Working towards a Nationwide Commune-Based Poverty Monitoring System (CBPMS) in Cambodia

Phase II: Consolidation and Expansion

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Introduction

- CBPMS was successfully pilot-tested in Cambodia in 2003-2005 by The local NOG, CDRI
- The pilot project has successfully promoted links between the communes; provincial and national level planning processes through the use of CBPMS data.
- The project has developed the capacity of local authorities to implement the CBPMS in their localities.
- The CBPMS provided a basis for the Ministry of Planning to draw on experience in combination with the qualitative method of identification of poor households by other NGOs in order to establish a national system of identifying poor households.
Introduction (Cont.)

- NIS has taken over the management responsibility from CDRI to gradually expand the coverage with the same amount of funding.
- There are two parts of the current project or Phase II. The first part is to repeat the implementation of the CBPMS in the piloted six communes.
- The second part of the project is to expand the coverage to cover one full district, Stoung district.
- The National Institute of Statistics (NIS) has received a mandate from the recently passed Statistical Law to expand its statistical activities down to the commune level.
- A CBPMS will nicely complement such decentralisation efforts in a concrete way and contribute to successful functioning of the new decentralised state apparatus.
Objectives

- To test the built capacity of the communes covered in the pilot project in carrying out the CBPMS independently.
- To document the use of CBPMS data at the national and local levels for commune-based poverty monitoring and analysis.
- To provide practical, scientifically generated data to commune councils for their effective planning, monitoring and evaluation of development projects.
- To produce Commune Poverty Monitoring Reports based on the CBPMS results.
Objectives (Cont.)

- To build capacity of the selected commune councils in survey methods and data processing, analysis and use.
- To promote the link between commune and provincial/national level planning processes in utilising CBPMS data.
- To cement the link between PMATU and NIS and commune councils and to prepare for an eventual nation-wide CBPMS.
- To promote a firm process of decentralisation which has the high commitment of Government and donors.
Our CBPMS Concept

- **Comprehensive analysis:** Poverty observed as a multi-dimensional feature and therefore assessed not by only main indicators.
- **Set of indicators**
- **Community-based data collection:** Local people involved in data collection and processing
- **Localization of information:** Local communities own and use collected information in their governance and impose strategies for poverty reduction and in local development activities.
How can we reach the very poor?

Millenium Development Goals
Reduce poverty by half until 2015

Cambodian National Poverty Reduction Strategy
2006 - 2010

- Large disparities between very poor, poor and the better well-off
- Village power structures can exclude the extremely poor from development benefits
- Poverty assessment and poverty identification and targeting interventions are needed

Need for effective strategies to reach the poorest families
Activities

- Develop data collection and processing tools for both household and village levels,
- Recruit enumerators and data processors,
- Train enumerators and data processors,
- Pre-test the census instruments as part of the training of enumerators,
- Conduct the census in all the selected communes (6 old communes in two districts, and 13 communes in one district),
- Process data, using manual approach, primarily undertaken by commune teachers and officials, under supervision of the Supervisory Team,
Activities (Cont.)

- Analyse data/census results to be primarily done by local capacity, under guidance of the Project Management Team,
- Validate data processing and analysis, using computer, jointly undertaken by the Project Management Team and the provincial statistical staff,
- Write project report, incorporating qualitative information (by commune council members and the Project Management Team),
- Document the uses of CBPMS data by the communes and various stakeholders,
- Present the results of the CBPMS in three workshops at local level and one workshop at the national level to stakeholders including NGOs, Donors, key line ministries and other government institutions.
Coverage

- A total of 33,000 households in 3 districts of 3 provinces have been selected for the CBPMS sites.
- The sites under phase I (pilot tested) will be also selected for this phase. In these old sites, the commune councils will be provided with minimal support and funding to re-conduct the census primarily on their own. This is considered a consolidation part.
- The second part of the project is the expansion to cover a full district. It is intended to take a district in Kampong Thom province, which is the second poorest province in Cambodia.
## Coverage

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Methodology

- The primary source of data is the household.
- It is a census of household at the district level.
- Enumerators will be required to interview a household head and in case of absence for the whole period of the survey time, the oldest adult person in the house will be interviewed.
- Capable villagers including members of the voluntary Commune Planning and Budgeting Committee, will be recruited by the commune councils and be trained to become enumerators.
- Those with a good command of quantitative skills will also be trained to be data processors.
- The Project Management Team will be responsible for training the commune councillors, enumerators and data processors.
- The training will include classroom training and field testing of a few households for each enumerator.
Methodology (Cont.)

