About Us

Overview

RCEDO is an independent Cambodian non profit organization which works to improve the lives of rural communities in northwestern Cambodia, registered with the Ministry of Interior in 1998.

We are motivated by a belief that all individuals are entitled to basic human rights and that by working hand in hand with rural communities we can empower people to bring about positive change in their own lives. We are committed to working with the poorest people in isolated areas of Cambodia.

Since 1998, we have supported rural people in more than 99 villages and 13 communes across Cambodia’s northwest. In close partnership with these communities we have implemented a wide range of successful community projects which have given poor and marginalized people a voice, enhanced community relationships both between people and with the natural environment, and tangibly improved the living conditions and livelihoods of people in rural villages.

Our Vision

All Cambodian people live in equity, good health, education, peace and democracy.

Our Mission

To support rural communities and line government departments in their efforts to improve the living conditions of rural communities and achieve peace and democracy.

Our Values

Partnership. We work in partnership with rural communities and with line government departments to achieve our mission.

Transparency and Accountability. We are accountable to our beneficiaries, our partners and the public and strive to be transparent and open at all times.

Morality and Honesty. We demonstrate integrity, trust and respect in all of our internal and external relationships.

Gender Equality. We strive to ensure equal opportunities for all people, regardless of gender, both in our programs and in our organization.

Environmental Conservation. We value the natural environment and ensure that all of our activities are ecologically sound.
Our Target Areas

Banteay Meanchey Province

Oddor Meanchey Province

Map of Cambodia

RCEDO working areas
From Our Executive Director

Mr. Sam Serey Wathana, Executive Director
“Empowerment is not about winning; it is about making communities aware and dare to voice out their concerns”

2010 has been our most productive year ever—a year of achievements and learning for RCEDO and our target communities.

At RCEDO, we work to improve people’s lives and so our greatest successes are in personal stories. In 2010, we have seen people who were starving and sick become healthier because they have had access to better healthcare and improved livelihood opportunities. We have seen discrimination towards people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHAs) become less and less. We have seen demotivated people become motivated and start to change their lives. Such stories inspire us to work harder and reach more people, and we are committed to strengthening our organization so that we can sustain and expand our programs of work.

We are especially proud of our local good governance program, which has continued to empower citizens and state actors to work together for community benefit. Strengthening democracy through our Citizens Rating Report project has been challenging, but also very rewarding. While some local authorities and service providers were initially uncertain about the social accountability approach, they now see its benefit in helping them to develop their services and build trust from the communities. In September, we showcased our project at the inaugural Forum for Development Ideas held by The Asia Foundation and the Ministry of Interior and were awarded funding under the Demand for Good Governance project to expand this important work in 2011.

For 2011, we are committed to:

- continually striving to improve living standards for our target communities.
- expanding our good governance program to new communes and working with higher levels of government (district and provincial).
- building a good governance network with other NGOs in northwestern Cambodia and help build their capacity to implement social accountability and good governance projects.
- Continually developing ourselves and working with the Cooperation Committee of Cambodia to attain accreditation under their NGO Good Practice Project.

Finally, we would like to sincerely thank to the Royal Government of Cambodia, all line government departments and local authorities who have been cooperatively working with us and especially to our prominent donors Diakonia, AusAID, FAO, ZOA and The Asia Foundation. I also would like to humbly thank to our Board, Ms. Kyra Miles (technical advisor), all our staff members, volunteers and community members who have put in their efforts to the success of RCEDO in 2010. We look forward to working together in ongoing partnership to empower and change lives of rural communities.
**Objective:** Citizens, communities and local authorities are empowered and actively participate in local governance.

RCEDO has continued its community empowerment and local good governance activities in 4 communes of Svay Check District of Banteay Meanchey. Our Citizens Rating Report project empowered citizens to dialogue with state actors and push for improvements in transparency, accountability and quality of local administration, health and education services. Through this social accountability project, combined with awareness raising and training activities, we increased civic engagement and brought about better local governance and service delivery.

In 2010 the scope of this programme was expanded to establish Village Development Actors (VDAs) which will plan, lead and manage village development activities for the long term. We supported communities to establish VDAs and began the process of building their capacity to manage community development and welfare.

