



Cambodia

Annual Report 2018

Letter from the Country Director

Dear Friends,

2018 was a year of successful project implementation with many activities taking place both at the sub-national and national levels. Although challenges emerged after the national election and imposition of restrictions on some activities on the ground, we effectively restructured and adapted our approach to ensure that our projects remained rooted within the communities and in line with our principles and goals.

This annual report illustrates the impact of our work on the livelihoods and wellbeing of Cambodians, especially women and children, and also highlights our key interventions in the Sustainable Livelihoods, Local Life Skills, Women's Rights, and Disaster Risk Reduction programmes. Over the course of the year, our programme interventions reached directly to 20,126 people, the vast majority of them women and children.

Building on the knowledge we gained, several initiatives will be carried forward in 2019 with differing scales due to resource constraints. Other new and creative project designs will begin in 2019 focusing on the community and in efficient and effective programming. We remain committed to ActionAid's principles of achieving social justice, gender equality, and poverty eradication and this is at the forefront of all of our work.

Behind the number of those reached at the community level is the great dedication and effort of our team and our partners. Moving forward, with all of the commitment, knowledge, and expertise our team and partners have, I believe we can continue to positively impact communities. We will support them to fight against inequality and injustice which we believe are the root causes of poverty.

Warm wishes,

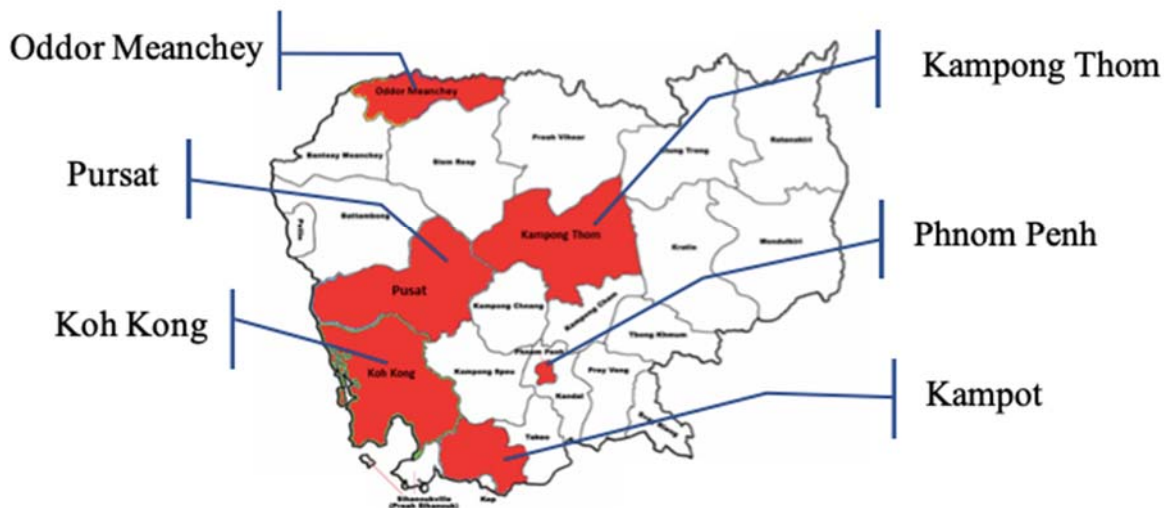
Boramey HUN



*Boramey HUN
Country Director*

Programme Information

PROGRAMME LOCATIONS



20,126 people – 11,294 women



1,393 people – 1,072 women



342 people – 97 women



284 people – 134 women



14,537 people – 7,430 girls



583 people

Land & Natural Resource Management

Ongoing infrastructure development is happening along the coastal areas and other natural resource-rich locations in Cambodia. These projects threaten the livelihood of people living in and around these areas, particularly community fisheries and community forestries in Kampot, Koh Kong, and Oddor Meanchey province. Many small-holder farmers in Oddor Meanchey province lost their household land, farmland, and forest areas leaving them in precarious situations to find alternative sources of income. Fisherfolk along the coastal areas struggled with the repercussions of illegal fishing activities, decreases in capture fisheries, loss of designated and controlled community fishing areas, and degradation of mangrove forests.

