

Community Driven Accountability in Cambodia

Oxfam-Monash Partnership

Research

Aim & Objectives

To investigate factors that enable some communities to develop relatively stronger community-centred accountability processes than others, in relation to development projects that affect them.

Activities

Three case studies of development projects affecting communities in Cambodia:

1. Oxfam Integrated Community Development projects;
2. Urban land development project;
3. Communities impacted by hydro dam project.

Research Findings

- The strength of accountability processes depends critically on a given community's **capacity** and sense of **entitlement** to influence decisions about development projects that affect them.
- Community capacity and sense of entitlement to influence depend in turn on several factors, both internal and external to the community.

Contacts

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Partnership

Background

- The collaboration was formed as a funded research project as part of the Oxfam-Monash Partnership
- The partnership also involved a local NGO in Cambodia, who hosted project researchers

Enablers

- Financial resources
- Commitment of key individuals at project level
- Institutional support

Outcomes and Successes

In addition to academic publications, significant efforts were made to embed the project outcomes locally, through visiting communities to share and check findings, holding workshops and meetings with Cambodian NGOs to feedback and check research, developing materials with women from one community to support other communities in pursuing accountability, and feeding research into other Oxfam initiatives such as the Active Citizenship and Accountability hub.

Challenges

- Resourcing time commitments of key participating partner staff;
- Aligning the administrative needs and constraints of the partnership with those of partner organisations;
- Aligning project timeframes with those of partner organisations (and wider networks of partners);
- Challenges of extending institutional partnerships to universities and NGOs in host countries;
- Challenges of achieving community-level impact.



Gendered impact of climate variability in Bangladesh

Oxfam-Monash Partnership

Research

Aim & Objectives

- To better understanding how livelihoods differ by gender within communities in Bangladesh;
- To identify how slow onset climate change affects these dynamics.

Activities

- Focus groups and interviews across three communities in Bangladesh;
- Identification of how climate change is influencing food security, migration, employment, education and health of men and women.

Outcomes

- Enhanced understanding of the impacts of climate change on gender relations and gender equality
- Production of evidence to inform advocacy, policy and programming around gender and climate change in Bangladesh
- Identification of gaps in current NGO strategies and programmatic approaches to promoting women's health, safety and wellbeing in the context of climate change

Contacts

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Partnership

Background

• **OMP symposium** (priorities and matching): Tested idea with Oxfam country teams; Bangladesh interested

• **OMP funded:** Scoping visit; Refined research questions

• **OMP Support:** Steering group governance; did it

• Oxfam had established programs (Gender, Climate Change Adaptation, etc) and long term partners

• Local partners had capacity

Enablers

• Oxfam doing national policy/advocacy (Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihood)

• Individual interests pushed some aspects

Successes

- Still have hope: untapped potential
- Made an entry point for future research
- Explicit learning about what is required in terms of approach to research, partnership and working together

- Created connections which Oxfam use can use in Bangladesh - credibility
- Linkages with academics and others through OMP (OMP internships, etc.)
- Personal (individual) relationships and knowledge

Challenges & Solutions

Challenges	Solutions
<p><u>Ownership</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Lack of clarity of outcomes and individual responsibility •Time and commitment •Hard to determine outputs before findings are clear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Involving people likely to be involved as early as possible (in design) •Make them responsible (in work plan) •Resource it or don't
<p><u>Approach to research/partnership (Oxfam as an in-road to people)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Assumptions/Expectations: learning new skills/understanding methods and practice •Getting useful outputs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Be brave – ask more questions •Include start up phase to learn more about each other (before funding) •Be open



Voices of Pacific Children with Disability

Deakin University, Save the Children, PNG Assembly of Disabled Persons (PNGADP), Disability Promotion (PNGADP), Disability Promotion and Advocacy Association Vanuata (DPA)

Research

Aim & Objectives

- 1) Develop and implement an innovative way of enabling children with diverse disabilities in the Pacific to self report their needs and priorities;
- 2) Build the capacity of all stakeholders (including Disabled Persons Organisations aka DPOs) to identify and respond to the identified needs of children with disabilities.

Activities

- Literature reviews on research methods for self report of children and people with disabilities
- Work with stakeholders to develop methods of self report (eg photo library; sound library; story in a bag, guided walkabout). Capacity building re research
- Interview up to 50 children in each of Vanuatu and PNG using tools
- Analyse data on child needs/priorities and improvements to tools

Outcomes

Project due for completion end March 2015.

