Human-Centered Impact Story at Da Commune - CC



At 43 years old, **Ms. Ven Savin** from Da Commune, Kratie Province, is known today as a respected local leader, but her journey to this role was one of quiet perseverance and purpose.

After stepping away from her career in NGO community engagement, she spent over a decade volunteering in her commune (2008–2019), supporting vulnerable groups in any way she could. Her commitment and tireless spirit earned the trust of both residents and local authorities. In 2020, she was appointed **Deputy Village Chief** of a newly established social land concession village. Just two years later, she rose to the role of **Commune Council Member**.



Living in a flood-prone area, Ms. Savin had long seen how natural disasters disproportionately affected women, children, the elderly, and poor households. In 2023, wanting to better support her community, she joined the **ROK-Mekong Project**, supported by the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM). There, she received training on **gender-based violence (GBV) prevention**, **disaster risk management**, and **micro-project implementation**. *"Before the training, I didn't feel confident about how to help during floods,"* she shared. *"But now, I have the tools and knowledge to lead even a project phase-out."*

Armed with these skills, Ms. Savin began facilitating community sessions on GBV and disaster preparedness. She helped identify the most vulnerable families and ensured they received targeted support. One of her most meaningful achievements was leading a **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) micro-project**. Although the original budget only covered five households, she didn't stop there. She partnered with a local NGO to provide school supplies and even a bicycle for one family's children. She also advocated for small commune funds and successfully submitted a request to the Red Cross for livelihood support to assist additional flood-affected families.

Thanks to her leadership, the reach of the project more than doubled, and the community's resilience grew stronger. *"Now, when flooding happens, families know what to do and how to protect one another,"* she said proudly. *"I see families using the support wisely, and it gives me hope."*

Ms. Savin's story is a testament to the power of women's leadership in local governance. When given opportunity, training, and trust, she didn't just support her community — she inspired it. **Her journey is proof that grassroots leadership, when nurtured, creates ripples of resilience far beyond a single project.**