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**Still Struggling: A Cambodian Community's Assessment and Response to
Long-Term Negative Effects of Involuntary Relocation**

Research Report Submitted to the Takagi Fund for Citizen Science

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¹ http://www.takagifund.org/e/archives/19/193-018_kol.html

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADF	Asian Development Fund
CARM	Cambodia Resident Mission
CDCam	Conservation and Development on Cambodia
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease in 2019
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
HHS	Household Survey
HW1	Highway One
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
LSP	Livelihood Stabilization Program
MFI	Micro-finance Institution
NTFP	Non-timber Forest Product
PCR	Project Completion Report
PID	Project Information Document
RAR	Review and Assessment Report
ROW	Right of the Way
RRP	Reports and Recommendations of the President
SEA	Southeast Asia
SPF	Special Project Facilitator
SSC	Stung Slot Community
USD	US dollars

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This participatory action research tried to document long-term effects of development-induced resettlement experienced by a small suburban community, Stung Slot Community (SSC), located in southern Cambodia. Sixty-three families were involuntarily resettled in early 2000s due to the Highway One (HW1) rehabilitation project financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The research was led by three community members in close consultation and coordination with the author and involved more than 50 other SSC members. The research team used household survey (HHS) and focus group discussion (FGD) as main ways to collect data systematically. The team also took numerous pictures and video clips on the resettlement site and elsewhere in the HW1 project area.

Quantitative data, collected mainly through HHS, have updated SSC's profile as follows:

- 1) A significant proportion of the SSC families (19.0%) is still self-employed, engaging in home-based work, waste collection, driving a cyclo or a tuk-tuk, small businesses, and trading as before they were relocated. Only a slightly more proportion engages in unskilled daily-waged labour, skilled labour, and housekeeping. This seems to indicate that the HW1 project has not significantly changed the SSC families' livelihood means;
- 2) A proportion of housewives has decreased considerably (24.0%) as compared to the pre-relocation stage, while the families who rely on remittance from family members' migratory labor has more than doubled. This can indicate the SSC families' increased difficulty accessing opportunities to earn cash income in the HW1 project area;
- 3) The SSC families' average *monthly* income might have returned to the pre-relocation level, which is about 100.00 USD. On the other hand, a gap between the households who earn more and those who earn less than the average might have widened;
- 4) More than half (56.0%) of the survey respondents have children under 18 years old in their households, but 44.0% answered that their children do not attend school regularly. Major reasons for the parents' not sending their children to school regularly include: Schools are far from home, they need their children to work to help earn family income, and they have no money to pay for teachers;
- 5) While a good majority, around three-fourth, of the SSC families seem to have someone in their household with health challenges, only a small portion has ever been registered as an ID Poor Household. Of these households, only 5.0% have actually received free health services;
- 6) Some SSC families have yet to have a flush toilet at home: 71.0% use a toilet at their neighbors' house and 16.0% a toilet in an abandoned house. Some have no access to garbage services: 65.0% said that they throw garbage on vacant land/rice fields and 4.0% bury it in the ground; and
- 7) Only 7.0% of the survey respondents said that they can afford three meals a day: 62.5% felt that they have no secure access to food; 49.0% have tried to collect non-timber forest products (NTFPs) for their own consumption; and 5.0% eat only rice with little vegetables or meat and borrow money to buy food.

Qualitative data, collected mainly through FDG, show the HW1 project's long-term negative impacts on the SSC families as follows:

- 1) The area around the resettlement site, and in fact the entire area where the HW1 project was implemented, has developed considerably especially in economic terms. This economic development, however, has not seemed to benefit most of the SSC families. On the contrary, it has created new challenges to the families, including a price hike of consumer goods and land speculation;
- 2) SSC is disintegrating as a coherent community. About half of the families who used to live on the resettlement site have sold their land and moved out to seek better economic opportunities and living conditions;
- 3) Many SSC families still engage in menial works such as selling goods in front of their

house, growing garden vegetables for sale, and cashing recyclable materials. Cash income from these works is supplemented by income by collecting and selling edible animals, vegetables, firewood, and so forth in the neighborhood. However, environmental degradation triggered by the HW1 project has limited the SSC families' access to local natural resources; and

- 4) Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the SSC families' income level has dropped. Many are laid off from factory or construction work and have come back home to stay unemployed. While schools are shut, children with poor access to equipment such as TV sets and mobile phones are little benefitted by the government's remote compensatory education programs.

A majority (73.0%) of the HHS respondents answered that the HW1 project has made them poorer, while only 13.0% felt that they have become less poor. As for reasons for becoming poorer, 26.0% replied that they would still live close to HW1 (if not for the project), 17.5% said that they would not be in debt, 16.0% thought that they would not have lost their business, and 14.0% answered that they would not have lost good customers. After more than 20 years, the SSC families are still struggling to recover from the project's resettlement effects. The SSC case shows how involuntary resettlement, especially when it is mismanaged initially, could impact vulnerable communities over a long period of time.

The following are a list of suggestions, most of which were voiced by the SSC families themselves during the action research, to be further discussed and put into practice to restore the community:

- 1) Collectively rent a space in the local market to sell goods and products;
- 2) Encourage the members who owe the community a debt to return the money, with which to reactivate the revolving fund to support both existing and new jobs;
- 3) Invest in the agricultural sector, i.e., collectively rent a farmland to plant organic crops, make rice field, raise chickens and other animals;
- 4) Focus first on ways to resolve a land dispute with the squatters on the resettlement site, for instance, by asking authorities to approve a social land concession for the squatters. Then start reorganizing the community to make other improvements, e.g., renovating community infrastructures such as entry roads and pump-wells and initiating livelihood enhancement programs;
- 5) Contact school principals and ask them to provide scholarships and other support to the children from the SSC families;
- 6) Involve more male members in the community committee to integrate their views and support into community activities;
- 7) Outreach groups of farmers, middle-men, retailers, and buyers to establish a network of producers, transporters, and consumers of SSC goods and products;
- 8) Clean the resettlement site together by installing rubbish bins, planting more trees, and helping the SSC members reduce the amount of waste they produce daily; and
- 9) Carry out more detailed research on SSC's food security and safety to learn how to improve health conditions of the community members, especially children, elderlies, and members with disabilities.

1. INTRODUCTION

Stung Slot Community (SSC) is located in Kampong Soeung Commune, Neak Loeung District, Prey Veng Province in southern Cambodia. It sits next to Highway One (HW1) about two kilometers from Neak Loeung, which is one of the provincial centers (See the map below). Families in SSC were relocated due to the HW1 rehabilitation project financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).²



In December 1998, the ADB's Board of Directors approved a 40 million USD loan to support the Cambodian government's plan to rehabilitate a section of a national road that runs from Phnom Penh to the Cambodia-Vietnam border, a 105.5 km section of HW1 between the Mekong River ferry crossing and the Cambodia-Vietnam border. The project was financed by a loan from ADB's concession arm, the Asian Development Fund (ADF). ADB's 1997 feasibility study estimated that 5,920 Cambodians in 1,184 households would be affected.³ ADB's 1995 Policy on Involuntary Resettlement was to safeguard these families from becoming economically and socially worse-off after the resettlement. The reality, however, turned out to be quite the opposite. Many families, including those at SCC, became impoverished.⁴

The SSC members, especially women, tried in so many ways to lift themselves out of the impacts of the HW1 project's involuntary resettlement. They were helped by both Cambodian and international NGOs. Their collective efforts, including participation at ADB's annual meetings, led to some mitigation measures on ADB's part, including the 2004 resettlement audit (and succeeding compensation repayment), the 2007 acceptance of SSC's complaint at the Special Project Facilitator (SPF) office, the management's socio-economic survey the same year, and the 2009 income restoration grant.⁵

After more than 20 years, however, SCC members are still struggling to restore their life and livelihoods. One of the community members who were interviewed said, *"The road is better but our livelihoods have gotten worse. We have to work harder and we have more debts."*⁶

In May 2019, Ms. Sin Chhin, elected SSC leader, called the author, who helped a number of

² For the HW1 project's overview, see ADB (1998) *Reports and Recommendations of the President (RRP)*.

³ See ADB (2008) *Project Performance Evaluation Report: Greater Mekong Subregion: Phnom Penh to Ho Chi Minh City Highway Project*. <https://www.adb.org/documents/greater-mekong-subregion-phnom-penh-ho-chi-minh-city-highway-project-1659-camsf-and-1660-v> Other numerous project-related documents are found on ADB's website.

⁴ See NGO Forum on ADB "GMS Road Network Improvement Project" <https://www.forum-adb.org/adbroadnetproject> and Mekong Watch "Highway One" <http://www.mekongwatch.org/english/country/cambodia/HighwayOne/index.html>.

⁵ See a summary of SSC's struggles to restore their life and livelihoods in Appendix 1.

⁶ All quotes in this report are from the action research.

communities affected by the HW1 project intensively from 2002 to 2007⁷ and has since then been in occasional touch with the SSC families, especially Ming Chhin.⁸ Ming Chhin explained to me about the community's delayed restoration from the relocation in the early 2000s. While she and I discussed what could be done, she voiced the need to collect evidence on the relocation effects, based on which the SSC members could develop action plans to restore and develop their life and livelihoods.

In mid-2019, I had further discussions with a few SSC leaders and developed ideas on an action research project to document challenges facing the community and design action plans for the future. I explained that action research could also help some SCC members develop research skills and strengthen links among the community members, especially those who had left the resettlement site. The SCC leaders, including Ming Chhin, agreed that action research was a good idea. In early 2020, I formed a research team with Ming Chhin and two other SCC women and began the research project (See the community researchers in PIC1 in Appendix 3).

2. RESEARCH DESIGN

2.1 Research Target

SSC evolved out of two separate communities, Stung Slot and Kraing Kaok Communities. They decided to merge into the Stung Slot Community. In 2007, around the time of the merger, there were 63 members: About two-thirds lived on the resettlement site; the others lived outside.

As of the beginning of the action research, only 21 or approximately 100 individuals stayed on the resettlement site. Eight families have migrated to larger urban centers, especially Phnom Penh, or even abroad, to seek better economic opportunities. The eight families, however, still keep their house at the resettlement site. 34 families sold their land and moved out of the resettlement site. Many in this group currently live along HW1's old route in Neak Loeung.

In the action research, the research team tried to outreach not only the SSC members who still lived on the resettlement site but also those who have moved out and live elsewhere.

2.2 Methodology

The research team used the following methodologies to collect data:

- 1) Making observations of the physical landscape of the resettlement site and area around it, including Neak Loeung and the area along HW1, and taking pictures and video clips;
- 2) Conducting focus group discussion (FGD) moderated through a list of guided questions; and
- 3) Conducting a household survey (HHS) based on a pre-developed questionnaire.

