

Snoul Cambodia Agriculture Initiative

Close-Out Summary

April 2024



Volunteer Lee Sreyda (pink jacket) with members of the Women's Farming Network in 2022

Initiative Purpose

Support a small farmers' network to improve their income by providing the startup seed money, so they can provide a small interest-free loan to each farmer as well as training and training space. Our hope was that families would have steady employment and financial stability, which would allow them to provide for their children's basic needs, like medicine and school-related fees and supplies. The farmers' network was initiated by local farmers who were committed to sharing their knowledge and experience with other farmers. Our role was to provide some funds to assist the group in implementing their lending and saving circle.

Reasons for Closure

This initiative was not intended to be ongoing, and we felt we accomplished our goal with the start up of a small network.

Other factors that impacted our decision to close this project include:

- Travel restrictions during and post-COVID lasted longer in Cambodia compared to neighbouring countries. As a result, the initiative lead and volunteers could not travel to the region regularly. However, the farmers continued to raise livestock and grow vegetables during that time;
- The main field lead immigrated to the United States;
- Initiative lead's time and capacity to manage two completely different initiatives in two different countries.

Initiative Achievements

- The project succeeded in starting a small farmers' support network.
- During the life of the project (5 years) we provided small loans ranging from \$250-\$500 USD to 26 families.
- Farmers have indicated that they were able to provide healthier meals for their children and families due to these loans.
- Many families expressed gratitude, especially during COVID, as food security impacted many families in the region.

Challenges

- We lost \$4000 USD due to theft by a local volunteer.
- Language and communication challenges
 - Sometimes our communication went from English to Khmer to Stieng. Other times it went from English to Vietnamese to Khmer to Stieng.
 - Varying literacy levels meant more time was required to collect information for reporting purposes.
- COVID and a lengthy COVID restriction period impacted ICO volunteer's ability to visit and support farmers.

Start date: January 2018

End date: October 2023

Budget: 26 Loans: \$6850 USD
Theft: \$4000 USD
Total: \$10850 USD or \$14470 CAD (varying exchange rates as the loans were distributed over 5 years).

Remainder: \$0



Farmers and families, 2019



Dany and her chickens, 2020



Vany vaccinating her chicks, 2021