

ActionAid Cambodia Newsletter

MAY 2022





ACTIONAID RAISED OVER £1.24 MILLION TO STRENGTHEN CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE IN CAMBODIA

ActionAid Cambodia and ActionAid UK raised over £1.24 million to strengthen climate change resilience in Cambodia by building women's leadership in 2022-2025.

Women and girls are disproportionately impacted by climate change and other disasters, including the economic challenges resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic. Women are at higher greater burdens of family and career responsibilities. It is vital that women's unique perspectives are reflected in climate and disaster governance.

Women-led Alternative to Climate Change in Cambodia Project was officially launched on 4th April 2022 with participation from relevant stakeholders, government institutions, Development Partners, Australian and UK Embassy in Cambodia, NGOs partners, and women champions in Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change network in total 88 participants.



Mrs. Oeun Samposh, a senior DRR Officer was delivering a presentation on Women's Champion background.

Through the UK funding programme, Ambassador Tina Redshaw said, "we are proud to support ActionAid Cambodia to strengthen climate change resilience, by building women's leadership and increasing women-led advocacy action to demand climate justice and gender equality.



UK Ambassador Tina Redshaw was giving her remarks during the project launching.

During the project launching, Ms Sarah Knibbs, UN Women Asia-Pacific Regional Representative, congratulated the initiation of the project that works to empower women, especially in remote areas, in meaningful participation in local governance, sub-national, and disaster response and prevention of climate change that needs the efforts to engrave feminist principles to climate change action and disaster risk reduction.

Sarah emphasised that UN Women, through GRACC project implementation, despite the disruption of the Covid-19 outbreak, ActionAid Cambodia tried to strengthen the women champion network to build the trust in the relationship with all the stakeholders and enable them to the new normal and bring out the latest technology which integrated a new means of communication to stay connected with WCNs. For details about Sarah's speech, please visit ActionAid Cambodia's Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/ActionAidCambodia/videos/738831837538662>



Mr. Hong Reaksmeay, ActionAid Cambodia Country Director, was delivering the remarks during the project launching.

Mr Hong Reaksmeay, ActionAid Cambodia Country Director, introduced the background of the women champions network in line with the project context that indicates Women's Resilience Index (WRI) score is lower than men's (women = 0.56, men = 0.59).

The [Cambodia Women's Resilience Index \(WRI\)](#) found an unstable and unpaid income that lowered the women's resilience index score in economic factors. In the infrastructure factor, women lack access to early warning systems and other information than men, who have more access. For the social aspects, lack of social security and protection for people living in poverty and vulnerable groups and limited knowledge of disaster risk reduction and adaptation also affect women's resilience to climate change.



Supporting and empowering women in leadership is also integral to Australia's development cooperation policy, alongside climate action. Through ActionAid Cambodia and the ANCP Program, Australia supports the women's champion network in tackling some of this important work. The Women's Champion Network bolsters women's participation in provincial communities in decision-making processes related to climate governance at national, sub-national, and local levels.

Women-led alternatives to climate change in Cambodia (WLACC) project is funded by the UK Aid through ActionAid Cambodia, Rural Friend Community for Development (RFCD), Mlup Prumvihea thor (MPC), Children and Women Development Center in Cambodia (CWDDC) and cooperation for Alleviation of Poverty (COFAP). The project is now being implemented in 2 provinces of coastal areas (Kampot and Koh Kong), and another 2 provinces (Kampong thom and Pursat).



“Our Voice” Mobile Application” launched for testing to promote responsive public services delivery

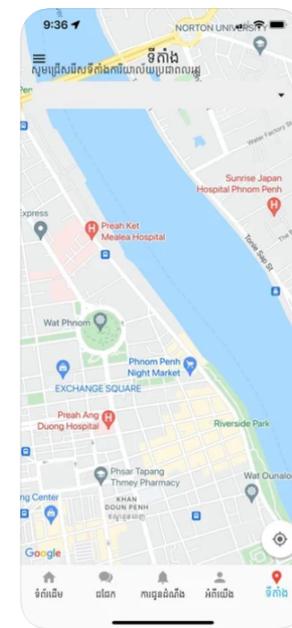
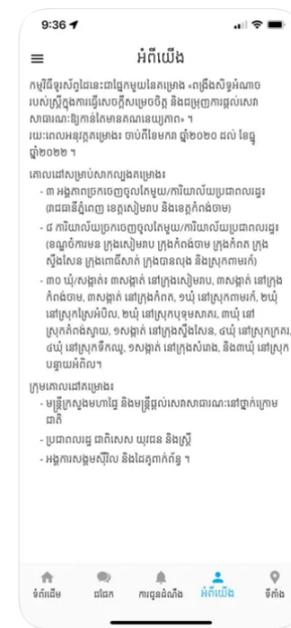
The newly born mobile application was developed and officially announced for testing recently under “Greater Young Women Empowerment in Decision Making and Accountable Public Service Delivery” with financial support from the European Union (EU) and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) through Transparency International Cambodia and ActionAid Cambodia.