To date: Capacity build stakeholders re research methods with children with disabilities and human rights (CRPD) analysis.

Identify core needs and priorities of children for advocacy

Contacts

Main contacts for partners: Deakin University – e.jenkin@deakin.edu.au;

Save the Children Australia – lanie.stockman@savethechildren.org.au; DPA - dpasanto@vanuatu.com.vu; PNGADP - lpul.Powaseu@pau.ac.pg

Partnership

Background

Deakin personnel have existing relationships with Save the Children and Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) – discussed need for research, local priorities and resources and determine project brief. Direct discussions with DPOs in both Vanuatu and PNG, utilizing links via PDF and existing relationships

Enablers

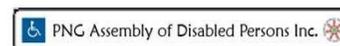
Existing relationships between key players
Previous experience of academics in development work and research, and previous experience of Save the Children in research and partnerships.
Strong communication with DPOs and PDF.

Successes

- Strong involvement of DPOs and people with disability in all capacity building activities (eg research training and method development).
- Employment of people with disabilities
- Save the Children has further interest and capacity in disability and inclusion – appoint Disability Advisor, Vanuatu.
- Deakin University and DPOs build own capacity in child protection through support from Save the Children
- Involvement and affirmation from children with disabilities and their families

Challenges & Solutions

Challenges	Solutions
Communication and co-ordination between multiple partners (over distance)	Agree on a lead agency and roles reflecting respective expertise; hold joint meetings and teleconferences; share most email traffic
Competing needs and approaches: research and ethics practices vs service delivery and promotion practices; in-country vs Australian priorities for tasks	Clearly name and discuss the requirements and obligations of each partner (e.g. ethics; terms of reference for all site visits, lines of communication etc.). Set clear and agreed timeframes for tasks
Need to further build skills and knowledge relating to research practice in disability and development contexts	Multiple capacity building activities re research at each stage; clear expectations about what skills required for each task. Knowledge exchange between partners, respect for DPO knowledge



GBV in PNG

ADRA, Avondale, Pacific Adventist Uni and the SDA Church

Our Research

Aim & Objectives

- Determine if there is a need to document prevalence of Gender Based Violence (GBV) in select Seventh-Day Adventist (SDA) Communities.
- Scope current GBV interventions of the SDA church and appetite for values-based interventions.
- Trial what works- not just describe what is. Position ADRA as an innovator and expert in this area.

Activities

- Gender workshop in PNG - Oct 2014
- SDA Church activity review early 2015
- Ongoing ethics and research team building.
- Prevalence research and programs development 2015.

Our Partnership and Progress

Background

Research developed after discussions between Avondale and ADRA staff.
Mutual interests in PNG.

Enablers

Previous collaborative projects between ADRA and Avondale.
ADRA's Church Partnership program activity in PNG.
3-way connection between ADRA, PAU/Avondale, and SDA Church.

Successes

- Slow approach to relationship building.
- Enthusiasm of early participants.
- Early formation of a 4-way partnership.
- Apparent support of Church hierarchy.

Challenges

Listening, learning from and responding to Melanesian partner needs.
Moving from GBV prevalence studies to design and implementation of programs.
Researching what works requires a timeframe, funding and ongoing commitment.
Delayed benefits of appreciative inquiry. Hard for time-poor researchers.
Need to tread softly with church partners. Challenge in working with men and male leaders.
Assembling expertise?

Contacts

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Exploring the link between child and youth participation and development effectiveness

ChildFund Australia, Live and Learn Australia, Plan International Australia, Transform Aid International, Institute for Sustainable Futures, InSIGHT Sustainability

Research

Aim & Objectives

The overarching objective of the partnership is to explore the link between child and youth participation and development effectiveness. The research is seeking to understand and learn more about this link, and build an evidence base to generate knowledge to benefit in-country partners, ANGOs, donors and the broader international development community.

Activities

Australian based activities: In 2013-2014 the research and learning partnership has jointly developed an in-country research planning guide, a detailed ethics guideline which includes child-friendly tools and data collection tools. In June - July the data analysis process commenced.

