-formal education office and the 9 literacy teachers conducted assessments to find out literacy levels of the villagers in the 3 different villages and selected villagers who wanted to attend the course
- They conducted pre-tests.
- The training course was delivered based on the agreed curriculum and examinations conducted at the end of each part. The literacy course lasts six months. The teaching curriculum adheres to the government literacy programme; it covers a combination of Literature, Mathematics, Basic health care and General Knowledge for Elderly People. The course content consists of 3 textbooks with a series of part 1, 2 and 3 with 75 units.
- A final examination was conducted and certificates issued.

Total beneficiaries: 216 individuals

Achievements to date:

- All 9 literacy teachers were able to conduct tests to measure the abilities of reading, writing and comprehension of trainees before and after they participated in the literacy course
- 216 took the final exams. 193 participants (131 women) out of them passed and completed the literacy course. The final exams showed that the students gained the basic skills they needed such as reading, writing and being able to make basic calculation. They could read quite well at the end.

Note: All classes were conducted during the evening in order for trainees to be able to attend as during the day time, most were very busy in earning their living in farming work and could not afford time off.

Activity 4: Provision of clean drinking water

Access to water for rural communities in dry season is one of the most priority problems. The objective of the project is to construct 30 (cement) ring wells in order to provide villagers access to clean water (ground water) for consumption and (home gardening).

The project was implemented in 8 villages in Prey Trolarch commune, Moug Roussey district, Battambang province.

The activities and methodology included:

Under facilitation from ADA, the community leaders and villagers in the target community collectively selected 30 points for construction of wells. The points were chosen collectively, ensuring access for all users in the surrounding sites.

A qualified private company was selected through a public bidding process. Key stakeholders such as a representative from Provincial Department of Rural Development, Commune Councilors, Ockenden and ADA staff and representatives from other private companies that received construction licenses from the government were invited to observe and evaluate the bidding. Following the event, technical designs and specifications were put for discussion with the selected company to confirm and finalise agreements. A contract was signed between ADA and the company.

ADA staff facilitated to elect a Water User Committee, which consists of three people for every water point. They are responsible for maintenance and repairing of the water facility, sanitation and fund raising in order to ensure the well they take charge lasts for the long run.

During the constructing period, ADA, Ockenden and community leaders conducted routine monitoring to the project, making sure that the companies followed the designs.

Total beneficiaries: 30 families (156 individuals)

Achievements to date:

The company completely built the 30 ring wells with concrete platforms in line with the contract and plan (within year one). The average depth of the wells is 5 m and water yield is enough for the users. All water facilities were fenced.

These wells are main sources providing the people with safe drinking water, especially in dry seasons when water is shortage.

So far (two years after the completion of the wells), there have been 216 families (1,396 population) using water from a total of 28 functioning water wells (two other wells were broken).

According to recent monitoring conducted by Ockenden staff in July 2008 showed that:

- from 13 wells, villagers not only use water for drinking, washing and cooking in their households but also use water for irrigating vegetables (Chinese radish, long bean, cucumber, chili, lemon grass....) for household consumption and sale. Among the users, each of 20 families made an extra income around 7,000 Riels a day (\$1.7) from selling surplus vegetables (income earning lasted for three months in dry season).
- from 15 wells, besides household use, villagers also use water for animal rearing (cows, pigs, poultry....). Among the users, two also

District	Commune	Village	Number wells	Remarks
Mong Rousey	Prey Trolarch	Ta Priet	3	
		Prey Klot	9	1 well does not function
		Prolay 18	1	
		Roung	2	1 well does not function
		Prey Ampoen	2	
		Tourl Koki	7	
		Sdok Provoek	5	

		Mouk Rea	1	
Total	8 villages	8 villages	30 wells	2 wells do not function

Less positively: 2 out of 30 wells are broken due to soil erosion, villagers live nearby the broken wells turn to use water other functioning wells (also KCF funded water facilities) which are around 1 km away.

Activity 5: Establishment of community structures and strengthen existing structures

5.1. Self Help Groups

The “Self Help Group” is a concept to encourage people from different backgrounds, who live in a similar poor situation, to work together towards achieving solidarity and improving their livelihoods.

The plan over the three years was to establish community self-help groups with a total of 500 members in the two provinces — Banteay Meanchey and Oddar Meanchey provinces to start a saving and lending scheme amongst the families of the communities, for which they would take ownership. The members can then use the increased income as they require, such as for animal raising or agricultural materials.

Khmer Buddhist Association (KBA) operated SHG activities in a total of 17 villages in Tropeang Prasath district, Oddar Meanchey province and Thmar Pourk district in Banteay Meanchey Province. Over the three years a total of 723 members received loans either three times, twice or once (some were established in year 1, 2 and 3)

The activities and methodology undertaken included:

- *Promoting concepts of self-help groups*
- *Facilitating the establishment of new SHGs and start saving schemes amongst members*
- *Conducting short informal training courses on how to run self-help groups such as allocation of tasks among group office bearers, group facilitation and decision-making.*
- *Training management committees and members of the SHGs in basic accounting, management, minute taking.*
- *Facilitating the groups to agree amongst themselves the conditions for taking a loan*
- *Conducting participatory evaluations on how well the SHG groups are adhering to the process (based on ten indicators).*
- *An assessment of funding required by each group member was conducted with the groups*
- *Loans disbursement to members were made, documented,*
- *Conduct monitoring to the process*