2.3 Research Schedule and Activities

31 January 2020: Field visit I

I visited SSC and met with the three community researchers. I explained to them the research objectives, expectations, outputs/outcomes, methodologies, timeframe, budget as well as the

⁷ Former officer of the NGO Forum on Cambodia who used to work with SSC and other affected communities since 2002

⁸ "Ming" means "Aunt" in Khmer. For Ming Chhin's story, see Soentoro, Tea (2011a) "Eleven Years of Promises (Part 1 of 2)" <https://www.forum-adb.org/post/eleven-years-of-promises-part-1-of-2> and Soentoro (2011b) "Eleven Years of Promises (Part 2 of 2)" <https://www.forum-adb.org/post/eleven-years-of-promises-part-2-of-2>

community researchers' roles. The community researchers and I also discussed and agreed upon issues to be covered in the research, and co-drafted a list of questions to solicit interactions at FGD.

The research team also walked around in the resettlement site to understand the current situations of the community. I took many pictures and notes of any changes I observed since my last visit several months before. For instance, someone from outside SSC bought a land plot of one community member and constructed a two-story concrete house. I also stopped by at some SSC members' houses to rebuild rapport with them and explained the research project to them.

After I had come back from a field trip, I translated the FGD questions into English and sent them to field survey experts for feedback. I received feedback after about a week and incorporated it to complete guiding questions for FGD. I then finalized the Khmer original and sent it through Facebook to the community researchers for verification.

Mid-February to early May: Online communication

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Phnom Penh, where I am based, was locked down for a few weeks in March 2020. The public transportation to travel to provinces, including Prey Veng, was closed until early May. It was also not advisable for me to visit SSC and risk the community, particularly elderly, with the virus. I thus regularly contacted the three community researchers, in particular Ming Chhin, online and collected some demographic data, such as the number of men and women, children, and elderly persons in each household on the resettlement site. Ming Chhin also helped make a list of SSC members and their contact information.

17 May: Field visit II

I visited and met with the community researchers in person. We discussed a fieldwork plan. We also visited four families who have moved out of the resettlement site. They currently live along HW1's old route in the Neak Loeng district, the same district where the resettlement site is located.

20-22 July: Field visit III

I met with the community researchers again to develop an FGD research plan and gave them a research orientation. We also piloted FGD with some SSC families in the resettlement site. On the following days, we conducted two FGD sessions (See scenes from the FGD sessions in PIC4 in Appendix 3).

25-26 September: Field visit IV

The research team conducted FGD with more community members. Altogether, we conducted four FGD sessions, which included not only SSC members on the resettlement site but also those who had moved out from the resettlement site to the old HW 1, those who lived far away from the resettlement site, as well as those who got cash compensation to continue to live in Kampong Soeung Commune where their original houses were located.

Having come back home after the field visit, I drafted an HHS questionnaire in English and sent it to the same field survey experts as before for comments. After about a week, I received comments from them, incorporated them, and finalized a HHS questionnaire. I then translated it into Khmer.

24 October: Field visit V

I met with the community researchers and co-developed a plan for HHS. I then gave them an

orientation on how to conduct HHS through a role play. I asked the community researchers to take turns to play the roles of researcher and respondent.

12 December: Field visit VI

I met with the community researchers and we went over the HHS plan again. The three community researchers then interviewed 40 SSC members over two weeks. The respondents included both those who lived on the resettlement site and who had already moved out from the resettlement site. The community researchers conducted HHS in person and by phone (See scenes from the HHS interviews in PIC5 in Appendix 3).

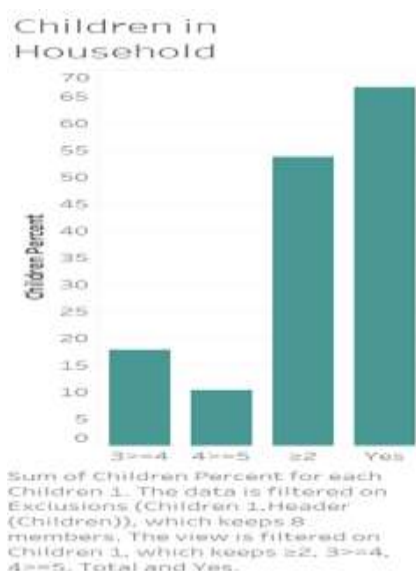
January 2021: Coding and entering the data

I met with the community researchers. We coded the results of both FGD and HHS. An external database expert helped enter the HHS results into one database. Based on the two sets of data, I drafted both FGD and HHS reports and sent them to research experts for comments. The following sections are based on the two reports.

3. RESULTS

I will now provide detailed descriptions, mostly quantitative, of SSC's current situations based mainly on my HHS analysis report. Of the 40 HHS respondents, 44.0% live on the resettlement site or nearby villages in Kampong Soeung Commune; the others live in villages outside Kampong Soeung Commune. 69.0% are female and 31.0% male. As for ethnicity, a great majority or 97.0% are Khmer and 3.0% Vietnamese. The respondents' average age is 59 years old with the youngest 33 and the oldest 83 years old.

3.1 Demography



With regard to a household composition, 74.0% of the respondents have 5-7 members in their family, 13.0% 2-4 members, 8.0% 7-10 members, and only 5.0% ≥2 members. 79.0% live with children: 66.0% have ≥2 children, while 22.0% 3-4 and 13.0% 4-5 children in their family (See Figure 1 below). 69.0% have elderly members in their household: 97.0% have ≥2 and 8.0% 3-4 elderlies. 21.0% have ≥2 disabled members in their household. 26.0% have at least one family member who has migrated to work: 15.0% have 1-2 members, of whom a majority or 79.0% work in Phnom Penh.

Figure 1: # of Children in SSC Household

3.2 Livelihood and Income

The respondents recalled their work before they had been relocated by the HW1 project. To list major ones, 19.0% engaged in self-employed home-based work, small businesses, and transportation service; 10.0% were employed in the informal sector (i.e., unskilled daily-waged labour and skilled labour), 11.0% raised livestock; 7.0% worked in the agriculture sector (i.e.,

helping paddy cultivation and harvesting plantation crops), and 5.0% fished and collected NTFPs (See Figure 2 below).

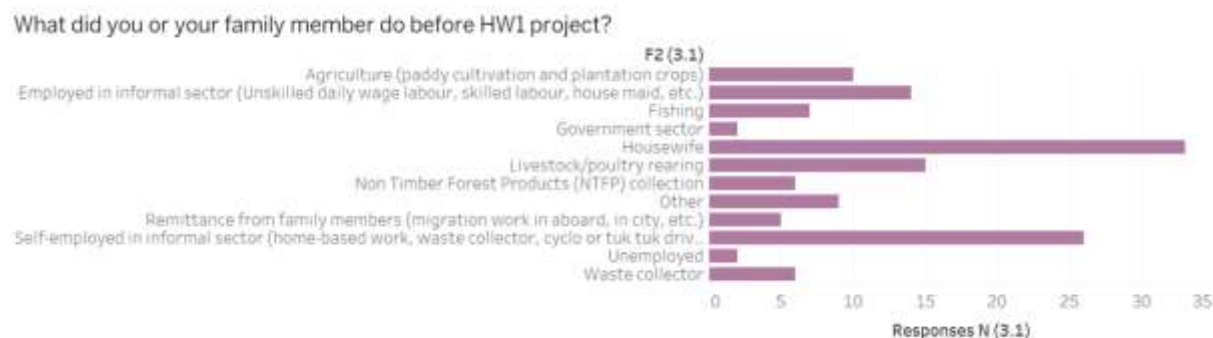


Figure 2: Livelihood Means among SSC members before Relocation

The same proportion of respondents (19.0%) is still self-employed, engaging in home-based work, waste collection, driving a *cyclo* or a *tuktuk*, small businesses, and trading. A slightly more proportion (14.0%) now engages in unskilled daily-waged labour, skilled labour, and housekeeping. A proportion of housewives has considerably decreased (24.0%), while the respondents who rely on remittance from other family members who have migrated to work in urban areas and aboard (13.0%) have more than doubled (See Figure 3 below). The respondents use various types of vehicles for their daily activities, especially commuting: 42.5% own a motorbike, 17.5% a bicycle, 12.5% a *tuktuk*, and 25.0% none.

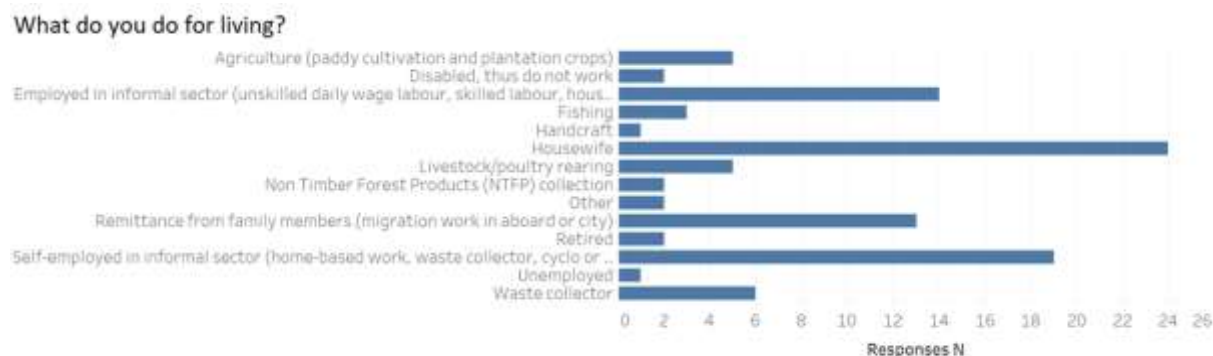


Figure 3: Current Livelihood Means among SSC Members

20 years have also seen dramatic changes in the landscape around the respondents and quite a few no longer depend on NTFPs, important natural resources for their livelihoods. When asked which natural resource(s) they use, 45.5% answered rivers; 15.0% public lakes; 9.0% wetlands; and 3.0% bushes, mountains, and forests. 35.0% of the respondents said that they have facilities for and/or access to jobs, while 18.0% said that they go somewhere else to access facilities for various services (See PIC2 in Appendix 3).

With regard to the respondents' current *monthly* income levels on average, 26.0% earn 51-100.00 USD, 15.0% 151-200.00 USD, and 13.0% 26-50.00 USD. It has been reported elsewhere that the 63 SSC families' average *daily* income at the pre-resettlement stage was 3.06 USD. It then decreased 1.93 USD in November 2007 and then slightly recovered to 2.21 USD in October 2008. These sets of data are not exactly comparable. However, it can be inferred that the SSC families' average monthly income might have come back to the pre-resettlement level, about 100.00 USD. On the other hand, a gap between the families who earn more and those who earn less than the average might have widened.

76.0% of the respondents said that their largest expense is on food, 35.0% education, 25.0% gasoline/travelling, and 22.0% house repairing. 87.0% have borrowed money. When asked

how they have spent the money, 27.0% answered for healthcare, 18.0% for food and repairing/building a house; and 21.0% for other household needs. As for where they have borrowed the money, 33.0% answered from MFIs, 29.0% from private creditors, 25.0% from saving groups, and 5.5% from commercial banks.

When asked about plans to improve their livelihoods, the respondents answered working in the agricultural sector (i.e., raising animals/cattle, fishing, and planting vegetables), running a small business (i.e., selling food, various goods, and/or gasoline in front of their house or along HW1), and providing transportation services (i.e., driving a motor taxi and/or a *tuk tuk*).