In-country based activities: In March- April 2014 the ANGOs facilitated data collection and ethics training with in-country partners. In May 2014, all in-country partners completed the first round of data collection.

Outcomes

Research aims to learn more about how child and youth participation contributes to good development outcomes. Furthermore, the partners want to share this learning with other stakeholders and practitioners to support child and youth programming.

Contacts

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Partnership

Background

In 2012, ChildFund Australia commissioned the Institute for Sustainable Futures (ISF) to conduct a literature review to gather research on the role of child and youth participation and its links to development effectiveness. This review confirmed the need for further empirical/ based research.

Consultations held between interested Australian NGOs led to the formation of the research and learning partnership to explore the issue. The partnership includes ChildFund Australia, Plan International Australia (financial contribution), Transform Aid International, Live and Learn , ISF and InSIGHT Sustainability.

Successes

The benefits of the joint research and learning partnership:

- The research project is able to extend beyond the capacity and geographical reach of one organisation
- Working with in-country partners is helping to ensure the research is applied, practical and relevant to the communities we work with
- The research Peer Review Group (voluntary technical advisors) provide regular input into the research design and processes. For example, this group assisted greatly with the development of the research ethics guidelines.
- ISF and InSIGHT Sustainability as core partners provide technical research capacity

Challenges & Solutions

Challenges	Solutions
Long-term Commitment: Since the inception of the idea to stage of data collection has taken 3 to 4 years.	Joint Development of a Research MOU: Obtaining high level buy-in (including management, programs team and other departments) has been essential in ensuring that interest and commitment to the research remains high.
Human Resourcing: It is common for ANGOs to experience staff turn-over within a three year time period.	Research Champion: All partners identified a key person that acts as driver of the research within their own organisation. Furthermore, the research group documented the research framework, ethics guidelines and approaches in detail.
Research Budget: A multiyear project requires a significant budget.	Research Agreements: The ANGO MOU clearly outlines that ANGOs commit to funding their own organizations data collection activities and also contributing to the wider ANGO budget requirements.

Triple Jeopardy: Gender-based violence, rights violations & access to related services among women with disabilities in Cambodia

CBM Australia, IWDA, Monash University, Banteay Srei, Cambodian Disabled People's Organisation

Research

Aim & Objectives

This research investigated the nature & extent of interpersonal violence experienced by women with disabilities in Cambodia, their access to services, & how this compares to women without disabilities, to advance the rights of women with disabilities by improving awareness, policy, programming & services.

Activities

- Qualitative & quantitative research including survey of 354 women with & without disabilities, intensive training on gender, disability, gender based violence (GBV), research methods .
- Development of practical tools (training manual, poster, pamphlet) to tackle discrimination, improve service access
- Communications (policy brief, publications, academic articles, conference presentations, UN & government submissions)

Outcomes

- Data on nature, prevalence of violence against women (VAW) with disabilities in Cambodia.
- Research referenced, women with disabilities included in the Cambodian National Action Plan on VAW, *Neary Rattanak 2014–18* (Strategic Plan for Gender Equality & Women's .Empowerment), DFAT's ending violence against women (EVAW) program in Cambodia, UN Women Cambodia's annual action plan, Ministry of Women's Affairs update of GBV toolkit for young people.
- *Banteay Srei*, with support from IWDA, is integrating disability across programs; all staff &volunteers (200+) trained in gender & disability inclusion; accessible residence built at vocational training centre.

Partnership

Background

Women with disabilities face multiple disadvantages from the interplay of gender, disability & developing context. Awareness of this, commitment to 'nothing about us without us' & mutual capacity development brought together disability-focused & gender-focused Australian NGOs, their partners & an experienced GBV researcher to build evidence & visibility.

Enablers

Shared commitment to rights-based approaches, deepening understanding of intersectionality, & evidence-based policy & practice. Understanding the value of expertise, the nature of discrimination & the central role of local advocacy organisations. Partners with ongoing interest in the issues.

Successes

- Addressing evidence gap to bring visibility to the significant rights violations experienced by women with disabilities;
- Demonstrating women with disability experience violence differently;
- Getting evidence to governments and two UN committees;
- Coordination of partner communications for national & international profile;
- Supporting change through partnership;
- Embedding practice change in the methodology—women with disabilities in professional roles as researchers (all now employed with research partners);
- Establishing a methodology for collecting disability-disaggregated data using WHO VAW survey.

