



# CAMBODIA IMPACT REPORT

The World Citizens Panel: Insights in Oxfam's  
contribution to changes in people's lives

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**OXFAM**  
Novib

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# SUMMARY

An impact study was carried out by Oxfam and partners in Cambodia in 2014. The study included a broad set of indicators, covering the major dimensions of poverty and injustice as described in Oxfam's rights-based approach. Data were collected by partners in their own working areas with the help of a smart phone app, which transferred data into a central data base, managed and analysed by the Oxfam Novib World Citizens Panel team in The Hague. This report presents the major findings of the impact analysis.

## MAIN FEATURES OF THE CAMBODIA IMPACT SURVEY

- About 50 interviewers carried out a total of 3650 interviews
- The interviewees were randomly selected and are a representative sample of the primary stakeholders (the total number of people participating in the projects) of Oxfam and partners in Cambodia and a comparable control group.
- Data collection took place in May and June 2014
- 11 partners carried out the surveys in their own operational areas
- The data of 2 partners were not included in this country impact report because the survey served for them as a baseline without a control group
- Major activities in which the respondents had been involved were: sustainable livelihoods (32%), gender (32%), education (28%) and health (28%).
- The average number of years that respondents had participated in the activities of partner organizations varies a lot between partners (from a few months to more than 10 years).

## MAIN OUTCOMES OF THE CAMBODIA IMPACT SURVEY

- Impact on livelihoods: Significant differences between target group and control group with respect to increased income and increased value of assets, but not on food security. The differences are caused by women; the differences between men in target group and control group are not significant
- Significant differences between target group and control group with respect to disaster preparedness: there is evidence of impact on some of the life and security indicators, showing less damage for target group members to themselves and their belongings, better preparedness and greater capability to cope with future disasters.
- Access to information is very limited in Cambodia. Radio, CBOs and verbal information from relatives and neighbours are the major sources of public information. Half of the respondents say it is difficult to get public information, while the other half say it is easy. Among those that have access to media, rather large proportions get never or rarely informed on public issues. Youth (between 16 and 25 years) has more access to internet, email and social media than other age groups.
- There has been a big impact of partners' activities on people's participation in social organisations, collective action against injustice and their influence on decision making processes.
- Violence against women is a problem according to the majority of respondents. The problem is decreasing, however, in the eyes of a large majority. Awareness seems to be higher among the target group, resulting in a higher percentage reporting gender based violence as a problem in their community.
- There are generally good possibilities for women to become politically active and take a leadership role in society.
- There has been a positive trend during the last five years with regard to increased space for civil society, increased possibilities for female leadership and reduced gender based violence.

- The number of land concessions granted to external investors has increased, however, despite the work that Oxfam and partners have done in this area. Awareness has grown, people have more frequently been able to file their complaints, but little follow up action (such as compensation) has been observed from the government.
- The positive developments initiated by influencing work of civil society organizations are being attributed to awareness raising and (to a lesser extent) to advocacy work of civil society organizations, but also to increased space and possibilities created by the government.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This impact report is based on the combined efforts of the staff of Oxfam and partners in Cambodia. Each local partner had a survey coordinator, who trained and guided interviewers to collect the data.

Key players for this exercise were of course the interviewers, who put great effort in obtaining reliable data from respondents, and the respondents themselves, whose perceptions and insights form the basis of this impact report.

The overall process was coordinated by Ms Chea Pisey, who provided logistical support to all partners in Cambodia and organised the start up workshop in Phnom Penh, provided background information on the Oxfam Cambodia programme and arranged for a proper follow up with partners during the data collection process.

The statistical analyses were conducted in STATA by Rik Linssen, impact researcher in the WCP team and Tigist Mekuria, an intern from the department of Development Economics at Wageningen University, under guidance of the project leader of the Oxfam Novib World Citizens Panel team in The Hague, Peter Huisman.



# 1 INTRODUCTION

The World Citizens Panel is an impact measurement method developed by Oxfam Novib. We combine quantitative research (impact surveys) with qualitative research (stories of change) to give participants in our programmes a voice, to learn how our programmes can be improved, and to contribute to the public debate on effectiveness of development cooperation. The method was introduced and implemented in Cambodia in the period April- July 2014. This report is a working document to present the results of the quantitative survey, as a basis for reflection by the Oxfam country team on their current approach and for the identification of areas for further quantitative and qualitative research.

This introductory chapter describes the impact measurement approach and provides a general overview of the Cambodian context and Oxfam's approach and strategy in Cambodia. Chapter 2 describes the methodology of the impact survey, where after chapter 3 presents the results of the study. The conclusions and discussion are then presented in chapter 4.

## 1.1 CAMBODIA'S CONTEXT

The context in Cambodia has been described in Oxfam's strategy document for 2011-2014 as follows:

*Cambodia has emerged from almost three decades of conflict, insecurity and instability. This prolonged period of often-times violent conflict has contributed to a society that is lacking in trust and social cohesion, an economy that is largely driven by the informal sector and a government that is heavily supported by foreign donors. Cambodia has made steady progress in its economic recovery and national reconciliation. Still, with many important government and public sector institutions starting to be rebuilt, the lack of capacity and imbalance of power has made this process slow and difficult.*

*For this country of 15 million, poverty remains a fundamental issue. The majority of Cambodians live on less than \$2 a day and for the 80% of the population who live in rural areas, the effects of poverty are particularly pronounced.<sup>i</sup> For women and young people especially, there are limited spaces and opportunities to participate in and influence decisions that affect their lives. They are disproportionately affected by the development challenges the country faces.*

*With nearly 1,500 active local NGOs registered in Cambodia<sup>ii</sup> and a broad range of community-based organizations, a growing civil society movement is emerging. From farmers to fishers and trade unions to women's groups, this movement is active in a wide range of areas. However, recent trends indicate an increasingly tightened space for Cambodians to voice their needs, assemble, and organize freely.*

*Over the past two decades, Cambodia's economy has stabilized and steadily grown. Unfortunately, this growth has brought a trend towards growing inequality<sup>iii</sup> with the majority of Cambodians seeing little to no benefits. Cambodia's economic development has encouraged foreign investment in export oriented industries. Not only has this emphasis largely ignored the task of supporting the livelihoods of most Cambodians, in many cases, it has led to increased landlessness, exacerbating conditions of poverty.*

*The integration of the global economy has increased vulnerability to potential crisis impacts. At the same time, growth in the economy has put pressure on the land, water and forests meaning communities are losing their land at an alarming pace<sup>15</sup> to private sector actors. To survive, many people, particularly women, are forced to resort to strategies, including migration for work where they*

are at greater risk of being exploited or trafficked, lacking workplace protection and access to basic services.

*Cambodia remains highly patriarchal and hierarchical - a dominant cultural norm dictates the subordination of women to men, a traditional view strongly ingrained at community level. Women generally hold the same strong beliefs about their inferior position in society and are unwilling to move away from traditional roles, making it difficult to address the disparities between the genders, not only in terms of access to resources, but also decision-making power and basic social well-being.*

*The inequalities between men and women are widespread. Despite making up a high proportion of the workforce in many sectors, women are often lower paid and struggle to access opportunities and resources that can help them to improve their situation. Within government, women remain underrepresented and without true decision-making and leadership roles. Perhaps the most striking indicator of gender based discrimination and poor women's status is the high level of domestic violence and rape that is prevalent at all levels of society.*

## 1.2 OXFAM STRATEGY FOR CAMBODIA

### CREATING AND RESPONDING TO CHANGE

Oxfam's work extends throughout and covers all 24 provinces of Cambodia, and involves direct implementation or cooperation with local partners and government representatives in the provinces, as well as engagement with national advocacy agencies and trade unions. Oxfam Great Britain, and Oxfam Italy have field operation offices in provincial Kratie, Kampong Thom, and Siem Reap.

There are close to 85 staff presently working for Oxfam affiliates in Cambodia comprised mostly of Cambodian nationals. Oxfam's staff members bring together strong technical expertise in many diverse areas including agriculture, human rights, savings-led microfinance, migration and human trafficking, forestry and fisheries, mining, oil and gas, gender and governance, climate change and disaster risk reduction, adding value to the development efforts of our partners.

Oxfam affiliates have established positive working relationships with various government bodies at all levels through collaboration on a range of projects. In this way, Oxfam continues to influence the development of government policies and practices and encourages the fostering of strong linkages between community level interventions and national level policy making.

### VISION FOR CAMBODIA

**Cambodians, especially women, are empowered to hold government and others with power accountable and realize their rights to build a society free from poverty and injustice.**

We envision a model of pro-poor development based on empowerment, equality and sustainability to be brought about by a constructive and mutually supportive relationship between citizens of Cambodia, the government and the private sector.

We envision an economy and society where:

- People enjoy their rights
- The poor and women in particular, are informed, capable, and are free to make livelihood choices
- Investors comply with both local and international standards that respect societal values and the environment and their activities benefit small scale producers, especially women
- Government fosters an environment that enables mutually beneficial partnerships to thrive, prosper and ultimately lead to overcoming poverty and inequality.

We believe that growth in a country's economy alone does not guarantee improvement in the well-being of its people. Instead the focus of any development and humanitarian intervention must be Cambodian citizens as key agents of change.

Our strategy will be to support the development of local and national organizations into strong institutions that are able to respond to the development and humanitarian issues in Cambodia in an accountable and transparent way.

We will create knowledge and understanding within civil society to enable these groups to represent Cambodian people effectively and to act as the balance of power between other key actors, such as the private sector and government. Recognizing the contribution of women to the economic, social and cultural well-being of the country, we will ensure that our programs uphold women's rights and promote women's empowerment and leadership. This will be key to realizing our vision.

We will also seek to influence and work with other development actors such as local and international NGOs, international development agencies and the private sector in the development process.

The projects and partners that Oxfam will support will not only expose the real cost of the model driving Cambodia's economy, they will also demonstrate that it is possible to achieve development and promote economic growth by supporting small scale producers. At the same time, they will address vulnerability and support the building up of resilience, in partnership with both government and business. It will demonstrate that such partnerships can be mutually beneficial, and that such an approach can achieve deeper and longer-term positive impacts for the country as a whole.

## AREAS OF FOCUS

Empowerment and Governance are at the core of our programming, which focuses on the following three goals:

- 1 - Economic Justice: Cambodian poor women and men claim power to demand transparent and accountable ways to manage productive assets in order to secure and improve their livelihoods.
- 2 - Rights in Crisis: Vulnerable communities in Cambodia - especially women - are resilient to disasters and are empowered to recognize, claim, and uphold their rights to life and security.
- 3 - Gender Justice: Women will gain power over their lives and live free from violence.

