

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

CAMBODIAN RURAL
DEVELOPMENT TEAM



ABOUT US

Our Vision

A Cambodia free from poverty and environmental degradation.

Our Mission

To sustainably improve food security, incomes, and living standards of subsistence rural communities in support of environmental conservation throughout Cambodia.

Who We Are

The Cambodian Rural Development Team (CRDT) is a local community development NGO working to increase the living standards of Cambodia's impoverished rural populations while protecting its natural resources and ecological welfare. Through programs ranging from social enterprises to informational, participatory learning models, CRDT's approach strives to improve and sustain the nutritional, financial, and environmental well-being of the Cambodian people.

What We Do

We are working to service Cambodia's impoverished rural communities through programs based in agricultural development, community organization, business growth, sanitation and hygiene improvement, and nutrient dense environmental sustainability. Through partnerships with both local authorities and worldwide organizations such as the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and Plan International Cambodia, CRDT has grown from implementing isolated, small-scale projects to carrying out extensive programs integrating agricultural advancement, environmental conservation, and community development. In 2012, CRDT expanded its reach by signing a memorandum of understanding with Hand in Hand India, a not-for-profit multidimensional public charitable trust working to alleviate poverty, to execute the financial Self-Help Group (SHG Finance PLC) microfinance model in targeted communities.



OUR VALUES

NEUTRALITY
COOPERATION
PARTICIPATION
EMPOWERMENT
ACCOUNTABILITY
CONSERVATION
TRANSPARENCY



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 | ABOUT US

From the Executive Director

From the Chair of the Board

Board of Directors

Current Staff

2 | OUR PROGRAMS

Sustainable Livelihood Development

Social Enterprise

3 | 2017 ACHIEVEMENTS

Sustainable Livelihood Development

Social Enterprise

- CRDT Tours
- Le Tonlé
- Self Help Groups

4 | CONSULTANCY ACTIVITIES

5 | EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

6 | FINANCIALS





FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OR CHANNY



CRDT continues to grow significantly; this year the revenue reaches more than 1 million the highest ever in its history since 2001. The increased revenues mainly contributed by 3 major sources of incomes: donor funding, consultancy and social enterprise. Projects become more diverse in types across all programs and social enterprises are reasonably increasing in scale, and partnership development is strengthened and advancing.

The main projects active this year are varying from WASH and dietary nutrition, livelihood and income promotion, the environmentally wildlife agriculture improvement and climate change, and vocational training and skill development. Implementing those projects CRDT acts in various roles, both as an implementing partner and service provider for our various clients through delivering consultancy service, research and training. Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and Plan International Cambodia remain our key strategic partners. This year we are very pleased to launch the second largest project with PLAN, called Thrive “Promoting Healthy Childhood Through Quality Nutrition in Northeast Cambodia”. We are joyful to work with WCS on the new SRP (Sustainable Rice Platform) project in Kampong Thom as well as the WCS/SMP-Ibis Rice project with Birdlife International in Siempang, Stung Treng province. CRDT has been selected as one of the strategic partners of PLAN, and we are proud to sign a 4-year cooperation agreement with them in order to join the long term commitment in developing rural Cambodia.

Fund constraint and legal compliance are the main challenges we are facing throughout this year. Delayed funding, disapproval on budget model and the changes of budget from the original design in some projects resulted in some cash flow problems, which impeded some project implementation and distracted from smoothing the operations. Diversifying sources of income are an effective strategy to tackle cash flow matters as well as ensure long term fund security. The new Law on Associations and Non-governmental Organisations (LANGO), which was adopted in 2015 is another main challenge of the year to be dealt with. This year, the government has strictly imposed the LANGO, which means NGOs are required to be more accountable and to meet the legal compliance including the regular submission of reports to the government, relevant taxation and updating required legal status to the government. Overcoming these challenges make CRDT more resilient to the future risks.



CRDT continues to take the entrepreneurial approach towards self-sustainability. The two main programs; sustainable livelihood development and social enterprises are the backbone of the organization. The various livelihood projects are the core activities undertaken to address poverty and environmental problems while the social enterprise provides additional income options towards self-sufficiency. We believe in our approach and hope that the diverse sources of income will gradually reduce financial challenges and continue to support the organisational growth in the future.

I am grateful with the supports of our Board of Directors so far. I especially thank to my Management Committee and all CRDT's staff for their tireless work and their faithful dedication to CRDT. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to our donors, partners and friends for their continued support to CRDT. We look forward to celebrating more success with you all in the following years.



FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, TUY SEREIVATHANA



2017 has been a fascinating year for Cambodian Rural Development Team (CRDT), and we have continued to grow with our new partners, beneficiaries, and the organisational development.

CRDT worked to provide sustainable solution benefits to our beneficiaries and the environment we care for. In the past year, we have made many endeavors in project implementation, ranging from increasing our programs that CRDT focuses on and the expansion of diversifying partnerships for organizational growth. The organizational management has been strengthened; the management committee and technical team work to ensure program cohesion and management collaboration, the strategy review and impact monitoring have been done and the efforts have also been on maintaining clarity for the relationship between CRDT and its social enterprises.

