

# Short Narrative – Making a Difference, Making CRSHIP Inclusive

## Cambodia Rural Sanitation and Hygiene Improvement Programme (CRSHIP)

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Making sanitation inclusive is part of the goal of the Cambodia Rural Sanitation and Hygiene Improvement Programme (CRSHIP). And, to make CRSHIP2 implementation partners’ (IPs) more aware of inclusive practices, a two-and-a-half-day training was conducted.

The inclusive WASH training was held in two provinces, with participants including IPs, PDRD (Provincial Department of Rural Development), and DoRD (District of Rural Development) from all five CRSHIP provinces including Prey Veng, Kampot, Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Thom, and Kratie. The first training was organized in Kampot from 13-15 March 2017, while the other one is between 20-22 March in Kampong Thom.



Trainees are at community in Kampot practicing how to do accessibility and safety audit. Photo: SSO/Phanak So

“It’s not too late to be inclusive - we can identify ways we can be more inclusive at whatever stage of planning or implementation. We however have an opportunity during the scale up phase (of CRSHIP2) to ensure we are inclusive from the very beginning of this process,” said Angela Padilla, inclusive and equity specialist for Plan International.

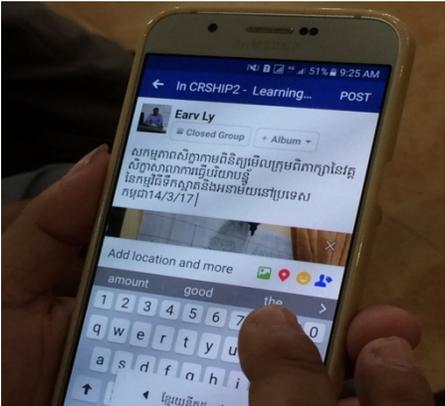
The commitment to “leave no one behind” has been a rallying cry for universal access to sanitation and hygiene in Cambodia as aligned with the

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), most notably SDG 6.2. This means that CRSHIP partners will work to ensure that every individual achieves the full package of sanitation and hygiene rights and opportunities that SDG 6.2 expresses by 2030.

Angela Padilla addressed that ensuring CRSHIP is inclusive is essential not only because it helps CRSHIP practitioners achieve better project results, but more importantly, it reflects their commitment to the rights of all the people within the target areas.

After having joined the training, a young field officer from CRSHIP partner, KYA, Raem Sophors, 20, expressed that, “I have learnt from the training that integrating vulnerable group in CRSHIP2 is needed to make the programme inclusive.... Persons with disability have less opportunities compare to the normal persons so we have to think of ways to engage them more than before in our work activities.”

This young woman is also committed to raising the awareness of knowledge and skills she learnt from the training to CFPs (commune focal points) and VFPs (village focal points) so that they will also be aware and focus their attentions on serving the marginalized people in their communities. This means working with the entire community including persons with disability, older people, pregnant women, ethnic minorities, the poor, people living with chronic illnesses, and other marginalized groups benefit and participate equally in every programme activities.



Earv Ly is posting about the training on the Learning Network page.  
Photo: L&D/ Kim Oan UNG

It is obvious that CRSHIP can't succeed without including vulnerable groups. Consequently, it is very crucial to introduce the concept and practice of inclusive WASH to IPs and local authorities, and how the idea of leaving no one behind can be integrated into the CRSHIP2.

“We can now start making CRSHIP2 inclusive. Helping persons with disabilities get access to sanitation and hygiene is a commitment to leaving no one behind as every single person has the same and equal right to WASH,” said Earv Ly, Kampot PDRD staff, by adding that, “IPs should grow the focus more on engaging those vulnerable groups into their action plan.”

The protection and the promotion of persons with disabilities can make a difference, and accomplish universal sanitation access. Mean Vibol Ratanak ,26, a co-inclusive trainer stated that he experienced not having accessible toilet at school, and nobody cared about that at all during the last 10 years. “It hurts when I am left behind. It is too bad that I had to stand not to eat and drink at school since the toilet at school is not accessible and very dirty. Sometime I need to miss class because I had diarrhea.”



Photo: L&D/ Somoerun Deap

Ratanak expects that the training will influence IPs’ ideas to incorporate inclusive approaches to their programme activities, encouraging more awareness on accessible WASH and participation by all marginalized groups.

Closing remarks at the training in Kampot was given by Rafael Catalla, CRSHIP programme manager. In his address he mentioned a few examples of how IPs can support persons with disabilities. Moreover, Rafael hopes to see that after the training IPs will mainstream the vulnerable groups into their work plans and he also strongly wants to see more examples of accessible WASH happening within CRSHIP target communities. He added that to enhance CRSHIP2’s inclusive WASH focus, Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) and Income Generating Activities (IGA) training will also be held soon in the near future.