## 1.3 RIGHTS BASED APPROACH

Oxfam has adopted a **rights based approach** to development and strives for a just world without poverty by empowering people to actively take part in social, economic and political processes, hold the powerful accountable for their actions and have an influence on decision making. Basic rights for every individual include aspects of economic and social well being, vulnerability and resil-

ience to cope with external shocks, as well as rights to be heard and have an identity. Beyond the individual level, the rights based approach involves increasing the degree to which people are able to organise themselves in social and political organisations, and thus be able to hold their governments accountable and to influence political decision making.

The rights based approach has been operationalised by Oxfam in 5 fundamental rights:

1. *the right to a sustainable livelihood*
2. *the right to basic social services*
3. *the right to life and security*
4. *the right to be heard (social and political participation)*
5. *the right to an identity (gender justice and diversity)*

These five rights address the main dimensions of poverty. They have strong interrelations and are therefore considered as a whole. Activities that contribute to one of these rights may affect other rights as well.

There are especially strong links between rights 4 and 5 on the one hand and rights 1, 2 and 3 on the other: empowerment of individuals and enabling them to participate in social and political processes and decision making (right 4) is a pre-condition for economic (right 1) and social (right 2) development, as well as for ensuring their security (right 3). These rights are universal and apply to all individuals irrespective of the sex, ethnic or other group in society to which they belong (right 5). The work on education (as part of access to basic social services – right 2) is often done with the objective to capacitate people to improve their livelihoods (right 1) or to empower people to take part in political processes (right 4). The work on health (right 2) is essential to ensure food and income security (right 1). These are just a few examples. Many other linkages between the five rights exist.

Oxfam's goal is to have impact by changing the lives of people living in poverty and injustice. The rights based approach focuses on shifting power relations, so that people can work on improvements in their own life. Impact will then be visible in the lives of people. As a result of a particular programme's focus it is likely that more impact will be achieved on indicators directly linked to the particular programme. Because of the linkages between the five rights, as described above, impact may also be seen on indicators that are less directly related to the programme. It therefore makes sense to measure changes related to all five rights, irrespective of the focus of the interventions of a particular programme.

## 1.4 IMPACT MEASUREMENT APPROACH IN BRIEF

Oxfam Novib measures changes in peoples lives related to the programme over a longer period of time. The strategy involves a good balance of rigorous quantitative analysis on basis of predefined indicators (both general rights based poverty indicators and programme specific indicators defined by programme partners) and qualitative information through the collection and analysis of project participant's stories of perceived changes in their lives. The strength is in the combination of both quantitative and qualitative approaches so that they reinforce each other.

Oxfam Novib has adapted the household surveys approach and the most significant change methodology for this purpose in order to make them relatively easy to use (and not expensive), while still ensuring reliability of data. The approach makes use of mobile phone technology (an impact survey app), online automatic statistical reporting, video recording of stories of change etc.) for cost effective and attractive M&E.

Measuring impact in this way will contribute to improved strategic and financial resources management that enhances the cost-efficiency and cost-effectiveness of programmes and investments aimed to improve the lives of people living in poverty.



Oxfam and 11 partners in Cambodia carried out an impact survey in 2014. The survey started with an introductory workshop in Phnom Penh for all partners in April 2014. A toolkit with guidelines and (ICT based) tools was introduced and practiced during the workshop in order to facilitate data collection and reporting. Partners trained their own staff or external interviewers and took a random sample of beneficiaries and non beneficiaries to be interviewed for the impact survey.

This impact report on Cambodia presents the findings of the survey based on the data collected by 9 partner organizations. Two other partners carried out the survey as a baseline in their new project areas. Their results will be included in the analysis after the next survey and are not part of this report. Besides this country impact report, all partners have access to their own organisation's results in the form of statistical tables and graphs.

The survey will be repeated after two years to measure whether there are significant differences between the results at the start of the programme and after two years.

## 1.5 STUDY OBJECTIVE

This impact report presents the results of the survey on a number of key indicators, derived from Oxfam's rights based approach, and analyses specifically whether there are significant differences between the target group and a comparable control group in order to establish whether the interventions of Oxfam and partners in Cambodia have had an impact on changes in people's lives. In addition to this, a further analysis was made to test whether there were significant differences between male and female respondents and between the youth and the other age groups.

A specific objective of the study was to assess the effects of the influencing role of civil society organizations. Besides direct work with project participants by a number of partner organizations, some or other organizations also do advocacy or campaigning work. The survey has therefore included a number of specific questions to determine whether people have observed the effects of this influencing work on their lives, especially in the areas of space for civic engagement, gender based violence, female leadership and land rights. When people reported positive changes, the survey further explored whether they would attribute this to the work of government and/or civil society organizations. This part of the survey was a complementary part to the qualitative impact research commissioned by Oxfam and undertaken by Ruth Bottomley, for which a separate report is available on the World Citizens Panel website.

During a reflection workshop on the preliminary results, held in Phnom Penh in July 2014 a number of areas (domains) were selected for more in depth qualitative research by selected partner organizations, using the stories of change methodology.

| DOMAIN                | ORGANISATIONS        |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Food security         | Rachana, PDAO, PADEK |
| Access to information | COMFREL, BCV, CLEC   |
| Land rights           | ADHOC, AEC           |
| Gender based violence | DPA, SORF            |

The results of these stories of change will be presented separately.

# 2 METHODOLOGY

## 2.1 SURVEY PROCESS

In order to obtain reliable data, staff of partners were trained in all steps of the survey process. Key attention points were random sampling, the composition of a control group and conducting the interviews in an effective way to ensure reliable answers from the respondents. The following eight steps were followed to ensure reliable data collection:

1. Partners working directly with their beneficiaries defined the size of their target group (number of beneficiaries/project participants that they work with).
2. (Where possible) partners also identified a comparable control group of the same size as the target group and with the same characteristics as the target group, but without having benefits from the activities.
3. The required sample size was determined with an online sample size calculator. ([www.surveysystem.com](http://www.surveysystem.com)).
4. A random sample of participants and members of the control group was drawn with the help of an online tool for random sampling ([www.random.org](http://www.random.org)).
5. Survey coordinators in all partner organizations made lists with people to be interviewed, indicating the unique respondents code and the code of the programme they were part of.
6. Interviewers were trained by staff of the partner organizations. Interviewers were preferably staff of the partners with good knowledge of the beneficiaries and their context. This makes it possible for them to ask also sensitive questions and judge whether the answers are a true reflection of the reality. They were instructed to make sure that they would not accept socially desirable answers or answers that exaggerate the situation in order to get more support. The only way for them to do a good interviewing job would be to obtain reliable answers, whether positive or negative.
7. Respondents were interviewed using an impact app on a smart phone.
8. Data were uploaded from smart phones.

## 2.2 QUESTIONNAIRE

The standard questionnaire developed by the World Citizens Panel (in collaboration with partners from various countries<sup>1</sup>) was discussed with Oxfam staff and partners in Phnom Penh. In addition to the standard questions, participants at the workshop defined specific questions on the influencing role of civil society and on the land rights, resilience and right to be heard/migration programmes. The questions were translated into Khmer and the impact app for Cambodia was made available to all partners in Khmer.

The full questionnaire can be found in annex 1.

## 2.3 PARTNERS AND RESPONDENTS

Data from 9 partners that conducted interviews among their target group and a control group were

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<sup>1</sup> Oxfam Novib staff and partners from India, Philippines, Ethiopia, Kenya, Bolivia, Uganda, Senegal, Occupied Palestinian Territories and South Africa met in a series of workshops to define dimensions of poverty, key indicators and questions for measuring the impact of their work. The system was tested and revised and introduced in a large scale pilot in Uganda in 2012 together with online and offline data entry tools.

included in the overall impact analysis. The partners that undertook the impact survey in Cambodia and their numbers of respondents are presented in table 1 below. All partners used the standard questionnaire<sup>2</sup> and a set of questions related to the influencing role of civil society<sup>3</sup>. In addition each partner included one particular set of programme specific questions (either land rights, resilience or right to be heard/migration). The analysis of these programme specific questions<sup>4</sup> is presented in sections 3.1 and 3.4. CLEC and PK also conducted the survey as a baseline for their new projects. Their data is not included in the analysis for this report, because no impact can be measured yet.

**Table 1. Partners and number of respondents**

| Name of Partner | Programme                   | Respondents |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| PADEK           | Resilience                  | 358         |
| ADHOC           | Land rights                 | 366         |
| COMFREL         | Right to be heard/migration | 369         |
| AEC             | Land rights                 | 357         |
| DPA             | Resilience                  | 381         |
| Rachana         | Resilience                  | 376         |
| BCV             | Land rights                 | 346         |
| PDAO            | Resilience                  | 316         |
| SORF            | Resilience                  | 243         |
| <b>Total</b>    |                             | <b>3112</b> |

Table 2 shows the length of participation of the respondents in the project activities of the partner organizations. 5.7% of the respondents indicated that they had participated in programme activities for more than ten years while the minimum stay was on average 0 years (meaning less than a year, with of course a large percentage caused by the members of the control group). The average duration of participation for members of the target group in the program was 3.6 years.

**Table 2. Number of years participated in activities of partner organisation:**

| Number of years | Percentage | Count       |
|-----------------|------------|-------------|
| 0               | 43.3%      | 1348        |
| 1               | 16.8%      | 524         |
| 2               | 7.9%       | 246         |
| 3               | 8.7%       | 271         |
| 4               | 7.3%       | 227         |
| 5               | 3.9%       | 122         |
| 6               | 1.4%       | 45          |
| 7               | 1.2%       | 37          |
| 8               | 1.1%       | 35          |
| 9               | 0.6%       | 19          |
| 10              | 2.0%       | 61          |
| more than 10    | 5.7%       | 177         |
|                 |            | <b>3112</b> |

<sup>2</sup> Q1-59 in the questionnaire

<sup>3</sup> Q60-71 in the questionnaire

<sup>4</sup> In the questionnaire, Q72-85 refer to land rights, Q86-91 to resilience and Q92-118 to the right to be heard/migration

The major activities mentioned by the respondents as activities in which they had taken part, were in the area of livelihoods, education, health and gender justice, as shown in table 3.

**Table 3. Type of activity a member of the household participated in during the last year:**

| Type of activities                                  | Percentage | Count |
|---|------------|-------|
| None  | 33.1%      | 1031  |
| Livelihoods (sustainable production and protection) | 32.4%      | 1009  |
| Education   | 28.4%      | 883   |
| Conflict transformation                             | 15.9%      | 496   |
| Access to information                               | 14.6%      | 453   |
| Social and political participation                  | 13.0%      | 405   |
| Humanitarian aid                                    | 12.9%      | 400   |
| Financial services and markets                      | 8.5%       | 263   |
| Health  | 28.3%      | 880   |
| Natural disaster reduction                          | 17.3%      | 538   |
| Access to justice                                   | 13.8%      | 429   |
| Gender / women's rights                             | 31.7%      | 987   |

## 2.4 ANALYSES

### Data cleaning

At the start of the analysis process, a data cleaning exercise was carried out. This was the first time for almost all partners and their interviewers to collect data with a smart phone, and therefore, inevitably some data entry errors were found, especially for questions that had not been pre-coded, but required entering a number with the keyboard. With the help of the survey coordinators most of the mistakes could be corrected, especially mistakes in coding for participants and programmes.

