

# PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY-DECEMBER 2021

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The COVID-19 pandemic poses a significant threat to the Program's implementation and achievement. The government ban on people gathering to prevent the spread broke off program work during the first quarter of 2021. The suspended activities of community training and project monitoring combined with the impediment to participants' livelihood activities due to the virus outbreaks have led to community projects' improper function. But CHAD team members put the efforts to negotiate with the authorities to get permission for possible gatherings in the communities.

Firstly, we were able to conduct the training on CLTS (Community-Led Total Sanitation) for 69(40F) LSCC and the project group members from 12 communities in 3 districts. We provided the training on BIG (Bio Intensive Gardening) for 27(18F) model farmers from 10 communities in 3 districts. The model farmers understand the concept and practice of BIG farming through the video, lecture from CSCC, and practicing. The model farmers make the plan to practice at home and share this knowledge with the project groups. And we facilitated the Training on Alternative Sources of Income provided for 15(12F) model farmers from 5 communities in Svay Rieng District.

Secondly, with the fewer staff members proactively put double efforts into negotiating the authorities to have their permission to visit/follow up the projects group meeting with 178(123F) project participants of 17 communities in 4 districts to listen and learn their challenges of doing chicken or vegetable gardening, WASH projects, the project group's problem, and even their personal stories and experiences. However, because of the COVID 19 pandemic, CHAD was not able to visit due to their insufficient ability, CSCC is still unable to collect project information during their independent visits to report in the CSCC committee meeting, which is hard for CHAD to monitor the community projects under its serving.

Thirdly, with the effort of the Health Coordinator, CHAD was able to attend the meeting (online and in-person) with the Provincial Health Department at Kratie and Kampong Chhnang Province to receive health information and shared the concern about the COVID 19 pandemic situation in our working area. CHAD also participated in facilitating Village Health Support Group Training where we assess the health problems of each village, evaluate them, and we find solutions together. We successfully facilitated 4 VHSG trainings (2 in Kratie and 2 in Kampong Chhnang Province) where we trained 69 (33F) in Kratie and 43 (28F) in Kampong Chhnang with the help of 6 (2F) Health Center Staff in Kratie and 6 (1F) in Kampong Chhnang.

Lastly, CHAD team members worked on the reports and reviewed the flexibility of the activity plans which we possibly do during the pandemic.

## 1. CHAD'S ORGANIZATIONAL STATUS

By 2021, Chad continued project implementation and monitoring with the remaining 25 communities. Due to pandemics and lack of resources, the phase-out process was not successfully accomplished this year. In this case, CHAD requested for additional 2 years extension with the help of other funds from GBGM Cambodia partners. With 2 staff and 1 intern GMF, the team planned for the exit strategy to implement in the next 2-year phase-out process. We continued this year the capacity building for CSCC and LSCC as we look forward to transitioning to turn over the remaining 25 communities we have facilitating. The transition that was also experienced by the CHAD staff also gave difficulties. Sophal Sok was promoted to lead the CHAD project after the exit of the previous program leader. Handling most of the leadership and the task of the program coordinator at the same time gave the difficulty as they took more workloads in the different aspects of their work assignments. Since the program coordinators also took over the area from other staff who exit from the CHAD, the staff and the community partners also transitioned because they are not the ones who build the relationship from the start of the projects there. It was another effort for the remaining team to get the trust of the community and study the strengths and weaknesses of the remaining community partners so they can help them to grow as a group.

## 2. COMMUNITY IMPLEMENTATION

### a. ONGOING WORK

Despite the challenges of the pandemic especially during the first and second quarters, the last 6 months of the year brought us more opportunities to travel to the communities for project visits and evaluation. The government open the country again for tourists and travel restrictions were lifted. This became an open door for CHAD to assess the needs and effects of the pandemic to our community partners and become a guide in planning the phase-out strategies as we extended the program.

The team was able to assess the needs of the communities through project visits among 5 districts where our 25 communities are located. We continued working with 76 projects we have: 24 in Savings and Credits; 18 in IFS Chicken; 15 in IFS vegetables; 11 in Latrine Projects; 3 in Well Projects; 3 in Water Filter Projects; 1 in Cow Project; and 1 in Rice Bank Project. We have a total of 750 project members for these ongoing projects with 32 Model Farmers and 64 LSCC. We are also working among 25 GS (Good Samaritans) for the church-community health ministry. Within these projects, 247 latrines were built, and 10 wells and 60 water filters were provided.

### b. CAPACITY BUILDING

To ensure leadership development, we were able to provide on-the-job coaching among CSCC and LSCC during the first quarter's project visits and via phone calls during a restricted time. The CSCC and LSCC were also able to facilitate and co-facilitate the CLTS and BIG Training for project groups. We were able to conduct the training on CLTS (Community-Led Total Sanitation)

for 69(40F) LSCC and the project group members from 12 communities in 3 districts. We facilitated the Training on Alternative Sources of Income provided for 15(12F) model farmers from 5 communities in Svay Rieng District.

