

## WHEN PEOPLE HAVE OWNERSHIP IN DEVELOPMENT



Taney Dam located in Kla Chul village in Toul Sala commune, Barsedth, Kampong Speu. Taney Dam was renovated by Diaconaat-CGK fund and community contribution. The fund was used to deepen the dam that could store more than 10,000 cubic meters of rainwater where people in two villages could use for rice farm, cattle, vegetables and daily use throughout the year.

Mrs. Soeng Chariya, 50, a member of Village Development Association in Kla Chul told us the story as follow, 'Taney Dam is the only main source of water for community in Kla Chul village. The Dam was built by the and dry out in dry season. farming and for daily use. Diaconaat-CGK provided contribution the Dam was 2017, a Fingerling Day was people, local authority district, police officers and association. Thousands of water along with trees and it was a memorable become a fish stock where food for people around. The Dam committee set up some regulation to protect the fish.



Khmer Rouse but it got shallow People had no water for cows, for There were no fish. In 2016, some fund with the community excavated deeper. On 7 December held with the presence of ordinary from the commune and the the village development fingerlings were released in the planting. People were very happy event ever for people. The Dam they can breed and give nutritious



Unfortunately, several months later around September-October 2017 when the fish became big enough, a few dishonest men started to fish using fishing nets without permission, almost every day especially at night. The association and Dam committee learnt it and reported to the village chiefs of Veal and Kla Chul. The two village chiefs met with the fishermen and told them about the Dam is for fish breeding and warned them not to fish in the Dam again. They stopped fishing for just a few days and started again. The village chiefs and the association committee reported the incident to the commune council. The commune council asked the fishermen to signed an agreement that

they stop fishing and they were released. The association warn the fishermen that they would complain to the district if fishing was still going on. So far no one fish in the Dam and people stay guard the Dam'.

PNKS did not involve in the issue settlement and did not know it until the issue was settled. People determined to protect the fish in the Dam. This resulted from development of people ownership.

*Interviewed and written by:*

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