### Descriptives

Automated statistical reports have been made for organisations that have finalised their survey. The data of these organisations has been aggregated into a country report, which shows the main frequencies for all questions in the survey and where applicable the mean (average). Both the country report and the organisation's own report are available for all partners.

The main challenge in different types of impact evaluations is to find a good counterfactual – the situation a particular subject would be in had he or she not been exposed to the intervention (Hulme, 2000; Karlan, 2001; Khandker *et al.*, 2010). This requires determining what would have happened to the beneficiaries had the intervention not existed. However, it is not possible to study an individual twice in the same time frame, with and without the intervention.

Without information on the counterfactual, the next best alternative is to compare the outcomes of participating respondents with those of a comparison group that did not participate. In doing so, it is important to select a control group that is very similar to the beneficiary group; such that the beneficiaries would have had outcomes similar to those in the control group in absence of the intervention. To prevent a bias in the outcomes, the selected control group should be identical to the beneficiary group and be exposed to the same set of externalities as the beneficiary group (Karlan,

2001; Lensink, 2014).

The comparability of the target group and the control group was tested, using a selection of general characteristics: sex, age, literacy, education, occupation, marital status and poverty classification. In case of more than two possible response categories, variables were recoded to dummy variables (see Table 4.)

For a selection of indicators, a more in depth impact analysis was conducted by the World Citizens Panel team of Oxfam Novib. The analysis focused on determining whether there are significant differences in the outcomes for the target group respondents as compared to the respondents in the control group.

### **General characteristics of Participants**

Table 4 shows the number of observations, percentage and the result of  $\chi^2$  test for the general characteristics of the participants who are participated in the survey.  $\chi^2$  is a statistical method used to test the difference between two groups, if the variable to be tested is a categorical variable (a variable that takes more than two values). The objective of this test is to know whether the target and control group are statistically different on the observed characteristics. If under the column “ $\chi^2$  test” we have a star sign, it means that there is a statistical difference between the two groups.

From table 4 we can conclude that, there is a significant difference between the target and control group regarding the level of education, age group youth, marital status and poverty classification. Given these differences between the two groups, it is impossible to take simple mean differences as prove of impact of the program since the differences in general characteristics could have had a major influence in stead of the assumed influence of the intervention. To take this all into account, we used the propensity score matching method to analyse the impact. PSM is a statistical technique that attempts to reduce the bias due to confounding variables (external variables, such as the general characteristics, that may have caused the difference instead of the assumed influence of the treatment). PSM matches the respondents of the target group with their nearest equivalent within the control group and thus allows for a better comparison between the target group and the control group.

In chapter 3 the results of PSM will be presented. Throughout this report the impact is shown in terms of the average treatment effect, which is the difference between the “matched” means of the target group and the control group. The PSM tables in this report also show the means of target group and control group as such. The statistical significance of the differences between the matched means is expressed with one or two stars (depending on the level of confidence):

\* means  $p < .05$ : there is a 5% chance that the value is found “by chance” and 95% confidence that there is significant difference,

\*\* means  $p < .01$ : there is a 1% chance that the value is found “by chance” and 99% confidence that there is significant difference,

All independent variables listed in table 4 are included in the propensity score matching exercise, except “old age” and “no education”. (The “old age” and “no education” respondents are taken as a reference point in the analysis).

To make sure that each participant is matched with the other group in the same province we added a dummy variable for each province in the analysis. However, those provinces with lower number of participants are not included in the analysis; rather we used them as a reference group. (These are: Banteay Meanchey, Battambang, Kok Kong<sup>5</sup>, Oddar Meanchey, Preah Vihear, Prey Veng, Stung Streng , Kep).

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<sup>5</sup> This province does not have respondents from the control group



**Table 4. Comparison of the general characteristics of the target and control group**

| Variables  | Target group                           |                | Control group |                | Total (%)      | chi <sup>2</sup> test |
|--|--|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|
|  | Frequency                              | Percentage (%) | Frequency     | Percentage (%) | Percentage (%) |                       |
| Sex (Female=1)                                   | 704                                    | 34             | 554           | 35             | 34%            | 0.045                 |
| Literacy (Literate=1)                            | 1,474                                  | 72             | 1,152         | 72             | 72             | 0.019                 |
| <b>Level of Education</b>                        |  |                |               |                |                |                       |
| None   | 580                                    | 28             | 442           | 28             | 28             | 0.174                 |
| Lower Primary (Grade 1-4 =1)                     | 669                                    | 33             | 466           | 29             | 31             | 5.02*                 |
| Higher Primary (Grade 5-8=1)                     | 436                                    | 21             | 355           | 22             | 22             | 0.480                 |
| Secondary=1                                      | 127                                    | 6              | 95            | 6              | 6              | 0.097                 |
| Higher education=1                               | 245                                    | 12             | 245           | 15             | 13             | 8.84**                |
| Occupation (1 if primary sector)                 | 1,631                                  | 79             | 1,298         | 81             | 80             | 1.596                 |
| (Urban=1)  | 199                                    | 10             | 162           | 10             | 10             | 0.189                 |
| <b>Age</b>                                       |  |                |               |                |                |                       |
| Children (0-15)                                  | Only one observation for control group |                |               |                |                |                       |
| Youth(16-25=1)                                   | 258                                    | 13             | 272           | 17             | 15             | 14.249**              |
| Adult1 (26-45=1)                                 | 865                                    | 42             | 626           | 39             | 41             | 3.358                 |
| Adult2(46-65=1)                                  | 771                                    | 38             | 570           | 36             | 37             | 1.436                 |
| Old(above 65=1)                                  | 163                                    | 8              | 134           | 8              | 8              | 0.229                 |
| Marital status (1 if couple and 0 if not couple) | 1,493                                  | 73             | 1,064         | 66             | 70             | 16.480**              |
| <b>Poverty</b>                                   |  |                |               |                |                |                       |
| Ultra poor + poor=1<br>Other & unknown=0         | 819                                    | 40             | 652           | 41             | 40             | 0.276                 |
| Ultra poor + poor+<br>unknown=1<br>Others=0      | 1,444                                  | 70             | 1,174         | 73             | 72             | 4.084*                |

Table 4 shows that there is a significant difference between the control group and target group on five of the general characteristics. In order to compensate for the difference between the target and control group, the propensity score matching (PSM) method was used to assess the impact. Because of the use of propensity score matching, the total number of observations may vary between the indicators. This is because respondents from the target group are matched with respondents from the control group and only respondents that sufficiently match will be included in the analysis.

# 3 RESULTS OF THE SURVEY

This chapter presents the results of the impact survey in Cambodia per dimension, based on the five fundamental rights as described in chapter 2. Each paragraph presents a short description of the indicators within one dimension and the major differences observed between the target group and the control group. Besides the analysis of the standard indicators, section 3.1 also includes an analysis of the programme specific indicators on land rights and resilience and 3.4 deals also with the programme specific indicators for the right to be heard and migration.

The Cambodia survey included a specific section on the influencing role of civil society. For this section a number of questions were added to the questionnaire, especially on the space for civil society, gender based violence, female leadership and land rights. The results of this part are presented in paragraph 3.6. In addition to the survey a qualitative research report was written on civil society's influencing role by a consultant (Ruth Bottomley).

## 3.1 SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

### Change in income

Income is the most widely used indicator for measuring changes in people's wealth situation. Universally the poverty line has been established at \$1 per capita per day (1985 prices), while various countries also work with national poverty lines expressed in US\$ or local currency equivalents. Although widely used at national levels (by calculating aggregated figures), it is hard to measure income at an individual level. First of all, it needs a clear definition on what is included (monetary income, production value etc.) and people are usually not eager to provide exact information on what they earn. An interesting approach is Save the Children's household economy approach<sup>6</sup>. This approach, however, requires substantive time and resources. The use of these resources may be justified in certain projects, especially for planning and close monitoring purposes, but is impossible at a large scale. Therefore, people participating in the activities of Oxfam's partner organisations were asked whether they have observed a change in income. Within a set of multidimensional indicators, people's perception of their income change is also a very powerful indicator. One might argue that people's perception of improvement is even more important than the actual improvement itself.

The indicator used is *perceived change in income*. Income is defined as monetary income received in a respective period through various sources (work, interest, remittances, gifts etc.) plus the value of goods produced and used for own consumption in the same period. The respondents were asked whether they have observed a positive or negative change in their income or no change at all over the previous 12 months.

The survey results (presented in figure 1) show, that more people in the target group perceived an increase, but there were still large percentages also in the target group that perceived no change or even a decrease.

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<sup>6</sup> [www.savethechildren.org.uk/HEA\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/HEA_Guide.pdf)

Figure 1.

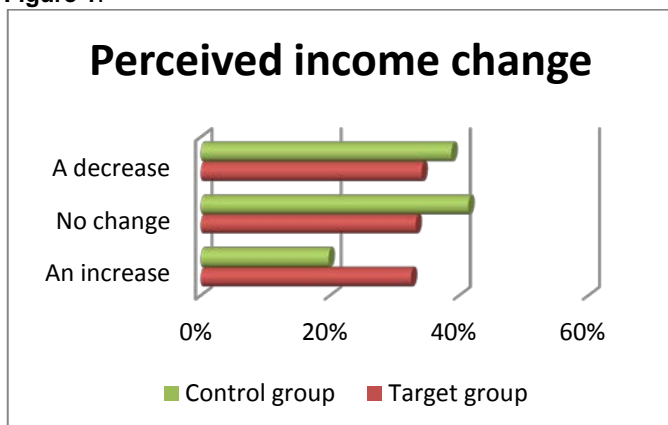


Table 5 presents the PSM analysis for income, which shows that there is a significant difference between the target group and the control group in terms of perceived income change (calculating increase, no change and decrease together). Also when comparing the perceived increase alone for target group and control group, the target group scores significantly better than the control group. Further analysis has shown that the impact has been made only on female participants. Comparing male respondents from the target group and the control group does not show a significant difference. There is also no evidence of impact on the youth. People classified as ultra poor, however, have significantly less frequently perceived an increase in their income. The percentage of people perceiving a decrease in their income is rather high, but there is no significant difference between the target group and the control group.

