

## Training has helped us achieve a higher sense of ownership

*Case Study on HVCA and Hygiene Promotion Training*

*Project's Name: Community Mobilization Environment and Improvement (CMEI)*

*Project's Area: Kosh village of Sangkat Loloksa, Pursat Town, Pursat Province.*

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*Interview Agreement: Yes*

Kosh is a village located in the southern part of the Pursat Town and it takes about 15-20 minutes by road to reach the village on a car or motorbike. It was formerly a flood prone area and it is currently undergoing a drought.

Given the geography's disaster profile and increasing vulnerability, CMEI project conducted the assessment in 3 targeted village areas in Pursat. The needs assessment covered key aspects of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH).

The needs assessment provided key needs of the community vis-à-vis the changing environmental conditions. The needs of the communities were adapted into the CMEI project actions. The key needs included supports on infrastructure like Toilet, wells, bust bins and others while the other key need was on the need for awareness raising and knowledge enhancements on need for environmental management, safe water handling, sanitation, and disaster preparedness. In line with this intent, the CMEI team carried out a Training needs assessment to understand the level of information and knowledge of the vulnerable communities on the identified needs. Based on the training assessment outputs, relevant curriculums needs emerged on Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). It was decided to provide these training sets to all the villages in the project action.



It is imperative to analyse the change in the community's knowledge base after the training, and

CMEI believes this to be an important action. The CMEI team conducted field visits and interviewed the trained community members and groups of community people in Kosh village, Sangkat Loloksa.

Mrs. Sam Sitha is 57 years old is the deputy chief of the village. Although she is concerned with the increasing floods and drought situation, she was not aware of the details about these disasters. She did not have the conceptual understanding of the DRR- CCA too. She had preliminary information about WASH but not on the detailed aspects. She also informed that she had not been trained by any agency on these key aspects. She was also very keen to learn about the effects of these disasters, which are affecting her community. She also expressed that she has increased her awareness on DRR/CCA and WASH after she got the training courses from CMEI project staff supported by Padek and WEDC in very close collaboration with MPWT funded by ADB Project.



She counted the types of DRR/CCA such as flooding, drought, storm, strong winds, lightening, insects destroyed crops, fire and disease outbreak. She was candid and honest to inform that she had information about the incidents like fires, plastic burning, the deforestation and the use of sprays/ deodorants caused heating, but was not aware of the details. The training has helped her to understand that the above mentioned issues have a strong impact on humans, animals, crops, agricultural productions, livelihoods improvement and disease outbreaks etc. she mentioned that



her knowledge had increased on health issues as the training provided her information in a practical and demonstrated way. She now knows how the virus spread/ transfer from the flies to food, water bone diseases arise from poor water quality and handling which leads to diarrhoea, or stomach worms. She is very happy with this kind of training as it helps improve her public health condition and take ownership of the actions within her surroundings.

We further interviewed the other participants of the villages who were trained by the Project CMEI. These included Mrs. Nheuk Channy, Mrs. Vann Phorn, Mrs. Nhem Kung and Miss. Hun Mary who trained on DRR-CCA, HVCA, WASH, Health and Hygiene promotion. They told us that previously, they did not have any knowledge on DRR-CCA, HVCA, WASH, Health and Hygiene promotion. They had received the information about the changes from their parents and



had the benefit of traditional awareness. This was changing in the current times at a very fast rate and sometimes it was difficult for them to understand the changes in quick succession. With the limited knowledge of the above-mentioned topics, they were in high risk of deteriorating health conditions, increasing disasters due to climate change.

In their opinion, the CMEI training has been a sort of luck for them, as they have received good training and awareness from the project action. The key information shared on HVCA/DRR, WASH, Health and Hygiene promotions from CMEI Project provided them with enhanced awareness and equip them with basic initiatives to reduce the vulnerability from disasters, face

health challenges, monitor the climate change impacts, control the diseases outbreaks etc.

During interview process, we observed around the homes and playgrounds, we noticed that these locations were better maintained now (from the time of the training) and fared better on sanitation (we observed low noticeable change in the amount of plastic bags and mixed-wastes lying around). The house-to-house visits demonstrated a new habit of boiling the water prior to consumption, hand washing prior to and after food consumption as well as an improved overall personal hygiene.

The trainings have made them stronger on a daily basis as per their account. Mrs. Nhem Kung and Miss. Hun Mary said that they remembered clearly from the courses about the need of keeping hygiene before and after eating food, after use of latrines and keep cleaning hands by washing hands with soaps because it can reduce the health risk. This also helps in keeping the household costs low and thereby sparing money for additional livelihoods and home based actions and needs.

Before we culminated the interview, the participants reminded CMEI team about the need to ensure the each vulnerable household had latrine support and clean water provisioning as this is a major need of the village. They voice their option that they do not want to get sick or get any infection or ailment from the climate change or disaster impacts. They are getting alerts from Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology (MOWRAM) about the heat increasing from 40-52 degrees. They also are worry about the lack of water shortage during dried season from March to May or if a long drought takes place this year.

The project CMEI team realized based on our interviews and observation with individual and team of the trainees that their knowledge is increased. This is because that they attained the training for the first time in a practical way from CMEI project on CCA, WASH, Health and Hygiene promotions and DRR. The quotes of the trainees prove that their awareness and knowledge are better than before. They are also able to keep the surrounding cleaner and the sanitation conditions have also improved.

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