3.3 Housing, Land, and Property Ownership

95.0% of the respondents own a house. 44.0% said that their house is made from a mixture of wood and concrete with a zinc roof, 23.0% from metals, 13.0% wood, and 8.0% concrete. 76.0% own a plot of land with only a house on it; they have no space where they can farm or garden. 15.0% own a plot of land with a house as well as enough space for farming and gardening. 5.0% of the respondents live in a small house/hut on agricultural land and use the land primarily for agriculture. 47.5% live on the land plots given by the Cambodian government on the resettlement site, while 30.0% have sold the land on the resettlement and bought new land, and 15.0% inherited the land from their parents/relatives.

The respondents started land transactions as early as in 2000. They have paid over 2,000 USD/plot on average. Only 38.5% have signed a formal contract, 23.0% had a witness, and 3.0% gotten verification by local authorities. As of now, 61.5% have a land title, and 5.0% are in the process of land title registration. 64.0% of the respondents feel secure about their land ownership; in contrast 31.0% have experienced problems in these three years. In facing land conflicts, the respondents have tried to find solutions from different institutes: 69.0% have sought help from local authorities; 19.0% have taken the case to the court; and 12.5% have asked for support from NGOs. Only 8.0%, however, have found a solution.

3.4 Community Development

18.0% of the respondents have been helped by a commune council of administrative affairs, and 15.0% have received food assistance. There has been no recent support from NGOs. 77.0% do not think that the SCC community is well organized. While 67.0% have joined a saving group, many have pointed out challenges in running the group: 34.0% feel that the members become jealous with one another, 33.0% say that borrowing members do not return a loan, 11.0% say that some members do not save regularly, and 10.0% feel that credits from the saving group are too small to cover any meaningful expenses (See Figure 4 below).



Sum of Responses N (5.6) for each F2 (5.6). The view is filtered on F2 (5.6), which keeps 7 of 8 members.

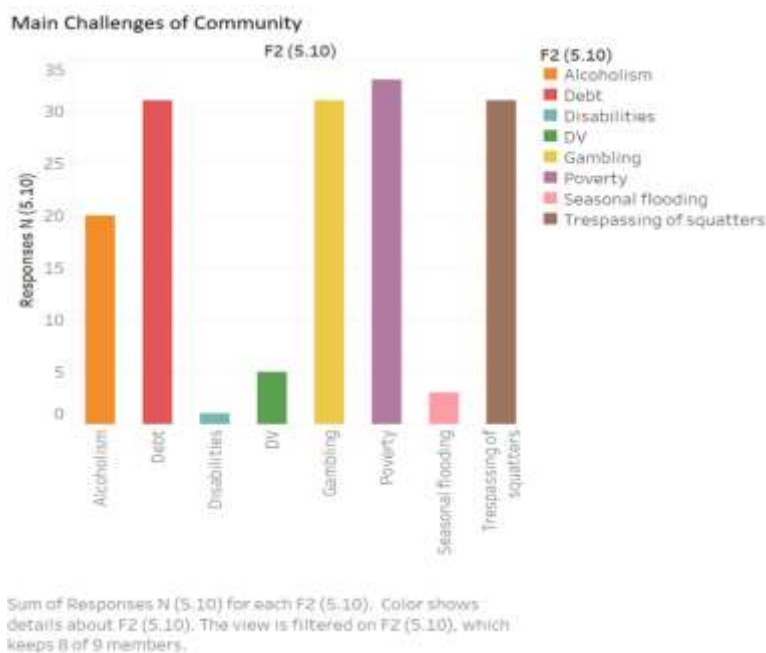
Figure 4: Challenges Faced by SSC Saving Group

33.0% attend a community meeting regularly. As for topics at a community meeting, 31.5% responded that they discuss challenges faced by the community, 24.0% responded that they vote for committee members and community development projects, and 13.0% responded that they review saving reports. For the respondents who do not participate in a community meeting, reasons include: they are not invited (38.5%); and they do not know about meetings

(15.0%).

After having moved out of the resettlement site, 61.5% still maintain their relationships with the families on the resettlement site: 47.0% are still SSC members; 34.0% participate in community meetings; and 10.0% often visit the resettlement site. The other respondents do not keep contact anymore because 80.0% said that they now live far from the resettlement site.

When asked about challenges facing the community, the respondents voiced poverty most frequently (21.0%) followed by debt, gambling, squatters (all 20.0%), and alcoholism (13.0%) (See Figure 5 below).



These challenges are getting worse recently. So many respondents suggest that the community focus finding ways to resolve a land dispute with the squatters first and then start re-organizing themselves to make other improvements by 1) renovating infrastructures such as roads, a community office, and pump-wells on the resettlement site and 2) initiating livelihood enhancement programs, especially for vulnerable groups such as elderlies, the disabled, and children so that they can repay the debt.

Figure 5: Challenges Facing SSC

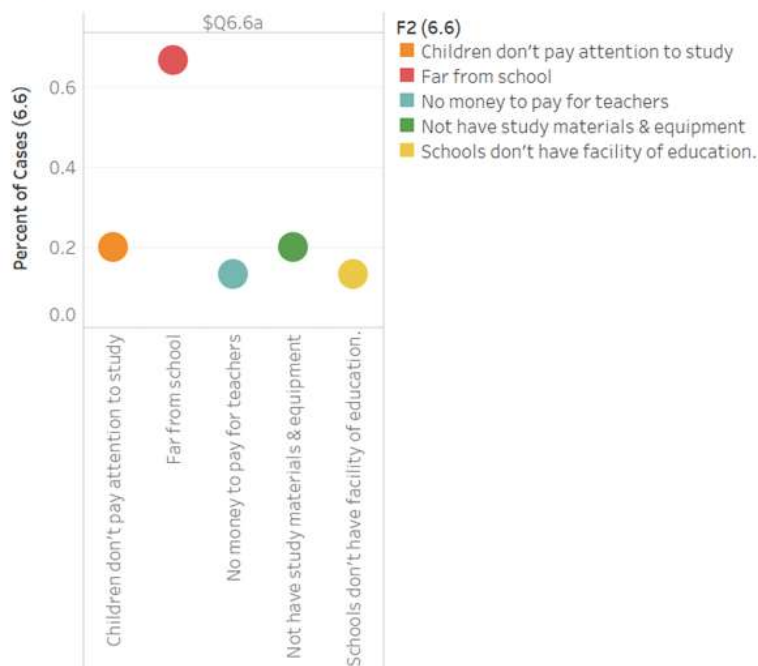
They also suggest that the community ask local authorities to develop public roads so that they can access river banks and preserve national resources so that they can fish and collect NTFPs. Furthermore, they suggest that the government provide a land social concession to the landless squatters and that they take measures to stop more squatters from coming into the resettlement site from Neak Loeung. They want local authorities to crack down on gambling and even make interventions into disputes in the community.

3.5 Children's Education

56.0% of the respondents have children under 18 years old in their households: 44.0% answered that their children do not attend school regularly. They do not go to school regularly because schools are far from home (44.0%), they need the children to work to help them earn income, and they have no money to pay for teachers (19.0%). The respondents spend very little money on their children's education: 20.5% spend less than 25.00 USD, 18.0% 25-50.00 USD, and only 3.0% 51-100.00 USD.

The respondents also explained why children have dropped out of school: Schools are far from home (50.0%); they do not have study materials and equipment and the children cannot concentrate on school work (15.0%); and schools do not have enough facilities and/or they have no money to pay for teachers (10.0%) (See Figure 6 below).

Main challenge for children in their study

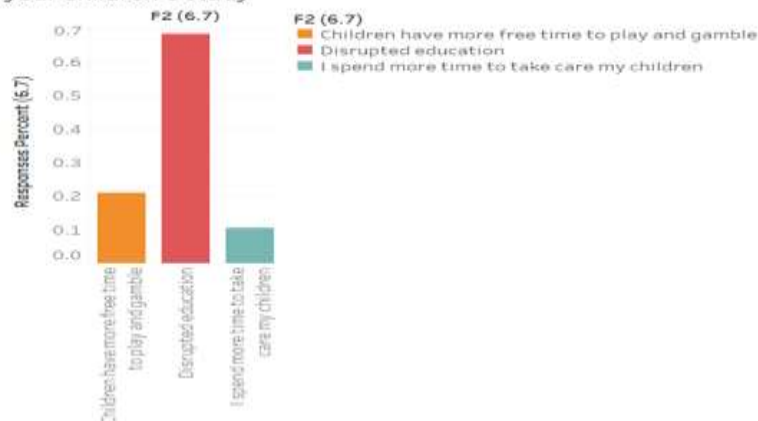


Sum of Percent of Cases (6.6) for each F2 (6.6) broken down by F1 (6.6). Color shows details about F2 (6.6). The view is filtered on F2 (6.6), which keeps Children don't pay attention to study, Far from school, No money to pay for teachers, Not have study materials & equipment and Schools don't have facility of education..

Figure 6: Reasons for SSC Children's Dropout from School

The COVID-19 outbreak seems to have had mixed impacts on the SSC children's schooling: while 68.0% feel that the outbreak has disrupted their children's schooling and 21.0% think that the children have more time to play freely and gamble, 10.0% feel that they are able to spend more time taking care of their children (See Figure 7 below).

COVID-19 impacts on your children's study



Sum of Responses Percent (6.7) for each F2 (6.7). Color shows details about F2 (6.7). The view is filtered on F2 (6.7), which keeps Children have more free time to play and gamble, Disrupted education and I spend more time to take care my children.

Figure 7: Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on SSC Children's Schooling

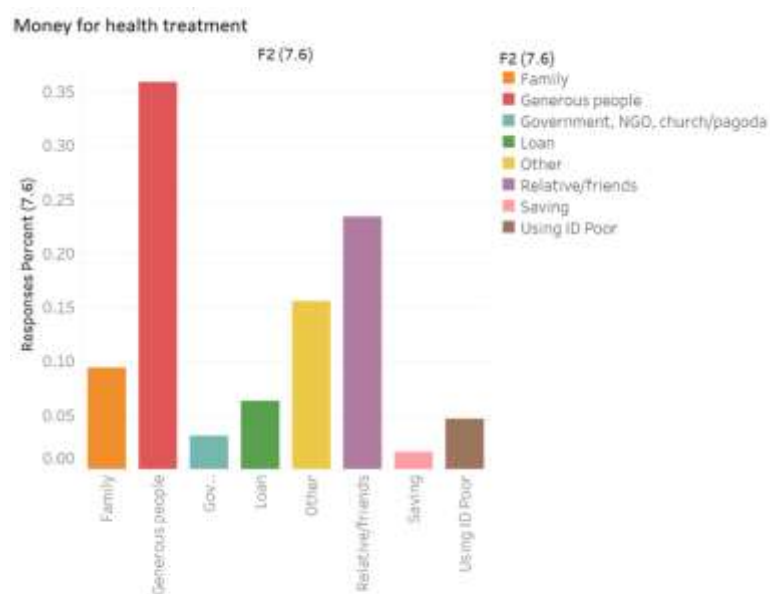
Strong awareness-building is needed to help the SSC parents understand the importance of

education so that they send their children to school regularly. It is also important to motivate the SSC children into studying at school instead of building inappropriate habits such as gambling. The parents also have to improve their career/business to earn more income to support their children's study at school.