**Facts and Figures**

- 1941 community members increased their awareness of civic rights and local good governance through workshops in 14 villages.
- More than 1140 citizens voiced their concerns about the quality of commune council representation and local health and education services through interviews and public forums.
- 36 state representatives including district officials and service providers gained new knowledge and understanding of good governance principles and practice through formal training and participation in public forums.
- 3 health centers and 3 schools made improvements to their services in response to community concerns.
- 27 Self Help Groups (SHGs) and 9 VDAs established.
- 162 members of 9 Village Development Actors improved their knowledge and skills in village development planning and management.
- 52 VDA members of 12 villages were trained to disseminate knowledge of gender equity and domestic violence awareness.
- 88 VDA members shared their skills and experience through reflection meetings and exchange visits.

**Case Study**

Mr. Sok Veourt, Svay Chek commune council chief, Svay Chek commune, Banteay Meanchey province, expressed his satisfaction with RCEDO’s work in his commune:

“The most impressive success of RCEDO’s good governance work in our community has been the change of attitude of the public service providers such as health center, school, and even commune administration office itself. As a result of improved service levels, local people are now happy to use local health centers where previously they used costly private services. Teachers are more serious about their job. Local people and local authorities are in good relationship. Commune councils members from different political parties are working hand in hand for the community. I think RCEDO’s CRR project is one of the most useful tools in improving the public service because it allows the service providers and local people to get to know each other well and then leads to a very strong mutual understanding and sense of responsibility.”
**Objective:** Increased food and income security for the poor and vulnerable group.

In 2010, RCEDO’s food and livelihood security programme was implemented in two provinces, Oddor Meanchey and Banteay Meanchey. To ensure food security and improve the household economy, RCEDO focuses on both immediate needs and long-term sustainability. Activities such as irrigation systems building and repair, rice bank, cow bank, vegetable farming, self-help groups, and technical skills training contributed to improving the livelihood security of poor and vulnerable families. For many families, this has meant they haven’t had to migrate to Thailand to seek work, and they have been able to meet their families health and education needs.

### Facts and Figures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>OUTPUT/BENEFICIARY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compost fertilizer training</td>
<td>145 (98 female) participants learnt to make compost.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irrigation system (One dam built, 4 maintenance)</td>
<td>4200 household increased their rice production yield.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rice bank</td>
<td>500 poor families have borrowed rice seed to start growing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cow bank</td>
<td>41 households were given one cow each. In late 2010, the input increased to 78 cows within the communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VDA Revolving Fund Establishment</td>
<td>9 VDAs (496 households) generated income from agriculture activities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rice seed and fertilizer distribution</td>
<td>1815 households in 14 villages received rice seed of 20kg and 85 kg of fertilizers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vegetable growing training, seeds and agriculture tools distribution</td>
<td>There were 1365 households in 8 communes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cooking stove distribution</td>
<td>524 households in 13 villages received cooking stove.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post harvest input distribution</td>
<td>330 households in 6 villages received equipments used to dry and store rice production.</td>
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**Case Study**

“My name is Mith Ra. I was a very poor farmer a few years ago. We lived in a small hut. My children did not go to school. I never had enough for my family no matter how hard I worked, and because of this I often migrated to Thailand to earn and support the family. But still it never helped much. In 2008, I came back and started growing vegetables. I was trained and supported by RCEDO. After the first harvesting, I realized that vegetable growing is profitable and started making it bigger. And today, I have a secure income source. I am able to provide love and care to my family. And especially my children can go to school. I never think about migration again because it is not a good solution. It is too risky. Growing vegetables with RCEDO’s support has enabled me to build a secure livelihood here in my local community.”

Villagers improved life through agriculture activities. They are physically and emotionally motivated. (Funded by AusAID and FAO)

Mith Ra has proved to his neighbors that they can achieve a good income and better family situation without resorting migration. (Funded by AusAID)
RCEDO’s health, water and sanitation activities in 2010 directly benefited more than 2000 poor and vulnerable households across 32 villages of Banteay Meanchey and Oddar Meanchey provinces. We improved health and sanitation practices to reduce the spread of transmissible disease. According to the report from Health Centers, in 2010, the incidence of water and mosquito borne disease in 6 communes declined significantly compared to previous years. We also improved the wellbeing of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHAs) or a disability so that they could access medical care, achieve greater food and livelihood security and experience less discrimination.