Table 5. PSM analysis for income

| variable  | number of obs. | target group |       | control group |              |
|---|----------------|--------------|-------|---------------|--------------|
|   |                | mean         | mean  | impact        | significance |
| perceived income change (from -1=decrease to 0=no change and +1=increase) | 3022           | -0,02        | -0,16 | 0,14          | **           |
| % perceived income decrease   | 3022           | 34%          | 37%   | -3%           |              |
| % perceived income increase   | 3022           | 32%          | 21%   | 11%           | **           |

\* $p < .05$ ; \*\* $p < .01$

See also chapter 2 for a description of the statistical method to measure the impact

### Value of assets

Partners working on resilience regarded increase in income alone not sufficient as an indication of economic well-being. The income may be used for other purposes than the well-being of the family (e.g. payment of debts, social obligations, and individual pleasure). Therefore the **value of assets** has been added as an indicator for projects that focus on improving resilience. It is assumed that the selected categories of assets will show whether increased income has resulted in investments and increased value of people's possessions, thereby indicating increased wealth. For each of these assets, an analysis was made to measure whether there is a positive or negative change or no change at all in its value. A value was given to each answer for a perceived change in value of assets as follows:

- ✓ Increase is given a value of 1
- ✓ Decrease is given a value of -1
- ✓ No change and not applicable are given a value of 0

**Table 6. Perceived change in value of assets (not matched)**

|                                   | target group (n=788) |           |          |                |     | control group (n=824) |           |          |                |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|-----------|----------|----------------|-----|-----------------------|-----------|----------|----------------|
|                                   | increase             | no change | decrease | not applicable |     | increase              | no change | decrease | not applicable |
| <b>livestock</b>                  | 58%                  | 14%       | 23%      | 6%             | 43% | 21%                   | 28%       | 8%       |                |
| <b>land resources</b>             | 24%                  | 54%       | 11%      | 10%            | 22% | 64%                   | 7%        | 7%       |                |
| <b>Labour</b>                     | 45%                  | 34%       | 20%      | 1%             | 34% | 46%                   | 19%       | 2%       |                |
| <b>Loans</b>                      | 24%                  | 23%       | 29%      | 23%            | 19% | 31%                   | 24%       | 26%      |                |
| <b>other production resources</b> | 23%                  | 36%       | 6%       | 35%            | 22% | 37%                   | 9%        | 32%      |                |
| <b>house quality</b>              | 27%                  | 44%       | 13%      | 15%            | 20% | 58%                   | 14%       | 8%       |                |
| <b>other assets</b>               | 30%                  | 38%       | 7%       | 26%            | 25% | 50%                   | 9%        | 17%      |                |
| <b>savings</b>                    | 44%                  | 21%       | 12%      | 23%            | 18% | 27%                   | 17%       | 38%      |                |

In order to obtain a summary value for all assets, an asset index was created. All values of the asset categories were added up, except for the loans, and divided by seven (total number of assets) to create an asset index. Loans were not included in the asset index since an increase in loans could be interpreted both as a sign of increased access to capital and as a sign of impoverishment. A significant difference can be observed in table 7 with regard to the total value of assets (the asset index).

Then, also the impact of the intervention on each asset was analysed separately. We tested if an increase in the value of assets is statistically different between the target and control group. To do this, we created a dummy variable for each asset and coded 1 for an increase in the value of the assets and 0 if there was a decrease, no change or it was not applicable (i.e. the respondent did not have this asset).

**Table 7. PSM analysis for assets**

| Indicator  | number of obs | target group | control group | impact | significance |
|--|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------|--------------|
|  |               | mean         | mean          |        |              |
| % perceived increase in total value of (7) assets (=asset index) | 1592          | 23%          | 10%           | 12%    | **           |
| % perceived increase in value of livestock                       | 1592          | 58%          | 46%           | 11%    | **           |
| % perceived increase in value of land                            | 1592          | 24%          | 19%           | 5%     | **           |
| % perceived increase in value of labour                          | 1592          | 45%          | 36%           | 9%     | **           |
| % perceived increase in value of loans                           | 1592          | 23%          | 20%           | 4%     |              |
| % perceived increase in value of other production assets         | 1592          | 23%          | 20%           | 3%     |              |
| % perceived increase in value of house quality                   | 1592          | 27%          | 20%           | 7%     | **           |
| % perceived increase in value of other assets                    | 1592          | 30%          | 20%           | 10%    | **           |
| % perceived increase in value of savings                         | 1592          | 44%          | 20%           | 24%    | **           |

\* $p < .05$ ; \*\* $p < .01$

Results of Propensity Score Matching show that the target and control group significantly differ on all assets except for other production assets and loans.

### Food security

The number of months with insufficient food and the number of times a meal is consumed per day are the key indicators chosen for measuring food security. Although the indicators do not show whether the quality of the food and the diet have changed, they are widely used and generally considered to be the most practical and powerful indicators of the food security situation.

The survey results show that for about half of the target group and a comparable control group population there is no food shortage problem throughout the year. With regard to the other half of the population, there is no significant difference between the target group and the control group. Comparing female and male respondents in the sample as a whole, it becomes clear that women report a significantly higher average number of months with insufficient food than men. There is also a significant difference between the respondents classified as ultra poor and the other respondents with regard to the average number of months with insufficient food and the average number of times per day that a meal is consumed.

For the target group of partners working on resilience there was no significant difference regarding the number of times a meal is consumed during the most critical month of the year (see Table 9).

**Table 8. number of months per year with insufficient food (n=3112)**

| Months | Target group | Control group |
|--------|--------------|---------------|
| 0      | 54%          | 50%           |
| 1      | 8%           | 7%            |
| 2      | 11%          | 13%           |
| 3      | 12%          | 14%           |
| 4      | 5%           | 6%            |
| 5      | 4%           | 4%            |
| 6      | 3%           | 3%            |
| 7      | 1%           | 1%            |
| 8      | 0%           | 1%            |
| 9      | 0%           | 0%            |
| 10     | 1%           | 0%            |
| 11     | 0%           | 0%            |
| 12     | 1%           | 2%            |

**Table 9. PSM analysis for food security**

| variable  | number of obs. | target group | control group |        |              |
|---|----------------|--------------|---------------|--------|--------------|
|   |                | mean         | mean          | impact | significance |
| months with insufficient food   | 3022           | 1.53         | 1.56          | -0.03  |              |
| average number of times per day that a meal is consumed in critical month | 1592           | 2.45         | 2.38          | .07    |              |



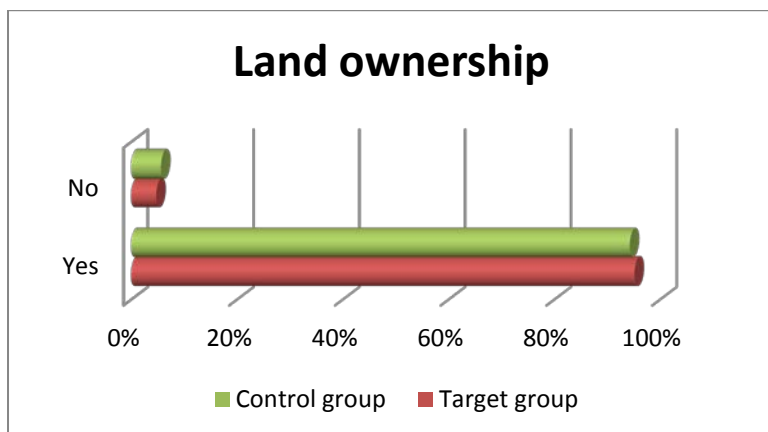
Further analysis shows that food insecurity is closely related to land conflicts, lack of land registration, physical damage due to disasters and people feeling less capable to cope with disasters. People who have participated in livelihoods projects perceive a significantly better food security situation, increase in income and increase in value of assets.

## LAND RIGHTS

### Land ownership

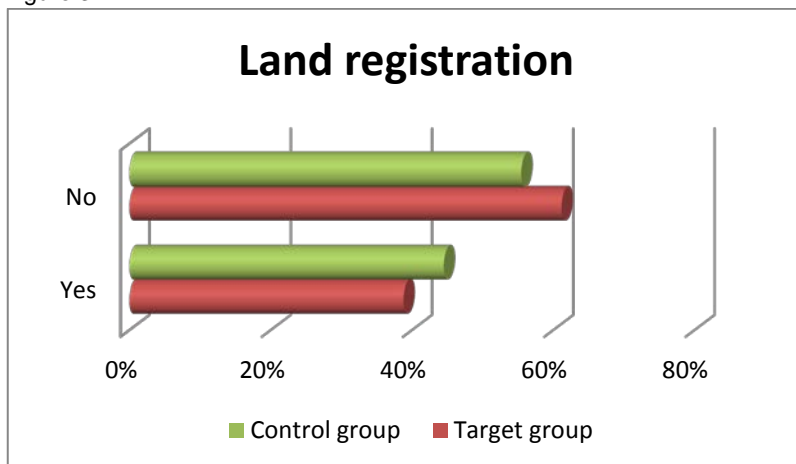
Oxfam works together with three partners specifically on land rights. The survey carried out by these three partners showed that a large majority (95%) of the population owns land (figure 2).

Figure 2.



In many cases, however, there is no formal land registration. However, the land ownership is usually recognized by local authorities.

Figure 3



The major crop grown is rice (85%), while Chamkar and fruit trees are also important. 67% of the target group against 52% of the control group have access to community forest products.

### Land conflicts

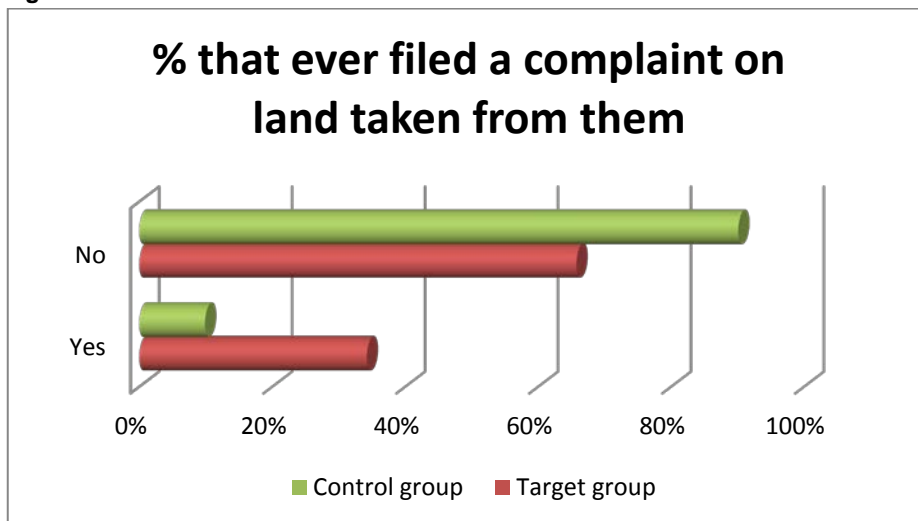
A mixed picture appears from the question whether there have been more or less land-related conflicts over the past five years. Almost half of the respondents indicate a decrease while a substantial number (30% in the target group) indicated an increase in the number of land conflicts. Members of the target group have taken more action to complain about land taken from them, which is possibly a sign of awareness and empowerment. This is confirmed by the significant differ-

ence between target group and control group with regard to perceived violation of rights. Few people have received compensation, however. A majority reports that no action has been undertaken on the complaint that they filed.

