



Mr. Nov Sam Orn, Chief of Anlong Veng OD when he meets CRS staff to discuss about the HCMC. Photo by Khorn Linna/CRS

## Domestic Resource Mobilization Leads to Sustainability

### SUCCESS STORY

Anlong Veng (ALV) Operation District (OD) is in Oddar Meanchey Province. It is located in the northwest part of Cambodia, near the Thai border. The district has a total population of over 100,000, who mostly work on agricultural farms and collecting forest products.

The current Global Fund's Resilient & Sustainable Systems for Health (RSSH) project, implemented by CRS, has been active in the ALV OD since 2021. One of the key objectives of the project is to ensure the operations of the Health Center Management Committees (HCMC), which play an important role in strengthening the health system at the local level and ensuring coordination and response to local health needs, such as malaria. HCMC meetings are a crucial occasion that bring HCMC members together in order to report health-related issues that occur in the commune and identify solutions for these issues. The HCMCs are encouraged to conduct bi-monthly meetings (six meetings per year). So far, there are 11 HCMCs in the ALV OD that have been supported by the RSSH project.

At the start of the project, there were various challenges encountered, such as inconsistency of HCMC meetings, lack of budget allocation and management, and lack of technical support.

Mr. Nov Sam Orn, Chief of the Anlong Veng OD said, "When the project recently started, some HCMCs did not conduct the meeting consistently. Some conducted the meeting four to five times per year only, which led to inactivity of HCMCs".

CRS supports the ALV OD both technically and financially, to ensure the consistency of HCMC meetings in each health center. The collaborative work focuses on capacity building for HCMC members by providing trainings such as, budget planning and management, role and responsibility division, report writing, and meeting execution. To ensure the training deliverables and strong functioning, CRS provides ongoing support to provincial/OD health promotion staff and also conducts coaching and mentoring to HCMC members during the quarterly meetings and quarterly supervision. Additionally, CRS works with the OD to encourage and provide technical support to HCMCs to access commune investment budget for meetings, alongside funds from the HC and the CRS RSSH Global Funded project. Investing commune budget in the HCMC meeting indicates local ownership and leadership, which contribute to sustainability and achievement of a resilient health system at the community level, with is CRS' core project objective.

As a result of great collaboration between the OD, commune councils and CRS, in 2022, the number of communes investing in HCMC meetings increased by 55% compared to 2021. In 2022, the 11 HCMCs planned to invest commune budget for both HCMC and village health support group meetings, which is a significant shift, illustrating the momentum of local ownership and leadership which is leading to strong and resilient health systems.

Mr. Nov Sam Orn added, "One thing that I am proud of with the collaborative work with CRS is that we try hard to explain to HCMCs how important the HCMC meeting is. Now, all communes start to see the importance of HCMC meeting and [are] willing to invest commune budget in it. I see the sign that local leadership starts to grow in this OD".