Major collaborations with new partners and donors have been established over the past year. These new relationships have helped CRDT to rise up as a key ground working specialization non-profit for partners to work with in Cambodia. CRDT now has an enviable reputation as one of the premier development organizations in the country, and one of the few with close links to the environmental conservation sustainability in North-East of Cambodia. This year, CRDT continued to working with its strategic partners namely Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and Plan International Cambodia as well as many other partners who have a shared value with CRDT.

CRDT are committed to enhancing and growing livelihoods programs, supporting the vulnerable rural communities and the environment. This will be achieved by providing easy access to water, improved sanitation and hygiene, environmental education, research consultancy, supporting business and income growth and dealing with adaptation and mitigation to climate change.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the management team and staff who work hard to tackle all challenges they faced throughout the year in moving the organisation forward. The other directors and I are proud to be part of CRDT's journey, and we confidently look forward to the bright future that CRDT is making for itself, and for the sake of rural population as well as the environment that we care about.





BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. Tuy Sereivathana

(Chairman)

Program Director,
Cambodia,
Wild Earth Allies

Dr. Alex Diment

Senior Technical Advisor,
Wildlife Conservation
Society (WCS), Myanmar

Ms. Chun Sothany

Chief Executive Officer at
First Finance PLC
Cambodia

Mr. Marc Wancer

Senior Vice President,
AERIS Insight

Mr. Leang Rattana

Human Resources Senior
Manager, Prudential Cam
bodia

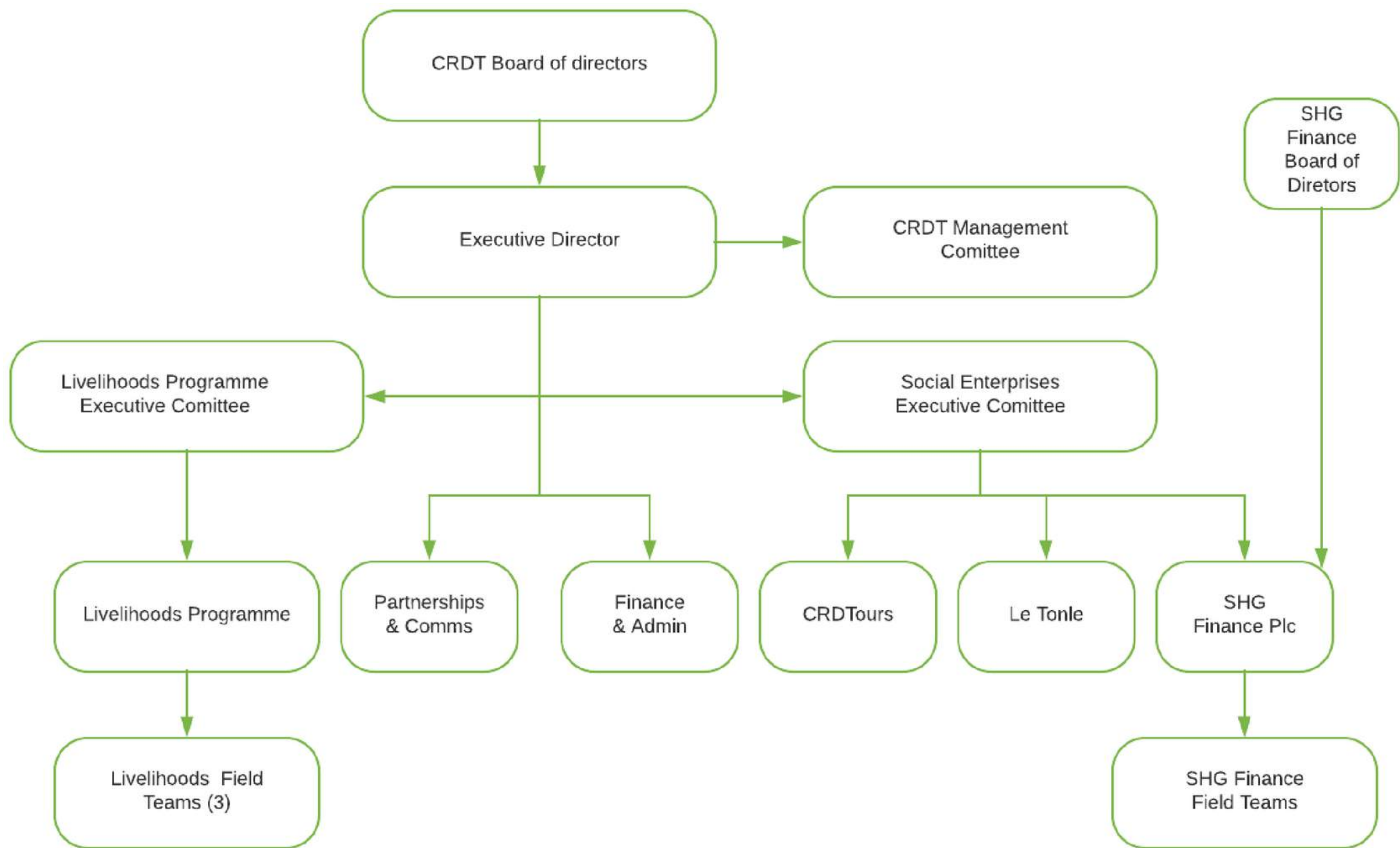


OUR STAFF



CRDT currently has over 65 full time employees including management, technical and supporting staff, volunteers and graduate interns

