

II. Stung Slot Community

1) Mrs. Phin Vanna

No. 1 (IRC Code: 6041)

Four people are living in this house: 3 children and I. I have lost my husband.

In 1979, when the Pol Pot Regime collapsed, I was living in Don Yu Village, Chhoeu Khang Commune in Prey Veng District. In 1993, we came to live in Stung Slot Village, Neak Leung Commune in Peam Ror District. We lived 50 m in the west of the Stung Slot Bridge.

In those days, I had a store. I was selling groceries. I was also selling crickets. I earned 7,000 R/day. I then spent 5,000 R/day on food and sending my children to school. I was left with 2,000 R/day. The size of our land was 5 m x 15 m. The house size was 3 m x 6 m. The roof and the walls were made of palm tree leaves.

In 2000, we had to move our house because of the HW1 Project. IRC gave me 175.74 USD for the house. But this was only 50% of what I was supposed to receive. IRC also gave me 380,000 R for allowance. I still had to borrow 500 USD from someone to move the house and to build a new house. The interest rate was 200,000 R/month. We then moved to the MPWT's land. In 2003, we moved from the MPWT land to the land on the riverside. In 2004, I moved again up along the riverside closer to where I had lived before 2003.

In 2006, I received 210.51 USD more from IRC. This was the balance of the compensation for our house. I also received 300 USD for income restoration. IRC gave me land, too, on the Stung Slot Resettlement Site. However, I still live on the riverside. I want to move to the Stung Slot Resettlement Site. But I don't have enough money to build a new house. I only managed to put some polls to mark my land.

After the Project, I have changed my job. Now, I make traditional Cambodian cake and sell it. I earn 7,000 to 8,000 R/day. I then spend 5,000 R/day for food. So, my income is not very different from what I was earning before the Project. But now I have to pay 90,000 R/month as interest for my debt. My children had to drop out from school because of the Project. They could not finish secondary school. Now, the size of our house is 2 m x 3 m. This is smaller than the house before the Project. The roof is covered with tin. The walls are made of palm tree leaves.

I have no land title or any document from authorities to my land. I have asked IRC to give me land title. But they never did. Now, my debt is 3,000,000 R (763.96 USD¹). I also have to pay interest.

¹ The exchange rate: 1 July 2007.

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I request land title to my land. I also need 1,500 USD to pay my debt, to build a new house, to start again a store to sell groceries for my living, and to buy food to live on.

2) Mrs. Kong Phally

No. 4 (IRC Code: 5068)

I am 35 years old. I live in this house with my husband and our daughter. In 1993, I was already married and lived with my parents-in-law. We lived in the Stung Slot Village. Three months later, we bought a house for 300,000 R. But we did not own the land. After 1 year, we were told by the landowner to move from this place. So, in 1994, we came to live next to HW1. We bought land for 156,000 R. The land size was 4 m x 7 m. The size of the house was 2.7 m x 4.5 m. The roof and the walls were made of palm tree leaves.

At that time, I had small business to sell cake on the riverside at a port. I earned 15,000 R/day. My husband unloaded luggage from boats at the port. He earned 2,000 to 10,000 R/day. But sometimes he earned less. In the rainy season, my husband also caught fish. He earned 20,000 R/day. However, he could fish only for 1 month. We spent 10,000 R/day. We bought food, milk for the child, and medicine. In 1998, we borrowed 100,000 R to support ourselves. The interest rate was 20% a month.

In 2000, we had to move our house because of the HW1 Project. IRC gave us 88 USD for our house. They also paid us 380,000 R for allowance. But they did not pay us for the lost land. We then decided to live close to the Stung Slot Bridge. We rent land for 20,000 R/month. We had to borrow 300 USD and used this money for the moving. My husband had to be treated at hospital, too. So, we also used the money for this. The size of our house was 4 m x 5 m. The roof was covered with tin. The walls were made of palm tree leaves. We lived there for 3 years. But the place was flooded. So, we had to shift the house during the rainy season. In 2003, IRC gave us land on Stung Slot Resettlement Site. In 2006, IRC paid us 284 USD. This was the balance of the compensation for our lost house. They also gave us 300 USD for income restoration.