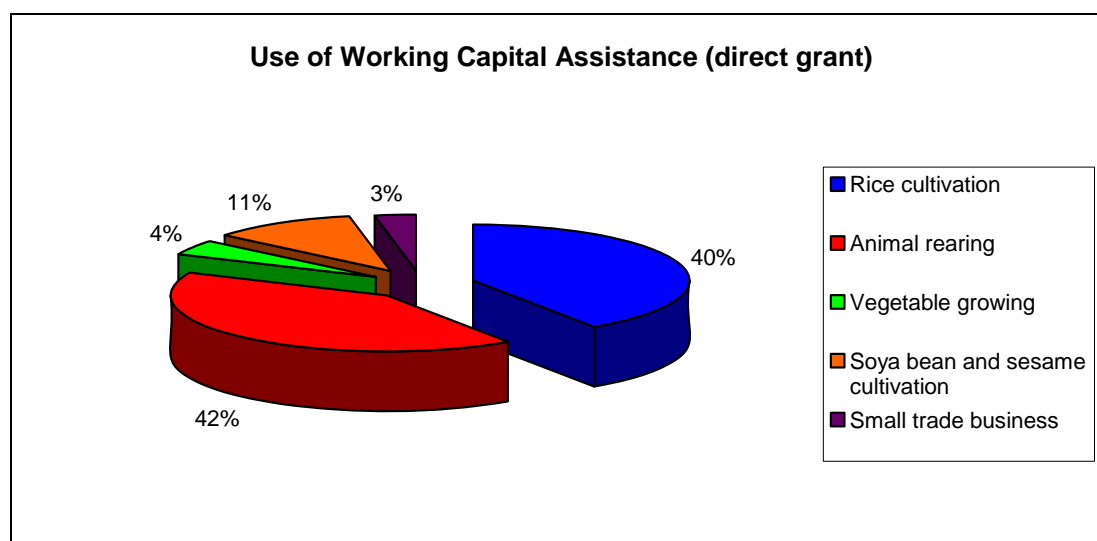
Total beneficiaries: 723 families (3,759 individuals)

Achievements to date:

723 families are participating in SHGs against the 3-year plan of 500; hence exceeding the plan by 223 families.

- 723 members have formed into 33 SHGs over 3 years of the project implementation and received loan funds (Working Capital Assistance). Out of the 723 members, 164 (23%) have participated in the SHGs in order to save money and borrow from the groups' fund when they face problems, and they have not receive a loan (loan size range\$50 to 70\$) from the direct grant; and a total of **559 members** have received loans from the direct grant (working capital assistance):
 - 321 members (57%) have received loans for three times (3 loan cycles over three years)
 - 129 members (23%) have received loans for twice (2 loan cycles)
 - 109 members (20%) have received loans for one time (1 loan cycle)

The SHG Working Capital Assistance has been invested in businesses as shown in the pie chart below:



Based on the monitoring report of KBA, over the year three, the families who used the working capital assistance, making income as the following:

- 226 families (=40 %) of the total invested their loans (Working capital assistance) in rice production and achieved an average total rice yield ranging from 1.5 tons-3 tons, which in cash terms equates to \$450 to \$ 900, a substantial increase in household income.
- 231 families (=42%) invested in animal-raising specifically in pig and chicken rearing. 229 families made an average profit of \$ 70 - \$100 per year and 2 families lost in the business
- 25 families (=4%) invested in vegetable growing made \$ 730 per year (per family).
- 60 families (=11%) invested in Soya bean /sesame cultivation achieved an average yield 2.3 tons per year, which in cash terms equates to \$ 1,230.
- 17 families (=3%) invested their loans in small trade businesses making a net average profit of around \$ 900 per year (each makes a profit around \$ 3 a day). There is a wide variety - buying and selling local products and produces

such as milled rice, fish, meats, vegetables, grains and groceries, baking cakes, making drinks and opening food-eating stalls.

Food Security Level:

- 66% (=371 families) of the 559 families SHG have all-year round food security and the rest (34%)188 families have much less worry as they have access to the nearest unrestricted fund (the common fund) to fill the food gap of around 3 months from other sources on terms that do not re-impose poverty.

The “Common Fund” of the members continues to increase every month, with accumulating repayments, fresh loan repayments, and interest. All started from zero at the start of the project but it increased as in the table below:

Implementing Partner	No of SHGs	SHG members	Savings in Riel	Interests charges in Riel	Total groups' fund in Riel
KBA OMC	27	523	10,540,000	24271100	34,811,100
KBA BMC	6	200	4,462,000	25,095,600	29,557,600
Total	33	723	15,002,000	49,366,700	64,368,700

Note: 4,100 Riel = \$1

The “Common Fund” is the group fund generated from (a) self-savings and (b) interest charged on capital loans to members. This fund becomes “unrestricted” in the sense that rules for use of direct project money no longer apply, although the same transparent procedures are to apply, so the members are free to loan out or grant money for many purposes, including consumption, not just investment, where it improves quality of lives.

5.2. Community Forestry

With funding received from KCF, in year one & two, Ockenden and its partners, KBA and Kon Kleng CBO implemented the three community forestry projects in Thmar Pourk and Phnom Srok districts, in Banteay Meanchey province and in Somrong district, in Oddar Meanchey province.