ActionAid Cambodia, in partnership with local organizations and community groups, works to organize community members, strengthen local capacity on documentation of infractions, build advocacy skills, and raise awareness of relevant legal frameworks. These activities have led them to take collective action to reclaim their land and sources of livelihood. It has also aided them to focus on protecting these resources in the future and in exploring new and more lucrative ways to turn the resources into a sustainable means of generating income. The collective actions of community members on the ground built a strong foundation for ActionAid Cambodia and local partner organisations to engage in policy discussions. These involved working through national platforms that brought together different actors who could influence policy enforcement and in some cases policy change. Our approach to multi-stakeholder engagement has been encouraging and is an initiative that we will continue to build on. Due to activities and ongoing efforts, **4,527** people who are members of community fisheries and community forestries increased their access to fishery resources and non-timber forest products (NTFP), which are fundamentally important for their sustainable livelihood.

“ I could not believe that the amount of blue swimmer crabs increased significantly by the end of 2018. I could generate an average income from selling crabs of approximately 75 USD to 100 USD in one day. I can afford to own a motorbike and new fishing nets. Now I have enough money for my children’s education and also to buy food for the family.”



Sann Cheub, a 40-year-old community fishery member



Sok Mey, a representative of five villages affected by the Steung Dam Construction Phase II, Oddor Meanchey

“ I am satisfied with the compensation. Each household received two hectares of farm land. We have easy access to nearby roads, a health center, and school. I think that the new resettlement land is better.”

Agroecology

Smallholder farmers in the five provinces of operation faced several challenges related to agricultural production and linkages to markets. Heavy use of chemicals in the farming process at the community level has also raised concern. ActionAid Cambodia works in partnership with local organizations to promote resilience and the sustainable livelihood of smallholder farmers through the application of agroecology principles.

1,393 farmers (1,072 women) received training on agricultural techniques that focus on climate resilience and sustainability. Farmers learned about seed selection, soil preparation, composting, botanical pesticides, and water management. Farmers also received training on rearing free-range chickens to diversify income.

The project strengthened local market linkages between farmers and consumers. So far, **70** farmers groups are prepared to supply their products to potential markets. In total, **3,939** people (2,206 women) in the 5 target provinces have applied some or all of the agroecology principles that they have learned from the project to sustain their livelihoods.



Ms. Soth Sarim, a smallholder farmer in Koh Kong, holding a pineapple harvested from her chemical-free farm.



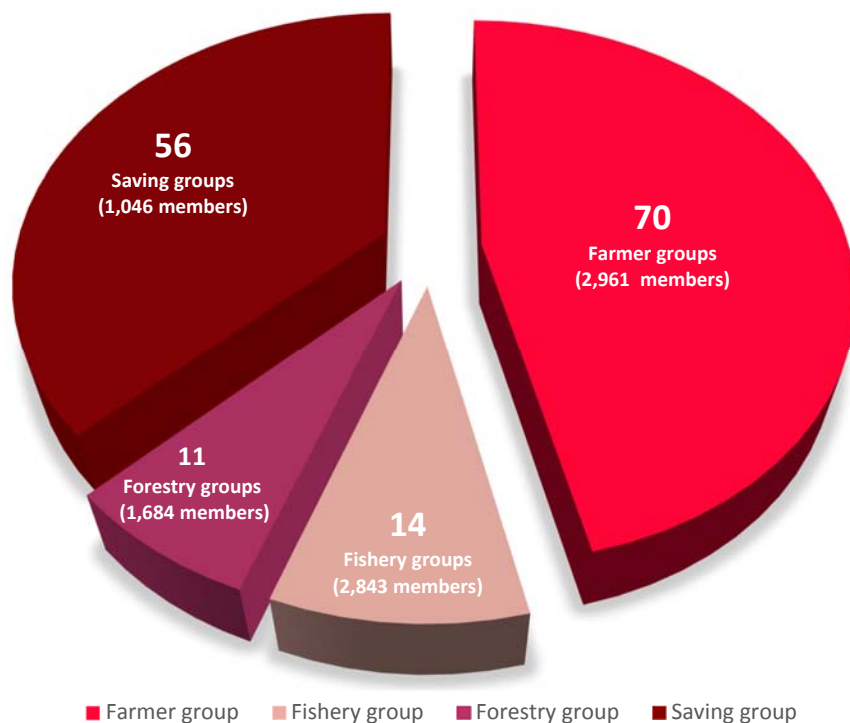
"I once migrated to the city to find job, as I didn't know what to do in my village. Now I have returned and decided to do vegetable farming after I learned the agricultural techniques from the project. The vegetable farming really helps me. With my own capacity I feel confident and empowered and have better control over my source of livelihood." Sokhy, 27 years old, vegetable farmer in Kampong Thom Province

Kun Phalla, 47, changed her practice on vegetable farming. She no longer uses chemical fertilizers on her vegetable garden. Her alternative has been a compost fertilizer that she produced on her own with the knowledge gained from the project.