### Facts and Figures

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Outputs/Beneficiaries</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health hygiene and HIV/AIDS prevention awareness</td>
<td>40 events were conducted in 4 communes. There were 1,208 beneficiaries (568 female).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>home-based care and social support to PLHAs</td>
<td>19 PLHAs received home-based care and social support for treatment and food. 12 of them established new livelihood activities including animal raising, vegetable growing, and small enterprise.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mosquito net distribution</td>
<td>165 households (825 people) received mosquito nets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water purifier distribution</td>
<td>155 poorest households (approx 775 people) received water purifiers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family latrines</td>
<td>51 poorest households (255 people) received latrines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pump constructed</td>
<td>5 pumps were built and benefited 125 families (750 people).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objective:** Health and sanitation practices are improved and wellbeing of people living with HIV/AIDS or a disability is better.

**Case Study**

“My name is Roeung Phoey. I am 36 years old. I live in Phheas Cheung village, Sarong commune, Banteay Meanchey province. When my husband died from HIV/AIDS, leaving me three children to look after, my life became very difficult. We struggled so hard to survive. I was also infected with HIV/AIDS and many people in the village were afraid to talk to me. My children and I had no house and were starving badly. As my health became worse, my two children had to stop their study to earn money.

Everything started to change when RCEDO came into my life. RCEDO took care of me by providing food and medicines and sending someone to encourage me to live longer to support my three children. They also raised awareness about HIV/AIDS in my village so that people no longer discriminated against us. RCEDO gave me a pig and a cow and also trained me to grow vegetables.

With technical skills and some funds from RCEDO, I was able to grow vegetable and sell at the market. With my children’s help I have worked hard to save enough money to purchase a small plot of land. We now have 3 cows and enough food. Most importantly, my children have been able to continue their study.”

Ms. Phoey when receiving cow from RCEDO. (Funded by Diakonia)

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Natural Resource Management

**Objective:** Community Natural Resource Management is more effective and forestry areas are protected and rehabilitated.

In 2010, RCEDO’s community natural resource management activities benefited more than 21 villages of Banteay Meanchey province. We mobilized concerned citizens to form Community Forestry Committees (CFCs) which will protect and rehabilitate community forests. We have trained CFC members, networked them with other stakeholders and supported the development of their advocacy capabilities. By reducing the number of cases of illegal logging, CFCs will manage forests to meet the food, livelihood and shelter needs of the communities on a sustainable basis.

**Facts and Figures**

- 1035 community members increased their knowledge and awareness of environmental protection, community forestry and climate change through workshops in 21 villages.
- 2 new community forestry committee (CFCs) were established and are implementing protection plans.

**Challenge**

Communities have been in the process of protecting around 580 hectares of communities forest. However, because of the dispute between Cambodia and Thailand along the border, this area was chosen to establish military base in 2008. The communities can only observe and guard around the forest area because they are not allowed to go inside the camp. This means that communities do not have a close guarding on the forest. In order to minimize the loss of the community's benefit, RCEDO is continuing to build CFCs awareness raising and advocacy skills and support them to communicate with the local authorities and soldiers.
Organizational Development

**Objective:** Improved organizational and staff capacity for effective project performance and long term mission delivery.

RCEDO believes in continuous and persistent development of our staff and organizational capacity. We have ambitions to become a more professional, effective and sustainable organization so that we can deliver our mission for the long term. Over the past year, RCEDO Board, Management Team and staff have been working diligently towards this goal. In 2011, we hope to gain accreditation under the Cooperation Committee of Cambodia NGO Good Practice Program.

### Facts and Figures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities &amp; trainings</th>
<th>Participants</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community organizing and Right Based Approach</td>
<td>3 times of training for 19 staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Empowerment</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial system coaching Quick-book system training</td>
<td>2 times training with PNKS and ZOA. 4 staffs attended.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media writing training</td>
<td>1 staff with ForumSyd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic SPSS data entry</td>
<td>2 staff with MEDICAM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Management</td>
<td>2 staff with ZOA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender mainstreaming in project cycle management</td>
<td>3 staff with ForumSyd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Micro Credit training</td>
<td>5 staff with Diakonia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Result Based Management training (RBM)</td>
<td>An in-house training with Ms. Navy Chan. 20 staff attended.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board and Management Team Meeting</td>
<td>6 governing board and 4 management team meetings were conducted.</td>
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![Coaching and Monitoring meeting with Ms. Nop Sophary at RCEDO office. (Funded by Diakonia)](image_url)

