



Cambodia

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



MESSAGE FROM COUNTRY DIRECTOR

Welcome to ActionAid Cambodia's Annual Briefing Report 2020!

The year 2020 was an unexpected year due to the global pandemic of COVID19 and climate-related disasters which doubled the pressure on Cambodia's economic and social development in addition to the ongoing climate-related events and disasters. Internally, ActionAid Cambodia had also gone through a leadership transition when I took a new position as the Country Director in April 2020. Despite these challenges, we have achieved remarkable and tangible results:

We launched two flagship projects funded by the European Commission to promote tenure security of community fisheries in coastal provinces and to promote youth participation and gender responsiveness of public services. We concluded our joint 100,000 Mangrove Campaign with partners and eight Community Fisheries in Kampot and planted more than 111,000 mangrove trees. We built a brand-new school in Koh Kong province, which benefited not only 105 primary school children but also their fellow generation. We conducted research jointly with our peer BBC Media Action on the Impact of COVID-19 on Informal Workers in the Informal Sector to find out the left-behind workers amid COVID-19. We promoted women's leadership in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation through research on Cambodia's Woman Resilience Index and empowering 46 Woman Champions in DRR/CCA, including supporting them to engage in Covid-19 response and awareness-raising at their localities, reaching 58,744 people in 204 villages. We assisted 19,658 people, including 220 workers in the informal sector, through food and non-food item distribution during the Covid19 outbreak.

COVID19 has changed our way of working. It has limited our community outreach and capacity building to natural resource defenders, school children and teachers, local authority, and local NGO partners. We adopted a well remote working arrangement within the Organisation and with our partners, but it has been the greatest challenge to reach people in need. We learned that local capacity is the key to resilience and change. Community-based management groups, women champions, youth volunteers, teachers, and local authorities are the key driving forces for resilience. We learnt that investing in women would create greater impacts, not just on empowering women themselves but also on strengthening family and community resilience. We also learned that such empowerment requires simultaneous efforts to empower community-based agents and local authority personnel and their solidarity. We see increasing challenges in achieving the Cambodia Sustainable Development Goals and just developing toward Cambodia's Vision 2030 and 2050. I have observed and joined greater solidarity between I/NGOs and CBOs in Cambodia, and this will continue to grow. The Government should do more just redistribution of financial resources to the local level and people whose rights were abused or disrupted.

May 2021 brings more solidarity between the Royal Government of Cambodia, civil society Organisations, community-based Organisations, community-based agents and rights defenders, and private-sector groups to fight against the COVID19 pandemic and increasing economic, social and environmental challenges. ActionAid Cambodia continues our commitment and actions to strengthen people's capacity and active agency, especially women and those living in poverty and exclusion, to assert their rights. We continue joining hands with the Royal Government of Cambodia and sub-national and local authority to bring about sustainable development of Cambodia.

I hope this brief report gives you some insights about what we have achieved and contributed to the sustainable development of Cambodia. May Cambodia has a healthy recovery year of 2021.

Hong Reaksmey
Country Director





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INTRODUCTION

This Annual Report presents ActionAid Cambodia's work of the year to deliver our commitment to the Country Strategy – Catalyst for Social Justice and as such acts as both an accountability and learning resources for our supporters, donors, partners, staff, and networks around the world.

Highlights in the 2020 ActionAid Annual Report



We concluded our joint 100,000 Mangrove Campaign with partners and eight Community Fisheries in Kampot and planted 111, 240 mangrove trees on 16 hectares of coast.



14 commune agroecology facilitators (CAF) have improved and have been practicing their agroecology skills. 49 production groups (PG) with 385 members (311 women) are practising the agroecological principles. 22 trained women market agents (WMA) are working closely with production group members and enhancing their production and market.



105 primary school children and their next-generation enjoy their education after building a new school building consisting of 5 classrooms, furnished room equipment, stories books, educational toys, and playground facilities. Throughout the intervention, the school was promoted by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS) as a new independent primary school, and responsive public services have been taking account through improving access to students regardless of their vulnerabilities to access to sanitation facilities, school equipment with larger school campus.



