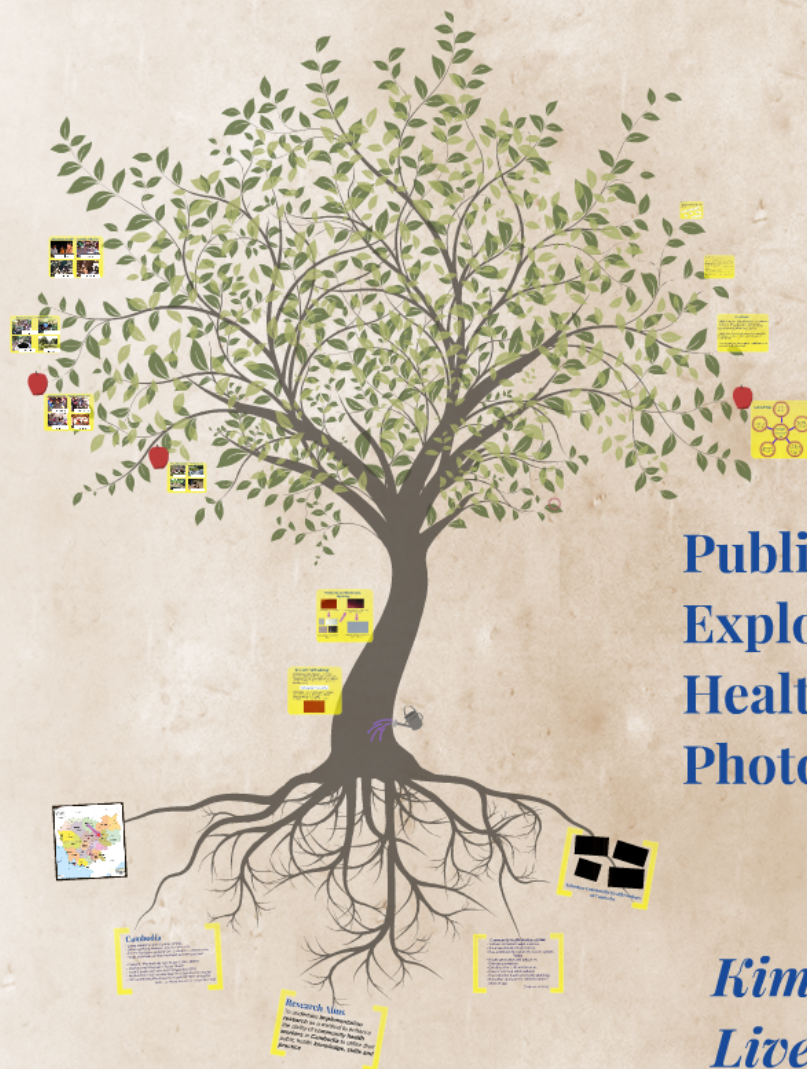


Public Health in Rural Cambodia: An Exploration of Volunteer Community Health Workers (VCHW) using Photovoice Techniques

Kim Ozano 2015

Liverpool John Moores University



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Cambodia

- Lower Middle Income Country (LMIC)
 - 80% Live Rural (Ministry of Health Cambodia 2011)
 - 17.7 % live below poverty line; 2.6million (World Bank 2012)
 - Tropical climate and two monsoon seasons per year
 - Under 5 child mortality rate 35 per 1,000 children
 - Maternal mortality rate 170 per 10,000
 - 10,000 deaths per year from Tuberculosis (TB)
 - Malnutrition is still a major issue in a food secure country
 - Non-communicable diseases account for 53% of deaths
- (WHO 2013, Ministry of Health Cambodia & WHO 2012)



Research Aims

*To undertake **Implementation research** as a method to enhance the ability of **community health workers** in **Cambodia** to utilise their public health **knowledge, skills and practice***

Community Health Workers (CHW)

- Delivers essential health services,
- Receives standardised training,
- Has a defined role within the health system.

Tasks

- Health promotion and education,
- Disease prevention,
- Curative care (TB and malaria),
- Care of HIV and AIDS patients,
- Reproductive health and family planning,
- Education and care for children under 5 years of age

(Crigler et al. 2013).