The projects aimed to promote the rights of communities to maintain access to and control of the land, and to protect and manage the natural resources (the use of timber and non-timber forest products) that are vital to support their livelihoods.

The activities and achievements over the three years include:

Khmer Buddhist Association, Kon Kleng Community Based Organisation of the three protected areas in cooperation with government forestry officials disseminated among the communities the community forestry guidelines of the government, forestry law and sub-forestry decrees regarding the rights of communities in utilizing the forest and applying forest utilization regulations.

Making Signposts- Signposts are an important tool in providing people inside and outside the communities the information about the protected community forestry zones. These signposts showed names of the community forestry, size of the protected zones, logo of donors, aiming to make people aware of community forestry protected areas, and to deter all kinds of illegal activities in the areas.

Over the three years, three community forestry projects were implemented, two in Banteay Meanchey province and another one in Oddar Meanchey province.

Two Community Forestry Projects in Banteay Meanchey Province: *Community forestry in Kon Kleng (2,628 ha):* There were 3 metal signposts (size: 1.5 m x 2m), one showing the detailed map of the forest area), 2 concrete signposts (size: 2m x 3m) were erected at the main entrances of the forest area. Furthermore; 4 guard posts were also established for the community forestry members to guard and patrol the area in order to curb all kinds of illegal logging activities.

Community forestry in Thmar Pourk (1,360 ha): One metal signpost (2mx 3m) showing the map of the protected area, 8 metal signposts (0.8m x 2m) and one concrete signposts were erected at the main entrances and along the boundaries of the forest

A total of 310 small wooden signposts were produced and erected along the boundaries of the two community forestry protected zones in Kon Kleng and Thmar Pour, in Banteay Meanchey province.

One community Forestry Project in Oddar Meanchey Province: *Community forestry in Samrong district, Oddar Meanchey (12,872 ha):* There were 4 big metal signposts [2 signposts (size: 2mx1.5m; 4m high) and two other signposts showing the maps of the protected forest area (size: 2mx1.2m; 4 m high)] were erected at two main entrances to the community forestry in Samrong district, Oddar Meanchey province.

A total of 923 small wooden signposts were also erected along the boundaries and visible places of the protected forest areas.

Boundary Demarcation & Mapping- The boundaries of the three protected areas have been demarcated using GPS equipment. Local authorities (village and commune authorities), forestry department officials, community leaders from the community and from the neighboring areas were invited to participate in identifying boundaries of the areas in order to reach agreements on boundaries demarcation. Following the process, boundaries of the three community protected were demarcated, and maps were also drawn.

Surface of the protected areas:- *Community forestry in Kon Kleng(2,628 ha):*Kon Kleng erected 100 concrete demarcation columns (0.15m x 0.25m x1.3m) along the demarcated boundaries. Total beneficiaries: 413 families in 8 villages

- *Community forestry in Thmar Pourk (1,360 ha):* The community leaders in Thmar Pourk erected 8 concrete demarcation columns at the main points along the demarcated boundaries. Total beneficiaries: 2,360 families in 12 villages

- *Community forestry in Oddar Meanchey (12,872 ha):* the community leaders in Samrong district used small wooden signposts to demarcate the boundaries. Total beneficiaries: 1,871 families in 16 villages.

Setting up Committee and Sub-committee- In order to have management structures abiding by the government's guideline, KBA staff and CBOs in Banteay Meanchey and Oddar Menachey held separate mass meetings at the community level to elect community forestry sub committees for managing the community forestry affairs at the village level. Three community forestry committees have erected 40 sub-committees. Each sub-committee is made up was of 9 people (at least 2 are women).

Raising awareness among the community:- Community meetings and awareness-raising events were organized over to promote awareness among the communities

about forestry principles, laws and community forestry management, government's guidelines. Over the three years, a total of 3,452 people (1,033 women). Besides that in Oddar Meanchey, Plenary Q&A sessions on the community forestry affairs were organized in the open space during the Water Festival Ceremony and around people took part in the sessions.

Advocacy events organised to deal with hot issues of forested land grabbing:- In Samrong district, Oddar Meanchey province, in response to land grabbing issues by four powerful private companies that attempted to take largest forested land areas, the project supported the communities in organising two big gathering events called Buddhist Tree Ordination Ceremony and 668 people (as Community Forestry members) including local authorities, government forestry administration officials participated in the events.

Following the events, the Ministry of Agriculture sent a delegation to the areas to inspect the situation. Now the top level government decided to grant 13,158 ha as land economic concession to the private companies and 12, 872 for the community forestry.

General Training to Key people - At community level, In Banteay Meanchey & Oddar Meanchey, training sessions were held to promote awareness among the key people in the communities about forestry principles, laws and community forestry management. Over the three years, 683 key people (151 women) participated in the courses and now they are the key people in managing the community forestry at the community level.

At district level, KBA staff and CBO members in Oddar Meanchey organised a meeting to discuss the areas' boundaries, notifying district and commune authorities and forestry administration about the size and boundaries of the areas. 24 participants (1 woman) two district governors, village and commune authorities, VDCs, community forestry committees and CBO representatives participated in the meeting.

Nursery and seedling production- In Banteay Meanchey, a training course on methods of germination of trees was conducted. There were 98 people (29 women) that received the training course and participated in community forestry work.

