

STORIES FROM A CLIMATE CHANGE HERO

Strengthening Climate Information and Early Warning Systems in Cambodia

Ms. Nuon Sothy is a gender champion within her community, advocating for gender equality and disaster risk reduction. She plays an important role in the next generation of informed and empowered women.



When asked why she wanted to be a gender champion, Ms. Sothy was clear: she wanted to be empowered to make a difference in her community, regardless of social expectations. “In Cambodia, society thinks that women cannot work well and should just stay in the kitchen. Society also doesn’t trust that women can do anything. It is good to have women who can show that it is not like that, that women can do things.”

Ms. Sothy has been a gender champion since 2018, when she participated in gender equality and disaster risk reduction training conducted by [ActionAid Cambodia](#). Now she is supporting the next generation of gender champions under a partnership between [United Nations Development Programme](#) (UNDP) and ActionAid.

The importance of understanding climate information and disaster risk reduction is clear to Ms Sothy: “Climate change is a global issue, now we cannot just do agriculture based on the traditional techniques and knowledge and we



Ms. Sothy has been involved in training both herself and with new gender champions.

Photo credit: UNDP Cambodia/ActionAid Cambodia

cannot predict what will happen like we could before. When we understand weather patterns and climate change, we can plan which crops to plant in which season.”

Ms. Sothy communicates her new knowledge in a number of ways including as a member of the District Committee for Disaster Management, as Chief of Information Management in Krakor district, Pursat province, as a local women’s activist and during appearances on a local radio station. “Before I wanted to help people within the community but I didn’t know how, but after training in the project I now have enough capacity to teach them about climate change awareness and adaptation, how to prepare for disasters.”

Seeing the results of her work makes Ms. Sothy excited and happy. Ms. Sothy explained one outcome, saying “women now participate in commune council meetings, they know how to write proposals and in the meeting they get the opportunity to share their proposals and learn from local authorities and other non-government organizations”.

Working together to build the country's forecasting capacities

Project Brief

Duration: 2016-2020

Project Budget: USD \$4,910,285

Implementing Partner:

Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology

Funding: GEF-Least Developed Country Fund

Location: Cambodia, nation-wide

Population to Benefit: Over 15 million (est.)

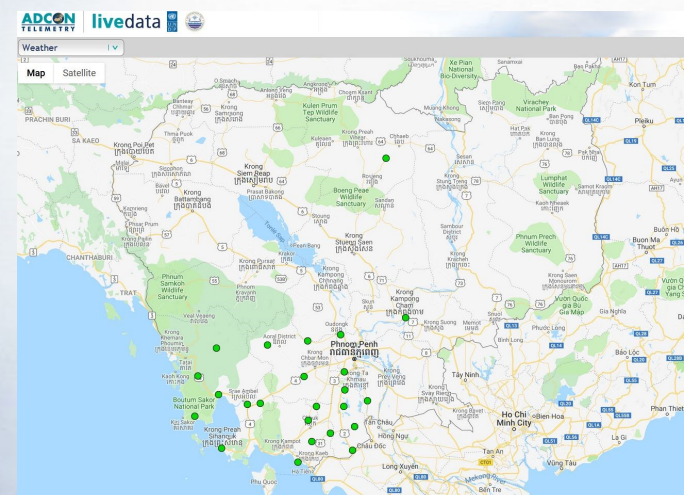
Cambodia's geographical exposure and the lack of adaptive capacity make it particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. With over 80% of the population dependent on subsistence farming, rural populations are particularly exposed.

Floods in 2013 affected 1.7 million people, with an estimated loss of US\$ 356 million. In 2016, floods affected 2.5 million people. These events are precursors of the impacts of the changing climate. Climate information is essential to prepare farmers.

With support from UNDP and funding from the GEF-Least Developed Countries Fund, the project '[Strengthening Climate Information and Early Warning Systems](#)' is supporting the [Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology \(MoWRAM\)](#) to increase Cambodia's institutional capacity, to assimilate and forecast weather, hydrological and climate information, and to improve communities' access to reliable information and early warning systems.

Under the project, 24 automatic weather stations and 29 hydrological stations for surface and ground water have been installed across the country, integrating technology and placing communities at the heart of a people-centred early warning system.

Information from the stations will be key to generating early warning messages, both for planning and for disaster preparedness and emergency response.



Globally, 45 countries are developing and strengthening early warning systems, with 189 new end-to-end early warning systems established in 26 countries. With UNDP support, nearly 21 million people have improved access to reliable climate information and early warning systems.

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