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INTERNATIONAL  
COOPERATION  
CAMBODIA

# International Cooperation Cambodia

## Annual Report 2014



### ICC core values are:

- Serving attitude; sharing love and forgiveness
- Cultural sensitivity; towards the local cultures and history of Cambodia
- Faith-based mindset; in line with ICC's Vision and Mission statements

### ICC slogan is:

"Empowering Communities,  
Empowered Nation"



## Highlights from 2014

2014 became the year where ICC renewed its strategic direction, and we are now elevating our focus and strength in two areas; human rights and communities/group formation. This new strategic direction has been built into project continuation phases, and into the design of new interventions. It is encouraging to see how project teams are transforming the new strategic direction into operational tools, and to see how this is contributing to better lives for our beneficiaries physically, socially and spiritually. Thank you very much to all ICC team members for contributing to ICC's development work in both a very passionate and professional way, keeping the interest of our beneficiaries at the forefront. 2014 was also the year where we started language development of

the Jari language, and we are very thankful for the support from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport in moving forward with this work. Furthermore, 2014 was the year we started to explore new groups of least served people in Cambodia, and ICC is aiming to start pilot projects supporting elderly people and niche-groups of people affected by human trafficking.

Our work could not have been done without our faithful and committed supporting partners who do not only support us financially, but also offer professional expertise that has significantly contributed to our work. Furthermore, we deeply appreciate our long and close relationship with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and our line-ministries, with whom our collaboration is very valuable for our work.

Internally 2014 has been a positive year for ICC. At the beginning of the year ICC started implementation of our External Relations function, which so far has resulted in 10 ICC Associate Members, and external partnerships with Prison Fellowship Cambodia (PFC) and M'lup Russey Organisation (MRO). Also in 2014 ICC started the Pilot Lab, with the aim to motivate more pioneering and testing initiatives in ICC. Also ICC was able to reflect on its Joint Mission Agency structure with other similar organisations in Asia, and share lessons learned on working in unity when responding to challenges and trends.



## Human rights

In Cambodia, the term “human rights” has often been misinterpreted and considered as a sensitive topic. According to UDHR article 1 *“all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. All have reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood”*. When the rights of a person are ignored or not respected, it opens up opportunities for abuse and exploitation. Therefore understanding human rights and the responsibility of each citizen is one of the key factors which contributes to a healthy and responsible society. In general, the rights of children and indigenous communities are not clearly visible or widely respected within the Cambodian society.

In 2014 ICC's VOTC project provided training and coaching to more than 150 local church leaders and NGO partners in areas of parenting skills, child protection and child rights. Subsequently these local churches and NGOs have provided this training within their target groups, reaching more than 2,000 beneficiaries in total. After receiving training from the project, one mother said, *“I was sad with how I disciplined and raised my children. I knew I loved them more than anything, but I was falling short in giving them structure, not being consistent and not controlling my emotion when disciplining them. I was yelling, telling lies, making fun of them, slapping, pushing, kicking and even spanking my children”*. [\(Continued to next page\)](#)

## Human rights

(Continued from previous page) Many who have



been trained by the project shared similar past experiences, but now they understand children's rights and changed their attitudes toward children. In addition to the work of VOTC project, ICC's iB-CDE project based in Ratanakiri and Mondulkiri provinces also works in the area of human rights but with a focus on the indigenous communities. Generally, the indigenous community still lack understanding about their rights. Most villagers are not aware of national laws that protect them, spe-

cifically land titling, children's rights, and indigenous people's rights. Seeing these gaps, the project has facilitated the indigenous community's reflection on their rights and how to preserve their culture, history, natural forest, and their mother tongue. In 2014 the project organised workshops with the indigenous community to reflect on their culture preservation and ways in which to bridge the gap between the old and young generations. The project also provided simple teaching materials and tools in their mother tongue, and mainstream basic human rights training to local literacy teachers. Some youth are now showing interest in the laws that concern them such as basic human rights and traffic laws. Furthermore as a result of gender workshops conducted, there is an increased level of mutual respect between men and woman. This has led to the reduction of domestic violence in some villages for example.