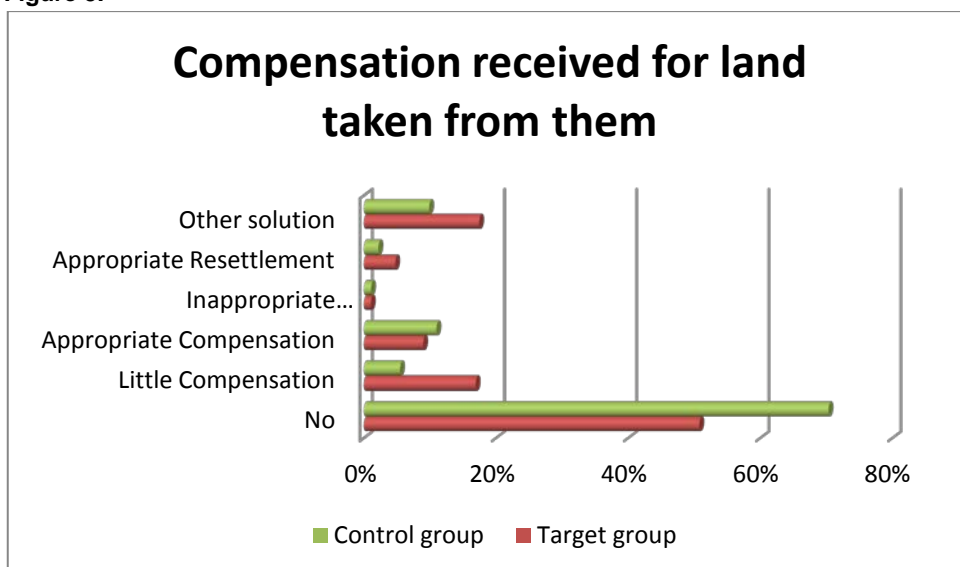
**Table 10.\_PSM analysis for land rights indicators**

| Indicator                              | number of obs. | target group | control group | impact | significance |
|--|----------------|--------------|---------------|--------|--------------|
|  |                | mean         | mean          |        |              |
| % perceived decrease in land conflicts | 1038           | 46%          | 47%           | -1%    |              |
| % filed complaint because land taken   | 1038           | 34%          | 10%           | 24%    | **           |
| % perceived violation of rights        | 1038           | 29%          | 14%           | 15%    | **           |

**Figure 4.**



**Figure 5.**



Respondents (especially those in the target group of the three partners) are positive about the work of community networks. Figure 6 shows that land ownership and more secure land title are seen as positive effects of community networks, besides increased confidence and community solidarity.

**Figure 6.**

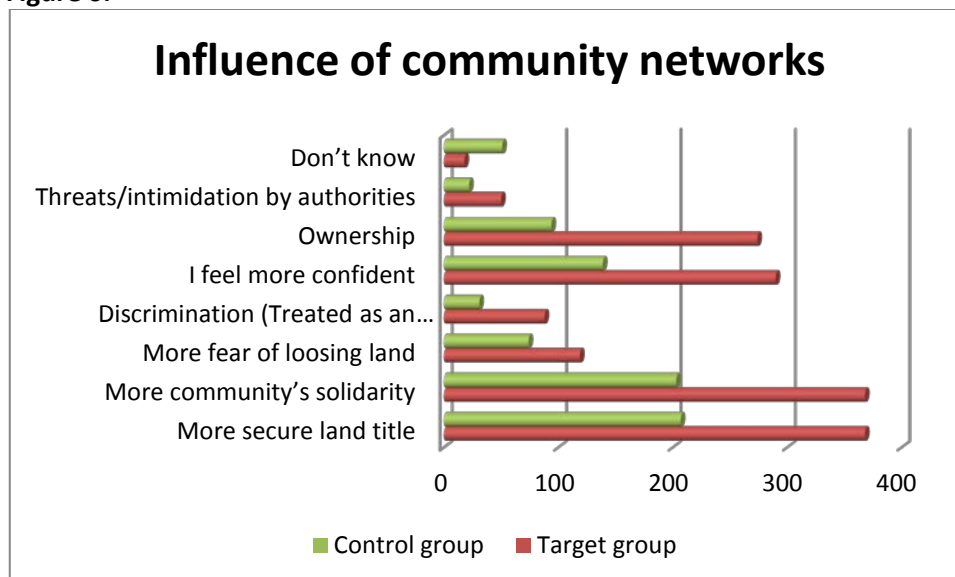


Table 11 provides a summary of the type of activities that participants of the projects of Oxfam's land rights partners have participated in.

**Table 11. Land rights activities**

| Activities participated in:   | Target group | Control group |
|---|--------------|---------------|
| Debate organised by one of the organisations from the partner list        | 55%          | 20%           |
| Legal aid training by one of the organisations from the partner list      | 65%          | 21%           |
| Awareness training through one of the organisations from the partner list | 68%          | 32%           |
| Campaign by one of the organisations from the partner list                | 46%          | 15%           |
| Online campaign by one of the organisations from the partner list         | 13%          | 1%            |
| None  | 12%          | 54%           |

## 3.2 ESSENTIAL SERVICES

### Education

People can often not afford to send their children to school for various reasons: for example because they need their labour, because they cannot pay the cost of education, comprising school fee, uniforms, books etc. When income increases and when people are more involved in economic and social activities and exchanges with other people, they will be more inclined to send their children to school. Better educated people are a sign of social impact and reduced poverty. At the same time education is a good basis for further development. To measure educational status, usually the enrolment rates of girls and boys are taken. Still, a better measurement is the number of children that finish primary school. UNESCO uses *the percentage of children in the first grade of primary education who reach the fifth grade*<sup>7</sup> assuming they have started receiving reading and writing lessons in grade 1. The survival rates to grade 5 are regarded as a safe indication for learning outcomes and hence for education quality. The fifth year of primary schooling is often taken as the threshold for acquisition of sustainable literacy.

This indicator is part of the Basic Capability Index (BCI) that Social Watch<sup>8</sup> uses for measuring basic welfare (see for the other two indicators Chapter 5.2.4 on health). The BCI has a strong correlation with other human capabilities.<sup>9</sup> A similar indicator (percentage of drop outs before grade 5) is therefore used in the World Citizens Panel survey. A comparison with Social Watch data on a national level would also be possible in this way.

The impact survey shows that, in Cambodia 75% of the children in the school age<sup>10</sup> are attending classes in a formal school. Enrolment rates are higher for the target group as compared to the control group, but also drop out rates are higher for the target group.

**Table 12 . Enrolment and drop out rates**

|                                   | Target group | Control group |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Girls enrolled at formal school   | 76%          | 74%           |
| Boys enrolled at formal school    | 79%          | 76%           |
| Drop outs before reaching grade 5 | 11%          | 9%            |

Besides enrolment and survival in school, the quality of education received is very important for children's ability to get involved actively and effectively in social, political and economic life. The World Citizens Panel therefore includes a rating by the parents of the quality of education that their children receive. Key aspects of this quality rating are the content of the educational material, the knowledge and skills of the teachers, the school building and facilities and the ability for parents to influence the quality of education.

The survey results show that a large proportion of the respondents don't know much about the

<sup>7</sup> see <http://portal.unesco.org/education>

<sup>8</sup> Social Watch is an international network informed by national citizens' groups aiming at following up the fulfilment of internationally agreed commitments on poverty eradication and equality. These national groups report, through the national **Social Watch** report, on the progress - or regression - towards these commitments and goals. The international secretariat of **Social Watch** is hosted by the **Third World Institute** in Montevideo, Uruguay. See also: [www.socialwatch.org](http://www.socialwatch.org)

<sup>9</sup> research has indicated that as a summary index, the BCI provides a consistent general overview of the health status and basic educational performance of a population. It has also proven to be highly correlated with measures of other human capabilities related to the social development of countries (<http://www.socialwatch.org/node/9376>)

<sup>10</sup> Defined as the age when a child is legally required to attend school. School age differs from country to country and may differ from urban and rural areas. If there is no official school age we take the age group of 6-18 as the school age.

quality of the education that their children receive. The target group of Oxfam's partners in Cambodia, however, have better insight and are more positive about the quality of education than the members of the control group.

**Table 13 Quality of education as perceived by parents**

|   | target group (n=1448) |      |      |            |  | control group (n=1541) |      |      |            |
|---|-----------------------|------|------|------------|--|------------------------|------|------|------------|
|   | Poor                  | Fair | Good | Don't know |  | Poor                   | Fair | Good | Don't know |
| <b>Content of educational material</b>  | 8%                    | 34%  | 31%  | 27%        |  | 8%                     | 35%  | 25%  | 33%        |
| <b>Knowledge and skills of teachers</b>   | 6%                    | 30%  | 34%  | 30%        |  | 7%                     | 25%  | 33%  | 35%        |
| <b>School building, facilities and surroundings</b>   | 4%                    | 29%  | 45%  | 22%        |  | 5%                     | 26%  | 43%  | 26%        |
| <b>The ability of parents to participate in the management of the school and influence the quality of education</b> | 11%                   | 20%  | 19%  | 50%        |  | 8%                     | 18%  | 15%  | 59%        |

## Health

The most direct way of measuring health is to ask project participants whether they have been ill. For those who reported having been ill during the last three months, the number of days were registered that a person had not been able to get involved in normal daily activities due to illness. Social Watch has found out that two other indicators, that provide good information on the health situation, correlate strongly with the wider set of social indicators and are therefore included in its Basic Capabilities Index<sup>11</sup>. These are:

*Percentage of deliveries attended by skilled personnel and  
Mortality rate of children under 5 years.*

These two indicators are relatively easy to measure and make it possible to compare data with national figures.

Table 14 shows the results of these indicators for the World Citizens Panel (WCP) survey in Cambodia. The outcomes of number of births attended by skilled health personnel show more positive figures for the control group, but these should be treated with care because the number of respondents for this question was rather low.

