



## INCOME GENERATION THROUGH CHICKEN RAISING

**Funder:** Global Giving

**Submission Date:** July 2024

**Project Implementation:** Final Report (January 2023 - July 2024)

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### Project Summary

This income generation project aims to establish a reliable, sustainable source of income for vulnerable families in the rural area of Battambang, Cambodia. The main goal of this project is to prevent service dependency, provide opportunities for the families to become self-reliant and improve their life prospects. The project started with working with local authorities to identify potential families, providing training on chicken raising to families, and a number of laying hens, roosters, the infrastructure to protect and feed their flock and the follow-up technical support on how to successfully grow chickens. After an initial 9-12 month period the flock grows big enough to sell chickens and generate a sustainable, continuous income. The funding used to cover the start-up costs of the project, especially to buy the first flock of laying hens to start hatching and raising chicken, which after they can sell at the local market.

### Data on Breeding and Losses

Twenty families received support for the chicken raising project which included technical support training, financial literacy training, food, medical, vaccination and follow-up plan. During the project implementation period from July 2023 to June 2024 the results of the chicken raising project indicated that; there were 1410 eggs laid, of which 963 hatched and 447 were unable to hatch (unhatched eggs were mostly eaten by the family for additional nutrition). Although many families were able to increase their flock by hatching eggs, only three families were able to sell the chicken in order to generate income. This is because there was an outbreak of bird flu (H1N1) in the area, and many of the chickens died or were confiscated by the authorities to prevent further spread of disease. In total, families were able to sell 39 chickens, for a profit equal to \$218 USD.

The data shared below begins in July because the first months of the project were devoted to project startup and eggs didn't begin hatching until July 2023.

No-	Total July 2023 to June 2024		
	Laid eggs	Hatched	Sold
1	63	37	0
2	11	7	0
3	0	0	0
4	225	135	5

5	7	5	0
6	125	80	0
7	97	80	9
8	61	33	0
9	155	109	0
10	78	52	0
11	66	44	0
12	166	120	25
13	24	21	0
14	20	13	0
15	85	60	0
16	59	47	0
17	62	41	0
18	17	15	0
19	41	32	0
20	48	32	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1410</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>39</b>

## Lesson Learnt

**Income generation:** Families we work with are some of the most disadvantaged in the community and they are struggling to earn income, typically don't own their own land or have very little land, and lack formal education or knowledge about finances or business. CFI has found out through this project that families need quite a bit of support outside of just providing materials for the families to be successful. We can see that families need strong financial and technical support for at least two or three generations of chicken cycles before they begin to turn a profit. In addition, CFI supports families outside of the small business support so that other challenges don't get in the way, which includes family counseling, providing emergency support and safety intervention. This holistic support is a crucial aspect of strengthening families so that they have the motivation and commitment to successfully raise chickens.

**Disease and weather:** Before the project, CFI was aware that disease could be an issue, and we did our best to plan for this by ensuring the proper vaccination schedule, support from the local agricultural department, and procuring healthy chickens. However, disease and weather related deaths were still an unfortunate outcome of the project and prevented many families from making an income. These issues are out of our control and families control, and can happen regardless of our preparation. CFI is doing our best to support the families to reflect together about this challenge and hear solutions from families that have been successful in order to take those lessons and try to prevent disease in the future. However, no solution is guaranteed, so it is also a good lesson for families to understand about potential shocks that can impact a business and how to recover from them. We continue to have our staff follow up with families to help them work out solutions and risk mitigation factors, or seek a different type of livelihood.

**Collaboration:** CFI has learned a lot from establishing a good working relationship with local government authorities, such as the local department of agriculture, to ensure all technical support is accessible to the families. The good relationship helped ensure better outcomes for families and more ongoing technical support. For instance, during the bird flu (H1N1) outbreak, the local department of agriculture immediately responded to the case and did their best to prevent spread of the disease throughout the community.

