

# Empowered People - Improved Shelter and Infrastructures

A Case of Chheko Community, Cambodia



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## Introduction

The twenty-year old civil war in Cambodia formally ended in 1991. However, the recovery facing the country is tremendous. There are 36 percent of the population living below the poverty line. Most of the poor live in rural areas, facing the daily challenges of landmines, food shortages, malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, poor education, land grabbing and limited access to shelter, and basic infrastructures for their community.

In Cambodia, as in many other poor countries, people with low income especially people living in slum community have not had equal access to education, training and employment and this constant lack of opportunity has been compounded so as to alienate individuals from full community participation. People with low income are frequently excluded from participation as well less of consideration of their ideas in community development programs due to negative attitudes and other barriers.

Building capacity is a process that enhances, mobilizes and combines individual and organizational assets from the community, in order to achieve community-building goals. The rights based approach is can be facilitated the empowerment of people, households and communities to achieve their human rights.

The works of Urban Poor Women Development (UPWD) organization is aim at to improve the living conditions of low income people in urban poor community through empowered people especially women to work for fulfilling their needs by cooperation and collaboration with their local authority, donor agency, and private sector as well.

## 1. Shelter Situation Analysis

### 1.1 Basic General Data

Cambodia has 181,035 square kilometres located on mainland Southeast Asia and neighbored by Vietnam, Laos and Thailand. The country is divided into 24 provinces and municipalities, population in 2005 was 14.8 million, 20% of whom lived in urban areas, growing at 2.4 percent annually.



#### Introduction to Phnom Penh city:

The city is divided into seven Khans (districts). The Chiefs of Khan report to the Chief of Cabinet. The three Deputy Chiefs of Khan are responsible for administration, socio-economic programs and public works. Under the Khans are Sangkats (wards), which have officers responsible for administration and statistics, economic, financial, and social affairs, culture, religion and hygiene. The members of Sangkat was elected by people at every five years.

#### **Demograph**

Population in Phnom Penh approximates 1,011,264 people, which in 532,754 women and 181,263 families, and covers on 375 Km<sup>2</sup> with density 2.696 persons/ Km<sup>2</sup>.

Population in Phnom Penh consist of 2 communities: suburban communities include 510,908 people, 93,682 families resident in 3 Khans Khan Doug Kour, Khan Mean Cheay and Khan Reseay Keo, covering on 347.24 Km<sup>2</sup>, with density 1,471 persons/ Km<sup>2</sup>; 2. urban communities include 500,356 people, 87,581 families resident in 4 Khans Khan Chamkar Mon, Khan Doun Penh, Khan Prampir Meakkakra and Khan

Toulkok, covering on 28.28 Km<sup>2</sup>, with density 17,743 persons/ Km<sup>2</sup>. Population growth in Phnom Penh is 3.92% (*PP-Profile- projection demography 2001-2010*)

### **Health**

According to the Phnom Penh-Profile 2004 which based on Phnom Penh Municipality Department 2003 shown that 100% of women give birth by hospitalized in urban areas. This proved that the people in urban area get more awareness of hospital and safety giving birth. And only 30% in suburban areas did not give birth at hospital, it means that they were impossible to hospital or did not believe giving birth at hospital. Mortality rate of babies and Children, proportion of babies less than 1 year died 99 among 1,000 babies and the proportion of children less than 5 years died 125 among 1,000 children. Those indicated that the mortality rate of children less than 5 years is more increase than mortality rate of babies less than 1 year. HIVS rate among vulnerable person by occupation, shows that the woman directly serves sex is the highest aids rate equal to 23% and the second one, woman indirectly serves sex affected by Aid is 8% police and military force is 3% and pregnant women is 2.3 %.