OUR ORGANIZATION CHART





OUR PROGRAMS

Sustainable Livelihood Development

The Sustainable Livelihood Development Program is the first of CRDT's initiatives and the core of the organization. The program has grown since 2001 into a multilayered program with five fundamental components, integrated into comprehensive projects executed by a team of experts in our three main field provinces, Kratie, Stung Treng, and Mondulkiri.

I. Food Security

Imparting and enforcing skills in agriculture, aquaculture, livestock, and vegetable production to ensure communities access to a varied, nutritional diet; introducing diversified food sources to equip villagers with the tools to adapt to a changing climate and environment.

II. Income Generation

Demonstrating to farmers the financial skills necessary to identify value chains, access markets, and sell produce to increase income and thus improve standards of living; variegating community income through the creation of small agricultural businesses and ecotourism.

III. Water & Sanitation

Advancing agricultural progress through the construction of crop micro-irrigation systems, including canals and river hand pumps; enabling community access to cleaner drinking water through water supply systems, open wells, and rainwater collectors; promoting villagers' health and good hygiene through the construction of toilets and plumbing.

IV. Climate Change Adaptation & Mitigation

Advising villagers on agricultural techniques, including drip irrigation and the utilization of a growing calendar, to ease adaptation to the changing climate and environment; working to reduce climate change through the use of solar powered electricity and the installation of biodigesters to capture and employ methane gas in daily use.

V. Environmental Education & Waste Management

Raising awareness about the environment, natural resources, and the importance of waste management in conservation.





OUR PROGRAMS

Social Enterprises

CRDT established its Social Enterprise program in 2006 as a means of strengthening the organization's independence through diversified sources of funding. As of 2017, CRDT developed three main social enterprises linking the beneficiary communities to larger markets.



I. Cambodian Rural Discovery Tours (CRDT Tours) specializes in offering unique travel experiences in Cambodia, particularly in the northeastern provinces of Kratie, Stung Treng, and Mondulkiri, where CRDT's work is focused. Each tour offers visitors a closer look at Cambodia's rural communities, allowing them to go beyond the known tourist attractions and experience the authentic Cambodia. All funds generated from these tours directly support CRDT.

II. Le Tonlé is a vocational training center which offers training in tourism and hospitality to underprivileged local youth. Students of Le Tonlé utilize their training in two guesthouses and restaurants open to tourists in the province of Kratie. Founded in 2007 by the Swiss Association of Tourism for Help, CRDT assumed the responsibilities of Le Tonlé in 2012 as both a fundraising vehicle and a tool for providing employment to otherwise disadvantaged students.

III. SHG Finance PLC is a rural credit operating platform providing financial inclusion and accessibility to indigent communities. With a focus on women's entrepreneurship and empowerment, SHGs emphasize job creation and enterprise development to promote economic self-reliance among the villagers.





2017 ACHIEVEMENTS

Achievements in Sustainable Livelihood Development

Mother-Child Health and Income Growth Among 35 villages in Stung Treng

CRDT focused on the improvement of mother-child health and income generation among 35 villages in Stung Treng Province during 2017. 20 wells were constructed in 16 villages. The wells supply water for family consumption and agriculture activities. They provide safe access to a clean water source for women and children, improve sanitation and hygiene, and allow nutrient dense food to be grown through integrated homestead farming. The project improved dietary diversity essential to good mother-child health. CRDT conducted 25 technical training sessions on vegetable growing and chicken raising for 457 community group members. 70% of the trainees are applying the sustainable techniques. In 2018 CRDT will provide agricultural support material such as vegetable seed and home gardening preparation tools. These strategies will increase diversity and sustainability in household nutrient dense food, especially for women and children.

With technical support from Plan International Cambodia, CRDT's field staff increased their knowledge, focusing on the intake of nutritious foods. CRDT produced a series of health promotional materials about the importance of eating foods within five food groups and iron and folic-acid supplementation for women during pregnancy, after child delivery, and during breastfeeding. As part of the health promotion, 1,700 nutrition posters on the three main food groups, 1,700 posters on ten small food groups, and 1,700 nutrition calendars were distributed, targeted at pregnant and lactating women.

Climate Resilience Training for Smallholder Farmers Along the Mekong River

CRDT constructed a water supply system and connected 45 households to a clean source of water in 2017. To ensure sustainability, a water committee was formed to manage the system. CRDT conducted six climate change awareness workshops with villagers and local authorities. At least 67% of the participants increased their understanding of climate change vulnerabilities, voiced their ideas, and learned technical skills to adapt to climate change. Four model farmers were chosen and trained in new agriculture techniques to boost production. 88% of the CBO beneficiaries demonstrated using new techniques to adapt to climate change in agriculture production.