I cannot sell cake any more. Now, my job is to grow and harvest rice and beans for other people. I also collect wood in the forest. I earn 5,000 R/day. I also take care of children for other people. I earn 60,000 R/month (2,000 R/day) for this. My husband collects crickets and sells them. He also cuts wood in the forest with me. He earns 50,000 R/month (1,667 R/day). Our income decreased after the HW1 Project. We spend 5,000 R/day for food.

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We request money to pay back our debt. We also need 1,500 USD to buy sugarcane containers and a bicycle to sell ice cream to restore our livelihood. We request land title to our land, too.

3) Mr. and Mrs. Tip Ror

No. 5 (IRC Code: 5067)

We live on the Stung Slot Resettlement Site. We have 6 children.

When the HW1 Project started, I was a waged worker to carry things on construction sites. I was also a musician. During the Cambodian wedding season, from January to June, people asked me to play the instrument for the wedding. My wife took care of home. She collected wood in the forest, too. Our 6 children worked in the same way as I did. They also earned some money. It is hard to say how much money we earned. It was about 10,000 R/day (2.61 USD²).

We used to live very close to HW1. But because of the HW1 Project, we had to demolish our house and move somewhere. In 2000, IRC paid us 233.68 USD. This was about 30% of what we were supposed to get. Besides, they did not pay us for the lost land. At first, we lived on someone's land. But later we were told to move. So, we moved again to a place 500 m away from here.

In August 2005, we borrowed 100,000 R (25.37 USD³) from a community fund. We were so poor. We have not paid back this money. We have never borrowed money from a private lender. In 2006, IRC paid us 474.45 USD more to compensate for our lost house. They also gave us land on the Stung Slot Resettlement Site. So, we came to live here.

I still work as before the HW1 Project. But now there is less work around here. Rich people use machines instead of manual labor. When I lived along HW1, I sometimes saw people carry heavy luggage on a motorbike. I then went out to help them unload luggage and earned some money. But I cannot work like that any more, because our house is away from HW1. Three out of our 6 children left home 3 months ago. They travel around, cut sugarcane, and earn money. We don't know where they are. We are not sure if they will come back home. They never send us money. I think we are now earning only 2,000 R/day. Our income has declined after the HW1 Project.

My wife still works at home. She collects wood, too. However, she has become mentally ill. This is because she had to move many times. I don't have money to take her to hospital. I need to spend more time on taking care of my wife. That is why I cannot work outside as much as I used to. I am older now, too.

² The exchange rate: 1 July 2000.

³ The exchange rate: 1 August 2005.

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I want to learn how to raise animals, especially cows, for living. I request money 1500 USD to buy them and to pay back my debt. I request land title to this land. I am concerned about our children's future. If we have land title, nobody can force us to move from here.

4) Mrs. and Mr. Meourng Sok

No. 6 (IRC Code: 5069)

We now live on the Stung Slot Resettlement Site. We have 4 children.

In 1990, we came from Kamchay Mea District and lived close to the Stung Slot Bridge. At that time, my husband was a soldier. When the HW1 Project started, we had a store on HW1. We were selling groceries, fruits, and cake. It was our only way to earn cash. We earned 300,000 R/month (78.21 USD⁴). We then spent 200,000 R/month on food and sending our children to school. We used the rest of the money, 100,000 R, to buy products for our store.

In 2000, we had to demolish our store and house because of the HW1 Project. IRC at first paid us 253.07 USD for our store and house. But this was less than 50% of the full compensation. Also, we received no compensation for the lost land. We could not restore our life. We moved to a place 200 m from the Stung Slot Resettlement Site. Between 2000 and 2006, we had no secure job. We made cake, went to the Stung Slot Bridge, and sold cake for our income. We earned only 1,000 to 1,200 R/day (30,000 to 36,000 R/month). Our income dropped considerably. In fact, this was enough only to buy 1 kg of rice. We could not buy much meat. So, I went to the nearby river with my daughter to catch fish. One day, my daughter fell into a hole in the river and nearly drowned. I was very scared. So, catching fish was not easy.