Beside those issues, refer to the report of Pierre Falavier: Phnom Penh Case 2003, particularly health issue of people living in poor settlement shown that the most common kinds of sickness in the settlements surveyed are diarrhoea (20.5%), fever (19.5%), and cold (16.3%) mostly due to the low quality of water and the unsanitary living conditions. People respond to health problems by selfmedicating (59%), or visiting a private doctor (22%). Only 7.6% go to the community health centre when one is available, and 10.5% go to a public hospital.<sup>11</sup> Most say they do not think public hospitals can treat them well. They fear the cost they have to pay in bribes to hospital staff and say that at least with private doctors, one knows upfront what to pay. The average cost of an illness is 22,000 Riels, which represents almost ten weeks of savings. People finance their health cost in majority by borrowing from family (35.7%), from neighbours (33%), or from private money lenders (15%). Only 12% had enough saving to finance the last sickness in the family.

***Economy:***

According to the Source from Municipal Department of Planning Year 2003 that quoted in PP-profile in 2004, Phno Penh city, there are 25% people living under poverty. This proves that the marjory of people is still get poor especially the people who live in urban poor communities got to 68,249 families equally 374,426 persons even though the city is developing.

Industrial and service activities in Phnom Penh are increasing, and most of the poor find employment in the city's informal economy or in garment factories. Informal activities represent the backbone of the city's economy: slum dwellers provide labour on construction sites, the bulk of food peddlers, market vendors, and micro-entrepreneurs, and domestic help. They also recycle a large part of the city's waste.

The municipal government aims to develop the leisure and tourism industry in Phnom Penh. As part of this approach, it has recently undertaken major projects to beautify the river front and public spaces, and to improve public infrastructure, with roads, drainage, water supply and water treatment. These projects aim to attract new investment while improving urban services for all. As is later explained, they also have major negative effects on the urban poor as they force the removal of many slum communities.

## 1.2 Shelter Related Fact and Figures

Access to Shelter:

***Housing stock, Housing affordability ratio, and Housing deficit (quantitative and qualitative)***

In Cambodia, the government does not have policy to construct the house for people whereas the private sector has been playing the role as housing supplier. The private sector is being active in buying land especially at sub-urdan area, to make plot and construct the flat for sale. According to property appraisal for 2007 issued by the Cambodia Estate Guide, the house cost is high and it affordable for the only medium and better off family not for the low-income family. At least, the plot cost is about USD3,000 up to above, and the constructed house cost is about USD12,000 up to above. The price sale is depend on the negotiation between the suplier and customer depend house contruction and area (e.g near the market, easily to access to social

services, or not comfortable to make business, inner of construction location not good condition in term of environment etc). The sale price for both house and land is not stable, it keeps increasing from time to time. However, the housing supply still do not adequate for market demand. *Base on actual observation.*

Table 1: Price Estimates of Flat for Sale, building size: 4m x 16m

Flat	1 <sup>st</sup> commercial	2 <sup>nd</sup> commercial	River front (prime location)	Close to central market	Residential
E0	110,000-130,000	95,000-105,000	135,000-150,000	75,000-90,000	75,000-85,000
E1	23,000-30,000	20,000-25,000	35,000-45,000	25,000-30,000	20,000-25,000
E2	15,000-20,000	15,000-20,000	35,000-50,000	20,000-25,000	12,000-20,000
Eo+E1	135,000-160,000	110,000-120,000	160,000-200,000	100,000-110,000	80,000-100,000
Eo+E1+E <sub>2</sub>	180,000-230,000	150,000-170,000	230,000-260,000	180,000-200,000	130,000-150,000

**Remark:** E0 = Ground floor, E1 = 1<sup>st</sup> floor, E2: 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Particularly for urban poor community, the problem of housing for the poor is severe in developing countries like Cambodia. Despite the fact that self-help housing is a main factor for most people, some still cannot afford to build their own house due to the lack of capital. Others can afford their own house construction but within a constraint of financial needs. As a result, their houses cannot be completed or up to an appropriate completion. Many people's houses end up with cheap materials that cannot last long and they are vulnerable to the climate condition and also subject to fire. Average income of squatter households (self-employed) is from 5,000 to 7,000 riel (US\$1.30 - 1.83) per day per household, and at least 200 families rely on waste picking from landfills for their livelihood<sup>1</sup>.