Two nurseries (one: 15m x 12m; another one: 6m x 10m) were set up and the germination process of seedlings is being undertaken. Acacia seedlings and some other trees were kept and taken care in the nursery for planting in the community forestry areas.

So far, the nursery has supplied 2,000 Acacia seedlings for planting on the roadsides of the new built road supported by KCF and 400 tree seedlings to the villagers in the community forestry in Oddar Meanchey province

Purchased Material Items - In order to ease the patrol work, the community forestry committee in Oddar Meanchey province purchased 6 walkie-talkies, 4 cameras, 3 tape-recorders, 4 batteries, 60 raincoats, 170 printed T-shirts. Now, villagers and their committees have taken on their roles and responsibilities to protect their forestry resources where the communities make supplementary income from forest products or find food to supply their families. Over the last year, the communities have curbed successfully 19 cases of land grabbing and 95 cases of forest crimes.

Many kinds of forest products from these three community forestries provide a lot of benefit directly to villagers 36 villages surround them. These are not just their daily consumption but also for sale to the local market and to Thailand. The main products for those markets are:

- *Wild vegetable (PRICH Leaf):* Harvesting season start from January to May; \$4/kg in January and price falling down to \$0.26/kg by the end of harvesting season. *(It is estimated that about \$20,000 income to villagers per year from collecting Prich Leaf. Middle Men who purchase Prich Leaf and sell to Thai market)*
- *Wild mushroom:* Harvesting season start from May to September; \$0.8/kg
- *Wild Fruit (SRAMOR; PRING...):* Some in rainy season and some in dry season; \$0.20-\$0.80/kg
- *Fire wood and timber for house building:* Villager collect fire wood for cooking all year long. They can collect food for housing and selling as well.
- *Honey collection:* Harvesting season: Best during dry season; \$2-\$3/liter. *(It is estimated that between 100 to 150 litters were collected from Kon Keng Community Forestry alone)*
- *Grass for Roofing:* Harvest season: Best during dry season: \$0.8/square meter (estimated)
- *etc.*

5.3. Farmers' Associations

KBA staff in cooperation with the provincial Department of Agriculture in Oddar Meanchey facilitated to establish two farmers' associations/cooperative in O' Svay commune, Tropeang Prasath district and in Kon Kriel commune, Samrong district, Oddar Meanchey province. Each farmer association has 7 executive members. There were 52 members (30 women) participated in the farmers' association in O' Svay and 37 members (16 women) participated in the farmers' association in Kon Kriel.

The executives and all the members collected a total of 93 shares (a member can invest more than one share) which comes to 5,350,000 Riels (50,000 Riel per share). The farmers' association received a direct grant of 4,140,000 Riels from the project.

So far, a total financial capital of 6,940,000 Riel (=US\$1,592) was loaned to 23 members to invest in crop production (sesame, soybean, corn and animal rearing). The allocation of benefit will be based on number of shares that members invest. The farmers' association has played an important role in providing financial inputs to its members for agricultural production and sharing market information among the members market demand, and price of produce. When their financial capital builds up enough, they will plan to buy produce of the members with a fair price, and sell to merchants collectively.

Now, as this structure is functioning well, Ockenden and KBA will be handing over the KCF funded project in Tropeang Prasat district, Oddar Meanchey province to the Farmers' association to continue manage.

Total beneficiaries: 93 families (483 individuals)

5.4. Community Experimental Farm & Committee

The objective of the Community Experimental Farm is for CBOs to demonstrate new varieties of crops, thus taking the risk of failure or not appealing to local tastes, rather than poor families using their own limited sources. The project enables very poorest families to gain employment in these gardens; to acquire agricultural skills and inputs to the very poorest and let them plant their own crops in community farming land to make a living.

Community Experimental Farms are demonstrating agricultural techniques related to agronomy, animal production and farm management techniques to people in communities who would not otherwise have the chance to see modern ideas.

Over the last year, AFEC and Community Based Organisation, Border Development Organisation (BDO) in Malai, Banteay Meanchey have implemented the project.

Land clearing (mine and bush clearing) and preparation activities were started first. AFEC and the CBO then held meetings with community representatives to set up management committee structures and farming management plans.

- They built protective wooden fences around the farm, which is 300-metre long,
- One CBO office and one house for one “poorest” family were built on the farm, providing a shelter them to live and a chance to work on experimental farming techniques.
- Cleared land and upgraded land level: 9.5 ha. The land is now used for rice production, vegetables, and animal raising (pigs and poultry).
- CBO planted 1,036 fruit trees (mango, coconut, guava, some other tropical fruit trees) and vegetable.
- CBO experimented a new variety of quality rice seed on 3 ha of the land. They collected 3 tons of rice and reserved it for the most vulnerable families in their community when they face food shortages.
- An alignment of canal of a 1,040-metre long was built. The canal collects and brings water down to rice fields in the farm and into the water ponds
- One alignment of road (1,200-metre long; 6mx10mx0.7m) connecting from the main road to the farm was built.
- One water pond (40mx50mx 4.6m) was dug. It is used for irrigating crops and animals, especially in dry seasons.
- One pig pen (5mx7m) and one chicken pen (4mx5m). Pig and chicken rearing is being carried out. VLAs also participate in the animal raising process.