Several meetings were held at the commune level to discuss climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk reduction implementation. The number of participants in the Koh Preah community-based organization increased by 179%, well above the goal of a 100% increase.



CASE STUDY

Community Water Wells Increases Nutrient Dense Food Access for Mother-Child Health

Ms. Sou Phun, a 31-year-old woman, four months pregnant, is a farmer living in the Stung Treng Province. She lives with her husband Mr. Rouern Ra and their five-year-old daughter. Vegetable growing provides their source of food and income. She was a beneficiary of the project - Improvement of mother-child health and income generation among 35 villages in Stung Treng Province. The project improved availability and consumption of nutritious food for children under five years old and reproductive women.

Ms. Sou Phun said, "Before the project started in September 2016, not only her family, but the majority of households lacked a water source." Water was not only inadequate for family consumption but also agricultural activities as their residential land areas are about 1km from the river. In the dry season her family pays an average of 35,000 riels per month for water which buys only enough for family consumption. "This causes my family to not have enough source of food, especially diverse kinds of vegetable and meat," she said.

In May 2017, CRDT with assistance from Plan International Cambodia conducted a feasibility assessment for digging 20 community water wells. Eight wells were dug in Siem Pang, 12 in the Thalaborivath district and one in front of her house located in Kralapeas village. Construction finished in September 2017. The well provides her a safe source of water. It increases agricultural activities, reduces household expenditures, and improves safety for local children. In October 2017, she started preparing homestead foods by growing a diversity of vegetables. Now she is able to earn an income of about 3,000 riels per day selling surplus food to a neighborhood.

She also attended two health promotion activities to learn how to take care of herself and the baby during pregnancy and lactating by eating a diversity of food sources from her farm.

Ms. Sou Phun expressed her gratitude to the project's donors BMZ and Plan International Cambodia as well as The Cambodian Rural Development Team (CRDT) for completing the work. The project provided her family more diverse food and better nutrition. Additionally, three neighbors built their garden around the well and she plans to build a toilet and a tank to store water in 2018.





2017 ACHIEVEMENTS

Achievements in Sustainable Livelihood Development

Hygiene & Sanitation Behavior Change in Rural Stung Treng Province and Kratie

To encourage behavior change in hygiene and sanitation CRDT conducted meetings to increase awareness and participation. 2017 saw the installation of 703 new latrines in the Sambo, Thalabolwath and Siem Pang Districts. 170 were added in one month, bringing the total number of latrines to 2,160. 80 villagers were trained as a focal person to provide support and lead meetings and discussions on good hygiene. Dozens of additional training courses were held with suppliers from latrine and sanitation enterprises. Follow-up visits and an assessment of the program's success was completed

The project divided the villagers into two groups, one for parents and the other for children. The project staff worked with each group to help them understand the importance of hygiene and sanitation to improve health and prevent the spread of diseases. The training motivated participants to change habits and build latrines for their families. In response to the workshops emphasizing the importance of good sanitation in improving quality of life, 50% of the families expressed a desire to build latrines.

SHG & CBO Training: Promoting New Agricultural Enterprises to Increase Family Income

Self-help groups and community-based organizations are the foundations upon which villagers can develop the capacity to increase their income through new agricultural enterprises. CRDT conducted 39 meetings with four CBOs. The 78 participants (55 women) strengthened their skills in group management, leadership, and record keeping. The course resulted in over 90% of the participants improving their knowledge on effective group facilitation, building an organizational vision, and defining roles of group members. The CBOs also received training on financial management including bookkeeping, lending, and properly keeping monthly saving records.

As a result, the CBOs committed to creating small businesses in vegetable growing and livestock raising with their members using climate smart agriculture techniques. Training sessions on micro agricultural enterprises were held and 48 CBO members (43 women) learned how to develop small agricultural businesses using loans from their own savings group to increase their income. Four self-help groups saved \$3,600 making loans for new income generating enterprises possible.



CASE STUDY

Increasing Community Income Through CBET Improves Response to Drought Conditions

Koh Preah village in Stung Treng Province is located on an island with 250 families. It is 40km from Stung Treng town. People access the village by crossing the river on a motorbike or boat. Most villager's occupation and income generation depends on rice cultivation, fishing, and livestock raising. In 2008 a community-based ecotourism (CBET) enterprise was established with 36 members (26 women). It was divided into four service groups including transportation, meal service, guides, and home stays. The CBET provides much-needed additional income for the villagers by providing ecotourism services for tourists.

Before CRDT undertook a project to grow the ecotourism enterprise, the community faced a devastating drought in 2015-2016. It caused low rice yields, livestock death, and a lack of nutritious food. Only 100 tourists visited the village during the drought, significantly reducing income to only \$7,200 that year.

