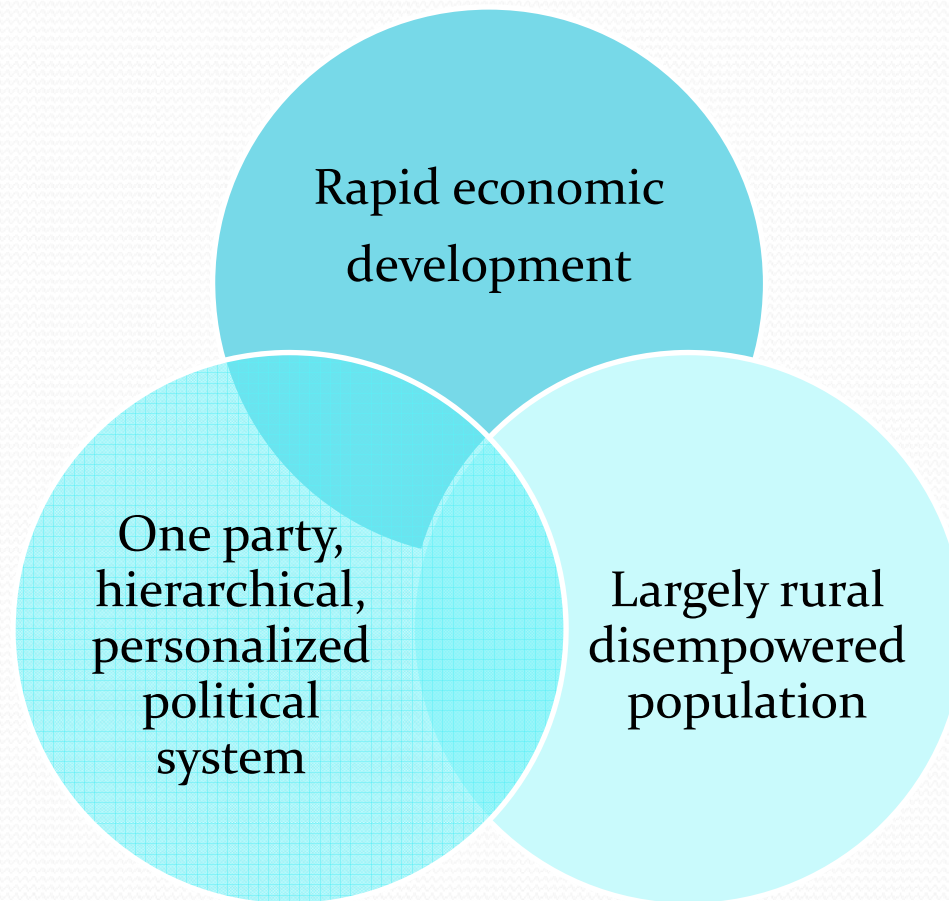


# Lower Sesan 2 case study



# Cambodian Context





# Context

- Increasing threats to livelihoods, both rural and urban because of infrastructure and development projects people have little control over
- Rapidity of development
- Lack of transparency, participation, consultation
- Culture of intimidation and often violence
- Low understanding of rights and entitlement







# Lower Sesan 2: Facts & Figures

- To be built in Stung Treng province near the confluence of Sesan and Srepok rivers and close to the Mekong
- Proposed capacity of 400 MW
- Project developers
  - RGC with the Royal Group, Hydrolancang International Energy Co. Ltd, and Electricity of Vietnam
- November 2012 the Council of Ministers agreed to the building of the dam
- Impacts to environment, sediment flows, fisheries, upstream & downstream communities

# Directly Impacted Communities



- Approximately 1059 households directly impacted as situated in reservoir area (between 4,620 – 4,785 people)
- 7 villages in 4 communes
- Includes ethnic Khmer, Lao, Phnong, Brao
- Our study focused on 4 villages – 3 Lao-Khmer and 1 Phnong





# Challenges to seeking accountability

- Understanding the impacts
- Identifying who is responsible
- Raising concerns through local authorities
- Lack of available information
- Capacity to network and mobilise
- Perceptions about entitlement to speak out
- Availability of space to participate and methods of communication and consultation



# Strategies for seeking accountability

- NGO support, but limitations
  - NGO vulnerability to intimidation
  - Lack of experience around large scale projects
  - Lack of cohesive strategy despite RCC
- Community representation and networks
- Linkages to media
- Petitions, e.g. to National Assembly and Chinese embassy
- National level meetings to bring community to government
- River spirit celebrations





# What needs are emerging?

- Strengthening representation and networks within and between communities
- Strengthening awareness of rights, government decision making processes, development processes
- Identifying and articulating clear community demands
- Strengthening NGO coordination & accountability downwards
- Addressing what is missing in terms of information
- Demanding appropriate consultation methods





# What can the research bring to Oxfam?

- In depth information that can:
  - Provide clear evidence on what has happened and where the gaps are (e.g RSAT and FPIC)
  - Inform community legal support or legal complaints
  - Inform processes for strengthening NGO work around the Sesan (accountability, strategizing, coordination)
  - Provide lessons learned that can help other communities who are dealing with similar issues
  - Provide broader briefing papers and academic reflections to inform development thinking and practice



# Remaining challenges

- Complexity of research can make it difficult to pin point findings that can be used for learning and application
- Identifying the most appropriate means for bringing learning to communities and local level NGOs
- Time and resources needed to ensure application of findings in practice
- Ensuring continued relevance of findings in a rapidly changing situation



Any Questions?