Total beneficiaries: 100 families (5200 individuals)

Achievements to date:

The CBO allowed the poorest living nearby to grow crops, experiment and get benefits from their work. One poorest family was allowed to live and work on the farm and receive benefits from crops they grow.

The two ponds are very important sources (used all year round), providing water to 100 families living around for domestic consumption and watering dry season crops. As a successful example, two handicapped men (lost one leg due to landmines) whose farms locate 100 m from the ponds, use plastic containers and bicycles to carry water to irrigate chili and watermelon in dry season. Each made around \$500 per every dry season.

Fruiters are growing but have not yet given fruit. The community tested quality rice seed on three hectares of land, they received 3 tons of rice yield. They reared pigs

and poultry following the skills they learnt from exposure trips to Vietnam (8 people) and Thailand (7 people). The yields of the activities were higher than they used to get but the financial records of the CBO leaders showed that by implementing modern techniques, the costs were so high and they lost in the business.

To improve the community farm management, Ockenden is in contact with Mark, an Australian farmer recommended by KCF who has successful practical farming experiences (eco-techniques) and a network with other country to assist. Since then, Ockenden has met with him twice, once at the field and he provided recommendations on the farm management techniques and a list of seeds for Ockenden to choose which ones are fit the areas. In response to invitation, Ockenden will send one staff to attend the eco-farming network in the Philippines in late August 2008. Ockenden and it CBOs will soon develop a new plan to improve the farming by adapting available resources at the community, aiming to decrease the cost of inputs.

Activity 6: Provide appropriate vocational training to vulnerable men and women

6.1. Hairdressing

Khmer Buddhist Association (KBA) was undertaken the project for 30 trainees in Tropiang Prasath Oddar Meanchey province.

Cambodian Human Resource Development (CHRD) was undertaken the project for 20 trainees selected from the target different villages in Banteay Meanchey province.

Each of the 50 trainees received a haircutting kit, consisting of one set of clippers, two pairs of scissors, one bag, one water spray bottle, two combs, one brush, one box of powder, one razor handle, one towel, one piece of cloth, and one bottle of oil.

KBA hired one qualified trainer to provide three separate training courses to a total of 30 trainees. Each course, 10 trainees attended for a six-month period.

CHRD selected 20 trainees from the target villages and all the 20 trainees were trained and apprenticed to five different barbers' shops in the province for 4 months.

The trainees practiced their skills as part of the training, providing haircuts to boys at 16 primary schools. There were 4,551 school boys and 811 villagers had haircuts. 49 trainees completed their training successfully. Each of 30 graduates received a loan of around \$70 and each 9 each received around \$100 and other 10 trainees received a kit. They all involved in doing haircut business at least from one to three years at different locations in the two provinces and can make off-farm income (extra income) to support their family.

Currently, around 40 graduates still do the business to make extra income and on average, each makes an average income \$15 per month. Such new village facilities help the villagers to spend less time and money by having their haircut nearer their homes.

Total beneficiaries: 50 families (260 individuals)

Less positive: During the training, one trainee dropped out. 9 others so far have postponed the business to do other business.

6.2. Sewing

The project aimed to promote self-sufficiency and improve the livelihoods of 40 vulnerable women selected from 7 different villages, in 2 separate communes of 2 districts in Banteay Meanchey province.

The sewing training courses were conducted two times. Each time, there 20 trainees attended the courses in two separate vocational training centers of CHRD. One training session took place in O'chrove district and another in Sereisophon district. Two skilled trainers were hired to deliver the training.

CHRD staff members and the trainers identified and selected 40 trainees from vulnerable households in the working villages. By the start of the sessions, rules and regulations for the course were set up.

Each training course was conducted for 7 hours a day and 6 days per week for the period of six months. A total of 40 trainees were trained on basic lessons on how to use sewing machines, maintenance and 18 key styles of sewing skills.

The 40 trainees attended the training session regularly and they all graduated from the courses. A total of 21 trainees received a loan of around \$100 each for starting up their sewing business. 16 others received a sewing machine each.

So far, 28 of them have used the loans and applied the skills to make money. They all make clothes three different places for wholesalers. Each of the 28 can make 4 pieces of trousers and earn an average daily income \$1.7. Incomes made from the sewing are being used for daily household food expenses, purchasing spare parts of the sewing machine and buying raw materials for sewing.

Total beneficiaries: 40 families (208 individuals)

Less positively: 12 women have postponed sewing business and are doing day labor jobs some in Thailand, some other in other province in Cambodia. They can make at least \$ 4 each per day, but they also face risks of being exploited or trafficked.

6.3. Incense Stick Making

CHRD and Village Development Committees selected 20 vulnerable beneficiaries (all women) from three different villages in Makak commune, Sereisophon district, Banteay Meanchey province to receive vocational training in incense stick production. The training sessions conducted at two separate locations (10 trainees per session).

The training curriculum included rolling and drying methods, mixing and fragrant formula. The training lasted for 3 months. During the training period, all the trainees in each session made a total of 3,500 Thai Bath (x2 sessions) (apprx: \$100 x session)

All trainees completed the course and received a loan of \$25 each to start the business. All incense stick trainees spent 1-2 hours a day producing incense sticks as a secondary source of income. They have started their business in their villages. For the first three months after the training, each beneficiary made an extra income of around \$ 15 per month.

Total beneficiaries: 20 families (104 individuals)

Less positively: As the price of raw materials increased, all beneficiaries could not make profit and have now postponed the production activities.