After the project provided coaching on providing tourists the best service the quality and reputation of tour services improved significantly. This resulted in positive reviews from tourists who visited. "The income from our ecotourism service increased 83%, as the number of tourists grew from 100 to 259 in one year. This allowed our family to address difficulties with food shortages during droughts," Ms. Vannar, the secretary, said.

Mr. Say Lum, Chief of CBET said, "The weather changes from day to day so we have to strengthen our ability to adapt to the environment by using climate smart agriculture techniques to increase food availability and income. But our best opportunity to earn more income is from tourism service. Between June 2016, and December 2017, my community earned \$16,645 from 259 tourists." He added, "Thanks to the training of CRDT and Plan, I can communicate in English when foreigners visit our site."

The project involves 26 women who are increasing their annual income by selling tour services. Growing community income through CBET is the best solution for vulnerable people, especially women, to respond to drought conditions which reduce rice yields. Linking the community with CRDT Tours creates a sustainable strategy to provide an alternative income for disaster risk reduction during times of drought.





2017 ACHIEVEMENTS

Achievements in Sustainable Livelihood Development

Water Project for Health and Sanitation Among Rural Communities in Stung Treng Province

With funding from the Australian Embassy in Phnom Penh, via their Direct Aid Program (DAP), CRDT connected 250 families to a water supply along the Mekong river in Stung Treng Province. The clean water project improved their health, provided good nutrition, and improved overall living conditions. The project involved construction and installation of a water supply system. Coaching and training was provided on hygiene and sanitation, forming a water committee instructed in water supply management, vegetable farming, chicken raising, health education, and home gardening with the new water supply system.

Conservation Education and Water Supply Construction in Mondulkiri Province

In partnership with One Action, in 2017 CRDT educated 542 beneficiaries on the importance of conservation and the environmental harm caused by deforestation and wildlife hunting. The beneficiaries received agricultural conservation training on chicken raising and vegetable growing using compost fertilizer, compost liquid, and natural poison. Three new savings groups strengthened the revolving fund for members helping create seven new farming enterprises including five farms raising chickens and two growing vegetables. One water supply system was constructed and training conducted on its management to a water user committee, developing a business plan for individual households, food processing, and primary health and water sanitation in Mondulkiri Province.

Promoting Healthy Childhood Through Quality Nutrition in Northeast Cambodia

After the conclusion of the CCA and WASH projects CRDT undertook a new project in 2017, Plan Thrive. Activities of the project included encouraging mothers, fathers, and caregivers to provide early stimulation and effective care for young girls and boys ages zero to five. It also ensured commune councils and community-based preschool teachers have the financial and technical support capacity along with a commitment to quality learning outcomes. Pregnant women, mothers, and caregivers increased their abilities to prevent poor nutrition during the first 1,000 days of a child's life. The availability and consumption of nutritious foods increased in community households for pregnant women and infants.

Public health facilities at the local level increased capacity and local authorities can now properly detect, refer, and treat severe acutely malnourished children under five. Children, family members, and teachers have improved hygiene behaviors. There is now improved access to safe water and sanitation facilities in households, preschools, and primary schools. Finally, the project enabled local government agencies to increase their commitment to improve WASH issues in the communities and schools.





2017 ACHIEVEMENTS

Achievements in Social Enterprise - CRDT Tours

Following the successful CRDT Dolphin for Development project, in November 2011, CRDT founded the tour operator business CRDT Tours; a social enterprise that specializes in offering unique experiences including educational travel, cycling along the iconic Mekong River, living with a local community, assisting in conservation projects, and savoring local delicacies.

In 2017, CRDT Tours hosted 1404 tourists, a 20% increase from 2016. Tourists visited six local communities along the Mekong River. Operation of the tours generated revenues of \$47,735 for local communities, \$5,758 for conservation projects, and \$67,867 for the tourism industry.

Beside income generation, CRDT Tours created 157 direct jobs in tourism industries including home stays, boat transportation, dancers, community guides, food and beverage providers, and financial service administrators. CRDT Tours generated \$73,735 of income for workers in 2017. CRDT Tours also impacted 50 indirect jobs adding \$3,900 of increased income generation for local workers.

CRDT Tours collaborated with four new partners in 2017 and is expanding its network with schools, NGOs, and companies domestically and globally. CRDT Tours is anticipating to double its success in 2018 by improving our Web site, tours services, tour registrations, financial management, communication, and marketing.

Tourists from the UK donated \$2,400 to CBET. The money purchased two chicken homes and 20 heads of chicken for the poorest households in the villages. It also built a ladder for the community and funded the construction of an iron fence to improve farming enterprises.

In 2018 CRDT Tours plans to develop new bicycle tours around the Mekong Discovery Trail. Tours will range from half-a-day to a two-night trip which includes a home stay. CRDT Tours will be the first tour operator to offer these environmental friendly and educational bicycle activities for tourists.



CASE STUDY

Community-Based Ecotourism as an Alternative Livelihood for Saraet

Saraet, a woman in red, has a family of six with four children who are currently studying in Phnom Penh. Saraet and her husband support their children to live and study. She joined CBET at Koh Phdao in 2008 as part of the transportation group.