Understanding the need for appropriate housing of poor people, the Royal Government of Cambodia and many other NGOs, IOs take into consideration the necessity of housing loans (this issue is further articulated in the Draft National Housing Policy). Many people, including those in some relocation areas, were offered loans for new housing loans from the amount of US\$ 300 to US\$ 400 for each family. For example, all 129 families in Akphivat Mean Cheay, most in the Samaki Settlement received the loan of US\$ 400 per family for new housing. In total, as of May 2003 data, housing loans disbursed were up to 1,318 million riels (about US\$ 346,877) and the number of beneficiaries is 834 families in 11 communities (UPDF, 2003).

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<sup>1</sup> USG 2003:8

### **Yearly percentage increase in number of dwelling units**

It was estimated by Second Five Year Socio-Economic Plan (2001-2005), Cambodia's population will double over the next 20 years to over 20 million. Given the rate of household formation (5.8 people family size).in 2002 the population of Cambodia was estimated at 12,312,700 or 2,435,535 families. The building census reports that there are 2,256,000 physical houses existing in Cambodia, which indicates a severe overcrowding and current demand from the formal building sector for an additional 179,535 houses. The current demand for housing increases by 253,450 when including the "rural" landless population housing needs. At an annual population growth rate of 2.49 percent the population of Cambodia will be over 20 million in year 2020. This population has an annual demand for new housing through both the formal and informal sectors of over 400,000 houses, not including the need for replacement housing.

The struggle for shelter of the poor is far from over. The construction of new houses falls short below the demand of growing population despite its increase in both quantitative and qualitative terms. As far as homeless population is concerned, the 1998 Cambodian Population census shows that there is 0.16 percent in the country, and higher is in Phnom Penh--0.41 percent. From a recent study by the Solidarity of Urban Poor Federation (SUPF) 2003, there are 569 poor settlements (62,249 houses) rising from 502 poor settlements (35,165 houses) in 1999. On this basis, it can be concluded that the phenomenon of housing stress facing the poor is greater. To most poor, living in informal settlements in and around city centers is the only solution to secure their housing needs. The institutional structure relating to low-income housing is in the main not ready to solve this problem.

### **Housing standard**

Actual observation, there is no housing standard in term of using land for construction house or house's size, or style of house in Cambodia. Response to this, yet implemented but reached final drafted of National Housing Policy on 10 October 2007, in relation to housing standard the in the drafted paper say that " The Ministerial departments will enforce standards to ensure new housing construction and settlements site development will have infrastructure service provisions planned prior to household occupation".

**Floor area per person**

According to a case of Phnom Penh report written by Pierre Fallavier 2004, The average number of persons per household is 5.7, the survey also shows an average dwelling size of 20m<sup>2</sup>. The mean floor area per person is thus 3.5 m<sup>2</sup>.

**Tenure of households and Occupancy, and Ownership**

Most dwellers of low-income settlements are officially regarded as squatters, i.e., illegally occupying the plot where they live. Yet, typically at least 75% of slum dwellers consider themselves as owners of their plots. They have purchased these plots either from the previous owner, or from local authorities (the police, chief of village, and/or representatives of the Sangkat or Khan), who themselves may not have any prior ownership rights, but sell public land to their benefit. Most transactions are recorded at least on a handwritten receipt, and although most dwellers understand that such record has no legal authority, it is often enough for them to claim some compensation in case of relocation organized by the municipality.

The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC), with having understanding the important of tenure security of housing, It is most significant aspect facing households, in informal settlements in particular. Of all elements of the right to housing, tenure is extremely important. To an extent, tenure security also provides a sense of economic independence. People feel it is safe to invest in their housing improvement and they can work without a worry of the loss of their houses, The Royal Government of Cambodia have initiated to give tenure security to people such as the poor, for example, the people living in a resettlement of Akpivat Mean Cheay, which was located from an inner area in late 1999s, and recent year provided in Samaki, SenSok community etc. (*UNCHR 2001, quoted by Bunarith, 2004*)

**Rental (formal and informal)**

Actual observation, many urban poor live as renters in formal and informal housing because (a) they cannot afford to buy or build a house in an urban poor community, (b) they do not want to become house owner for one reason or another, or (c) they are only temporarily in the city. Others rent their habitation. Renters are either seasonal migrants who have a house in the countryside and come for a short term in Phnom Penh, or the poorest of the poor, who cannot afford to purchase a house in a squatter settlement, and rent on a weekly or monthly basis, with the constant threat of

eviction by their slum landlord. Many renter households are headed by single women.

