

Local people are: Using traditional techniques to build rural roads that meet modern engineering norms, but are in harmony with the rich cultural and architectural heritage in Vietnam's ancient Ninh Binh Province; Restoring the natural balance in the mountains of Laos through the use of bio-engineering techniques to stabilize barren slopes that are eroding and slipping, wiping out local roads, and endangering the access of rural people; Building a stakeholder consensus in Cambodia for reducing rural poverty through the development of the rural transport policies and strategies; and, Badly affected by the Sri Lankan conflict, but laying the foundation for future development, at the same time, finding employment and incomes for survival now, through the production of building materials and in the construction of rural roads.



These are examples of the innovative approaches using proven techniques that the CRD financed £7M SEACAP programme is backing. The overall objective of SEACAP is to influence decisions towards achieving affordable, locally resourced, sustainable solutions to rural access problems.

Sri Lankan refugees proudly display concrete paving blocks produced for the construction of rural roads.
(photo UNOPS Sri Lanka)

Improving the access of rural women and men to social and economic opportunities and services is a fundamental element in reducing poverty and accelerating local economic development. SEACAP provides convincing evidence and support to mainstream practices that lead to improved rural access.

The SEACAP principle is to work with the local natural environment, rather than against it, to find solutions to rural access problems. From the environment can be found the materials needed to construct rural transport infrastructure, the vegetation needed to stabilize the soils; and, in some instances, the streams on which people and cargo can be cheaply transported.

The influencing strategy of SEACAP is achieved through partnering with the relevant government authorities, the international development banks, including WB, ADB and KfW, as

well as donors such as the EU, Sida and the UN. SEACAP is contributing to improving the quality of the capital investments of these partners, now, amounting to over US\$ 500M. Even outside of the countries where SEACAP is operational, the outcomes of the SEACAP applied research are having an increasing impact.

Beyond direct support to specific projects, the SEACAP outcomes will have a long lasting impact in all of the countries where SEACAP is working. These outcomes are being incorporated into: The relevant national standards, specifications and guidelines; The curricula of the engineering Universities; and, The definition of international good practice.