Koh Phdao community-based ecotourism was established in 2008 by the Cambodian Rural Discovery Tours team. CRDT Tours is one of the non-profit social enterprise projects of CRDT. CRDT Tours facilitates local participation, empowerment, and building local resources in tourism, hospitality, and marketing.

Saraet told us she joined the transportation team because she has a boat which can be used to transport tourists. She added, "In 2017, I transported tourists 12 times, probably around twice as many as last year. I transport tourists when I am told it is my turn by Sokheng." Sokheng is the rotation coordinator of Koh Phdao CBET.

When Saraet transports tourists, she is able to earn \$32. To be part of the transportation group she must be able to provide life jackets for all on board and must stick to the schedule at all times. The CRDT Tours team asked how Saraet uses the income from this job. She said she sends most of the money to her children in Phnom Penh as they need it for their education.

We asked, is it enough? Saraet laughed and responded, "It has never been enough. I needed to combine my income with my other farming activities."





2017 ACHIEVEMENTS

Achievements in Social Enterprise - Le Tonlé

Since 2007, the main objective of the Le Tonlé Tourism Training center is to teach theoretical and practical training to young disadvantaged Cambodians in tourism and hospitality skills. The Le Tonlé training model is "Learning by Doing" and the 12 month program covered a range of industry specific subjects including general English, English for tourism, administration and invoicing, computer literacy, and service excellence. During the period of 2007-2015, 136 trainees graduated, of which 70 are female. Over 95% of the graduates found a job after completing the program, most in tourism sectors.

In 2016 and 2017, Le Tonlé was working with Swisscontact as a service provider to carry out two main training components a three-month, full-time certificate and in-service training. These programs targeted unemployed youth and low-skilled hospitality workers in the provinces of Kratie and Stung Treng. There were 38 trainees graduated during this period. Le Tonlé has developed the curriculum for the 3-month full time certificate training by integrating two division of labor: housekeeping and food and beverage service. This means students are required to study both of the subjects.

In 2017, Le Tonle expanded its business by completing renovations on the restaurant and constructing new guestrooms. The guesthouse now offers 16 rooms to serve visitors. Income from the restaurant and guesthouse increased to \$148,732 in 2017, an increase of 43% from 2016. The financial stability of Le Tonle Guesthouse and Restaurant enables continued investment in our students, and provides them with the opportunity for practical experience at an operating business.

We are grateful for the new training initiative supported by Swisscotact and the US based Mortenson Family Foundation, which allows us to conduct our core training for disadvantaged youth in northeast Cambodia.

**Skill Development - Environmental Conservation -
Cambodian Hospitality - Community Support - Vocational Training**





CASE STUDY

Sreyvet Gains Confidence and Employment Through a Certificate Training Program

In 2016 and 2017, CRDT worked as a service provider for Swisscontact on SDC Skill Development Program (SDP) to provide a 3-month, full-time certificate training program to unemployed youth and in-house training to low skill hospitality workers in Kratie and Stung Treng.

Among 20 students in the 3-month, full-time certificate program, Sreyvet was selected to be Le Tonle's housekeeper after completing her training due to her outstanding performance and potential.



Sreyvet was born into a farmer family in Sambo District, Kratie Province. She earned her high school diploma in 2016 but did not have the means to pursue higher education because her family is poor. After enrolling in Le Tonle's training program, Sreyvet gained knowledge and skills in two areas of labor including food and beverage service and housekeeping.

Being with Le Tonle', Sreyvet developed personal and professional skills which increased her confidence. Through the training program Sreyvet was offered an employment opportunity with Le Tonle. Sreyvet uses the salary she earns from employment to send money home to help her family and her sibling get a better education. She also uses some of the money to study English in Kratie Town. Sreyvet wants to become a guesthouse manager in the future.





2017 ACHIEVEMENTS

Achievements in Social Enterprise - SHG Finance PLC

SHG Finance PLC is a joint initiative of CRDT and HiH India. SHG Finance PLC registered with the National Bank of Cambodia as Rural Credit Operator on February 2, 2016. In 2017 the project continued to expand now reaching 104 villages, 41 communes, and nine districts in Kratie and Stung Treng.

The focus of SHG Finance PLC is to provide:

- Financial Literacy
- Skills Training
- Inclusive finance
- Enterprise Development
- Integrated Community Development

There are currently 241 SHGs, including 108 groups for women, with a total of 2,772 members. 614 members used external loans from SHG Finance PLC for small business enterprises. 2,683 members used internal loans from their SHGs for small enterprise activities.

SHG Finance PLC continues to work to strengthen financial management, business skills, lending management, and market promotion. The technical skills training focuses on rice growing, feed mixing, seeds chosen for growing, and other vegetable growing techniques. SHG Finance PLC beneficiaries earn between \$210 to \$1650 a year.