Data Processing

- A number of enumerators with good numeration skills will be recruited and trained to process the survey results manually, using electronic calculators provided by the project.
- Commune council members will be involved as administrators/supervisors. The data entry process will be conducted under the close supervision of the Provincial Statistics Office that reports directly to the Project Management Team.
**Validation of Data**

- The commune council members supervisor will review all questionnaires that have been recently completed.
- The commune council member responsible will sign off every questionnaire that s/he has verified for accuracy.
- In cases where there are errors in the responses, they will send the responsible enumerators to re-interview the household.
- The official from the District and Provincial Statistics Offices will do regular checks to ensure that the quality of data is maintained.
- In order to verify the results from the manual process, all the completed questionnaires will be computerised and analysed at the provincial level under direct supervision of the Project Management Team as discussed above.
Dissemination

- National Level: The CBPMS results will be disseminated through a national workshop for all partners of the project and relevant government and non-government institutions.

- Efforts will be made to "market" the project to prospective donor agencies and the government so that they will continue to expand the CBPMS. Ideally, the Government-Donor Joint Working Group on Identification Poor Households will eventually adapt the CBPMS into its nation-wide programme.

- Local Level: The ownership of the survey is commune councils, the CBPMS results will be disseminated beyond the selected communes. It is expected that the district and provincial authorities will further disseminate the CBPMS to other communes for consideration and potential adoption, through their regular meetings.
Uses of Data

- Efforts will be made to induce activities that will foster the use of CBPMS data at the commune and village level and beyond.
- In addition to the commune direct use for the three year rolling plan, impact assessment can be tried in the old six communes although the two year interval does not provide a long enough period to assess the impact of certain interventions.
- The CBMS data will be used as input to the village book and the CBPMS dataset.
- Efforts will be made to develop training modules to build capacity of local planners in analyzing data and writing the village report using CBMS results.
Institutions and Personnel

At the national level

- Project Management Team is comprised of officials from the NIS. They are to be partially funded by the PEP-CBMS fund allocated for the project.

- Project Advisory Team: In order to promote partnerships, the NIS will involve key partners to tap in their expertise and experience in order to ensure success and enhance the impact of the project. The Advisory Team members are not paid by the project, although their fieldtrip costs can be charged to the CBPMS project fund.
Advisory Team

Project Management Team, NIS

Planning and Statistics Office at Province and District

Commune Councils

Village Development Council (VDC)/village chiefs/educated villagers

Supervision

Report
Institutions and Personnel (Cont.)

At the provincial and district level
- The project has already gained the participation of the provincial statistical office
- In addition, this new phase will involve a statistics official at the district level as well

At the commune level
- The commune councils will be empowered and entrusted to supervise the survey team and data processors, who are to be recruited at the village level. Efforts have been made to ensure ownership by the commune councils

At the village level
- The village chiefs will be engaged to assist enumerators in locating the households and in administrative matters and receive a modest compensation from the project. Village chiefs are not to be present during interviews in order not to interfere with the information gathering.
OUTPUTS

- The CBPMS is successfully repeated in the old six communes by local capacity.
  - The analysis of data Comparing the First and second phase
  - A study of moving out of poverty: household moving forward, moving backward and remain the same
  - All indicators: education, housing, land, water, health, household expenditure, occupation, assets, livestock, and domestic violence ...will subject to be studied of moving forward, moving backward and remain the same

- The CBPMS is successfully implemented in one new district having some 20,000 households.

- Commune councils, district and provincial statistics officials will have the capacity to re-conduct a CBPMS.

- Three seminars for three districts at the district level are to be conducted successfully.

- A national seminar to disseminate the CBPMS results is to be conducted successfully.
Develop data sheet for Village and Commune

Use of CBMS to upgrade the village book (More variables in put for village book)

A “Most Vulnerable Family List (MVFL)” is developed by the team and the villagers under the leadership of team and the Commune Council by Using CBPMS results

The first poverty map will be introduce at local level

A report of survey results primarily written by the commune councils based on both quantitative and qualitative data, called Commune Poverty Monitoring Report that can be used for planning purposes.

A report of the CBPMS submitted to PEP-CBMS sub-network and all key partners in Cambodia. The report will outline the CBPMS process and suggest how to improve and expand the CBPMS in Cambodia.
Thank You for Your Attention