In 2006, we moved to the Stung Slot Resettlement Site. IRC gave us 303.13 USD more for the lost house. They also gave us land here. But we still had to borrow 350 USD in February 2006 to buy this house. It cost us 487,200 R (116.00 USD⁵) to build it.

Now, we sell vegetables and other little things at the front of this house. Our income now is 210,000 R/month (53.48 USD⁶). This is less than we used to earn. So, we try to cut our spending on food and other things.. We spent for food 60,000 R/month. But we also have to pay 290,000 R/month as interest for our debt. So, we are short of 80,000 R/month.

⁴ The exchange rate: 1 July 2000.

⁵ The exchange rate: 1 July 2006.

⁶ The exchange rate: 1 July 2007.

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We don't have land title to our land. People outside the Stung Slot Resettlement Site sometimes visit here to try to buy land. We don't know why they want the land here. They never threaten us. The Stung Slot Community helps us live here. We want to stay here. If we can get land title, our children can stay here in peace. Otherwise, the debt owner might come and take away our land. Our children can plant trees and grow vegetables here. We also want to expand our business. We request money to buy more products on our store. If we have 1,000,000 R (254.65 USD⁷), we can earn 10,000 R/day. Then in 6 months, we can pay back our debt. I also request for the land title for security.

5) Mr. Boeun Sarin

No. 10 (IRC Code: 4073)

I am 35 years old. We have 7 members in our family: My wife, 5 children, and I. We have 2 sons and 3 daughters.

In 1984, we came to live in Stung Slot Village, Neak Leung Commune in Peay Ror District. We lived on HW1, 150 m in the east of the Stung Slot Bridge. We lived there with our parents. In 1988, we bought land from a person named Path Oeun. The size of the land was 8 m x 18 m. We paid 240,000 R to buy this land. But the land was like wetland. It was often flooded.

I was working as a construction worker. I earned 5,000 R/day. My wife was selling second-hand clothes. She earned 10,000 R/day. We spent 10,500 R/day on food. We also spent 1,500 R/day on sending our children to school. So, we were left with 3,000 R/day. The size of our house was 5 m x 7 m. It was made of palm tree leaves.

In 2000, we had to move our house because of the HW1 Project. We received 386.25 USD from IRC as compensation for our house. But this was about 30% of what we were supposed to receive. IRC also gave us 304,000 R for allowance. We got permission from our relatives and lived on their land. We lived there for 2 years.

In 2003, we got land and came to live on the Stung Slot Resettlement Site. In 2005, we borrowed 2,000,000 R (508.32 USD⁸) from a gold maker in Neak Leung. In 2006, IRC gave us 643.75 USD. We also received 300 USD for livelihood restoration.

After the HW1 Project, I still work as a construction worker. I earn 70,000 R/month (2,333 R/day). So, my income has dropped. My wife takes care of our children at home. Our daughter is 16 years old. Now, she works for a private

⁷ The exchange rate: 1 July 2007.

⁸ The exchange rate: 1 July 2005.

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company. She packages pens, pencils, and books. She earns 150,000 R/month (5,000 R/day). We spend 10,000 R/day on food and sending the children to school.

We do not have land title to our land on the Stung Slot Resettlement Site. We do not have any other documents to show that the land belongs to us. We are worried if authorities will kick us out. We request land title. We also need 1,500 USD to restore our livelihood.

6) Mrs. Prom Moeun

No. 11 (IRC Code: 3078)

I am 70 years old. I live alone in this house on the Stung Slot Resettlement Site. I have one daughter. She is married. She lives next door on the same land plot. She lives there with her husband and their son.

In 1979, after the Pol Pot Regime, I came to live in the Stung Slot Village. I came from Mesang District. I asked the Commune leader to let me build a house and stay there. The size of the land was 10 m x 15 m. In 1992, I moved to the east along HW1, 1,000 m away from the Stung Slot Bridge. The size of the house was 7 m x 4.5 m. The roof was made of tin. The walls were made of palm tree leaves.

