ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL LAND CONCESSIONS ON RURAL LIVELIHOODS IN CAMBODIA

Study Recommendations
Research conducted 2015-2016

Royal Government of Cambodia, incl. Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction, Ministry of Justice, and Provincial Departments

- Plans for new SLCs should, where feasible, be fully embedded in national and provincial development plans prior to plots being allocated. SLCs plans should NOT be approved where plots cover or overlap land that is contested.
- Social and environmental impact assessments must be conducted prior to granting SLCs.
- SLCs should NOT be used as a means for land conflict resolution or for regaining possession of occupied land.
- Efforts should be undertaken to improve job opportunities. Beneficiary families should be provided with training in agricultural skills, industrial crop production, business development and marketing of crops.
- SLCs should NOT be issued on sites adjacent to land used by indigenous groups, until all claims for communal or individual titles have been fully assessed and processed.
- Poor and landless SLCs beneficiary families should be selected through open, transparent, equitable and participatory processes.
- Allegations of corruption should be fully investigated. Local officials found to have extorted money from beneficiary families or other stakeholders should be prosecuted.
- Access to health, education and other basic services, including access to water, should be planned by multi-disciplinary SLCs Committees working with development partners.
- Threats made to beneficiary families to sell plots of land should be fully investigated. Individuals who were forced to sell land should be provided with access to remedy.
- Improved collaboration should be facilitated between ministries, agencies and development partners involved in land use planning and service provision.
- Further analysis needs to be undertaken to explore the cause of increasing household debt.
- SLCs programs should seek to include increased provision of support to poor, homeless families, so as to ensure that SLCs housing meets minimum standards.
- Provisions in the Sub-Decree on Social Land Concessions aiming to prevent premature transfer of land by SLCs beneficiaries should be enforced.
- Local authorities should work with development partners to provide support to victims of violence against women and girls. Additional support should be provided to families moving to SLCs sites, so as to ensure a secure living environment.

Development Partners

Development partners should play a more active role on SLCs sites by conducting monitoring and evaluation of living standards, and by holding local authorities to account.

Development partners financing the establishment of SLCs should review the level and type of support they provide to ensure sustainable development.

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