

Capacity Building Makes Change and Brings Hope

Training is very important for our life and work because it acts as a bridge through which knowledge, skills, attitude and hope are delivered to people for sustainable development. To build the capacity of development organizations in adopting Heifer's Values-Based Holistic Community Development (VBHCD) approach, Heifer Cambodia team has provided three training packages of VBHCD as a guide for them to strengthen and implement their programs and projects toward sustainable community development.

Recently, package-III training on Values-Based Planning and Management (VBPM) was provided to 24 local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from various provinces throughout Cambodia after they received the package-I&II training courses on VBHCD and Self Help Group (SHG) Formation. The training was organized in Kampong Chhnang province on July 29 and 30. At the end of the course, a two-hour reflection was conducted for the trainees to express their ideas and activities on what they shared and applied the knowledge they learned from the trainings.



“I am very happy that Heifer Cambodia helps build my capacity,” said Mr. Em Bunna, Executive Director of CIDC in Kampong Thom province. He added, “Before I submitted the concept paper for attending the training courses provided by Heifer, my organization did not receive grant from any agency to support projects. After receiving the trainings, I started reviewing my work and strengthening SHGs in my target communities by applying Heifer's VBHCD approach. As the results, some donors were interested in my programs. Now my organization has received fund support for project implementation from two donors – United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and Church World Service (CWS).” He also expressed his deep thank to Heifer Cambodia for giving him the opportunity to attend such important training courses.

“After attending the three package training courses, I am extremely excited as I have gained new knowledge of the Cornerstones and SHG concepts,” said another participant In Sunnara, Executive Director of Serving the Poor Foundation Organization (SPFO) in Kompong Speu province. “I have passed on the knowledge gained from the trainings to my target communities. Seeing the importance of the Cornerstones values and SHG formation, the community people in my target areas start working together and forming the SHGs to help each other. So far, 12 SHGs are formed in addition to the seven existing SHGs.”



“I passed on the knowledge gained from the trainings to 24 existing SHGs in the project that I planned to phase out,” said Ms Kao Pisey, Executive Director of Association for Farmer Development (AFD) in Takeo province. She stated, “Six months after phasing out, I went to visit the groups again and found that all 24 SHGs are still functioning well. Meanwhile, the members who previously left the groups wished to rejoin the groups.”

“After attending the trainings, I will pass on my knowledge on the Cornerstones to my staff and SHGs in my target communities,” said Poch Man, Executive Director of Por Thom Elderly Association in Svay Rieng province. “I believe that the 12 Cornerstones can help people live and work together, help and care each others, and share their resources.”



“We have SHGs in our target communities, but there are no regular group meeting and saving scheme for each group because we focus only on the decision making among the SHG members,” admitted Mr. Yun Sarith, Executive Director of Chethor Organization in Prey Veng province. He added, “However, after attending the trainings provided by Heifer Cambodia, I realized that the importance of the SHG for sustainable development is not only the shared decision making among the group members, but also the regular group meeting and group saving. Therefore, my colleagues and I have facilitated the SHGs to review and include the regular group meeting and saving scheme in their group by-law and regulation.”