### **House price to income ratio**

There is no an actual figure, but through observation people who are living in middle and better off family are able to buy house which is being supplied by the private sector. Based on the figure on the price sale for flat is very high (*refer to table 1*) for poor people to afford for buying. Usually, poor people who are living in slum and squatter often don't have their own house and they have to rent either house or land to live. According to the survey conducted by Habitat for Humanity Cambodia in 2007, It found that 26,09% of the community people living in poor community earns monthly income less than 300,000Riels (USD75), and the rest could earn their monthly in between above 300,000Riels to 1,200,000Riels ( USD75-USD300), while they need to pay monthly on food, transport, water, electricity etc.

### **Land (formal/informal)**

The new Land Law was adopted in 2001 to replace the old one. This new Law gives people the right to live legally on certain land (often State Private land) if they had occupied this land before enactment of the 2001 Land Law and has maintained their occupancy for five years. Large number of land abuse and land dispute continue to take place between poor communities and private sector/government due to high land value, low understanding of the land law and where people/communities can settle, and many new development projects.

The government has been implemented a project called Land Management and Administration (LMAP) over five year period (2002-2006) under the World Bank loan. This project tries to register land in 10 provinces and in Phnom Penh. The main purpose is to register and provide land title. These land titles will ensure their security of land as well as housing tenure.

However, the new Land Law has not been able to address many issues regarding tenure and occupation rights of poor communities. MPP and the Ministry of Land Management and Urban Planning and Construction (MLMUPC) have adopted a sub-decree on Social Land Concession and a Policy for on-site Upgrading and Land Sharing in 2003. Also, a sub-decree on compensation clause to people living on

public land and people who are affected by development projects is being drafted in according to the National Policy on Settlement 2002<sup>2</sup>.

### **Housing construction and Building materials**

There are about five categories of houses for the urban poor communities in Phnom Penh. According to a survey by Urban Resource Centre (URC) in 2004, 36 percent live in good quality wooden houses; 26 percent have brick and concrete houses; 36 percent live in low cost houses built by recycle materials; and 2 percent rent houses and/or live in temporary shelters. This last category has the harshest living condition where no improvement takes place in the areas.

In addition, there are more urban poor in Phnom Penh besides those living in squatter settlements. They are the visible urban poor and they are probably among the poorest of the poor. The visible urban poor live as squatters or renters in dilapidated buildings, in courtyards, on the rooftops, in baots and floating houses on the river, as pavement dwellers and street sleepers.

### **Access to and cost of Basic Services/Infrastructure:**

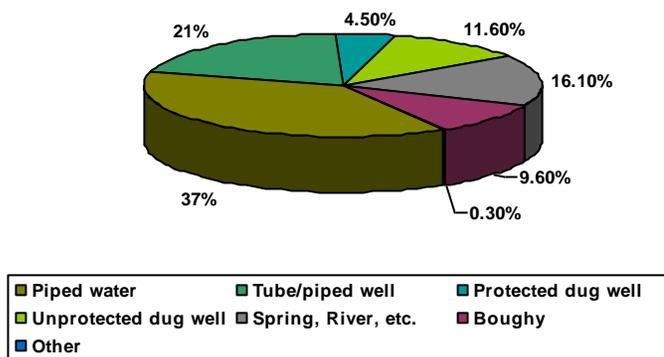
#### **Access to water**

In 1999, only a quarter of the slums were officially connected to the city's water supply network. Because they are considered illegal dwellers, their inhabitants cannot obtain official connections. They purchase water from private sellers who have official connections, or who pump water from the river. Water is often of low quality, and always proportionally more expensive than for someone with an official connection to the public network. A cubic meter of water privately purchased costs 1,000 to 10,000 Riels, while it costs 350 to 700 Riels from the public network. Because of this high cost, the poorest often use surface water from the rivers or *boengs*. They often fall sick because of its low quality. The burden of carrying water in small containers over sometimes dangerous paths also falls on women, who often spend a couple of hours a day just fetching water. Since 2000 though, with support from development banks, the Phnom Penh Water Supply Authority (PPWSA) has extended its coverage of the city, and has developed schemes to reach the urban poor, by providing main connections in low-income settlements when communities are able to organize their own distribution and fee collection.

