

Cambodia Drought Rapid Assessment Report

Assessment conducted 18-22 April 2016



**CHF Assessment Team
May 2016**

Contents

Acronyms	3
Executive summary	4
1. Context	5
2. Assessment methodology	5
2.1 Assessment team.....	5
2.2 Assessment objective.....	6
2.3 Provinces visited	6
3. Scope and limitations	6
4. Summary of key findings	6
5. Conclusion	7
6. Recommendations.....	8
7. Cooperation and coordination.....	8
8. Annexes:	8
Annex 1: Assessment team field interview and on site observation	8
Annex 2: Summary of key findings by province	9
Annex 3: List of organization assessment team	13
Annex 4: Assessment template	13

Acronyms

AARR	Alliance Association of Rural Restoration
ANKO	Akphivath Neary Khmer Organization
CHF	Cambodian Humanitarian Forum
DARE	Development Association Resource Economic
EPDO	Environmental Protection and Development Organization
KBA	Khmer Buddhist Association
KI	Key Informant interview
MOWRAM	Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology
PADEK	Partnership for Development in Kampuchea
PNKA	Phnom Neang Kangrei Association
PNKS	Ponleu Ney Kdey Sangkhum
SACRED	Society for Action and Chang for Rural Education and Development
SVC	Save Vulnerable Cambodians
VIR	Vulnerability & illiteracy Reduction

Executive summary

With requesting from CHF secretariat on 08th April 2016, eleven local NGOs who are CHF's members carried out a rapid assessment. Ten provinces (Banteay Meanchey, Siem Reap, Oddar Meanchey, Pursat, Prey Veng, Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Speu, Kratie, Battambang and Ratanakiri) were assessed to find out the drought situation by focusing at domestic and drinking water. The following CHF's members sent out their own staff to villages where they have been implementing their development project activities:

1. KBA conducted in Uddor Mean Chey and Banteay Mean Chey,
2. VIR conducted in Siem Reap,
3. PADEK conducted in Siem Reap, Uddor Meanchey, Prey Veng, Kampong Speu and Kratie,
4. AARR conducted in Pursat,
5. ANKO conducted in Pursat,
6. EPDO conducted in Pursat,
7. SACRED conducted in Prey Veng,
8. PNKS conducted in Prey Veng,
9. PNKA conducted in Kampong Chhnang,
10. DARE conducted in Battambang
11. SVC conducted in Ratanakiri.

The assessment took place from 18-22 April 2016. The focus of the assessment was understand the drought situation affecting local people on domestic and drinking water by looking at water sources such as open wells, deep tube wells, village ponds, lakes and canals etc. To help the assessment process, individual guidance and assessment template tools have developed by CHF secretariat were used, along with supplementary questions to adapt to the specific drought situation and context.

This consolidated rapid assessment report presents short and immediate domestic and drinking water needs along with other priority needs that are likely to be needed in responding to the challenges posed by drought interruption. As such, this report does not include identification of other sector and/or socio-economic needs. As the assessment only took place in ten affected provinces where CHF's members based and assuming that other provinces are similarly affected by the drought.

This rapid assessment report will help to inform discussions and reach agreement on response to mitigate the impact of drought interruption. In supporting the people, NGOs/iNGOs/UN and Government of Cambodia, we have a collective responsibility to agree on response so that required resources can be mobilized to meet these needs.

The following is the key finding from the ten provinces: in general the common sources of people's domestic water is mainly from both open shallow wells and deep tube wells. Almost all of the open shallow wells are badly affected by the drought. Some of the open wells completely dry out however, water still available in most of the deep tube wells. People in Prey Veng province are not badly affected compare to the other provinces in the north because people in Prey Veng mainly use deep tube wells. Many village and family's ponds almost run out of water. However, some of the big ponds located in some temple still have some water but contaminated. Many people said that if there is no rain in May and June then there will be no drinking water in many places. So far some villages completely run out of drinking water and there were forced to buy water from some private businessmen who brought water from other places by truck and sell to villagers. This create difficulty for poor families who can not afford to buy water so they are forced to use dirty water which remaining at the bottom of some wells, ponds or canals. Some people spent more time to collect water and less time for their livelihood and income generation. Long queue in water collecting seen in some villages. Some people were forced to collect water during night time when the queue was shorter and less crowded.