3.6 Health and Disabilities

With regard to types of health challenges faced by the respondents, 56.5% named common diseases, 20.0% chronic diseases, and 6.5% mental health problems. The respondents access health services in various locations: 27.0% use health services in private clinics; 25.0% visit health centers, 23.0% buy medicine in pharmacies; and 10.0% go to hospital in Phnom Penh and/or use traditional herb medicine. As for means of transportation to access health services, 74.0% use a tuktuk, 17.0% a bus, and 7.0% a taxi.

While a good majority or 74.0% have someone in their household with health challenges, only 36.0% have ever been registered as an ID Poor Household. Of these households, only 5.0% have actually received free health services through ID Poor Card. 36.0% are helped by generous people, 23.0% by friends and relatives, 9.0% by family members, and 6.0% get a loan to pay medical bills (See Figure 8 below).



Sum of Responses Percent (7.6) for each F2 (7.6). Color shows details about F2 (7.6). The view is filtered on F2 (7.6), which keeps 8 of 9 members.

Figure 8: Financial Sources among SSC Members for Health Treatment

With regard to impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak on the respondents' health conditions and disabilities, 48.5% spend more money on food, masks and hand sanitizer, 38.0% experience home quarantine/self-isolation, and 3.0% cannot continue their work, including migratory work, and need to spend more money on the Internet and paying utility fees. During the pandemic 29.0% have been helped by neighbours, 18.0% by CRC, and 6.0% by family members and friends. As for types of help they received, 16.0% answered food, 12.0% practical tips for COVID-19 prevention, and 8.0% medicine, masks and hand sanitizer, as well as financial support.

To address health challenges faced by SSC, hygiene, the healthy living environment, and intake of nutritious food are particularly important. It is good that the respondents are aware of some COVID-19 infection preventive measures, such as washing hands with soap and/or sanitizer and not going out from home unless necessary, in accordance with recommendations by the Ministry of Health. The respondents also want the community to keep public space on

the resettlement site as a meeting point for the community members, as well as a place to rehabilitate disabled people and a playground for children.

3.7 Water and Sanitation

A great majority or 92.0% use water from pump-wells. At the same time, 94.0% do not think that pump-well water is safe enough and 12.0% are aware that the water from the community pump-wells have been tested by experts. For drinking and cooking, 65.0% use bottled water, while 12.0% and 18.0% pump-well water and river water respectively. 38.5% use a filter for water treatment. However, a majority or 79.0% have no plan to access piped water. The others want piped water because pump-well water is safe and/or not carrying water home from the pump-wells is troublesome.

Some families do not have a flush toilet at home. 71.0% use a toilet at their neighbors' house, 16.0% a toilet in an abandoned house, and 10.5% vacant land. Some respondents have no access to garbage services: 65.0% throw garbage on vacant land/rice fields and 4.0% bury garbage in the ground. When asked how they want to improve the environment of the community, an overwhelming majority suggested that they should place rubbish bins and clean the community together. They also suggested that they should reduce the amount of waste and that they should plant more trees.

3.8 Food Security and Safety

71.0% buy some food at a local market and some at their neighbors'/relatives'. 24.0% buy all food at their neighbors'/relatives'. 20.5% still fishing in rivers and lakes: 50.0% fishing for their own consumption; and 29.0% for their consumption as well as for selling. 25.0% have land to grow vegetables and 26.0% have enough land to raise livestock. 33.0% raise chicken and ducks and 14.0% pigs. As for how often they buy food, 68.0% responded every day and 32.0% two to three times a week. 30.0% buy food from street vendors, 26.0% from their neighbors, and 17.0% from the Neak Loeung market.

Only 7.0% afford three meals a day. 62.5% feel that they do not have secure access to food. 49.0% have tried to collect NTFPs for their own consumption, and 5.0% eat only rice with little vegetables or meat and borrow money to buy food. 58.0% also feel that food they purchase are not properly stored: 51.5% think that their food is unhealthy, 31.0% think that it is spoiled, and 17.0% feel that it is contaminated. To improve their food safety, the respondents have tried to save money by eating less. They need to learn to keep meat, vegetables, and other food in a bucket with ice until they are used up. The respondents also proposed that they ask the government for a food support program.

3.9 Physical Safety and Security

Since January 2020, 20.0% have experienced some crime: 29.0% have been mugged/robbed; 14.0% physically assaulted and robbed; and 7.0% sexually abused/harassed and robbed of vehicles and farm products. The respondents are most afraid of crimes in their neighborhood, including gang-related crimes and house-breaking/theft (21.0%), drug-related incidents (16.0%), and robbery (12.0%). In facing crimes, 22.0% turn to their neighbors for help and 11.0% to friends, police officers, and lawyers, while 33.0% do not seek help from others. The most frequently mentioned help is emotional support. Asked whether the respondents have noticed if the police are on duty or not in the community, 28.0% answered seldom, 24.0% sometimes, and 19.0% often. They also responded that the number of crimes has decreased when compared to the previous year. While depending on the police for suppressing crimes, the respondents said that they use some measures to protect themselves: 35.0% have installed special security door locks; 12.0% patrol the neighborhood; 10.0% avoid working after dark; and 9.0% try not to go out with much cash.

The respondents feel that crime incidents take place due to drinking alcohol, gambling, and using drugs. They also think that poverty and unemployment among youth lead to formation of gangster groups and that crimes and violence occur because laws are poorly enforced and authorities do not take appropriate and timely actions.

3.10 Resettlement Experience

Many respondents associated inadequate compensation with their HW1 resettlement experiences. They also said that they had had to move many times while demanding a land plot, that they could not work or run a business for a while, and that they had been in debt. Some responded that they might not have a land conflict if they had not moved to the resettlement site. The HW1 project has also impacted the landscape around the respondents and decreased their access to natural resources, which are important particularly to their livelihoods. For instance, it has become very difficult to go fishing. In addition, not many job opportunities are available and so some families have migrated to urban areas and/or even abroad.

With respect to the HW1 project's benefits, 43.0% said that it has become easy to commute to Phnom Penh and elsewhere, 29.0% said that they have gotten a land title/tenure security, and 10.0% said that they have a better house (See Figure 9 below).

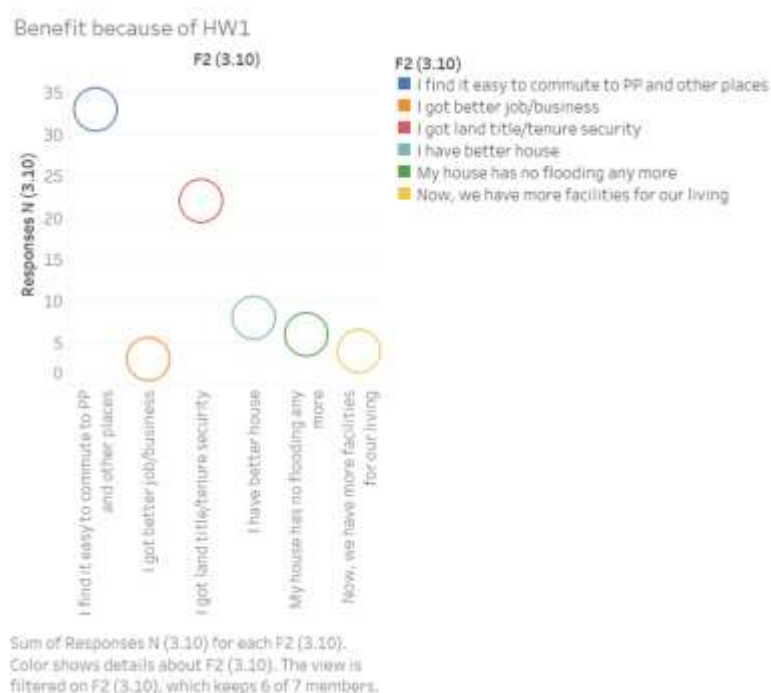


Figure 9: Perceived Benefits of HW1 Project among SSC Respondents

After having moved out of the resettlement site, 13.0% think that their life is improved. However, 38.5% feel that it is worse and 10.0% think that it is about the same (See Figure 10 below). Of those whose life is better, 8.0% have a better job/business, 12.5% own bigger land, and 10.0% have a better living environment. 40.0% feel that they are still poor.⁹

⁹ 44.0% have already moved out of the resettlement. 32.0% of them responded that they have found a better place, 29.0% have sold their land to return debts, and 23.0% have moved closer to a workplace.



Sum of Valid Percent for each F2 (3.7). The view is filtered on F2 (3.7), which keeps Get worse, Improved and The same.

Figure 10: Life after Moving out of the Resettlement Site

Overall 73.0% think that the HW1 project has made them poorer, while 13.0% feel that they have become less poor. With regards to reasons for becoming poorer, 51.0% think that without the HW1 project they would be less poor, 26.0% think that they would still live close to HW1, 17.5% think that they would not be in debt, 16.0% think that they would not have lost their business, and 14.0% think that they would not have lost good customers (See Figure 11 below).



Sum of Valid Percent (3.9) broken down by F2 (3.9). Color shows sum of Valid Percent (3.9). The marks are labeled by sum of Valid Percent (3.9). The view is filtered on F2 (3.9), which keeps 9 of 12 members.

Figure 11: Overall Perception on the HW1 Resettlement among SSC Respondents

4. ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

Based on the results of HHS and FGD, this action research has brought about major findings which can be presented under the following four headlines.

4.1 HW1's Economic Development and Benefits to the SSC Families

The area around the resettlement site has developed considerably but the SSC families are not being benefitted very much. The area around SSC, especially along HW1, has developed considerably in economic terms compared to when the community members were resettled about 20 years ago. Many big hotels, guesthouses, and restaurants have been built. Large commercial banks and companies have started business. Both sides of HW1 are seasonally flooded but many parts have now been reclaimed. A modern concrete bridge has been constructed across the Mekong river through financial assistance by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) (See PIC6, PIC7, and PIC8 in Appendix 3).

The economic development in the area, however, has not benefited the SSC families very much. Although it has created new employment opportunities, for instance, hotel clerks and restaurant waitresses/waiters, the SSC members have not been trained to be hired for these positions. A few members work as cleaners and guards at guesthouses. Wages/salaries for these and other available positions are higher than before. So are living expenses, however. Living costs in the area are getting close to those in urban centers. Many SSC families have borrowed money to build a house and start/keep a business. Some have needed money to pay medical bills. They borrow money from community saving groups, private leaders, and/or micro-finance institutions.

The rapid economic development is bringing about new challenges. Most serious is land speculation. Land prices in the area have sky-rocketed. Rich people have started visiting the resettlement site and telling the SSC families to sell their land plot, which they got for resettlement compensation. The rich people have succeeded purchasing quite a few land plots, especially from the families who were struggling with debts and/or looking for a bigger piece of land. Moreover, a number of new families, some of whom are landless, have come to occupy public and other open spaces, for instance, land around pump-wells, along the entry road, and even inside HW1's ROW (right of the way) in and next to the resettlement site.¹⁰ This is making it difficult for the SSC families to access clean water and hold community activities. The squatter families have also sold the occupied land to others and often continue to stay where they are. This is making land ownerships in the resettlement site extremely complicated.