The mobile application enables citizens to post any anonymous feedback, comments, or criticisms on the public services delivery and the conduct of local officials to improve essential services.



Transparency International Cambodia (TIC) officer was presenting the app. (Photo TIC)

Mr. Siyon Sothearith, Head of Programme at ActionAid Cambodia, believed that the mobile application plays a vital role in citizens’ participation in improving local public services so that local authorities are more active.



Pech Pisey, Executive Director of Transparency International Cambodia, said the application will help improve essential services in response to public opinion.

“Our Voice” Mobile Application will be available on both IOS and android after piloting with relevant stakeholders. The project team only manages the technical aspects of the application and that the Ministry of Interior, specifically commune officials, would respond to comments on the system. The project will not share any personal information with third parties.

All personal data will be kept confidential and secure and used only for communication or response to the request. Also, the feedback information will only be used to improve public services to serve the public interest. The project will not share your personal information with third parties



International Women's Day Celebration

This year, ActionAid Cambodia celebrates International Women's Day 2021 following the UN's Global theme "Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow". Taking this opportunity, ActionAid Cambodia incorporated with its NGO partners to run a social media campaign, raising the perceptions of the role of women and his vision of promoting women's decision-making in the organisation.

Mr. Vinh Ya, Community Translation Organisation (CTO) Executive Director, said that "If you cannot help women, please don't abuse them."



Mr. Yim Buntheng, Cooperation For Alleviation of Poverty Organisation (COFAP) Executive Director said, "It is an essential mission of COFAP to promote women's rights in institutions and communities. Our team now has more women than men. We believe that empowering women in decision-making in the institution can effectively solve the problem of women in the community."



Hong Reaksmey said, "Almost half of the women make less than \$1.90 per day (43%). Social and economic resilience indexes are low at 0.54 and 0.59 and generally lower than men. The gender wage gap between men and women is 19% for the same job. These give enough reasons for the government and CSO to invest in women and increase gender responsiveness in public service deliveries. ActionAid Cambodia has put women at the core of our interventions."

As part of the campaign, in collaboration with a local NGO called "Youth Resource Development Program", organised a radio talk show which engaged our youth under "Greater Young Women Empowerment in Decision Making and Accountable Public Service Delivery Project" and Ms Kong Sreyleap, Women's Rights Officer as well as Ms. Chan Theara, Rural Friend Community Development (RFCD) Executive Director.

The radio talk show discussed the role of women in societal development and the relevant stakeholders' role in promoting women's role in decision-making. The radio talk show can be found [here](#).

International Women's Day comes this year as over a million refugees have fled #Ukraine to neighbouring countries. Many are women and girls, who are most at risk during conflicts and emergencies as cases of gender-based violence and exploitation soar. Read more here: https://bit.ly/AA_Ukraine or support our appeal here https://bit.ly/AA_UkraineAppeal



Case Study: From an ordinary youth to an active youth in the community

Mrs. Noun Kompheak, is a married 22-year-old community committee and rice seller who lives in Phum Trapaeng Ropov, Sangkat Prek Thnoat, Bokor city, Kompot province. Despite being a full-time mom and seller, she has a strong commitment and willingness to improve her community by raising awareness and sharing knowledge in her village.

Receiving formal education until grade 10, her passion for learning never stops her from pursuing more knowledge by joining training and social work. Even with some disagreement from her father regarding working voluntarily with no salary at first, she later gained support from her father as he noticed the result she produced to improve her community. She said, “Without my family’s support, I don’t think I can go this far.”