**Table 14. PSM analysis for health indicators**

| Indicator   | number of obs. | target group | control group |        |              |
|---|----------------|--------------|---------------|--------|--------------|
|   |                | mean         | mean          | impact | significance |
| % ill during last 3 months                        | 2915           | 31%          | 30%           | 1%     |              |
| Number of days ill                                | 1000           | 17           | 19            | -2     |              |
| % deliveries attended by skilled health personnel | 343            | 88%          | 96%           | -9%    | **           |
| Mortality rate children under 5 years old         | 991            | 4%           | 5%            | -1%    |              |

\* $p < .05$ ; \*\* $p < .01$

<sup>11</sup> research has indicated that as a summary index, the BCI provides a consistent general overview of the health status and basic educational performance of a population. It has also proven to be highly correlated with measures of other human capabilities related to the social development of countries (<http://www.socialwatch.org/node/9376>)



### 3.3 LIFE AND SECURITY

Empowerment of people is expected to lead to increased capabilities to deal with threats and disasters and to a reduction of victims of violent acts. The degree to which people fall victim to serious physical damage and to which they perceive a threat of their physical integrity and personal belongings are therefore good indicators of their vulnerability. Less vulnerable people will have increased capabilities for social and economic empowerment. The indicators used by the World Citizens Panel distinguish between actual damage experienced on the one hand and the capability to cope with disasters on the other hand.

#### Experiences of physical damage

First of all, people were asked whether they had experienced physical damage to themselves or their belongings because of a number of different types of disasters.

The survey shows that natural disasters are by far the most important factors behind damage experienced. Banditry and domestic violence are nevertheless important as well. On three of the seven types of disasters, the target group is significantly less affected, while on one type (state action) the target group has been significantly more affected than the control group.

**Table 15 . PSM analysis for life and security indicators**

|   |               | target group | control group |        |              |
|---|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------|--------------|
| Indicator                                     | number of obs | mean         | mean          | impact | significance |
| % perceived damage due to natural disaster    | 3022          | 56%          | 59%           | -3%    |              |
| % perceived damage due to civil unrest        | 3022          | 2%           | 4%            | -2%    | **           |
| % perceived damage due to banditry            | 3022          | 14%          | 18%           | -4%    | **           |
| % perceived damage due to terrorism           | 3022          | 0%           | 1%            | 0%     |              |
| % perceived damage due to religious extremism | 3022          | 1%           | 1%            | 0%     |              |
| % perceived damage due to state action        | 3022          | 8%           | 5%            | 3%     | **           |
| % perceived damage due to domestic violence   | 3022          | 12%          | 16%           | -4%    | **           |

\* $p < .05$ ; \*\* $p < .01$

Being prepared for emergency situations is an indicator of resilience and the capability to prevent social and economic deterioration as a result of external shocks. The extent to which a person has knowledge about potential emergency situations and is capable to act in such emergency situations are important indicators for preparedness. The indicators distinguish between the actual measures taken and the capability to cope with future disasters.

**Table 16. Coping with future disasters**

|  |               | target group | control group |        |              |
|--|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------|--------------|
| Indicator                                      | number of obs | mean         | mean          | impact | significance |
| % taken actual measures to cope with disasters | 1664          | 58%          | 35%           | 23%    | **           |
| % feeling capable to cope with disasters       | 1664          | 50%          | 30%           | 20%    | **           |

\* $p < .05$ ; \*\* $p < .01$

The survey results show a big impact of project activities on the coping mechanisms of target group members: 58% of the target group have taken measures as compared to 35% of the control group. 50% of the target group feel capable to cope with future disasters as compared to 30% of the con-

trol group.

Paragraph 3.1 showed already that partners working on resilience also had a positive impact on the value of assets of their target group.

### 3.4 SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Exercising the right to participate in social and political organisations and having the capability to initiate and/or take part in action against injustice are key areas for Oxfam's work on the right to be heard and active citizenship.

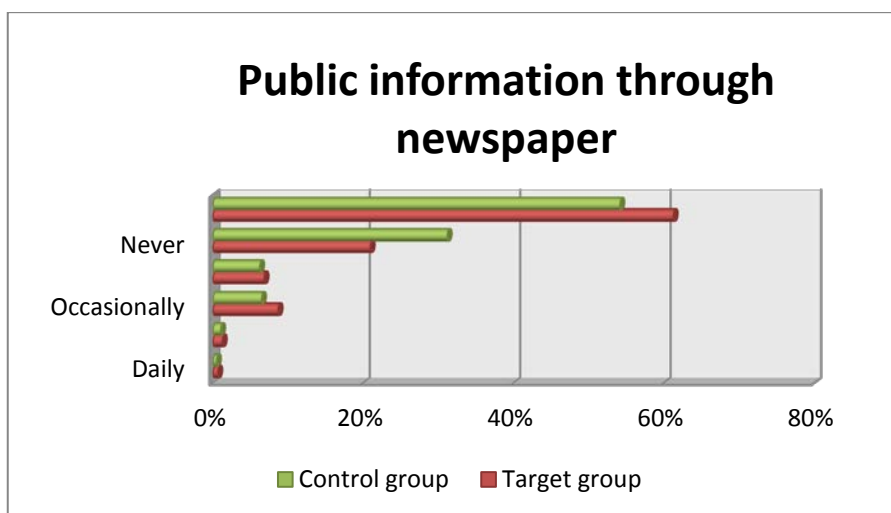
#### Access to information

In order to participate in social and political life, demand rights and act against injustice, it is important that people are informed about public affairs. People have the right to access government or publicly-funded information, including for example census data, public expenditure and scientific and social research produced with the support of public funds.

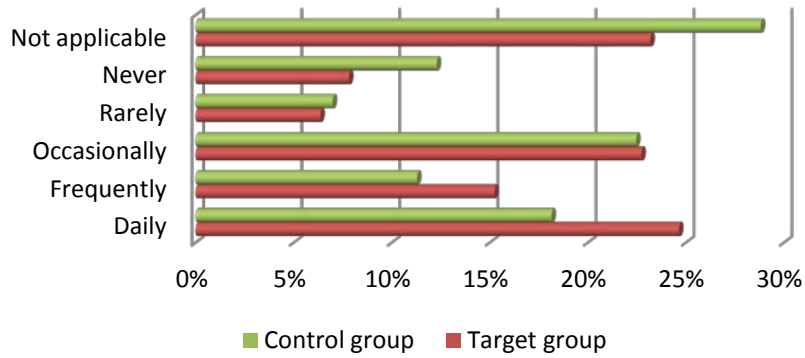
The World Citizens Panel has therefore included questions about the extent to which people are informed about public issues and through which channels. These questions are important to analyse, because access to information is a pre-condition for empowerment and accountability and therefore fundamental to Oxfam's work.

The Cambodia impact survey shows, that access to information about public issues is very limited, both among the programme participants and among the control group. Half of the respondents do not have access to newspapers, internet, email or social media. There is a difference, however, between the age groups. The survey confirms our assumption that young people (16-25 years) have better access to internet, social media and email than other age groups. Radio, TV, CBOs and verbal information from relatives and neighbours are the major sources on public information.

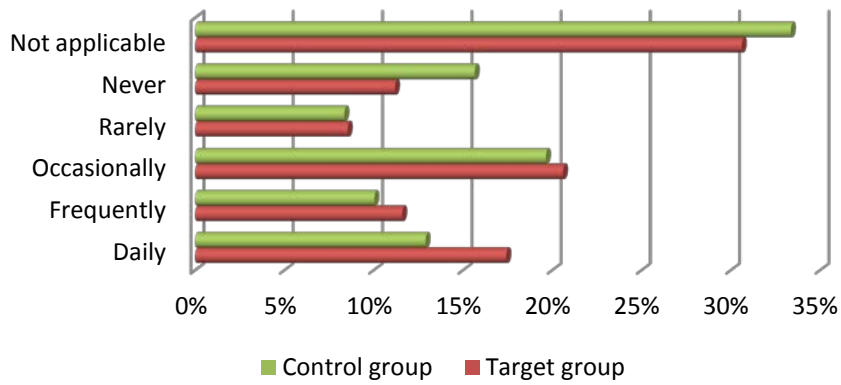
Figure 7. Sources of information and frequency of use



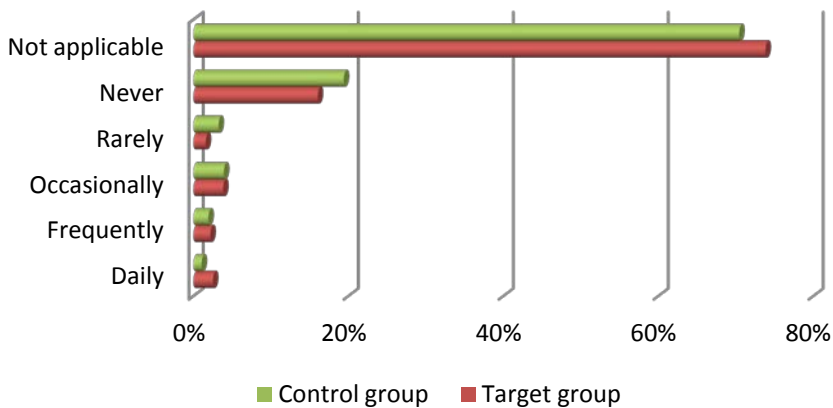
## Public information through radio



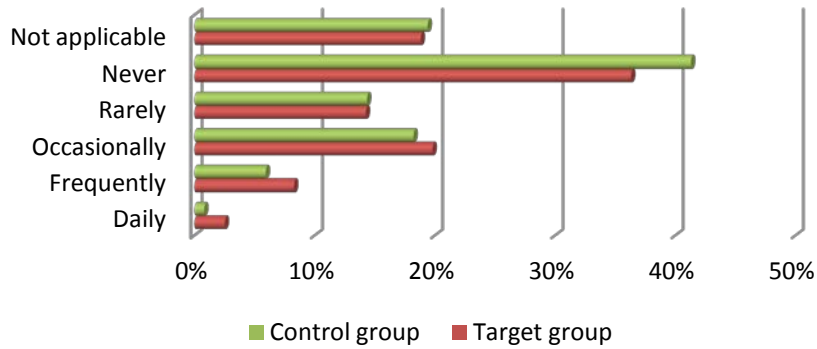
## Public information through TV



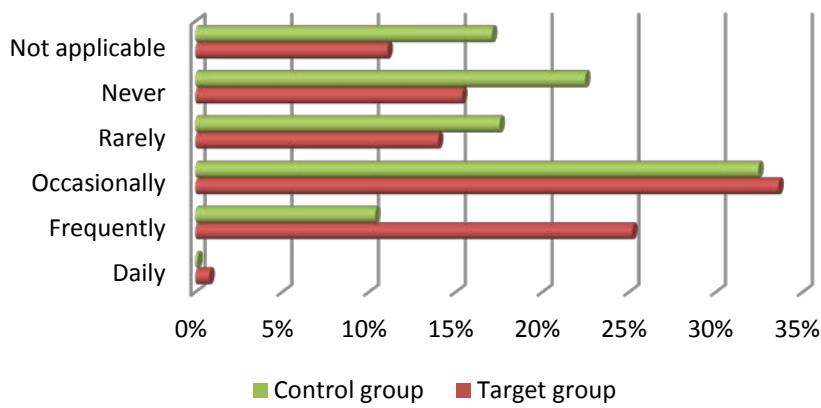
## Public information through internet



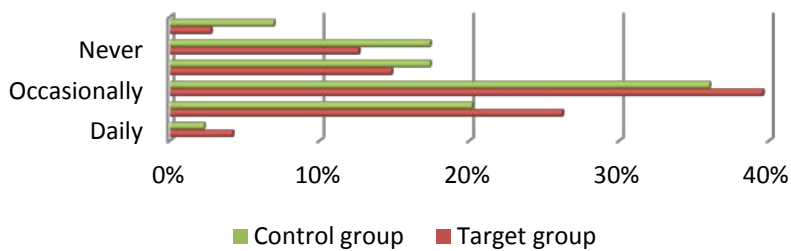
## Public information through telephone



## Public information through CBOs



## Public information through word of mouth (friends, neighbours etc.)



One of the partners also asked a question on the accessibility of public information. It is a bit puzzling that both in target group and control group the percentage of people finding it difficult and the percentage of people finding it easy to access public information is large and more or less the same.

