



Mrs. Kang Bunkea, Roloksor Commune Chief and Chief of the HCMC delivers health messages while she visits her villagers. Photo by Khorn Linna/CRS

Empower Local Authorities for Health Investment

SUCCESS STORY

Looking back on the years preceding 2020, the Health Center Management Committee (HCMC) of Wat Loung Health Center (HC), under the coverage of Roloksor Commune in Pursat Province, had not conducted regular meetings. The HCMC members did not seem active in their roles, and there was a lack of effective communication between the HC staff and local authorities. The HCMC members did not have the capacity, ownership and leadership skills in planning and implementing such activities. Additionally, HCMC lacked initiative to advocate for investing the commune budget in health.

“HCMC members do not meet regularly, HC can’t receive information and feedback from the community,” stated Mrs. In Sophea, Chief of Wat Loung HC. “We do not hear from people on the areas for service improvement; for example, behavior of the health center staff. We lose connection and collaboration with the community which is essential element for driving to healthy community.”



CRS’ current Resilient Sustainable System for Health (RSSH) Project, funded by the Global Fund, began implementation in Pursat Province in late 2019. The HCMC in Wat Loung HC is one of the 40 HCMCs supported in the province, and in order to support them, CRS worked collaboratively with the Provincial Health Department (PHD) to conduct capacity building training to HCMC members. This enabled them to better plan and advocate for using the commune budget to support HCMC and village health support group (VHSG) meetings. CRS further supports in organizing a yearly workshop for HCMC to review the project plan, proposed activities, budget, and develop the Commune Investment Plan (CIP) for the following year. At the same time, CRS facilitates and coordinates on ensuring the budget for HCMC and VHSG meetings are integrated into the plan. Lastly, CRS supports onsite coaching and supervision conducted by PHD staff in order to follow up on the training and workshop deliverables.

As result of these efforts, in mid-2020, Roloksor Commune started using the commune budget to support 4 out of 6 HCMC and VHSG meetings per year, while CRS supported on the remaining 2 meetings. Mrs. Kang Bunkea is a 75-year-old enthusiastic woman and is Chief of the Roloksor Commune and Chief of the HCMC. She is highly active and energetic in her role, often providing great collaboration to HC and CRS staff in leading the HCMC.

“There have been compelling factors that encourage me as a leader of the commune to invest commune budget in HCMC and VHSG meetings,” said Mrs. Kang Bunkea, Chief of Roloksor Commune/Sangkat. “The training supported by CRS and PHD make me understand well on how to do integrated plan for health. I love my people, I believe that routine meeting and functioning of HCMC and VHSG and active information flow between HC and local authorities contribute to services available, accessible, and utilized.”



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