To advocate climate change, we also provided the training on BIG (Bio Intensive Gardening) for 27(18F) model farmers from 10 communities in 3 districts. The model farmers understand the concept and practice of BIG farming through the videos, lectures from CSCC, and practicing. The model farmers make the plan to practice at home and share this knowledge with the project groups.

Furthermore, CHAD provided Accountability and Leadership Training to CSCC. There were 8 (1F) CSCC who attended face to face at the GBGM office and 2 CSCCs attended via Zoom, 2 CHAD staff, 1 GBGM country director, 1 Connexio country director attended. After the training, CSCC became more aware of how they will handle the project work in their district and be responsible to the communities we were partnering with.

**c. CSCC (CHRISTIAN SOCIAL CONCERN COMMITTEE)**

Chad Team was able to do follow-up/project visits among 25 communities in 5 districts (6 provinces) with 76 projects with the help of our CSCCs. In securing food stability, we were able also to work alongside CSCC to facilitate the project implementation of the 25 remaining projects. We were able to provide project groups with technical support in chicken and vegetable production to reach their objective of improving access to sufficient food and family incomes. Despite these, the CSCC's willingness to take the initiative in performing the tasks still does not come to the extent that can be dependable. Personal factors and the effects of pandemics affected them in many aspects of their leadership and participation.

**d. LSCC (LOCAL SOCIAL CONCERN COMMITTEE)**

During the first quarter, the majority of LSCC were actively helping us to do all household follow-ups for all the projects, meetings, and bookkeeping due to the travel restriction in Cambodia. They also met and discussed when they have group problems to find a solution with the group. When we got the opportunity to travel again during the last six months, we provided coaching on bookkeeping to the project group leaders in the remaining community partners because many became inactive during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter and many don't follow.

**e. GOOD SAMARITAN**

In the health program, CHAD continued to work with church health volunteers we are calling "Good Samaritan". We were able to follow up with 25 volunteers who helped us to strengthen the community health mechanisms that help community people be more aware of their community health status. With the help of their CSCC, they provide access and connection for the people to the state health services provided by the government and other health NGOs near their places. Because the Covid pandemic is not yet finished, they also help encourage the community to get vaccines and boosters that the government provides for the Khmer people.

**f. IFS CHICKEN PROJECTS**

CHAD supported 18 projects with 417 (230F and 187M) participants. The goal of this is to get income for the families through selling their chicken, but the pandemic affected more of our community partners. Most of them were not able to sell their chicken to have income. It was difficult since the market got lower demands due to the economic crisis. Despite that, the chickens they were able to raise provided enough food for the family to sustain their daily need for food for consumption. Climate change also affects our community partners. The flood season and dry season affect the production of their chicken raising.

**g. IFS VEGETABLE GARDENING**

Chad also continues to support 15 projects with 360 (188F and 172M) participants in home gardening projects. The same thing of IFS Chicken, pandemics also affect this project. Also, the challenge of lack of water, climate change, and the imbalance of farmer's labor from the vegetable's lower price in the market are major discouragement for the participants to take this project as their income source. Despite these, this project helps the household food security and nutrition amidst the pandemic effect on our community partners.

**h. SAVING AND CREDIT**

Chad was able to follow up on most of our 24 Saving and Credit Projects with 584 (348F and 236M) participants. During our project monitoring in the last 6 months, we provided coaching to LSCC and their committees. We were able to assess those projects that need assistance in bookkeeping, loan, and payment process. We also identified projects who need renewal, and those that failed to progress during the pandemic struggles. Chad encourages every group to look at the positive and potential of their group and to continue their Monthly Meeting.

**i. COW RAISING PROJECT**

This project declined more during this season. Chad is facilitating 1 project with 31 (18F and 3M) participants this year. The village in Toul Serey was able to buy 2 females cow worth 7,640,000 riels (\$1,910). 47.12% of the funds were from the contribution of the group. They divided their group into 2 and each group pasture 1 cow.

**j. RICE BANK**

This project also declined more during this season. Chad is facilitating 1 project with 9 members this year. Because of the severe flood that happened last 2020 and the pandemic effects on the economy is continuing, overdue loan payments became a challenge. We are still in the process of recovering other groups by 2022.\

## **k. WASH / CLEAN WATER PROJECTS**

Chad continued working among 3 Well Projects with 62 (36F and 26M) participants and 3 Water Filters with 60 (37F and 23M) participants. We worked with the local authority and community people for the need assessment at Svay Rieng and Kampong Speu. We agreed with them (the village chief and the community people) to form a group and constitution. We made an agreement with the construction company for the price of the cost and date of digging the well. The construction company, local authority, and community people cooperated to dig the well. CHAD did the follow-up on the well construction; how to use their wells and water filters. 20%-33% of the funds for these projects were contributions from the family partners. Every project gave access to the families to have clean water that they can use for their household chores and daily living. This year, we have 10 wells and 60 water filters.

## **l. LATRINE**

Chad continued working on 11 Latrine Projects with 235 (153F and 82M) participants in response to the big need for community hygiene and sanitation among rural communities of Cambodia. we have 247 latrines in this project. Through this project, community partners have accessed improved sanitation facilities in their communities.

