

Programme Area Summary

Country: Cambodia

Programme Area: Secure Livelihoods 2004 - 2009

What is the aim of the programme area?

To improve the livelihood security of poor and disadvantaged women and men who are dependent on fishery and forest resources.

Why is VSO working in this particular programme area and region?

VSO Cambodia is addressing the issues of communities' forestry and community fisheries in the provinces bordering the Tonle Sap Lake and Mekon River upstream. There is a high incidence of poverty for people living in the Tonle Sap region; it accounts for 38% of the population, compared to 22% in the coastal and mountainous regions. The increasing pressure on natural resources is also a concern in terms of food insecurity. Therefore, VSOC Livelihoods Programme is focussed on this region and sector in order to increase the impact of our work as well as contribute to making positive changes in the well being of the communities and the environment.

Key beneficiaries and partners

Key partners include the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry and the Ministry of Environment, as well as:

- *Osrose* - a non-profit organisation working in Siem Reap province. Osrose has four main programmes including Conservation and Eco-tourism.
- *Aphivat Strey* - a local NGO with seven main activities. These are Natural Resource Management and Advocacy (Community Fishery), Agricultural Projects, Income Generation, Disaster Management, Capacity Building, HIV and AIDS Prevention and Education and Empowerment amongst Women.
- *Village Support Group* - has programmes in natural resource management.
- *Community Capacity for Development* - works on researching the conflict over fishing rights in Kampong Chhnang province and advocating for the formulation of community fisheries.
- *Cooperation for Development of Cambodia* - based in Kampong Thom Province and part of the provincial Fisheries network.
- *Cultural and Environment Preservation Association* - NGO addressing the preservation of natural environment and indigenous culture in Cambodia.
- *Oxfam GB* - a strategic partner of VSO working to support numbers of local forestry NGOs.

The beneficiaries are the partners who'll become more effective service providers and the communities who'll gaining more secure and equitable access to resources.

Key objectives of the programme and the cross-cutting themes

To improve the effectiveness and responsiveness of services provided by government, non-government and community based fishery and forestry organisations to disadvantaged women and men.

Current programme activities

Focus of International Volunteer Placements

To focus on the capacity building of partners so that they will work more effectively with communities.

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Workshops, training & conferences

Livelihoods sector workshop with volunteers, as well as workshops and training with partners.

Research

Research or survey regarding Small Scale Enterprise Development project, so that any future placement will be fit better to the need of communities and partners.

Advocacy and Global Education

The Livelihoods Programme is keen to support partners in gaining networking and advocacy skills.

Providing grants and/or equipment for partners

The Livelihoods Programme received funding from The McKnight Foundation that has enabled us to allocate up to \$3000 to 6 NGO partners to implement various relevant projects.

Development of publications or other materials for training or communication

Materials developed for environmental training activities.

What makes VSO's work in this programme area special?

Highly professional volunteers working with partners and communities for up to 2 years is our most unique contribution. Releasing fishing lots from exclusive and private ownership has opened up new opportunities for fishery communities to own, manage and utilise their resource effectiveness and efficiency. VSO input to that area is most important as well as supporting community living conditions through enabling greater access to and control over resources and developing better alternative livelihoods approach.