![Workshop on Strategic Plan Revision conducted by Mr. Tito and Mr. Harn from ZOA at Kompongson province. Other agendas were also included such as teambuilding, leadership and information sharing. (Funded by ZOA)](image_url)

**What our team says:**

"We have been so impressed about the development of RCEDO compared to previous years. Our reputation is now widely known now among provincial, district and communes levels." — Mr. Lin Seng Eang, Board Member

"Throughout 2010 RCEDO’s Board and Staff have shown real dedication to developing as a more effective organization. They are building a strong foundation from which to develop and expand their important community development programs." — Ms. Kyra Miles, Technical Advisor

"2010 has been the most challenging year for me. But I have full support from donors and RCEDO so I am able to attend financial training and receive coaching." — Ms. Reoung Monh, Financial officer

"Before I feel fear in implementing my work. But 2010 allows me to understand myself clearer. When I involve myself more in training, fieldwork, and discussion, I learn more." — Ms. Si Leap, Community Facilitator (CF)

"2010 has been the most productive year for me. Right now I am able to handle many tasks without close supervision from the top anymore." — Mr. Seng Ho, Community Facilitator (CF)
Financial Report

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010

INCOME

RCEDO’s total annual budget for 2010 was $123,477. Income was received from five institutional donors. Diakonia and AusAID continued to fund integrated community development projects in Banteay Meanchey and Oddor Meanchey respectively. Diakonia also provided funds for institutional support. Funds were received from FAO to implement the Food Facility project, also in Oddor Meanchey. ZOA Refugee Care provided funds specifically for organizational development and capacity building. In December 2010, the Asia Foundation provided first installment fund for the 16 months civic engagement and good governance project in Banteay Meanchey province.

EXPENDITURE

Direct program costs accounted for 65% of all expenditure. This includes both program activities and salaries for staff who manage and deliver program activities. Indirect program costs account for the remaining 35%. This includes office running costs (rent, utilities and administration expenses), salaries for other staff (Executive Director and the Finance & Administration team) and organizational capacity building. The Other category refers to auditing and consultation fees.
RCEDO is committed to achieving results by working in partnership with Government and with like-minded organizations. We wish to show our humble respect and sincerely thank the Royal Government of Cambodia and the following organizations who provided financial, consultation and technical support to RCEDO in 2010.

**Diakonia**
Support to integrated community development programs in Banteay Meanchey

**AusAID Community Development Fund**
Support to integrated community development program in Oddar Meanchey

**FAO**
EU Food Facility Project in Oddar Meanchey

**ZOA Refugee Care**
Organisational development support

**The Asia Foundation**
Support to Civic Engagement and Good Governance project in Banteay Meanchey.

RCEDO actively collaborates with other NGOs and participates in various NGO groups and joint activities. In 2010 this included:

**Ponleu Ney Kdey Sangkum (PNKS) exchange visit.** PNKS is a local NGO based in Prey Vang. RCEDO staff participated in an exchange visit (14-17 July 2010) and gained knowledge of PNKS’s programs, methods and approach.

**Forum for Development Ideas (DI Forum).** The Asia Foundation’s DI Forum which showcased good governance projects to the public was the first event of its kind to be held in Cambodia. RCEDO had a booth at the Forum which was attended by more than 500 participants.

**Diakonia partner meetings.** RCEDO participated in meetings with Diakonia partners (includes 16 local and national NGOs engaged in peace and democracy).

**Community Advocacy Network (CAN).** This network builds advocacy skills among each member. In 2010, RCEDO participated in CAN’s meeting four times.

**Cambodia NGO Network (Banteay Meanchey).** This network brings together all 32 NGOs in Banteay Meanchey to strengthen their voice and share information or experience in development work. Moreover, CNGOs network plays an important role as a representative of its member to communicate with local authorities. RCEDO participated in 4 meetings throughout 2010.

**Development Agency NGOs (DANGO).** This network brings together both NGOs and state department to share information and experience in development work. RCEDO joined DANGO’s meeting for four times in 2010.

**NGO Forum.** Joined annual meeting with NGOs in Phnom Penh to discuss about sub-decree of agriculture policies.
To support RCEDO's work,
Please visit: www.rcedo.org