

# STORIES FROM A CLIMATE CHANGE HERO

Strengthening Climate Information and Early Warning Systems in Cambodia

Ms. Pak Pov is a gender champion who advocates for gender equality and disaster risk reduction within her community. As a village chief, Ms. Pov understands the importance of having women in leadership.



Sitting at a table with friends and fellow participants, Ms. Pak Pov smiled as she described her experience: “the ActionAid project was very good, it strengthened the capacity of us as women to understand many things”.

Ms. Pov has been a recipient of gender champion training provided by [ActionAid Cambodia](#), who have now partnered with the [United Nations Development Programme](#) (UNDP) to extend the training to more provinces in Cambodia. As part of the training Ms. Pov has learnt about gender equality and disaster risk reduction – something she now passes onto others.

Ms. Pov explained the importance of combining the two topics within the Cambodian context: “Only women can understand women's issues. When emergencies happen or anything is wrong, women will report this to other women – not to their husbands or other men. It is important to have women in the leadership in the community”.



Ms. Pov with other gender champions; taking part in training conducted by ActionAid Cambodia.  
Photo credit: UNDP Cambodia/ActionAid Cambodia

Each gender champion is required to develop and facilitate an action plan that will support disaster risk reduction within their community. Ms. Pov focused on awareness raising, primarily regarding waste management and how to prepare and respond before, during and after a disaster. “In Kampot, we have seen an increase in awareness for how to prepare. For example, the community now understand how to prevent their house from being damaged in a big storm, to prepare a big jar ready for the drought, and to prepare stuff before the flood comes. For the [1294 Early Warning System](#), the community have now registered more as a result of my action plan.”

The personal growth that Ms. Pov has experienced is remarkable. Prior to the training, she described herself as a shy woman who did not enjoy participating in meetings for fear of other's responses. Since the training, she has become so engaged within her community that she was recently appointed village chief.

## 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.)

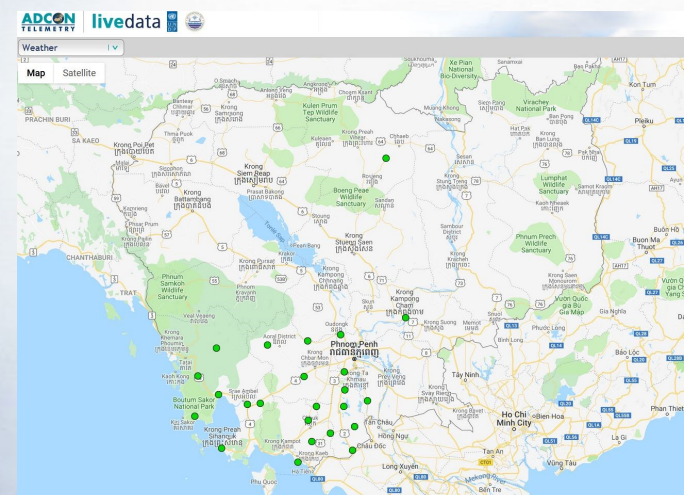
Cambodia's geographical exposure and the lack of adaptive capacity make it particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. With over 80% of the population dependent on subsistence farming, rural populations are particularly exposed.

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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