142 teachers (44 women) from 42 primary and secondary schools were capacitated on teaching and learning methodologies of local life skills by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of Cambodia (MoEYS), and their students in 29 schools are currently practicing local life skills.



46 Women Champions were empowered and have been very active in gender-responsive alternatives to climate changes (CC) and disaster risk reduction (DRR); for instance, they engaged in Covid-19 response and awareness-raising at their localities, reaching 58,744 people in 204 villages.



19, 658 people, including 220 workers in the informal sector, were relieved through food and non-food item distribution during the Covid19 outbreak. Covid-19 Impact study amongst workers in informal sector was published and shared with partnering organisations and the public.



197 youth (62% are women) were empowered through various training relevant to gender-responsive public service, land rights, and citizen journalist, and currently they become more active in collecting their issues and publicising to relevant decision makers to respond to their demands.



PROGRAMME INFORMATION

ActionAid began working in Cambodia as a country initiative of ActionAid International (AAI) in 2000 and set up a country programme in 2004. We are a non-profit, non-religious, and non-politically aligned organisation. The principles of a human rights-based approach underpin AAC’s work in Cambodia and seek to shift and transform power through empowering and mobilising communities to engage in advocacy and campaigning, building solidarity and working together to create innovative solutions to ensure that every person can enjoy a life of dignity, with freedom from poverty and inequality.

We have a vision that a just, equitable and sustainable world in which every person enjoys the rights to a life of dignity, freedom from poverty and all forms of oppression.

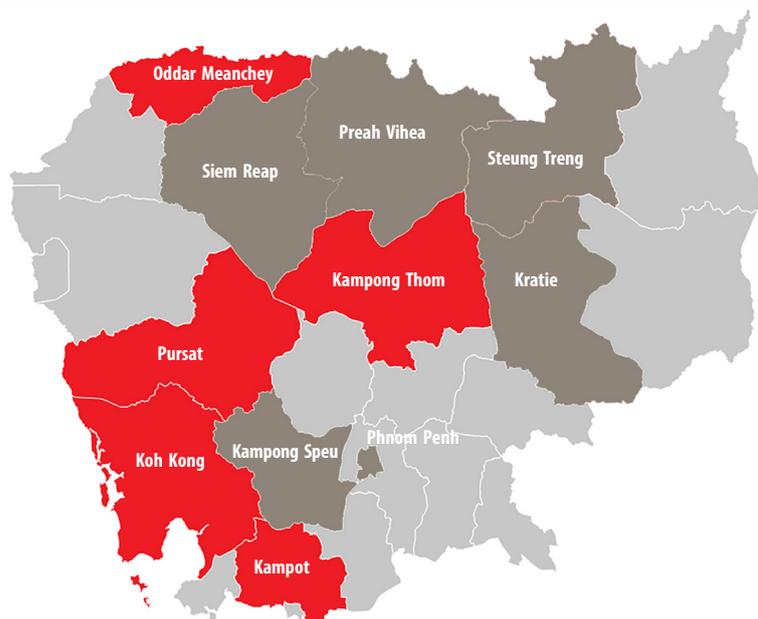
Our mission is to achieve social justice, gender equality, and poverty eradication by working with people living in poverty and exclusion, their communities, people’s organisations, activists, social movements and supporters.

We are working directly with 37,669 (20,698 women/girls) and benefit approximately 122,401 peoples (60,798 women).

Target group	Total people	Women/Girls
Directly engage	37,669	20,698
Total beneficiary	122,401	60,798
<i>Children</i>	17,598	8,253
<i>Small holder farmer</i>	1,052	491
<i>Fisherfolks</i>	21,938	11,266
<i>NTFP</i>	28,135	13,885
<i>Government</i>	365	183
<i>Youth</i>	197	122
<i>Covid-19 response beneficiary</i>	51,877	26,003
<i>Other groups, including NGO partners, teachers and workers in informal sectors etc.</i>	1,239	595