6.4. Village Livestock Agent (VLA)

The activity targeted 20 beneficiaries to gain veterinary skills to become “Village Livestock Agents” (VLAs) to increase their additional income, and maintain healthier animals and animal banks in communities.

Over the three years, Ockenden and its partners have cooperated closely with the provincial Departments of Agriculture in Banteay Meanchey and Oddar Meanchey provinces for technical assistance.

KBA cooperated with the Provincial Department of Agriculture in Oddar Meanchey to conduct training course to 35 selected beneficiaries to Village Livestock Agents (VLAs).

The training course divided into two separate courses.

The first course took five days, was designed to provide extra skills to the existing 16 VLAs (2 women). It course focused on symptom analysis, examination of animal health, and castration skills.

The second course took one month (include practices), was designed to train 19 trainees (2 women) to become VLAs. The curriculum was designed and updated based on the government standard, covering main topics:

- symptom analysis,
- examination of animal health & primary treatment,
- castration skills
- Real practices

Total beneficiaries: 35 families (182 individuals)

Achievements to date:

- A total of 35 beneficiaries (4 women), 19 (2 women) completed the training course and 16 (2 women) received extra skills, becoming the Village Livestock Agents recognized by the Provincial Department of Agriculture.
- Following the training, complementary veterinary tools (castrating tools) plus 8 types of medicines were provided to the VLAs for serving the community.
- Each of the trained VLAs is now applying skills to serve their respective communities. A total of the 40 cows, 48 pigs, and 15 dogs were successfully treated over the project period.

Activity 7: Delivery of capacity-building training to partner NGOs & community organisations

A variety of training activities were delivered throughout the duration of the project. These trainings were delivered by both external and internal (Ockenden) training resources. The trainings aimed to equip the recipients with the necessary skills to implement the project and its activities effectively and efficiently and, secondly, to

develop their capacity as a civil society organisation. 4 Ockenden's Local NGOs and 11 Community Based Organisations received direct benefits from the courses.

7.1. Community Level

7.1.1 Community Conference

The separate community conference were organized at the grassroots level with a total of over 407 participants including villagers, village chiefs and commune councilors from the target villages and communes run by AFEC, CHRD and KBA respectively. The Community Conferences discussed the achievements of the development project implementation, problems encountered and finding solutions, strengths and weaknesses and making plans. The Community Conferences issued common recommendations regarding the methodologies of the project implementation and participation of the communities in order to continue to implement the projects handed over to them by NGOs.

7.1.2. Planning Workshops:

The separate community planning workshops were held in three different communities run by AFEC, CHRD and KBA respectively. There were 226 participants including villagers, VDCs, village chiefs and commune councilors participated in the workshop.

The topics of the workshops were: 1. Examine the previous plans, 2. Identify problems, priority needs and root causes. 3. Assess available resources in each community, and 4. Allocation of tasks and responsibilities among key development actors (beneficiaries, VDCs, Village Chiefs and Commune authorities, CBO leaders and NGO staff).

This kind of workshops updated knowledge and skills of the community in planning allowed the communities to know their needs, financial and human capital, allocation of tasks among themselves, applicable methodologies and to revise their next planning process.

7.1.3. Exposure Visits:

The objectives of these visits were to learn integrated farm management techniques; fruit tree & vegetable growing techniques; fish and pig rearing techniques and pepper farming.

AFEC KBA and CHRD organised study trips for their staff members and community representatives to visit agriculture farms in neighboring provinces and to Vietnam and Thailand. A total of 93 people joined the separate study trips. The participants visited fish farming, shrimp rearing, frog rearing and mushroom growing. The participants raised questions on these farming techniques to the owners of the farms.

As a result, one of the participants has applied skill to raise frogs and the one of CBO (in CHRD working area) has applied skills in shrimp rearing in their community and promoted the skills they learnt to the people in their communities, upgraded farming management (CBO in KBA working areas)

7.1.3. Training courses to Executive Members of the Community/ Associations

65 participants (24 women) attended training in year one, 53 participants (21 women) attended training in year two, 176 participants (62 women) attended training in year

three, making 294 (107) for the entire project attended training in the following courses:

- *Administrative and Accounting System to 24 participants (10 women), 27-29 September 2006.*
- *Community development concept, to 23 (11) 23-25 Oct 2006*
- *Project Evaluation-Internal Evaluation of the first mandate of CC performance to 18 CBOs members (3 women), 13-14 Nov 2006*
- *Management of project implementation to 40 (18), 01-02 Jun 2007*
- *Report Writing to 13 (3), 07-08 Jul 2007*
- *Community Forestry Planning to 127 (51), 10-16 Feb 2008.*
- *Local Resources Mobilization to 14 (5), 03-04 Mar 2008*
- *Proposal Writing to 25 (6), 26-27 Jun 2008.*

A special “pro-poor” initiative and case-study was added this year which proved effective.

7.2. Partner level

251 participants (98 women) attended training in year one, 15 participants (3 women) attended training in year two, 23 participants (9 women) attended training in year three, making a total of 289 participants (110 women) for 3 years.

