



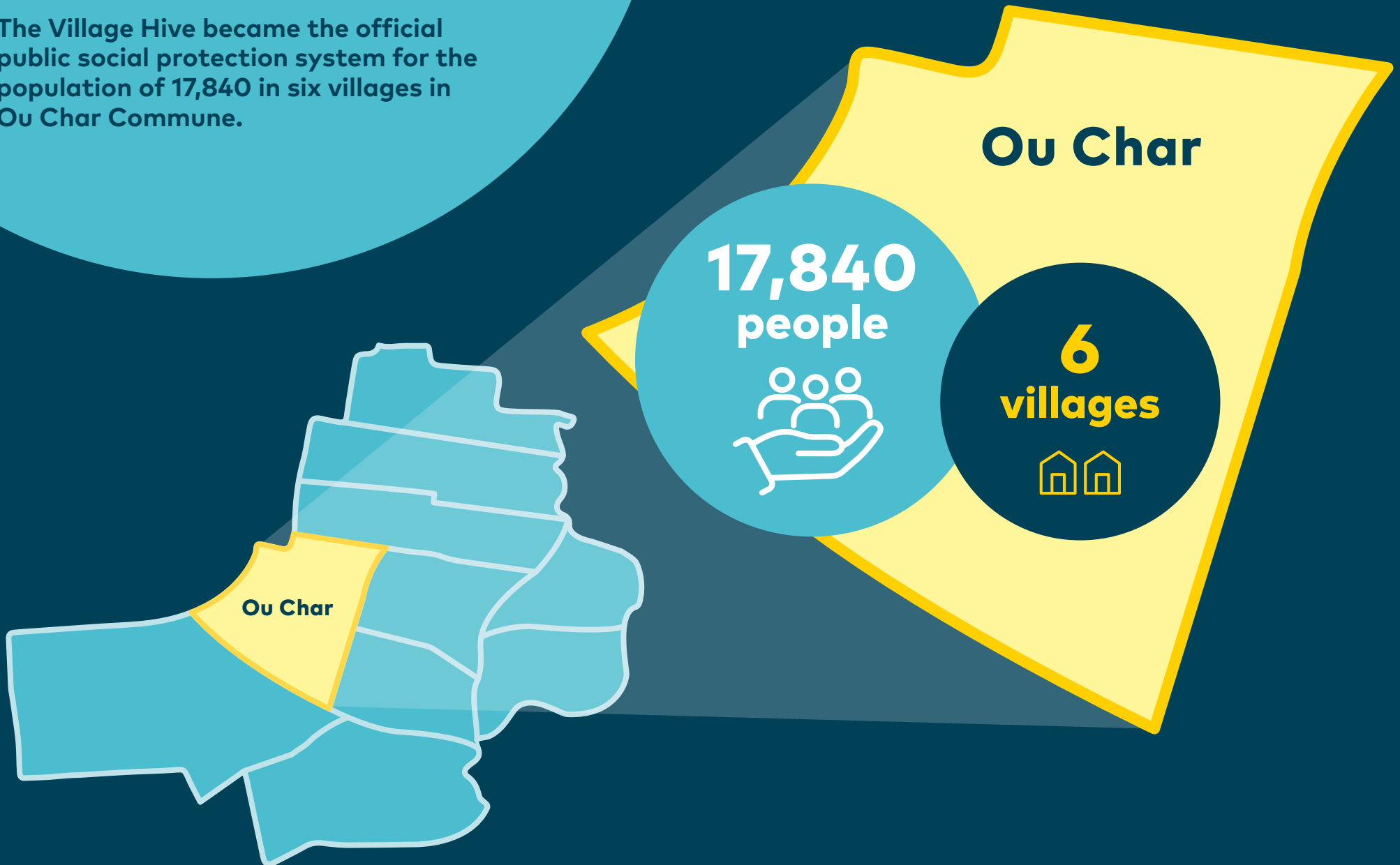
# Ou Char Village Hive 2022

# Village Hive Project: Qualitative Impact



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The Village Hive became the official public social protection system for the population of 17,840 in six villages in Ou Char Commune.



## Focus group 2022 results

Three annual focus groups were conducted with local stakeholders, including participants from the wider Ou Char community. Forty-four participants were asked to reflect on the observations in their community as a result of the Village Hive implementation.

When asked to rate the Village Hive after-school care program out of 10, all participants rated it 10. When the interviewer asked participants to elaborate on their reasons for giving such a high rating, the following observations were made:

**"Educational outcomes have improved.**

**All of the kids attending the after school care program have**

**passed their end-of-year exams**

**and the number of kids who are getting high grades has increased."**

**"I rate the after-school care program 10/10**

**because my grandchildren are all doing well at school. They can read, write and do maths.**

**Their behaviour has improved and they are even learning English."**

**"One of the biggest changes is that parents in our community have more time to work after their children begin accessing after-school care services.**

**This is improving families' financial situation and**

**they now have enough food to eat."**

**"Our community now has an after-school care program that provides a safe and relaxing place for the kids to go, which**

**encourages more children to go to school**

**and gives their families more opportunities to work."**

### Feedback from the focus groups on other Village Hive services included:

" People have more hope because the Village Hive has given more support to the Ou Char Commune Council who are now working together to support our people."