I was practicing massage. I also washed people's clothes for cash income. At that time, I earned 5,000 to 10,000 R/day. But I sometimes earned less. My daughter also sold fish. She earned 5,000 R/day. We spent 5,000 R/day for food. So, we were left with 5,000 to 10,000 R/day.

In 2000, we had to move our house because of the HW1 Project. IRC gave me 109.30 USD for the house. They also paid me 380,000 R for allowance. But they did not give me full compensation. They did not pay me for my land, either. So, I decided to rent private land in front of a tile factory. This factory is next to the Stung Slot Resettlement Site. The rent was 50,000 R/year (13.03 USD⁹). In 2000, I borrowed 300 USD from a private moneylender named Thoeun. The interest rate was 30% a month. I used this money to rent the land and to build a house. I lived there for 2 years. In 2001, IRC paid us 110 USD for moving house.

In 2002, I moved to the land owned by the MPWT. We stayed there for only 1 year. This land was located 500 m in the east of the Stung Slot Bridge. Then, in 2003, I came to live on the Stung Slot Resettlement Site.

In 2005, I borrowed 10 USD from the Stung Slot Community. Also in 2005, I received 485.53 USD from IRC for the lost house. I received 300 USD for income restoration, too. IRC also gave me land on the Stung Slot Resettlement Site. I then built a new house. The size of my house is 3 m x 3 m. The roof is made of tin. The

⁹ The exchange rate: 1 July 2000.

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walls are made of bloom trees. I used part of the compensation money to pay my medicine.

Now, I sell fruits and cake for living. I sometimes practice massage, too. I earn 3,000 to 4,000 R/day. So, my income has declined after the Project. I still spend 5,000 R/day.

I don't have land title to my land. I do not have any other land documents, either. In 2004, I asked the Stung Slot Community to get us land title. But nobody in the Community has land title yet. Now, my debt is 500 USD. This includes interest.

I need 1,000 USD to buy animals. I want to raise them to pay back my debt. I also request land title for security.

7) Mr. Ngueang Yangyong

No. 15 (IRC Code: 6043)

I am 42 years old. I am now living on the Stung Slot Resettlement Site. We have 5 members in our family: My wife, 2 sons, 1 daughter, and I. In 1984, I came to live in Cambodia. I originally came from Vietnam. In 1986, I got married. I asked the Stung Slot Village leader to let us live next to HW1.

I was a fisherman. I caught fish with a fishnet and sold them at a local market to earn cash. We also ate fish for ourselves. We sold Cambodian traditional cake, too for living. We earned 5,000 R/day. We then spent 5000 R/day for living. The size of our house was 4m * 7m. The roof and the walls were made of palm tree leaves.

In 2000, we had to move our house because of the HW1 Project. IRC gave us 122.82 USD to compensate for part of our house. They also paid us 300,000 R for allowance. We moved our house to a port. We then rent land there for 600,000 R/year (50,000 R/month = 13.03 USD¹⁰). We then lived there for 3 years. In 2003, we moved to live on the Stung Slot Resettlement Site. In 2006, we finally received 263.43 USD. This was the balance of the compensation for our lost house. We received land on the Stung Slot Resettlement Site, too. IRC also paid us 300 USD for income restoration. However, someone stole 300 USD from us.

After the HW1 Project, I have had to change my job. Now, I walk along the road and collect anything that has value. This includes beer cans, pieces of metal such as iron, copper, and aluminum, and plastic. My income was considerably decreased But I spend 7,000 R/day for eating and sending the children to school. Our spending has also increased.

¹⁰ The exchange rate: 1 July 2000.

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We have the debt of 850 USD. The interest rate is 300,000 R/month (76.40 USD¹¹). We used this money to buy a water pump. It cost us 350 USD. We also bought 3 cows. It cost us 500 USD. The size of the house still remains the same as before (4m * 7m). But the roof and the walls are covered with tin.