Map of target provinces

- LRPs province
- Non-LRPs province





OUR COLLECTIVE ACHIEVEMENTS

STRATEGIC OUTCOME 1

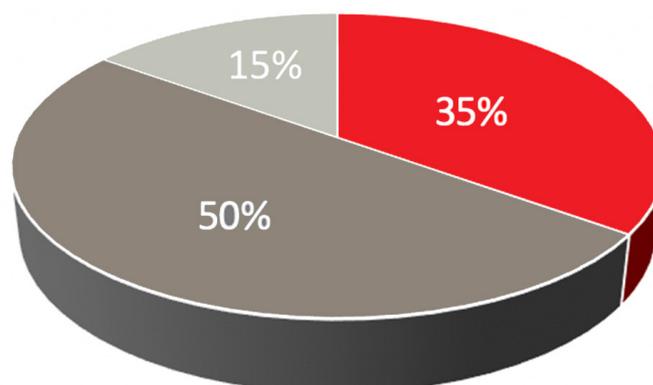
Smallholder farmers and fisherfolk in specific LRPs enjoy improved food security, alternative incomes and control over their livelihoods

When confronted with the Covid-19 pandemic, we noticed remarkable achievements and improvements in improved food security and alternative incomes this year. We provided 10 mobile solar-powered water pumping machines to 10 agroecology production groups, and at least each machine has saved as an average 52 minutes/day for a woman and the family (or a total of 70 hours per day for 81 members of the 10 production groups) from watering their home garden plant and getting water for domestic uses.

The percentage of farmers reported saving time

- 20-30 minutes
- 31-60 minutes
- > 60 minutes

(Source: Farmer Survey 2021, Q3. By using solar, how many minutes/hour that you could save per day for watering crops? (explain farmer, how many minutes do they spend before and after using solar)? n=20)



We launched two flagship projects funded by the European Commission to promote tenure security of community fisheries in coastal provinces and to promote youth participation and gender responsiveness of public services. Through this, we had expanded our partnership with more Cambodian NGOs, CBOs, media, and professional journalists. We empower 130 youths (91 females) to advocate for gender-responsive public service. We also provided gender and tenure security awareness-raising to 705 community members (461 females) and trained 73 of them to become human right defenders and 47 youths to become community citizen journalists. We supported an independent consultant team to conduct Shadow Environmental Impact Assessment (SEIA) by consultation with 285 community members affected by major development projects.

We concluded our joint 100,000 Mangrove Campaign with partners and eight Community Fisheries in Kampot and planted 111,240 mangrove trees on 16 hectares of coast. We continue building skills and solidarity of nine Community Fisheries in Kampot, five in Kep and six Community Fisheries and Community Protected Areas to be defenders of the fishery resource to promote sustainable community's livelihoods. We also support three communities to establish community-based eco-tourism to create alternative incomes and conserve their natural resources.

Mangrove campaign results



49 production groups (PG) with 385 members, and 311 out of them are women from the three provinces who practice agroecological principles and practice. By applying the agroecology techniques, the PGs members increased their consuming a diverse range of vegetables, contributing to improving nutrition status. Increasing their vegetable production allows them to trade their productions to communities and local markets and generate secure income. 27 participants, including commune agroecology facilitators and partners staff (CAF) and 15 out of them are women in three provinces who have been playing a leading role in implementing agroecological principles and shared knowledge and practice to other farmers/producers. They become a focal person and have sufficient capacity to facilitate the training and extend the agroecology practice in the field.

A story of commune agroecology facilitator



Ms. Touch is taking care her vegetable. (Photo Credit: Sinang)

Ms. Touch currently is a commune agroecology facilitator (CAF) in Kampong Kou commune in Kampong Svay district of Kampong Thom province. Since she becomes a CAF in 2019, and with support from AAC on the knowledge of agroecology concept and facilitation skill, she become her plot of land around 10m² with only few varieties of vegetable into green garden by growing more vegetable such as Chinese radish, Aubergine, different kinds of mints, wing bean while before she grew cabbages for only two 2 rows, Chinese Gourd, Marrow and Gourds for family consumption. What's more, she has also shared the knowledge to her husband and other production members to apply it effectively.

After a three-day training, of agroecological concepts and principles from agroecological expert from AA Brasil, 26 participants from organisational partners to apply the agroecological principles such as vegetable seed saving and mulching vegetables.