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<sup>2</sup> URC 2002:18.

**Figure 1:** Households Classified by Main Source of Drinking Water, Urban, 2004<sup>3</sup>  
(PP-profile 2004)



### Access to sanitation

In Phnom Penh 94.2% of people and 49.0 % of people in other urban areas have access to improved sanitation facilities. Many urban poor settlements do not have access to improved water or sanitation facilities, and as such are subject to various diseases such as diarrhoea, typhoid, dengue, malaria and skin diseases. *Sanitation by stratum and type of facility Percentage (PP-profile 2004)*

### Access to electricity

Households considered squatters cannot have official connection to the main distribution network run by Electricité Du Cambodge (EDC). EDC has started to develop a network of registered vendors who resell electricity to unregistered houses. The system is metered and people pay two to three times the rate of regular households. Where there is no EDC distributor, private households with an official meter redistribute power at a price three to five times that of EDC. In areas without close access to the public network, private vendors run their own generators, and usually charge a flat, monthly rate, based on the number of lights or electrical appliances one has in the house. The cost is at least five times EDC rate. The poorest families who cannot afford the cost of the service or live in such isolated or unstable housing that power lines cannot be installed. They use batteries, candles and kerosene for lamps, and usually own no electric appliance but a bare light bulb.

### Transport and delivery

Most slums are located in areas difficult to reach, and physical isolation is a main problem that affects access to services, economic opportunities, and personal

<sup>3</sup> CIPS 2004, p9

security. It worsens during the rain season when the poorest settlements located in on nearby waterways are cut from access to roads. Isolation from main roads limits access to schools and services such as health care or waste collection. It also prevents people from reaching markets and increases the cost of food, which they must purchase from a single retailer in the settlements. Then, isolation decreases economic opportunities for housewives, who cannot for instance set up small shops on their doorstep, selling to passers-by. Another key concern is personal safety. Within settlements, poor road quality prevents people from moving during floods, or forces them to walk in sludge or stagnant water, or on dangerous, dilapidated footbridges, resulting in many sicknesses, infections, and deaths by drowning. Outside settlements, poorly lit roads are where people get assaulted, especially in isolated areas on the outskirts of Phnom Penh.

### **Access to health care**

There are no figures on the citywide outreach of health services in slums, but situations are similar in most settlements: health services are not easily available, their cost is high and unpredictable, and slum dwellers have very limited knowledge about basic preventive health practices. Most slums do not have a health post, or one that answers local needs, such as early opening and availability for night emergencies. When people fall sick, they must be transported to hospital, but transportation cost and the fear of all bribes to pay often prevents them from seeking medical care. Then, health care is often not affordable for the poor. Even though the poorest are supposed to receive free treatment, everyone must bribe nurses and physicians to be treated. The poor thus often do not get proper treatment. Never knowing what they will have to pay outside their settlement, many poor families mostly rely on local remedies and traditional medicine. These are cheap and easily available, but often unable to cope with the severe conditions that deplorable living conditions inflict on people. In case of emergency people must borrow, and can only obtain emergency loans through usurers who charge interests up to 100% per month. Health costs then often contribute to run people into debt traps. Lastly, most people do not know basic preventive health care, or where they can obtain free treatment. Women know little about reproductive health, basic health care of children, and family planning. Beside, because of the lack of sanitation and waste management, people often get sick from walking in waste, but do not organize to change their own

practices. Then, many people do not know about programs offering free treatment, or do not go there, as they suspect having to pay “informal fees” anyway. They often let sicknesses worsen, and only seek help once they are very sick, and then become indebted.

