

STORIES FROM A CLIMATE CHANGE HERO

Strengthening Climate Information and Early Warning Systems in Cambodia

Ms. Peou Phalla, Deputy Director of Cambodia's Department of Meteorology, is passionate about engaging people with climate information and helping them prepare for disasters. Ms. Phalla is one of the country's strongest climate advocates.



Surrounded by computer screens, Ms. Phalla explains the programs she uses to forecast Cambodia's 3-day weather forecasts. "I do the weather analysis and research every day. Each time I have so many questions – I then have to think of how to solve the problems when it comes to our country and region. The climate is always changing, so we need to learn how to help protect people from the disaster impacts".

Originally from an archaeological background, Ms. Phalla joined the Department of Meteorology in 2002. She quickly pursued self-learning in the field, which was actively supported by the department in 2010. "Meteorology is very important in people's lives. I am very happy to do this. We need to know about disasters, especially climate change. For me, on behalf of Cambodia, we need to try and do something to help the people by giving them climate information".

In 2010, Ms. Phalla was given a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.



Ms. Phalla presents Cambodia's monsoon outlook at the 7th Monsoon Forum;
Ms. Phalla demonstrating computer programs used in daily forecasting.

"We had the chance to travel and work with, and learn from, other countries. We did long and short-term training with Japan, France, Singapore and Korea."

In recognition of her pursuit of learning, Ms. Phalla was recognised at the Korea Meteorological Administration's International Training on Weather Forecasting for Operational Meteorologists in 2015 – an honour that has never before been bestowed upon a Cambodian.

Her technical advancement is crucial for Cambodia as a place with limited expertise in the area of meteorology, despite increasing recognition of the interaction between climate change and Cambodia's everyday functioning. Ms Phalla acknowledges this: "Climate change is not only affecting Cambodia, but countries worldwide. An understanding of meteorology is becoming more and more important. We need to adapt to the impacts."

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.)

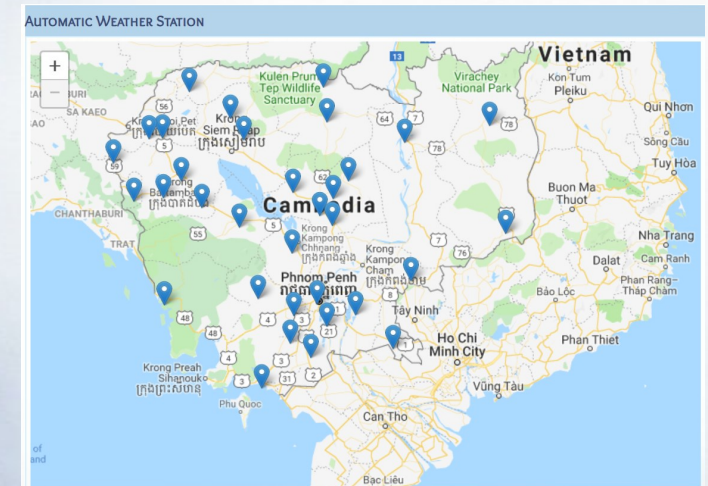
Cambodia's geographical exposure and the lack of adaptive capacity make it particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. With over 80% of the population dependent on subsistence farming, rural populations are particularly exposed.

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.

[WATCH OUR VIDEO](#)



FOLLOW US:

[@UNDPCambodia](#)

[@UNDPClimate](#)