**Figure 8. Accessibility of public information**

| Response                                      | Chart | Percentage | Count      |
|---|-------|------------|------------|
| Public information is not available           |       | 15.2%      | 56         |
| It is dangerous to ask for public information |       | 4.6%       | 17         |
| It is difficult to access public information  |       | 38.2%      | 141        |
| Public information is easily available        |       | 42.0%      | 155        |
| <b>Total Responses</b>                        |       |            | <b>369</b> |

### Participation in organisations and collective action against injustice

Social organisations are a key player in the force field of government-private sector-civil society, especially to ensure that the rights of people are being respected. Unequal power balances can be addressed by strengthening organisations that stand for the rights of people living in poverty. Many organisations encourage people to work together, empower people to participate in civil life and stress that some form of social organisation helps in advocacy in the interest of people living in poverty. They thus contribute to more participation in social organisations and a stronger position of project participants in social and political actions.

An important indicator for empowerment is participation in organisations and decision making power. Membership of a social or community organisation is the first step in gaining more influence. Next is being able to influence decisions, as this would indicate important changes in power structures. Another important indicator to measure decision making power is leadership positions fulfilled by project participants.

A large majority of the population takes part in social organisations. Still, the participants in programmes of Oxfam’s partners in Cambodia are significantly more active in terms of participation in social organisations (87% vs. 70%).

**Table 17. Membership of a social organisation and community action**

|  | Target group<br>n = 1311 | Control group<br>n = 1054 | Impact |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------|
| <b>Membership of organisations</b>     |                          |                           |        |
| Belonging to one or more organisations | 87%                      | 70%                       | 17%**  |
| Not belonging to any organisation      | 13%                      | 30%                       |        |

The results on social and political participation show a higher degree of active participation among the members of the target group as compared to the control group: 28% of the target group took part in collective action against injustice, while this was 11% for the control group. The difference is statistically significant (table 18). With regard to the percentage of people that perceive having an influence on decision making in local organizations, the target group scores significantly better than the control group (13 versus 7%). The activities of Oxfam’s partners in Cambodia have contributed to increased awareness and empowerment: more people are aware that their rights are being vio-



lated and at the same time see increased possibilities for active citizenship.

**Table 18 . PSM analysis for social and political participation indicators**

| Indicator   | number of obs | target group | control group | impact | significance |
|---|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------|--------------|
|   |               | mean         | mean          |        |              |
| % participated in collective action against injustice       | 3022          | 28%          | 11%           | 17%    | **           |
| % with influence on decision making                         | 3022          | 13%          | 7%            | 6%     | **           |
| % perceiving increased possibilities for active citizenship | 3022          | 83%          | 74%           | 9%     | **           |
| % experienced violation of rights                           | 3022          | 16%          | 12%           | 3%     | *            |

\* $p < .05$ ; \*\* $p < .01$

### The right to be heard

The survey of one partner studies a number of indicators related to rights awareness and freedom of expression and action in more detail. The results in table 19 show that people are aware of rights to some extent, and perceive a certain degree of freedom to express themselves and become active in organisations and movements. Government is to some extent seen as responsive to people's needs.

This is confirmed in paragraph 3.6 with regard to space for citizens and organisations to express themselves. A majority, however, indicates that awareness, freedom of expression and possibilities to engage are still limited. Because of the relatively small number of respondents, it is not advisable to draw major conclusions on basis of the differences between the target group and the control group.

**Table 19. PSM for the right to be heard**

| Indicator   | number of obs | target group | control group | impact | significance |
|---|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------|--------------|
|   |               | mean         | mean          |        |              |
| % somewhat aware of rights  | 320           | 99%          | 93%           | 6%     | *            |
| % substantially aware of rights                                       | 320           | 42%          | 29%           | 13%    | *            |
| % perceiving freedom of expression                                    | 320           | 94%          | 85%           | 10%    | **           |
| % perceiving social movements somewhat possible                       | 320           | 95%          | 92%           | 3%     |              |
| % perceiving social movement largely possible                         | 320           | 46%          | 23%           | 23%    | **           |
| % perceiving government as somewhat responsive to people's needs      | 320           | 89%          | 92%           | 4%     |              |
| % perceiving government as substantially responsive to people's needs | 320           | 12%          | 7%            | 5%     |              |

### Migration

One of the Oxfam partners in Cambodia included questions on migration issues in the questionnaire. Since the number of respondents of this partner is limited, the results should be treated carefully. The general picture that emerges from the figures presented in figure 9, is that 30% of the households had one or more members who had migrated usually for a longer period of time (6-12

months or longer). Migrants usually earn more than before they migrated with a majority earning \$2-5 per day or more. A large majority of migrants sends money home.

**Figure 9. Migration information**

Number of household members that have migrated

| Response               | Chart | Percentage | Count      |
|------------------------|-------|------------|------------|
| 0                      |       | 74.8%      | 276        |
| 1                      |       | 11.1%      | 41         |
| 2                      |       | 8.4%       | 31         |
| more than 2            |       | 5.7%       | 21         |
| <b>Total Responses</b> |       |            | <b>369</b> |

Duration of migration

| Response               | Chart | Percentage | Count     |
|------------------------|-------|------------|-----------|
| less than 6 months     |       | 11.6%      | 11        |
| 12-24 months           |       | 20.0%      | 19        |
| 6-12 months            |       | 31.6%      | 30        |
| more than 24 months    |       | 36.8%      | 35        |
| <b>Total Responses</b> |       |            | <b>95</b> |

Earnings after migration

| Response               | Chart | Percentage | Count     |
|------------------------|-------|------------|-----------|
| less than \$1 per day  |       | 14.7%      | 14        |
| \$1 - \$2 per day      |       | 17.9%      | 17        |
| \$2-\$5 per day        |       | 36.8%      | 35        |
| \$5-\$10 per day       |       | 16.8%      | 16        |
| more than \$10 per day |       | 13.7%      | 13        |
| <b>Total Responses</b> |       |            | <b>95</b> |

Difference between earning before and after before migration

| Response               | Chart | Percentage | Count     |
|------------------------|-------|------------|-----------|
| more than before       |       | 52.1%      | 50        |
| the same               |       | 29.2%      | 28        |
| less than before       |       | 18.8%      | 18        |
| <b>Total Responses</b> |       |            | <b>96</b> |

Money sent home by migrants

| Response               | Chart | Percentage | Count     |
|------------------------|-------|------------|-----------|
| yes                    |       | 58.9%      | 56        |
| no                     |       | 32.6%      | 31        |
| I don't know           |       | 8.4%       | 8         |
| <b>Total Responses</b> |       |            | <b>95</b> |

Social services received from state during migration

| Response               | Chart | Percentage | Count      |
|------------------------|-------|------------|------------|
| yes                    |       | 33.1%      | 40         |
| no                     |       | 45.5%      | 55         |
| I don't know           |       | 21.5%      | 26         |
| <b>Total Responses</b> |       |            | <b>121</b> |

### 3.5 GENDER AND EMPOWERMENT

Gender based violence, female leadership, sexual and reproductive rights are the key areas in the World Citizens Panel for measuring gender and empowerment:

- the extent to which people perceive gender based violence as a problem in the community
- possibilities for female leadership
- opinion on women becoming politically active
- possibility to obtain contraceptives
- possibility for women to talk with their husbands about family planning

The survey showed a rather positive picture as regards women’s rights in general. It is usually possible to talk about especially sexual and reproductive rights and people are largely positive about women in politics and leadership positions. Nevertheless there are significant differences between the target and the control group on four of the five indicators. The majority of respondents indicate that gender based violence has reduced, but that it is still a problem in their community. There is a significant difference between the target group and the control group, showing either that there is more violence against women among the members of the target group or that target group members are more aware of the problem. Further analysis shows that the significant difference is based on the differences between the male respondents.

The indicator for family planning does not show an impact of the project activities. There is a significant difference, however, between the respondents of the target group and the respondents of the control group with regard to the possibility to obtain contraceptives (5% at a 99% level of confidence).

**Table 20. PSM analysis for gender justice indicators**

| Indicator   | number of obs | target group | control group | impact | significance |
|---|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------|--------------|
|   |               | mean         | mean          |        |              |
| % indicating violence against women is problem in community | 3022          | 82%          | 74%           | 8%     | **           |
| % experienced reduction in GBV                              | 3022          | 84%          | 75%           | 9%     | **           |
| % perceiving increased possibilities for female leadership  | 3022          | 92%          | 83%           | 9%     | **           |
| % agreeing with women political active                      | 3022          | 96%          | 93%           | 3%     | **           |
| % possible to speak about family planning                   | 3022          | 81%          | 78%           | 2%     |              |
| % possible to obtain contraceptives                         | 3022          | 78%          | 73%           | 5%     | **           |

\* $p < .05$ ; \*\* $p < .01$

### 3.6 IMPACT OF THE INFLUENCING WORK OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS ON CITIZENS IN CAMBODIA

Besides the general dimensions of poverty and specific programme impact, the impact survey also included an analysis of the impact of the influencing work of civil society organizations in Cambodia. This part focused on the advocacy and campaigning work in four areas, where Oxfam and partners have focused on in recent years:

- space for civil society
- gender based violence
- female leadership
- land rights

The results are presented below in tables that are based on all questionnaires by the 11 partners of Oxfam that participated in the World Citizens panel survey. There is no distinction between target group and control group, because the influencing work has an effect on the population as a whole. We are not measuring the direct work of partners with their target group, but rather the effects of the influencing work (advocacy and campaigning for changes in the laws, attitudes and behaviour). On all four topics the general question was whether people had perceived change during the last five years, followed by a question on the role that government and civil society had played in stimulating that change.

