



MAY 17

**Community
Advancement
Organization C.A.O**



**Yearly Report
2023**

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Introduction:

CAO is a local non-governmental organization registered with the Ministry of Interior in Cambodia since May 7, 2020. With over ten years of experience in community development work, we previously operated as Mekong Plus Cambodia, an international non-governmental organization from Belgium. CAO has launched program activities in 78 villages and 10 communes of Romdoul district, located in Svay Rieng province of Cambodia. The program aims to improve the living standards of the people living in the district. Before the project, in 80% of households at least one adult left the village for 4-6 months/year, a real economic and social disaster.

The Socio-Economic Context of Romdoul District, Svay Rieng Province, Cambodia:

Romdoul district is located in the southern part of Svay Rieng province, which is situated in the eastern region of Cambodia. The district covers an area of approximately 1,035 square kilometers. The socio-economic context of Romdoul district can be understood through an analysis of its demographic characteristics, economic activities, and infrastructure development. The majority of the population belongs to ethnic Vietnamese and Khmer communities. Currently, 15,672 households, or 62,611 people reside in the Romdoul district. Of them, 21.55% live below the poverty line, defined as \$2.5/day/person. Moreover, 1017 households live on less than \$1/day/person (district's report, 2023).

CAO Work Governance:

In 2023, we conducted two online meetings with our board members to share project updates, team progress, and funding status. Whenever there was news, the team would inform and report to every board member via email and our social media group.

We also provided formal governance training to key staff members to support better governance practices within our NGO. We are close partners to Thiên Chí & Anh Duong (2 Vietnamese NGOs) as well as Mekong Plus (Belgium), we hold monthly meetings and visit each other projects

The CAO engaged with various stakeholders, including donors, government officials, members, volunteers, and local authorities, to ensure good cooperation, provide updates on the situation, report on work results, and work on improvements. We are a partner of CCC. DPA, PDWA, and PDWA.

CAO Teamwork:

CAO is led by Cambodian people and has 8 full-time staff with strong skills and extensive experience in community development. The team is highly motivated and works with dedication. They spend most of their time with farmers and have built strong connections with them.

Funding Situation:

The current funding situation for CAO is insufficient, as more than 90% of the funding comes from Europe and various partners of Mekong Plus, and from activities such as tour bikes and events. Mith is currently acting as the fundraiser for CAO with some promising results (like from SMART, local phone company), his skills have improved, and he has a good understanding of the current and new projects.

Hopefully, he will have a good result and run a good project in Svay Rieng for many farmers needing the support of the program.

Achievement 2023:

Every year, CAO selects hundreds of poor farmers in Romdoul District to help and offer micro-loans, provide technical training and skills, and offer scholarships and basic training to underprivileged pupils under the program of CAO. CAO has launched a few main programs as below:

- Health & Education Program: Provided financial support and bikes to underprivileged students through scholarships. In 2023, CAO supported 100 poor pupils by providing them with bicycles and 80 other underprivileged pupils with a financial scholarship, with priority given to single-mother families and orphans. We also conducted 21 courses of community training on the topics of hygiene, and health prevention, and collaborated with the Provincial Department of Women's Affairs of Svay Rieng to provide 18 training sessions and awareness about domestic violence, prevention of sexual abuse, gender, and the promotion of girls' knowledge. The courses were conducted in the villages and schools. Additionally, 3 village libraries have been set up, benefiting many pupils.
- Agricultural extension programs (Livestock & Agronomy) are initiatives designed to provide agricultural knowledge, information, and new technologies to farmers and rural communities. These programs aim to improve agricultural productivity, sustainability, and income generation by disseminating best practices to farmers. The Livestock and Agronomy team provides 63 training courses and implements various projects such as the model farmer program, vaccination program, and animal banks for cows, pigs, and chickens, benefiting 151 families. Specifically, 71 families benefited from Cow Banks, 37 families from Pig Banks, and 43 families from Chicken Banks.
- The Poor Household Develop Income program aims to provide micro-loans without interest, skill training, and animal vaccinations to help poor households become self-sufficient and improve their overall quality of life. This program includes providing micro-loans to 442 micro-loans, benefiting 301 poor households, creating a savings group with 131 members, and accumulating a savings fund totaling \$16,657.40.
- The organization has been actively involved in environmental actions by planting over 600 trees. These trees were planted by local authorities, schools, parents, and the community. Currently, 83% of the trees have survived, and 17 biogas installations have been provided to farmers.