During the assessment period, there were very few or almost no agencies provide assistance regarding water shortage. Some families migrated to other areas for their daily consumption and

where they think there is some water available for them. Some people reported that they are worry about their live stock because they don't have enough water to feed them. Some children could not go to school and need to stay home helping families to find water. Some people in Pursat, Kratie, Battambang, Rattanakiri get sick because they used unclean water.

It is recommended that WASH intervention for short and long term is needed especially focusing on drinking water such as provision of drinking water and water containers, water filters. Cash grant as the immediate response to poor families to be considered so that they can buy water. Provision of deep tube wells for short and long term response would be a good solution to deal with the existing problem of water shortage and there might be the same problem appear again in the future. Provision of village water tanks to the villages affected by this year drought so that in the future there will be water stocking available in the village in time of drought. Some food assistance need to be provided to poor families whose livelihood and daily income mainly affected by the drought. Some assistance needs to be provided to keep animals healthy.

1. Context

As a result of the El Niño's phenomenon and also severely affected by climate change, Cambodia has been experiencing severe drought since the end of 2015. The government and MOWRAM have announced for urging people to save water until the rainy season comes by asking farmers not to plant dry season rice because of the water shortage, urging them to stock water for daily consumption instead.

As of April 2016, the threatened by shortage of drinking water were being reported continually due to the drought extend from 2015 and the Mekong river water level is too low. Almost every province in Cambodia is facing some level of drought according to MOWRAM, but only few provinces are facing a severe shortage of water as Kampong Cham, Kamppong Thom, Banteay Meanchey and Oddar Meanchey province and some others are having a water shortage as the water in their wells and ponds is starting to evaporate so much that they cannot used it any more. The villagers spend hours waiting for water every day.

The water in canals/ponds and lakes have been drying up due to the lack of rain so far this year, forcing many villagers to buy drinking water and in some areas the authority have been distributed water to the villages via truck. The drought situation will become quite serious if the area doesn't get rain in the upcoming months.

The focus of the assessment was to identify drinking water and water consumption needs along with other immediate needs of the affected communities. To aid the assessment process, tools for emergency needs assessment were used along with supplementary questions to adapt to the specific drought situation and context.

This rapid assessment report presents only immediate drinking water and water consumption needs along with other priority needs that are likely to be needed in responding to the challenges posed by drought intrusion. As such, this report does not include identification of other sector. As the teams visited only few serious villages in the affected provinces, there remains a gap in collecting information from other affected provinces.

2. Assessment methodology

2.1 Assessment team

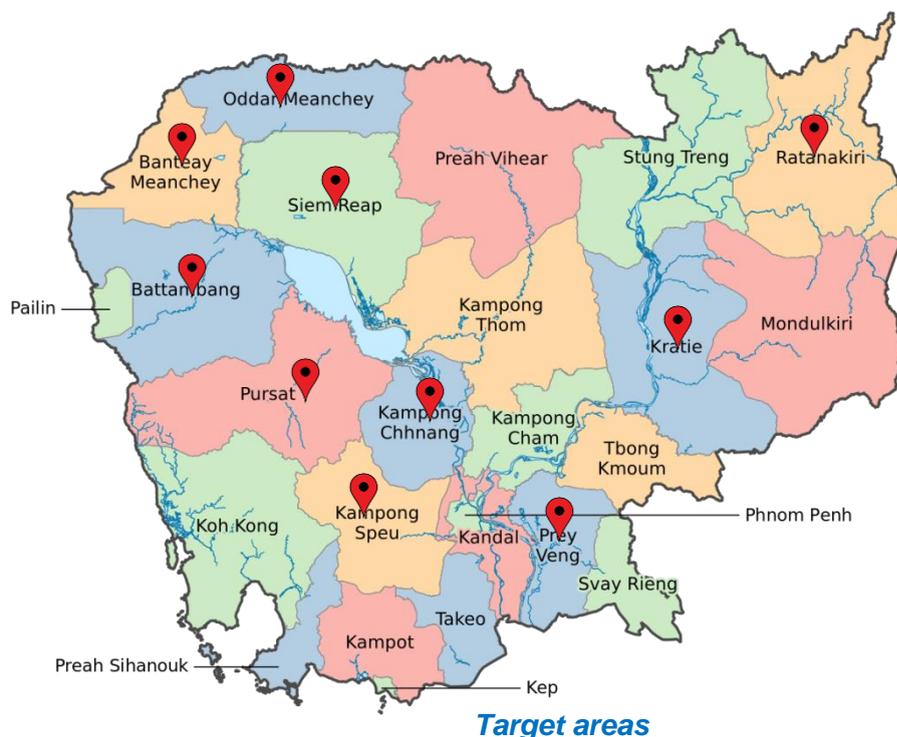
Individual NGO who are the CHF's members conducted the assessment by their own staff with the assessment form provided by CHF Secretariat. All together there are 11 local NGOs such as KBA, VIR, PADEK, AARR, ANKO, EPDO, SACRED, PNKS, PNKA, DARE and SVC. The 5 days rapid assessment took place in 10 provinces from 18-22 April 2016. After the data collection each NGO fill up the assessment forms to CHF Secretariat who then do the data entering and analysis and producing the report. The Key Informant interviews and observation were used to collect data and information.