### **Access to education**

Many families thus spend a substantial part of their resources sending children to school. Although adult women have less formal education than men, there is no obvious gender selection of which children can go to school when funding is limited. Only in the rural fringe are girls more likely than boys to stay home or to work with their parents rather than attend school, usually for safety reasons. Distance is a major problem to access education for isolated settlements, where children may walk one to two hours to school during the dry season, and must stay home during the rainy season as they cannot reach school. Cost is also a barrier to education for the poor. Although public education is supposed to be free, teachers request a daily “informal fee” of 200 to 500 Riels from each pupil. Including food, book, and uniform, it costs 2,000 to 4,000 Riels daily to send a child to school, while the average gross income of a cyclo driver is 7,000 Riels and the average number of children is four per family.

### **1.3 Housing Policy:**

The draft National Housing Policy is now reached of the final reviewing on 27 March 2008; it being presented represents a road map further articulating the Royal Government of Cambodia expressed social policy agenda. The implementation of the housing policy relies on the development of transparent and affordable mechanisms to facilitate private sector investment in land development and housing. As such, this housing policy statement as presented is to be inclusive to all Cambodia population, regardless of gender, race, or economic status.

The policy provides an acknowledgement that a reduction in poverty can be achieved in Cambodia; that the formal development and implementation of land and housing policies will provide a significant contribution to the economic development of Cambodia. The formal development of land and housing sectors should be major contributors to skilled job creation and provide improving living standards through access to credit. This can only happen if the private sector has the confidence to invest.

The Task Force proposes that the following policy initiatives categories be considered as housing sector priority capacities to be developed:

1. Housing Finance for housing rehabilitation, construction and/or property purchase
2. Institutional Organization
3. Development Standards for land development and building construction
4. Development of Housing Programs as an element, or component, of regional, provincial, and municipal Master Plans

### **1.4 Actor in Shelter Delivery and Their Roles**

The Municipality of Phnom Penh (MPP), a non-governmental organization, the private sector, and the urban poor communities themselves are the essential actors, they are working together in partnership, to deal what the urban poor people faces relating to shelter. Each of the actors has its roles and responsibilities.

The MPP and local government is mainly one of creating an environment conducive to urban poverty reduction by all other actors, through support policies, the revision of regulations and procedures in a more poor-friendly form, the formulation of policies for land, housing and infrastructure. The role of the private sector is to create employment and demand for labour and goods and services produced by the urban poor. The role of non-governmental organizations is to provide support and assistance to the urban poor on a flexible and non-profit basis. The urban poor as communities, special interest groups or individual families have to make use of the contributions of the other urban actors to improve their own living conditions, their economic opportunities and their involvement in the planning and management of their settlements.

### 1.5 Shelter Design

#### **Physical Planning:**

**Railway** Connections between Phnom Penh and Thailand and Sihanouk ville are in use. Asian Railway is planned to connect Phnom Penh to the rest of the world. We need to improve the rail and transportation condition.

**Road network and logistic organization** Dry port at Samrong Triangle, Dry ports at all city gates, and Road network connects Phnom Penh to all provinces

**Land Use:**Total area of the capital city is about 375km<sup>2</sup>; 80% natural lake and agriculture. 20% urban area = 6200ha. (Master plan of PP 2001-2010)

**Population Density:**covers on 375 Km<sup>2</sup> with density 2.696 persons/ Km<sup>2</sup>. Population in Phnom Penh consist of 2 communities: suburban communities include 510,908 people, 93.682 families resident in 3 Khans Khan Doug Kour, Khan Mean Cheay and Khan Reseay Keo, covering on 347.24 Km<sup>2</sup>, with density 1,471 persons/ Km<sup>2</sup>; 2. urban communities include 500,356 people, 87,581 families resident in 4 Khans Khan Chamkar Mon, Khan Doun Penh, Khan Prampir Meakkakra and Khan Toukok, covering on 28.28 Km<sup>2</sup>, with density 17,743 persons/ Km<sup>2</sup>. Population growth in Phnom Penh is 3.92% (PP-Profile- projection demography 2001-2010)

**Shelter Quality, Safety, and Comfort:** The housing construction industries in Cambodia are immature and dominated by informal building practices. The housing sector of a country should be one of the key economic indicators; properly addressed, it can be an engine for the county's economic development. The housing sector should be providing employment and opportunities for individual households, of all income groups, to acquire wealth through homeownership. Housing markets should encourage the adoption of low-cost building technology to address the neediest of households to a safe, healthy and secure home. A reliance on domestic building material resources for housing should be encouraged.

