

# STORIES FROM A CLIMATE CHANGE HERO

## Strengthening Climate Information and Early Warning Systems in Cambodia

As part of the management team for Meanchey Ampil Pramdoeum Agricultural Cooperative in Borvel, Battambang, Mr. Veng Trim and Ms. Chanthou Ry have become well known for their engagement in the agricultural sector.



Communities helping communities is a big part of Cambodian culture: Mr. Veng Trim and Ms. Chanthou Ry's contribution in their own district is no different.

Mr. Trim and Ms. Ry have been members of Meanchey Ampil Pramdoeum Agricultural Cooperative in their home district of Borvel, Battambang for two and three years respectively. With backgrounds in farming (Mr. Trim grows vegetables and raises chickens and ducks while Ms. Ry produces rice), the support provided by the cooperative has been beneficial, not just to themselves but also their wider community. "I enjoy being part of the agricultural cooperative. It is a useful platform for networking, information-sharing and communication. I have improved my knowledge, skills and experience," says Ms. Ry.

With 272 members, three quarters of whom are women, it is important for the cooperative to have strong leadership. Mr. Trim and Ms. Ry are both actively involved in management as part of the quality control team and leaders of the vegetable production group. These roles entail checking documents; collecting vegetables from farmers; providing market information, savings and loans; identifying areas for capacity-building;



Learning at the training; preparing rice husk charcoal. Photo credit: UNDP Cambodia/Kelsea Clingeffer.

assisting those with ID poor cards; and being general focal points for community members. Ms. Ry is also the cashier.

Both Mr. Trim and Ms. Ry participated in a recent Drought Resistant Agricultural Techniques 'Training-of-Trainers', conducted in Battambang as a partnership between [United Nations Development Programme](#) (UNDP) and [DanChurchAid](#). The training could not have come at a more crucial time for the district. "This year the drought has been prolonged, about 100 hectares of rice have been affected by the drought. There is limited water, becoming less and less," explained Ms. Ry. Mr. Trim elaborated, "The biggest threats to agriculture in our area are 1) having not enough or too much water, 2) pests and 3) high temperatures. These things lead to reduced production, lower yield, lower income and inconsistent supply."

Following the training, Mr. Trim and Ms. Ry were enthusiastic to go home and pass on their new knowledge from the three-day session. Ms. Ry said, "I think the training will help – the circle garden will reduce water consumption and increase production, the kiln will improve the soil which will increase production. We will pass on the information and train others."

# 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.)

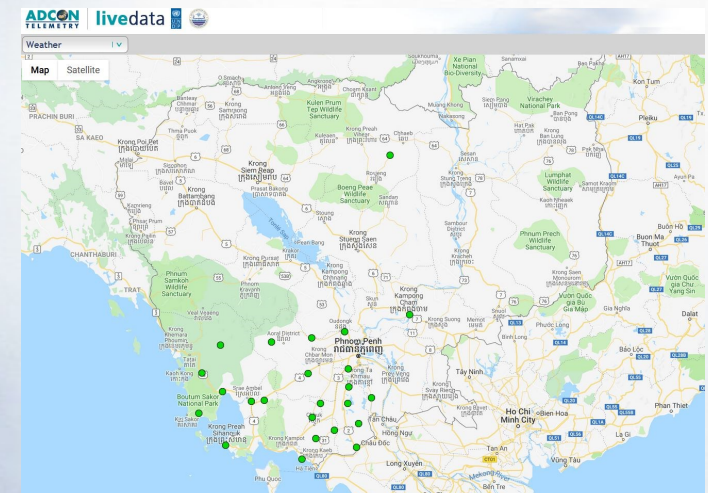
Cambodia's geographical exposure and the lack of adaptive capacity make it particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. With over 80% of the population dependent on subsistence farming, rural populations are particularly exposed.

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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