Thanks to the partners PYD-La Caxia and CHIAN, SHG Finance PLC continues to create a social impact while ensuring sustainability beyond the training programs. Total savings and lending among the SHG's rose to \$226,922 in 2017 an increase of 63% from 2016. Lending focuses on building enterprise capacities for farmer-based businesses. Through internal and external saving and lending, SHG Finance PLC increased job creation by 40% in 2017 among the targeted beneficiaries.



CASE STUDY

Using Self-Help Groups and SHG Finance PLC to Expand Chicken Raising Enterprises

Mr. Den Daloch is a 33-year-old husband with four family members including his 30-year-old wife, Ms. Kung Phally and their two children who are studying in primary school. His wife's main occupation is a local tailor but she also helps her husband with daily tasks. They live in the Veal Khsach village in Stung Treng Province. their main source of income is generated by raising chickens, pigs, and rice as well as milling and tailoring.

In 2013 his family enrolled as a member of a self-help group (SHG) facilitated by SHG Finance PLC. The program was funded by La Caixa bank from Spain and developed by Peace and Development (PyD). After joining the SHG, Mr. Den Daloch received a lot of education to help develop his entrepreneurial vision. He learned financial management, improved technical skills for raising chickens, and gender awareness. His wife regularly saves 10,000 riels every month, as per the group's agreement. By the end of December 2017 the family saved 290,000 riels.

In 2017, Mr. Daloch's family borrowed an external loan of 2,000,000 riels and an internal loan of 200,000 riels to expand his chicken raising enterprise and purchase materials needed for tailoring. Now he has 21 hens, three roosters, 100 young chickens, and 80 chicks. He uses new chicken raising techniques he learned from the self-help group. He constructed chicken pens, chick coops, hen pens, and uses chicken vaccinations. He makes feed by mixing rice with market feed so the chickens grow faster. At the end of December 2017 his 30 grown chickens were worth 600,000 riels. He kept 60 chickens to sell at market exhibition events in Stung Treng. "His family is very happy indeed," he said.

Mr. Den Daloch's family is very pleased with his chicken enterprise because it allows them to earn more money to support the family and his children's education. He plans to buy small machinery to produce chicken feed and build a chicken hatchery so he has more chickens to sell every month. His family is planning to build a new house in the next two years. His family would like to thank SHG Finance PLC, La Caixa bank, PyD, and the self-help group that provides support including education, advice, technical skills, some materials, and loans to his family to improve their income generation and living conditions.





CONSULTANCY ACTIVITIES

2017 Consultancy Projects

Vietnam Investment Group

VIG commissioned CRDT to research and prepare a Community Development Plan for populations affected by the GMD land concessions in northeast Cambodia. VIG is committed to social responsibility, being a good corporate neighbor, and engaging with communities. VIG also works to comply with Cambodian land and forest laws and regulations. CRDT used focus group discussions with villagers, key informant interviews with local authorities, and a situation analysis of opportunities and constraints to identify activities to enhance livelihoods through income generation projects and social investments.

Priorities for the plan included a new water supply system, road improvements, and improving agriculture methods. Improved agriculture methods assist villagers' in growing drought tolerant rice, water efficient vegetable growing techniques, climate-adapted livestock raising, cyclical farming, and using growing calendars adapted to the changing weather patterns. The plan aims to restore affected villagers' livelihoods to levels equivalent to their situation before commencement of GMD operations.

Wildlife Conservation Society

In partnership between WCS/SMP and CRDT, the pilot project of Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP) was implemented in Kampong Thom Province. The project aimed to improve sustainability in all areas of rice production, including water usage, pesticide and fertilizer usage, as well as biodiversity and social issues such as the participation of women and children in farming. CRDT conducted SRP training, developing and producing a farmer diary and field book, strengthening the ability of farmers on farmer diary recording, and conducting follow-up and coaching sessions with farmers and household members. The use of diaries provides an opportunity for farmers to identify areas which may not be sustainable and implement measures to improve sustainability.





CONSULTANCY ACTIVITIES

BirdLife International Cambodia

Many rice farmers are struggling with price, decreased of product yield, and facing the challenges of environmental degradation. To improve the situation BirdLife started a project working with Cambodian farmers to produce wildlife friendly organic rice (IBIS). This rice can be sold at a premium price increasing household income and reducing food insecurity while respecting wildlife sanctuary laws. CRDT collaborated with BirdLife by providing IBIS rice training to 570 beneficiaries in the wildlife sanctuary in Siem Pang, Stung Treng Province.

The IBIS rice project received wide support especially from farmers. "I am so happy and it is the first time I had rice technical training, yield increase, and most importantly sold the rice at a premium price," an IBIS rice member said.

Agriculture Services Program for Innovations, Resilience and Extension (ASPIRE)

In cooperation with the Provincial Department of Agriculture in Kratie Province, CRDT provided technical training to build capacity on agricultural marketing value chains, and post-harvest processing to 500 beneficiaries, four District Agriculture Office staffs, and five Provincial Department of Agriculture offices. Project ASPIRE uses an implementation approach emphasizing efficient sharing of knowledge, responsiveness to farmer demand, assisting smallholders to access market opportunities, and developing resilience to climate change at farm and community levels.