- *Establishing of community-based organization (CBO) or association to 31 participants (10 women), 02-03 Mar 2006*
- *Partnership with Commune Council to 22 participants (8 women), 19-21 May 2006.*
- *Organisational skills to 7 staff (3 women), on 1st June 2006.*
- *Gender and domestic awareness to 182 participants (75 women), 24-30 June 2006.*
- *Data Collection Method to 14 participants (5 women), 1-2 Jul 2006.*
- *Strategic Development to 15 people (3 women), 16-17 Nov 2006.*
- *Social Mobilisation to two staff, 19-20 Oct 2007.*
- *Social Accountability to one staff, 22 Oct 2007.*
- *Citizen’s Rating Report (CRR) 2 staff (1woman), 13-17 Aug & 5-10 Nov 07.*
- *Human Resources Management to 11 (4), 23-24 Jun 2008.*

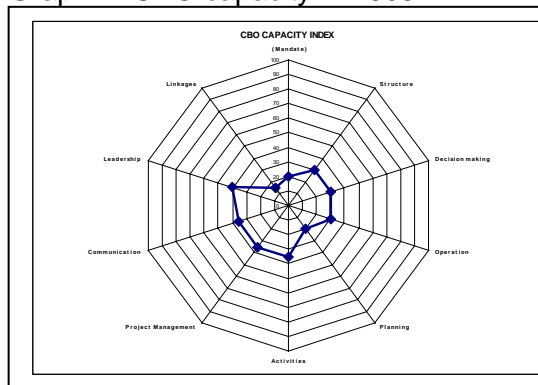
7.3. Ockenden Level

One Ockenden’s Programme Assistant (PA) was sent to attend the training course on *Analyzing Development Issues (ADI)*. This course was high level course for NGO staff who work in the field of development. This course focused on 10 steps to do survey and concept of advance development. The topics were divided in two training phases and last for 2 weeks each. After the course he was promoted to be a Programme Officer (PO).

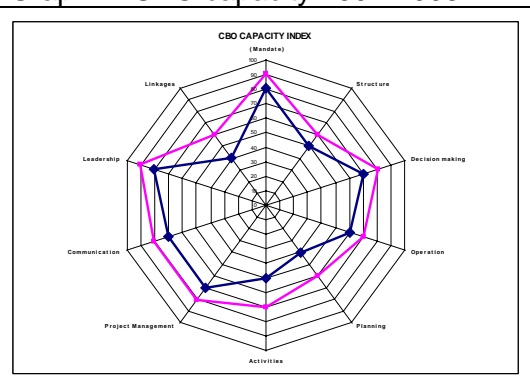
Human resources for each of the partner and CBO have been built on the following areas: (1) Mandate, (2) Structure, (3) Decision making, (4) Operation, (5) Planning, (6) Activities, (7) Project management, (8) Communication, (9) Leadership and (10) Linkages/networking. They are now reaching the point where they can manage most of projects by themselves and continue growing for the social benefit in the long run.

The chart below indicated the CBO’s capacity grow in 10 important areas:

Graph 1- CBO capacity in 2005



Graph 2- CBO capacity 2007-2008



11 Community Based Organisations became the Federation of Community Based Organisation for Development in the North-West Provinces of Cambodia. This Federation of CBOs with 11 CBOs members and has active staff of 79 (33 women) is now registered and recognised by the Ministry of Interior on 1st May 2008.

SECTION II: PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED & SOLUTIONS

Outbreak of diseases affected livestock: there was a severe outbreak of disease in cattle in the 6 target villages in Oddar Meanchey province, causing a total of 29 project cows, 19 calves dead so far. In response to the outbreaks of the diseases, the Village Livestock Agents worked closely with the Provincial Department of Agriculture of the government to curb the spread of the diseases, provide health care advice, prevention measures to the cows in the areas. Now the situation was under control and the Cow Bank Committees used the revolving fund (repayments collected from the members) to buy 30 more cows for the members whose cows died during the outbreaks and some other new selected members.

Outbreak of malaria and dengue in human beings: June to August 2007 saw epidemics of diseases among villagers living in the 19 remote target villages, in Samrong and Kon Kriel communes, Oddar Meanchey province. There were 489 cases of malaria affecting villagers and 505 cases of dengue fever affecting mainly children, causing 12 deaths.

According to local authorities and KBA staff in the areas, this is the worst year ever that so many villagers contracted these kinds of diseases.

Community Forestry: Even the community forestry committees and with its members in Oddar meanchey struggled very hard to advocate against the privates companies who grabbed their forested land to the top government and sought for NGOs assistance, the community forestry committees can maintain only 50% of forested land and lost another 50% to three private companies. The top government decided to grant 50% of the forested land of the community forestry as what they called land economic concession to the companies.

Incense stick production: the business has been postponed as the price of raw materials increased and the beneficiaries could not make profit. Ockenden and it NGOs have learnt from this issue and will make analysis of risks for the next project implementation.

SECTION III: M & E SYSTEM AND MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATION

M & E SYSTEM: Ockenden, its partners, local authorities, village structures, and beneficiaries were all involved in project planning, implementation and evaluation. Partners were responsible for the facilitation and implementation of the projects. Beneficiaries were actively involved in running projects through cow bank, and SHG committees, participating in meetings and regular training sessions. They also took part in the annual conference that reviewed progress and methodologies and provided conclusions and recommendations that promoted programme design and delivery.

Ockenden provided training on Monitoring and Evaluation to partner organizations. Key government staff were also invited to training courses run by Ockenden. At the end of the annual project cycle, a refreshment workshop on M&E was conducted with the participation of the partners to update tools for data collection and methods of data analysing and report writing.

