

DISASTER RESILIENCE AND WATER MANAGEMENT(DRAW) IN CAMBODIA



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PROJECT OUTLINE

Project locations:	Kingdom of Cambodia Provinces: Kratie, Stung Treng, Oddar Meanchey, Preah Vihear
Project duration:	01 December 2017 – 31 July 2019 (20 months)
Funded by:	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
Funding amount:	580,000 US\$
Implementing Organizations:	ActionAid Cambodia (AAC), People in Need (PIN)

Why This Project?

Cambodia was identified as one of the top 10 most disaster-prone countries in the world in the UN World Risk Report. Because of Cambodia's low absorptive capacities, in 2017 the country was ranked amongst the 3 most disaster vulnerable countries in Asia. In addition Cambodia has been identified as one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change, given the predicted changes in temperature and precipitation, the share of labor in agriculture, and the country's low adaptive capacity due to widespread poverty. One of the reasons for Cambodia's vulnerability is that 80% of the country lies within the Mekong river basin, with large fluctuations of water levels

between dry and wet seasons. This is leading to annual cycles of floods and droughts, which studies predict will increase with climate change, damaging livelihoods and constrain development and poverty alleviation. Flood early warning in Cambodia has been progressing during the recent years, credit to PIN's efforts in supporting the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) to roll out the unique mobile phone based 1294 EWS (Early Warning System) which is by now operational in 9 out of Cambodia's 25 provinces. But particular drought is amongst the newly emerging disaster risks; during the recent El Niño drought, the lack of reliable data collection, interpretation and dissemination became apparent. In 2016 the

government of Cambodia estimated that 2.5 million people were affected by severe water shortages. The Cambodian economy relies to over 34% on the agricultural sector employing more than 57% of the labour force. Groundwater irrigated agriculture in southern Cambodia is growing by an estimated 10% per year and receding groundwater levels in parts of the country are calling for improvements in comprehensive groundwater data collection and improved Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM).





HIGHLIGHTED ACTIVITIES

- Installation of 20 Groundwater Level Monitoring (GWLM) wells with telemetry automated data transfer;
- Training on ground water level monitoring and data interpretation as well as Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) to Provincial Department of Rural Development (PDRD), Provincial Department for Disaster Management (PCDM), Provincial Department of Water Resources and Meteorology (PDWRAM), Provincial Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (PDAFF), and other relevant stakeholders;
- Development of recommendations for provincial watershed strategies, including maximum water abstraction rates for irrigation and industrial purposes depending on aquifer characteristics;
- Development of drought trigger points for target provinces;
- Further roll out of the 1294 mobile phone Early Warning System (EWS 1294) that provides real time information on river water levels in flood prone areas;
- Public awareness campaigns to inform and encourage the population to sign up for EWS 1294
- Development of an online accessible river- and groundwater level database;
- Developing a “farmer report” that provides weather related advise to farmers;

PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND RESULTS

Overall Objective: Increased resilience of communities in Cambodia exposed to multiple hazards and disasters.

Specific Objective 1: Improved access for at-risk populations in Cambodia to floods and drought early warning information and dissemination systems.

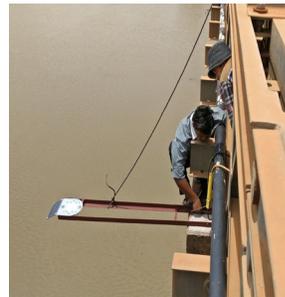
Specific Objective 2: Improved capacity of Cambodian institutions to more effectively manage surface and groundwater resources for better advance planning and support to vulnerable populations.

Result 1: Groundwater Monitoring System and Early Warning System (EWS1294) rolled out at the provincial level, increasing technical capacity to reduce disaster risk.

Result 2: Cambodian Institutions have increased knowledge and access to systems for collecting data and disseminating early warning information.

Result 3: Cambodian Institutions has increased water shed management capacity and knowledge to interpret early warning data for drought and flood

Result 4: Cambodian institutions have increased capacity to coordinate DM planning processes amongst all relevant stakeholders



COORDINATION

To create ownership and achieve long term sustainability, the project closely coordinates with the Cambodian Ministry of Rural Development (MRD), the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) and Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology (MoWRAM).

All project activities are closely coordinated with all other implementers of SDC funded projects, such as CHAIN (implemented by SNV), PAFF (implemented by WWF) and others, to achieve the highest possible impact.