To develop materials CRDT conducted agricultural productivity assessments with 500 households. User-friendly training manuals in the Khmer language were created and given to the beneficiaries. Significantly, an on-farm market demand assessment was carried out with 30 medium and high traders. At least 20 of those traders built a connection to the selected 500 households. The training ensured a sustainable linkage between the community, retailer, dealer, and trader. It also provided smallholder farmers improved and resilient farm businesses as a result of integrated, demand-led agriculture extension, and investments in climate-resilient infrastructure.





EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Educational Programs

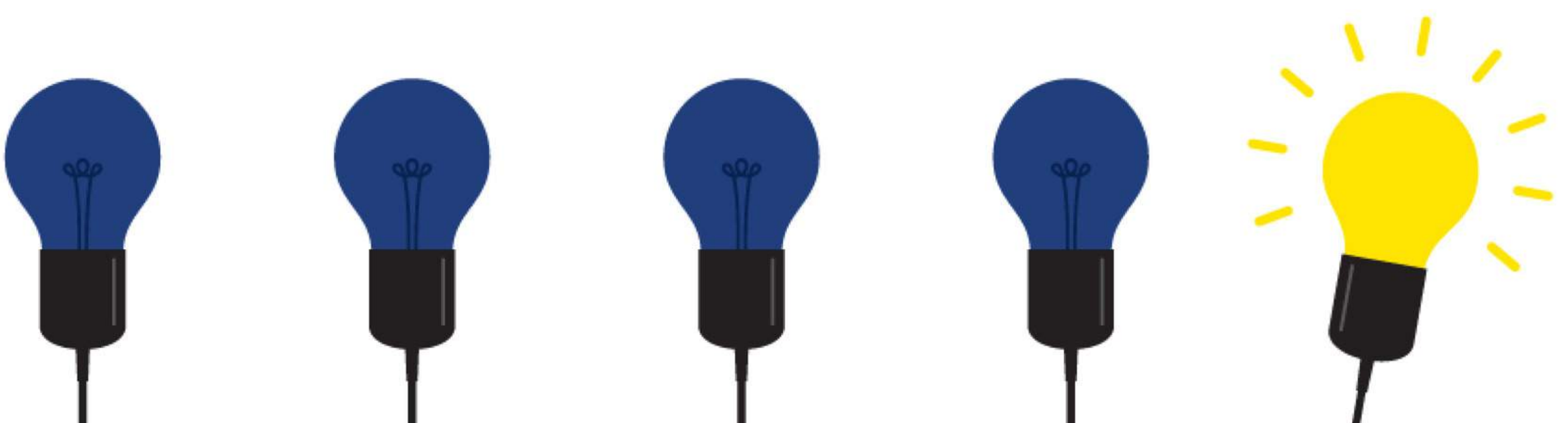
CRDT hosted two education programs in 2017.

Engineers Without Borders - Australia

EWB-Australia participated in a program at the three villages in the Kratie area. They developed study resources including photos, videos, case studies and interviews with local communities for students in Australia. Students had an opportunity to inspire design work, master teamwork, and build communication skills working on sustainable cross-cultural development projects. Their design work focused on water supply systems, sanitation and hygiene, energy production, agricultural systems, waster management and information technology.

Engineers Without Borders - Oregon State Universty

In 2017 a team from EWB-OUS came to complete an in-depth baseline study on building a safe drinking water supply for the Oranna community in the Mondulkiri Province. As part of the study they conducted an information community meeting including household interviews, completed water level tests for different well drilling locations, and road quality measurements. Their research played an essential role in project design and implementation. This project is now in the design stage and is expected to be implemented at the end of the 2018 year.



FINANCIALS

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Description		
Income		
Funds Received from Donors	625,871	446,581
Social Enterprise	336,728	270,502
Consulting Income	104,382	48,242
Other Income	30,636	44,969
Total	1,097,618	810,294
Expenditure		
Social Enterprise expenses	321,803	283,712
Non-Expendable Equipment	51,343	32,963
Project Activities	714,895	530,384
Administrative and Operation Expenses	33,653	13,369
Total	1,121,694	860,428
Deficit/excess of Income over Expenditure	(24,077)	(50,134)
Fund balance at the beginning of the year	89,148	154,447
Fund returned to donor	-	15,165
Fund balance at the end of the year	65,071	89,148



DONORS AND PARTNERS





GET INVOLVED

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TO SUPPORT A CRDT PROJECT

Le Tonle Tourism Training Center
provides Hospitality Vocational
Training for vulnerable youths in
Northeast Cambodia.

TO DONATE DIRECTLY

If you would like to support CRDT and
contribute to transforming the lives of
rural Cambodians, make a donation
by bank transfer to:

- Account number:
1600 20 179519 17
- Account name: Cambodian
Rural Development Team
- Bank Name: ACLEDIA Bank Plc.
- SWIFT Code: ACLBKHPP

DONATION LINK

<https://goto.gg/27419>