4.2 SSC's Disintegration as a Coherent Community

Almost half of the SSC members have left the resettlement site and the community is disintegrating. In 2003, when the SSC families moved into the resettlement site, 39 land plots were allocated to them.¹¹ Now, 21 families still live there, which means that 18 have moved out. Some of them have sold their land plot, have purchased less expensive land along HW1's old route, and are living there. Eight families keep their properties on the resettlement site and have migrated to urban centers such as the capital Phnom Penh, which is 70.0 km away. A few have gone to work in neighboring Thailand.

Major reasons so many SSC families have left the resettlement site are economic, that is, seeking for better livelihood means elsewhere. On the resettlement site, most families earn income by selling goods, such as snacks, cigarettes, coffee, and gasoline, at a small space in front of their house. Running shops, however, gets harder for the members whose houses are further in the back and away from HW1. For some, the allotted 7 x 13 m land is too small to plant vegetables and raise animals. The SSC families also earn additional income by collecting and selling snails, crickets, morning glory, firewood, recyclable materials, etc. around the resettlement site. However, finding NTFPs (non-timber forest products) and other natural resources has also become more difficult because forests, lakes, and creeks are disappearing.

The SSC members who have moved to the HW1's old route grow and sell mango trees. Some plant cucumbers, pumpkins, and gourds; Others collect recyclable materials (See PIC3 in Appendix 3). The families who have migrated to urban centers are often employed at garment factories and construction sites. Although the members who live close to the resettlement site try to maintain ties with the community, SSC has been disintegrating and weakened as a community. This is very worrying because group coherence and solidarity function as a mutual support system and give the community power to cope with challenges. One of the motivations behind the action research was to create opportunities for the SSC members to meet and talk with each other so that they could reactivate mutual relationships. One of the members who still stays in touch with the community said, "We are poor and affected people by the HW1 project. We have to have solidarity among ourselves and help each other".

4.3 The SSC Families' Dependence on Natural Resources in the Project Area

Natural resources the SSC families have depended on are mostly gone or have become private properties, which makes it very hard for the families to continue to utilize them. The action research has revealed how much the SSC families have depended on natural resources in the area for their livelihoods. Some testified that there used to be a big lake named Boeung Tros nearby, which was surrounded by many tall trees. They went fishing there or to other lakes/wetlands and often took sand to use it to build houses and pagodas. They also collected

¹⁰ The total number of squatters is around 30.

¹¹ When the resettlement site was established in 2003, 48 land plots were allotted, of which 9 were given to flood victims who moved in from the Varmy village. Most of the 39 SSC families also got a land title later on.

a variety of NTFPs in forests. They used to see many more rice paddies, farmlands, and orchards, too. In fact, the area is known for its agricultural productivity. One woman said, while recalling:

“This area was in between farms and local markets where villagers from Svay Rieng and Prey Veng Provinces always passed by, commuting to farms and going to buy crops and vegetables.... Many men practiced fishing and provided services like repairing bikes, operating transportations, and working as seasonal laborers on rice paddies”.

Many of the lakes and forests, however, have become private properties and are blocked access from the public. Worse, some companies take soil there and sell it to construction sites in cities. Farmlands and orchards have been sold to private owners, too. Both sides of HW1 around the resettlement site are flood plains but many parts have been reclaimed to create new land. People who have capitals have purchased these lands but often keep them for speculation and leave them unused for productive purposes such as agriculture, decreasing livelihood opportunities for the SSC families, who used to be hired as seasonal workers.

In retrospect, HW1 project-related materials, not only those made by ADB but also those by sympathetic NGOs and researchers tended not to sufficiently address the importance of natural resources to the SSC and some other project-affected families. SSC women were typically thought of as running small-scale house-shops and men involved in the transport sector as horse cart/tricycle/tuk tuk/motor drivers and repairers. The reality was that they earned quite a bit of complementary cash income through these more ad-hoc, less visible (and sometimes gender-differentiated) livelihood means.

4.4 COVID-19 Impacts on the SSC Families

Although no member has contracted COVID-19, the pandemic has still affected the SSC families badly in several ways. As of this writing, the number of reported COVID-19 infection cases in Cambodia is low compared to other countries in Southeast Asia (SEA). No infection case has been reported among the SSC families. However, many Cambodians, especially those who work in the informal sector, have lost their jobs due to the economic slow-down in the country and globally.

Many SSC members who were employed in and around urban centers have been laid off and come back home. Those who work at home have suffered income loss. For instance, an SSC member who regularly collects garbage has told that his average daily income has dropped from 5.0-7.0 to 2.5 USD, which is about or less than half of what he was earning before the pandemic. Some families try to eat less and/or mostly rice with prahok to save money.

The Cambodian government has announced provision of a 40.0 USD relief fund to every citizen and encouraged company/factory owners to give 30.0 USD to laid-off workers. A number of international institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have offered emergency assistance to Cambodia with most focusing on Phnom Penh and the country's eastern/northeastern provinces where many indigenous/ethnic minority groups live. Not much assistance has reached the central and southern provinces, including Prey Veng Province, where SSC is located.

All schools were shut between March and November 2020.¹² Public schools broadcasted compensatory teaching programs for children on TV and the social media. Children at the SSC families, however, have limited access to communication devices such as TV sets and smartphones, and so were able to make little use of the remote teaching. This is alarming

¹² All Cambodian schools were shut again for two weeks at the end of November 2020 due to the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. As of this writing, schools are shut yet again after 22 February 2021 due to the third wave of the outbreak.

because SSC teenagers, especially girls, were known to drop out of school very frequently even before the COVID-19 outbreak, mainly due to their parents' lack of money to spend for their children's education. Not being able to fully participate in the compensatory program during the pandemic makes it difficult for the SSC teenagers to keep up with school work.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

Throughout the action research, the SSC families voiced several ideas to improve their situations. For instance, several SSC members have the government-issued "ID Poor Card", which entitles the holder with free medical/health treatment as well as a monthly COVID-19 relief fund. According to them, the village chief played a key role in getting them the card. So, some families suggested that SSC as a group contact and ask the village chief for help so that more families could be registered in the program.

The SSC families also suggested that the community should:

- 1) Collectively rent a space in the local market to sell goods and products;
- 2) Encourage the members who owe the community a debt to return the money, with which to reactivate the revolving fund to support both existing and new jobs;
- 3) Invest in the agricultural sector, i.e., collectively rent a farmland to plant crops, make rice field, raise chickens and other animals;
- 4) Focus first on ways to resolve a land dispute with the squatters on the resettlement site, for instance, by asking authorities to approve a social land concession for the squatters. Then start reorganizing the community to make other improvements, e.g., renovating community infrastructures such as entry roads and pump-wells and initiating livelihood enhancement programs;
- 5) Contact school principals and ask them to provide scholarships and other support to the children from the SSC families;
- 6) Involve more male members in the community committee to integrate their views and support into community activities;
- 7) Outreach groups of farmers, middle-men, retailers, and buyers to establish a network of producers, transporters, and consumers of SSC goods and products;
- 8) Clean the resettlement site together by installing rubbish bins, planting more trees, and helping the SSC members reduce the amount of waste they produce daily; and
- 9) Carry out more detailed research on SSC's food security and safety to learn how to improve health conditions of the community members, especially children, elderlies, and members with disabilities.

I would like to discuss the ideas with the SSC members, assess feasibility of each idea and needed resources, and put prioritized ones into practice.

6. CONCLUSIONS

Individual differences do emerge among the SSC families in terms of the current level of their living conditions. While some have managed to save part of the money they got by selling the land on the resettlement site, started a new business, and become able to pay for their children's education or even job training courses, a few others have become landless. However, the following statement made by one participant in the action research seems to capture the overall feelings of many SSC families:

"Suppose there was no HW1 (expansion) project, we would still be living along the road, selling things, and having much work to do because we would live along the road. We would not have such problems as land conflicts with new squatters. We would still have lakes. We would go fishing and collecting plants at lakes and NTFPs in forests as before. We would never buy food and our income would be saved. Now, we have to buy everything. There is no nature

around us. There is no organic food, which makes our health worse. Also, we don't have cars to make use of this road. Instead, we experience traffic accidents."

It would require more full-fledged research to conclude that the challenges facing SSC currently are due to ADB's lack of supervision over the HW1 project's resettlement more than 20 years ago. At the same time, it should be fair to say that if the SSC families had been resettled more properly, or not resettled at all, their hardships would be much less. This part of their story should be taken by ADB to its heart. In other words, ADB should pay particular attention to socially vulnerable communities like SSC rights at the very beginning of its safeguard due diligence. Otherwise, the institution would always end up leaving some people behind.

For that, NGOs are expected to continue to watch large-scale development projects supported by ADB and other financial institutions closely and carefully. It is hoped that no other local community will have to experience the same hardships SCC members are still going through.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Resettlement Challenges of ADB's HW1 Project¹³

The Highway 1 Project

On 15 December 1998, ADB's Board of Directors approved a 40 million USD loan to support the Cambodian government's plan to rehabilitate HW1 that runs from Phnom Penh to the Cambodia-Vietnam border. The project was to renovate a 105.5 km section of HW1 between the Mekong River ferry crossing and the Cambodia-Vietnam border. The project was financed by a loan from ADB's concession arm, the Asian Development Fund (ADF). ADB's 1997 feasibility study estimated that 5,920 Cambodians in 1,184 households would be affected. ADB's 1995 Policy on Involuntary Resettlement was to safeguard these families from becoming economically and socially worse-off after the resettlement.

Failed Resettlement Program

The reality was quite the opposite. When the resettlement started in 2000, most families received no compensation for lost land. They did receive compensation for affected structures, such as the house, but the amount was significantly deducted. Relocated villagers ended up living temporarily on somebody else's land. They were sometimes told by the landowner to move out. This made it extremely difficult for them to restore their life and livelihood. Every time they relocated, they had to spend some money to re-establish. Some families had to borrow a high-interest loan from private lenders because they had no access to commercial loans. In short, many project-affected villagers were made landless, houseless, and jobless. These problems occurred because the ADB Management had mistakenly approved a sub-standard resettlement program submitted by the Cambodian government.

Cambodian NGOs documented the problems facing resettled families living along HW1.¹⁴ They issued a report on 14 February 2002 and pointed out to ADB that the Project had not complied with the bank's 1995 resettlement policy. The NGOs' report also suggested that ADB should immediately conduct a more comprehensive investigation over the entire project area. ADB sent several missions to Cambodia to improve the implementation of the resettlement program but only in localized ways. ADB did not respond to the project's failures in more systematic ways until much later.