**Function:** Initiating preparations and analyses of spatial resource for housing development; Undertaking studies on poor and low-income households to assess needs for health services, schools, markets, employment, etc.

**Gender Issues:** Gender equality is not good in practicing yet even the government as well as NGOs try to push up, it is observed that in the urban poor community, the women has involve in community planning and housing drawing although there is no women participate in city planning and housing drawing.

**Sustainable Development:** Even though, the government has laws and strategic relating to developing the urban as well as the whole city, but according to the actual observation, the implementation is still not match to what it has planned and stated

in. In order to enhance the quality and quantity toward sustainable development the government;

- Should have control law in order to reinforce the trend of development of city.
- Provide power to municipality to reinforce the control law
- Government should lead the development of master plan through road construction, electricity supply and other infrastructure.

**Norms and Codes:** A Uniform Building Code adopted for government facilities, public venues, commercial and industrial structures, with the exclusion of small cottage and/or home micro-economic industry. The *Responsible person of code adaptation are* Ministerial sector, Construction / Geology, Trade/ Commerce, Tourism, Local Authority, Builders, Developers, Building Material Suppliers, University representatives (Civil Engineering, Architecture, Urban Planning, etc). The adoption and regularization of a Uniform Building Code will contribute to further standardization of the regulatory framework. The UBC adoption will strengthen private sector investment confidence, as well as international commerce.

## 2. Organization

Urban Poor Women Development (UPWD) is a local non governmental organization, established in 1998 and with aims at to achieve the goal “to enable communities to have basic rights through community organizing and encouraging stakeholders to engage in all sectors and activities of communities”. The works of UPWD is addressing on 7 programs such as improving community rights to shelter, empowering community women leader, promoting community rights to health, improving community rights to food, promoting child and woman rights, supporting the rights of person living in HIV/AIDS, and strengthen organization with improved effectiveness and efficiency for sustainable implementation of the program.

## 3. Development Projects Problem

Problem Statement of Urban Poor Community;

### **Living Condition:**

- Informal settlement and urban poverty are mostly result from rural – urban migration, unbalance wealth distribution, poor urban services and infrastructure provision and limited in participation with local governance

- Most houses constructed from temporary, fire-risk materials and less access to safe water, electricity, sanitation facilities, sewerage system, waster collection services and road connection

#### **✚ Economic Conditions:**

- Most urban poor make a living as food sellers, cycle-drivers, construction workers, with a significant minority being in government services, the police or the army
- Based on some studies have shown that informal economic operator in urban area earn around US\$1.00 a day or less
- Urban poor households do not own assets and often have no chance to get loan and credit if they need to

#### **✚ Access to housing**

- Government doesn't have proper policy on low-income housing
- Quality of housing condition is less adequate due to lack of any formal housing finance system
- The high price of house is barrier for poor people to afford to buy proper house

#### **✚ Poor good governance & communication, and capacity**

- *Lack of communication and understanding between local authority, NGOs and community in term of sharing policy and other project activities*
- *Capacity of urban poor communities is still limited with give barrier for them to access information and do advocacy with government to claim their rights.*

## Proposal for Change and Improvement

Proposal Title: Empowered People Improved Shelter and Infrastructure

*A Case study of Chheko Community in Phnom Penh*

### Rational

Sine fast growing of economic in Cambodia recent year, urban areas in this country became more and more crowded through economic opportunities in those cities.

Cambodia enjoys economic growth of around 10% annually and most economic activities are taking place in urban areas, particularly in the Capital City of Phnom Penh.

Due to land poor and national disaster in rural areas and better social and public services and amenities and economic opportunities in urban areas, the movement of

rural-urban migration became a hot issue in the Capital city of Phnom Penh and many secondary towns in the country.

So far, many local authorities view informal dwellers as illegal and they have been treated cruelly in some cities and towns, particularly those with the high demand for land development. Informal settlements in various cities in Cambodia mostly are facing different treatment, intervention or solution from different local authorities according to their knowledge, expertise, capacity and resources.