## **m. HEALTH**

We successfully did Health Education in the following areas: 4 times at Chheur Teal village; 4 times at Chhouk Sar village in Svay Reing; and 4 times at Thlok Raing village in Kampong Speu. CHAD continued giving technical support to the Village Health Support Group (VHSG) from different health center partners in the provinces. We successfully facilitated 4 VHSG trainings (2 in Kratie and 2 in Kampong Chhnang Province) where we trained 69 (33F) in Kratie and 43 (28F) in Kampong Chhnang with the help of 6 (2F) Health Center Staff in Kratie and 6 (1F) in Kampong Chhnang. CHAD facilitated VHSG about roles and responsibilities, reviewed their health volunteer activities, and made 3 months plan. We evaluate and give solutions together with VHSG to effectively help their villages.

Moreover, with the effort of the Health Coordinators, CHAD was able to attend the meeting with the Provincial Health Department at Kampong Chhnang Province to receive health information and shared the concern about the COVID 19 pandemic situation in our working area. CHAD supported the following: 10 boxes of masks, 20 liters of alcohol, and 288 pieces of soaps to PHD Kampong Chhnang; 10 boxes of masks, 20 liters of alcohol, and 192 pieces of soaps to PHD Kratie; and 296 soaps and 96 washable masks from the US to Primary school in Kratie. We are also given an opportunity to facilitate Health Education for Girls' Hygiene among 55 female students, 16 teachers, and 5 Health Center Staff in Kratie. As inclusion, we provide hygiene kits for the monthly period for young ladies attended. Lastly, we did the follow-up/visit to Container Clinic which they used for the Quarantine International Check Point Border at Snoul, Kratie.

## n. NEW PROJECTS AND PARTNERSHIP

Chad helped with the project assessment and implementation of Brokus-Chapin Clean Water Project. This is a project that provided wells and water filters among poor villages with limited access to clean water. Janice and Jim Swartz gave donations for this project in memory of Paul Brockus. Chart below shows the data since this project started last June until its progress in September.

District	Village	Well	# Families	# User		Water Filter	# Families	# User	
				Female	Male			Female	Male
Svay Reing	Chheu Teal	10	13	36	17	35	35	134	70
	Chhouk Sor	7	18	42	29	25	25	58	59
	<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>129</b>
Kampong Speu	Thlok Raing	10	27	59	60	40	40	108	84
	<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>84</b>
	<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>213</b>

## 3. CHALLENGES

The COVID-19 pandemic poses a significant threat to the Program's implementation and achievement. The government ban on people gathering to prevent the spread broke off program work for Feb-Mar 2021. With the fewer staff members proactively put double efforts in negotiating the authorities to have their permission to visit/follow up the projects group meeting with 178(123F) project participants of 17 communities in 4 districts to listen and learn their challenges of doing chicken or vegetable gardening, WASH projects, the project group's problem, and even their personal stories and experiences. However, because of the continues increased of COVID 19 cases, CHAD was not able to visit due to their insufficient ability, CSCC is still unable to collect project information during their independent visits to report in the CSCC committee meeting, which is hard for CHAD to monitor the community projects under its serving. CHAD team members worked on the reports, and review the flexibility of the activity plans which we possibly do during the pandemic.

As result, we were not able to do our follow-up/visit on our project as usual. Some of the project groups were not able to meet regularly. Our Savings groups were not able to meet and implement their saving, and pay back the loan. Most of our project's members lost their income, so they cannot save and they cannot pay back the loan. The project group lost the regular implementation.

Furthermore, the lack of Capacity Building for LSCC among groups that started 1-2 years before the pandemic became also a challenge in implementation. Because it took us a long time to follow up on projects in person. Many leaders did not become responsible to encourage their group to continue. Climate Change causes severe flooding in some provinces decreased the production of IFS projects. The hot and dry season caused also many chickens to die.

Lastly, the financial situation was really changed from the original plan since the date of the phase-out stage of the program was affected by the pandemic. The staff was not able to implement all the project processes according to its' schedule due to travel restrictions from the government. Prolonging the program will need more funds to run its' operation until the closing of the phase-out stage of it.

#### **4. SOLUTION**

Because Project Visit and Monitoring are essential to CHAD program implementation, when the government opened again traveling during the last 6 months of the year, we put all our efforts and time to visit all the projects to catch up on what we need to do and adjust as we consider the exit strategy for 2022-2023. We planned to focus on these after our assessment during the last 6 months. We will increase the capacity of CSCCs to implement community development projects; will improve LSCCs' capability to encourage communities in their development projects implementation; expand the ability of various community project groups in management and activity performance; and will boost community awareness of the benefits of preventive care and healthy behaviors.

Submitted By:

**2021 CHAD TEAM**

**Sophal Sok** (CHAD Program Leader)

**Daneth Him** (Program Coordinator)

**Jay Hezeil Abayon** (Staff Documentation /GMF)

**GBGM-UMC CAMBODIA**

**Rev. Andrew Lee** (Country Director)