" The Village Hive has created an environment where families have more income, are more confident to ask for help, and are practising more positive parenting skills."

" The people in our community have more financial literacy skills. They know more about saving money and how to spend in a smarter way."

" The Village Health Clinic is providing a higher level of support than before. The staff has received more training and they are able to treat more illnesses."

## Village Hive Local Leader Interviews

### Nov Leakhana

#### Leader of Commune Council for Women and Children in Ou Char Commune

I was delighted when I found out about CCT's mission to embed its services to the local community. I know clearly that I am the one who is responsible for the children in our community and I now have more knowledge and received more opportunities than I've ever had before.

The Village Hive Project is helping families in our community a lot. First, it is providing education on topics such as hygiene and health and now the families know how and where to access local services. If they get sick, they know where to go and if they don't have food, they know who they can contact. When they experience any kind of problem, they know who will help them.

Before we had the Village Hive Project we had some challenges in our community because it was difficult to access support services. The other problem was the lack of food supplies, shelter and healthcare for the community. Also, the number of children migrating to work was increasing and we didn't know how to stop it.

Before the Village Hive Project, my workload was less than it is now, which means that I wasn't meeting and addressing the needs of the people in our community well enough. After we have the Village Hive Project, my work has doubled because I am meeting and supporting more vulnerable families than before.

**We started reaching more families because the Village Hive Project has given us more staff to help. We realised families in our community had many problems and needed a lot more support.**

When I got these additional responsibilities, it was challenging at first but now I am confident to do the work and happy we are able to help people in our community. If we can provide families with their needs, I will be happy.

I feel proud of myself for my hard work to get a good result for families. After I was promoted to this new position, I felt really happy because I appreciate being a leader and managing other team members. When I share the details of this collaborative Village Hive Project with other people, I feel really proud. When I discuss this work, our other colleagues say they want to do the same in their communities.

Before, I was not confident to talk with families in our community because I didn't have the resources to help. Now I am so much more confident to connect with them and help them.

The people in our community have more knowledge than before too. When they have a problem, they call us or come to meet us at the commune office. They are more confident to ask for help. Also, if they see a problem within their community or a neighbour is in need, they refer to us. Our community looks so different now.



## Em Sophal

### Commune Chief of Ou Char Commune

As Ou Char's Commune Chief, I am responsible for around 20,000 people, so I really appreciate the Village Hive Project to transfer CCT's services into Ou Char Commune for us to manage and operate. I think the Village Hive Project is great because I now have more opportunities to support people in my community.

One of our challenges we have had in Ou Char commune is that some poor families don't send their children to school because they have needed their children to work to meet their basic needs. But now that we have the Village Hive Project, parents are able to get the support they need to grow their income and send their children to school.

**Before the Village Hive Project, people in our community were uncomfortable or reluctant to ask for our help. Now, my commune council is more involved in the work with families and we have more opportunities to encourage families to ask us for help if they need it.**

Now we have more resources through the Village Hive Project, we are able to help our community more. I've never seen any other NGO that has created an initiative like this. CCT is giving their project to the local community so we can work together to support our own people. Before, the families in our community mostly worked with CCT and weren't involved with their local council.

Now, the Village Hive Project engages the families to work closely with us. The people in our community have more knowledge than before, they can see that their community is more active than before.

In the future, I want to see people in my community confident in their local council. We especially want all of the families to have more income, be educated and healthy. We need to make sure the younger generation have the opportunity to be educated. The Village Hive Project will help us reach this goal.



## Leng Sophal

Principal of Phum Ang Public School

Since the Village Hive Project began, my school has improved a lot. Before, the poor students or vulnerable children didn't have the chance to go to school. Now, these students are all enrolled in school.

At first I felt unsure because this project was new and I was worried it wouldn't run as smoothly as when CCT operated the services. But after the training from CCT on how to do the work and the ongoing technical support, I now feel very confident about the project.

My biggest goals are to see more children accessing our school and for us to continue developing our school and our community. Other NGOs in the Ou Char community have helped the families by giving them money or rice, but they have never helped develop the public school like the Village Hive Project has.



## Teav Visal

Chief of Office of Primary School Education

As I have observed, NGO projects eventually come to an end. When the NGO projects finish, the benefit to the community usually finishes too. On the other hand, I appreciate the Village Hive Project because it is creating sustainability by empowering the community to continue the work into the future.

Now that CCT is decentralising their projects into the public sector and providing the funding to empower the local community to do this work, it is creating an opportunity to give responsibility back to the local community. I couldn't be more excited about this initiative.



## Choun Sotey

Leader of the Commune Council for Women and Children (CCWC) in Svay Pao Commune

I am excited by the Village Hive Project. It makes me very proud and delighted because CCT is providing the resources to empower us to protect children in our community and reduce the incidence of children being separated from their families.