In 2014 ICC selected human rights as a new cross cutting issue for the organisation, and presently basic lessons on various human right topics are being developed and tested.

## Communities "Group formation"

Gathering together in unity is needed in order to organise, guide, encourage and promote joint working for mutual social and economic benefit. It is therefore important that individuals from low-income communities are motivated and educated in recognising the significance of collective efforts in solving problems that seem impossible for individuals to solve by themselves. For example a lady from Angkrosang village, after having learnt about the benefits of group unity as the best solution for problem solving, she said *"One great example of team effort is when one of the group members has a broken pumping machine and can no longer pump water into their dry field to successfully grow rice. With the collective contribution of the other group members, the machine can be fixed and used for pumping water into the dry rice field, allowing the member to then successfully grow rice"*

There are varieties of groups that ICC projects have set up and work through, for example, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Agriculture Cooperatives (ACs), Agricultural Productivity Groups (APGs),

Bunong Community Network, Youth group, Village Coordination group etc. Group members pull together scarce resources, take collective ownership and accountability for the use of such resources in order to fight against poverty, food shortages, powerlessness of the unemployed and those with low self-esteem. One real life example which demonstrates the effectiveness of such groups is from Reathor commune, where a wealthy individual blocked the flow of water in a small stream by building a dam across it for his benefit. However the action of the individual caused flooding of surrounding farmland, making them unsuitable for farming. Therefore the community who observed the actions of the individual and its negative impact on local farmers raised their concerns to the AC, who then represented their concerns to the duty-bearers. As a result, their concerns were heard by the Commune Council and district authorities who then took appropriate action against the individual. (Continued to next page)

## Communities “Group formation”

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ICC’s community development work in north-east Cambodia utilises dialogue teams whose role is to motivate individuals to discover common needs/problems, then to collectively identify and implement solutions together. Therefore ICC considers it crucial to strengthen the voice of the community and their initiative in taking action.

One of the groups ICC provides ongoing capacity building support to is the Bunong Community Network and its overlapping informal network, the Bunong Forest Protection Council. This has enabled ICC to work with community members in developing their visions regarding all kind of topics and then to encourage them to discuss ways in which they can see their visions realised. As a result of the work of ICC in supporting these groups, elders in Srae Krieng village for example actively encourage villagers to work together and help each other, being of one mind and being stronger together. In 2014 villagers in this village collectively built one large 30 meter long bridge, several smaller bridges and a community cultural centre. The centre generates income for the village through the collection of a toll charge for the use of the bridge by businesses and traders. Once

sufficient income is generated from the toll bridge, villagers plan to build a classroom for literacy classes and to repair other village buildings. The community cultural center is used for example to teach youth about Krung weaving arts. An elder in Srae Krieng village said *“We can do all these things because of our creativity and helping hands—working together with one mind and one strength”*. It is important to give such communities the opportunity to implement their own ideas, irrespective of whether they become successful or not, rather than enforcing decision making channels and procedures within an organisation outside of the community.



## Plans for 2015

ICC has a strong anticipation that we in 2015 can move forward related to social business, as a means to localise parts of ICC's work under local leadership and ownership. Furthermore, we expect to make a strategic decision on how to move forward in the sector of palliative care, based on an

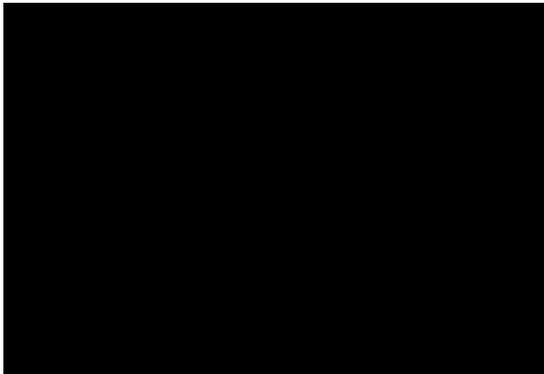
thorough internal research done in 2014/15.

Also we will conduct our first organisational Learning & Debate Forum for ICC member agencies and management, in order to reflect on ICC's core values.

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