Mrs. Nat who is applying agroecological principles. (Photo credit: Krong Chanthou)

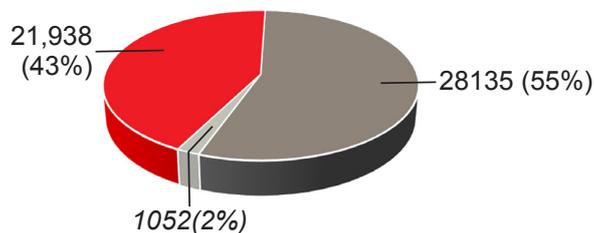


Before learning how to save the seed, I kept only seed of Chinese Gourd and Gourds, but after learning from COFAP, now I can save another different kind of vegetable seeds such winged bean and chilly". Shared by Mrs. Nat, a farmer from Kampong Thom province and one of 14 farmers who attended the training on how to save the vegetable seeds.



Community members

- Forestry group
- Farmer group
- Fishery group



Key figures

# Production group (PG)	385 members (F314)
# Commune Agroecology Facilitator (CAFs)	24 CAFs (F15)
# Women Market Agent (WMAs)	29 WMAs



STRATEGIC OUTCOME 2

Engagement of socially responsible businesses/the private sector strengthened to promote markets for women, smallholder farmers and fisherfolks

We trained local women farmers on entrepreneurship skills to become market agents and connect them with other business partners. Consequently, they are now working closely with production group members to develop production and market planning for their agricultural products.

Ms Savai is Women Market Agent (WMA) in Kampong Thom province and under support from ActionAid Cambodia on building agroecology and entrepreneurship skills; she has shared information on the market production group members to make sure the production group grow vegetables meet the market demand. She also increases her productivity by growing various types of vegetables and extending the land size from 400m² to 1,000m² to grow more vegetables such as morning glories, Chinese Kale, cabbage, spinach, string bean, leek and Garlic Chives. She works collectively to grow and sell the products, while before everyone grew vegetables and sold them individually. She changes from individual work to collective work with other production group members to make planning align to market demands. She collected her vegetables and other members for wholesale. She said,



We don't need to go the market and sell individually that the price might cheaper than selling in wholesale and waste our time. Previously, I could earn only \$10 to \$13 per day, but now, I earn higher between \$25 to \$38 each day, and that income makes me able to pay back the loan and to save for my daily needs.



Mrs Savai (on the left side) is collecting various vegetables to sell in the market. (Photo credit: Sinang)

We conducted an end-line evaluation for a five-year project, “Strengthening CSOs to advocate for Increasing Respect for Human Right by Corporate Actor in the Land Sector”, a part of the Fair, Green & Global (FGG) Alliance to conclude and documentation for learning purposes. The evaluation found that the community has improved their knowledge on legal rights and frameworks, and they informed their ability to deal on the cases with development projects invested by corporate actors. “I did not accept the compensation since my land is diamond, why they give me a cooper land. Now, I don’t feel afraid anymore, and I can talk with government officials who have a role to solve the land exploited by the company,” Quoted Ms Yong Ran, one of the land activists. So far, nine communities have received support from the project and did successful advocacy with corporate actors.

Mrs Houy Mai is a member of Ratanakrukha community forestry in a remote province, Oddar Meanchey of Cambodia. She has five sons and three daughters, and she occupies farming and collecting non-timber forest products. Through local rights programmes and other projects supported by ActionAid, she was trained on human rights, land rights, relevant national regulations and other international frameworks and advocacy skills. She said,



My community members and I got more understanding about our rights, and we dare to claim our land.



Although she was being threatened and monitored, she still had taken a leading role to mobilise her members to argue compensation through speaking out to the media and public events, protesting, petition, filing complaints to the court and Government.



Mrs. Mai is chopping the casava tree in front of her new-built house on provide land through a social concession scheme. (Photo credit: Samet)

In 2018, the Government decided to dismiss this development project, took back the land and provided two hectares of farmland per household to 122 affected families through a social concession scheme. She ecstatically expressed, “I am happier than before because I have got land for farming and housing, and now I am free from threatening and monitoring”. However, she is not stopping her advocacy by claiming the land for other 92 families who did not receive any land provision. She is also filing a collective complaint to the court of Thailand to claim the compensation for communities’ losses, including houses, plantations and incomes sources during development. She is an active land activist and an active member in protecting the forest in her community forestry. She routinely participates the patrolling and reports illegal lodging cases.