2.2 Assessment objective

The purpose of the assessment is to find out the drought situation affecting local people in Cambodia where CHF's members located and focuses on domestic and drinking water by looking at water sources such as open wells, pump wells, village ponds, lakes and canal in their targeted areas.

2.3 Provinces visited

1. Banteay Meanchey
2. Siem Reap
3. Oddar Meanchey
4. Pursat
5. Prey Veng
6. Kampong Chhnang
7. Kampong Speu
8. Kratie
9. Battambang
10. Ratanakkiri



3. Scope and limitations

During five days period, the rapid assessment was only able to provide an initial snapshot of the water shortage in few communities' impact by drought in affected provinces. More detailed data collection was not possible due to the limited time available and resources. The assessment teams have collect information in **122 villages, (in 48 communes 26 districts, 10 target provinces)**

4. Summary of key findings

Results from interviews have identified number of finding and concerns raised by villages' people and village chief as below:

Finding:

- Main source of drinking water from both open and deep tube wells
- Most of the open-well is badly affected. Most of them almost dry out but there are still some water available in many deep tube wells.
- Many ponds and lakes almost run out of water. Some village ponds and the pond in some temples still have water but not clean.
- If no rain in May or June then there will be no more water for domestic use.
- So far some villages run out of drinking water from their wells but most of families can still manage to buy water from private businessmen.
- Many poor families facing financial difficulty in buying drinking water for their families so they are forced to use dirty water from canal or ponds.
- People spent more time in collecting water and less time for their livelihood and income.
- People spent more time to collect water. Some of them event trying to collect water during night time when less crowded.
- Very few or almost no agencies provide assistance regarding water shortage.
- Some families migrated to other areas for their daily consumption.
- Big worry for livestock.
- Some children could not go to school and need to stay home and help their families to

- collect water.
- Some people get sick because they used unclean water (Pursat, Kratie, Battambang, Rattanakiri)

Existing Support

- Very few or almost no agencies provide assistance regarding water shortage. MOWRAM rehabilitated a canal and pumping water into the canal in Prey Veng. Department of Environment have distributed water in some villages in Siem Reap, Provincial department of rural development assist to rehabilitate community pond in Kratie, Provincial red cross and district authority have distribute water in Battambang,
- Few CHF members provide some deep tube wells, rehabilitate canals, ponds (SACRED in Prey Veng and AARR in Pursat, PNKA in Pursat dig a community pond)
- SVC will dig wells in May in Rattanakiri

Immediate needs:

- Domestic especially drinking water.
- Water containers.
- Cash to buy water
- Water filters

Long term needs:

- Rehabilitate ponds and open wells
- Installation of village water tankers
- Provision of deep tube wells
- Repair dam and reservoir to maintain water

5. Conclusion

Results from KI interviews and field observation identified many concerns raised by villagers in ten target provinces concerning to domestic and drinking water. The people also raised that there had been no rain range from five to eight months since October 2015 and that is very hot year they met. Most of open wells, family ponds and canal have dried up except deep tube wells remain little water available.

During the assessment period, there has been little intervention from government and other actors as MOWRAM assist to rehabilitate canal and pump water to canal, local NGOs assist to dig pump wells and rehabilitate canal, department of Environment assist to distribute water. With limited intervention, majority of people still face shortage of water for daily consumption.