Resettlement Audit and Unsolved Problems

In November 2004, more than two years after having become aware of the resettlement's failure, ADB finally started the Project's resettlement audit research. An audit report submitted to the Cambodian government in March 2005 confirmed most of the problems that had been pointed out by Cambodian NGOs three years before for the entire project area. The report also admitted that ADB had mistakenly approved the Cambodian government's resettlement program, which was not in compliance with ADB's Policy on Involuntary Resettlement.¹⁵

Based on the audit results, ADB recommended to the Cambodian government that eligible families should be repaid the compensation. ADB also suggested that a tripartite working group, consisting of the government, ADB, and NGO representatives, should be formed to oversee repayment processes and to address any outstanding complaints that might arise.¹⁶ After the first quarter of 2006, many resettled villagers finally received compensation that had originally been anticipated under ADB's policies and procedures. However, affected villagers' complaints persisted. Some argued that they were landless, when the government told them that they had enough land left to live on even after the

¹³ Based on Mekong Watch. "Highway One: Phnom Penh to Ho Chi Minh City Highway Project (ADB Loan 1659-CAM)--Cambodian Communities' Struggles to Hold the ADB Accountable for a Failed Resettlement Program." <http://www.mekongwatch.org/english/country/cambodia/HighwayOne/index.html>

¹⁴ NGOs' documentation of the resettlement failure: NGO Forum on Cambodia's Letter to the Cambodian Government on Behalf of 99 Affected Families, dated 14 February 2002.

¹⁵ Resettlement problems documented in the ADB-funded research: [Chea Sarin. 2005. Country Report: Cambodia; and Chea Sarin. 2007. Capacity Building for Resettlement Risk Management: Cambodia Country Report](#)

¹⁶ Results of the ADB's resettlement audit: [ADB's Resettlement Audit Report, dated 7 May 2008](#). NGOs' critique of the audit: [Sugita, Rena. 2005. Challenges for Implementing ADB's Resettlement Policy in Cambodia: The Case of Highway One.](#)

resettlement. Others reported that their compensation money had never reached them for some reason. Yet others complained that they had ended up using the compensation to pay back the debt they had accumulated and that they still could not restore their living standards to those at the pre-project level.¹⁷

63 Families' Filing of an Official Grievance

On 28 July 2007, 63 members of the Kraing Kaok and Steung Slot Communities living in Neak Loeung Commune, Prey Veng Province asked a Cambodian NGO, the Conservation and Development on Cambodia (CDCam), to represent them in a case filed with ADB's Office of Special Project Facilitator (SPF).¹⁸ Most of the 63 families were already repaid the compensation in 2006. However, in their letter of grievance they claimed, among other things: 1) that they still could not restore their life and livelihood; 2) that they could not pay back the debt accumulated during the time when they had not been properly compensated; and 3) that they should immediately be given a land title for a resettled land at no cost, as promised in ADB's project document. The two communities also requested that SPF should examine complaints voiced by other villagers affected by the HW1 Project.

The Case Found Eligible

Mr. Robert May, SPF, visited Cambodia in August 2007 and met with two community leaders, as well as CDCam staff. CDCam strongly suggested that SPF should take the opportunity and speak with as many villagers as possible in the Kraing Kaok and Steung Slot Communities. However, SPF said that the purpose of his visit that time was to check the eligibility of the two community leaders, who had signed the grievance letters, and promised that he would come back to meet the other villagers. Likewise, Mr. May did not agree to visit other affected communities along HW1. NGOs and affected villagers were disappointed because SPF had missed a great opportunity to learn about the problems created by the ADB-funded project. After having returned to the ADB headquarters in Manila, SPF declared the 63 families' case as eligible on 19 September 2007.

The next step was for SPF to revisit the 63 families, interview them to gather more information, and draft a Review and Assessment Report (RAR). However, SPF was not able to meet the communities. SPF explained that he had failed to obtain permission from the Cambodian government to carry out his second mission to Cambodia. On 7 October 2007, without any prior consultations, SPF informed the two communities and CDCam that he would draft an RAR without a site visit. SPF subsequently sent a draft RAR in English and Khmer to CDCam and the 63 families, seeking for their comments through a Cambodian consultant. However, the families found it hard to comment on SPF's draft report, as it was not as full-fledged as had been expected.

CARM Pressured to Conduct a New Survey

On 1 November 2007, CARM contacted CDCam and proposed a new socio-economic survey to be conducted on the Kraing Kaok and Steung Slot Communities. It was suspected that CARM had been pressured by SPF's acceptance of the 63 families' grievance into taking some action. The two communities and CDCam agreed to work with CARM on this research. Between 21 and 27 November, two ADB officials interviewed 62 families (in a few cases their relatives and/or neighbors who could speak on their behalf). One family was not available for the survey. It was obvious to the ADB officials that the 63 families' debt and livelihood problems had emerged as a result of the HW1 Project's resettlement failure. They said that they would analyze survey results and make proposals by mid-February 2008.

"The Massive Disruption...was a Disaster"

CARM's report on the socio-economic survey, while being careful about directly attributing the 63 families' hardships to ADB's lack of supervision over the HW1 Project's resettlement processes,

¹⁷ For unsolved issues, see [Levitt, Joanna, et al. 2007. Slide Show at the ADB Safeguards Panel, May 2007 in Kyoto, Japan. Sin, Chhin & Leakhana Kol. 2007. Testimony at the ADB Safeguards Panel, May 2007 in Kyoto, Japan \(01:57-04:26\).](#)

¹⁸ 63 families' grievance: [The Kraing Kaok Community's Grievance Letter to SPF, dated 25 July 2007 \(original in Khmer\). The Steung Slot Community's Grievance Letter to SPF, dated 25 July 2007 \(original in Khmer\). Selected Narratives from the Kraing Kaok Community, submitted to SPF on 20 August 2007. Selected Narratives from the Steung Slot Community, submitted to SPF on 20 August 2007.](#)

stated:¹⁹

It is not correct to conclude that the ill-planned and executed resettlement plan for the Highway 1 Project is the root of the present impoverished situation of most of the 63 APs [affected persons]. These APs were mostly very poor even before the Project, with no reliable back-up source of sustenance and livelihood in case of disasters happening, such as during floods, death of a productive member of the household, and even displacement from domicile and place of business...Barring unforeseen calamities, such as floods and illness or deaths, the people were earning barely enough to keep the household alive, but not enough to send children to school...The massive disruption brought about by the Project to the lives of the people living along the ROW [Right of Way] was a disaster. Families had to be uprooted over and over again, disrupting their socio-economic activities. With no properties and tangible assets to depend on, coupled with a faulty resettlement carried out by Project authorities, the APs had very slim chance of being able to recover from the Project's adverse social and economic impacts and restore their lives to pre-Project levels (emphasis added).

It is not totally incorrect to compare what happened to the 63 families to a natural disaster. Their impoverished situations are becoming a humanitarian issue. Indeed, had this been a case of communities hit by a natural disaster, the families might not have been left unattended for such a long time.

Further Grievance Blocked

The grievance initiated by the 63 families encouraged other HW1-affected communities into considering sending their cases to SPF, too. However, in December 2007, the ADB Management issued HW1's Project Completion Report (PCR). ADB's policy on Accountability Mechanism states that a complaint submitted to SPF on a project for which a PCR has already been issued is no longer eligible to be investigated. This greatly surprised affected families and NGOs, because the ADB Management had earlier promised to NGOs that HW1's PCR would not be issued until all outstanding complaints were resolved. The ADB Management took away project-affected villager's rights to file a grievance with the Accountability Mechanism. The issued PCR did not mention the 63 families' case filed with SPF, either. ADB downplayed the magnitude of the problems experienced by the 63 families and the significance of their grievance.

On 11 March 2008, NGO Forum on Cambodia wrote to ADB on the issuance of the HW1 Project's PCR, reminding ADB, among others, about their earlier commitment on 16 March 2007, i.e., "[ADB accepts NGO Forum on Cambodia's] suggestion of not having a final closure of the Resettlement Audit Report and PCR until the outstanding issues are reviewed and finalized during a next tripartite meeting between the NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGO Forum), IRC, and ADB." NGO Forum on Cambodia also pointed out that Mr. Nessim Ahmad, ADB's Director of the Environment and Social Safeguards Division, reiterated this commitment in public, while he was speaking at a panel discussion during ADB's annual meeting in Kyoto, Japan in May 2007. In their response on 21 March 2008, ADB defended the issuance of the PCR. One of the main reasons they cited was, "*the [PCR] has to be issued by the ADB 12 to 24 months after project completion (civil works completion). This is a mandatory requirement under ADB's Operations Manual (OM Section KIIOP paragraph 5) for operations evaluation purposes related to independent evaluation by ADB's Operations Evaluation Department. The project completion for the [HW1 Project] occurred in September 2005, and Loan Account was closed on 12 May 2006. Consequently, the PCR should have been issued at the very latest by September 2007.*"²⁰

Communities Situations Worsened

The mid-February 2008 deadline for CARM's proposals on solutions was not met. CDCam contacted CARM several times for inquiries but was only told a new deadline. CARM also did not give CDCam and the two communities much information on what solutions might look like. In May 2008, CDCam sent a letter to CARM, calling for a tripartite meeting to update all the parties involved, CARM, the Cambodian government, and NGOs. CARM's answer was that they were designing a livelihood

¹⁹ Results of CARM's socio-economic survey: [ADB's November 2007 Mission Report in Appendix 7 of the ADB's Resettlement Audit Report, dated 7 May 2008.](#)

²⁰ [ADB's HW1 Project Completion Report \(PCR\), dated December 2007. ADB Director's Reference to the HW1 PCR at the ADB's Annual Meeting in May 2007 in Kyoto, Japan. NGO Forum's Letter to the ADB, dated 11 March 2008. ADB's Response to the NGO Forum Letter, dated 21 March 2008.](#)

stabilization program and would conduct an operations review by mid-June 2008. CARM did not agree to hold a tripartite meeting, however. In June 2008, CDCam wrote another letter, asking CARM for more details about the proposed program, but received no response. In the meantime, the 63 families' situations worsened. By May 2008, a few families in the communities had reportedly sold their land to the creditors. This was the land that they had received as part of the compensation repayment in 2006. The two community leaders were afraid that several more families might lose their land to the creditors, unless effective measures were taken immediately.

NGO Survey on the 63 Families' Debt and Income

In October 2008, CDCam conducted a short survey to find out the current debt and income levels of the 63 families.²¹ Results were compared with those of CARM's November 2007 socio-economic survey. CDCam's findings included:

1. The total debt shouldered by all the 63 families decreased from 42,777.50 USD in November 2007 to 40,657.91 USD in October 2008 by 2,119.59 USD;
2. The average debt for each family was 666.52 USD in October 2008 with a slight decrease, as compared to 689.96 USD in November 2007; and
3. The average daily income earned by each family decreased from 3.06 USD at the pre-project stage to 1.93 USD in November 2007. It then slightly increased to 2.21 USD in October 2008.

The 63 families' total debt dropped by about 2,000 USD between November 2007 and October 2008. This, however, was not necessarily because they were able to pay back the money themselves. After having asked the 63 families more questions, CDCam found that at least one more family seemed to have sold their land to the creditor presumably to pay back their debt. Some families received assistance from relatives and/or depended on family members who had migrated to work in larger cities, where better income-generating jobs could be available. Thus, some villagers are working much harder and under less favorable conditions to return the family debt. CDCam's analysis does not include the money, either the principal or the interest, which might have already been returned by the villagers to their creditors.