Consequently, her family could earn subsidiary income from the non-timber forest products, specifically resins and mushrooms, in which her family could earn at least USD 850 per year. In any circumstance, women are the key agent of changes. Mai has set a leadership example for other women to claim their rights regardless of where we are originated and what level of education they gained.

STRATEGIC OUTCOME 3:

Local lifeskills programmes are developed and implemented in target primary and secondary schools

We supported 142 teachers and 44 out of the women from 42 primary and secondary schools to join training with trainers from the department of the vocational orientation of MoEYS on local life skill relating to teaching and learning methodology. As a result, 22 primary schools and seven secondary schools have carried out local life skills curriculum. The life skills curriculum has been integrated into their school curriculum.

Life skill learning is initiated and integrated into my school curriculum for at least 2 hours every Saturday. There are various available topics for students to choose.

“I chose vegetable growing because there is no one grow vegetable in my village. Before, I don’t think I can plant it, but now I feel happy because my vegetables provide me good yield. When I see these results, I took the chilly seeds to grow at home, and I want my villagers to grow vegetable own selves since they are free from chemical,” said Ly, who attends grade 5 in Ta Meak primary school.



Ly is checking the insect on cucumber plantation.
(Photo credit: Krong Chanthou)

We built a new school building with five classrooms for 105 current children student and the next fellow generation in Ta Meak village in Andong Toeuk commune in Botumsakor district of Koh Kong province. We also supported with classroom equipment, sport, playground and life skill garden materials.

A schoolgirl, Tep Sokhouy, in grade 6, smilingly said, “Before, I found it hard to learn in the classroom because when the rain came, the water flow into the classroom and tables got wet, and we could not have class. Moreover, the school campus was too small, and we did not have enough space to play during breaking time. I am very happy because I have a new school and have many toys to play with, such as swing, larger school campus. There are many books to read that increase my knowledge as a part of learning from the teacher. The school also has handwashing facilities and nice latrines, which help us keep our body clean.”



Sokhouy is reading a new book in a new built library.
(Photo credit: Sar Pisey)

STRATEGIC OUTCOME 4:

Women take up more leadership roles in building climate resilient communities and livelihoods, and the localization of disaster management.

We promoted women’s leadership in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation through research on Cambodia’s Woman Resilience Index and empowering 46 Women Champions in DRR/CCA, including supporting them to engage in Covid-19 response and awareness-raising at their localities, reaching 51,877 people in 204 villages. We assisted 19,658 people, including 220 workers in the informal sector, through food and non-food items distribution during the Covid19 outbreak. In collaboration with Women Champion, we installed 6 six-solar pumps that would benefit 363 families and 618 children.

Mrs POV has become a grassroots women champion in early 2018, and she is active in DRR/CCA in her communities.