The results of the survey show that people have perceived

- increased space for individual citizens to become active in society and for civil society organisations to influence policies and practices of governments and companies
- a reduction in the occurrence of gender based violence
- increased possibilities for female leadership
- increased number of economic land concessions granted to foreign investors




Reasons for positive change in the areas of civil society space, gender based violence and female leadership were:

- Awareness raising activities by NGO's
- Positive role of government
- Advocacy by NGO's

With regard to land grabbing, 48% indicated that an increasing number of economic land concessions has been granted to foreign investors during the last five years.

Among those who perceived a more positive trend in their area (a decrease in land concessions granted to investors) almost 40% attributed this to the awareness raising work of civil society organizations.

**Table 21. Change in possibilities for citizens in Cambodia to become active in society**

| Response               | Chart   | Percentage | Count       |
|------------------------|---|------------|-------------|
| more possibilities     |  | 77.1%      | 2822        |
| no change              |  | 17.0%      | 622         |
| less possibilities     |  | 5.9%       | 214         |
| <b>Total Responses</b> |   |            | <b>3658</b> |

**Table 22. Reasons for increased possibilities for citizens in Cambodia to become active in society**

| Response   | Chart | Percentage | Count       |
|--|-------|------------|-------------|
| government has become more open to citizens involvement                    |       | 50.5%      | 1532        |
| civil society organisations have advocated for this                        |       | 33.3%      | 1011        |
| civil society organisations have created more awareness of citizens rights |       | 69.1%      | 2099        |
| other  |       | 26.9%      | 817         |
| <b>Total Responses</b>   |       |            | <b>3036</b> |

**Table 23. Change in possibilities for civil society organisation in Cambodia to influence policies and practices of governments and companies**

| Response               | Chart | Percentage | Count       |
|------------------------|-------|------------|-------------|
| more possibilities     |       | 71.9%      | 2631        |
| no change              |       | 22.7%      | 829         |
| less possibilities     |       | 5.4%       | 198         |
| <b>Total Responses</b> |       |            | <b>3658</b> |

**Table 24. Reasons for increased possibilities for civil society organisations in Cambodia to influence policies and practices of governments and companies**

| Response   | Chart | Percentage | Count       |
|--|-------|------------|-------------|
| government has become more open to NGO/civil society involvement                 |       | 50.5%      | 1450        |
| civil society organisations have advocated for this                              |       | 44.2%      | 1269        |
| civil society organisations have managed to suspend new restrictive laws on NGOs |       | 41.2%      | 1184        |
| other  |       | 31.6%      | 908         |
| <b>Total Responses</b>   |       |            | <b>2874</b> |

**Table 25. Occurrence of gender based violence in Cambodia**

| Response   | Chart | Percentage | Count       |
|--|-------|------------|-------------|
| there is more gender based violence than 5 years ago |       | 12.5%      | 456         |
| there is no change                                   |       | 13.4%      | 490         |
| there is less gender based violence than 5 years ago |       | 74.1%      | 2712        |
| <b>Total Responses</b>                               |       |            | <b>3658</b> |

**Table 26. reasons for reduction in gender based violence**

| Response   | Chart | Percentage | Count       |
|--|-------|------------|-------------|
| government has enforced new laws/regulations to reduce gender based violence     |       | 57.7%      | 1733        |
| civil society organisations have advocated against gender based violence         |       | 31.3%      | 941         |
| civil society organisations have created more awareness on gender based violence |       | 75.2%      | 2258        |
| other  |       | 22.7%      | 683         |
| <b>Total Responses</b>   |       |            | <b>3004</b> |

**Table 27. Change in possibilities for women to fulfil a leadership position**

| Response                                      | Chart | Percentage | Count       |
|---|-------|------------|-------------|
| there are more possibilities than 5 years ago |       | 85.2%      | 3115        |
| there is no change                            |       | 11.8%      | 431         |
| there are less possibilities than 5 years ago |       | 3.1%       | 112         |
| <b>Total Responses</b>                        |       |            | <b>3658</b> |

**Table 28. Reasons for increased possibilities for women to fulfil a leadership position**

| Response  | Chart | Percentage | Count       |
|---|-------|------------|-------------|
| government has enforced new laws/regulations to increase possibilities for women to get a leadership position |       | 60.4%      | 1953        |
| civil society organisations have advocated for female leadership  |       | 39.6%      | 1282        |
| civil society organisations have created more awareness on women's rights                                     |       | 76.3%      | 2468        |
| other   |       | 20.8%      | 673         |
| <b>Total Responses</b>  |       |            | <b>3235</b> |

**Table 29. Change in granting economic land concession to external investors**

| Response  | Chart | Percentage | Count       |
|---|-------|------------|-------------|
| there are more concessions given to external investors than 5 years ago |       | 48.3%      | 1767        |
| there is no change  |       | 30.0%      | 1096        |
| there are less concessions given to external investors than 5 years ago |       | 21.7%      | 795         |
| <b>Total Responses</b>  |       |            | <b>3658</b> |

**Table 30 Reasons for reduced granting of economic land concessions to external investors**

| Response  | Chart | Percentage | Count       |
|---|-------|------------|-------------|
| government has enforced new laws/regulations to decrease the granting of land to external investors |       | 33.9%      | 562         |
| the Directive 001 on land governance issued by the prime minister                                   |       | 16.3%      | 270         |
| civil society organisations have advocated against these concessions                                |       | 30.0%      | 498         |
| civil society organisations have created more awareness on land rights                              |       | 38.8%      | 644         |
| other   |       | 48.3%      | 802         |
| <b>Total Responses</b>  |       |            | <b>1659</b> |



## 4 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Evidence of impact was observed in the three key areas of Oxfam's work in Cambodia: economic justice, rights in crisis and gender justice. Project activities of Oxfam and partners in Cambodia have had a positive influence on changes in people's lives with regard to many of the selected indicators. The survey shows that there are statistically significant differences between the results of the target group and the control group. Participation in specific programmes also had a positive effect in many cases.

In the area of **sustainable livelihoods** major results are:

- Significant differences between target group and control group with respect to increased income, but also a large percentage of people reporting a decrease in their income.
- Women are more likely to see their household's incomes increase. There is no difference between men in the target group and men in the control group with respect to incomes
- Food insecurity is closely related to land conflicts, lack of land registration, physical damage due to disasters and people feeling less capable to cope with disasters.
- People who have participated in livelihoods projects perceive a significantly better food security situation, increase in income and increase in value of assets.

For **essential services**:

- This area of work has not been a priority for Oxfam in Cambodia in recent years. The results on the health and education indicators show a relatively positive picture, although there is clearly still much to do with respect to the quality of education.

In the area of **life and security**:

- Natural disasters are important factors contributing to damage for people and their belongings.
- There is evidence of impact on most of the life and security indicators showing in less damage perceived by the target group members to themselves and their belongings, better preparedness and greater capability to cope with future disasters.

For **social and political participation**:

- Access to information about public issues is very limited, both among the programme participants and among the control group.
- Half of the respondents do not have access to newspapers, television, internet, email or social media.
- Youth (between 16 and 25 years) has more access to internet, email and social media than other age groups.
- Among those that have access to media, rather large proportions get never or rarely informed on public issues
- Radio, CBOs and verbal information from relatives and neighbours are the major sources on public information.
- There has been a big impact of partners' activities on people's participation in social organisations, collective action against injustice and their influence on decision making processes.

With regard to **gender and empowerment**:

- Violence against women is a problem according to the majority of respondents. The problem is decreasing however in the eyes of a large majority. Awareness seems to be higher among the target group, resulting in a higher percentage reporting gender based violence as a problem in their community.
- There are generally good possibilities for women to become politically active and take a leadership role in society.
- Contraceptives are generally available and it is possible to talk about family planning

With regard to the influencing role of civil society, there has been a positive trend during the last five years with regard to increased space for civil society, increased possibilities for female leadership and reduced gender based violence. The number of land concessions granted to external investors has increased, however, despite the work that Oxfam and partners have done in this area. Awareness has grown, people have more frequently been able to file complaints, but follow up action by government (such as compensation) has been very limited.

The positive developments are being attributed to awareness raising and (to a lesser extent) to advocacy work of civil society organizations, but also to increased space and possibilities created by the government. The survey also made it clear that many people observe more space and a positive attitude of government, but at the same time express that space and attitude have clear limitations. One could conclude that advocacy work and campaigning has led to positive results in terms of changed laws and regulations and more empowered citizens. In the next phase, it may be good to focus more on actual practice, including changing cultural practices that prevent people from enjoying their rights and actual behaviour of government officials to respect and honour citizen's rights.

It is recommended to make use of the results of this impact study for external communication on the results of the Oxfam Cambodia programme. This can best be done in combination with the specific partner reports and the results of the stories of change process (that has started after this survey). Previous reports have often lacked the evidence and the statistical analysis to substantiate monitoring information and stories from the field. With this report the accountability reports can be further strengthened.

These conclusions can also provide a good basis for reflection for the Oxfam Cambodia team. Oxfam and partners should discuss what they will do on basis of these results, which activities can be scaled up if resources are available, since there is evidence of impact now; which areas need further and deeper analysis and in which areas the quantitative data need to be complemented by more qualitative research. A deeper analysis can possibly show which specific strategies have contributed to the impact and why in certain cases there has been an impact on women but not on men. A qualitative research process will help in identifying the triggers for change and explain better how the observed changes have happened.

Further analysis on specific topics in the current database may also help when designing new programmes.

It will also be important for the programme teams to critically look into the areas where no impact was observed or less than expected, especially in the areas of food security, land rights, access to information and gender based violence.

# 5 ANNEXES

## 5.1 CAMBODIA QUESTIONNAIRE 2014



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This document was written by Peter Huisman.

For more information, or to comment on this publication, please email [worldcitizenspanel@oxfamnovib.nl](mailto:worldcitizenspanel@oxfamnovib.nl)

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E-mail [worldcitizenspanel@oxfamnovib.nl](mailto:worldcitizenspanel@oxfamnovib.nl)

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Oxfam Novib  
P.O. Box 30919  
2500 GX The Hague  
The Netherlands

T +31 (0) 70 3421621  
[info@oxfamnovib.nl](mailto:info@oxfamnovib.nl)  
[www.oxfamnovib.nl](http://www.oxfamnovib.nl)

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#### Notes

<sup>i</sup> 'Achieving Cambodia's Millennium Development Goals', Royal Government of Cambodia, 2010

<sup>ii</sup> 'CSO Contributions to the Development of Cambodia 2011', Ministry of Interior, Royal Government of Cambodia, 4 April, 2012

<sup>iii</sup> Bertelsmann Stiftung, BTI 2012 — Cambodia Country Report. Gütersloh: Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2012.