SPF Agreed to Put the Case on Hold

Now that CARM had completed its own survey, the 63 families had to work simultaneously with two ADB Management offices, SPF and CARM. This was very confusing to the villagers. SPF could directly report to the ADB President and thus might be more effective. But SPF was not able to come and visit them in Cambodia to learn more about their problems. CARM interviewed each member of the two communities face-to-face and recorded their problems in detail. However, it was still very unclear if the CARM survey would actually lead to effective redressing measures. In January 2008, after some discussions with NGOs, the 63 families proposed that SPF should temporarily postpone the grievance processes until they would learn more about the outcomes of CARM's survey.[10] In February 2008, SPF agreed with the families and decided to put the case on hold.

Neither ADB's Policy on the Accountability Mechanism or SPF's grievance procedures talk about putting a case on hold after it is filed with the mechanism. So SPF had to make up his mind and did respond favorably to the communities' request. Both NGOs and the 63 families welcomed SPF's precedent-setting decision to wait until the families could learn more from the ADB Management about the outcome of the November 2007 CARM research. SPF's action was in line with one of the mechanism's fundamental principles that it had been created to benefit people who are affected by ADB-funded projects.

The Livelihood Stabilization Program (LSP)

In mid-July, CARM distributed to some Cambodian NGOs a concept paper on a 1.8 million grant to launch the Livelihood Stabilization Program (LSP). ADB also created a Project/Program Information Document (PID) on LSP on 5 August 2008, as per its Public Communication Policy.²² According to these two documents and what CARM explained to NGOs and the 63 families, LSP would mainly

²¹ [CDCam's Letter to Reiterate the Communities' Request to Postpone the Case, dated 4 February 2008. SPF's Response to Agree to Postpone the Case, dated 7 February 2008.](#)

²² [The Livelihood Stabilization Program \(LSP\): ADB's Concept Paper on the LSP, dated 30 May 2008. ADB's Program Information Document \(PID\) on the LSP, created on 5 August 2008.](#)

provide recipients with a four-year low-interest (1% a month) micro-credit loan and job skills training for livelihood improvement. The proposed amount of LSP was rather huge. This was because LSP was designed to support not only the 63 families, but also all the other eligible villagers living along HW1, as well as those to be resettled by a different section of the same road, which was at that time under renovation through the Japanese government's bilateral grant aid to the Cambodian government. LSP's main purposes were to improve project-affected families' livelihood means and to increase their cash income by micro-finance operations and job skills training. LSP was to be financed by ADB's Japan Poverty Reduction Fund.

While the 63 families welcomed ADB's intentions to help them restore their life and livelihood, they had a number of questions and concerns over the architecture of LSP, including:

1. The communities should be given a grant to pay off all their debt, because the Cambodian government will be funded with a grant from ADB;
2. The 1% monthly interest is still too high;
3. The four-year program implementation period is too short;
4. LSP may not benefit very poor families, e.g., families with only elderly members, or those who need to spend much time to complete job skills training. It is not fair to expect these families to quickly improve their livelihood and pay back the LSP loan; and
5. ADB should immediately implement solutions to improve the situations of the 63 families.

Unless ADB responds sufficiently to these shortcomings, the communities felt that LSP would not solve all of their problems. Also, LSP's details were not yet disclosed to them. They wanted CARM to give them more information on LSP in Khmer. They then wanted ADB to incorporate their input into LSP before ADB makes any important decisions, such as approving LSP. The 63 families submitted these comments to CARM in writing in July and December 2008.²³

The 63 families' situations were not getting better and would not significantly improve without effective external interventions, which ADB was most responsible for, because the families' hardships started from ADB's lack of sufficient supervision over the HW1 Project's resettlement procedures. ADB needed to work with the Cambodian government to provide the families with a grant to pay back all the debt, as opposed to merely setting up a micro-credit to continue to tie them with new loans, so that the families could restore their life and livelihood to the pre-project levels. Otherwise, ADB could not claim that the HW1 Project was implemented in compliance with its Policy on Involuntary Resettlement.

LSP's PID originally indicated that ADB's Board of Directors would approve the LSP in October 2008. Subsequently, the approval date was delayed until 26 January 2009.

²³ Reactions from the communities/NGOs and the ADB's response: [The 63 Families' Initial Comments on the LSP, dated 28 June 2008 \(original in Khmer\)](#). [Mekong Watch's Submission to ADB's Southeast Asia Department, dated 20 November 2008](#). [ADB's Response to Mekong Watch's Submission, dated 14 December 2008](#). [The 63 Families Requests on the LSP, dated 7 December 2008 \(original in Khmer\)](#). [ADB's Response to the 63 Families' Request, dated 23 December 2008](#).

Appendix 2: Household Survey Questionnaire

Still Struggling: A Cambodian Community's Assessment and Response to Long-Term Negative Effects of Involuntary Relocation

In May 2019, Ms. Sin Chhin, elected leader of Stung Slot Community, called Leakhana Kol, former officer of the NGO Forum on Cambodia who used to work with Stung Slot Community since 2002. Ms. Chhin explained to her about the community's delayed restoration from the relocation in the early 2000s. While Ms. Chhin and Leakhana discussed what could be done, she brought up needs to collect good evidence on the relocation effects based on which the community members could develop suggestions on possible solutions.

This interview won't take much of your time and your answer will be treated confidentially and anonymously. The survey will help your community people, the authorities and the development organizations to learn of your feelings about relocation, income restoration here, and any problems you may face. I would be grateful if you would take 40 minutes or 1 hour to answer these questions.

1. GENERAL

Firstly, may I ask some questions that provide a description profile of yourself?

1.1	Date of Interview (Use listing dd/m)	1.2	Name of Interviewer (Use allocated code number)
1.3	Place of Interview (village name, commune, district) 1= Stung Slot resettlement site 2= village in Kampong Soeung Commune 3= village not in Kampong Soeung Commune	1.4	Sex of Respondent 1=male 2= female
1.5	Race of Respondent 1= Vietnam 2= Khmer Muslim 3= Khmer Krom 4= Khmer	1.6	Age of Respondent (Enter actual age at next birthday)

2.10	<p>Do you or any other member of your household where you live own any of the following vehicles?</p> <p>1= bicycle 2= motor-bike 3= car 4= van 5= tuk-tuk 6= none</p>
2.11	<p>What do you do for a living?</p> <p>1= student 2= unemployed</p> <p>3= housewife 4= retired</p> <p>5= employed in the informal sector (unskilled daily wage labour, skilled labour, house maid, etc.)</p> <p>6= self-employed in the informal sector (home-based work, waste collector, cyclo or tuk tuk driver, small business, trade, etc.)</p> <p>7= disabled, thus do not work 8= fishing</p> <p>9= livestock/poultry rearing 10= agriculture (paddy cultivation and plantation crops)</p> <p>11= Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP) collection</p> <p>12= handcraft 13= waste collector</p> <p>14= government sector</p> <p>15= remittance from family members (migration work abroad, migration work in city, etc.)</p> <p>16= other (specify)</p>
2.12	<p>Is anyone of your family members migrant workers?</p> <p>1= yes 2= no. If no, move to Q. 2.14.</p>
2.13	<p>Where do they work?</p> <p>1= Phnom Penh 2= other city 3= abroad</p>
2.14	<p>Are there any natural resources around that are important for your livelihood?</p> <p>1= public lake 2= river 3= bush 4= mountain 5= wetland</p> <p>6= forest 7= other (specify)</p>
2.15	<p>What factors facilitate making a living for your family in this settlement?</p> <p>1= access to jobs 2= services 3= transport</p> <p>4= other (specify)</p>

2.16	<p>What is the average monthly income of your family? (including household head and all household members) Record in KHR how much the family earns in a month (exchange rate is 4,000KHR/\$).</p> <p>Tick one of the following in US\$ as it applies:</p> <p>1= US 25 or less 2= 26-50 3= 51-100</p> <p>4= 101-150 5= 151-200 6= 201-250</p> <p>7= 251-300 7= 301-500 8= 501-1,000 9= 1,000 or more</p>																																																
2.17	<p>What is the monthly expense of your household? Record in the table as it applies.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="296 745 1197 1865"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="296 745 815 808">Item</th> <th data-bbox="815 745 994 808">Percent</th> <th data-bbox="994 745 1197 808">Monthly Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="296 808 815 887">Rice</td> <td data-bbox="815 808 994 887"></td> <td data-bbox="994 808 1197 887"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="296 887 815 965">Meat, pork, fish, poultry, vegetable</td> <td data-bbox="815 887 994 965"></td> <td data-bbox="994 887 1197 965"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="296 965 815 1025">Water</td> <td data-bbox="815 965 994 1025"></td> <td data-bbox="994 965 1197 1025"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="296 1025 815 1086">Fuel (for lighting and cooking)</td> <td data-bbox="815 1025 994 1086"></td> <td data-bbox="994 1025 1197 1086"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="296 1086 815 1164">Gasoline/travelling</td> <td data-bbox="815 1086 994 1164"></td> <td data-bbox="994 1086 1197 1164"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="296 1164 815 1225">Electricity/power</td> <td data-bbox="815 1164 994 1225"></td> <td data-bbox="994 1164 1197 1225"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="296 1225 815 1285">House repairing</td> <td data-bbox="815 1225 994 1285"></td> <td data-bbox="994 1225 1197 1285"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="296 1285 815 1346">Health</td> <td data-bbox="815 1285 994 1346"></td> <td data-bbox="994 1285 1197 1346"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="296 1346 815 1406">Education</td> <td data-bbox="815 1346 994 1406"></td> <td data-bbox="994 1346 1197 1406"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="296 1406 815 1467">Clothes</td> <td data-bbox="815 1406 994 1467"></td> <td data-bbox="994 1406 1197 1467"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="296 1467 815 1527">Toiletries/hygiene/cosmetics</td> <td data-bbox="815 1467 994 1527"></td> <td data-bbox="994 1467 1197 1527"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="296 1527 815 1588">Furniture/TV, etc.</td> <td data-bbox="815 1527 994 1588"></td> <td data-bbox="994 1527 1197 1588"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="296 1588 815 1648">Communication/telephone/internet</td> <td data-bbox="815 1588 994 1648"></td> <td data-bbox="994 1588 1197 1648"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="296 1648 815 1709">Entertainment/ceremonies</td> <td data-bbox="815 1648 994 1709"></td> <td data-bbox="994 1648 1197 1709"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="296 1709 815 1769">Other</td> <td data-bbox="815 1709 994 1769"></td> <td data-bbox="994 1709 1197 1769"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Item	Percent	Monthly Total	Rice			Meat, pork, fish, poultry, vegetable			Water			Fuel (for lighting and cooking)			Gasoline/travelling			Electricity/power			House repairing			Health			Education			Clothes			Toiletries/hygiene/cosmetics			Furniture/TV, etc.			Communication/telephone/internet			Entertainment/ceremonies			Other		
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2.18	<p>Did your family have to borrow money from somebody?</p> <p>1= yes 2= no. If no, move to Q. 3. 3= I don't know. If not, move to Q. 3.</p>																																																