Checko is one of slum community which located outskirts of city. Most of people living in the community are migrated from various places which aim at to find income to support their family. Checko consists of 85 families with total 539 population (female= 290). The main occupation for the community people are such: motor taxi driver, construction worker, garment worker and some are running small business at their houses. The living condition in the community is not adequate due to poor shelter condition (indecent house) and infrastructure mainly on road which always getting mudding during raining season and most of people there don't have access to safe water provided from the government. Usually, people have to pay high cost to pay for water and electricity from the private sector. In addition, environment in community is not friendly due to people don't have proper hygiene and there are not enough waste management system there, therefore, people especially children are facing health issues.

Through participatory community problem analysis, it is found that the root causes of the above problems are due to two main causes such as 1) poor governance from the local authority in term of their obligation to fulfil people's need/rights and 2) low level of community people organizing and mobilizing in order to claim their rights from the duty holders.

The main focus of UPWD is to work with urban poor people to improve their living conditions to live in dignity through providing capacity building to community people and establishing networking with the relevant stakeholders on the issue of urban poverty.

## Statement of issues/needs

### ***Poor Local Governance***

Within the framework of good governance, there are many aspects including participation, transparency, accountability, equity etc to community people. In particular, participation from community people with local authority in term of community development is limited. For example: During the annual commune development plan, there are not meaningful participation from the community people didn't involve in the process of planning and most of plan are made and decide by the group of commune council which somehow do not address to people needs.

### ***Low Level of Community Organizing***

Since majority of people living in the slum were migrations from various places, so there is not much solidarity among people there. In addition, there are no community leaders which have capacity to mobilize and organize people to deal with their issues.

### **Overall Objective**

Develop and strengthen representative local leadership that will lead the implementation of their community development works through community organizing, and empowered community people so can then they will coordinate with project staff and other relevant sectors to mobilize and organize family and community groups, identify needs and solutions, consult and involve the community at large, monitor project activities and coordinate and liaise with local authorities.

## Expected Outcomes and its objectives

Expected Outcome	Objective
Community leaders are selected from people through participatory approach and they have adequate capacity and skills on community organizing processes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Selection community leaders: The selected community leaders will play an important role in people organizing and mobilizing and they will representative of community people in terms of working with local authority and other agencies for their community development.</li> <li>2. Capacity building to community leaders: The selected leaders will have capacity on leadership, community organizing, and networking with various stakeholders in order to bring voice of their community people to local authority/state to make intervention.</li> </ol>
Community people be able to analysis their issues and mobilize their resources in the community development process	Community people will use the community organizing framework to claim their rights from the local authority (rights duty holder)

## Project Design

In order to achieve the above objective and expected outcomes, bellow outlines activities are required:

### 1. *Selection Community Leaders*

- Identify community people who have strong commitment to work for people in their community. People participatory process will be used to identify the person through inform meeting with group of people (women, elder, men and youth) in community.
- Conduct community meeting to discuss about the objectives of selection of community leaders and their role and responsible. The community people have to decide by themselves on whom they want to be their community leader through voting or consensus.

### 2. *Capacity Building to Community Leader*

- A- two times training on community organizing will be provided to community leaders in Cheko community
- A session training on leadership will be provided to community leader in Cheko community
- Mentoring and reflection on the community organizing in community and leadership practicing will be held twice per year

## Target Beneficiaries

The project of strengthened local governance and capacity building is expected to benefit to direct and indirect benefit for community people who are living in the Cheko community as following:

- *Direct Beneficiaries:* 15 community leaders are trained
- *Indirect Beneficiaries:* At least half of total population of community people including children will benefit through awareness raising from the community leaders as well as participate in the process of community organizing.

## Implementation Plan

Activities	Time-frame	Responsible party
Select Community Leader <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identify potential and high commitment people</li> <li>- Conduct community meeting to select community leaders</li> </ul>	Feb – May	UPWD and community people in Checko
Capacity Building to Community Leaders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Two times of community organizing trainings</li> <li>- A session on leadership training</li> <li>- A session on Participatory Learning and Action methods</li> </ul>	May – Dec	UPWD and Outsource trainer

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