Land & Natural Resource Management and Agroecology - At a Glance

Community Groups



4,527 people with increased access to fishery and forestry resources



707 families affected by land grabbing received social land concessions and compensation



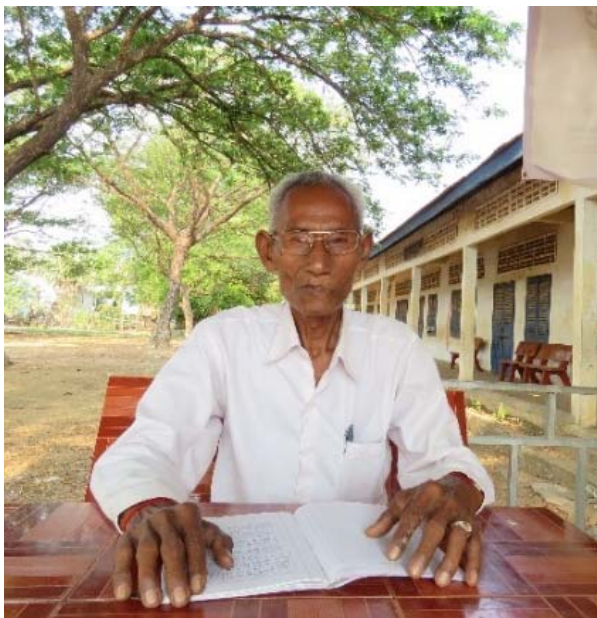
3,939 people secured their food via agro-ecology practices

Promoting Local Life Skills

One important factor contributing to high drop-out rates in the schools in the areas where we work is the lack of relevant education or skills training focused on generating incomes for sustainable livelihoods. Local life skill programmes play a vital role in offering children more relevant skills which they can rely on in the future for enhancing their quality of life.

ActionAid Cambodia has been supporting our local partner organisations who work directly with schools to address issues around quality of education by conducting Promoting Rights in School (PRS) research that supports school improvement planning in 69 target primary schools. Building on our successful work in the target schools, we piloted an activity focused on teaching relevant local life skills for children in 5 primary schools in Kampot province. We worked with School Management Committees and the sub-national education authority in enacting school improvement planning processes, undertaking research to better understand the status of the 10 rights in schools, and designing the local life skills curriculum. We worked to support and promote functional School Support Committees so that they could hold schools accountable for providing quality education to students in the target primary schools.

“ Last year, we had only one hour per week for life skill learning and it was about growing vegetables. Now I am very happy that my school has increased the time for this subject from one to two hours per week with additional topics. The session is very helpful and fun. I do enjoy growing vegetables at school and I also can do this at home. ”



“ Since, COFAP [Cooperation for the Alleviation of Poverty] started working with the school and School Support Committee (SSC), I and other members have become active. We feel empowered and we feel that we play a meaningful role as members of the SSC. We know how the budget is spent and any money spent has to get our approval. We work together to improve the school for our next generation. Teachers are now running the classes regularly and allocating a good amount of time on preparation before. It makes the children enjoy their studies. ”

Promoting Local Life Skills - At a Glance



14,537 children participated in Local Life Skills activities



69 schools have plans and/or improved the 10 Core Education Rights in Schools



105 Child Clubs active in communities with 4,361 members



266 School Support Committee members supported to improve school functionality



241 teachers engaged in local life skills projects



1 school building constructed



1 library building constructed

Promoting Women's Rights

Urbanisation and rural to urban migration have created opportunities for women but have also perpetuated risks, especially for young women. Women in urban areas are twice as likely as men to experience some form of violence. Women workers in garment factories and women in the entertainment sector are vulnerable to exploitation by employers as they often have limited knowledge on human rights and labour laws. They also face violence and harassment due to their working hours and work location. They are subjected to false blame when violence happens against women in public space. Sex workers are being devalued and blamed by those in positions of power when asking for help. Through advocacy efforts these issues were included in the commune/sangkat planning to promote gender responsive public service.

In Phnom Penh city, ActionAid Cambodia, through local partner organizations, is spearheading programmes to address the gender-based violence faced by garment workers, sex workers, beer promoters, university students, and youths. Women received training on human rights, labour laws, and legal procedures to help them better understand their rights and the services available. Women were mobilized to campaign for public services that are more responsive to their specific needs. A Women's Charter of Demands was developed and publicized in several campaign events in the city. Women leaders had opportunity to participate in decision-making and commune/sangkat planning process.