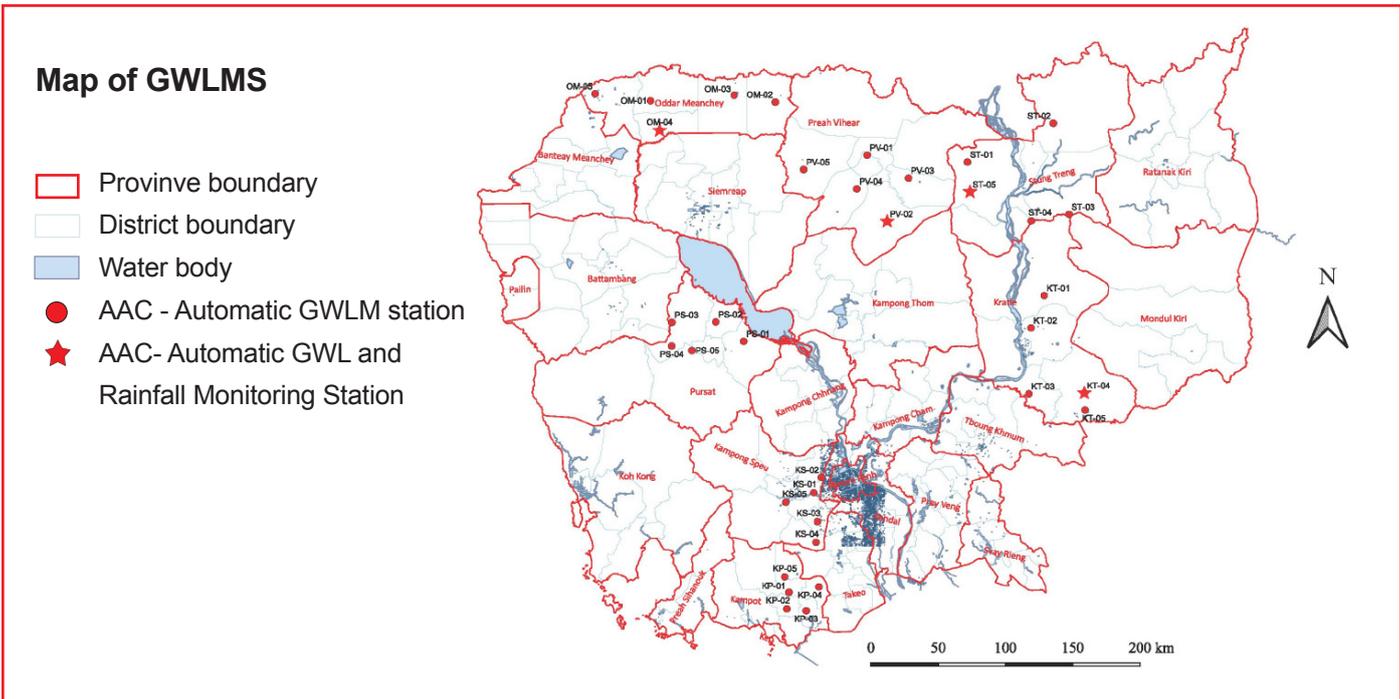
“Before joining ActionAid, I thought that my life was remaining the same from day today, and I would have no knowledge or opportunity to do anything besides labour work, and it is impossible to get out from the village. But now, taking a role as women champion, my life has changed as I have increased my knowledge in DRR/CCA and can help other people in my community,” said Mrs Pov confidently in an event.



Pov is sharing her experiences as WCN in project completion workshop. (Photo supplied)

Currently, she is promoted as a village chief and taking a leading role in DRR in her communities.

We launched the 2nd phase of the DRAWII project funded Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation to maintain and improve the capacity of the governmental institutions to sustain the Early Warning System (EWS) Groundwater Level Monitoring System (GWLMS).



STRATEGIC OUTCOME 5

Women in target areas live free from gender-based violence and enjoy equal access to rights and opportunities

In 2020, ActionAid Cambodia provided inputs to national policies and action plan on gender equality and GBV in Cambodia, namely the national policy on gender equality, Neary Ratanak V (strategic development plan), the national action plan on violence against women phase III, and gender terminologies.

We participated in Joint Statement of Trade Unions, Associations and NGOs on Priority Needs of Women Workers and Farmers During COVID-19 Crisis and Request for Urgent Interventions from the Government and Corporates- 16 days campaign 2020.

We joint with other organisations to submit a list of issues (highlighting the traditional rights to fish) to the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)- December 2020.