We do not have land title to our land on the Stung Slot Resettlement Site. We want IRC to give us land title for security. We also need 2,350 USD to pay back the debt, to build a new house, and to buy a motorcycle for work, and food for living.

8) Mrs. Heim Hong

No. 16 (IRC Code: 3081)

I live here with my 79-year old mother, my daughter, and my son. In 1979, I was living in Chheou Teal Village, Rossey Srok Commune in Peam Ror District. Then, I got married and came to live on HW1. In 1998, I bought land from a person named Mr. Khath Oeun for 720,000 R (180.45 USD¹²). The size of the land was 6 m x 18 m. The size of the house was 5 m x 3.6 m. I lived there with my mother.

When the HW1 Project started, my husband and I had several seasonal jobs. In the rainy season, we caught and sold fish for 30,000 to 40,000 R/day for 3 weeks. Then, we sold corn. We earned 2,000,000 R for one season. We then sold pickled vegetables for 15,000 R/day. Our daily spending at that time was 11,500 R. Sometimes, we had to buy medicine and also see doctor. We paid 920,000 R for this. In 1995, we borrowed 2,030,000 R. We have paid back only 200,000 R.

In 2000, we had to move our house because of the HW1 Project. We received 469.35 USD from IRC. IRC also gave us 152,000 R for allowance. But they did not give us compensation for the land. We rented land for 40,000 R/month and build a house. We lived there for 3 years. In 2003, we came to live on the Stung Slot Resettlement Site. We borrowed 1,500,000 R from a private lender in Neak Leung. The interest rate was 300,000 R/month. We then built a house of the same size as before. In 2003, my husband died of malaria. In 2006, IRC gave me 283.25 USD more. It was the balance of the compensation for my lost house.

After we moved to the Stung Slot Resettlement Site, we have started selling fruits and cake. Now, I earn 7,000 to 10,000 R/day. But sometimes I earn less. We spend 7,000 R/day for food and 1,400 R/day for motorcycle drivers. I also use 30,000 R/month to pay back my debt.

My debt is now 1,830,000 R (466.02 USD¹³). I do not have land title to my land. I have no document to prove that this land is mine. I am worried if authorities will

¹¹ The exchange rate: 1 July 2007.

¹² The exchange rate: 1 July 1998.

¹³ The exchange rate: 1 July 2007.

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tell me to move away from here. I request land title. I also need 1,000 USD to get back my livelihood and repair this house.

9) Mrs. Khat Samun

No. 20 (IRC Code: 3691)

I am 35 years old. We have 3 members in our family: 2 children and I. I lost my husband, and in 2002 father's name Khat Oeun was died, too..

In 1979, we came to live in Stung Slot Village, Neak Leung Commune in Peam Ror District. My husband had the job of bicycle maintenance. I (Khat Samun) sold candies. Then, I worked at home. Our income was 8,000 R/day. We also spent 8,000 R/day on food and other daily necessities. But we managed to save 35 USD/month. When the HW1 Project started in 1999, the size of our house was 5 m x 8 m. The roof was made of tin. The walls were made of wood. In 1999, my husband became ill. So, we had to borrow 200,000 R to pay for his medicine. The interest rate was 20,000 R/month.

In 2000, we had to move our house because of the HW1 Project. IRC gave us 1870.72 USD to compensate for part of our house. IRC also gave us 152,000 R for allowance. But they did not compensate for our land. We decided to move closer to the old national road. The place was 25 m away from HW1. We lived there with my brother. In 2004, my husband died because of illness. Then, I started to work at a garment factory in Phnom Penh. I earned 45 USD/month. I worked there for 6 months. But then, I became sick. So, I came home. I decided to rent a house at Boeng Kropoe for 25 USD/month. I then lived there with my brother. I took care of myself. I spent 25 USD/month on food.

Now, I do not have a regular job. I have no land to live on, either. I am still living with my brother. In 2006, I received 1569.78 USD from IRC. This was the balance of the compensation for my lost house.

I request land and land title. I also want 2,000 USD to build a house, start a grocery store, raise animals, such as cows, pigs, and ducks, and to buy food.