She added, “before taking part in the project, I only knew how to read and just see the word “advocacy” without understanding the definitions and detailed process

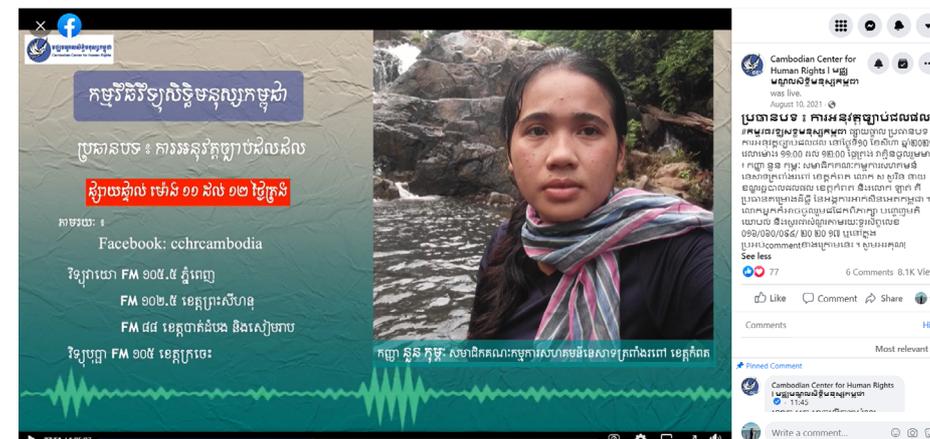
of how and when to do it with whom”. She continued, “Now, after grasping the term advocacy, I am confident and know how to voice my concerns and share my opinions in community meetings and forward them to the partner organisations”.

As an active citizen in her community, she has participated in several activities and training both online and in-person, such as growing mangrove trees, training on “Advocacy and Your Right (AYR)”, “Citizen Journalist”, and “Land and Natural Resources Tenure in Coastal Areas” and joining youth camp.



A fresher training on land tenure security to focal groups in Kampot Province

With the knowledge she obtained, she said, “I used what I have learned to teach people in my community to know how to let their voice heard and be able to defend their rights”. Kompheak recently was also invited to join a guest speaker in a radio talk show hosted by Cambodian Center for Human Rights (CCHR) to discuss about the law on fishery enforcement. The radio talk show can be found on [CCHR’s Facebook Page](#).



Besides that, her involvement in her community has also produced many fruitful results, including successfully raising her concern and plan to the commune, patrolling from time to time in the community fishery, and creating artificial boxes for conservative areas.



Mrs. Noun Kompheak was presenting about the community livelihood.

Choose Natural! Choose Local!

To promote fresh, healthy food that is grown locally by smallholder farmers in Cambodia, ActionAid Cambodia worked with production house to produce a video “Farm to table” which highlighted safe vegetable technical growth especially agroecological practice in one of the most outstanding target area in Kampot Province. Please visit the video on [“Farm to Table,”](#)

Say No to Harmful Chemicals and Big corporates -
Choose Natural! Choose Local!



A farmer was practising an agroecological principle

Case study: Conserving and protecting natural resources for better livelihood of poor local families

Mrs Pak Sean, a 58-year-old farmer and fisherwoman whose life relies on fishing as a primary source of income, said that in the past, with the lack of authorities’ control, some fishermen used illegal fishing gear, causing the loss of biodiversities resources such as fish, rock crab, and shrimps.



Mrs. Sean was nursing the mangrove plants.

In 2021, through the activities supported by ActionAid Cambodia, she participated in technical training provided to community members, which focused on sustainably conserving natural resources and helping activities for the development of eco-tourism to generate additional income

reserving for protecting and enriching biodiversity resources such as crabs, fish, and shrimps.

She emphasised, “Protecting mangrove forests and natural resources in this coastal area can maintain the marine resource because about 90% of the population in Kon Sat commune depend on fishing for their main source of income and daily consumption.”

The Kampong Samaky fishery community committee now focuses on protecting natural resources and restoring the area. The community has grown more mangroves to restore the shelter for biodiversity and created a monthly patrolling plan to reduce the illegal fishery. Moreover, the community has developed the area aesthetically pleasing for tourists to earn more income to keep conserving the community.

With strong commitment to conserving the fishing community’s natural resources in Kampong Samaky, she said smilingly, “I’ve have participated in many activities with the community committee, such as growing mangroves and patrolling to protect natural resources in the community.”