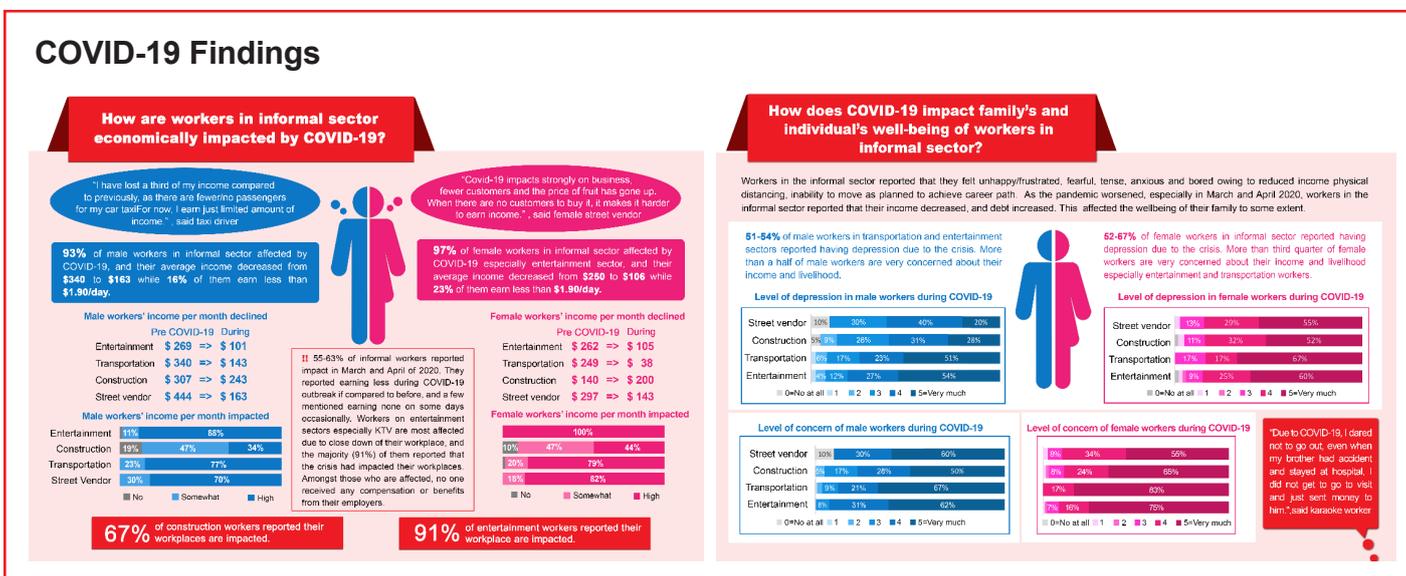
We also Joint NGO-CEDAW produce an annual report on monitoring of the implementation of the CEDAW's concluding observation, 2020. We released an open letter to PM Hun Sen calling for respect to women's sexual autonomy and bodily integrity on Feb 18, 2020. We also responded to VOA on women's sexual autonomy and bodily integrity on Valentine Day.

We co-organised a workshop with media reporters on the media code of conduct on reporting on violence against women, Dec 2020 with the Ministry of Women Affair, Ministry of Information and Journalists Club.



Deputy of Legal Protection Department, Sar Sineth, Ministry of Women's Affairs, shares about the laws and policies related to violence against women and girls. (Photo Supplied.)

We conducted research jointly with our peer BBC Media Action on the Impact of COVID-19 on Informal Workers in the Informal Sector to find out the left-behind workers amid COVID-19. We joined solidarity with partner NGOs and unions to increase and maintain social protection schemes and cash assistance to workers in the informal economy sector and garment workers whose jobs were lost or suspended.



STRATEGIC OUTCOME 6

The state as duty bearer promotes, protects and upholds the rights of smallholder farmers and fisherfolk, and is accountable to them as rights holders through the responsive and just redistribution of resource and budget allocations.

ActionAid Cambodia joined with Development Partners of Technical Working Group (TWG) on Fisheries members to make comments on the draft version of the fisheries law of Cambodia. A Shadow Environmental Impact Assessment (SEIA) were conducted to inform the government the affects of major development projects in coastal area of Kampot and Kep provinces.



AAC staff conducted a training on Smartphone Video Training to community youth in Kampot Province. (Photo Credit: Piseth)

We trained an additional four commune women-led action research groups and five youth groups from different provinces to analyse to inform local authority to do better in gender-responsive public service deliveries in their respective locality.

Throughout collaboration with MoEYS and other sub-national Government, Ta Meak primary school was promoted as a new independent primary school. Gender-responsive public services are also improved and benefitted teachers, girls, and boys to access sanitation facilities tables and enjoy the larger school campus. The children immensely enjoy those services.