The lack of rain and long dry season with very hot weather caused many issues for villagers. Based on KIs interview and field observation, majority of respondents stated that people face shortage of domestic and drinking water due to late/less rain have results as bellow: people lack of water for drinking and consumption, some people spent their time and queue to collect water from wells both day time and night time, some people collect water from canal or river far from villages. Event shortage of water, most people can afford to buy water from private water truck with the price approximately 3.75USD to 6.25USD/cement jar (500 liter) but water shortage impacted heavily on poor people who has no money to buy water so they used unsafe water for drinking and cooking.

Some people face shortage of food/no income due to long dry season period with very hot temperature not enough water to feed livestock or agriculture purpose. Some people sick due to no sanitation from unsafe water, some families stop their child to drop class by helping to collect water; some people migrate to other areas for their livelihood. Most of cattle and livestock are sick and die continually due to lack food and water under hot temperature.

The short term need are very poor people is target to assist first as they have no money to buy water and shortage of food, to distribute drinking water, provide storage water container and jerry can for water collection and transportation, cash to buy water and water filter. The immediate need

are install village water tank at public areas as school or pagoda, rehabilitate/dig community ponds wells and canal also repair dam and water reservoir.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that WASH intervention for short and long term is needed especially focusing on drinking water such as provision of drinking water and water containers, water filters. Cash grant as the immediate response to poor families to be considered so that they can buy water. Provision of deep tube wells for short and long term response would be a good solution to deal with the existing problem of water shortage and there might be the same problem appear again in the future. Provision of village water tanks to the villages affected by this year drought so that in the future there will be water stocking available in the village in time of drought. Some food assistance need to be provided to poor families whose livelihood and daily income mainly affected by the drought. Some assistance needs to be provided to keep animals healthy.

7. Cooperation and coordination

Cambodian NGOs as CHF's members mainly do not have much resources in term of money to respond to the drought situation but willing to work in partnership with INGOs, UN agencies or government to carry out assessment or responding to the drought. Please contact CHF Secretariat or visit CHF website www.chfcambodia.net for their detail addresses.

8. Annexes:

Annex 1: Assessment team field interview and on site observation



Interview with Mr. Nhem Sophat, village member of Chek Chao, Kampong Pou commune, Krakor district, Pursat province



*Family pond at Banteay Traok village, Srae Sdok commune, Kandiang district, Pursat province. **Totally no water***



*Open Wells at Ruessei village, Ph'av commune, Trapeang Prasat district, Oddar Meanchey province. **Remain unclean water***



*Pump Wells at Banteay Traok village, Srae Sdok commune, Kandiang district, Pursat province. **Still have little water***



Canal at Kloeng village, Svay Chek commune, Svay Chek district, Banteay Meanchey province. **Remain unclean water**



Sale water activities by private water truck at Stung Treang

Annex 2: Summary of key findings by province

Results from KI identified number of finding and concerns raised by villages' people/villages chief as below:

a) Banteay Meanchey province

Access to water:

- The drought situation in areas 9 months
- The main sources of drinking water/water consumption in areas from wells
- Only Roluos village in Roluos commune no water consumption, other villages shortage of water but still can collect water from wells
- Main sources of water from canal and pond no/less water
- Event no water people can buy water from private salesman
- No institution support drought situation
- The water wells flow very slowly, people have to wait and queue to collect it event day time or night time.

Priority needs:

- Dig big pump well (only big pump wells remain water)
- Distribute water especially to poor people
- Rehabilitate pond

Concern:

- Poor people used unclean water and lack of sanitation
- People loss income from livestock and agriculture yields
- People face shortage of foods

b) Siem Reap province

Access to water:

- The drought situation in areas range from 4-6 months
- The main sources of drinking water/water consumption in areas from wells but most of wells no water and very few have less water
- Pond and lake have less water/no water
- If no rain in the areas till May or June, there will be no water any more
- Event no water people can buy water from private water truck
- Department of Environment have distributed water in some villages

Priority needs:

- Dig big pump wells (only big pump wells remain water)
- Distribute water especially to poor people
- Water container

- Rehabilitate community pond and canal
- Build water dam

Concern:

- People used unclean water and lack of sanitation
- People migration to other areas for their livelihood
- People face shortage of foods
- People loss income from livestock and agriculture yields

c) Oddar Meanchey province

Access to water:

- The drought situation in areas range from 5-7 months
- The main sources of drinking water/water consumption in areas from wells but most of wells no water and very few have less water
- If no rain in the areas till June, there will be no water any more
- Pond have less water/no water
- Event no/less water people can buy water from private water truck
- No institution support drought situation

Priority needs:

- Rehabilitate /dig lake and pond
- Dig big pump wells
- Distribute water
- Repair water reservoir

Concern:

- People used unclean water and lack of sanitation
- Some people no money to buy water used unclean water for drinking and cooking
- People used less water against hot temperature
- Some people face shortage of food due to no agriculture yield

d) Pursat province

Access to water:

- The drought situation in areas range from 5-7 months
- The main sources of drinking water/water consumption in areas from wells, pond and lake but most of wells less water and few have no water
- If no rain in the areas till June, there will be no water any more
- Lake and pond have less water/no water
- Event no/less water people can buy water from private water truck, collect water from pagoda pond or from pump wells
- AARR organization support to rehabilitate canal and 1 pond also dig 2 pump wells

Priority needs:

- Dig big pump wells/open wells
- Rehabilitate community pond/canal
- Distribute water
- Water storage containers
- Water filter tank
- Build water damp to protect water

Concern:

- People used unclean water and lack of sanitation
- People loss income from livestock and agriculture yields
- Few people migration to other areas for their livelihood
- Few people face shortage of food
- Few child drop class to collect water/migration with their parent
- Poor people no money to buy water by spent time to collect water

e) Prey Veng province

Access to water:

- The drought situation in areas range from 4-6 months
- The main sources of drinking water/water consumption in areas from wells, pond, canal and river, most of wells have water
- Event lack water, the pump wells still have water support people in whole year or people can buy water from private water truck
- Lake and pond have less water/no water
- SACRED organization support rehabilitate canal 2500m and dig 9 pump wells, MOWRAM support rehabilitate canal and pump water from reservoir to canal

Priority needs:

- Dig big pump wells/open wells
- Rehabilitate community pond/canal
- Water filter tank
- Water storage containers

Concern:

- People used unclean water and lack of sanitation
- People loss income from livestock and agriculture yields
- Few people face shortage of food

f) Kampong Chhnang province

Access to water:

- The drought situation in areas range from 6-8 months
- The main sources of drinking water/water consumption in areas from pond/damp and rivers. Most of the wells no water
- People in the areas can buy water from private water truck or collect water from dam/river
- PNKA organization support to dig community pond

Priority needs:

- Dig big pump wells/open wells
- Rehabilitate community pond
- Distribute water
- Repair rehabilitate damp
- Build water reservoir

Concern:

- People used unclean water and lack of sanitation
- People sick/ outbreak disease
- People loss income from livestock and agriculture yields

g) Kampong Speu province

Access to water:

- The drought situation in areas range from 5-6 months
- The main sources of drinking water/water consumption in areas from wells and pond. Few wells no water and several have less water
- If no rain in the areas till June, there will be no water any more
- Pond/dam have less water
- Most people buy water from private water truck and some people collect water from dam/pond
- No institution support drought situation

Priority needs:

- Dig big pump wells/open wells
- Rehabilitate community pond

Concern:

- People sick
- People used unclean water and lack of sanitation
- People loss income from livestock and agriculture yields

h) Kratie province

Access to water:

- The drought situation in areas range from 5-7 months
- The main sources of drinking water/water consumption in areas from wells, pond and river. Few wells no water and several have less water
- Pond still have less water
- Provincial department of rural development assist to rehabilitate community pond
- Few people buy water from private water truck and some people collect water from wells, pond and river

Priority needs:

- Dig big pump wells and rehabilitate pond
- Rehabilitate dam

Concern:

- People sick
- People loss income from livestock and agriculture yields
- People used unclean water and lack of sanitation

i) Battambang province

Access to water:

- The drought situation in areas almost 6 months
- The main sources of drinking water/water consumption in areas from wells, dam and pond. Most of wells no water and very few have less water
- Dam/canal have less water and pond no water
- If no rain in the areas till June, there will be no water any more
- Provincial red cross and district authority have distribute water
- People collect water from Padak dam/canal

Priority needs:

- Dig big wells and rehabilitate pond/canal
- Distribute water
- Water storage containers

Concern:

- People sick
- People loss income from livestock and agriculture yields

j) Ratanak Kiri province

Access to water:

- The drought situation in areas range from 5-8 months
- The main sources of drinking water/water consumption in areas from wells, canal and river but most of wells less water and few have no water
- Canal now no water
- SVC will support to dig wells in May
- The water flow from wells very slow, people have to queue waiting to collect water
- Most people collect water from river in long way

Priority needs:

- Water filter tank
- Distribute water
- Dig pump wells/open wells

- Pump water machine from river

Concern:

- People sick
- People loss income from livestock and agriculture yields
- People lack food
- People used unclean water and lack of sanitation

Annex 3: List of organization assessment team

No.	Name	Organization	Province	Telephone	e-mail
1.	Mr. Hak Kiry	AARR	Pursat	012 673 167	aarr_kiry@yahoo.com
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3.	Mr. Samreth Uth	EPDO	Pursat	092 157 006	epdocambodia@gmail.com
4.	Mr. Hy Sros	DARE	Battambang	012 483 134	organizationdare@yahoo.com
5.	Mr. Ros Monichoth	KBA	Banteay Meanchey	012 428 771	monichothros@yahoo.com
6.	Mr. Neou Sethea	PADEK	Phnom Penh	012 714 457	sethea_n@yahoo.com
7.	Mr. Uk Samet	PNKA	Kampong Chhnang	097 700 7072	uksametpnka@gmail.com
8.	Mr. Leng Bunhong	SACRED	Prey Veng	012 920 189	sacreded@gmail.com
9.	Mr. Chan Tino	PNKS	Prey Veng	012 204569	chan.tinopv@gmail.com
10.	Mr. Van Saravuth	SVC	Ratanakiri	075 974 070	info.cam@svc-cambodia.org
11.	Mr. Monh Sam Ean	VIR	Siem Reap	078 99 70 42	samean.monh@gmail.com

Annex 4: Assessment template

KEY INFORMANT QUESTIONNAIRE

To collect information on domestic and drinking water consumption for village household affected by drought in dry season 2016 at CHF members target areas in Cambodia.

a) Purpose of the survey

The rapid assessment and collecting this information is to understand domestic and drinking water consumption status at target village household of CHF members affected by drought 2016 and as information also recommendation to government and stakeholders for effective preparedness and response as require.

b) Methodology

This collecting information requires all CHF members to do in the target areas by provinces in Cambodia.

Where to collect information?

Each CHF members should collect information at target provinces and districts coverage by each district select one or two communes and one commune select one to two villages (the villages or communes that you think face shortage of domestic and drinking water consumption in household). The CHF members in province can coordinate by selection serious drought target areas and onsite collecting information including villages' observation but not overlap example one village done by one organization other organization not necessary to do it again. The collecting this information focuses on domestic and drinking water consumption.

c) General information

- Name of Enumerator (NGOs staff) Organization
- Date interview
- Province District Commune Village
- Key Informant role (villagers/village chief)

d) Drought information

1. How many months the drought happen in this village? month
2. In this village, where the people collect water from for consumption? (wells, pond, lake, canal, ...)
3. How many wells in this village? Total open wells, pump wells In total wells, how many wells still remain water? the remain water wells can used till which month? (if no rain)
4. The status of family wells current situation? (please onsite 4 different place look in village)
 - Much water
 - Less water
 - No water
 - Status of wells
5. If compare in general the water volume in this month this year with the previous year?
 - Much water
 - Same water
 - Less water?
6. In this village has (pond, canal, lake ...)? Have what? How many? the statue (much water, less water, no water) if remain water can used till which month if no rain continue?
7. If compare the volume of water in (pond, canal, lake) (if have) during this month this year with the previous year?
 - Much water
 - Same water
 - Less water
 - No water
8. The people in this village can collect water for consumption if no rains continue? If can how they collect? If no what to do?
.....
.....
.....
9. Have any institution support drought situation? Support what? (Ex. Dig canal, pond, wells, distribute water ...)
.....
.....
.....
10. What are the main priorities to solve drought situation in this village?
.....
.....
.....
11. What are the main concerns on shortage of water consumption?
.....
.....
.....
12. Please provide other information on local real drought observation
.....
.....
.....
13. Any request or recommendation on village water drinking and consumption?
.....
.....

Thanks for your contribution