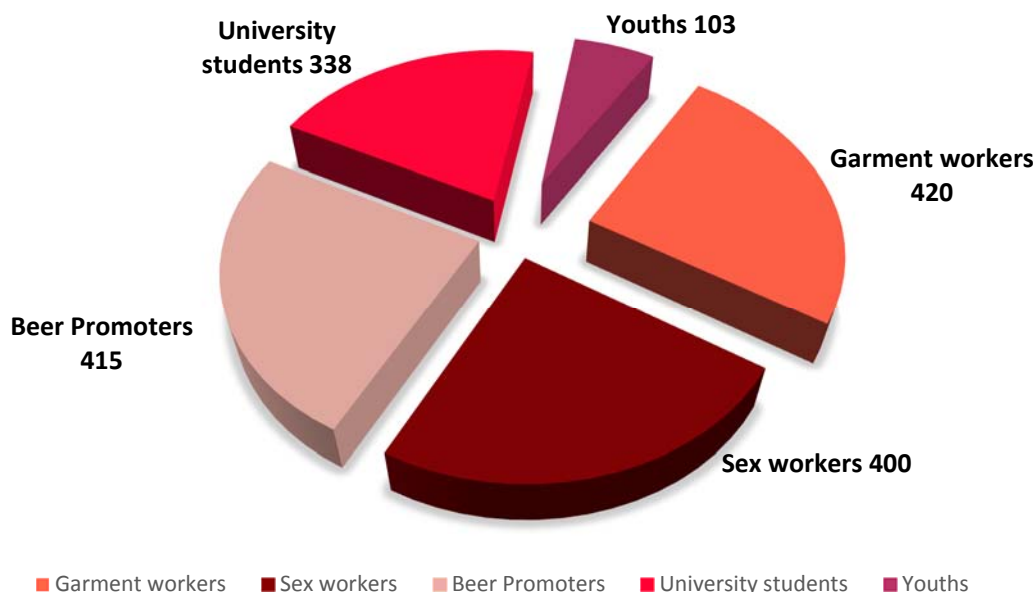
Sonita is a beer promoter who is advocating for herself to challenge the social norm that discriminates against women in careers like hers. She has confidently engaged in dialogue with local authorities from 6 Sangkats to demand street lights and forums to share issues around harassment at the work place and in public spaces.

Ms. Seng Sovann, a Commune Council Member in Sangkat Phnom Penh Thmey, expressed how important it is to understand gender budgeting. Training led her to be more responsive in her role to the needs of women. The budget in her Sangkat is now allocated to respond to women's need such as supporting women survivors of domestic violence, women living with HIV/AIDS, women and other vulnerable groups in getting access to services, and prioritizing prenatal care.



Promoting Women's Rights- At a Glance

Directly Engaged with Project



2 Women's Charter of Demands produced



11 Sangkats received training on gender-responsive budgeting



30 paralegals engaged in peer education



1 Women's Worker Forum supported

Promoting Women-Led DRR/CCA

Cambodia is vulnerable to floods and drought and is one of the most disaster-prone countries in South East Asia. Hard won progress and achievements can be easily lost when a disaster strikes. Disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) are key pillars of disaster response planning and actions. ActionAid Cambodia is building on our past experience and continues to strengthen local capacity to mitigate against disasters and the impact of climate change.



A village DRR planning session including mapping hazards in the village as part of a Hazard Vulnerability Capacity Assessment



Students marching in the village to mark International DRR Day

ActionAid Cambodia aimed to promote the functioning of a Disaster Management (DM) Structure from National down to Sub-National levels. The programme supported the implementation of DM road maps and dissemination of information about DM laws. The community, district, provincial, and national Committees for Disaster Management were also supported in better understanding DM laws and principles. The programme worked with 15 schools to develop Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans. Women leadership in DRR and emergency planning has been the cornerstone of our DRR programme. Women champions have received capacity building and are at the forefront of community advocacy.

