

Project:

Alleviating Poverty through Peer Training (APPT)

Donors:

Embassy of Finland

Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFund), (Women component)

Project Description:

The APPT project has assisted many people with disabilities in Cambodia to get out of poverty by increasing their skills and assisting them to start micro businesses. The project focuses on the informal economy on those living in rural communities where access to opportunities and training is limited. It uses an effective tool to empower disabled persons, the success replication method (SCR), which is a form of informal apprenticeship that links a disabled person with a successful entrepreneur. The latter provides training in the business and in the technical aspects of a job and the project assists the disabled person with business start-up and enhancement and financial support. The most common disability is mobility impairment due to landmines or polio. Blind persons and those with HIV/AIDS have also been trained. The project also received an approval to a funding request from another source, AGFund. With this component, the project will focus its activities on serving women but also expand its beneficiary group to the parents of disabled children to support the schooling of their children. The project will also assist women with a disabled spouse.

The SCR methodology is the most significant feature of the project. It is particularly useful for reaching disabled persons who, for a variety of reasons, have limited access to more formal types of training. It is suitable for persons living in rural areas, as the training usually takes place at home and no transportation is needed. It is also a culturally appropriate way of delivering training and particularly to women as often the activities are taught informally in the country.

Gender and Ethnic Components:

With a two year-funding, a new component focusing on women and parents of disabled children will be added. With this funding, three staff working with women in three project sites will be hired. A new project site will be opened up comprising of a 'regular' field worker and one with working with women. The two other new staff will be recruited to the existing offices.

The new project component aims to address the gender gaps that keep women from succeeding in small scale and family-based businesses. Women with disabilities are a group of women whose special needs are overlooked. With building up and running the project, special attention will be given to appropriate and suitable trainings to the local peer trainers and project staff, constituents and partners locally and nationally including national policy makers. The project also aims to put emphasis on developing and supporting occupational support groups, e.g. in the form of self-help formations.

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