



Left to right: Mr. Chrey Pom—
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Project objectives & approaches

- **Objective:** Demonstrate the merits of OBA as a mechanism to accelerate increased WASH coverage, and to advocate for government adoption of the mechanism.
- **Sanitation Results:** sanitation target over achieved. Thrive has embarked on a scale-up process involving local government progressively increasing their contribution to the OBA payment over a three-year period until they cover the full USD18 per latrine.
- Local government has given principle commitment and the first phase of government budget has been delivered. This scale-up is beyond the scope of the CS WASH Fund project, but underpins the advocacy agenda concerning the Government's adoption of OBA.
- **Water Results:** Cambodia's first ever round of competitive bids and licencing was conducted for rural water supply projects. Many lessons learned through this process, and four new systems were successfully licenced through this mechanism.
- Pro-poor subsidy mechanism for connecting poor households to an existing water network can be implemented extremely successfully at scale. Both scheme operators and households highly appreciate this mechanism.

Lessons learnt

- A large scale sanitation program that does not require households to construct a latrine shelter will result in a high percentage of unused or 'delayed use' latrines. Adding latrine shelter as a verification criteria is an effective way to address this problem.
- Installation of a handwashing device within 10 metres of the latrine significantly impacts hand washing behaviour. Verifying the presence of hand washing devices and pushing household by household for their installation improves results.
- The competitive licencing process for private water supply operators needs significantly more testing and attention from the rural water sector in Cambodia. A lot of potential remains to be exploited and investment mobilized from private operators.

Project challenge

The water project did not have successful bidders from the private sector for all 7 sites. We were working in remote areas that did not naturally attract private enterprises and incentivising them to invest by subsidising the commercial viability gap. However, the requirements placed by the program and government on these investors were not suitable. For example, investment required was beyond the capacity of the interested bidders, and the proposed sites were too large.

Sustainability

- Phasing-in of government budget as donor budget is phased out, is a critical objective for Thrive in order that the sanitation program is sustained.
- Review and reflection among the delivery team and change agents on Cambodia's first pilot of the competitive licencing process is critical. The program's efforts and lessons need to be consolidated in order to define the sector's next phase and approach to the competitive licencing policy in rural water.



Main pipe installation and water service provider at Sambok commune Chher Borey district Kratie



IDPoor 1 Trapeang Dangheut Village Daun Krong commune, Prey Veng Province

We are proud of:

Prey Veng and Kampong Cham provincial Departments of Rural Development have worked with select commune councils to mobilize local budget support to cover a portion of the sanitation rebates for poor households. Our objective is for government to gradually phase in financial support and taking greater ownership of the program as Thrive Networks phases out.