



Trip Report: Micro Health Insurance in Rural Cambodia

Cambodia: October 1-9, 2007

Travelers: David Levine, University of California - Berkeley

Objectives:

The purpose of my October 2007 trip to Cambodia was twofold. My first goal was to provide a formal introduction to the project to all major stakeholders in Cambodia. My second goal was to learn more about health-care in the Cambodian context, to learn more about SKY operations and to plan the most crucial aspects of the intervention and evaluation with our Cambodian research partner, Domrei Research and Consulting.

Itinerary and Summary of Activities

The itinerary of meetings I conducted while in Cambodia in October 2007 are summarized in the table below and described in more detail just after.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Organization</i>
Daily	Ian Ramage Gabriel Pictet Chhy Sophearit	Domrei Co-Director (and Evaluation PI) Domrei Co-Director (and Evaluation specialist) Research Coordinator	Domrei Research and Consulting
Oct 2	Cedric Salze Caroline Phily	Health Insurance Project Manager Technical Assistant	GRET
Oct 3	Eric Beugnot Luize Guimares Scherer Navarro	Director at AFD Chargée de Projets at AFD	Agence française de Développement (AFD)
Oct 4	Phoung Pheakdey	Project Manager, Health Insurance Project	GRET
Oct 5	Lav Chhiv Eav	Rector	Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP)
Oct. 5	Mme Nhung Hema	Head of Department of Psychology (and Evaluation PI)	Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP)
Oct 9	Kate Crawford Jonathan Ross	Director, Office of Public Health and Education Deputy Director, Office of Public Health	USAID
Oct. 9	ChumTeav Ouk	Secretary of State	Cambodia Ministry

	Bunna		of Health
Oct 8	Takeo Province Field Visit	Takeo Province Field Visit	GRET

Beginning on the first day of my trip, I began meeting daily with our Cambodian research partner, Domrei Research and Consulting. During my time with Domrei, I had the opportunity to engage in many fruitful discussions with Ian Ramage (co-Principal Investigator of the SKY Evaluation and Co-director of Domrei Research and Consulting), Gabriel Pictet (Co-director of Domrei Research and Consulting) and Chhy Sophearith (Research Coordinator at Domrei Research and Consulting) to discuss plans for the intervention, for survey design and for data collection. Meetings with them taught me a great deal about health in Cambodia. Principal Investigator Ian Ramage also accompanied me to all major stakeholder meetings.

I engaged in several useful discussions with members of the GRET team. On October 2nd, I met with Cedric Salze (GRET Health Insurance Project Manager) and Caroline Phily (GRET Technical Assistant) to discuss our plans for analysis, to learn from them more about GRET and SKY, and to discuss in detail the design and implementation of the intervention. I also met with Mr. Phoung Pheakdey (Project Manager, GRET Health Insurance Project) on October 4th to learn more about SKY village meetings and SKY operations more generally and engaged in follow-up discussions with Cedric Salze and Caroline Phily to further discuss the intervention plan.

On Oct. 5, I met with Mme Nhong Hema, (Head of the Department of Psychology, Royal University of Phnom Penh). During our meeting we primarily discussed capacity-building components of the project, including plans for designing an applied statistical analysis component to an RUPP class on experimental psychology and plans for advising and supporting fourth-year student thesis projects. As one of the project's Principal Investigators, Mme Hema also participated in later meetings with the Rector of RUPP, AFD, USAID and the MoH.

On October 5th, I met with Mr. Lav Chhiv Eav (Rector of the Royal University of Phnom Penh). The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the Rector to the research project, with a focus on the capacity-building component of the project involving RUPP.

I also met with officials from the major stakeholders in the SKY Evaluation—USAID, the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and the Cambodian Ministry of Health—to introduce the evaluation to each of these key stakeholders. On October 9 I met with Secretary of State of the Ministry of Health. On October 3rd, I met with Eric Beugnot (Director at AFD) and Luize Guimares Scherer Navarro (Chargée de Projets at AFD). On Oct. 9 I met with Kate Crawford (Director, Office of Public Health & Education at USAID) and Jonathan Ross (Deputy Director of the Office of Public Health at USAID). All stakeholders were supportive of the project.

Finally, I made a day-long field visit to the Ang Roka health Operational District (OD) in Takeo Province on October 8th to visit one of each of the three levels of public

health facilities—one Health Center (which serves a set of villages within an OD), one District Referral Hospital (smaller hospitals that serve one entire health OD) and the one Provincial Hospital (larger hospitals that serve all ODs within a Province). I was fortunate to have Dr. Sopath (Medical Director at GRET) as my guide for the visit. He provided many interesting insights into how people make the decision to join and his views on members' experiences after joining. On this same trip, I had the opportunity to learn more about SKY in brief meetings with the SKY Insurance Field Coordinator in Ang Roka OD, with the SKY Member Facilitator at the Health Center we visited, and with two SKY client families. Meetings with the director of the Health Center and with Dr. Heng Thy (Chief of the Ang Roka District Referral Hospital) provided insight into the local public health-care system.

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Posted 3/12/2008