Volunteer Community Health Workers of Cambodia

Research Methodology

Participatory Action Research... *'a family of approaches and methods to enable rural people to share, enhance, and analyse their own knowledge of life and conditions, to plan and to act'* (Freire 1970, Chambers 1994)

Participants = Researcher

Photovoice ... the use of photographic images taken by the community to capture cultural practices and social conditions
(Wang et al. 1996, Castleden et al. 2008)



Photovoice and Participatory Workshop



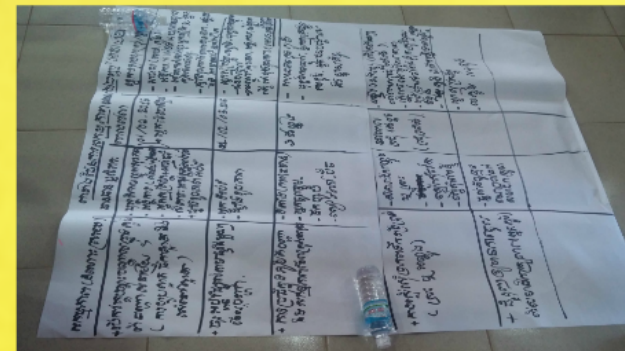
1. Learning to use a camera



2. Identifying Public Health Issues



3. Discussing and categorising Public Health issues



4. Making action plans to improve Public Health issues

Photovoice Results – Environment



Lack of adequate waste storage



No waste disposal service



Annual flooding with sludge



Unsafe areas for children

Photovoice Results – Hygiene and Sanitation



No hand washing



Hygiene of food sellers



Fish waste left
undisposed