Challenges & Solutions

Safety, managing demands of research, understanding intersection of gender & disability.	Researchers with knowledge on gender & disability worked in pairs. Psycho-social support. Follow on Australian Leadership Awardee program to support understanding of intersectionality, integration of gender & disability. Working where there is interest & commitment.
Balancing & combining expertise.	Dialogue, accepting that specialist organisations may see their primary focus first.
Influencing approach of Australian Government & others researching violence against women.	Ongoing engagement, presentations, publications—but challenge remains. Requiring a management response from the Australian Government to recommendations of government-funded research could assist.
Maintaining ongoing focus on implications of research, deepening integration of gender & disability.	Integrating focus into ongoing work with partners; piloting approaches in one program, documenting learnings. Mechanisms that support transition from research to development would assist.

Contacts for research team: Jill Astbury (Monash University) Jill.astbury@vu.edu.au; Fareen Walji (CBM Australia-Nossal Partnership for Global Health) Fareen.Walji@gmail.com; Kathy Oliver (IWDA) koliver@iwda.org.au; Heng Chantney (CDPO) channtey22jan@yahoo.com; Ton Doeun (CDPO) doeun_ton@yahoo.com. All research materials can be download from <http://www.iwda.org.au/research/triple-jeopardy>

Additional institutional contacts: Jo Crawford jcrawford@iwda.org.au; Tom Muller TMuller@cbm.org.au; Sok Panha, banteaysrei@online.com.kh; Ngin Saorath, director@cdpo.org

Analysis of Village Health Volunteers and Community Health Post Data

A Burnet Institute-Save the Children Partnership

Research

Aim & Objectives

- To improve estimates of maternal mortality in women attended by Village Health Volunteers (VHV) in East Sepik Province, Papua New Guinea (PNG).
- To compare the quantity, coverage and cost of services delivered through a Community Health Post (CHP), Health Facility, and VHV model of care.
- To build capacity in collection and analysis of project data among Save the Children and partner staff in East Sepik Province.

Activities

- Capacity building for Save the Children PNG and partner staff in collection and analysis of health-related project data.
- Provision of monitoring and evaluation technical assistance to support the CHP project.
- Analysis of mortality, service delivery and cost data collected under Save the Children's VHV and CHP projects and by Provincial Health Facilities.

Outcomes & successes

This collaboration supported

- Analysis of VHV and Health Facility service delivery and mortality data. This analysis confirmed extremely high maternal mortality and very low coverage of antenatal and childbirth services throughout East Sepik Province. We also found that VHVs deliver a significant proportion of all maternal and newborn health services in the Province, highlighting the need to include the VHV cadre in health planning.
- Monitoring and evaluation of a CHP pilot project. Our finding that CHPs increased coverage of many key services, but that strengthened outreach from health facilities may represent better value for money, contributed to national policy development. Our data analysis also highlighted important gaps in VHV supervision and provision of non-immunisation services through outreach.
- Recommendations for strengthening data collection, management and analysis in the future.

Partnership

Background

In 2011, Save the Children PNG and Save the Children Australia invited Burnet Institute to provide technical assistance for training and support in data analysis relating to VHV and CHP projects. Inclusion of the work within broader MCH research being conducted by Burnet reduced consultant costs.

Enablers

Burnet was both a development NGO and an academic research institute: this dual role helped bridge the two worlds.

Save the Children and Burnet, as individual staff and institutionally, had collaborated before – history generates trust.

Challenges & Solutions

Challenges	Responses
Variability in data quality, and constraints on human resources	Increased collaboration on database 'cleaning'. Study attachment at Burnet for database manager.
Working retrospectively, after data systems were established, limited some of the analysis.	Focused on what was most important. Used sensitivity analyses to estimate likely measurements when exactitude was not possible.

References & Contacts

Contacts: Jess Davis (jdavis@burnet.edu.au) and Daoud Ghaznawi (daoud.ghaznawi@savethechildren.org.au)

Articles: D. O'Keefe, J. Davis, G. Yakuna, C. Van Gemert and C. Morgan. 2011. Formal and informal maternal health care: comparing the service provision of health facilities and village health volunteers in East Sepik Province. PNG Med J. pp. 54(3-4): 147-153



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