Challenges & Lesson Learnt

A global crisis, COVID19, has changed our way of working. It has limited our community outreach and capacity building to natural resource defenders, school children and teachers, local authority, and local NGO partners. Many trainings and other events were postponed or delay, and some were adopting online platform.

ActionAid Cambodia adopted a remote working arrangement within the Organisation and with our partners, but it has been the greatest challenge to reach people in need.

We learned that local capacity is the key to resilience and change. Community-based management groups, women champions, youth volunteers, teachers, and local authorities are the key driving forces for resilience.

We learnt that investing in women would create greater impacts, not just on empowering women themselves but also on strengthening family and community resilience.

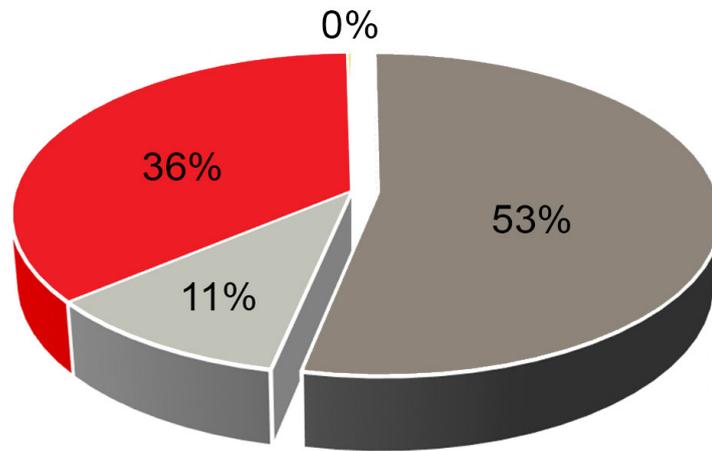
We also learned that such empowerment requires simultaneous efforts to empower community-based agents and local authority personnel and their solidarity.



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Income by source (%)

- Child sponsorship
- High value donors
- Institutional donors
- Other



Income Sources

(USD)

■ Child sponsorship	1,456,301
■ High value donors	288,044
■ Institutional donors	979,796
■ Other	6,411
Total	2,730,552

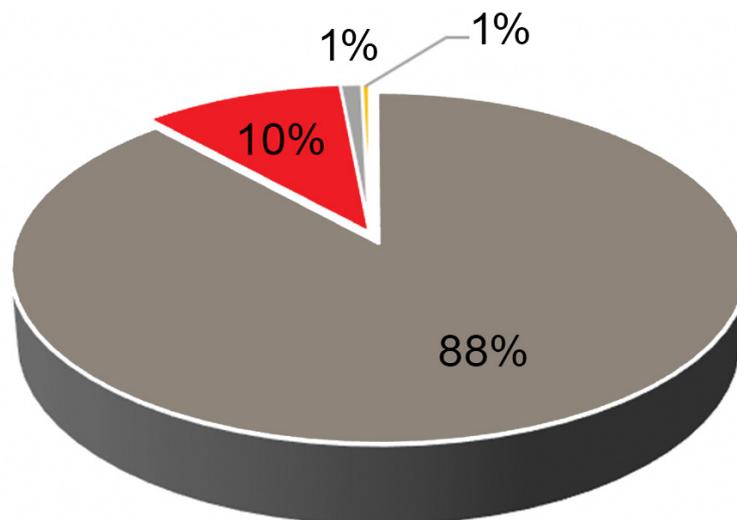
Expenditure

(USD)

■ Programme	1,707,359
■ Support	198,294
■ Fund raising	21,373
■ Governance	7,466
Total	1,934,492

Expenditure (%)

- Programme
- Fund raising
- Support
- Governance





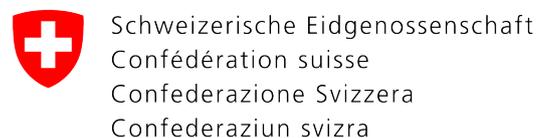
LOCAL PARTNERS AND DONORS

LOCAL PARTNERS



DONORS

Child Sponsorship Income from UK, Italy, Greece, Ireland, and Australia.



Domlal Foundation

RBC/KWOK Foundation

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