## Budget

Costs	Budget	Actual Spend	Explanation
Chicken raising materials; coops, mini coops for chicks, vaccine, food for chicken, hens & chicken costs	\$7,380	\$7,401.62	This amount supported the original 20 families, as well as a second round of support for families that wanted to continue the project after the spread of disease.
Training and follow up from District Office of Agriculture	\$1,660	\$1,071.08	This is underspent because there was less follow up from the district officer due to it being easier for the CFI social workers to follow up on their own.
Overhead costs	\$2,959	\$3,526.30	Phone card, office rental, office supplies, utilities, banking fees.
Total:	\$11,999	\$11,999	

## Case Studies

### Theory's story:

Theory (pseudonym) is a 35-year-old woman who takes care of her five children in a remote area of Ek Phnom district, Battambang province. CFI has been working with her for about two years now to help make sure she can care for her children's basic needs and that they get an education.

Theory doesn't have a secure job, so she did odd jobs around the community to feed her family including seasonal farm/house labor or foraging for food to eat or sell (wild edible plants, frogs, fish, swamp eels). However, she was not able to earn enough money for her family to survive and they struggled every day to eat. Theory's children weren't able to go to school regularly, so she decided to bring two of her sons to live with her relatives.

For a couple years, CFI has supported Theory and her family through social counseling and ensuring her children access to education by supporting them to have two meals per day, providing supplementary classes at CFI's learning center, and providing school uniforms, books and bicycles to keep them going to school regularly. A little over a year ago, CFI was able to employ her as a support worker helping clean and cook so that she could have a steady income. The funding from Basaid allowed us to support her through the chicken project where she could earn additional income. Through the project, Theory got hens and roosters, learned about raising chicken and financial literacy, chicken feed, vaccinations, veterinary advice and follow up on her small business. Theory always took care of the chickens by cleaning the coop properly, providing enough food to the chickens, and making sure they got medical treatment and vaccinations. She kept in touch about her challenges and asked for support when she needed it.



Two of Theory's children after coming to CFI's Learning Center for a while.

As a result, the chicken project has improved her family's situation. She has been able to earn additional money from selling chickens and eggs which has allowed her to keep her children going to school regularly and performing well. From over the project, she was able to earn \$155USD and invested \$62USD back into the business. Currently, she owns 72 chickens, 1 rooster and 3 laying hens which allows her to continue her business. Now, her family is in a much better place financially and doesn't need to rely on food from CFI, reducing service dependency. She said that she is

grateful for the support from BASAID which has helped her family's condition and they are very happy. She emphasized that without CFI and BASAID support, especially the chicken project, she would have been in a very dark place. She said, "I will share my knowledge for the chicken project with my neighbors and friends who want to start raising chickens at home just like me."

### **Sopheak's Story:**

Sopheak (pseudonym) is a 39-year-old man taking care of his four children, three boys and one girl. He is a widow and lives in a remote area of Ek Phnom district, Battambang province. He is illiterate and used to migrate to work in Thailand, but has been unable to work since the COVID-19 pandemic. Sopheak qualified for the government "poor ID" card, but it still was not enough for him to care for his children.

CFI chose for Sopheak to be one of the families to receive support from Basaid to raise chickens because of the economic struggles of him and his family. CFI's project team looked carefully at his commitment, strengths and opportunities for growth before deciding to choose him as one of the families. We also worked with local authorities and the department of agriculture to identify Sopheak's individual challenges and opportunities related to chicken raising. Sopheak received technical training on how to raise chickens, basic financial management, materials to build a chicken coop, chicken feed, veterinary advice and vaccinations. Furthermore, our project staff and local department of agriculture always followed up with Sopheak to ensure he was following the best practices from the training.



Sopheak maintained the flock well by following the advice from the training and cleaning the coop, providing enough food for the chickens everyday, and checking on the chickens when they showed signs of illness to give them the proper treatment. Despite his best efforts, most of Sopheak's chickens died during the change in the Cambodian season between December and January and due to the spread of disease from his neighbor's chickens. Though suffering a significant loss, Sopheak wants to continue to raise chickens and he has done his best to salvage the business. Sopheak currently only has five chickens, but he wants to continue and tells CFI that he won't give up raising chickens.

### **Project Photos**



Chicken coops installation for the families



Training on chicken raising for families



Hens and rosters distribution to families



Hens laid eggs



Chicken selling