

IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS AND FOOD SECURITY (ILF) PROJECT

KRATIE, TBOUNG KHMUM AND KAMPONG THOM PROVINCES

Unlocking rural potential

A total of 3,148 of the poorest households in Cambodia have been provided with land for residential purposes and family farming in Kratie, Tboung Khmum and Kampong Thom Provinces through a Cambodian government led-initiative.

While this is a promising first step, many recipients have not yet been able to use all the allocated land, as it has not been prepared for agricultural use. These peoples' food security and livelihoods is precarious as they have very limited access to sustainable social and economic services. Additionally, many land recipient households run the risk of losing their property rights by failing to satisfy the criteria to apply for the title of the land they live on or the agricultural land allocated to them.

GIZ's Improvement of Livelihood and Food Security (ILF) Project, partnered with the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction (MLMUPC), is designed to help land recipient households building their livelihoods on newly acquired land. The project works directly with the residents, assisting them with preparing the land for farming, improving the soil conditions, and putting it to agricultural use. The project provides knowledge and skills that help to improve the families' food security through diversification and specifically adapted land use.

Partnering to improve lives

The project's three goals include achieving food security, securing long-term agricultural production and building new partnerships between administration, civil and private actors.

Project name	Improvement of Livelihood and Food Security (ILF) Project
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Cambodia (Kratie, Tboung Khmum and Kampong Thom Provinces)
Lead executing agency	Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning, and Construction

The project partners with the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture. The main implementing organisations include cross-sectorial provincial and district working groups, chaired by provincial governors.

Commune councils and community-oriented groups at the village level play the most important role in strengthening social cohesion. Self-help groups implement measures to develop the capacity of the community, which will be a major contribution to sustainability. Throughout the process, they receive technical support from provincial and district working groups.

Furthermore, the project cooperates with GIZ projects including ASEAN Sustainable Agrifood Systems, Standards in the South East Asian Food Trade (SAFT), World Food Programme, KfW and companies that have a sustainable development agenda.

What we do

GIZ's ILF and all main partners have prioritised food security for land recipients during their transitional period when moving to social



Photo left: Land recipients enjoy harvesting around 2 tons of rice from their 1 ha of land for household food security in Kampi village, Kratie

Photo right: Safe food and healthy nutrition of 15 hectares of organic watermelon production made by land recipients in Kampong Thom



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10 Km of canal digging by land recipients in Kampong Thom for sustainable agriculture production using food for work supported by GIZ-WFP cooperation

Community center of land recipients in Sambok and Changkrang of Kratie province

land concession plots without falling into chronic food insecurity. The project has implemented several response mechanisms to enable land recipients to access food all year-round. A balanced diet is achieved through conditional milled rice distribution, cash for work and a community rice bank. Land recipients have benefitted from around 100 tons of food which have helped them settle into their new land and improve cultivation and animal husbandry. Additionally, 17 food security diversity groups received 10.5 tons of food for a community rice bank that will benefit 123 households in Tipou of Kampong Thom and Chambak districts in Kratie province. These communities have been supported to form a community rice bank to sustain their access to food. Moreover, households are provided with US\$50 cash for work to prepare 0.5 ha of land per household for cultivation in 8 new sites. The project is supporting land recipients for sustainable agriculture production with organic production and certification. Cambodia's Department of Agriculture is playing the crucial role to train, follow-up and coach land recipients' cultivation techniques and progress. At the same time, infrastructure was supported in 4 new sites in the first year to provide land recipients with easy access to use their land and the comfort of settling-in: 166.73 km of access track was first built in 3 provinces; secondly, 7.4 km of canal was built; 27 ponds were constructed; finally, 153 open wells and 2 kitchens for a school feeding program were constructed. Similarly, the project supported machineries and other materials in all 8 sites such as: 8 hand tractors; 115 treadle pumps to assist women in watering their gardens; 9 pumping machines; 6 grass cutting machines; 2 rice threshing machines; 125 sets of agriculture hand tools, seeds and seedlings; 85 bicycles; 550 energy saving cooking stoves; 31 water tanks; 200 pair of watering cans; 295 water filters; 34 solar panels and 24 footballs.

Making Change in Communities

Without a doubt, home gardens are the main source for food for every household. 44 percent, or 1,100 households are diversifying their food production by growing fruit trees and vegetables in the settlement areas.

Currently in 8 sites, around 1,000 households, or 35 percent of households have cultivated at least 1 hectare of their plots. Among them, 108 food security diversity groups have been established including cashew nut, Moringa, fruit trees, watermelon, corn, chicken raising and sugarcane among others. This is the result of continuous technical support by GIZ's ILF working group and Cambodia's Department of Agriculture.

In February 2016, a survey showed that 80 percent of 800 households interviewed had sufficient food.

For the first time in 2015, Tbong Khmum province handed over land titles from the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction to all 250 land recipient households who have received and used both agriculture and settlement plots for the past 5 years.

As a result, local government administrations are put in a position to promote local development in cooperation with NGOs and the private sector. Commune and community monthly or quarterly meetings have been used as the platform to bring together relevant stakeholders to support community development activities for improving food security and livelihoods.

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