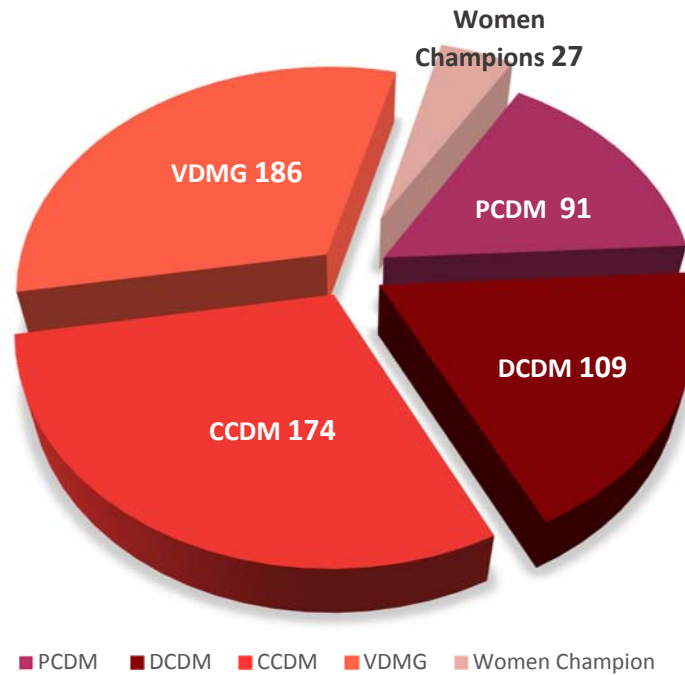
“ I will not panic anymore if there is a big flood hitting my school like in the past because the Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan will guide me and my team to take action to minimize the risk of school hazards. I will keep my school emergency response plan updated annually so that we can minimize the risk of hazard and keep our students and children safe. ”



Mrs. Nov Siphon (right), a Woman Champion, Pursat

DRR/CCA- At a Glance

Disaster management members



35 underground water monitoring wells



15 School Emergency Response and Preparedness Plans put in place



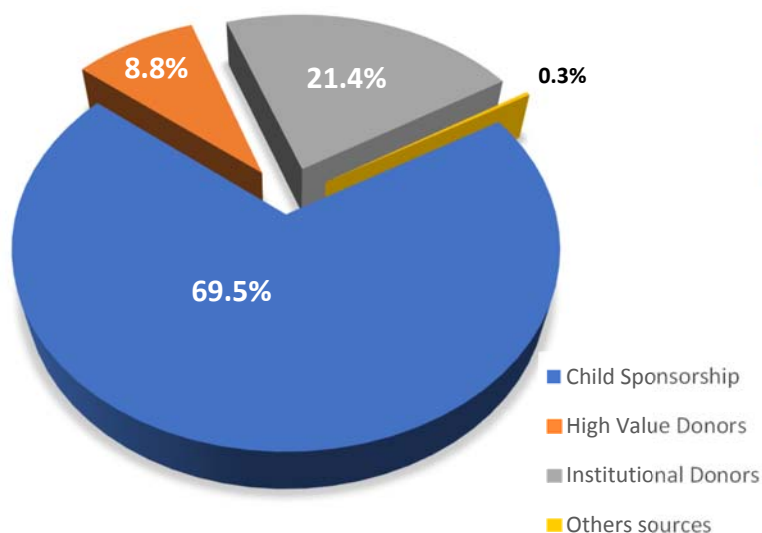
27 Women Champions participating



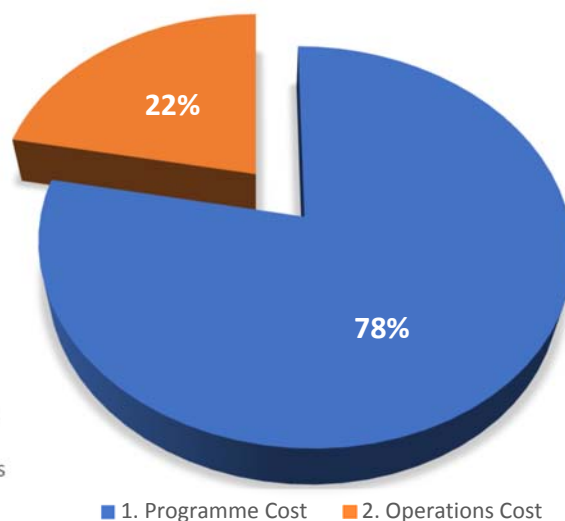
1 International Forum for women engagement in DRR/CCA

Financial Highlights

INCOME



EXPENDITURE



INCOME

(USD)

1. Child Sponsorship	1,548,048.00
2. High Value Donors	195,728.00
3. Institutional Donors	477,308.00
4. Other sources	6,806.00

Total

2,227,890.00

EXPENDITURE

(USD)

1. Programme costs	1,904,933.00
2. Operations costs	534,122.00

Total

2,439,055.00

Local Partners and Donors

Local Partners



Donors



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