

STORIES FROM A CLIMATE CHANGE HERO

Strengthening Climate Information and Early Warning Systems in Cambodia

Mr. Sem Bunly has been chief of Stengslakou Agricultural Cooperative since 2012. His enthusiasm for learning new practices to mitigate climate change impacts on agriculture has been influential in Dokpor village and Takeo province.



It's hard to miss Mr. Sem Bunly, chief of Stengslakou Agricultural Cooperative in Dokpor, Takeo. Mr. Sem, who is a father of two and farmer himself, is passionate about learning to adapt to climate change impacts and support his community and family. "My favourite part is to be able to support farmers. I like agriculture activities and I can work for myself and for the community members," Mr. Sem says.

Mr. Sem was a member of a local savings group before the establishment of Stengslakou Agricultural Cooperative in 2012, at which time the community elected him as chief.

In March 2019, Mr. Sem participated in training provided under a [partnership](#) between [United Nations Development Programme](#) and [DanChurchAid](#), something he feels is an important part of his role as chief.



Mr. Sem with Agricultural Cooperative members; inspecting a local farm.

"First I want to understand the information so I can share it to others who are not members [of the Agricultural Cooperative]. Second, I want to learn for myself and my community the impacts of climate change. Knowing this is the most important. If there is a warning, what I've learned can contribute to preparing a strategy for me and my community."

Mr. Sem actively engages with local authorities and other key stakeholders to ensure that everyone is informed of best practice agricultural techniques and climate information, and to achieve the best outcome for his community.

The impact of Mr. Sem's work is represented in his re-election as Stengslakou Agricultural Cooperative chief in 2018 and selection as the provincial representative for Agricultural Cooperatives.

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.)

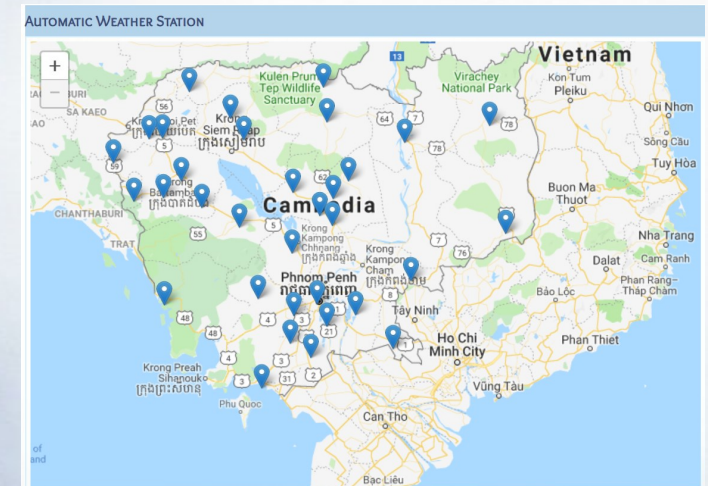
Cambodia's geographical exposure and the lack of adaptive capacity make it particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. With over 80% of the population dependent on subsistence farming, rural populations are particularly exposed.

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](#)