3.8	<p>Do you think the resettlement caused by the HW1 project has made you poorer or given you an opportunity to become less poor?</p> <p>1= became less poor 2= made poorer 3= I don't know.</p>
3.9	<p>Suppose there was no HW1 project and you have not been resettled, do you think you are more poor or less poor?</p> <p>1= less poor 2= more poor 3= I don't know.</p>
3.9.1	<p>Why?</p> <p>1= I would still have had land near the main HW1.</p> <p>2= I would not be in debt. 3= I would not have lost my business.</p> <p>4= I would not have left my good customers.</p> <p>5= My ex-house and land was bigger than the resettlement site.</p> <p>6= I would not have spent money on moving.</p> <p>7= other (specify) </p>
3.10	<p>Please tell me one or two benefits you have gotten (one or two things that have become better) because of the HW1 project/resettlement.</p> <p>1= I got land title/tenure security. 2= I have a better house.</p> <p>3= I got a better job/business. 4= My house has no flooding any more.</p> <p>5= I find it easy to commute to PP and other places.</p> <p>7= Now, we have more facilities for our living.</p> <p>8= other (specify) </p>
3.11	<p>Please tell me one or two problems you have experienced (one or two things that have become bad) because of the HW1 project/resettlement.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>

4. HOUSING, LAND AND PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

4.1	<p>What year did you start living in this land?</p> <p>1= <5 month. If less than 5 months 2= 6-12 months 3= 1-5 years 4= 6-10 years 5= 11-15 years 6= 16-20 years 7= 20+ years, if more than 20 years</p>
4.2	<p>Do you own or rent the house where you reside?</p> <p>1= rent 2= own 3= squatter</p>
4.3	<p>What type of house do you live in? What is the house made from (roof)?</p> <p>Question to be answered by interviewer observations</p> <p>1= wood 2= thatch 3= metal 4= brick 5= tile 6= concrete 7= other/mixture, please specify</p>
4.4	<p>Please describe the land you are living on. (Tick only one)</p> <p>1= plot of land with only a house (The answer is plot of land with only a house, if the interviewee and his/her family live in a house with no or very little land around it, i.e., if there is no land for growing anything around the house where they live).</p> <p>2= plot of land with a house and home garden (The answer is plot of land with a house and home garden, if the interviewee and his/her family live in a house with some land around, i.e., land big enough to grow some plants or crops).</p> <p>3= agricultural land (The answer is agricultural land if the interviewee and his/her family live on land primarily used for agriculture and a small house or hut on that land to live in).</p> <p>4= other (The answer is other if none of the above answers apply. Please specify the type of land and what it was used for)</p>
4.5	<p>How did you come to live and/or acquire the land you are living on?</p> <p>Tick one of the following as it applies.</p> <p>1= given by authority after my land lost land by HW1 2= cleared this land myself 3= heritage land from my parent/relative 4= exchanged for labour and goods/exchanged for my land in resettlement site 5= I took money from sold land in a resettlement site to buy this land. If answer 4, 5 if bought land go to Q.4.6.</p>
4.6	<p>If bought (Level 2) please state:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ When did you buy it? Or when did you exchange it? ▪ At what price and from whom? ▪ Did you use a formal contract? ▪ Did you get it witnessed? If yes by whom? ▪ Why did you move here?
4.7	<p>Did the land that you live on already have a title?</p> <p>1= yes 2= no 3= under process of land title registration 4= other (specify)</p>
4.8	<p>Do you feel secure in this land? Are there any fears of eviction/forced relocation?</p> <p>1= yes 2= no 3= I don't know.</p>
4.9	<p>Has your family had problems with land in these 3 years?</p> <p>1= yes 2= no. If no, move to Q.5.</p>
4.10	<p>What was your action towards the problem?</p> <p>1= sue to court 2= seeking help from local authority 3= support from NGO 4= other (specify)</p>
4.11	<p>Did you obtain a solution?</p> <p>1= yes 2= no</p>

5. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

5.1	Do you get any support from the commune council, district, provincial governor's office, etc? 1= land registration 2= administrative affairs 3= food assistance 4= medicine aid 5= helping to access job 6= helping to access agricultural market 7= other (specify)
5.2	Does any NGO assist your community? 1= yes 2= no. If no, move to Q.5.4. 3= I don't know.
5.3	What is the name of the NGO? What services do they provide? 1= awareness training 2= development of infrastructure 3= livelihoods restoration program 4= helping process of land registration 5= assisting legal of land conflict 6= other (specify)
5.4	Do you think that your community organizes well? 1= yes 2= no 3= I don't know.
5.5	Do you or your family members join a saving group? 1= Yes 2= No 3= I don't know.
5.6	What have been the challenges and success factors in organizing the saving group? 1= People don't save. 2= Borrowers have no refunds. 3= People don't trust saving groups. 4= no report of saving to members/poor management of saving committee 5= Amount of credit from the savings group is too small for covering anything. 6= People get jealous among members. 7= other (specify)
5.7	Do you or anyone in your family join community meetings regularly? 1= yes 2= no. If no, continue to Q.5.9.
5.8	What do you discuss in the meeting? 1= saving report 2= community challenges 3= elect community committee 4= community development project 5= other (specify)
5.9	If not, why do you not join the meeting? 1= I was not invited. 2= I don't know. 3= I am not a member of a saving group. 4= other (specify)
5.10	What are the main challenges of the people in your community? (Can tick multiples) 1= alcoholism 2= gambling 3= DV 4= disabilities 5= seasonal flooding 6= trespassing of squatters 7= poverty 8= debt 9= other (specify)
5.11	Have you obtained solutions to your community problems?

8. WATSAN

8.1	Where do you get water from? 1= community pump well 2= running water 3= river 4= other (specify)
8.2	Where do you usually get water for drinking and cooking? 1= running water 2= pure bottle water (3= community pump well 4= river 5= other (specify)
8.3	How do you treat water? 1= using filter treatment 2= directly use from pump well 3= other (specify)
8.4	Is the pump well water safe? 1= yes 2= no 3= I don't know.
8.5	Has any organization or expert had the water examined? 1= yes 2= no 3= I don't know.
8.6	Do you plan to connect piped running water? 1= yes 2= no. If no, move to Q.8.8. 3= I don't know.
8.7	Why do you want to connect piped water? 1= I feel water from the pump well isn't safe. 2= I have to carry water from well to my place. 3= Running water is safer and cleaner. 4= other (specify)
8.8	Does your house have a flush toilet? 1= yes. If yes, move to Q.8.10. 2= no
8.9	Where do you go to use the toilet? 1= neighbor's house 2= spare land around village 3= abandoned house 4= using potty 5= other (specify)
8.10	What do you do to dispose of garbage? 1= I pay for garbage collection service. 2= burn garbage 3= throw it in vacant land plot/rice field 4= bury garbage 5= other (specify)
8.11	Do you have any ideas to improve the community environment in your community? How?

9. FOOD SECURITY/SAFETY

9.1	How do you access food? Do you buy food or access it from your own production? 1= I buy some food and some from my production. 2= I buy all the food. 3= I buy some food and some food from neighbors/relatives. 4= other (specify)
9.2	Do you or does anyone in your family fish in the river/lake? 1= yes. 2= no. If no, continue to Q.9.4 .
9.3	Do you fish for consumption or selling? 1= for consumption only 2= for consumption and selling 3= other (specify)
9.4	Do you have land to grow vegetables? 1= yes 2= no
9.5	Do you raise livestock, i.e., chicken, duck, pig, and cow? 1= yes 2= no. If no, continue to Q.9.7 .
9.6	Which kind of livestock have you raised? (Tick multiple answers below.) 1= chicken 2= duck 3= pig 4= cow 5= other (specify)
9.7	How often do you buy food? 1= every day 2= two/three times a week 3= once a week
9.8	Where do you buy food? 1= food street vender 2= neighbor's food product 3= market at NL 4= other (specify)
9.9	How many meal courses do your family have? 1= breakfast, lunch, dinner 2= lunch and dinner 3= other (specify)
9.10	Do your family have enough money to buy food? 1= yes. If yes, move to Q.9.12 . 2= somehow 3= no 4= other (specify)
9.11	If no. (Tick multiple answers below.) 1= I borrow money from others. 2= I try to collect NTFP for consumption. 3= We eat only rice and little food. 4= other (specify)
9.12	Do you buy food which you believe is high-quality? 1= yes 2= no 3= I don't know.
9.13	Do you think food in the stores where you bought are properly stored (i.e., put in the shadow, cool pots, covered, no leak/teared cap of can/bottles, etc.)? 1= yes 2= no 3= I don't know.
9.14	What is your concern for food safety? 1= contaminated food 2= unhealthy food 3= spoiled food 4= other (specify)
9.15	How often do you change kitchen clothes? 1= after used it too many times 2= unclean, smelly 3= torn washing sponges 4= other (specify)
9.16	What do you think you can do to get better food security and safety? (explain in your own words)

10. SAFETY AND SECURITY

In order to assist in combating crimes, we would like to ask some specific questions about your experiences. Please specify whether it was an actual or attempted incident.

10.1	Did you experience crimes since last January? 1= yes 2= no. If no, move to Q.10.5.
10.2	Since last January, have you experienced any of the following? 1= mugging/theft 2= robbery 3= physical assault 4=sexual abuse or harassment 5= robbery of a vehicle 6= murder 7= home burglary 8= theft of vehicle 9= having farm products stolen 10= other (specify)
10.3	After the crime happened, whom did you turn to for help? (Allow for multiple responses) 1= family 2= friends 3= village chief 4= police 5= neighbor 6= doctor 7= lawyer 9= no one 10= other (specify)
10.4	What kind of help did you get? 1= practical advice 2= financial 3= emotional 4= legal 5= other (specify)
10.5	Compared to the previous year, do you think the level of crime in your area increased, decreased or stayed the same? 1= Increased crime level 2= Decreased crime level 3= Stayed the same
10.6	What type of crime are you most scared of in your neighborhood? 1= house-breaking/theft 2= murder 3= rape 4= child abuse 5= mugging/stabbing 6= car-jacking 7= drug related crime 8= gang-related crime 9= robberies 10= other (specify)
10.7	Do you undertake any of the following measures to protect yourself from crime/violence? 1= special security door locks 2= razor wire/broken bottles 3= armed response 4= avoid working after dark 5= high fence/wall 6= carry a weapon 7= avoid going out with valuables 8= rarely go out 9= traditional methods 10= neighborhood watch 11= avoid going out with much money 12= other (specify)
10.8	How often do you see a police officer on duty in your place where you live? 1= all the time 2= often 3= sometimes 4= seldom 5= never
10.9	What do you think are the causes of crime? (explain in your own words)

Appendix 3: Pictures



PIC 1: A scene from the February site visit. The three women on the right are community researchers.



PIC 2: A woman at SSC tries to sell another woman snails and morning glory she has collected at a nearby lake and rice field. This is one of the common livelihood means for the SSC families.



PIC 3: Many families who have moved out of SSC live along HW1's old route. Their main livelihood activities include growing mango trees and collecting recyclable materials for sale.



PIC 4: Scenes from the July FGD with SSC families



PIC 5: The three community researchers conducting HHS with SSC members at their home



PIC 6: (Left) the Tsubasa (Neak Loeung) Bridge across the mainstream Mekong River financed by JICA; (Right) HW1 with heavy traffic



PIC 7: Various scenes to show rapid urbanization and commercialization along HW1 near Mekong River



PIC 8: Various scenes to show current situations along HW1 around the research site. Urbanization has not reached SSC yet. However, the land price has gone up considerably.