We don't want children to end up in orphanages. We've opened an after-school care program for youth and children, which I'm very happy about. In the past, we had so many NGOs working here, but when their projects run out of funding, they leave and nothing remains in our community.

But the Village Hive Project is so great because in the future if CCT leaves this community, the families of the children will continue to stay strong and the local leadership will have the capacity to continue supporting the community.



## Meas Meariady

Leader at the Village Health Clinic in  
Ou Char Commune

**The Village Hive Project makes it easier for our team to manage the family cases. We know our community so it is easier to reach the families who need support because we have the network.**

The Village Hive Project gives more resources to our nursing team who then report back to the health clinic. We can now reach more vulnerable children, families or separated and broken families.

Before the Village Hive Project, the information we received about the families from NGOs in Ou Char was unclear and our work wasn't so effective. Before, when I needed to go to the village I would have to close the clinic. Now, the Village Hive Project has resourced us with more nurses so I can work from the office and the nurses can go to meet the families in the village. So, we can help more people now. It is much better.

Since we have the Village Hive Project, I work more closely with the local council and social workers, which is a lot more efficient. The local council social workers are gaining more knowledge about this work and I think the work in the future will be really positive.



## Meun Vibol

Ou Char Commune  
Council Member

The Village Hive Project is working to embed CCT's work into Ou Char Commune and we are working together to do this. I think there is only one NGO that works like this. The work is very good and I feel it is improving our community.

The challenge before the Village Hive Project is that our community didn't have any resources to support our people, so we have relied on NGOs. Second, we didn't work closely with the families in our community because they were working with NGOs. We just did awareness work, because we didn't have the resources to solve the problems.

Now we have more capacity to deal with the problems in our community. We work closely with the families in the commune. All of the people in the community know they can ask for help if they have any concerns or are in need. I feel proud that the people in my community know that they can trust me and ask for my help.

The Village Hive Project has given us two more staff who were transferred from CCT to work in our department. We have a bigger team now to handle more family cases.

**I have shared this work with my colleagues in other communes and they are so impressed. The families in my commune will continue to improve with the Village Hive Project.**





**59**

Village Hive social workers upskilled to deliver the Village Hive services through coaching and mentoring

**5**

teachers and 2 social workers transferred from CCT into the Village Hive Project team, to strengthen the commune's capacity to respond to concerns in their community

**103**

meetings with public schools to support the transition of ownership of the Village Hive after-school care and preschool program

**51**

partnership meetings were held with Ou Char local leadership to transition the governance of the Village Hive model to the commune council

## Siblings who were begging on the streets saw the after-school care program and walked in to ask for help

When 12-year-old Pisey and his two younger brothers walked into the after-school care program in Ang Public School asking for help, the Village Hive Project team sprung into action. The siblings said they lived with their mum and dad, but they had no food at home. They also said they had never been to school and spent their days begging on the streets.

The Village Hive team worked together with Pisey's family to co-create a safety plan that ensured they were safe and receiving the support they needed. While working with Pisey's parents to help them reach their financial goals, CCT provided emergency food and enrolled Pisey and his three younger siblings into the after-school care program in Ang Public School. Attending the program every day meant Pisey and his siblings had access to all of their basic needs, including nutrition, water, hygiene and sanitation facilities and health care.

We then helped the family acquire ID documentation, which meant the children could officially enrol in public school. Also, they could now access discounted social services, such as medical care from the Village Health Clinic. After ensuring the family had enough food and the immediate child protection risks were addressed, social workers began providing coaching and counselling to the parents regarding child safety, health, and positive parenting skills.

### At 12 years old, Pisey is going to school for the very first time.

Although he and his siblings had to start in grade one, they are all keen to do well in school and get their education. Pisey's teachers at the after-school care program are doing extra tutoring to help the siblings catch up to their peers after years of missed schooling.



### After-school program enables mother of four to go back to work

When Roth heard about the after-school program operating in her village, she went straight in to ask for assistance. Despite her husband working full-time as a labourer, he was only bringing in \$5 a day and they were struggling to provide for their four children.

"I was so poor I didn't even have food for my family. One of the worst times in my life was when my children came home from school and they were hungry. They asked me if we had any food for dinner. I just cried and went to my neighbour to borrow money so I could buy food for them. I didn't even eat dinner that night," shared Roth.

The Village Hive team enrolled Roth's three eldest children into the after-school care program at Ang Public School so they could access all of their basic needs. This was a huge relief for Roth who said that since her children enrolled in the program, "they are going to school regularly and getting their education like other kids."

**"The program operates out of the public school in my village which is close to my house. So it's easy for me to take the children to the school. While my children are at the school I have more time to work," she said.**

Now that her children are accessing nutritional meals, clean water, hygiene and sanitation facilities and medical care from the after-school care program in their local public school, Roth can work more. Roth and her husband have started the social protection journey and are currently undergoing financial literacy training with the goal to open their own micro-business in 2023.