Unclean cooking
equipment

Photovoice Results – Unclean Water



Contaminated water pump



Untreated water from the river



Poor water storage



Unmaintained or polluted well

Photovoice Results – Lifestyle and other



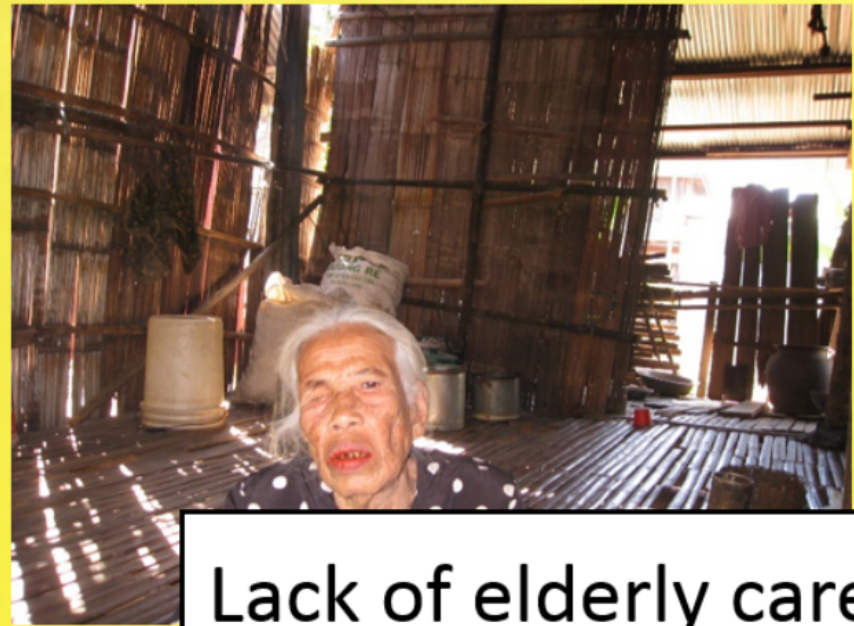
Smoking



Nutrition

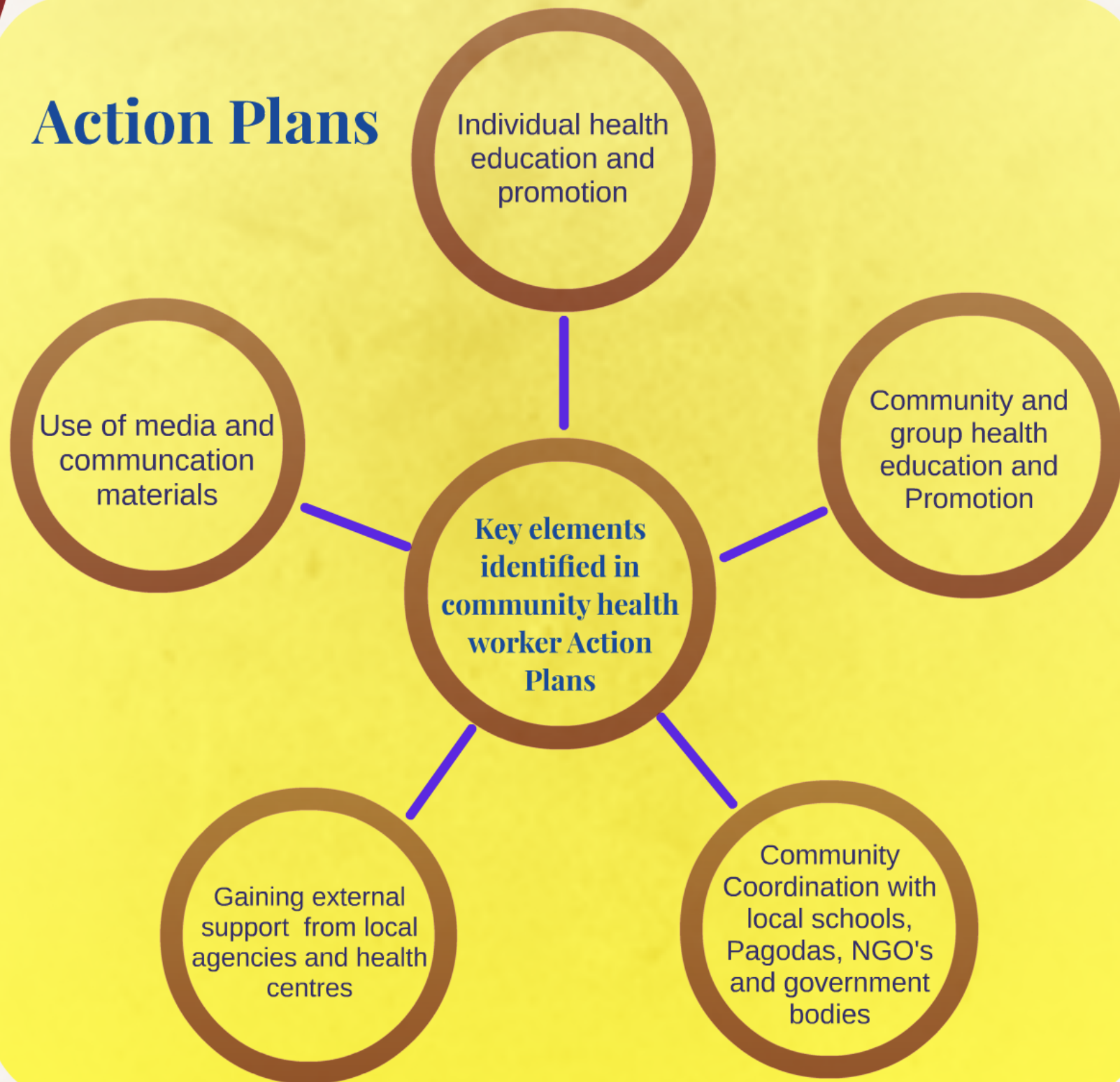


Poverty



Lack of elderly care

Action Plans




Conclusion

CHW's issues are about public health infrastructure, access to clean water, waste disposal, clean environments, adequate drainage and malaria prevention through maintained grounds.

CHW's have the ability to assess their own public health issues and to create a realistic plan for improvement.

Lack of application for the public health issues that communities find important.



Further Research

What are the barriers to implementation and health improvement by CHW's in rural Cambodia?

Lack of government and NGO support?

Resources?

Time?

Skills?

External demands?

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