

The quest to aid the poor to come out of the cycle of Poverty

Case Story of Mrs. Ros Vanry

Project Area: in Kbal Hong village, Sangkat Phteas Prey, Pursat Town and Pursat Province.

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Interview Agreement: Yes

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Pursat the operational area of the CMEI project and the province is located in the western part of country. The province is drought and prone across the year having a receptivity of disasters from 1996 to 2017 almost annually. This affects both the economic and social capital of the vulnerable families in the region stunting the household's economic growth.

This economic deprivation leads to a poor public health scenario at the household level and hence the poor and vulnerable are not able to come out of the vicious cycle of continual poverty.

The community continues to suffer year after year due to low economic development options, continuity of natural disasters and depleting social capital due to migration. The present living conditions of the people are not very conducive to promote good health standards.

The project CMEI works in such adversely positioned vulnerable areas of Cambodia promoting enhanced public health standards through training, awareness raising and capacity building. We interviewed one of the poorest families amongst the 53 poor families in Kbal Hong village. Mrs.

Ros Vanry lives in a small cottage with metal wall and roof without kitchen; she does not have the tenure rights to the land as it exits on the canal bed. The dimensions of the house are of 5mx15m. She does not have a latrine in her house. When probed, she responded that construction was stalled due to the death of her before the construction of the latrine. She has received the ring culverts for latrine from Sangkat councils, but does not have enough financial resources to hire someone or villagers to build it.



In order to alleviate her hardships, the CMEI project has worked with Mrs. Ros Vanry continually to improve her livelihood conditions with intensive WASH (Water Sanitation & Hygiene) support activities. The project actions aid vulnerable and needy people like her and other poor families in Kbal Hong to attain better living conditions. She has provided the needs of her household and the other households in her community, which include the need for household latrines, connections for household water supply from the state line. The village has continually been affected by floods in the last 15 years, which the locals attribute



as a rising trend compared to old times. The CMEI team observed that the living conditions are very poor with garbage lying all around and loads of plastic waste, which directly reflected in the poor personal hygiene conditions of the residents.

Mrs. Ros Vanry showed was emotional in thanking the CMEI project for considering her locality as a project area. She strongly advocates supporting the hygiene drive of the project and will share information with the whole community. The project CMEI is geared to work with the poor and vulnerable communities and enhance their living conditions over time in a sustainable manner.

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