The Programme Officers and partners' Community Development Workers collected data on a monthly basis and met every month to update their progress, to share experiences, and to help each other solve problems they faced in the field. They also exchanged monthly reports with different partner organisations.

Partner organisations produced their progress reports every three months, which were submitted to Ockenden. Ockenden conducted management meetings every three months with the directors and programme managers of the partner organisations. These management meetings were to update progress against the agreed work plan, to solve any arisen difficulties and to agree on the plan for the following quarter.

The progress of the projects and Ockenden's Programme Officers were supervised by the Programme Manager, also based in the Sisophon office and who reports directly to the Managing Director. The Managing Director performs an advisory, monitoring and quality-checking role throughout the life of the project.

MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATION: Regular monthly meetings were held between Ockenden Community Development staff and our partners. These meetings reviewed project progress, outstanding tasks, next month's plans and any other relevant matters such as project monitoring. The partners submitted their monthly progress reports to Ockenden. When a problem occurred, discussions to find an agreed solution took place. Ockenden have tried to analyse root causes of relevant problem and found a solution collectively, satisfying all the involved parties.

The line manager meetings (called Management Meeting) between directors and programme managers of partners and Ockenden were also held every three months. These meetings focused on reviewing policies, strategies, partnership relations, assessment of the plans and achievements and updating all of these aspects. These meetings also aimed at solving problems and differences in partnership.

The NGO partners were working closely with their communities and local authorities. The existing Village Development Committees were trained and assigned appropriate roles in project delivery and monitoring. The loan disbursements to the members were made after consultation with these committees and facilitated by our partner staff. For the cow bank project, the committees supervised the collection of the repayments from the members on a monthly basis. The communities reached new cow bank members every quarter.

Ockenden and the Government's Forestry Administration have had a closer relationship through its community forestry project. This administration has sent staff

and its partner (FAO) to support Ockenden's partners and CBOs who run the Community Forestry project.

SECTION IV: SUSTAINABILITIES

This project has contributed to the livelihood sustainability of the communities in the target areas by taking a comprehensive approach, including the environmental, human, financial, social and physical assets of the community, rather than looking at the livelihood assets of the villagers separately.

We have contributed to the empowerment of the community so that they can cope with the problems themselves. The project monitoring reports showed that villagers strategically invested SHG funds for a long-term future, such as buying more land, making better shelters, improving knowledge and skills and other opportunities. The interest rates charged from the projects were also divided Community Based Organisations' running costs, social services, supporting initiative small projects in the community and environmental protection. So the project has given the villagers a chance to make their own choices on how to improve their livelihoods in the longer term. This level of motivation and involvement on the part of the villagers promotes the project's sustainability.

The additional benefits from other Ockenden's project have engaged in this process of collaboration through:

- Capacity-building: Training courses, such as decentralisation-orientation, commune financial management systems and commune development planning. After Ockenden staff attended training courses on the above subjects, run by the government and Partnership for Local Governance (PLG), Ockenden then trained the partners and together undertook the training of the local Commune Councillors and the Commune Clarks. In this way, all concerned stakeholders received this capacity building;
- Participating in commune development planning processes to make sure the actual needs and problems of the community are addressed, and that our plans are consistent with the commune development plan. This cooperation helps all institutions involved (public and private bodies) avoid duplication of their development activities, hence effectively allocating their resources; and
- Participating in the annual provincial workshop conference in which NGOs are given the opportunity to offer feedback on the implementation process of decentralisation.

In this forum, participants offer reviews of the achievements, outstanding tasks, and difficulties faced in carrying out their work. Recommendations from this workshop were taken to the national level. The recommendations are also used to improve plans at the provincial level, and the plans within the NGOs. Being in accordance with government policies contributes towards ensuring that the programme will continue after our withdrawal. Therefore we believe our efforts to bring the different stakeholders together and encourage them to discuss their issues and concerns, was one more step towards the sustainability of the programme.

In general, the project contributed to achieving the livelihoods outcomes (more income, increased well being, reduced vulnerability, improved food security, and

more sustainable use of natural resources) in a sustainable way, by which we mean through involving the community in:

- a. An income-generating activity so that the people's livelihoods are strengthened; diversifying income generating activities so that the community can practice an appropriate range and make sure all available resources are fully utilised;
- b. Social development, to increase the human and physical assets and reduce the effects of vulnerability;
- c. Establishing their own structures and/or supporting the existing structures so that the community can lead and manage their own development projects; and
- d. Setting up linkages to and between existing development institutions.

SECTION V: CHANGES TO THE ORIGINAL PLAN

No major change to the project to be reported.

SECTION VI: FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The agreed budget for the three years project after year-three's revision was **\$411,746.81** and donated from KCF for project was **\$378,487.00** (=92%) and the rest 8% was contribution from Ockenden and partners.

The total expenditure to date was **\$407,995.06** (KCF was **\$373,809.84.00** and Ockenden was **\$34,185.22**); the remaining budget from the three years is **\$3,751.75**.

Ockenden received from KCF (3 disbursements) to date was **\$340,637.00** of which **\$373,809.84.00** from KCF fund was spent till end of June 2008; hence the remaining 10% for KCF to disburse after approval of this final report is **\$33,172.84**.

